

Cambs & Hunts Bridge

Number 48, January 2008

News

Congratulations to Julian Wightwick on his promotion to Grand Master.

Cambs & Hunts qualified comfortably for the final of the Tollemache, to be held in February. Chris Jagger won the Two Stars Pairs at Bournemouth's Autumn Congress and Trevor King won the Men's Pairs at the West of England Congress.

In the news

Several Cambs & Hunts members have made the national (or international) press recently. Cath Jagger's exploits in the Venice Cup in Shanghai were related by Andrew Robson in *The Times* and Philip Alder in the *New York Times*. Also across the Pond, Bobby Wolff wrote up a hand David Kendrick had played some years ago in the *San Francisco Trivalley Herald*. And back in the UK, Jonathan Mestel secured mention in the *Daily Telegraph* for his other sport, as part of the GB team winning the World Chess Solving Championship for the third successive year.

In this issue...

Jonathan Mestel regales us with hands from the Tolly qualifier, Cath Jagger reminisces on China, Trevor King reports on the success of the Cambs and Hunts Swiss Teams in its new home in Peterborough, and Chris Jagger covers the Two Stars Pairs at Bournemouth.

Aunt Agony is back and in fine form, and check out the results round-up for a host of good scores by county members in recent simultaneous pairs events.

Visit the county's website at

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

- information on bridge clubs
- this and previous newsletters
- details of competitions and results

Please send items for the website to **David Allen** on david@djallen.org.uk

The next newsletter will be published in May.

Please send in news, letters and hands no later than 15th April. All contributions welcome!

Editors: **Chris & Catherine Jagger**

2 Wycliffe Road, Cambridge, CB1 3JD Tel: 01223 526586

Email: chjagger@deloitte.co.uk or catherine@circaworld.com

Jolly Tolly by Jonathan Mestel

The County (Catherine Curtis & Paul Fegarty, Rod Oakford & Victor Milman, Giles Woodruff & Julian Wightwick, Paul Barden & Jonathan Mestel, NPC Chris Larlham) has once again qualified for the finals of the Tollemache. Everyone seemed on form bringing in good cards at critical moments.

The hand below helped us to an 18–2 win against the other seed, Middlesex, which left us excellently placed overnight and we eventually won our group convincingly with 126 VPs from 160.

♠ AJ1082 ♥ J6432 ♦ — ♣ AQ4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q6 ♥ KQ107 ♦ J108762 ♣ 10
N					
W E					
S					

At both tables where we were EW, North overcalled 1NT over 1♠, and East bid 2♦. West tried 2♥ a little uncertainly and was a bit surprised to be raised to 4♥, but somewhat happy with dummy. One of their pairs missed the game.

Here are a few hands from the Sunday session.

E/W Vul Dealer W ♠ KJ76 ♥ J852 ♦ AQ85 ♣ 6	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A1093 ♥ K97 ♦ K1097 ♣ K7 ♠ 2 ♥ AQ4 ♦ J6 ♣ AQJ9532 ♠ Q854 ♥ 1063 ♦ 432 ♣ 1084
N					
W E					
S					

At most tables West passed and North opened 1NT. We play 3♣ as a constructive overcall and that felt to me the right call at the vulnerability. With a misfitting maximum Paul passed, and we missed a good game. South led a spade to the jack and ace and North must defend well to prevent a 12th trick, continuing spades, and retaining a spade guard.

Giles and Julian’s opponents did the same, but Victor showed more flair by doubling with the East cards, and not surprisingly opponents didn’t run. The clubs did run however for a useful 1100. At the time we thought that on a spade lead it could even have been 1400, but the same anti-squeeze defence earns declarer two tricks and a Pyrrhic victory.

I don’t often suggest new conventions, but it occurs to me that many of us like to use jump overcalls of 1NT both as preempts and as ordinary overcalls (2 of a minor is usually conventional). When was the last time you overcalled 1NT with 2NT? I wonder whether it could be better used to show some hands of this type, perhaps a strong minor overcall.

Another hand from our Middlesex match illustrates the problem:

Love All Dealer E ♠ Q962 ♥ AJ10943 ♦ — ♣ A104	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A1087 ♥ Q ♦ 1042 ♣ Q9632 ♠ KJ43 ♥ K8 ♦ Q85 ♣ KJ75 ♠ 5 ♥ 7652 ♦ AKJ9763 ♣ 8
N					
W E					
S					

After I opened 1NT, Martin Jones bid 3♦ as South, Paul bid 4♥, and Neil Rosen 5♦. This was passed round to Paul who judged well to bid 5♥, expecting me to hold little in diamonds. North now doubled expecting more defence from South, but it still seems a bit rash. He then has to find ♠A lead to prevent the overtrick, and who would do that?

Overcalls of 1NT were also an issue on this board:

N/S Vul	♠ Q4		
Dealer W	♥ Q4		
	♦ KJ103		
	♣ A10432		
♠ AJ107		N	♠ K9852
♥ 5		W	♥ 10962
♦ 82		E	♦ A97
♣ QJ9865		S	♣ K
	♠ 63		
	♥ AKJ873		
	♦ Q654		
	♣ 7		

Once more North opened 1NT in 2nd seat. We were playing that 2♣ showed the majors and I bid that with a clear conscience, though it earned me some derision when South leapt to 4♥. Paul naturally bid 4♠ ending the auction and scored 11 tricks, when they didn't switch to a diamond after the ♥Q lead.

If you were playing ASPTRO and bid 2♣ showing hearts and another suit, what could West do over 4H now? If East's other suit were diamonds any action could be catastrophic. Perhaps one could play double here as requesting a 4♠ bid if appropriate, but who has that agreement? An ASTRO 2♦ of course fares better on this hand.

Over Julian's 1NT East passed and Giles started a transfer with 2♦, and when West's 3♣ was passed round he bid 4♥, making exactly.

At Rod and Victor's table North opened 1♣, and the bidding continued 1♠-2♥-4♠, P-P-X. The defence tried for club ruffs which was not a success. When ♠8 was not overruffed it was not hard to get trumps right.

The same double from Catherine produced +100, as after a top heart and diamond switch declarer played her for the trump queen and lost a trick in each suit.

We had another double game swing on

E/W Vul	♠ Q		
Dealer N	♥ J72		
	♦ KJ8542		
	♣ K83		
♠ A7532		N	♠ 6
♥ 65		W	♥ KQ10984
♦ 9		E	♦ 76
♣ J10764		S	♣ AQ92
	♠ KJ10984		
	♥ A3		
	♦ AQ103		
	♣ 5		

At our table the auction was:

N	E	S	W
P	1♥	1♠	P
P	2♣	2♠	4♣
P	4♥	P	5♣
Passed out			

N/S were clearly allergic to diamonds. Paul had a close decision whether to pass 4♥ or bid 5♣; I'd have passed, but both games make on the lie.

Julian opened a weak 2♦ and Giles bid 4♠ over a heart overcall. On the heart lead, he won and laid down ♠K, wary of a diamond ruff. The 5-1 split led then led to a trump promotion in hearts and one down. He could have led low to the ♠Q and crossed to the ♦A before leading another trump and hoping they didn't find their diamond ruff, but that would have led to defeat against more friendly lies.

North opened 1♦ at Rod and Victor's table (not everybody's choice). South bid 2♠ over the 1♥ overcall, explained as 16+ GF. This shut out E/W's club suit, and our pair ended up defending 4♠-2 on a club lead. Declarer expects to make 12 tricks, but after ruffing the 2nd club and knocking out ♠A, he finds he has lost control and ends up with only eight!

Catherine and Paul reached 5♦ as N/S. East's lead of a stiff spade was not unreasonable, but arguably ♥K is better, especially with hindsight.

West won ♠A and returned a spade which was ruffed high. Trumps are drawn and two clubs and two hearts thrown on the spades. When the remaining trumps are played out, West must retain his two small hearts to prevent his partner from being squeezed for the overtrick!

Finally, here's one of those slam hands on which so many IMPs can ride.

♠ KQ	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ AJ10863
N					
W E					
S					
♥ AQ9x	♥ Kxx				
♦ QJ9x	♦ xx				
♣ AQx	♣ Kx				

What contract do you want to be in with the following? Do you bid slam

quickly, hoping they won't find the right lead if there is one, or do you bid round the houses finding the best contract but suffering the best lead as a result? Or do you indulge in fake cue bids hoping to entice a poor lead?

Against Julian and Giles they bid 1♠-2♦; 2♠-6NT, somehow guessing that East was not 1-3 in the minors (or even 0-4!) Would you have found a diamond lead from ♠10xx ♥xx ♦K108x ♣J8xx? Only if you find declarer's sequence suspicious, but you are guessing. [There's an echo here from an early Tolle – <http://www.camsbridge.org.uk/articles/TolleQual1998.html>]

Two other pairs reached 6♠ (making) after a Blackwood sequence (but 6NT by West is better if either of East's kings is in diamonds). We bid 1♠-2♦; 2♠-3♥; 3NT-4♣; 4♥-4♠; Pass Paul might have tried once more to give me a chance to cue a stiff diamond, but he was worried I might hold ♠A10xxx ♥KJx ♦xx ♣KJx, which is a clearer 3NT bid. In any case, we were never reaching slam once we'd started cueing, so 26 IMPs (you score up with each of two pairs of teammates) went West. Or perhaps I should say went North-South.

Shanghai Shenanigans by Cath Jagger

Board one of our first Venice Cup – we'd made the flight connections in Frankfurt, landed safely in Shanghai, were getting over the jet lag, but what was in store...first up was Japan at the start of a marathon 22-team round robin that was going to occupy us for the next seven days, to sort out who would qualify for the knock out stages.

Love all	♠ 10				
Dealer N	♥ A				
	♦ J975				
	♣ AKQJ1042				
♠ AK8	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J763
N					
W E					
S					
♥ K10954	♥ QJ3				
♦ K1086	♦ AQ42				
♣ 5	♣ 63				
	♠ Q9542				
	♥ 8762				
	♦ 3				
	♣ 987				

Sarah	E	Cath	W
1♣	P	P	1♥
3♣	3♥	4♣	4♥
5♣	X	Passed out	

East got off to a poor start by not leading trumps: the ♥Q ran round to the ace.

My partner, Sarah Teshome, now faced a choice of guaranteeing only one down by playing a diamond, or risking two down by playing on spades and hoping for the right holding to set up the suit in three rounds.

She chose to play a diamond, and East went in with the queen, in order to play... a spade!

The 'inevitable' trump came back from West – who was clearly a bit more switched on than her partner! But it was too late, and Sarah soon ruffed out the spades to set up two diamond discards. +550 – a very nice start!

In the next match against Argentina I thought I was seeing double on picking up ♠— ♥6 ♦QJ10754 ♣QJ10754.

Sarah opened 1♠ and I was faced with a choice of the value bid of 1NT or the more descriptive 2♦. I plumped for 1NT, pushed the tray through the screen – and when it came back partner of course had removed to 2♥. While rueing the fact that in a recent system discussion we had decided to keep 2NT as a good raise of hearts rather than both minors, I found that RHO had stuck in a bid of 3♦ – Christmas! +1400 taught her a quick lesson for bidding that way holding ♠AQJ65 ♥A10 ♦AK982 ♣2. Why not bid 2♦ the first time – when we would have been less likely to take a penalty.

The match against the strong Dutch team was a critical one – and this board in particular:

Game all	♠ K43	
Dealer E	♥ KJ983	
	♦ 743	
	♣ A4	
♠ A		♠ 92
♥ 102		♥ Q64
♦ KJ1065		♦ Q98
♣ KQ982		♣ J7653
		♠ QJ108765
		♥ A75
		♦ A2
		♣ 10

Sarah	E	Cath	W
	P	1♠	2NT*
3♦*	5♣	5♦*	P
6♠	Passed out		

West overcalled my 1♠ opening with the Unusual 2NT. Sarah's 3♦ bid showed a good raise in spades and East jumped pre-emptively to 5♣. My hand though weak in points had a lot of playing strength, so I ventured a cue. With two key cards and a good heart suit, Sarah happily raised to slam.

The ♣K lead gave me a fighting chance in this thin contract, but I still needed to set up the heart suit for no losers. A trump off dummy went to the queen and ace, and I ruffed the club return.

Now West was known to hold at least ten minor suit cards, plus at least one spade, so no more than two hearts. A 4-1 break was no good to me nor a low doubleton. So I had to play her for 10x or Qx. I cashed ♠Q, West showing out – so far so good – and crossed to the ♥K. The moment of decision – with 26 IMPs riding on the guess – and I correctly chose to run the ♥J.

Soon after that came the French – the reigning world champions – but sometimes in this game, prowess can go to people's heads...

EW vul	♠ J542
Dealer S	♥ Q6
	♦ K82
	♣ AJ42
♠ 10876	♠ AKQ3
♥ 4	♥ AK9
♦ 974	♦ J63
♣ 109853	♣ KQ6
	♠ 9
	♥ J1087532
	♦ AQ105
	♣ 7

South opened 4♥ which Sarah (East) doubled. I decided to pass, hoping partner had enough to take 4♥ off in her own hand. Sarah was no doubt feeling confident with her 22 count. But sadly the contract is cold – that is until our ingenious declarer got her hands on it.

With a spade and two hearts to lose off the top, it looked like the only problem was the fourth round of diamonds – but what if trumps were 4–0 ... she led the ♥2 from hand and when I followed with the ♥4 she cunningly inserted the ♥6 – after all I must have something for passing the double! A stream of vituperant French ensued from our ingénue – which I did not understand, but I got ‘la giste’.

After seven gruelling days we found ourselves in the eighth qualifying place and therefore through to the final stages – now the real competition would begin.

Game all	♠ 102
Dealer N	♥ Q6
	♦ Q542
	♣ Q10985
	♠ J5
	♥ K843
	♦ A10763
	♣ 64

N	Michelle	S	Rhona
P	P	1♣*	P
1♦*	P	2♠	P
2NT	P	3♣	P
4♣	P	5NT*	P
7♣	Passed out		

We were drawn against China, and the highlight of the 96-board match was this brilliant grand slam defence by Michelle Brunner (East).

A precision club auction (all the Chinese play precision) quickly revealed South had a solid spade suit and a club suit. South now drove slam, despite North’s initial 1♦ negative, and following a 5NT trump ask, North bid 7♣ (rather optimistically!).

West led the ♥J – have you spotted the best defence?

Game all	♠ 102
Dealer W	♥ Q6
	♦ Q542
	♣ Q10985
♠ 764	♠ J5
♥ J10952	♥ K843
♦ KJ98	♦ A10763
♣ K	♣ 64
	♠ AKQ983
	♥ A7
	♦ —
	♣ AJ732

Dummy covered with the ♥Q and I hope you managed to play low smoothly. South must have ♥A and a void diamond to bid GSF, so the only hope is a trump trick. Ducking the ♥Q gives declarer the necessary entry to take the trump finesse into partner’s stiff king! Bravo Michelle for finding that one at the table – and you can hardly criticise declarer for falling for this deception!

We held on to a small lead overnight, but things didn’t go our way on the second day and the Chinese ended up

with a comfortable win. They went on to win bronze, behind USA 1 and Germany.

Meanwhile, in the Bermuda Bowl favourites Italy had been knocked out

by South Africa in the quarter-finals, and Norway were eventual winners, beating the Netherlands in the final. The Seniors was won by USA 1.

Letter to Aunt Agony

Dearest Auntie,

It is some while since I last wrote. I have much missed your gentle encouragement and words of good-natured wisdom, but until recently I lacked a suitable hand to send you.

Partner (East) dealt at pairs against strong opposition:

♠ Axx	<table border="1"> <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>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQ
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Qxx	♥ A10xx										
♦ AJ109xx	♦ Qxx										
♣ x	♣ AK10x										

We bid: 1♣-1♦; 2NT-3♦; 3♥-3♠; 4♦-6♦.

North led the ♠J. I won and ran the queen of diamonds, which of course lost. North continued with another spade. Clearly I would need a squeeze unless the ♣QJ ruffed down (or the ♥K was stiff).

My first thought was to draw trumps, ruff the third club, and then play out my winners. If North had the only remaining club guard and the ♥K, he would be squashed. This would work if North had ♥K and ♣QJ or any five clubs or if the ♣QJ were to ruff down. Of course South couldn't be squeezed as he discards after dummy, and we could not afford to unblock ♥A.

But then I thought of you, and I asked myself: Could I make if South, rather than North, held ♥K and ♣(Q/J)xxxx?

And then I saw it! playing all but one trump I came down to:

♠ A	<table border="1"> <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>		N		W		E		S		♠ —
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ Qxx	♥ A10										
♦ x	♦ —										
♣ x	♣ AK10x										

I now cashed the ♠A, throwing ♥10. Neither side could come down to ♥Kx and four clubs. So I'd make if either opponent had ♥K and ♣QJ or ♥K and five clubs, or if ♣QJ ruffed out.

In fact North held J109x Kx Kx QJxxx. He threw two spades and a club, and when I cashed SA it was fairly clear what he'd done.

I mumbled "trump squeeze" to partner, to increase my chances of getting a lift home, which an earlier hand had put in doubt.

But my greatest joy was that I had finally earned the right to bask in your admiration, for which I have long longed.

Yours ever so sincerely,

Jonathan Mestel

Dear Nephew,

I've noticed you always send me hands where you think you have done something clever. Coincidentally, you write so seldomly nowadays.

Reading between the lines, you seem dimly aware (an apposite adverb) that you had a guess to make. Suppose North had discarded a heart early on

and later a club. Might you not have misread the end position, playing him for ♠J109x ♥Kxx ♦Kx ♣QJxx? Then in your last diagram you would have played to ruff out the clubs rather than drop his (now stiff) ♥K. Of course you might have got it right, but anyone, even I, might get it wrong occasionally. There's an element of bluff/double bluff involved.

Did you consider how you would have played if North had switched to a club after winning ♦K? Presumably you would have had no option but to ruff a club and run your trumps, as in your first thoughts. Note this would have been successful as the cards lay. Note also that when North kept a club guard you would have had no choice but to throw dummy's club and drop his ♥K.

And what would you have done had he led a heart at that stage, which also disrupts your somewhat elementary trump squeeze? You might have run it successfully to your ♥Q, or you might have won ♥A, (a Vienna Coup) and played off your winners, hoping for the 25% shot of ♥K and ♣QJ being in the same hand, which would also prove successful.

Does it not strike you as strange that had North led a club you would have had no choice but to make your slam, whereas on his apparently inferior defence you had a chance of going down?

Let's consider the problem from North's point of view. He knows you have three spade tricks (count signal on the lead), three tricks in hearts and clubs and surely five diamond tricks on the auction. So if he doesn't hold ♥K he knows his partner must, and he can see the danger of a squeeze. Your trump squeeze "gains" if South has say ♠xxxx ♥Kx ♦xx ♣Qxxxx, giving North ♠J109x ♥Jxxx ♦Kx ♣Jxx. Do you think North would get a lift home

if he continued meekly with a second spade at trick 3? Not from me he wouldn't, when either a heart or a club sets the slam. Or suppose he'd held ♠J109 ♥xxx ♦Kx ♣xxxxx. He can see the clubs will ruff out. A heart would have hit the table very quickly to knock out dummy's entry.

With ♠J109x ♥Jxxx ♦Kx ♣xxx a heart wouldn't help (unless you ran it to hand). The Vienna coup crushes partner's hand. With that hand the only sure defence would be a club. Difficult? Maybe, but possible, if he's awake.

So suppose North is a really good player. What do we make of this passive defence? Maybe nothing will work, but surely a squeeze against South has no chance at all. He gave you the chance to play a more complex line which you might have got wrong, rather than a simple line which would have worked automatically. And given the opportunity to grasp a flashy, but inferior line you rose to the occasion manfully.

Anyway, never mind. Your partner's good judgment enabled you to bid a reasonable slam which you didn't play so very badly. I think your best line is to come down to ♠A ♥Qxx ♦x ♣x as above, and then, if neither opponent seems in much pain with their discards, rather than cash ♠A as for the trump squeeze, play off ♣AKx and ruff, and then play ♠A, giving up on the chance of squeezing South, but clarifying the position for a squeeze against North.

But I think it would be a good idea if you learned to drive, before one of your antics proves too much for your partners.

Yours, as ever,

Aunt Agony

The 'Newmarket' Swiss Teams by Trevor King

When the County decided to look for a new venue for the Newmarket Swiss Teams, Peterborough Bridge Club jumped at the chance to host this prestigious event, returning it to the north of the county for the first time since those long gone days when it was known as the Ely Congress. Fourteen teams of four travelled to the new venue to battle it out for the Margaret Hyde Trophy.

Neil Matthews had agreed to be Director, aided and assisted by myself, and we played 6 x 8-board matches, with duplimated boards and hand records available at the end of each session. There were obviously some strong teams who fancied their chances, as well as several middle of the roaders who had come out for a good day of bridge. The defending champions of Chris Larlham, David Kendrick, Rod and Sue Oakford were the bookies favourites at the start, but in a Swiss format, anything can happen on the day.

A 20-0 win for my team in the first round saw us drawn next against Gladys Gittins' team, the joint leaders. Board 11 proved to be our downfall of the afternoon, and I am not very proud of my bidding or my declarer play.

N	E	S	W
		P	1♣
1♠	X	2♦	3♣
P	P	3♠	X
Passed out			

Anne Read sitting West opened the bidding with 1♣, and, never frightened to overcall at the one level with a four card major and an eight loser hand, I decided on 1♠. The rot had started! Marion reasonably decided to compete to 3♠ in the South seat, doubled by West.

East led the ♣A, and switched to a heart to my ten. I should have cashed two more hearts, ditching a club from dummy, probably ending up two or three off for a bad score. Unfortunately I played ace and another trump, discovering the awful news! Anne cashed the trumps, ran all her clubs and very pleasantly gave me a heart at the end! 6 off doubled for -1400 and a 17-3 defeat. Shooting oneself in the foot comes to mind!

Meanwhile, Chris Larlham's team had scored a second win, and the computer now threw us together for the last match before tea – a close and hard fought match that we lost 13-7. Gladys had now lost a match, and they were drawn to play the favourites after tea.

Sheila and Bill Evans-Evans provided everyone with a really superb tea, with enough to satisfy the most ravenous appetite, while Terry Knights ran the bar and the tea and coffee making.

After tea we managed good wins in our fourth and fifth matches, putting us right back in contention. Our final match saw us drawn against another team from Peterborough containing

Love all	♠ A852					
Dealer S	♥ AK102					
	♦ 72					
	♣ 975					
♠ KJ1074	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 65		♥ Q9743				
♦ —		♦ A86543				
♣ KQ10862		♣ A				
	♠ Q63					
	♥ J8					
	♦ KQJ109					
	♣ J43					

two strong pairings of Mark Tilley with Mike Trask and young Kieran Tilley aged 12 playing with Ufuk Cotuk a Turkish player with a lot of flair. Kieran is showing a lot of promise in Junior Bridge circles, and we are proud to have him amongst our regular players at the club. He certainly plays some unusual methods which his father has taught him, and one lady who had played against him before tea admitted to having been ‘quite baffled’ by all those clever bids!

We knew this match wasn’t going to be easy, and they certainly had the upper hand on several boards. However board 15 was good for us.

N/S Vul	♠ A7		
Dealer S	♥ —		
	♦ A76543		
	♣ AQ864		
♠ K8		N	♠ QJ653
♥ KQ10873		W	♥ AJ52
♦ KQ9		E	♦ J8
♣ 95		S	♣ K2
	♠ 10942		
	♥ 964		
	♦ 102		
	♣ J1073		

At both tables West opened one heart, and North overcalled the Unusual 2NT – one of the best examples of it that I have seen for some time. At our teammates’ table, Bob Vajda raised straight to 4♥ on the East cards. Young Kieran Tilley, sitting North was faced with the difficult decision as to whether to compete at the five level at unfavourable. He chose not to as just two off would have been -500 - a bad score even if the heart game is making.

At my table Mark Tilley bid 3♦ on the East cards, showing a good raise in hearts, allowing me to compete with 4♦ at my next turn. He then bid game in hearts, which came back round to me.

N	E	S	W
		P	1♥
2NT	3♦*	P	3♥
4♦	4♥	P	P
5♣	X	Passed out	

Still wishing to compete, I punted 5♣, possibly a bit risky Red against Green. East doubled, but I was pleased to find partner with four-card trump support. There were just three losers, and one down for -200 vindicated my bidding, as 4♥ is solid. Everyone said I was lucky not to have gone for -500 or more...but I think I deserved a bit of luck!

Even so, we narrowly lost the match, and ended tied with the Tilley team for third place, Gladys Gittins’ team were in second place 3 VPs ahead of us, with Chris Larlham’s team winning all six of their matches, to claim the trophy for the third year in a row. Well done to them, and I am still embarrassed about my awful faux pas on board 11! Without that, things might have been different.

The competition had been a tremendous success at its new home, and next year we hope it will be a sell out at 18 tables. So...here’s to next year’s Newmarket...even if it is held at Peterborough again! Please book your table early.



Results round-up

National competitions

The England Ladies, including Cath Jagger, lost to China in the Venice Cup quarter-finals (Photo: Bottom Left).

Cambs & Hunts won their qualifying group in the Tollemache Cup.

At the Autumn Congress, Chris Jagger won the Two Stars Pairs playing with Ian Pagan (Photo: Top Right). Cath Jagger & Jonathan Mestel came 8th. Victor Milman & Nadia Stelmashenko finished 12th in the Satellite Pairs Final. David Kendrick's team finished 2nd in the main teams event.

Trevor King won the Men's Pairs at the West of England Congress, playing with Ian Clarke from Stamford (Photo: Bottom Right).

Paul Fegarty & Catherine Curtis finished 3rd in the Swiss Pairs at the Year End Congress.

At the Middlesex Congress, Kieran & Mark Tilley, Trevor & Marion King were 4th in the Swiss Teams (Photo: Top Left).

Rod & Sue Oakford, Victor Milman & Nadia Stelmashenko finished 3rd in the Hertfordshire One Day Green Point Swiss Teams.

Several of the county's clubs took part in the week of Children in Need simultaneous pairs events in November. The Cambridge Club alone raised £300 over its sessions. Best results were achieved by Balsham's Maura Green and Peter Dixon (17th on Monday) and Cottenham's Doreen Rapley & Myriam Warburton and David & Kiki Allen (6th and 22nd respectively on Friday).

Saffron Walden's David Newman & Kit Orde-Powlett finished 5th in the European Simultaneous Pairs – the highest placed pair from the UK.

In the BGB Autumn Simultaneous Pairs, Craft's Hill's Zona Lacy & David Larman finished 12th in the Wednesday event, and the Thursday Club's Ian McDonald & Tapan Pal finished 9th the following day.



Cambs & Hunts Swiss Teams

1. Chris Larlham, David Kendrick,
Rod & Sue Oakford
2. Gladys Gittins, Bryan Last, Roger
Timmins, Anne Read
- 3= Trevor & Marion King, R Vajda,
Margaret Dowell
- 3= Mark & Kieran Tilley, Mike Trask,
Ufuk Cotuk
- 5 Jurdy & Richard Brewer, Michael
Keogh, Mike Kennedy
- 6 Chris Waites, Ross Midgley, Adam
& Tom Eckersley-Waites
- 7 Andrew Wilkinson, Margaret
Mitchley, Robert Wright, Lyn
Mason

Eastern Counties League

The county scored 13-7, 18-2 and 8-12 against Essex.

County Knockout**In Round 1**

LARLHAM beat POLLARD
KUEH beat OAKFORD
CURTIS beat TILLEY
MAN beat RICHER
JACOBSBERG beat RILEY

In Round 2

COPPING beat DE VRIES
JAGGER beat KEOGH
MAN beat MAY
KING beat JONES

ECL Dates

20th January v University (A)
3rd February v Beds (H)
24th February v Northants (A)

Around the Clubs**Blinco**

Neville Wilson and Shirley Rainbow won the Doric Cup.

Cambridge

The Wraight Cup was won by Julian Wightwick and John Liebeschuetz.

The Handicap Teams was won by John Liebeschuetz, Sheila Parker, Alison Harrison and Peter Jackson.

Cottenham

Frank Padgett and Peter Morgan won the Evans Handicap Cup.

Huntingdon

The Club Pairs was won by Ian Hill and David Williams. The Porter Trophy was won by Alex Green and Iain Watson.

Roger Chaplin won the Individual Championship.

North Cambridge

The Club Pairs was won by Ian Aldridge and Anne Hamilton, though Ray Cornish and Vin Vachher overtook them in the handicap results.

In the semi-finals of the Teams of Four Championship, Morgan plays Vachher and Buckley plays Clarke.

Peterborough

The Ladies' Pairs was won by Rona Stewart and Mary Knights. The Men's Pairs was won by Peter Fountain and Mike Gore Browne.

Thursday

The 2006-07 Ladder for the Doric Cup was won by Joanne Caldwell.

University

The Club Individual was won by Carrie Oliver.