

The SBU Monthly News

May 2023

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April 2023

Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor: <u>liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk</u>

Forthcoming Events

International Events

The Senior Camrose (Teltscher Trophy) will be played face-to-face in Wales, 19-21 May.

Our team is: Robert Clow & Derrick Peden

Alan Goodman & Brian Short John Hamilton & Paul Maiolani

Npc: Anne Symons

There will be coverage on RealBridge with live commentary: you can kibitz with the usual half hour delay.

National Events

The Mixed Swiss Pairs and Teams will be held face-to-face in the New Melville BC.

Mixed Pairs (Ruby Martyn Trophy) Saturday 27 May, 12 noon

Mixed Teams: (Helen Walton Trophy) Sunday 28 May, 11 am

Entry Fees: £16 per person per event

The New Melville BC, 1 Pinkhill, Edinburgh EH12 7BA is conveniently situated at the West side of Edinburgh, close to the Zoo. Those travelling from Glasgow and the North do not have to negotiate challenging roadworks in town...

If you live too far away to commute, accommodation is available in the nearby Holiday Inn or various questhouses in the area.

Register on the website: https://www.sbu.org.uk/calendar/national-events

SBU Saturday Swiss Pairs (15)

Every Saturday Evening at 7 pm for 9 weeks on BBO, starting 15 April

5 rounds of 5 boards scored in match-points.

Open to all SBU members, on any Saturday: there is no requirement to play every week.

The average of the 6 best partnership scores will determine the series winners after week 9.

Local masterpoints awarded to the top quarter for each separate tournament along with points for winning matches. Bonus of 150 black masterpoints for the Series winners and bonus masterpoints to the top third in the final ranking.

Entry fee BBO\$4.50 per player for each tournament.

Register for tournaments on BBO (search for SBU up to 2 hours in advance).

Please ensure that your Mempad record is updated with your BBO username.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Scottish Bridge Union will be held on ZOOM on Tuesday 23 May at 7pm.

See the SBU website for full retails.

BRONZE to SILVER WEEKEND

17/18 June 2023, New Melville Bridge Club

Suitable for experienced Bronze players, Silver players and Gold players too.

Scottish Internationalist **lain Sime** will cover wide-ranging topics based on his popular Bronze to Silver classes which started five years ago. The aim is to bridge the knowledge gap between experienced tournament regulars and the ever-increasing bronze category. But the content is wide-ranging and may also be very useful to newly promoted Silver players and Gold players who need a refresher.

Each day will include two sessions on each of the following:

- The Auction: Focussing on competitive bidding and conventions commonly used by Silver players.
- Play & Defence: How to make that extra trick, defensive understandings and play problems.
- Bridge Intangibles: Preparation, strategies, rules, and other disruptions.

At the end of each day there will be a mini-tournament. This will have pre-dealt hands, designed to expand on the lesson content, and a commentary.

Proposed timetable

	Saturday 17 June
11 am:	Introduction
11.15:	The Auction 1: Slam Bidding
12 pm:	Play Problems 1
12.30:	Game Strategy: match points v IMPs
1 pm:	Lunch break**
2 pm:	The Auction 2: Doubles and Redoubles
3 pm:	Defence: Count, Attitude, Suit Preference
3.30:	Rulings, Alerts and Hesitations
4 pm:	Tea Break
4.15:	Play 12 Boards
5.45:	Results, discussion
6.30:	Close

	Sunday 18 June
10 am:	The Auction 3: Competing over 1NT and Weak 2s
11 am:	Play Problems 2
11.30:	Intangibles: Preparation and Focus
12.00:	Lunch break**
1 pm:	The Auction 4: Common Gadgets
2 pm:	Play and Defend: Win/save an extra trick
2.30:	Etiquette and Conduct
3 pm:	Tea Break
3.15:	Play 12 Boards
4.45:	Results, discussion
5.30:	Close

^{**} Tea and coffee are provided, but please bring your own food, or visit the local outlets – approx. half a mile away.

Course Venue- New Melville Bridge Club, 1 Pinkhill, Edinburgh EH12 7BA.

The timetable has been devised so that those within commuting distance can travel to/from the classes. Those from further away may opt to stay at the local Holiday Inn, or one of the many guest houses in the area.

Spaces are limited and offered on a first come - first served basis.

The cost will be £40 per person including tea, coffee etc

To apply, please email <u>iain.sime63@gmail.com</u>

(Questions about the course should be addressed to lain at this address)

Payment via bank transfer to: The New Melville Bridge Club - Santander -

Sort Code 09-01-28 Account 38493974

('Bronze to Silver' in the reference space please)

BRIDGE: a Mindsport for All

Connects people, challenges Minds



Bridge, Youth and Schools

Who am I? My name is Samantha Punch, Professor of Sociology at the University of Stirling, UK. I lead the international work of BAMSA.

What is BAMSA? Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) is a research project working collaboratively with bridge organisations to increase the number of players and transform the image of the mindsport.

BAMSA believes that bridge can be promoted as a potential solution to tackle big societal issues of social isolation, loneliness, mental health problems, inclusivity, and healthy ageing.

BAMSA's new study

The new project aims to develop academic evidence that demonstrates the skills and wide-ranging benefits that bridge, as a mindsport, can offer young people. The study will investigate the benefits and challenges of teaching bridge in schools. The goal is to encourage schools to take bridge as seriously as chess, and mindsport education as seriously as physical education.

How can donating help?

By donating, you enable BAMSA to conduct this work in the UK, USA, and Europe. The funding pays for the researchers to interview school teachers, bridge teachers, pupils, and parents to explore what helps and hinders learning bridge. The funds are used to develop practical resources from the findings to enable growth of youth bridge communities in the UK and beyond.

How can I donate?

Online via the University website: **www.stir.ac.uk/carddonate** Scroll to the bottom of the page and choose single gift, this will direct you to our donation form where you can select "Bridge Research Project" as your designated cause.

Via the Keep Bridge Alive Crowdfunder: https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/u5c0e5e7810869

All donations will be doubled (matched by the Levine Family Foundation)

Thank You! Need more information?

Contact Sam with any queries – s.v.punch@stir.ac.uk

Follow BAMSA @bridgemindsport www.bridgemindsport.org













New Partnership?

Your regular partner is unavailable, and you have fixed up with another single. Or you have decided to form a partnership with somebody new.

Where do you start?

Here is a Check List might help your discussion.

You can start with this, amend it to your liking, add your own pet gadgets, delete anything you don't fancy, ignore anything you don't understand!

Iain Sime



Advanced Acol System Notes (2)

3. Two/Three Level openers

2♣ = Strong, either 23/24 balanced or Game Forcing. 2♦ response = negative or waiting.

 $2 \spadesuit \Psi \triangleq W$ = Weak Twos (5/10 points).

2NT response = asks for a high-card feature (AKQ) if non-minimum. New suit Forcing one round. Penalty doubles.

2NT = 20/22.

4 card Stayman.

Transfers – with 4-card support break to 4 of the Major (all suits controlled) or cheapest cue.

3♠=both minors, slam interest. 4♣/♦ natural slam tries.

3any = pre-empt. New suit Forcing one round, (cue bid over 3 of a major). Penalty doubles.

3NT = a solid minor; not more than a Queen outside in 1st/2nd seats. NAT to play in 3rd/4th Responses are 4/5♣ = Pass or correct, 4 of a Major to play.

4. Competitive Bidding

Standard overcalls (5+ cards), Weak Jump Overcalls, cue bid responses show a good raise. Michaels, Unusual NT, (always 5/5+, any strength)

Most low-level doubles are takeout, including first double after they run from 1NT doubled.

Opener's rebid double usually 15/19 balanced with no/poor stopper.

After our 1/2NT overcalls, system on (including redouble for one-suited rescue).

Defence to Multi: 2nd seat double is 12/15 bal. or very strong; double of their suit is take out.

Defence to weak 2s: Lebensohl (FASS) responses to t/o double. Direct 3 level = 7/11.

Defence to 1NT: 2♣ = Majors; 2♦ = one Major, 2 Major= 5 Major /4+minor

Over 2M 2NT = enquiry with linked responses, ♣ shows ♥; ♦ = ♠. minor is weaker.

2NT= minors or Game-Forcing two suiter. Double by passed hand = minors.

5. Slam Bidding

RKCB: 5. = 1 or 4, then next suit is Queen ask: minimum in trump suit = no Q.

5NT= specific King ask or bid a grand.

DOPI/ROPI if interference (Double= zero Key cards, Pass=one etc.)

Splinters. Cue bids are cheapest control (Ace, King, or shortage).

Jump to 5NT is Pick a Slam. Jump to 5 of a Major asks for control in unbid suit or enemy suit.

6. Defence

Leads 4th and 2nd, King for standard count (hi= even) or unblock versus No Trump, Ace/Queen for reverse attitude (hi= discouraging).

First discard reverse attitude, otherwise standard current count, but lots of suit preference including if singleton or king on dummy.

That's probably enough to get your new partnership going. Copy it, amend it to your own liking, and add it to your desktop. You never know when it might come in handy.

Convention Corner

Lebensohl

This convention is designed to distinguish between weak hands and hands with some values in competitive situations. There are two main areas where it applies:

1 When a Weak 2M is doubled

When partner's double forces you to respond at the 3-level 2NT becomes a conventional call, mostly showing weakness. Partner is requested to bid 3♣, which you will pass, or sign off in a red suit with a weak hand.

(2♠) Dbl (P) ? ♠9854 ♥Q5 ♦Q43 ♣J876 bid 2NT, planning to pass unhappily if partner bids 3♣.

♠KT95 ♥84 ♦Q9874 ♣65 bid 2NT, then *convert* 3♣ to 3♠, showing a weak hand.

♠9654 ♥A4 ♦KQ764 ♣65 bid 3♦ immediately, showing some interest in game.

♠KJ95 ♥A3 ♦Q54 ♣8765 you can't bid a natural 2NT! Cross your fingers, bid 3NT.

♠K95 ♥AQ43 ♦A54 ♣876 bid 2NT, then cue-bid 3♠ to show game-forcing values but with only 4 hearts – 3NT might be a better spot.

Partner will normally respond 3♣ to the Lebensohl 2NT response, but may occasionally try something else:

(2♠) Dbl (P) 2NT

Lebensohl can be used in any situation where partner has made a takeout double of 2M, e.g.

(1 \spadesuit) P (2 \spadesuit) Dbl (1 \spadesuit) Dbl (2 \spadesuit) P You are already limited by a previous pass, so (P) ?
(P) Dbl (P) ?
2N = a complete bust, 3any shows a few values.

Lebensohl is not recommended over a weak 2♦: you have 2 of either Major available to show a weak hand. It can be useful over the Multi 2♦.

2 When RHO overcalls 2M over partner's 1NT opener:

Here the Lebensohl 2NT allows you to distinguish between game-forcing bids, and invitational ones. But it is not always purely competitive. It can also be used to show / deny stoppers in opponent's suit.

1NT (2♠) 3NT FASS (Fast Arrival Shows a Stopper) e.g., ♠K54 ♥K53 ♠AQ43 ♠Q76

1NT (2♠) 2NT (P)

3♠ (P) 3NT The slower sequence denies a stopper e.g., ♠54 ♥K53 ♠AQ43 ♠KQ76

Similarly, you can cue-bid their suit to show 4-cards in the other Major to offer a choice of game:

1NT (2♠) 3♠ FASS e.g., ♠K5 ♥KQ53 ♠AT92 ♠Q76

1NT (2♠) 2NT (P)

3♣ (P) 3♠ The slower sequence shows 4 hearts but no stopper: e.g., ♦54 ♥KQ53 ♦AT92 ♣KQ6

(Some prefer to reverse these, playing Slow Shows. They bid an immediate 3NT with no stopper.

Not recommended! But it is worth asking opponents which version they use before making an opening lead)

Rubensohl

A development of Lebensohl attributed to Jeff Rubens, useful **only** when partner has opened 1NT. After an overcall, bids from 2NT upwards are all transfers to the suit above.

(It are be weekel to be seemble by a suit a cute on it access the cite of individual)

(It can be useful to know which suit partner is competing in!)

Transferring into opponent's suit is Staymanic, looking for a 4-4 fit in the other Major

Information about any bridge convention can be found on Google – there are lots of bridge sites!

Counting Quiz

1) Counting ...

West	East
♠AQJ432	 ≰K86
♥ A42	♥KJT
♦ 54	◆A87
♣ A7	♣ KJ64

Auction:

WEST	North	EAST	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♠	End

You are West, declaring a contract of 6♣ North leads the ♦K.

- a) How many winners can you count?
- b) Where will you find your 12th trick?

You win the ◆A and start on trump, noting that South discards the ◆J on the first round. He discards 2 hearts and another diamond on three more rounds of trump

- c) What do you know about North/South's distribution?
- d) How might you find out more?

2) ... and more counting

	≜ 63 ♥A42 •QJ ≜ KQJT98	
•Q9542 •Q76 •AT84 •A	W E	

Auction:

WEST	North	EAST	South
-	1♣	Pass	2♣
2♠	3♣	Pass	3NT
End			

You are West. You lead the ♠4. Partner produces the ♠T and declarer wins the ♠J. South leads a club to your ♠A.

- a) How many points might declarer have to bid just 2♣, then 3NT?
- b) How many of South's points are in spades?
- c) How many tricks does South have now?
- d) How might you beat this contract?

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

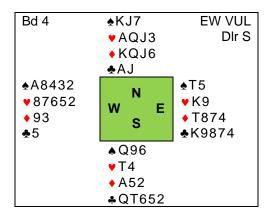
The Danger Card is Blue

Ekrens is a convention invented by a Norwegian player of that name.

It utilises a 2 ◆ opening bid to show a weak hand with both Majors, usually 5=4 if non-vulnerable, more likely 5=5 when vulnerable. It can be difficult to defend against – it removes opponents' bidding space.

Some players love it, remembering the successes it has scored.

Others remember the less successful results, like this one from a Junior European Championship.



WEST	North	EAST	South
-	-	-	Pass
2•	Dbl	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

The Scottish EW pair had adopted the convention with enthusiasm.

With perfect distribution West fearlessly trotted it out, second in hand, Vulnerable.

Better to be fearful on this hand. North doubled to show a big hand, then doubled 2♥ for penalties. Careful defence held declarer to 4 tricks, a penalty of 1100.

A poor result, losing 12 imps against the non-vulnerable 3NT in the other room.

But it was much better than the result achieved by the Norwegian EW pair.

Their auction was:

WEST	North	EAST	South
-	-	-	Pass
2•	Dbl	Redbl	All Pass

East thought his redouble asked partner to bid his better suit. West did not agree.

Declarer made one Ace and two Kings for 5 down, -2800

Moral: When you adopt a new convention, be sure to discuss continuations over interference!

Results Page

National Pairs Final

16 pairs played a 45-board Howell face-to-face at the Buchanan Bridge Club in Glasgow

1	Paul Barton & Brian Spears	62.70%
2	John Hamilton & Paul Maiolani	59.52%
3	Mike McGinley & David Wiseman	58.89%
4	John Dick & Kevin Strathern	57.46%
5	Eddie McGeough & Pauline Phillips	55.24%
6	Sandy Duncan & Liz McGowan	54.13%
7	David Briggs & David King	53.02%
8	John Murdoch & Jim McMenemy	47.78%

Ranked Masters Individuals

These were run on 29th April by Julia Palmer.

The Harrison, for Scottish Masters and above had an entry of 8 tables

1	Ken Rae	64.14%
2	Nicol Taylor	58.18%
3	David Nisbet	58.04%
4	Ena Wood	56.99%
5	Angus MacDonald	55.36%
6	Diana Fairlie	54.76%
7	Kathleen Craig	53.42%
=8	Helen Kirkwood	52.98%
8=	Andy Wilson	52.98%

The Farquharson, for Regional Masters, had 6 tables

1=	Howard Greenwell	56.04%
	David Pollard	56.04%
3	Alan Officer	55.63%
4	Yuen Man Rowbotton	า 55.00%
5	Mary Storrar	53.96%
6	John Larkin	53 13%

The **Shenkin** for Masters, Star Masters and Senior Masters had 8 tables

1	Kate Sharp	62.50%
2	J Shearer	60.91%
3	Venetia Thomson	57.34%
4	John M Wilson	56.15%
5	Juliet Vivers	55.75%
6	Tom Kelsey	54.56%
7	Dot Sim	53.097%
8=	Stewart Martindale	52.98%
8=	Helen McCormac	52.98%

The Alan Fairlie for all players below the rank of Master, had 5 tables

1	C Morris	60.42%
2	Gerald Smith	59.38%
3=	Margo Baird	55.21%
3=	R Harvey	55.21%
5	Barbara Humphreys	55.31%
6	Douglas Gordon	54.69%

	The 9 th iteration of the Online League had 6 Divisions	
Division 1	SHENKIN Winners of the Victor Silverstone Trophy (Barnet Shenkin, Steve Levinson, Nils Kvanengren, Geir Brekka, Derek Diamor	124.87 VP nd, Brian Spears)
Division 2	PEDEN (Derrick Peden, Jim Hay, Sandy Duncan, Bob McPaul, Tim McKay)	126.01 VP
Division 3	PATRICK (Ian Patrick, David Ritchie, Bob McKinnon, Cathy Ferguson, Gwynn Davis, Sue	117.67 VP Ingham)
Division 4	COLES (Anne Coles, Alex Russell, Mairi Shiels, Sylvia Peterson)	112.66 VP
Division 5	SHEARER (Marc Shearer, George Watson, Michele Grainger, Peter Thommeny, Jack Shearer, Donald MacKillop)	
Division 6	PBRAID (Peter Braid, Heather Braid, Maurice Franceschi, Janet Unsworth, Hamish Wall	123.53 VP ace, Tom Kelsey)
Divisions 1-5	had 10 teams; Division 6 had 11 teams	

New Melville Job Vacancies

With the retirement of the Club Manager at the end of August 2023 the Board has taken the opportunity to restructure the business. Firstly, we will have a Bridge Operations Manager - looking after the day to day running of bridge tournaments and secondly, a Facilities Manager looking after the premises. If you are interested, or know anyone who maybe, please ask them to contact either Stewart Morris, Rose Simpson, or Rhona Goff of the Board for more details or

Email: applications@melvillebridge.club

BRIDGE OPERATIONS MANAGER (BOM)

This is a remunerated part time position (~10 hours/week) which offers the opportunity to promote this great game in Scotland's largest and most prestigious Bridge Club.

FACILITIES MANAGER (FM)

This is a new remunerated part time position (~2.5 hours/week).

The Board are seeking an individual to ensure the Club's premises at Pinkhill, Edinburgh are kept safe, secure, and clean and maintained to a high standard.

The FM will ensure the Club carries out all activities in line with Health and Safety, Data Protection and Bar and Food regulations.

Master Point Promotions

April 2023

Answers to Quiz

2

1		≜ T975 ♥3 •KQ3 ♣ Q8532	
	AQJ432 ▼A42 ◆54 A7	W E S	•K86 ▼KJT •A87 •KJ64
		_ - ♥Q98765	

Here South has

	≜ 63 ∀ A42 ♦ QJ ≜ KQJT98	
•Q9542 •Q76 •AT84 •A	W E	♦ T87 ∀ KT985 ♦ K32 ♣ 53
	♦ AKJ ♥J3 •9765	

◆JT962
◆T9

- a) You have 11 winners: 6 trump, ♥AK, ♦A, ♣AK.
- b) The 12th should come from guessing who has the ♥Q.
- c)) North has 4 spades, and ◆KQ. South is void in spades and has
 ◆JTxx? probably at least 5 since he has discarded 2.

Ν W С W W Η Η Η W Ε Ν W W С Η W W W Ε

d) Test clubs with ♣A, ♣K and a ruff – the Queen may come down!
If someone shows out, you have a better count of the distribution.
Here South has 11 red cards so play ▼K and run the ▼J.

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: ♠4

- a) South should not have more than 10HCP for his limit raise
- b) partner played Third Hand High, so does not have a spade higher than the Ten. Declarer has ♠AKJ, 8 of his points.
- c) Declarer has 3 spade tricks, 5 clubs and the ♥A, 9 tricks in all
- d) Your only hope is to cash 4 diamond tricks now. Partner should have the ◆K, so play the ◆A and ◆4 to get a lead through South's remaining diamonds.
- (A heart lead works better, but there was no way to tell!)