



Bedfordshire Bridge Association



BULLETIN

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Your Emails



In the last August Bulletin issue (page 15) we asked for your views on making the Bulletin electronic only and to cease printing this magazine. Here is a selection of your replies:

The latest BBA Bulletin mentions that you are considering discontinuing hard copies of the Bulletin.

May I strongly object? The material in the Bulletin makes it quite unsuitable to be online only. The puzzles, the instructive articles, and in the latest edition, the excellent crossword puzzle, mean that the magazine is repeatedly picked up and put down. If it were online only, it would lose most of its value. And there are numerous BBA members who do not use computers.

It is a first-rate little magazine. We are lucky to have it in Bedfordshire. For me personally, it is the only way I benefit from the BBA. Please keep it as it is!

Val Jarrett

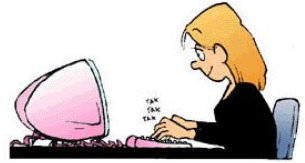
Although I do have internet access, I certainly would NOT read the Bulletin on my computer... I would prefer to retain the paper copies.

The BBA Bulletin is far above the standard of anything we have had in the past. It is a well thought out booklet, full of very informative articles and very well presented.

It is a booklet with which you can settle into an armchair, relax and enjoy reading at one's leisure ... or read in bed. More than that, they are worth keeping. They make very good reference books, to look back on rules, systems or some articles. Why then would one sit propped up in front of a computer when one has the alternative of enjoying it under more relaxing circumstances?

PLEASE DO NOT spoil something as good, as presentable and of such high quality as the Bulletin is in its present form, for an alternative that is SOUL-LESS.

Veda Lobo



I very much look forward to the magazine. If it was sent to computer I wouldn't read it, unless I printed it out, as I hate looking at screens. Funny fault with vision means I just can't do it for long. Bridge players aren't poverty stricken. Surely it's a good use of subs to produce an item like the Bulletin. Thank you.

Dave Miller

On the subject of electronic bulletins, I would much rather have the paper copy than view it on screen. I appreciate it is a lot of work printing and distributing this - what about a donation from each member who wishes to have the paper copy?

I am of the very old fashioned type who much prefers to read books rather than have them on Kindle - there is something rather magical about handling and reading a beautifully produced book. Just the same as it is lovely to read and handle your Bulletin, which I have said before is so well constructed and the pictures and photos add interest. I hope I am not in the minority.

Best wishes

Margaret Whitmore, Bedford Bridge Club Member

No hard copies of your wonderful Bulletin? Just electronic versions? I would not read them. I couldn't settle down in a chair with a cup of coffee and revel in the paper version. You have made the Bulletin something that is worth keeping permanently. Resist with all your might any attempt to discontinue it in its present form.

Tim Sharrock (no wishy-washy opinions from me!)

I should be happy to receive my excellent Bulletin only on line.
Bryden Keenan

Many thanks also to those who contributed to the survey. The results of the survey show that:

- 95% of members receive the Bulletin currently printed three times a year.
- Three quarters of the survey respondents read the Bulletin thoroughly.
- Half of the survey respondents believe the printed Bulletin to be good value for money.
- Half of the survey respondents were not aware that the Bulletin was published on the BBA web site at <http://bedsbridge.co.uk/>
- 44% say they are likely to read the Bulletin on-line should we decide not to print it.

The BBA Committee have decided to continue printing the Bulletin which can also be viewed on-line via the BBA website.

Liz Varga - Survey Co-ordinator and BBA Committee Vice Chair



The Winning Team at the Beds & Northants Congress

Recent Results

Date and Event	Winners and high achievers
2nd March BBA Teams of 8 Wilstead	Winners: Bedford 'A' - Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard, Maureen & Brian Stairs, Rita & Brian Keable, Greg Ward & Monica Lucy ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
14th September Beds & Northants Congress Green Pointed Teams	Winners: Spyridon Roumeliotis & Monica Lucy, Maggie Willis & Mark Westley ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
12th-21st September, Guernsey Congress	
13th Sept. Swiss Pairs	2nd Place Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard
16th Sept. Men's Pairs	Winners: Alan Cooke & Brian Browse
Seniors' Pairs	Winners: Maureen & Brian Stairs
19th Sept. Seniors' Teams	2nd Place: Alan Cooke & Maris Sheppard - Maureen & Brian Stairs ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
25th September BBA Opening Pairs Wilstead	Winners: David Woulds & Monica Lucy ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
12th October 50th Anniversary Celebration, Wilstead	Winners: Nora Gifford & Pat Skelton ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠
23rd October Mens' Pairs Ladies' Pairs Wilstead	Winners: Ron Davis & Alan Oddie Winners: Margaret Codd & Maris Sheppard ♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

Ron Davis has achieved the EBU ranking of *Premier Grand Master*, having won 1,500 Green Points and is only the 2nd Bedfordshire player to do so after David Harris.

When to Lead Trumps



by Monica Lucy

Leading Trumps - Good? or Bad?

Answer ... mostly bad, sometimes good.

One of the most difficult parts of defence is finding a good lead. Defender is leading blind: he cannot see dummy. The only clues he has are the opponents' bidding, (assuming that his partner hasn't bid).

An easy and safe lead is a 'top of sequence' e.g. K from KQJxx, but if we are not lucky enough to have that, we sometimes have to choose between leading a trump and making a potentially disastrous lead.

When is it right to lead a trump?

1. When declarer needs dummy's trumps, and dummy has a shortage in your best suit.
2. When your opponents have settled in their second choice suit and you have a good holding in their first suit. In this example, played recently, the opponents bidding was 1♥ - 1NT - 2♦ - All Pass (neither my partner nor I bid anything).

My partner led a diamond. This is a classic case for leading a trump. My partner had A10xx in hearts, and it was possible that declarer was playing in a 4-3 trump fit. Dummy would have fewer than three hearts, so would hope to be able to trump any heart losers.

When is it safe to lead a trump?

1. Axx is likely to be a safe holding. You can start with a small trump and still have trump control after seeing dummy. This could be a 'safe' lead if you can't bring yourself to make a risky lead.
2. When opponents are in a slam contract, and any other lead could give them a trick they don't deserve.

When is it wrong to lead trumps?

1. When declarer needs to find crucial cards like Q or K of trumps. Don't forget that it is more than likely that declarer will need to draw trumps, so leading a trump is doing declarer's work for him! Leading a trump can also be disastrous if partner has a sensitive trump holding...like AJx or Kx or Qxx
2. When you can't be bothered to work out a better lead. This is lazy thinking and I see it often.
3. When you suspect that another suit held by declarer or dummy could be a valuable source of tricks for declarer. This is the time to make an aggressive lead, maybe a risky lead. You need to find tricks before declarer has drawn your trumps, and established that other suit.

In this case it could be best to lead an ace if you have one ...'to have a look at dummy', before making a decision about another suit.

4. When you have a really miserable hand and this will be your only chance to be on lead, think twice, then think again ... maybe your lead in a plain suit could be a *killing* lead.

An example:

You hold ♠103 ♥9754 ♦1095 ♣1063 and partner opens 2♣ (Acol style) but opponents bid hearts. Partner doubles, so what do you lead against 3♥X?

A 'safe' lead would be a trump, but think of your poor partner with a void in hearts having to find six discards. Much better to help partner with a lead of the ten of spades. Partner will be able to read this as a probable doubleton and work out what to discard when necessary. On a trump lead, 3♥ was defeated by one trick only. On the ten of spades lead, the score could have been -800 or even -1100. This was a hand in a county match.

5. It is nearly always wrong to lead a singleton trump. Why? It is likely that partner has four trumps which could make the contract difficult for declarer, unless you help him by leading one. A possible exception is in defence to a slam contract.



Alan Oddies's Christmas Quiz



The following hands are all from national competitions where either my partner or I failed to come up with the winning solution at the table. Can you do better?

♠ AJ5
♥ 6
♦ AQ6542
♣ 654

Hand 1.

It's love-all at pairs. Partner opened 1♦ first in hand, and the bidding was as shown:-

They lead a small heart to the ace and a club comes back. You win and take a losing diamond finesse.

They play another club,

which you win and ruff a heart in dummy. You cash the ace of diamonds and play another. Slightly surprisingly East follows with the jack, and when you ruff with the eight you're over-ruffed with the nine. West plays the king of hearts. You ruff in dummy and are relieved when

all follow to the last top club, East playing the jack. You have six tricks and with the ace of trumps in dummy are not hard pressed to come to seven. How do you plan to make an eighth?

North	East	South	West
1♦	X	XX	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	End

♠ Q842
♥ J84
♦ 73
♣ AKQ9

♠ QJ62
♥ K9
♦ AK73
♣ K86

Hand 2.

It's game-all at teams, and you're in 5♠ after East has opened with a weak 2♥. They start with two rounds of hearts, the queen and jack being on your left and the ace on your right. How are you planning to bring this in?

♠ AK98543
♥ 3
♦ J
♣ Q743

Hand 3

Dummy >	♠ A86		
	♥ 1032		
	♦ QJ108		
You	♣ 1052		
♠ 73		N	
♥ KJ		W	E
♦ A765			
♣ Q9873			S

It's teams and your opponents are playing 5-card majors and a strong no trump. The bidding (with dealer South and your side silent) was 1♥ - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♦ - 3♥ - Pass. You lead the seven of clubs, which is not a great start for the defence when it runs to declarer's jack. Declarer plays a spade to the ace and a small heart to his eight and your jack. You play another club. Declarer wins with the ace and perseveres with another small heart. You win with the king. Now what?

Answers

Hand 1.

You're down to:

♠ A
♥ -
♦ 654
♣ -
♠ Q42
♥ -
♦ -
♣ 9

You know East started with KJx and Jxx in the minors, and from the bidding and play to date must have started with AQxx in hearts. (If West had the queen he'd have led the king at trick one, not a small one). It looks as if the king of trumps is on your right for the double of 1♦ (it's a pretty miserable call without it), in which case you're bound to make your queen if you just ruff your last club with the ace of trumps.

That's how the play went at the table, but the remaining cards were:

East discarded his last heart when the club was ruffed, and when a diamond was played to the next trick he ruffed with the six and the queen was over-ruffed with the king. A heart was then ruffed with the ten and West's seven of trumps took the last trick. Unlucky, and good defence, but

		♠ A	
		♥ -	
		♦ 654	
		♣ -	
♠ K7			♠ 1063
♥ K10		N	♥ Q
♦ -		W	♦ -
♣ -			♣ -
		S	
		♠ Q42	
		♥ -	
		♦ -	
		♣ 9	

there's no need to take a risk on who has the king of trumps. If you play a spade to the ace and then a diamond, East will have to ruff (otherwise you just discard your club). You over-ruff with the queen, and if that loses to the king, West will only have hearts left and you make your last trump *en passant*.

Hand 2.

It looks as if you need to find one opponent with Ax in clubs, so that you can lead through him and then duck the next round to limit your losers in the suit to one. Alternatively, there may be a club endplay of some sort. So, to find out who might have short clubs, you should play to establish the diamond distribution. Ruff the second heart, top trump (East shows out), ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond, trump to dummy, top diamond and ruff a diamond. When you do all that, West shows out on the fourth diamond, having started with Qxx. You're down to:

♠ J6	Decide how you're going to continue before reading on. The fact that East is a European Seniors' Team champion might influence your decision.
♥ -	
♦ -	
♣ K86	You know East started with five diamonds, so his distribution was probably 0-6-5-2. (If he was 0-5-5-3 you have no hope anyway). You can either cross to dummy in trumps and play him for Ax in clubs, or you can play the first club from hand. In the latter case you will succeed by force if East's doubleton is specifically J10. You will also succeed if a European Seniors' Teams champion has Jx and fails to unblock the jack on the first round, but maybe that's not very likely.
♠ K8	
♥ -	
♦ -	
♣ Q74	

A priori Ax is far more likely than the specific doubleton J10, but is a holding of: ♠Void ♥A10xxxx ♦xxxxx ♣Ax too good for a weak two? Probably not (they are vulnerable after all) but perhaps inevitably, he had J10. So the winning line in the diagram is a club towards the king, ducking on the way back. East will win, but will then have to concede a ruff and discard.



Two Declarer Play Tips

From Peter Scott

Take a look at the fairly common suit distribution opposite and give some thought as to how, as declarer, you would play it, given entries to both hands and no other considerations to worry about. Would you just bash out the ace and king and hope for the best? This situation arises regularly and you should consider how the remaining cards might be split. If 2-2 or 3-1, no problem, and you will get away with it. However, the suit could split 4-0 and if you are not careful, you could lose a trick! If East holds the four outstanding cards, you will always lose a trick and there is nothing you can do about it, but if West has them, you can still pick them up without loss. However, you must play the king first and if East shows out on the first round, you can then finesse twice against West's jack and ten.

AQ874
K953

Let's make a small change to your holding by giving North the ten, which might appear not to matter much but makes a substantial difference to how you should play the suit. In order to guard against a 4-0 split you must play the ace first and if either side shows out, you can then finesse against the jack in the other hand for no loss. Had you played the king first, should East hold J862, you will always lose a trick.

AQ1074
K953

Here's another situation which arises regularly which is often misplayed: Consider (honestly) how you would play this suit with entries to both hands and no opposition bidding to help you. The aim is to play the suit for no more than one loser. Leading from dummy towards the queen gives you a 50% chance of the king being on your right. Cashing the ace first increases the odds slightly as there may be a stiff king. However, with two honours missing, your best chance is to lead the queen from hand and run it if not covered. Ok - East may win with the king but next when gaining the lead, you lead a low card from hand and if West plays low, insert the ten (or nine). The odds of this line working

A10976
Q43

(i.e. West holding at least one honour card) increase to roughly 75%. It works when West holds one or both the king and the jack and only fails when East holds them both.

Give the ten from dummy to your opponents and substitute a lower card and the whole ball game changes - see diagram opposite. Now you must lead towards the queen, possibly cashing the ace first (depending on what other considerations there are) to pick up the suit for one loser. If you recognise these situations at the table (in time!) and play with the odds, over a period you will outscore those players who just cash their top honours and hope for the best!

A9765
Q43

Kitchen Bridge

By Jocelyn Shaffer

I like to play bridge
Whenever I am free
It's much more exciting
Than watching TV

And so now I am resigned
To only playing a little
As so much time is taken
By the break in the middle

We sit around the table
All four of us in place
We all follow suit
As defender leads an ace

So we leave with no result
And it's always the same
Will we ever get to finish
Even one bridge game!

But as I'm concentrating
Someone wants a break
So we agree to continue
After tea and cake

But now I have the answer
The next time we meet
After setting up the table
And taking a seat

And so we start chatting
And time marches on
And then before we know it
The evening's almost gone

We put the kettle on
And then raid the fridge
Yes, the only thing to do
Is forget about the bridge!

We go back to our cards
But I've lost my concentration
I've forgotten who played what
With the social conversation

By Popular Demand ...

Another Crossword by Bert Shiebert

... again taken from a Bulletin of days gone by

1		2		3			4	5		6		7
						8						
9								10				
11						12						
				13								
	14	15						16				
17						18						19
20									21	22		
								23				
24						25						
26								27				

Would somebody else out there like to devise a crossword
for a future Bulletin? If so, please contact the editor.

BERT'S CROSSWORD CLUES:

ACROSS

1. South goes to sleep in the middle but returns after a break (5)
4. May cause affront to leave before the finish (6)
9. Put the pressure on to get a favourable discard (7)
10. East has plenty to spare but still finishes light (5)
11. The day before North finished level (4)
12. You might even win if your pet can come (7)
13. A suit that's really made to measure (3)
14. In addition Alfred briefly said so (4)
16. East and South rest in No Trump
18. Mixed up sailor appreciates good painting (3)
20. A good game is forecast with a nice drink at the finish (7)
21. Mixed type of fuel commonly used in bridge clubs (4)
24. If it's unusual warn them later (5)
25. Bring out CRO to dupe the opposition (7)
26. There are no trumps in the whole of Ireland (6)
27. Key card opens the way for a squeeze (5)



A recent photo

DOWN

1. Ty forgets and makes a mess of it (6)
2. Abe will join us in telling partner just what we think of him (5)
3. May not play to begin with, when he grows in stature (4)
5. Short gentleman from the farm is just a tiny bit confused by the bid (8)
6. Saucy overcall! I'll give my opinion very quickly (7)
7. Peered at opponent's hand but went down even more (6)
8. No trace of a response from partner (5)
13. Refers to a woodsman and sounds like a pretty good player to me (8)
15. At last Reg plays his highest card (7)
17. Show great perception if you're quick on it (6)
18. Clever chap, he's got it taped (5)
19. Lee was sent to spy on me but he's too tired (6)
22. Being titled adds to success at bridge (5)
23. Just needs king of hearts on-side, even break in spades and clubs plus two finesses and I can make this contract (4)



The Queen Signal

from Chris Watson



When you discard an honour card it usually has special significance. Discarding an ace would normally promise the king and queen. Discarding a king promises the queen and jack but denies the ace. Similarly when you discard a queen it shows the jack and ten and denies the king and ace. This applies to discards when you are not following suit and work alongside your normal signalling such as McKenney or Lavinthal. The play of the queen when following suit to partner's lead of ace or king, depending upon lead style, has a special significance if you and partner agree to play the *Queen Signal*.

The play of the queen under partner's ace or king lead shows either a singleton queen or the possession of the jack. Obviously it is important not to play the queen from Qx when x is other than the jack. Partner's under-lead to the next trick will often give a suit preference signal but it may not be clear and the contents of dummy may be more useful as a suit switch indicator. The *Queen Signal* is at its most useful when playing against suit contracts. Let us look at some examples:

Example 1.

The Bidding

South	West	North	East
1♠	X	2NT	Pass
4♠	End		

	♠ K1052		
Dealer	♥ AQJ2		
South	♦ 752		
	♣ J6		
	♠ 94	N	♠ 7
	♥ 10976	W	♥ 843
	♦ AK6	E	♦ QJ1084
	♣ AQ52	S	♣ 9843
	♠ AQJ863		
	♥ K5		
	♦ 93		
	♣ K107		

North's bid of 2NT shows a good raise to at least the 3-level in partner's suit. West leads his ace of diamonds and East plays the queen. West now under-leads his six of diamonds to East's jack. Examination of dummy shows no sensible return other than a club. The club return sets the contact.

Without the *Queen Signal*, declarer would make the contract losing just two diamonds and a club.

Example 2.

The Bidding

Dealer ♠ 108
 West ♥ J1096
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ AKJ7

♠ AKJ954 ♠ Q
 ♥ A4 ♥ 732
 ♦ 8732 ♦ 10965
 ♣ 5 ♣ 98432

♠ 7632
 ♥ KQ85
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ Q106

N
 W E
 S

West	North	East	South
1♠	X	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	End	

South's bid of 2♠ is an unassuming cue bid showing a good hand. North bids his cheapest suit first. South shows his hearts and game is reached. West leads the ace of spades and East plays the queen. As West possesses the jack he knows that

East's queen is a singleton. West leads his singleton club which is won by declarer in hand. Declarer leads a low heart from hand and West immediately goes up with his ace. West leads his four of spades, ruffed by East, who then returns a club to defeat the contract. Note that West's four of spades is a suit preference signal confirming his wish for a club return.

Winning Pairs Tactics

Last Hand in the Series by Peter Scott - Courtesy of Ed Scerri

You open 1NT with the South hand and your partner jumps straight to 3NT (avoiding Stayman for reasons only known to him). When dummy goes down, your heart sinks when you see the four spades and realise that most pairs in the room will be in 4♠ making ten tricks if the club finesse fails or eleven tricks if it succeeds. Your prospects in NTs look to be making one less trick for a near-zero score. Can this situation be redeemed?

♠ AQ97
 ♥ Q74
 ♦ A75
 ♣ KJ9

N
 W E
 S

♠ KJ64
 ♥ K8
 ♦ K642
 ♣ A54

Answer on Page 27



Bridge Gems from the Greats

Part 3.

Gleaned by Bob Denby

Giorgio Belladonna

Giorgio Belladonna (1923-1995) was a public official in Rome, a bridge professional, a columnist, and a bridge club owner. As a youth he was a useful footballer but bridge was to be his great love at which he became one of the all-time greats, including for many years the number one WBF world ranked player.



The story of Giorgio Belladonna is really the story of the Italian Blue Team which for a generation dominated world bridge. There have been many powerful teams in the history of bridge, but the Squadra Azzura were, unquestionably, the finest team ever, and their achievements are unlikely to be matched.

A great gentlemen, whether at the table or not, with a larger-than-life character, Giorgio was known for his expressive nature and aggressive playing style. He collected 13 Bermuda Bowls and 3 World Olympiads. A school drop out, he learnt to play bridge when 21, and represented Italy 10 years later in the 1954 European Championships. During this period he and Walter Avarelli devised one of the first artificial club systems, the Roman Club.

The Bidding

North	East	South	West
Pass	1♦	2♣	X
End			

N/S Vul ♠ AK
 Dealer N ♥ 109754
 ♦ QJ64
 Belladonna ♣ J5

♠ J9842	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q105	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ Q		♥ AK6										
♦ A93		♦ K8752										
♣ Q864		♣ 103										

♠ 763
 ♥ J832
 ♦ 10
 ♣ AK972

The following defence was an example of just how well he played. South's vulnerable two club overall of East's one diamond opener, doubled by Giorgio, is decidedly light by today's Championship standards although a one heart opening bid by North would now be considered normal. Giorgio's double was for penalty –

nowadays it would be for takeout, but the negative double had not appeared. He led the heart queen and switched to the diamond three. East won with the king and cashed the ace, king of hearts on which Giorgio discarded the diamond nine and then the ace.

For a successful defence Giorgio needed to make two trumps, by way of a trump promotion. East duly played a second round of diamonds, and South ruffed with the nine of clubs. Had West over-ruffed that would have been the end of the defence, but Giorgio calmly discarded a spade. South next led a low trump towards dummy's jack, but West put up the queen and played a spade. Dummy could win and cash the jack of clubs, but now there was no way for South to re-enter his hand to draw trumps.

Whichever red suit he led from the table, West could over-ruff if South ruffed low, or discard if South ruffed with the ace or the king. Either way, two clubs doubled was one down, and another Giorgio Belladonna gem had made history.

Another of Giorgio's well-known hands is from the 1975 Bermuda Bowl finals against the USA. This occurred after the two teams had already tangled over a foot-tapping scandal involving one of the Italian pairs.

Trailing the match with few boards left, the Italians accidentally ended up in seven clubs. Eddie Kantar led a low heart, which Giorgio ruffed. Next came a club finesse, followed by the ace. The lucky trump break enabled the contract to make, and with it came a 13th Bermuda Bowl victory for the Blue Team. At the time, Kantar bemoaned his luck. But a double-dummy analysis suggested that Kantar should have played the club king at trick two to false card Giorgio into a losing line of play, assuming that East held four clubs to the ten.

Garozzo		
7♣.	♠ QJ8	Board 92
By South	♥ AJ965	Dealer East
	♦ K82	
Kantar	♣ AQ	Eisenberg
♠ 7652	N	♠ 43
♥ K432	W E	♥ Q1087
♦ J53	S	♦ Q1064
♣ K10		♣ 754
Belladonna		
	♠ AK109	
	♥ -	
	♦ A97	
	♣ J98632	

This is a deal from an exhibition match in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1970 where Giorgio landed in 6♦.

Garozzo			
Dealer East	♠	7654	
	♥	A83	
	♦	J32	
Eisenberg	♣	KQ5	Lawrence
♠		N	♠ 83
♥		W E	♥ 92
♦		S	♦ 9
♣			♣ AJ1097432
Belladonna			
	♠	AQ10	
	♥	K754	
	♦	AKQ1076	
	♣	-	

On the opening lead of the club eight Giorgio played the king, covered by the ace and ruffed. Now Giorgio pondered over the hand. The Closed Room was small but provided with a side table for water and coffee. Giorgio apparently stood up, went over to the table and lit up. He walked back and forth with his head in his hand, puffing furiously. He finally went back to the table and played the ace of diamonds and a diamond to

the jack. He cashed the queen of clubs, discarding the ten of spades.

Ruffing the last club high, he began running trumps. During his walkabout, he had concluded that the spade king must be offside. When he found an eight-card club suit on his right, he was also convinced that the hearts were not breaking. He arrived at the position that follows:

Garozzo			
Dealer East	♠	7654	
	♥	A83	
	♦	-	
Eisenberg	♣	-	Lawrence
♠		N	♠ 83
♥		W E	♥ 92
♦		S	♦ -
♣			♣ J109
Belladonna			
	♠	AQ	
	♥	K754	
	♦	10	
	♣	-	

When Giorgio led his last diamond, Billy Eisenberg was squeezed. If he threw a heart, Giorgio would play ace, king and a third heart to endplay Billy, forcing a spade lead into the A-Q and the established seven of hearts. If Billy threw his spade nine, Giorgio would discard the heart three and then play the spade ace, queen, to set up the seven and six for the contract.

In the opposing room, the same contract was quickly two down, the

same first three tricks, followed by a finesse of the spade ten, losing to the jack, and then two hearts lost in the end position.

Billy Eisenberg still says that this was the greatest hand ever played against him. How clearly Giorgio saw this game of ours. A leading theoretician, Giorgio was the principal inventor of the Roman Club system of bidding and, with Benito Garozzo, created Super Precision, a complex strong club based method.

The hand below is known as the Belladonna Coup, though whilst no one else ever laid claim to it, when asked many years ago, Giorgio swore that he had never seen the hand!

<p>4♠ by South Belladonna</p> <p>♠ K72 ♥ Q1053 ♦ 106 ♣ 9832</p>	<p>♠ 863 ♥ K6 ♦ AK532 ♣ K64</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>♠ AQJ95 ♥ J82 ♦ 94 ♣ AQ7</p>		N		W		E		S		<p>Love All Dealer West</p> <p>♠ 104 ♥ A974 ♦ QJ87 ♣ J105</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

Against South's 4♠, West leads a small trump to East's ten and South's queen. South has several ways to play for ten tricks, which include finding the cae of hearts onside (50% probability of success), or finding the diamonds 3-3 (36%). The best prospect is to ruff a heart in dummy but the attack on trumps jeopardises that plan. If South mistimes the play, the defence can manage to lead three rounds of trumps and win the king of spades before declarer can ruff the third heart. Instead,

South led to dummy's king of diamonds and played the six of hearts away from the king! This gave E-W an impossible choice:

If East takes the trick with either the ace of hearts or (if he has it) the queen, South eventually takes a heart trick. East can continue trumps safely from his side, but South would no longer need to ruff a heart to reach ten tricks.

If West takes the trick – say - by capturing the jack of hearts with the queen – then South might never take a heart trick. But West could not lead another spade without sacrificing his trump trick. South can't be stopped from either ruffing a heart in dummy, or (if West leads another trump) from taking five spades in his own hand. Only a very unlikely defensive minor suit ruff can defeat the contract. Such a

Giorgio sitting E-W. Giorgio had opened a club and South's overcall of a heart was raised to three by North. Benito led the club ten, Giorgio played the two and this was won by South's jack. South led a trump to the ace and one back. Giorgio won this with his king and returned the queen of clubs. When declarer covered with the ace, Garozzo ruffed and shifted to a diamond and Giorgio cashed the king and nine of clubs to put the contract down one.

Next time Papi who is still admired by his followers.

Answer to Declarer Play Quiz on page 2

If you take trick 3 with the ace or king of hearts and lead a diamond to your ace with the intention of playing a ruffing diamond finesse through East later, you will have to return to dummy with your last entry - the other high trump. If East then covers your queen of diamonds with the king, there is no way back to dummy to enjoy your established diamonds. You have 10

	♠ 93		
	♥ AK3		
	♦ QJ1064		
	♣ 976		
♠ AK10742	N	♠ J86	
♥ Q	W E	♥ J2	
♦ 875	S	♦ K932	
♣ K105		♣ J832	
	♠ Q5		
	♥ 10987654		
	♦ A		
	♣ AQ4		

trumps between the two hands and there is a good chance that West has led his singleton queen of hearts at trick 3. Your best chance is to duck this in dummy by playing **the three** and if the queen of hearts was singleton, West will then have to choose another suit, preserving your top heart entry to dummy when the diamonds have been set up. See full deal above.

Two quotes from Winston Churchill that could be applied to your bridge:

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.”

“Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.”

Bronze in the European U.25 Championships

From Alan Shillitoe

Massive congratulations are due to Graeme Robertson who, in partnership with Tom Paske, won bronze in the European U.25 pairs championships. To put this into perspective, they are the first English or British pair to ever win a medal at this level and did so in a field packed with multiple



Graeme Robertson

medal winners, not only at Junior level, but also winners of major titles at Open level.

Dealer N	♠ J943	♠ K7652
E/W Vul	♥ 42	♥ 9865
	♦ KQJ85	♦ 97
	♣ 63	♣ 42
♠ AQ10	N	
♥ AKJ	W	E
♦ A64	S	
♣ AQJ7		
	♠ 8	
	♥ Q1073	
	♦ 1032	
	♣ K10985	

Here then is an example of the play that won them a medal, in this case against the eventual silver medallists from Denmark – Dennis Bilde (Vanderbilt winner last year in a team with Sabine Auken and Roy Welland) and Rasmus Jepsen.

The Bidding:

West	North	East	South
Paske	D.Bilde	Robertson	R.Jepsen
	2♦	Pass	3♦
X	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	End

Jepsen led the two of diamonds which Graeme won in the dummy. He now cashed the ♠AQ and found the bad news (Jepsen ditching the ten of diamonds). He now played a second diamond, which Bilde won and continued with the

third round of diamonds (on which Graeme ruffed and Jepsen threw a small club). He took a club finesse and played the ten of spades off the dummy. Bilde (with J9) 'amusingly' ducked, but Graeme had to overtake with the king, and now Jepsen was squeezed in hearts and clubs. He pitched a club and now Graeme had to guess the defender's

shape to make the contract. Had he started life as 1-3-3-6 or 1-4-3-5? Eventually, Graeme guessed correctly that he was 1-4-3-5 and now could cash his clubs to make the contract and score a virtual top on the deal.

European U.25 pairs medallists. From L-R: Graeme Robertson, Jakub Wojcieszek, Pawel Jassem, Tom Paske, Dennis Bilde, Rasmus Jepsen.



Answer to Winning Pairs hand on page 19

You are on to a bad score here unless you can come up with some inspired idea. Let's suppose East holds the queen of clubs and West holds the ten. The 4♠ bidders will make their 10 tricks but there is a way that you can too in 3NT. Assume this is the case (well - you have to be optimistic at bridge!) and lead the jack of clubs from dummy. If East covers with the queen, play your ace and then finesse the nine on the next trick. Should East play low, just run the jack. This way, you will outscore the 4♠ bidders by 10 points for a 'top'. Ok - so the odds are not exactly great for the club honours to be divided this way but it is your only hope of a decent score. Should they be split otherwise you will make 9 tricks in 3NT while 4♠ makes 10 or 11. However, your score will not be much worse than it would have been had you made 9 or 10 tricks, and this way, at least you gave yourself the chance of a good score.

YOUR BULLETIN REPS

Please ask your club rep. if you have not received your copy.

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Bedford..... | Alan Cooke | Milton Keynes..... | David Gilling |
| Cranfield | Erika Sharrock | Wardown | Peter Scott |
| Leighton B. | David Gilling | | |

Quote:
 "Small thoughts fear the future. Big thoughts are the future."
 Michael Port

Playing for Pleasure

By Michael Collins - BBA Chairman



Forty years ago my new girlfriend asked me to teach her bridge. I had to be patient just as her father was with me when he and I played golf. We were both patient because we had similar aspirations in relation to his daughter, albeit for his part he expected them to be realised only after a trip along the aisle. We succeeded in our quest; my late father-in-law said he gave me Lesley's hand in return for an eighteen inch 'gimme' on the 13th green at Rushmere-St-Andrew.

A few years and two toddlers later, on holiday in Spain with friends we played quite a bit of bridge when the kids were asleep. I look back on it now with neuralgia. (No, I have not got the word wrong; I recall waking up many mornings on that holiday, late, and with a headache for some unaccountable reason.)

The six adults on that trip had not been brought together with bridge as a connection. But it was not at all unusual in those days for six 'random' folk to be able to make up a four for bridge. It was not bridge that made us friends, but bridge has played a part in us remaining friends, even to this day. I am not persuaded that 'anyone for Wii' works as well.

Many of you have met Lesley, most recently when it was her turn to be patient as she accompanied me to the bridge weekend in Eastbourne, organised by David Gilmore and committee from Milton Keynes. She kibitzed for a while and was almost tempted to play a session when one partner of a pair retired early. Sadly, only 'almost' as she finds the intensity of club duplicate off-putting but the Eastbourne event was a bit more relaxed and sociable so at least she considered it. It was a great weekend and I hope a 'first of' not 'one off'. Those who were there and who went for a walk on the prom in the glorious Sussex sunshine will wonder about what exactly was meant by the B&B sign saying 'TV in every room'.

Another sociable, well-conducted and enjoyable event was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the County Association

organised by the County Committee, and especially Peter Malpass. Peter has taken over from Brian Keable as County Captain and I would like to take the opportunity to add my personal acknowledgement of Brian's skill and diligence in that role over the last four years.

Thinking about all these events it seems to me if every club night was played in the same spirit perhaps more people may be encouraged to play; even Lesley and, more importantly, many who feel as she does.

Finally, here is a story from recent sessions:

Not so long ago I watched as our opponents, two of the County's finest, bid and made five clubs in quick time. The week before, one of the same pair doubled our three diamonds contract into game (accepted without recrimination by the other), so feeling emboldened and with time in hand before the move I engaged in discussion about their bidding sequence on the hand just played. Here is what I was told each was saying to their partner.

Opener... 1 Diamond: "I have 11-19 HCP, at least four diamonds and my hearts are shorter than my diamonds"

Responder ... 1 No Trump: "I have 6-9 HCP partner, no more than three cards in diamonds hearts or spades so at least four clubs".

Opener... 3 Clubs: "I have 16-19 HCP, I also have at least four clubs and a singleton or doubleton in at least one of the majors".



Responder... 3 Spades (alerted): "I actually have 8-9 HCP, or a good 7, so game looks on. I expect to stop spades once even if led through my hand, but not hearts for no-trumps".

Opener ... 4 Clubs: "I can't stop hearts either and have less than 18 HCP. It looks like we have quick heart losers playing in no trumps or clubs"

Responder ... 5 Clubs: "Hmmm, opps. have kept quiet about their heart fit which is perhaps unsurprising as they are vulnerable but

probably means neither has a six card suit. Partner has three hearts with neither ace nor king, two spades and four cards in each of the minors. I have six clubs to the king-nine, a singleton heart, jack to three in diamonds and ace to three in spades. If we can manage three diamonds and either a spade or spade ruff from partner the club game is on. Even if we have a trump loser and it isn't, many pairs will be in three no trumps going off on a heart lead, some will also be in the club game going off. Some may even be foolish enough to bid six clubs with a heart and spade or diamond loser. The only better scores would be those whose opponents make a silly sacrifice or pairs who stop in a part score in clubs or no-trumps. With a combined HCP count of 24-25 plus distribution points neither is very likely so five clubs will score 50% or better whatever"

Now, I do not say theirs was a perfect analysis, and there may even have been some post event rationalisation going on. But it is genuinely what happened at the table, and the hand was bid and played in less time than it takes to boil an egg. In fact, the longest pause was me deciding whether to hang on to a spade or diamond at trick twelve. Getting it wrong would turn their 83% into 100%.

I dream of being in a partnership that can do all they did, and so quickly too. Reflecting afterwards, I recalled how often this same pair, who doubled us into game the week before, on other, more frequent, occasions inflicted upon us a bottom hugging -200 getting us one off doubled vulnerable in two of a major or three of a minor. Oh to be able to play like that!

And no, I am not going to tell you if I kept the correct card, spade or the diamond.



Michael pictured on a recent trip with Eleanor Dottin, immediate past president of the Barbados Bridge League.

ECL Selection Criteria

By Peter Malpass - BBA Match Organiser

I have been asked for a few words following my recent appointment as County Captain and thought it worth stressing that I will find it difficult to follow a class act like Brian Keable. He has done so much as a player and captain to keep the County Association afloat financially through his work with Rita on green pointed events and also punching above its weight competitively in the ECL and national events.

My bridge is more modest and because of that, I have asked for a natural A team player to sign off the choice of the A team from the list of those available and willing to play in a particular event. I am glad to say that Alan Oddie has agreed to do this.

Selecting the A team should, in my view, be made on ability so that the County gives itself the best chance of winning their match. Thus, if there are people playing who are rarely seen around the County's other events, I think that is entirely reasonable as they are often doing other good deeds in the bridge world.

The B and C teams are a different matter and will only be chosen from those attending the events we organise i.e. the league, knockout, county competitions, green pointed events etc. As far as it is possible, I will have an eye on the future development of our teams and will lean towards rising talent, assuming it can be spotted.

It is pleasing that more recently we have been able to include some newer players whose age is less than the average seen around our clubs and the more we can do to encourage this the better. If we can find ways of introducing more people to the game through closer links with organisations like U3A, colleges etc this will improve our clubs as well as the County.

I would ask that if anyone wishes to be considered as a member of the pool of players we select from, please shout out and similarly if you spot a 'shrinking violet' among your fellows, again, please let me know.



Who was Lebensohl?

A bridge mystery by Chris Watson



Who devised the lebensohl convention, the true origin of which seems to have been lost to history? It first surfaced on convention cards in the 1960's in the USA. Many players attributed it to Kenneth W. Lebensold as a miss-spelling of his name but this was denied by the gentleman in question.

A 1970 Bridge World article by George A. W. Boehm was the first published on lebensohl but he does not attribute the convention to Ken Lebensold in it. However, Boehm does recount that in preparation for a competition in New York in late 1969, his convention card had the entry 'Lebensohl when you overcall our no-trump opening'. Kenneth Lebensold was also a competitor at the event and upon reviewing Boehm's convention card, disowned the convention. Boehm goes on to state that therefore he and his playing partner "have decided to designate it 'lebensohl' and to continue to use it as such. Boehm named and spelled it uncapitalised; most bridge literature refers to the convention as Lebensohl.

Are there any clues from the name itself? Leben is a German verb meaning to live, dwell or exist. Sohle is a noun meaning sole (of a foot), face (of a plane), bottom (of a valley) or floor (of a mine). Also it is used colloquially to mean a lie or fib. Not much help there then! Tony Forrester in writing the bridge column in The Telegraph opined that the Lebensohl convention was more trouble than it was worth. It is not uncommon to end up with egg on your face when either you or partner forget what 2NT means after an overcall of partner's 1NT. Why then do bridge players continue to use the convention? That's another mystery perhaps. The reason players like it is that it distinguishes game-going hands from those that merely wish to compete. When opponents interfere with your 1NT opening bid at the 2-level it takes away much of the uncertainty and guesswork that can occur. Many players also use the convention when partner has doubled a weak 2-opening for takeout and they possess a very weak hand.

The foundation and cornerstone of the lebensohl convention is that after a natural overcall at the 2-level by an opponent following a 1NT opening, a response of 2NT by the partner of the No-Trump bidder forces the opener to rebid 3♣ in order that the responder has the possibility of clarifying his hand. Many players also use the convention when artificial or 2-suited bids are made by the opposition.

There are two common versions of the lebensohl convention: the FADS version shown below or the FASS version. FADS stands for Fast Arrival Denies Stopper and FASS stands for Fast Arrival Shows Stopper. The essential difference between the two versions is that a bid of 3NT directly over the interference shows a stopper in the FASS version and denies a stopper in the FADS version. 3NT arrived at via lebensohl is reversed too.

Lebensohl – FADS version

Responder's Bid	Meaning and Subsequent Bidding
2-level bid higher than overcall	Natural and non-forcing.
2NT	A puppet bid requiring opener to bid 3♣. After opener's forced 3♣ bid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 of a lower ranking suit than overcall is natural & to play. • 3 of a higher ranking suit than overcall is natural & invitational. • 3 of overcall suit is artificial: like Stayman, it asks opener to bid a 4-card major but it also shows a stopper in the overcall suit. • 3NT is natural, to play, and shows a stopper in the overcall suit.
3 of a suit other than overcall	Natural & game-forcing
3 of overcall suit	Artificial: like Stayman, it asks opener to bid a 4-card major, but it also denies a stopper in the overcall suit.
3NT	Natural, to play but denies a stopper in overcall suit.

Let us look at a couple of examples:

The Bidding

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♥	?	

You are East:

- ♠ 63
- ♥ 873
- ♦ 7
- ♣ QJ107632

What do you bid? Is a bid of 3♣ forcing?

Here you wish to play in 3♣

What if your hand is:

- ♠ AK
- ♥ 87
- ♦ K7
- ♣ AK107632

Here you may wish to play in game somewhere but may not end up in the best contract.

With the lebensohl convention you have no such problems.

*** BRIDGE BABIES ***



"I hope this finesse works ..."



"A quick peep is worth two finesses!"

Bert Shiebert's 1st Crossword Answered

From page 22 of the August Bulletin

¹ R	U	² B	B	³ E	R			⁴ T	E	⁵ A	M	⁶ S
E		A		N		⁷ F		A		B		I
⁸ S	O	L	I	D		⁹ A	U	C	T	I	O	N
O		A		P		L		T		D		G
¹⁰ R	A	N	K	L	E	S			¹¹ D	E	A	L
T		C		A		¹² E	S	¹³ P				E
	¹⁴ D	E	N	Y				¹⁵ I	M	¹⁶ P	S	
¹⁷ D					¹⁸ S	A	¹⁹ M		N		R	²⁰ C
²¹ E	X	²² A	M			²³ I	M	P	R	O	V	E
U		S		²⁴ O		X		O		T		A
²⁵ C	A	P	A	B	L	E		²⁶ I	D	E	A	S
E		R		E		D		N		S		E
²⁷ S	M	O	K	Y			²⁸ S	T	A	T	E	S

Thanks Bert - a great crossword!
Another Crossword from Bert from days of
old on page 16 of this issue

Wilstead Sunday 12th October 2014

BBA 50th Anniversary Celebration Day



Clear overall winners Nora Gifford and Pat Skelton (centre two) pictured with their 2nd round team partners John and Ros Bateman

The organiser and 'master of ceremonies' Peter Malpass



George Goddard gave a talk on the origins and history of the BBA



First round winners (from left to right): Roger Gregory, Lorraine Curry, David Woulds & Janis Maurins



A good spread was laid on