



Keep What Partner Can't

Having to make a discard can be hard. Throwing the wrong thing may give declarer an extra winner. If you have J-x-x-x and see A-K-Q-x in dummy, you must surely keep the suit. In real life, things are rarely so simple. Either you must contend with length in the closed hand or rely on help from partner. In the latter case, you often need to protect one suit each.

<p>♠ 10 7 3 2 ♥ K 9 5 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A K J 7</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	<p>♠ Q J 5 ♥ J 7 3 2 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ 8 6 2</p>	<p>♠ A 8 6 ♥ A 10 6 4 ♦ Q 10 3 ♣ Q 10 4</p>
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT (12-14)
Pass	2NT	End	2♥

You are East. West leads the six of diamonds. You win with the ace and return the nine. Partner runs the suit. Dummy discards two spades and a heart, you two clubs and South one spade and one heart. On a club switch, declarer runs four rounds of the suit. You must find three discards. You put South with the major-suit aces (or West could have cashed out). Those, plus four clubs and the spade king would give eight tricks. This tells you to put West with the spade king. A count of South's points says the same. A-K of spades, the heart ace and both minor queens would be 15. You can throw all your spades! You must keep hearts because partner can't.

<p>♠ Q 9 4 ♥ 9 8 ♦ K 10 8 6 ♣ Q 10 5 3</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	<p>♠ 10 5 2 ♥ 10 7 6 3 2 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A K 8</p>	<p>♠ J 6 ♥ A K Q 4 ♦ J 7 5 3 ♣ J 9 4</p>
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	End	

You, West, lead the three of clubs and run four tricks when East holds A-K-x. On the last club, North throws a spade, East a heart and South a diamond.

You switch to a heart, won by the jack. Declarer continues with the A-K-Q of hearts. You must find two discards.

You have three options: two spades, two diamonds or one of each. The clue here is the bidding. South responded 2♦, showing at least four diamonds. This means that partner holds at most two diamonds and thus that discarding two diamonds would be fatal. Since South might hold J-x of spades, partner will be able to help protect the third round of spades but not necessarily the second round – so you do not want to discard two spades either. Correct is to throw one spade and one diamond.

Had the bidding been different, giving you reason to place South with three spades and three diamonds, you would again have followed the principle that you *keep what partner can't*. In that case, as only you could guard the third round of spades, you would keep your spades and rely on partner to guard diamonds.

<p>♠ A K Q 10 4 ♥ 10 ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ J 7 6</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	<p>♠ 10 5 2 ♥ 10 7 6 3 2 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A K 8</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 3 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A J 10 8 ♣ A K 5 2</p>
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
1♠	Double	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♣
Pass	5♣	End	3♣

Partner takes two top spades and plays a third round. You, East, ruff and South overruffs with the queen. Then comes a club to the ace (you throw a heart) and a heart to the ace (West plays the ten). Now comes the nine of clubs, covered by the jack (a slight mistake) and king, followed by a club to the eight. You must discard twice more.

In a suit contract, you still *keep what partner can't*. The added thing to think about is that declarer might ruff a suit good. The bidding and play to date tell you that South started with A-K-Q-x-x of hearts. If you throw another heart, you can no longer protect the fifth round and your opponent can ruff a heart in dummy to set up a long card.

You must *keep what partner can't* – in this case, the heart suit – and throw a diamond on the second and third rounds of trumps. Although this leaves your queen unguarded, this does not matter since you place partner with the king. You must assume this or declarer has eleven tricks: five trumps, three hearts, two diamonds and a heart ruff. ■



Born to Blush Unseen

by Dick Atkinson

My ancient but formidable uncle, Baron Leopold von Münchaussen, was perusing some bridge magazine or other which had arrived in the morning mail. ‘Gray got it right, you know.’

‘Harrison Gray?’ I asked. That great English international had been a near contemporary of Uncle Leo, being born at the turn of the century.

‘No, no! The poet: *Full many a rose is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air.* That Gray.’

‘I’m sorry?’

‘*Gray’s Elegy.* Look at this refreshing little publication. ‘Bridge’ – what simplicity. And it’s free too. Did you know you could buy bridge mugs, bridge T-shirts – whatever they are – and even bridge Christmas cards? Fascinating. But this deal... dear oh dear. *Why don’t people learn to expect the unexpected?*’

Expect the Unexpected

The hands and auction were as follows:

West	East
♠ K 10 5 4	♠ A
♥ K Q 10 9 7 6	♥ A
♦ Q J 8	♦ A 9
♣ Void	♣ K Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
End			

‘The auction, of course, is a thing of real beauty –’

‘But, Uncle Leo, why rush into –’

‘Don’t interrupt. That ridiculous

Blackwood bid functioned as a transfer, ensuring that the big hand became dummy, and so that there would be perfect defence! You see the point – only perfect technical play by declarer will do. The lead is a spade. Over to you.’

‘6♥ is a much better contract. Even 7♥ is perhaps better, though not good, of course. Or –’

The *harrumph* was deafening. ‘You’re waffling, boy! What do you play?’

‘I suppose there is a finite chance of a doubleton ♣J and a singleton ♦K...’

‘You’ve just gone down. Listen to this.’ He peered watery-eyed through the blue haze of a Double Corona, and read from the printed article: *Not only did the small slam have no play, East lost two trump tricks when South turned up with the singleton Ace of clubs to finish two down!*

‘Well, there you are. It can’t be helped.’

‘And what did South return to put this contract two down?’ I tried to read the page upside down, but the print was too small. ‘He doesn’t *tell* you. He doesn’t *have* to tell you!’

Ah, I see it now. It couldn’t be a spade, or declarer would ditch the losing diamond on the king. And it couldn’t be a diamond through the queen-jack, killing the King. And it couldn’t be a trump, because he hadn’t got one. ‘A heart. Yes! So even though the contract doesn’t make, he could save the extra undertrick by cashing the ♥A before playing the king of trumps.’

‘Numbskull! Of course, the heart first. But the trump king can never secure your contract, as an opponent with ♣A-x(x) will take the ace immediately and exit safely with a small trump.’

‘You mean I should lead the queen?’

He might duck in case his partner had the singleton king...’

‘You forget that, thanks to the choice of response, the strong hand has performed the dance of the seven veils: all is revealed –’

The Full Monty

‘The Full Monty,’ I interrupted.

‘Quite so. The defender can *see* the ♣K-Q. If the ace is doubleton, he’ll return the other trump to table and you’re down anyway. Therefore, since you *need* a singleton ♣A to throw the player in, you should lead –’

‘A *small* trump!’ I interrupted. ‘You’re right Uncle Leo! Take the ♠A, cash the ♥A, lead the ♣3 to the ♣A and South must give you a discard or a free finesse in diamonds; then you can draw trumps with the ♣K-Q. Masterly.’

The old man had fixed me with a baleful glare. ‘Imbecile! Have you learned nothing? You are no better than the perpetrator of this article.’

‘But I make the contract,’ I protested. ‘And if North has ♣A-J-4-2 and South has the guarded ♦K? What then? You will be *three* down! There were only three wrong clubs and six right ones and, with odds like that and three chances, you couldn’t find one of them!’

‘That’s not very fair. I was hardly awake. I’m sure I’d have got it right at the table,’ I lied.

‘And are you awake now?’

I nodded, my heart sinking.

Aristocrats v Plutocrats

‘This deal from the 1959 Aristocrats v Plutocrats final has certain similarities to that other. Let’s see whether you have learned anything.’ ▶

Born to Blush Unseen

continued

♠ J 10 8 7 4 2	♠ A
♥ A Q 10	♥ K J 7
♦ A 10 8	♦ J 9 7
♣ A	♣ Q 10 8 7 5 4

‘The auction was standard:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	End	

‘Surely the 3♣ sign-off is –’

‘Not. East’s weak call is Pass; 3♣ is constructive, as every good player knows. Both players have bid quite strongly enough on a patent misfit. North leads the ♦2, to the ♦7, ♦Q, ♦A. Plan the play!’

After a moment’s furious thought and the clues of the previous tongue-lashing, I replied, ‘It’s pretty straightforward. You have six tricks on top, so you need three more. You can afford to lose two clubs. Cash the ♣A, cross to the ♥J, lead the club seven,’ I purred. ‘They clear the diamonds, hopefully I force out the remaining high club, they cash a... No?’

Only 72% Chance of Making

‘You were hoping to make on a 3-3 break, or 4-2 with a doubleton honour, or 5-1 with a singleton honour or nine.’ Well, OK, if he said so. ‘That’s about a 72% bet.’

‘Abso-lutely!’ I gloated.

‘In fact South has:

♠ K 6 3 ♥ 8 6 4 2 ♦ Q 5 3 ♣ K 9 2

In with the ♣9, he simply plays his ♠3 and the contract becomes unmakeable. The Billionaire holding your cards played a little better. He led the ♣Q rather than the ♣7. The odds are the same, since he hopes for a doubleton ♣J or ♣9; but since he gives the opponents no choice of who wins the trick, he might hope that the spade switch might be less obvious to the holder of the ♣K. But the spade was led back anyway.’

That infuriating old man! He had virtually tricked me into playing a middle club with his misleading clue. ‘Nevertheless,’ I said, ‘it made no difference, so my line was, *in practice*,

just as good.’

‘Or as bad. In the other room, I played the ♠A at trick two, then came back to hand with a heart to play the ♠7.’

Lucky Guess?

‘That’s a lucky guess. Why play the weaker suit?’

‘Cretin! Firstly, since you can’t lead up to the ♣Q-10 yourself, the two suits are exactly equivalent in attack. Your losers are restricted to two about 72% of the time. But you ignored the key similarity to that previous hand. You have shown up with a singleton ♣A, and were unable to rebid in a four-card red suit. You must have six spades, which, since you have gone for the clubs instead, *must* be weaker than Q-10-8-7-x-x. Everybody can see exactly how the diamonds lie. You have *done the Full Monty*, as you so inelegantly phrased it and the small spade switch will be inevitable, even from, say, Q-x!’

‘But in your line they can switch to a club... Damn!’

‘Exactly so: usually you will be able to restrict your club losers to one if they are played for you. Never mind. Have a look at page two of that BRIDGE thing. There’s a clever little machine which *Allows you to take back any bid or play, or to view all hands...* Or perhaps something requiring less skill would suit your – er – talents better. I suggest you take up Beggar-My-Neighbour. You’ll still have all the fun of counting up your points – four for an ace, three for a king and so on.’

100% Skill

I was cut to the quick. ‘I’m surprised you think I could master its intricacies,’ I shot back. ‘Why not go the whole hog, and suggest Snap?’

His lip curled ominously. (He had informed me previously that, on more than one historical occasion, the Münchaussen Sneer had been worth at least an extra squadron of uhlans in the Prussian cause.) ‘I knew there was bad blood in my brother-in-law’s family... Snap, my dear *idiot*, is perhaps the only card game which is 100% pure skill...’ ■

Previously published in BRIDGE 38.
Reprinted to satisfy popular demand.

Better Hand Evaluation

Bernard Magee

Introduction

Better Hand Evaluation is aimed at helping readers to add greater accuracy to their bidding. It deals with auctions in which you and your partner, against silent opponents, can fully describe your hands to each other and, by evaluating them accurately, find the best final contract. The emphasis of all good, accurate bidding is on hand evaluation.

There are two general types of auction: a) A fit is found and b) No fit is found.

When you do not have a fit, you are aiming to describe the strength of your hand as soon as possible, most often using no-trump bids. This book begins by discussing balanced hand bidding in Acol, as it is very important that both members of a partnership have an accurate knowledge of how to show hands of different strengths.

When a fit is found, there is much re-evaluation of the hand to be done; point count, though still important, needs to be evaluated along with distribution. The best way of reaching an accurate assessment is to use the Losing Trick Count; this is an important method of hand evaluation and takes up a number of chapters.

Finally, we move on to different forms of evaluation including game tries and splinter bids. You can never know enough methods of hand evaluation; the more you learn, the better you get at judging your hand.

Although the Losing Trick Count is more easily used in tandem with your partner, a large proportion of the ideas in this book can be used by an individual. For example, evaluating your hand to be worth an extra point is going to help anyone you partner – as long as you get it right!

£14.20 including postage
from Mr Erling, Ryden Grange,
Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2TH
☎ 01483 489961

BRIDGE COVER CARTOON BUBBLE CAPTION COMPETITION

I said vulnerable not available. *Michael Brecknell, London.* Take out double for minor royalty. *Richard Moore, Herefordshire.* Having no spades. *Michael Tudor-Craig, Hampshire.* Weak two or strong two? *Mr J Adie, Fife.* That's no minor attraction. *Andrew Heaver, Northampton.* Time to try the clubs. *Mr F. D. Fallon, Dorchester.* Have you an announcement to make? *Esther Peach, Swindon.*Oh look! A pair of Queens. *Mrs L Bacchus, Farnham.* Honours pair squeeze at weekend duplicate break. *Mr R Hill, Hampshire.* Minor royals honour the summer meeting. *Mr & Mrs J G Burbridge, Cambridge.* Jack leads diamond and wins Queen's heart. *Reuben Chambers, Kenilworth.* It's a bit like a mini bridge - goes nowhere! *Ronald Carlisle, Dundee.* Holiday romance? 'Club, diamond, two hearts? End'. *Ben Chambers, Inverness.* My hand is not what it appears. *Philip Carvel, Leicestershire.* I always said sitting West was unlucky. *Beryl Pitman, West Sussex.* Honours are us!! *Mr B L Mason, London.* I thought you said Brighton pairs. *Mrs P M Sledger, Kenilworth.* Jack bags diamond; Queen discards King. *A Chambers, Inverness.* King away. *Mrs K. Kirby, West Yorkshire.* I'll cover your honour 'Mrs Smith'. *Claude E Fielding, Cobham.* Summer rained out, so more bridge. *Mrs E Molander, Norwich.* The Misfits. *Miss Una McCann, Cardiff.* Two minors out for the day. *Mrs Joyce Knight, Hertfordshire.* Come along, we'll try my forcing pass. *John Rankin, Perth.* We'll sink or swim on that bidding. *Mr Derek Shafar, Glasgow.* Not the deck I had in mind.... *Mr Jim Andrews, London.* Our partners think we're playing bridge! *Mrs Ann Beaney, Corfe Mullen.* A choice of throw-in options. *Mr Bob McMahon, Surrey.* What to lead initially? *Mr John Dobbin, Berkshire.* Did the knave see a bare Queen? *Mrs Sylvia Cotgrave, West Midlands.* I'm short-suited. *Mrs Isabel Sandland, Sheffield.* Did you bring the spades? *Mrs Irene Button, Poole.* Relaxed royal takeout incognito at Brighton. *Miss Maureen Bergin, Northern Ireland.* It would appear we're short-suited. *Mr Brian Pinner, London.* Missing the Queen. *Sheila Johnson, Surrey.* Your jump bid was badly timed. *Mrs Nan Bell, Tyne and Wear.* The majors play bridge on the pier. *Hannah Dirce, London.* Touching suits! *Mr D J Fishley, Buckinghamshire.* No shortage of Queens in Brighton. *Mr D M Reed, Brighton.* I'm alright, I've brought my spade. *Mrs P Schurmann, Highgate.* We don't have to play bridge. *Mr John Metson, Reading.* What a lovely hand I'm holding. *Mrs Penny Oke, Essex.* Play my cards right, she is biddable. *Mrs Anna Milner, Surrey.* They're only here for the EBU Congress. *Mrs Else Baker, Hertfordshire.* King and Queen in hand. *Mr M Hall, Wales.* Now where do we embark for Discovery? *Mr D A Southward, Lancashire.* There are too many Queens down south. *Mr Colin Thomas, Wales.* Age admission strictly by Rule of Twenty. *Mrs Caroline Gamlin, Bristol.* Not the diamond I expected. *Mrs Ethna Pilkington, London.* We pay to play the fruit machines. *Mrs Diana Parish, Perthshire.* Jack says 'We're playing away'. *Mrs Juli Mittaz, Gloucestershire.* A couple of cards on holiday. *Mrs Julia Farmer, Cornwall.* A take out double. *Mr S. Mawdsley, Lancashire.* Sorry, we don't serve minors! *Mr David Noble, Northumberland.* We've just won the mixed pairs. *Mrs Joy Rowe, Swindon.* Just another mixed pair playing away. *Mrs Y Mills, York.* We'll both discard our suits. *Dr M Box, Reading.* Voyage of Discovery partner? *Mr Julian Foster, Devon.* I can't respond - we're not suited. *Mrs Zena Leamer, Hertfordshire.* No better place for a knave (or a Queen). *Mr Paul Goddard, Bedford.* Watch out for those bridge sharks. *Mrs P Bailey, Nottinghamshire.* Minor royals on holiday. *Mrs Maurine Kilpatrick, Kilmacollm.* Mixed pairs play away! *Mrs B Povey, Hertfordshire.* Only majors are welcome in the Pavilion. *Mr T*



Behan, Surrey. Minors on the make? *Mrs J Llewellyn, Swansea.* Misfit. *Mr Thomas Thompson, Isle of Islay.* Looking for a 'minor' miracle. *Dr H. Lacey, Suffolk.* A right pair of cards. *Mr D Gage, Norfolk.* Did you bring the spades? *Mrs B J Ide, Kent.* No reply with only five points. *Mr Victor Groom, Bristol.* We would never miss the Brighton Congress. *John Tennant, Bedfordshire.* A perfect doubleton. *Mrs Wendy Reed, Hampshire.* They adore unassuming cue bids. *Mr and Mrs C. S. Goldsmith, Middlesex.* I would like to jump bid. *Mrs Ann Riddleston, Witham.* Having none partner? *Major General M Clarke, Hampshire.* Tides in - not a spade in sight. *Mr Anthony Mann, Warwickshire.* Well defended, partner. They've sunk without trace. *Miss Rachel Edwards, Nottinghamshire.* In her hand, a short suit. *Mr J P Allen, Aberdeen.* Great place for a bridge weekend. *Mr Brain Tapp, Bramhall, Staffordshire.* A minor seaside romance. *Mr J D Collins, Merseyside.* 'Royals' in minor suits win pier tournament. *Mrs Sylvia Chernick, Whitefield.* Probably two spades would be useful here! *Mrs Jan Bailey, Surrey.* P2P. Oh, what a lovely war. *George Hudd, Surrey.* South leads Queen of Diamonds. *Mr and Mrs J A Goodchild, Sidmouth.* Sorry! No congress for minors! *Mrs Brenda Frisby, Rutland.* The minors have a holiday. *Mrs P D Baker, Hertfordshire.* Lead me on. *Mrs B. Munro, West Sussex.* Did you bring the spades? *Mrs T M Wright, Queensferry.* Oh dear! Only one spade between us. *Mr A George, Wokingham.* Are you game for an afternoon session? *Mr K Payne, Hertfordshire.* Announcing a minor engagement. *Fred and Carol Berglund, Surrey.* A double is on the cards. *Mrs Barbara Mitchell, Letchworth Garden City.* Off clubbing with a minor. *Roger Robinson, Wareham.* Time to test my squeeze play. *Mrs Lydia Stanford, East Sussex.* Jack the lad's latest squeeze! *Mrs Jill Clark, Hertfordshire.* Any major attractions? *Mrs Elsie Forrest, Lanarkshire.* Trust your partner. *Mrs E A Neal, Cheltenham.* A minor break by south. *Mr D Mason, Leicester.* Practicing takeouts for the Sussex pairs. *Mr D H Linton, London.* With only five points it's blind support. *Mr Roy Stock, Northampton.* Led astray by Clubs! *Mrs Eileen Worstenholme, Hope Valley.* Can we play now please? *Mrs B Le Fleming, Kent.* Plan your play! *Mrs Pauline Bell, Cheshire.* A favourable break. *Mr David Evenson, Wolverhampton.* A sacrificial jump my dear! *Mrs Fiona Wilkins, Kingston.* Two minors out on a spree. *Mr V Parry, Twickenham.* Our performance requires good support. *Mr L E Freeman, Berkshire.* The Diamond Queen clubbing at the seaside. *Howard Jones, West Sussex.* Do you like his club suit? *Mrs Page, Surrey.* When in trouble, why not double. *Mrs S Bellamy, Lincolnshire.* A princely pass. *Frazer Shaw, Warwickshire.* Minor Deception. *Mr S J Connor, Hertfordshire.* Double squeeze, Clubs and Hearts! *Mr and Mrs J Cook, Cardiff.* I heart, doubled. *Mr John Gillum, East Sussex.* Played my cards right; exited with Queen! *Mrs K M Chambers, Warwickshire.* Two honours in the south hand. *Mr B Honey, West Sussex.* The diamond Queen clubbing at the seaside. *Mr Howard Jones, West Sussex.* We've discarded our spades. *Mr C R Ruff, East Finchley.* Weather's turned up trumps again. *Mrs M E Muntus, Norfolk.* Fancy dress at the Brighton Congress. *Mrs S Gwyer, Stonehouse.* Turned away for being minors! *Mr Wilfred Parry, Oswestry.* The squeeze is our game! *Mrs Diane James, West Sussex.* Missing Ace and King. *Mrs Anne Daly, London.* Where's the rest of the pack? *Mr David Stemp, Surrey.* Let's see if the pavilion's got vacancies. *Mrs Judith Collins, Teddington.* Two's company, we'll do without the queen. *Mrs A L Browning, Bristol.* Partnership understanding. *Mr P A Bell, Hexham.*

READERS' LETTERS

JUDGEMENT

With reference to Mr Calviou's letter in BRIDGE 90 regarding re-dealing passed out hands. The main reason why this is forbidden is to prevent players from forcing their bidding systems onto other players. Suppose the following deal is the first you see at a session.

Dealer North. Love All.			
North			
♠ 7 2			
♥ J 6 3			
♦ A K 9 8			
♣ K 7 5 2			
West		East	
♠ A Q 6 3	♠ 9 8 4	♥ 8 7	♥ A K 10 9 4 2
♦ J 7 5 4	♦ 3 2	♣ A 9 4	♣ J 3
South			
♠ K J 10 5			
♥ Q 5			
♦ Q 10 6			
♣ Q 10 8 6			

If you and your opponents play a weak no-trump (12-14 HCP) and strong twos, this board will probably be passed out. North has 11 points, East 8, South 10 and West 11. Lots of partnerships play slight variations on standard Acol. For instance, anybody who plays INT as 11-14 will probably open the North hand. Partnerships playing weak twos in the majors will open the East hand with 2♥. Readers of BRIDGE who have read

Jeremy Dhondy's article in the August magazine about the rule of 15, might decide to open with the West hand. Deciding whether or not to open with hands like these is an essential part of a player's judgement. However, if the board is re-dealt at the first table because it is passed out, the re-deal prevents anybody who plays even small variations to 'standard' Acol from using their bidding judgement. This is obviously to their disadvantage.

Furthermore, suppose North has been dealt 15 points but makes a mistake when counting his high-card points. Finding only 11 points because he has omitted the points for an ace, he passes. If the hand is passed out and re-dealt, he gets away with his mistake!

The final point to make is that the hand shown will be opened at some tables. Assuming this has happened before it gets to Mr Calviou's table, he will sit and 'twiddle his thumbs' if the hand is passed out, though he will be doing so knowing that someone has opened the bidding at another table. Knowing that none of the hands is passed out can influence the bidding at other tables. Law 17.E states, 'The auction period ends when all four players pass or when, after three passes in rotation have followed any call, the opening lead is faced.' This is right and proper and is not

depriving anyone of playing a hand.

Mr Hugh Williams,
Davertry, Northants.

BOY DONE WELL

We enjoy the letters and everything else. How do you find enough editorial material? It must be tough.

I see our Julian has come on well from a lad from Portsmouth. Well done him.

Chris & Sylvia West,
Sutton, Surrey.

USED STAMPS

I am pleased to have details of your chosen charity. Now we know, I expect stamps to come pouring in as before.

Mr Colin Bamberger,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

LIBRARY

Many years ago, you produced a series of booklets on particular aspects of bidding and play. These were sold off at bargain prices. I have borrowed some from a friend and found them a good reference source. Any chance of re-introducing or re-printing them?

Mr Brian Gibson,
Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

I have no plans for such a project at present.

OVER THE LIMIT

On page 40 of BRIDGE 89 your answer to the number of words for the bubble competition is 'seven words only', why therefore have two entries on page six been awarded prizes when their

'bubbles' are eight and nine words?

Mr R Hill, Fleet, Hampshire.

THREE-HANDED

I refer to the letter from Jean Holford, Prenton, Wirral in BRIDGE 89.

I have found a satisfactory way to play proper bridge three handed. The single person simply bids the N/S or E/W hands by looking at both. The other players must trust her to play by the bidding rules so the advantage she gains is minimal. Once the contract is established, dummy is either already with the single person, otherwise dummy moves into the vacant seat and plays the fourth hand. The scoring is done on the normal Chicago method. Like any other game this would be no fun if anyone cheated!

James Campbell,
West Kilbride.

HELP PLEASE

I have been trying to learn bridge for the last year or so and find difficulty in remembering the bidding, although I really enjoy playing the cards. We have a friendly, small group with an expert teacher and they all try and help me – but to no avail, any ideas?

Mrs H Jennings,
Leatherhead, Surrey.

WANTED

Bridge partner for 82 year-old lady. ☎ 01225 464546.

Mrs D Allan, Bath. ▶

REDUCE THE COST OF YOUR POSTAGE

Postage stamps for sale at 90% of face-value, all mint with full gum. Quotations for commercial quantities available on request.

Values supplied in 100s, higher values available as well as 1st and 2nd class (eg 1st class: 100 x 35p + 100 x 1p)

☎/Fax 020 8422 4906

e-mail: clive.goff@londonrugby.com



READERS' LETTERS *continued*

FOR COLLECTORS

Following an article a little while ago, you may be interested to let your readers know that my illustrated book of Scoring and Tally Cards has been published.

Those interested should send £10 to include postage.
Mr J G Thorpe, 10 Brook Way, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 7JZ.

SOME HOPE

Looking around for an interest a little more sedentary than showing my Persian cats up and down the country and gardening, I thought bridge might be a good idea, though I have never played any cards before.

I began in January and after a couple of months nearly fell by the wayside, along with a few others, but then thanks to a superb teacher, started to make progress.

I'm finally beginning to get my head around the basics and have decided to press on. The major shock was the discovery that far from the leisurely social pastime I enjoyed, it seems to move with lightening speed – it's kill or be killed! I've certainly had to change my attitude and get my brain in gear. Not a bad idea! I've enjoyed my first copy of BRIDGE and hope to receive others in the future.

Mrs Wright, Northwich, Cheshire.

WELL I NEVER

Further to Mrs Gillian Iley from Epsom and her comments in BRIDGE 90 that the bubble captions are silly nonsense. To study a scene and make a relevant observation in seven words requires a certain amount of discipline and clear thought.

It is an excellent mental exercise. Analysing the captions sent from all over the UK is most interesting and perhaps the most striking thing is the amount of captions that are almost identical. I wonder if people whose captions fall into this category would make good bridge partners? This could be a whole new field of research in telepathy, which we all expect our partners to be able to exhibit when the occasion demands. Then again, there is the aspect of humour which seems to be similar for the whole of the UK. You see Mrs Iley, you have to look a little deeper to find the enjoyment of these captions.

I'm sure the artist of these brilliant cartoons is gratified that so many people take the time and trouble to study her work and I, for one, would miss them.

Mr F Conlan, Maghull, Merseyside.

NEW BID

The cards were dealt very quickly and the second pack had only just been placed back on the table, after shuffling, when the first two bids – 'one heart,' 'one spade,' were made. The next bid, 'too soon,' caused much laughter.

Richard Lockyer, Bournemouth.

THREE HANDS

I have just been re-reading your April Magazine and regarding the letter from Jean Holford, Prenton, Wirral. We have a regular rubber bridge game and when there are only three of us we play the three-handed version that I used in 'Stefans' Club many years ago. As far as I am concerned, I enjoy it as

much as the usual game. If there is any interest I would be happy to give the details by e-mail, letter or phone.

Mr J Herman, Elstree, Herts. ☎ 0208 3866038.

RUBBER LAWS

I play mostly rubber bridge and have a book entitled *The International Laws of Contract Bridge 1993*. Please can you tell me if there is a more recent book for rubber bridge players?

Mrs T Gillett, Lympington, Hampshire.
[You have the current law book for rubber bridge.](#)

NEW CLUB

We are arranging a friendly, social bridge club, which will meet at 7pm Wednesdays at Tydd St Giles Golf Centre, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Wisbech, Cambs.

Contact Bill ☎ 01945 870447.

HELP

Some years ago, I ordered a folding director's chair from your magazine. I now need another and they are no longer available. Does anyone have a spare one for sale? 01253 733753.

Mrs Phillips, Lancashire.

BROWNIE POINTS

Thank you very much for having informed us about Global Travel Insurance. After years of tedious (and hugely expensive) dealings with other travel insurance companies, we were delighted to find this one. It not only accepts clients in their eighties without lots of questions, but does so at a very reasonable price and then allows a discount to Mr Bridge applicants.

We don't play a lot of bridge any more, but your magazine continues to give great pleasure.

Mr D Lumley, Melksham, Wiltshire.

JUST MADE IT

This letter concerns the problems and pleasures of taking up bridge in later life and the sense of déjà vu I experienced as I struggled to learn the game; which reminded me of similar difficulties I had experienced with Latin as a schoolboy at Whitehaven Grammar some fifty odd years before! The poem, which accompanied the letter was entitled 'Language Difficulties'.

I thought that you might like to know that, unlike Latin, I have not given up bridge and, though, I am not very good, I am thoroughly enjoying playing. I suppose that, although one doesn't have as many 'little grey cells' as one had at school, with age comes a bit more tenacity and perseverance!
Jim Dixon, Merseyside. ▶

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

To steer clear of our hospitals
And their geriatric wards,
Discerning senior citizens
Are urged to take up cards.

It helps to keep the mind alert-
Or that's what one is told;
Just learning the game of
contract bridge,
Can stop you growing old.

So I too have joined a bridge club
And the members there are kind,
But they talk some funny
language
And I've so much on my mind.

There's one called Easley
Blackwood,
And Stayman is another,
And whose this bloke called Peter?
'Cos I can't tell one from t'other!

And why is a ruff not on a shirt,
Or a dummy in a baby's mouth,
A suit not in a wardrobe
And west can move to south?

And this Acol bidding system,
Is just driving me insane,
And now they're trying to tell me,
That tenace is not a game!

So I declare it isn't cricket,
And am feeling such a fool,
'Cos it's dropping me like Latin did,
When I used to go to school!

Jim Dixon

READERS' LETTERS *continued*

PRIMER WANTED

Can you recommend a booklet which outlines 'Simple Bridge for Beginners'? I have played bridge, but reading the magazine has shown me I don't really know all that I should.

Mrs N Morgan,
Bicester, Oxon.

GOOD TO ASK

I was under the impression bubble captions should be bridge-related, so what was the connection with 'Hideous Hog' and 'Nice Goulash'?

Mrs M Taylor, Stockport.

*Hideous Hog was a character out of Victor Mollo's **Bridge in the Menagerie**. A Goulash is a re-deal at Rubber Bridge, the cards being dealt in threes with a last round of four. Freak hands often result from this type of deal.*

GENTLE DUPLICATE

I am writing on behalf of Hampton Bridge Club to show how useful your recent article in your magazine has proved to our club.

We are a club of about 70 members, meeting once a week on a Monday with, on average, nine tables.

Your excellent article gave us the idea of a 'Welcome to Duplicate' evening to encourage new members and also students from the classes of two local bridge teachers, Cyril Parker and Andrew Birchell.

We held the event on the 16th June with a total of 15 tables. Each guest was given a copy of our *Introduction to Duplicate* leaflet (based on your article) together with their own special score cards.

The event proved extremely successful. This

could have been achieved only with the support and encouragement of every club member present.

I would like to record, on behalf of our club, our sincere thanks for the use of this article. You will see the acknowledgement of this is on the front page. Copies of the booklet and score card were sent to Mr Capal, General Manager of the EBU – perhaps it could be used to help other clubs encourage new members.

Mrs Audrey Baldwin, Club Secretary, Hampton Duplicate Bridge Club, Herne Bay, Kent.

CHRISTMAS LIFT

I'm going to spend Christmas at the Mr Bridge event at Denham Grove, near Uxbridge and would be happy to share costs with anyone driving down from the Northants area. If interested, please ring.

Mrs Delafons.

☎ **01280 705800.**

WITH DIFFICULTY

I am 75 years young, severely to profoundly deaf. With the help of a powerful digital hearing aid and lip reading, I have at last found something that is both possible and enjoyable – bridge.

I have managed a Gentle Duplicate weekend successfully, having found the bridge play easier than the socialising at meal times and have now booked two weeks in Tunisia with Mr Bridge.

I wish to raise the following three helpful points, remembering that the boxes were originally designed for us deaf people:

- Make the organiser / director aware of your deafness from the start of

the holiday.

- Don't hide your disability. Always wear a badge obtainable from Hearing Concern ☎ 0845 0744600.
- Reserve a seat nearest the teacher.

I trust the above suggestions will be both helpful and encouraging.

Cherry Turley,
Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

GUERNSEY EXAMPLE

My wife and I celebrated my sixty-fifth birthday with a holiday to Guernsey during the first week in August. Following enquires, we established that bridge was played at the Beau Sejours Leisure Centre and visitors were welcome.

We were made extremely welcome and everyone was so friendly throughout the evening. Some members also informed us bridge was played the following evening at the Castel Cricket Club and, as it was a fair distance from our hotel, offered transport there and back.

We enjoyed another night of keenly contested bridge in a convivial atmosphere that was compounded the following evening with another session at the Beau Sejours. We are avid readers of your magazine and often read about petty behaviour during bridge evenings. Therefore, we thought it appropriate to record how this wonderful game can be made even better if everyone embraces the spirit of the game in the manner of the players in Guernsey.

Mr J Dyer, Mold, Clwyd.

NEW WEEKENDS

Could I submit a suggestion for your consideration? Many small clubs are not involved with the EBU and do not wish to be. Usually one or

two people finish up doing all that is necessary to run the club. One area somewhat neglected is any form of director. This often leads to members with widely differing ideas of the rules causing acrimony and ill feeling in the club. The person organising the club has no standing and, when reluctantly called upon to make a decision, always loses out.

To become a director at present, one must first be an EBU member, then attend the EBU courses which is not necessarily the route people wish to take. Based on the yellow book, might you consider bridge weekends to train non-EBU directors? I can see no objection to some form of certification declaring the person to have an understanding of the laws of duplicate bridge.

R N D Houghton,
Ruislip, Middlesex.

I will speak to David Stevenson about this.

BIN THEM

As well as club bridge, I play a great deal at home with friends and we all have numerous packs of cards, which are perfectly clean and usable, just looking a bit tired! We get tired of them, too, and long to use a new pack!

Rather than throw them away, I would like to give them away for use in clubs for the elderly, children's homes, or any other charitable organisation. I used to give them to service men's clubs or schools but cannot find anyone who would like them these days. Can you help?

Pamela Littlejohns,
Fleet, Hampshire.

Throw them away. The sensual pleasure of using new cards should be part of the enjoyment. ▶

READERS' LETTERS *continued*

MIXED ABILITY

Could you not arrange bridge weekends for mixed ability? I'm fairly accomplished, my husband a near beginner and we would love to go on something that we'd both learn from.

Mrs Mette Breminer,
Oxted, Surrey.

CUT BACK

May I also take this opportunity of thanking you for your free magazine, which I enjoy immensely, although I do agree with one other reader who finds two whole pages of captions rather tedious!

Why not limit this to your three favourite ones?

Andrew Mountain,
Rhosrobin, Wrexham.

I have reduced the captions to just one page in this issue to squeeze in some more bridge, but I can already feel the onslaught from the disappointed. Back to two pages next time – promise.

GOOD FOR YOU

As I am housebound, I do look forward to playing on line at the BBO Acol club, which you featured in your magazine. They are such a friendly club and make me feel so welcome. It is the highlight of my day now!

Mrs Issacharoff, London.

DIRECTORY

I have updated the information over three separate forms to include a new group and a venue alteration. I hope you can include it all. Like a lot of clubs, we could do with a few more members.

Thank you for the service; we bridge organisers and teachers need all the publicity we can get, so for

bridge teaching and clubs in the Godstone and Warlingham area of Surrey, please ring me.

Bob McMahon.
☎ 01883 622149.

SPECIAL AGENT

As a volunteer in the book section of the local hospice distribution centre, I recently found a copy of *Contract Bridge. The Barton Variation The only certain method of Slam Bidding*. 1934. Price one shilling. I have never heard of this system. Can you throw any light on it? Would it interest any collector in return for a donation?

Mrs Margaret Eddeston,
Hitchin, Herts.
☎ 01462 623447.

DON'T GIVE UP

Having become disenchanted with EBU duplicate clubs, a group of us now play in each other's homes. However, we would like to increase our numbers.

Could you advise the best way to achieve this?

A Baker, Charvil, Reading.
Why not contact Mr Baker on
☎ 07984 626118, if interested.

RE-DEALING

Don't go there, Mr Calviou! (BRIDGE 90 letters) You may feel you are stating the obvious but you are stirring up a hornets' nest. You will shortly be accused of arrogance, conceit and worse, cheating. Better just to attend a club which does the sensible thing.

The probability that any one deal will comprise four hands none of which contains more than 11 points is (very nearly) 1/30. Thus, the odds against 24 deals none of which has a hand with

more than 11 points is about 3 in ten to the power of 36. However, one such deal is not unlikely (36%) and two or more (19%) is possible. In this latter case, assuming there are 12 tables, 48 players might each spend 15 (or more) minutes exercising their thumbs!

I would hope and expect that in due course, this rule (22A is it?) will be modified to 'allow' clubs to do what many of them have done for years.

Ron Mathams,
Norwich, Norfolk.

MORE RE-DEALING

Mr Calviou is in error if he believes that passed-out hands should be re-dealt. Just because the first pairs to play that particular deal decide to pass does not mean that others will do the same. I have been scoring our club's duplicate sessions for a number of years and I have seen on many occasions where some pairs pass and others bid two or three of a suit.

If you pass-out a deal you score zero. However, you beat all those pairs who play your cards and go down. You also score well against those pairs that play your opponents' cards and make their contract. I have yet to see a deal where every pair passes! A deal where the partnership point counts are roughly equal is just as valid as a deal where one partnership has say thirty points, or so. Indeed, after these part-score auctions, a tussle often develops between declarer and defenders, where skilled play on both sides is needed.

Mr L Miles,
Cuddington, Cheshire.

THANK YOU

I agree with Mr Harkavy (BRIDGE 88) that he is

churlish and curmudgeonly; he should confine his reading to more erudite journals. Thank you, Bernard, for your articles which are a help and joy to many thousands who read BRIDGE.

Derek Hambidge, by email.

NICKNAMES

As in other leisure activities, would it not be good to have nicknames for some of our best known players. Here are a few suggestions;

All as sent in anonymously by someone calling themselves The Hum Drum Bulldog. ▶

NICKNAMES

Bob Rowlands – The Caretaker
Bill Townsend – The Tornado
Gordon Rainsford – The Reverend
Dom Goodwin – Bambi
Andrew Kambites – The Politician
Paul Lamford – The Detective
David Burn – The Warden
Tony Forrester – The Architect
Michelle Brunner – The Artist
Tony Priday – The Tourist
Brian Maguire – The Marshall
Dave Huggett – The Smiler
Freddie North – The Locksmith
Jeremy Dhondy – The Doctor
Paul Hackett – The Hitman
Martin Hoffman – The Rabbi
Malcolm Harris – The Romeo
Daivid Bakshi – The Choir Boy
Andrew McIntosh – The Jockey
Tom Townsend – The Scientist
David Gold – The Headmaster
Ross Harper – The Angler
Gunner Halberg – The Bombardier
Nick Sandqvist – The Viking
Nicola Smith – The Drama Queen
Anne Rosen – The Matron
Ian Panto – The Illusionist
Andrew Robson – The Magician
Janet De Botton – The Bank Manager
David Dickson – The Surgeon
Rob Cliffe – The Sailor
Jon Williams – The Traveller
Christine Duckworth – The Super Nanny
Brian Callaghan – The Publican
Mark Horton – The Editor
Arthur Malinowski – The Riddler
John Matheson – The Bonny Price
M. Garvex – The Shamrock
Ed Scerri – The Thinker
Liz McGowan – Miss Marple
Bernard Teltscher – The Pensioner
Tony Gordon – The Special One
John Pain – The Director
Mike Swanson – The Surveyor
Colin Simpson – The Butcher
Alexander Allfrey – The Merchant.

READERS' LETTERS *continued*

VALUE FOR MONEY!

I have never come across anything which has such value for no money including postage and packing.

P E Johnson, Tring.

CURE FOR CANCER?

In February 2006 I had an emergency operation to de-bulk a brain tumour. On analysis, it was found to be a Grade 4 cancer and I was given 6 months to live.

However, I was promised and received the best possible treatment, although it was made clear to me that they would never be able to get rid of the tumour. I received the maximum amount of radiotherapy that an individual can withstand. I was told that this could affect my memory, but I was determined it should not. I therefore started learning Bridge in June 2007. I became obsessed with the game and studied or practised every day.

Five months later, an MRI scan revealed that my brain tumour had reduced by 75%. My oncologist was amazed at this – it was so unusual. I had received no further treatment in this five-month period. The only thing that had changed was bridge being part of my life, so it seems that bridge can fight brain cancer! I think I might now have time to become a decent bridge player – at least that's my hope.

Thea Atkinson, Knutsford.

AUTO BRIDGE

Many years ago, I learned, studied and played bridge in Singapore using the Autobridge System. It used the Goren / American bidding systems and had various learning packs for

different aspects of bridge play. It was a very good system, which I think is of French origin. I now play a variation of Goren and Acol and I tried to get Autobridge using the Acol system. My search was all in vain. Have any of your readers any

information about Autobridge and whether it is still possible to buy one here?

Jack Duckworth, by e-mail.

YARBOROUGH

Reading a letter from Mr J A Barrett, of Ipswich, Suffolk in shorties (BRIDGE 89). He was looking for a verse in connection with the Earl of Yarborough, and I wondered if this (shown

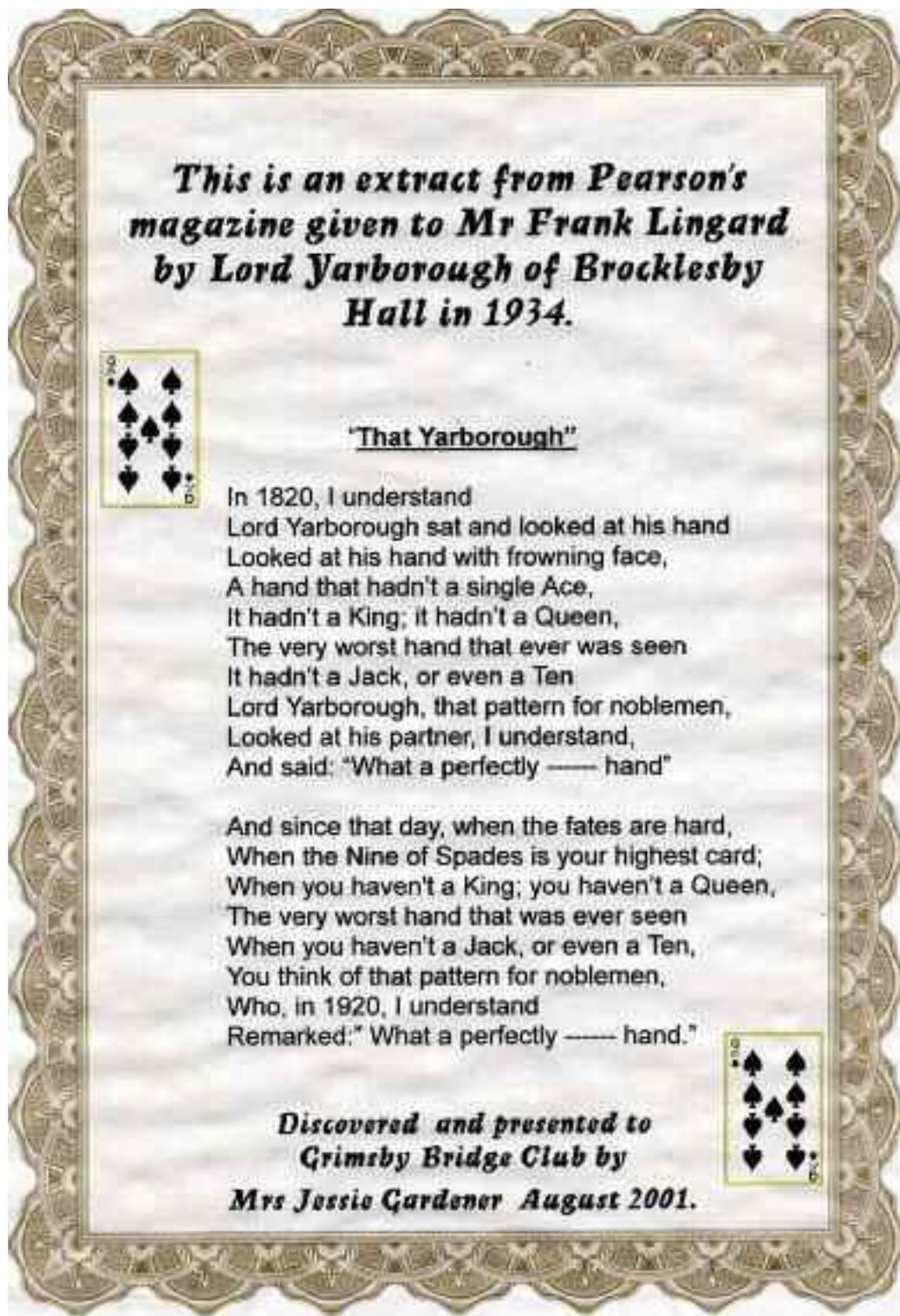
below) may be what he is looking for.

John Gardener, by e-mail.

BUBBLE CAPTIONS

With almost 200 enthusiasts submitting bubble captions to BRIDGE 89 edition, it seems to me light-hearted reading is part of the success of this excellent magazine.

Mr Goodfellow, Edinburgh. ▶



READERS' LETTERS *continued*

GIFT VOUCHERS

Why not sell gift vouchers. I run bridge lunches and I think a gift voucher as a prize would be great.

**Mrs M Mitchell,
Farnham, Surrey.**

94 YEARS YOUNG

I am in my 94th year, I play four times each week and am taking a party of bridge players to Cornwall. (Our 14th visit).

Miss Margaret Stock, Bath.

IRRITATING HABITS

Two suggestions for items we would like to see in future issues of BRIDGE.

Firstly (a serious suggestion from my husband), the article called 'Third Hand Play' on p.31 of issue 88 is one of the best articles we have seen on defence. Please may we have more articles on the inferences that can be drawn from the card partner plays.

Secondly (my own suggestion) in a lighter vein, you have listed a number of issues around 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' and every time I have quoted Gilbert and Sullivan's 'I have a little list...' Why not have a brief compilation of what irritates players most? If you asked for suggestions, I am sure you would be inundated. My own contribution, for a start, would be the elderly man who sucks his teeth noisily while his opponents are thinking (whether during bidding or play), but stops when he or his partner need to think.

Virginia Jones, by e-mail.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please continue to advertise Global Travel Insurance for

those of us who continue to use 'Snail Mail'.

**Mrs A Gittins,
Somerton, Somerset.**

OPENING IDEAS

Regarding 'Any Free Lessons' (BRIDGE 88). To Harry Healey:

If you go to a chess tournament there will be a bookstall and most of the books will be on opening theory, some better than others. I have only ever found one book on the *Ideas Behind the Openings*

although I believe a second has been written. A similar situation exists in bridge. There are thousands of books on bridge bidding systems profiting the authors and booksellers and 'teachers' but only one addresses how to create a bidding system. Namely; S J Simon's *Design for Bidding*. He explains the ideas that developed into Acol as opposed to English Acol and why, if you insert a new bid into your system, you have to consider the effect on all the other bids in the system. Get a copy and read it regularly. I will be happy to supply my index to it by email. Also S J Simon's *Cut for Partners* and *Why You Lose at Bridge* are very entertaining and readable, compact and concentrated; as is Ian Mcleod's *Bridge is an Easy Game*. Simon really originated KISS – Keep It Simple Stupid. Read and Enjoy.

Jerry Hathorn. Sawston.

POCKET-SIZED

Firstly, I hope this little burst of activity will keep me on your mailing list. Secondly, I think that you were a little hard in your latest issue on

handheld-bridge computers. They may be dated, but I don't see the point of advising a technophobe to buy a laptop. I have had a couple, the latest a Saitek. It plays Acol and pretty good bridge and it fits in my pocket, which a laptop won't.

**Steve Cornell,
Stourport, Worcs.**

APRIL FOOL?

I really enjoyed BRIDGE 88, the mag gets better by the issue. This week, I showed it to all my bridge classes and recommended it to any of my 150 students who don't yet get it. I also recommended your bridge holidays and weekends.

I just worry that you might send out so many magazines that you end up going bankrupt and that would be a huge loss to the bridge scene in the UK.

As a bridge teacher, I wanted to write a letter in response to Antony Harkavy's letter, Bridge for Idiots, BRIDGE 88. However, I then thought this letter was so bizarre, I wondered if it was an April Fool?

Ian Dalziel. Troon, Ayrshire.

SIDWAYS DUMMY

Your Bridge Etiquette column enjoins speed in the interests of other players. When I learnt to play bridge from my father some 60 years ago, I picked up his habit of always laying dummy's cards down sideways to himself and to declarer. I noticed he could do this very

quickly, sometimes with a bit of a flourish and that more of each card was exposed to view and it seemed to me to help and to be quick. When my wife learnt from me, some 40 years ago, she developed the same habit.

However, we find nowadays that some players find this practise unfamiliar and off-putting. Of course it would be bad manners and poor etiquette to continue this way when someone at the table does not like it. So we don't, though I, for my part, find it off-putting and time consuming when people meticulously lay their cards down slowly in the upright position, leaving very little of each card showing so that someone has to adjust them to see if there are five or six cards in a suit and whether what's there is headed Q, 9, 6, 3 or J, 10, 9, 8 or whatever.

It would be interesting to learn whether professionals or expert club players ever adopt the sideways practice these days, or whether it is now regarded as poor etiquette.

John Hinde. Esher, Surrey.

YOU NEVER KNOW

We are saving cruising until we are very old.

Name and address supplied.

SCOTLAND, PLEASE

Bridge holidays of 4-5 days in Scotland or North England, please. Thoroughly enjoy your magazine. Good Luck.

**Mrs A Crawford,
Belfast, N. Ireland.** ■

**Write to Mr Bridge at:
Ryden Grange, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2TH
or e-mail letters@mrbridge.co.uk.**

E-mail correspondents are asked to include their name, full postal address and telephone number, and to send no attachments.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



READERS' LETTERS ON THE EBU P2P

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

The EBU Proposals, a contentious major policy change, were passed on a simple majority decision at the EGM. Now we are in an 'Alice in Wonderland' situation where, if you want the EBU to die, you need do nothing. But, if you want the EBU to survive, you will have to fight very hard to get enough Shareholders to vote against the essential Bye-Law changes needed to implement P2P!

Simple mathematics show the EBU is heading for at least a £200,000 loss in its first year of P2P. Only a very large bank loan and a very substantial increase in the initial 29p, P2P fee, for the second year will stop the EBU from going bankrupt. Use the EBU's own figures to work this out for yourself, and don't forget the £36,500 additional VAT bill that P2P will almost certainly attract, but the EBU has decided not to tell us about.

Sandra Landy referred to other potential losses of revenue in her excellent article in the last issue of Bridge and they will make the financial situation even worse. So you may wonder how the EBU will be able to deliver any of the improvements it has promised with no liquid assets at all. Then ask yourself how many clubs will unaffiliate and how many club members will vote with

their feet if the P2P fee possibly trebles.

All the facts are in 'An Open Letter' on www.gosportbridge.hampshire.org.uk. The EBU was sent a draft of that letter and the financial projections and was asked to point out any inaccuracies. Peter Stocken, our EBU Chairman, read both but, significantly, made no comment on the financial projections. Therefore, you can safely assume that they are accurate.

If you want the EBU to die, do nothing. If, like Sandra Landy, myself and many others, you want the EBU to survive, mandate your County Shareholder/s to vote against the changes to the Bye-Laws needed for P2P.

It is late but not too late to save the EBU from itself.
Keith Palmer, Gosport.

IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP

As a bridge teacher and proprietor of a beginner's bridge club, I have always joined my students and new members to the EBU as a condition of membership.

I have never had any real resistance to this. If prospective members have ever asked 'what's in it for me' to join the EBU, I have always responded that it's not a matter of what is 'in it for them' more what is important for the future of organised bridge as a whole.

All club players benefit passively from a well regulated game and the new P2P initiative will enable everyone to contribute actively at club and county level.

My interest in the game has always been at the grass roots level, in recruiting, teaching and evolving students into beginners' clubs. In enfranchising a much broader EBU membership through P2P, the emphasis on the governance of the organised game will shift from a predominately tournament orientated executive to a more democratic and relevant organisation.

Universal membership of the governing body for all club players is long overdue. The EBU is in the business of investing in the future of organised bridge through educational programmes, many of which, especially in schools, require long-term planning and funding. It shouldn't have to rely on the voluntary subscriptions of some club members or tournament players. We are all responsible for the future of our game, including students on courses, and we should all contribute.
Sue Maxwell, Aylesbury.

EBU NEED TO RECONSIDER

Three cheers for Sandra Landy's article 'It is not too late!' and thank you for giving a whole page to express the views of a stalwart of the game.

Every organisation needs a national body to monitor the game – bridge is no exception.

Many, many people give a great deal of their time and effort to the running of their local bridge club. It is clear that they would be badly let down if the EBU did not reconsider its P2P proposal,

in the light of the points made in the article.

Mr F A Bailey, Birmingham.

LETTER SENT TO PETER STOCKEN

(As copied to me)

I will, as you request, display a copy of your letter of 25th July on our club notice board, together with a copy of Mrs Landy's article.

You refer to the 'democratic process' which has taken place over the last year. This would be more accurate if individual members had been given a vote. In fact, the process has more characteristics of an oligarchy than of a democracy.

You say in your letter that the new system will reduce costs. This may be so for the EBU, but you surely cannot be unaware that, for a club such as ours, the reverse is true. Although we are happy to support the regulatory and training work of the EBU, our main reason for membership is masterpoints and the new system *raises* the cost to our club by a factor of *three*. This is even using your somewhat dubious assumption that the third of clubs who did not respond to your survey would nonetheless go along with the new proposals in the same proportion as those who did respond. The final cost to the clubs will probably be higher still.

Mrs Landy does not say that members will defraud anyone. Those doing as she suggests, however, will earn very few masterpoints in a year unless they enter a lot of competitions. Your use of the words 'defraud' and 'scams' is unfortunate as Mrs Landy does not suggest anything that is not within your own rules as currently defined.

**A G W Hodge, Chairman
Cranleigh Bridge Club,
Loxwood, West Sussex.** ►

THE EBU P2P *continued*

VOTES FOR ALL

Sandra Landy's appeal should not go unheeded. The recent county vote showed 60% of clubs to be in favour of the proposals. Is this an accurate figure? My own club voted in favour with no consultation at all of its members. The decision was taken by the club committee, comprising over 60% of EBU members, and this I now understand, to be heavily influenced by the existing EBU members threatening to leave the club if it disaffiliated.

How undemocratic is that? Just like the EBU is adopting a dictatorial attitude, so too are the club committees, whom, I suspect, like my own club have unilaterally indicated allegiance to the EBU proposals.

As I ask around our members, I still get 'what does it all mean' questions. We must insist on a one member one vote situation for such radical changes, in order to have the true feelings of duplicate bridge players. The 'social' bridge players in the majority of bridge clubs provide the foundation and financial stability of the clubs and, without these members, many clubs would cease to exist. In the Swindon area there are at least five non-affiliated clubs within a seven mile radius which those players will migrate to when they realise that their extra costs are subsidising the elite few (EBU members playing once a week at a club will pay substantially less than they do at present). Are the Scottish and Welsh bridge unions in the same position? Or is it just the English Bridge Union which has, over the

last 20 years, ignored it's rank and file members to such an extent that it has brought the current situation upon itself. Will the EBU change it's attitudes? One local club voted to disaffiliate and the secretary did the decent thing and wrote to the EBU back in April this year to advise them. To date, the EBU has not even had the courtesy to acknowledge that letter. Not even a 'Sorry to hear that you are leaving us...' It appears that the EBU is not changing its attitude and still has no regard whatsoever for the smaller bridge clubs.

The EBU would be wise to consider Sandra Landy's appeal seriously and re-think its current dictatorial, non-optional, strategy. Let those who want Masterpoints, its inherent ranking, magazine and diary, pay for them with economic membership and club affiliation fees. The 'loopholes' that Sandra, mentions needlessly are real and will be used by clubs to appease members. This will be no more 'fraudulent' than the EBU plans to attract advertisers with an increased magazine circulation, up to 50% of which will be consigned to the re-cycle bin without being opened. Don't let this be the *only* benefit of P2P... lobby your committees to reconsider.

**D Fenn,
Swindon, Wiltshire.**

SMALL CLUB

May I say how much I enjoy your publication, particularly as English Bridge does not print any other views than their own somewhat tunnel vision on P2P.

Having been a member of the EBU since 1967, I am

dismayed that the clubs at which I play are likely to disaffiliate as many do not have their own premises or computers and do not issue master points. Therefore, the 'benefits' referred to by the EBU of P2P are ephemeral.

I feel it is essential that we have a national body that represents the bridge community, but let us please have one that is all-inclusive rather than divisive, as P2P will certainly prove to be.

**Janet Sheppard,
Cockermouth, Cumbria.**

ANY ALTERNATIVES

I was delighted to read Sandra Landy's message on page 5 of your recent issue. It was so reassuring to have further confirmation that the multitude of 'little' clubs which, week after week, enjoy their Social Bridge session, are still receiving the thoughts and attention of others 'in high places'. Sandra put her message clearly and succinctly and in doing so, reflected the feelings of so many in the Bridge community.

What worries me – apart from the way the EBU proposals are designed blatantly to extract a substantial increase in contributions from these 'little' clubs in return for many dubious benefits that, genuinely, offer so little to them – is their suspected preference for using carefully chosen words in their biased sounding statements that are designed to produce the right response rather than the truth. Ever heard of Option Selling techniques? 'Would you prefer the red or the blue one, sir?' Answer that question and you have placed an order! Now look again at their club questionnaire.

Recently, one County Association advised member

clubs that they had counted those club's 'decisions' as to whether they were 'likely' to re-affiliate under the EBU proposals or not. Without even giving the result of the count, they then invited clubs to advise them if they changed their minds!

Presumably they call a halt when they get the right set of figures. Didn't the EU do this with a Dutch referendum a few years ago?

Thank you, Sandra Landy, for clear, honest and fervent words that were not, incidentally, answered by the EBU in their letter to you dated 25 July.

As a final comment on that letter, I am still trying to work out why they think that Sandra suggested that any EBU members would resort to fraud in this, or any other, matter. I can't find it. Perhaps if they were to start using clear and honest words.... but then we can't have everything in this world, can we?

We all hope that the EBU will come to their senses soon, but if the alternative is the EMBU, it will certainly get my support.

**Eric H Jones,
Great Baddow, Essex.**

DISGUSTED FROM LANCASHIRE

I am disgusted by the article you published by Sandra Landy. Please remove my name from your data base and send no more magazines.

**David Burrows,
St Helens, Lancashire.**

DEMOCRATIC DECISION

Please Mr Bridge, and Sandra Landy, respect the democratic decision of the EBU to adopt P2P with *good grace!*

**Mr K Woolf,
Penzance, Cornwall.**

THE EBU P2P continued

UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP = UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

I entirely agree with the comments of Mike Rogerson regarding the EBU's flawed voting system. Apart from the examples he gives, consider the case of three counties each with a membership of 300. In two of them, 160 are in favour of a motion and 140 against and in the third, 50 are in favour and 250 against. When the vote is taken, two counties will give their votes in favour and one against, whereas overall 370 people are in favour and 530 against!

I have no idea how Essex voted, but there was no consultation whatsoever with the members. Originally, we were asked to convey our views to our club committee (which meant that someone who is a member of, say, five clubs has five times the input of someone who only belongs to one) and were then invited to attend the County AGM, which would be followed by 'a meeting to discuss the final proposals for future membership of the EBU'.

Your magazine was the first I heard of EBU members, claiming that they are subsidising non-members which is nothing short of blackmail and anybody making that claim should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. The only 'benefits' anyone gets from EBU membership are a bi-monthly magazine, a master point rank and the right to take part in EBU competitions. Since non-members receive none of these 'benefits', what are they being subsidised for? It is very disappointing that

someone like Anne Glendenning allowed herself to be influenced by the bully boys. As a club secretary, she should have stood up to them and encouraged her members to do the same.

The only vote that would give a true picture of the views of players is one conducted on a one member, one vote system. Why are the EBU so scared of this?

Perhaps one of your contributors or readers could answer the following questions which I have been asking for many months without getting a satisfactory reply:

Under the new system how will the EBU know when someone gives up the game or dies?

If two players have the same name what guarantee is there that any master points will be allocated to the right person?

Also, as one of those obnoxious, awkward, non-competitive types who has no interest in master points, can I have my name removed from the National Ranking list that the EBU is always going on about?

**Mr C Simpson,
Billericay, Essex.**

INSURANCE COVER NEEDED?

The main reason that our club is affiliated to the EBU is to obtain insurance cover. Like so many of the smaller clubs, we are indifferent to master points and we won't subscribe to any pay-to-play system.

So come 2010, what are we going to do for insurance? I know of several local unaffiliated clubs that do not bother with insurance, on the

mistaken belief that insurance for the premises will cover all eventualities. If the roof caves in and injures a club member, then the liability is obviously with the owner of the premises, but if one of the club's tables collapse causing injury, then the liability is with the club. I'm not a lawyer, but my understanding is that every member of the club would share in that liability. For that reason, our club will not consider running without insurance.

Mr Bridge seems to fill a lot of gaps for the sort of players that play in our sort of clubs. Could you help in any way?

F Vas Nunes by e-mail.

No problem.

Ring 📞 01483 489961.

VOTING SLIPS

Hooray for Sandra Landy! As a long term committed member of the EBU, I am very disappointed that I am to be penalised for supporting the EBU as the new P2P system will more than double my membership payment. I am even more disappointed by the letter sent by the EBU Chairman to clubs following the publication of Sandra's article in Bridge.

If the EBU are so certain that they have a mandate from the membership at large, then they should prove it conclusively by enclosing a voting slip in the next edition of English Bridge with a simple Yes/No question 'Do you support the EBU Strategy on P2P?' – no further explanation. Every member has been given enough information to form an opinion. If, as the EBU officers believe, they have the support of the majority, then they will get the vote and we can set about giving them the support needed to make it work.

Should they not get their positive vote, perhaps they should look at a suggestion I made to the Chairman of the EBU last September: that at affiliated clubs the table money for non-members of the EBU should be increased by 50p per person and that money to be sent direct to the EBU. In my view it would not be long before the non-members joined the EBU.

Unlike the Officers of the EBU, I do not believe that the shareholder's vote is truly representative of the views of members within the Counties.

The EBU was accused of being primarily for the tournament players. Under P2P it will be even more so as the club players will be the main contributors to EBU finances. For many members of the EBU the opportunities to play in major EBU sponsored events are somewhat restricted because of travelling distances and overnight accommodation costs. These same people will play more local club bridge and therefore contribute more to EBU funds.

Jill Newton, Newquay.

WHY CHANGE?

Well done Sandra Landy. I agree with all she says re P2P. The EBU accounts for their trading year ending 31.03.07 show £601,000 as income received for master points and subscription. I fail to see why this is being discontinued and relying on clubs who affiliate to add money on to table money instead. There will be more work involved all round, just because the EBU wish to increase membership numbers. There are some departments who make a consistent loss, such as education and English Bridge.

Drene Brown by e-mail. ▶

THE EBU P2P continued

DEMOCRACY?

Peter Stocken was very quick to circulate his condemnation of Sandra Landy's warning letter, 'It is not too late!', which appeared in the previous issue of BRIDGE. He claims: 'Her contribution appears to fly in the face of a democratic process that has taken place over the last year.'

HIWCBA did have a democratic process on this issue. All our affiliated clubs were asked by the County's Executive Committee to vote on whether to support or reject the proposed Final Strategy. This resulted in a Rejection by 32 clubs and Acceptance by 3 clubs with 3 clubs abstaining. 10 of the less active clubs did not record a vote. I was able to obtain a count of the individual club member votes For and Against in most of the clubs and this resulted in 1078 Against and 120 For. This did include a few non-EBU members voting in some clubs, but these would also be affected by the change and deserved a vote as club members. That was an example of true democracy!

It has been suggested that there was an orchestrated campaign in our county against the strategy but I must point out that only one district, Gosport, arranged a meeting of their six clubs to discuss the issue. Our County Chairman, an MDAG member, attended that meeting so 'orchestrated campaign' is hardly an appropriate epithet as in all other districts, clubs and members made their decisions in isolation.

Peter Stocken claims to

have kept everyone informed during the development period when he wrote: 'The Board has published its proposals in all their forms in English Bridge and has provided contact information for those who wished to make a contribution to the consultation process.' However, it must be noted that general publicity of any view which did not support the EBU's strategy has been totally suppressed in the Union's publication.

He goes on to say: 'All possible alternatives have been published and discounted, for very good reasons.' I must say that I don't remember reading about any of these alternatives in *English Bridge* or of the reservations which accompanied some of the county votes at the EGM. In her article, Sandra Landy noted that: 'No discussion was allowed in *English Bridge*.'

We have three thriving clubs in the Eastleigh area with regular weekly attendance of 13-15 tables. The majority of players in these clubs are not members of the Union. Sandra makes a very important point when she states that: 'There are no services that clubs get from the EBU that they cannot get elsewhere'. No one has yet given me any satisfactory answers to this point.

Finally, Peter Stocken states in his reply that: 'The Board of the EBU has taken a route to develop the game and make it more accessible to more people.' Quite the opposite is true, as many clubs like the ones I have already mentioned will

choose not to affiliate, when faced with P2P bills which are sure to be in excess of £1,000 a year! A mass withdrawal of at least 25% of Clubs was indicated in the EBU survey carried out earlier this year. It is likely to be even higher in our county, based on those recording their intention to disaffiliate in the survey returns and they were the clubs with the high attendances.

I read the article by Sandra Landy in the August edition of your magazine and have to say that I applaud her courage in speaking out for something she obviously feels so passionately about. Everything she has written is perfectly true and I only hope it will encourage those who feel the same way to let their counties and clubs know what their wishes truly are.

Mike Rogerson
by e-mail.

EBU SUPPORTER

I share the concerns expressed by Sandra Landy in BRIDGE 90. As a supporter of the EBU, I live in a county where the majority of our clubs appear to be considering disaffiliation from the English Bridge Union if the P2P is implemented.

I believe that the EBU should make every effort to retain the support of all existing affiliated bridge clubs, regardless of size.

Mrs G Walker,
Pinner, Middx.

NO BENEFITS

Having read the full EBU strategy proposal, I cannot see anything that will encourage the 'rude players' to become friendlier, as I presume they felt this was hindering the players attending the 'elevated events'. I was of the opinion

this would not work, as these so called 'rude players' cannot help it as their mind is so concentrated on the cards, percentage play and what their opponents have in their hands that their brain does not have the ability to think about being courteous. If some of these people were asked whom they played against at an event, they would more than likely not be able to remember.

It is obvious from the numbers attending 'friendly clubs' in Norfolk like Bawburgh, Hoveton and Horning and Cringleford that there are a considerable number of players who enjoy bridge. It is these players the EBU should be concentrating on. I would suggest the percentage of members in these clubs who are members of the EBU, is much lower than for, say, the 'elite clubs'.

The last thing I would want to see is the 'friendly clubs' dropping out of the EBU. Therefore, surely, there is a need to have two divisions, one for the 'elite' and one for those, with 'lesser bridge brain ability' who wish to enjoy themselves playing bridge. The 'elite' having masterpoints with the full regalia and the 'friendly' having a reduced service with a lower charge.

The EBU has got to be very careful or they will shoot themselves in the foot as I have heard of four bridge clubs in Nottinghamshire and one in Kent that are leaving the EBU umbrella.

The person who told me about the Nottinghamshire clubs said they felt they did not get any benefit from the EBU as the majority of their members were not point hunters and wanted to enjoy playing bridge.

Mr Thomas Beven,
Attleborough, Norfolk. ▶

THE EBU P2P *continued*

VALUE FOR MONEY?

I play most of my bridge in Suffolk and Essex. I drive on average 25 miles and pay about £2 per evening. At 40p per mile the evening costs me £12. I think this is excellent value for money (especially when my partner drives, when it costs only £2). P2P will take about 30p of that total. The figure is designed to be about the same as clubs currently pay; so there is no reason why table money should rise. If P2P increased to 40p or was lowered to 20p, it would be unlikely to change my decision to play. Nor would it be likely to affect other peoples' decision to play. The big rise in petrol prices is much more likely to make me stay at home.

The changes merely mean that those who play several times a week pay slightly more to the EBU than before and those who play less often (possibly deciding the EBU membership was not worthwhile) will become members, get a free magazine and pay a small amount towards the EBU expenses. Whether the EBU provides good value for money is a different question. I will mention only my visit to a non-EBU club. I received two incorrect rulings and was told that one level 3 convention we played was not allowed at the club. I have not visited that club again.

David Haig-Thomas
by e-mail.

FREE MEMBERSHIP

In my capacity as Secretary of Exeter Bridge Club, I was sent a copy of our Chairman's (EBU) reply to you. As your magazine is the only one

publishing articles both for and against the proposed new strategy, I am quite sure Mr Stocken is confident that his reply to you will be published.

With regard to Mr Stocken's letter and his somewhat adverse comments on Mrs Landy, I would make the following comments:

What democratic process took place in my county of allegiance when we were asked to accept one of the three following options?

- a) Please vote to accept the April 2008 Strategy in its entirety
- b) Please vote to reject the following aspects whilst retaining the overall strategy
- c) We have reservations about the following aspects without strong enough views to vote against them.

I did ask my county to include d) we reject the strategy in its entirety, but this request was refused. 20 out of 29 affiliated clubs apparently responded giving our shareholder a majority vote in favour of the strategy! I cannot understand in view of the options given why it was not considered a unanimous decision.

As the EBU is currently the organisation that oversees duplicate bridge in this Country why should Mr Stocken be surprised that it is the only one at the moment dealing in masterpoints, tuition and regulation of our game? What surprises me is that he does not seem to realise the possibility of another organisation picking up the flag for those clubs and players who do not wish to be forcibly enrolled into an organisation which, on its

own admission has neglected them for so many years. Perhaps there are others who tend to 'fear the Greeks when they bring gifts'.

The majority of the EBU's bread and butter members are decent and honest people but does Mr Stocken sincerely believe that all paper masterpoints were issued in every club when some club members said they were not wanted? However, I do think the comment 'we will ensure that our members' interests are protected at all times- our volunteers on the new Club Committee and its representatives on the Universal Membership Project Committee will be addressing these potential scams to protect those interests,' smacks a little of the Big Brother syndrome.

There is another thing I cannot understand – what advantage is gained by having universal membership when it is totally free? If our Board of Directors feel that membership of the EBU is not worth anything why should anyone else feel differently?

The Pay to Play, I can understand particularly so when the minutes state an increase of just 1p will bring in £25,000 a year. Again referring to minutes, it was decided to increase the affiliation fees by only 50p, as it was felt members would not accept anything higher. Much easier to get 1p across. I do apologise, I forgot the New Strategy was financially neutral.

One final point, the membership is being asked to agree to something in advance, the cost of which is totally unknown and incalculable at this stage, to agree to sign an annual

contract the wording of which has not yet been provided. They want us to turn a blind eye to the spending of enormous sums of money before permission has been given to make the necessary changes to the bye laws. I am sorry but I find this unbelievable.

Whilst I am against the proposed new strategy I am not anti EBU nor am I opposed to change. I would also add that never have I contacted the staff at the EBU and received anything but a willingness to help whenever possible and a courtesy that our organisation should be proud of.

Jean Whitlam, Exeter.

DOWNFALL OF EBU?

I applaud Sandra Landy's article on P2P bridge. This will be the downfall of the EBU.

Mrs Patricia Southan,
Chingford, London.

MORE PUBLICITY

There has been a letter distributed to EBU clubs trying to refute the points made by Sandra Landy in the latest edition of BRIDGE. As this is addressed to you, could you publish Sandra's article on your website so I can give my fellow club members the full story and not just one side.

Peter Oliver, Redditch.

DON'T GIVE UP

Many thanks for BRIDGE over the years. There have been many interesting articles and columns. I have posted the 'Case against P2P' article on Derby Bridge Club's notice board but nobody seems to notice. I think the EBU will get its own way.

Whether I give up bridge or find a non EBU club remains to be seen.

T. Woodward,
Breadsall, Derby. ▶

THE EBU P2P continued

THINK AHEAD

I, too, have read Sandra Landy's article 'It's not too late', but where I think Peter Stocken has replied in a fit of pique, I think Sandra should be congratulated on her input to the debate. The very important point Peter has failed to comprehend is that, though the county associations have voted for a pay to play system, individual bridge clubs have not.

I am fairly sure the county associations will all fall into line and any events held by them will come under the umbrella of pay to play, but

the vast majority of bridge drives are run by individual bridge clubs. It is they who now have to decide whether the pay to play scheme is in the best interests of their members.

My own local bridge club also believes in democracy, and we will be asking our membership shortly whether they want to be part of the pay to play scheme.

However, the management committee will rightly point out that the scheme will cost our club £2,500.00 a year, which will go to the EBU rather than spent on keeping

bar prices down, table money down and refurbishment. It will be up to them to vote on what they want the club to do. Bridge clubs all over the county will face the same dilemma and I suspect that there will be a roughly 50/50 split in the country between the two options. On that basis, by the time a finalised pay to play fee is determined, I suspect the fee will be nearer £1 than the quoted 35p.

The concern I have, which Sandra reflected, is that the EBU finances will be put in dire straits and the organisation will be in danger of collapse. Bridge is a game which teaches you to think ahead of the likely

consequences of any action you might take. Peter will be well advised to take note of what Sandra has said.

Mr W Crook, Nottingham Bridge Club President.

RE-THINK

The EBU appears to be banking on only 20% of Bridge Clubs refusing to sign up to the changed constitution. They should be looking at a much worse scenario. Sandra Landy's advice (BRIDGE August 2008), reminds me of the words of Wellington, which they would do well to heed: 'The test of a good general is to know when to retreat – and to dare to do it!'

Ted Gibbins, Cheshire. ■



JUST IN TIME

THANKS TO ALL

I attach the e-mail I have just received from Peter Stocken.

It is why I was grateful that you published my article in your magazine, no-one else was going to allow the dissenters a voice.

No doubt you have received a good many comments and I don't expect they all agreed with me. I have had lots of people speak to me about my article; they were glad there was another side to the story than that being told by the EBU Board. So many expressed doubts that I hope some action may be taken.

Please can you thank people for their personal replies, too numerous to mention. It made me glad that I had faced up to a difficult challenge and written the article.

Sandra Landy, Sussex.

DEAR SANDRA

Elena has informed me of your request to have a letter published in English Bridge. In the October issue Elena's editorial will address her policy – which we supported –

of not publishing letters in *English Bridge* about the proposals. She took that decision because she felt that there were several forums for our members and the members of affiliated clubs to express their views directly to their counties and to us nationally. I know you are aware that Barry, Sally and I and all the other members of the Membership Development Action Group, have answered over 1,000 emails and letters dealing with our members directly. We have also undertaken face-to-face meetings with representatives from all our counties, all over the country, and dealt with our clubs directly – we are grateful for your assistance with that project.

The time for debate about the principles is now over, as they have been approved and implementation is underway. Now is the time when everyone, who says they have the interests of bridge in England at heart and means it, should be directing their efforts to helping the implementation process, whether or not they supported the idea before the decision was made.

Peter Stocken to Sandra Landy.