

AYRSHIRE DISTRICT BULLETIN



Editor : Jim Tudor. 3 Mount Ave, Symington, KA1 5RU. Tel. 01563 830 130

Email : james_tudor@msn.com

Assistant Editors : Alison Tudor Henry Crone

www.ayrshirebridge.co.uk

In this issue :

Interview with Yvonne Wiseman.

By Alison Tudor.....2

The ABU – A bit of history

By Ronnie Alexander.....3 & 4

What is a Competitive Double?

By Stuart McCreadie.....4 - 6

Shut Your Face-Book.....7

Dummy's Rights

By Ian Dalziel.....8

The Nightmare Sequence.....8

What would you bid now?

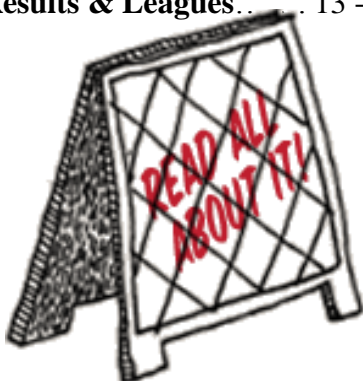
By Stuart McCreadie..... 9 – 11

Council minutes.....12

Give the Kiss a Miss

By Ian Dalziel.....12

Results & Leagues..... 13 - 14



Happy 2012 to All

Happy new year everyone. After the wind and rain hopefully we're now on the up into Spring! And with great bridge starting immediately who could fail to have a smile on their face!

To start with locally we have the Norvite simultaneous pairs on Wednesday 18th January. A simultaneous event with a difference, aggregate scoring and some deliberately testing hands thrown in. However, before this there's the Stirling pairs in Falkirk on 15th January. It is an excellent event and would be great to see more Ayrshire players there. On 21st Jan there's the 300 club pairs at the bridge centre. The Winter fours are in Falkirk 20th – 23rd Jan and the Bobby Allan mixed pairs is at the bridge centre on Wednesday the 25th.

In this issue I'm very pleased to welcome back the bulletin's previous editor Ronnie Alexander, providing us with a bit of Ayrshire bridge history. Also welcome Yvonne Wiseman with some wise words in the interview on page 2.



Winners of Ayrshire's red pointed Swiss teams played at the end of November. From Newton Stewart; left to right, Chris Laraway, Lynn Drummond, Stewart Duguid (Pollok Williamson sponsor, presenting the trophy) , Barbara Gaw and Russell McClymont.

Interview with Yvonne Wiseman

By Alison Tudor

Yvonne Wiseman has kindly agreed to do an interview with us. Yvonne began playing Mini-bridge at an early age, progressed quickly to playing bridge and has improved so rapidly since, that at the age of 18 became Scotland's youngest ever full international, playing in the Lady Milne earlier in the year. Together with her brother Ralph they have both been pivotal in reviving the fortunes of the Scottish Peggy Bayer team, ending years of English dominance.

What is a typical weekday like for you while you study at Edinburgh University? How much bridge do you manage to play in an average week?

Busy! My timetable is 9-5pm 4 days a week, and 9-1 the other day. Most of my time is spent studying, but obviously having a social life is important too.

Last year I played bridge once or twice a week, but this year I'm taking my work a bit more seriously so am not really playing any bridge. The odd weekend competition/League match is by far enough.

Have you been made to feel welcome by Edinburgh's bridge population?

Very welcome. Within a week of being in Edinburgh, I had been invited into 4 different League teams. There aren't many juniors so I guess I'm a bit of a novelty wherever I am.

I was a bit worried at first because within Ayrshire, I mainly played with my family. However everyone was very accommodating and so made the transition easy.

Can you tell us if bridge in Edinburgh, for ordinary club players, is different/better than in Ayrshire?

The average club night is probably of a slightly better standard than in Ayrshire, but there's not a massive difference. For events such as the simultaneous pairs or national pairs qualifier though, the standard is in a completely different league.

What could we, in Ayrshire, learn from Edinburgh bridge? If anything? Or, could they learn anything from us?

Do you have any of your own ideas on how we could improve bridge in Ayrshire?

Maybe not to complain about the price of bridge so much! Membership for the two clubs in Edinburgh (The Melville and The Carlton) are £75 a year each, with table money and tea+biscuits costing more than in Ayrshire too. Having said this, maybe they should learn not to charge as much.

I think hand records should be a must for every night (they are in Edinburgh), otherwise how else are you expected to learn?

From what I know, there is only one night of aggregate per week and that is dedicated purely to beginners. The world has moved on to match points as it is a far fairer scoring system.

Have you experienced any East-West bridge rivalry?

None.

How did you find the experience of playing for Scotland in the lady Milne?

Good fun and a memorable experience which I shall cherish forever. However, there was a lot of pressure to live up to expectations. It still seems weird to think I was even good enough to get into the team.

In bridge do you have any specific ambitions; have you set yourself any goals?

I used to want to be the best but I'm beginning to realise how much time and effort that would involve and it doesn't really seem worth it. I'd rather just try and carry on enjoying bridge.

If, in the future, you have your own family; will you teach your children to play bridge?

I'd definitely play cards with them. I think it would depend if my husband played bridge. I've seen how much work it involves and I don't know if I'll be as patient as my own parents- I'm sure they think it's worth it now but I can imagine it was hard going down to the club every week, with the sole aim of not coming last!

Thank you very much Yvonne for your interesting and frank answers. Good luck with your studies in Edinburgh.

The ABU – a bit of history By Ronnie Alexander

A reader asked the editor if some account of the ABU's origins could not be provided for the curious. It can. And here it is.

Keen readers of the Bulletin will recognize that this information appeared in the Bulletin away back in 2003, but a new wave of readers has taken over, so a repeat of more or less the article of those distant days should answer the thirst for knowledge.

Ayrshire District in one form or another has been around for a long time. (A glance at the list of Past Presidents in the ABC will give you an idea of just how long) In 1935 just two years after the SBU came into existence Ayrshire's clubs got together to form the Ayrshire Bridge League so that bridge in Ayrshire would have a little more formal organization. Formality did not extend to a proper constitution, that came much later, but there was a committee headed by a president and their principal function was to run a teams competition amongst the member clubs.

It would seem that at this point Ayrshire was a dependency of Western District as two Western District representatives were on the Ayrshire committee. Not only that, Western District had the power to prohibit Ayrshire from accepting a cup, obtained after much negotiation, for their league competition from The Daily Record. No reasons were given and much frustration was reported in Ayrshire. So began a suspicion and resentment with regard to superior hierarchical bodies which recurs throughout Ayrshire's history and still exists to some degree.

This dislike was not eased when Ayrshire applied to the SBU for membership as a separate district in 1949 and was told that the new constitution which Ayrshire was devising for itself, provided for a larger committee than the SBU approved of, Furthermore, the name Ayrshire Bridge League elevated Ayrshire to a status it did not deserve and that it should be known merely as the Ayrshire District of the Scottish Bridge Union and be headed by a Vice-President of the SBU and not by a President of its own. Needless to say there were voices raised in Ayrshire demanding that all connection with the SBU be severed. They were not of course, but in all documents relating to Ayrshire bridge originating in Ayrshire, the name Ayrshire Bridge League continued to be used and its principal official was always referred to as the President. Oddly enough this same dispute popped up again forty years later when the SBU discovered Ayrshire was now calling itself the Ayrshire Bridge Union, even worse than a League. "These heretical practices must stop forthwith" screamed the protocol police at the SBU. The leaders of Ayrshire bridge at this time were not as thrwn as their forebears and the offending titles were duly dropped. Many of the older hands still refer to the "ABU" as it is so much easier to say than "Ayrshire District", which often gets confused with a local authority anyway. What harm was it doing for Ayrshire to call itself something different one wonders? Is absolute uniformity so important?

In the early days of the 1930s bridge was thriving in Ayrshire as indeed it was throughout Scotland. A study of the newspapers of the time will confirm this . They carried bridge columns with reports of matches , the usual problems and advice on play. There was even a *Scottish Bridge Weekly* edited by Albert Benjamin no less, although how long it continued publication is not known to the present writer. In one issue which was brought to the attention of the Bulletin thanks to the good offices of Marjorie McIlwraith there was a report on the leagues of the various districts including Ayrshire. Of the 18 teams shown to take part in Ayrshire's league only four still exist in the same form : Troon, Kilwinning, Portland and Prestwick. The three teams at the top Ayr, Newmilns and the Ayr Aces have all disappeared.. Kilmarnock had three clubs; Glenfield, Killmarnock Cons, and Kilmarnock Ladies. Who were the Kilmarnock Cons? Ex-inmates of Barlinnie? A collection of dishonest and deceitful persons? Not in Kilmarnock surely? Or just boring old conservatives? Yet a Kilmarnock club is mentioned in 1936 as well as the other two. Perhaps Kilmarnock did not play in the Ayrshire league as they had a team playing in the Western District second division.

It is difficult to establish just how many clubs existed in Ayrshire at any given moment as the committee minutes from which all this information is derived mention only those clubs which turn up to meetings or send their apologies and of course not all of them did either. What is certain is that there was a wide variety of clubs : Ladies clubs, for example Prestwick Ladies and Troon Women Unionists were present at the

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

inaugural meeting in 1935, at least one men only club; clubs with apparently political affiliations, e.g. Kilmarnock Liberals, Kilmarnock Conservatives, Prestwick Conservatives; clubs associated with golf clubs e.g. Troon Darley, Troon Fullarton, and Prestwick St Ninians; clubs connected to employment e.g. Hyster (a former factory in Irvine), A.I.L. Girvan, Kilmarnock Employment Exchange, Ardeer, Glenfield. It has to be added of course that the club members were not necessarily closely connected to the apparent affiliation of the club and that in most cases the name merely represented the place where they met as later some clubs adopted the name of the hotel where they met e.g. Ayr Caledonian, Ayr Savoy and presumably, some time back, a ladies club called Ayr Balmoral

There was also a much more extensive geographical area covered than there is now. Ayrshire District extended from Stranraer, where there were three clubs, to Largs and even included Arran which had been rather arbitrarily attached to Ayrshire by the SBU much to the chagrin of Lamash and Brodick. There was a club in Ballantrae, two in Girvan, one in Maybole, Cumnock and New Cumnock, Beith and Dalry. Bridge is no doubt still played in these places but the clubs if they exist do not want to be members of the ABU.

Given the wide area to be covered and the general lack of transport in the 40s and 50s Ayrshire was divided initially into three districts for the purposes of running competitions: north, covering Ardrossan Saltcoats, central, Kilmarnock, and south, Ayr and surroundings. Later a Cumnock district was added. The winners from each district met in finals later in the season.

Transport is however a recurring problem for the Council. There are frequent disputes over what constitutes a neutral mid-point for two widely separated teams; the need to ensure matches and competitions finish early enough for participants to catch the last bus; organizing buses to bring players to competitions from different parts of Ayrshire; and in 1957 when there was a shortage of petrol some matches had to be cancelled because of transport difficulties.

There was great deal of activity in the District. In addition to the local competitions there were also several inter-district matches each season against Western, Eastern, Edinburgh, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and South with success varying from year to year. There were, however, ominous signs of what was to come. In 1962 and 63 the president at the AGM noted a drop in entries for some of the competitions and in 1964 he voices his concern at the lack of young players and the need to attract more of them. Does this sound familiar? Certainly there were more competitions than there are now and it is not surprising that some of them faded away as people were beginning to find their attentions progressively taken by other activities from the 1960s onwards.

The world of bridge has changed, Clubs have come and gone and the concentration of strength has shifted from one area to another reflecting changes in the society composing the different areas. Whatever else it proves, the constant process of change is a denial of stagnation and proof of a living organization.

In the next article the single most important decision ever taken by the ABU council, the acquisition of the Bridge Centre, will be described.

What is a Competitive Double? By Stuart McCreadie

Once-upon-time a long long time ago in my first few years of playing bridge, there were two types of double. There was the take-out double which was a first round double of an opening bid by opponents, and there was the penalty double. Life was simple then, and all doubles that weren't first round take-out doubles were penalty doubles. And it was quite common to make it clear to partner that you were making a penalty double by raising your voice (DOUBLE!), and putting an aggressive expression on your face.

But life has become much more complicated in recent years and the great majority of low level doubles are not for penalty. So much so that the EBU has introduced a daft upside-down directive: - "that if you want to play a double of an overcall for penalties (as you learned originally in the olden days) you must alert it" The SBU has been much more sensible and followed WBF guidance, and rule that no doubles should be alerted.

Alerting your partner's double conveys information to your partner and now your partner is under pressure if his double was intended to have the other meaning (i.e. the non-alertable meaning). He is now supposed to take on

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

board ethical considerations and act accordingly (really quite difficult). It must be preferable to allow partnerships, when they are not on the same wave length, to bid on in their blissful ignorance. And now that some of Bridge's Alerts have been removed, the Game has been slightly simplified for club players - although not in England. However this is a hobby horse of mine and I digress.

I first read about competitive doubles about fifty years ago and the author gave this example to illustrate a competitive double. And for some years I was under the false impression, that this was a defining example of the competitive double.

North	East	South	West
1S	2H	2S	3H
Double or 3S			

If North bids 3S and does not have the tool of this conventional double South will not know if North is competing with a weak opener and length in spades, or if he has extra strength and is making a game try. It is unprofitable to use a double in this situation as penalty double. It is standard now to use double in this situation as "competitive" looking for game. 3S would be the weak hand with extra length in spades.

However the terminology here is rather misleading and dated. It would now be more accurate to define this double as a game-try double (also known in North America as a maximal double) belonging to the category of doubles used in competition and this category includes many sub-types.

These doubles used in competition are mostly employed at low levels. There is sometimes an element of "take-out" with them. At other times, as with the example above, they might invite game. And again they might be used when you want to convey the message; - "I am stuck for a bid, partner. Do something intelligent!"

I have divided doubles into three main categories as shown in the table below. The list is certainly not comprehensive. I have not included any of the conventional doubles employed in high level bidding. Nor have I included the conventional re-doubles.

As can be seen there are numerous types of double in the first column, and I am not going to attempt to define any of them.

In the second column the doubles are part competitive/part penalty orientated. The re-opening double after partner's pass, when LHO overcalls your opening bid, is in part to allow your side to extract a penalty from opponents, when partner is sitting with a stack in their suit. This is because, playing negative doubles, partner cannot make an immediate penalty double. In practice partner is able to convert a re-opening double into a penalty double only 25% of the time. I don't advise co-operative doubles. I don't play them. This type of double is a two-edged sword and is dangerous.

The third column shows the two main types of penalty orientated double and is self explanatory.

Doubles used in Competition	"In between" doubles	Penalty-orientated doubles
Take-out double - the very first double of this category used in the game of Bridge. Balancing double Negative double Responsive double Support double Snapdragon double Game Try(Maximal) double Equal level Conversion double D.O.N.T. double Others that are not well defined – e.g. "I'm stuck for a bid, do something sensible" type	Co-operative double Re-opening double.	Penalty Double – the original meaning of double i.e. the penalty for failing to make the contract is doubled. Lead Directing Double

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

The table on the previous page, although incomplete represents the spectrum of doubles. Note that there is fluidity among the three categories. A take-out double and a negative double can be converted into a penalty double by partner electing to pass. A penalty double can be pulled by partner.

I don't play all the doubles in the first column, and I suspect that not many of the readers will either. There is plenty of scope for misunderstanding between partners. I know - I have experienced disasters when I thought a penalty double was a competitive double and vice-versa. Good advice to budding partnerships would be to identify the sequences where a double would be for penalties (not all that simple), and then agree that all other low level doubles should belong to the category of doubles used in competition.

Perceptive readers will note that I have so far almost completely dodged the question "What is a competitive double?" If you have a look at the system summary for the Bidding Competition in the Bridge Magazine and at the system summary for my "What do you bid now?" feature in the Bulletin, then you will find that competitive doubles are included in both. The contributor in the November Bulletin who requested an explanation of "competitive double" may have been prompted to ask the question after seeing the term in these system summaries.

I thought that I knew what the term meant, but I trawled the Bridge Internet Websites looking for a definition with little success. I have come to the conclusion that it is a rather ill-defined term.

In my own mind it is in the first instance a term that can be used to describe the category of doubles which are used in competition. These would be the doubles which appear in the first column of the table.

Alternatively the term "competitive double" is also useful to describe those doubles in the first column which are not well defined. Namely the "Others - Do something intelligent partner" type. This is the meaning I intended when it was included in the system summary. It is also a reasonable explanation to give to opponents when they make an enquiry about your double which is not a penalty double and which doesn't fall into one of the well defined sub-types in the first column. One example only:-

As South you hold: - ♠ AT96 ♥ KT ♦ 5 ♣ AQJ874 and with yourself as dealer the bidding is

S	W	N	E
1C	Pass	1H	3D (Weak)
?			

This is rather a nice hand, and you would not wish to surrender meekly with a pass. If East had made a simple overcall of 2D, you could have ventured 2S with this hand which has good playing strength. Bidding 3S however would leave you rather exposed, and a possible heart contract would be missed. By far the best is a flexible double which keeps open all possibilities – major suit part scores/games, club contracts and even 3NT.

You could play double in this position as a penalty double, but in the long run it would be unprofitable.

On examining the double it has a sort of "take-out" quality about it, but it could not be defined as a take-out double. It also has some similarity to a Support double. However Support doubles do not apply when Fourth hand's call is higher than two of responder's suit and in any case a Support double shows precisely three-card support. So this double belongs to "Others – Do something intelligent, partner" type and is therefore a competitive double. Partner should expect a 4-3-1-5 shape or the actual 4-2-1-6 shape. Being a good partner he will always choose the right option!

There are variations to this theme, and you will have to decide the appropriateness of a competitive double on each hand individually. Occasionally you will get egg on your face.

To summarise a Competitive double = "Others" in the first column of the table.

I admit there is vagueness about the term, but I do believe it is useful.

Shut your Face-book



An Open Forum for anyone who would like to submit any opinions, questions, gossip, suggestions, comments, abuse.....

(Submissions can be sent by email to : james_tudor@msn.com, or phone me on 01563 830130)

In the last issue Alison Tudor asked if people still wanted Master points. I think they probably do but they would be more relevant if they reflected a player's performance over recent years. Presently a Life Master could be the best player in Scotland just because they haven't been playing long enough to accrue enough points to be a Grand master. With modern day technology you'd think this should be relatively straight forward to instigate.

Des Appointed

Did any of you see Michael Portillo's *Great Railway Journeys* on TV last year? One of them started at Ayr and included a visit to Pollock Williamson the butchers, where he met the larger than life owner of the shop, our very own Stuart Duguid! The conversation was about Haggis and although Michael is very media savvy, it was Stuart who dominated the show. Stuart was erudite, funny and charming, indeed he is a natural for television. He has simply "got what it takes" and his good Scots voice comes over very well on TV. In a few minutes he told you everything you wanted to know about Haggis in a very informative and entertaining way. Perhaps he has a future in television if he gives up his day job at the butchers. If he could get on TV and "sell" bridge the way he promotes Haggis it might get more people into the game.

Ian Dalziel

Ian Dalziel's suggestion to shake up the Ayrshire pairs (November bulletin) was well worth considering I think. I can imagine the convenor's job might be more difficult and I can foresee other issues but worth continuing the discussion and considering some changes in the general line of what he proposed.

Euan WhoseArmy

What is the 300 club, and how do I join?

Arthur Notion

Arthur, the 300 club raises funds for Ayrshire. The money it raises is usually spent on equipment for the bridge centre. It costs just £13 a year and this can be paid by direct debit at a little over £1 each month. There's a monthly prize draw where 3 people win £25. An annual draw where someone wins £100 and an annual 300 club pairs with generous prize money. I haven't kept track of what I've paid in and what I've won but I'm pretty sure I'm showing a profit !! To join contact David Wiseman on 01292 445131 or contact him through the website under ABU – 300 Club. Ed.

And finally a pounds worth from Mrs Tuppence Worth, voicing her opinion on November's comments :

In principal I agree with Ian Dalziel that you should be able to play in the Ayrshire Pairs in more than one club with the highest score counting. However the logistics of implementing such a system could be really complicated since many people, including me, play with a different partner in each club.

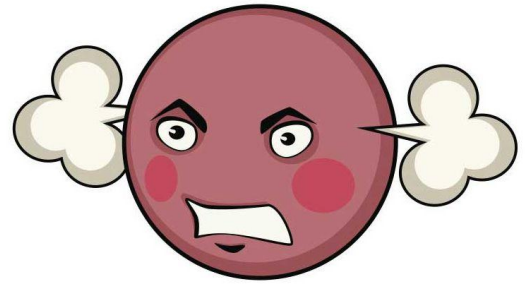
Master points are important to me because they give another dimension to the game and without them we may as well play kitchen bridge. From a personal point of view Master points give me something to aim for and this encourages me to constantly strive to improve my game.

As regards the heating in the bridge centre I think the night referred to by Percy Perspiration was the exception. A policy of always turning the heating down after 30 minutes would be impractical since it often takes longer for the room to heat up. I do, however, think that the temperature should be set at a comfortable temperature for everyone. This is often hard to attain because people who sit next to the radiators often turn them off with a complete disregard for those who are sitting in the centre of the room. Can I suggest that everyone follows the modern fashion and "layer up" - those in the cold spots would be nice and warm and those in the hot spots could peel off and be comfortable without turning off the radiators and affecting the overall temperature in the room?

Finally, I have to agree with Simple Simon. I think the system used in the 'What would you bid now' feature is a wee bit too complex for the average club player. Would it be possible to give alternative bids based on a more basic system to make the articles of interest to a wider spectrum of readers?

Tuppence Worth

Dummy's rights! by Ian Dalziel



In the October Bulletin Jim Wilcox rightly points out that the laws were changed in 1987 requiring declarer to name cards from dummy rather than pick them up. It beggars belief that 24 years later some players still get away with lifting the cards when dummy is still at the table.

This problem could be solved in an instant if directors enforced the law. The bad etiquette in Ayrshire is not caused by ignorant players but by weak (or ignorant) directors!

I have taught my students to call the cards from dummy since the law changed all those years ago and I'm sure other teachers do the same. The students are somewhat baffled when they reach clubs and find some of their "betters" reaching for dummy's cards. Newbies have enough to contend without the off putting "hand going across the table" 13 times. But it's worse than that, the "reachers" also put the board "heaven knows where", and move the dummy to declarer's side of the table to make the cards easier to reach! Again the newbies find this quite disorientating. And of course the worst crime of all is playing simultaneously from hand and dummy!

Yes I know these people "have always done it that way" and they say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but I think you can. I get many people coming to my classes later in life for refresher courses who played the old way. I politely point out that the rules have changed and give them a reasonable time to adapt and they always do. However I suppose students at a bridge class are there to learn new things, perhaps some of the old dogs in the clubs are just untrainable!

But I'm not finished yet. Jim says the exception is when dummy has left the table for a smoke or some other bodily function! As a defender I find it quite off putting when dummy is not at the table to play dummy's cards and turn them over and I don't regard a smoke as sufficient reason to leave the table. We have to balance the rights of the defenders to have a "human dummy" with dummy's right to satisfy their addiction. Indeed my partner says she loses concentration when playing "dummy without a dummy", so I have to satisfy my bodily needs between rounds that's why you see me sprinting to the toilet!

However I'm not unsympathetic to my very good friends who are smokers. That's why I have a 15 minute tea break at all my classes and my bridge clubs. Surely smokers can last 90 minutes between cigarettes? And if your body can't last 90 minutes between toilet visits then I suggest you see your doctor! A bridge club without a tea/toilet/smoke break is most uncivilised.

The Nightmare Sequence

The Editor is happy, and he is merry.

For Christmas he got a rhyming dictionary.

I picked up my hand and I decided to bid
I chose 1NT to keep it simple for the Kid
He responded 2C which I assumed must be Stayman
2 Diamonds says I, coz that's all I can say-man.

Partner says 3D and I'm in a state of confusion
I think what I need is a vodka infusion!
I bid 3NT and there's a tremor as I speak.
Is this kid using Acol, or some kind of Greek?

The kid bids 4D and I start to sweat.
Must be a cue bid I'm willing to bet.
I make a cue as well to show my ace of Hearts
But that's when the trouble really starts.

4NT – Is this Blackwood or maybe to play?
I really don't have a clue what now to say.
I shut my eyes and opt for 5 clubs
When this evening is over I'm doing a tour of the pubs!

STOP 7NT spouts the young man
The last thing I expected was to play a Grand Slam
Left hand opponent doubles loudly and I let out a scream.
I wake up suddenly, it was all just a bad dream!

But I'm sat at the table and the kid's still my partner
Wary of the dream I know I need to be smarter.
I look at the same 14 points I had when asleep.
I say "pass", this time I aint gettin' in too deep!

What would you bid now?

By **Stuart McCreadie**

Our editor informs me that the December Bulletin will not reach the Press until January. A happy New Year then to all our readers and to the Panellists, and I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas.

The basic system is Acol (incorporating Reverse Benji; so weak two's in the majors) with a 12-14 NT; Stayman; red suit transfers over 1NT/2NT; weak jump overcalls; RKCB; splinters.

In competition: negative/responsive/competitive doubles/support doubles and redoubles; Lebensohl after an overcall of our 1NT and after our takeout double of their weak two's. Michaels.

To add interest, marks will be awarded out of ten. The bid with the most votes will automatically receive 10 marks. To break a tie, I will use my casting vote. I will use my discretion to award the other marks. If I like a bid, I will give it a high mark even though there are not many votes for it.

Here are the problems. Decide your answers first and read on...

<p>① <i>West</i></p> <p>♠ T2</p> <p>♥ KT85</p> <p>♦ AKQ7</p> <p>♣ AT7</p>	<p>Game all; imps</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3C</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S					-	-	3C	P	?				<p>② <i>West</i></p> <p>♠ AK9852</p> <p>♥ KT98</p> <p>♦ -</p> <p>♣ K98</p>	<p>Love all ; imps</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1D</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1S</td> <td>P</td> <td>2H</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S					-	-	1D	P	1S	P	2H	P	?				<p>③ <i>West</i></p> <p>♠ A7</p> <p>♥ K84</p> <p>♦ K82</p> <p>♣ AJ965</p>	<p>N/S game; pairs</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>1C</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S					-	1C	P	P	?			
W	N	E	S																																																						
-	-	3C	P																																																						
?																																																									
W	N	E	S																																																						
-	-	1D	P																																																						
1S	P	2H	P																																																						
?																																																									
W	N	E	S																																																						
-	1C	P	P																																																						
?																																																									

Problem 1.

Game all; imps

Dealer East

W	N	E	S
-	-	3C	P
?			

West

♠ T2

♥ KT85

♦ AKQ7

♣ AT7

Marks: 3NT 10; 5C 9;
3D/4C/Pass 7.

Gordon: Three no trump. Very risky, but so is any other call - this is very tough. I think that a probing response of 3D or 3H might well go wrong in several ways. Partner may like my suit or it may ensure a spade lead against 3NT-which is, admittedly, likely anyway. 3NT, with the required luck, is as likely to be successful as 5C.

Gordon points out the downsides of a "scientific" 3D bid. If opening leader had any thoughts of leading a diamond against 3NT or 5C, he won't be leading a diamond now.

Brian: Five clubs. I can't pass at IMPs, though it is easy to see hands where there is no game. 3NT is possible but that requires

partner to help in spades. It's a guess. If he has SKx(x), 5C may still be OK, while if he has nothing in spades 3NT probably will not be OK. 3D??? - planning to play 3NT if partner now bids 3S to show strength there??? That would be nice - if that is what 3S means, as opposed to a good hand for diamonds with a spade control. I agree. Also if partner has SKx it would be desirable if he were playing the 3NT contract, but it is far from clear how it could be arranged to right-side that contract.

Stewart: Three no-trump. There seems to be a clear choice between 3NT and 5C. Pass was only briefly considered. At imps I am going for game and I plump for 3NT... Fingers crossed there is no spade lead.

Janice: Five Clubs. East has six or seven clubs for his pre-empt and as we are vulnerable, a goodish suit. It is imps so I don't want to miss a vulnerable game. Of course, with cards in the right places, 3NT could make...or be bloody. So 4C or 5C. There could well be two spade losers and a heart loser but that again depends on partner's cards. The optimist goes for the club game. I think 4C here would be continuing

the pre-empt and would be an alternative to passing. It might be the right choice if you were worried that opponents might be able to compete in another suit (in this instance spades) and if you thought game was unlikely for your side - not the case here. However with this hand you probably have too much firepower for this to be a concern. Pass would be an option if you were 40 imps behind with eight boards left to play, and you were trying to create swings.

Sandy: Three no-trump. It's imps what else? They might not lead spades on a good day. I am likely to fluctuate between -2 and +2. *It was a bad day, Sandy.*

Sam: Five clubs. The bid that solves all problems. You could bid 3D (forcing), but I prefer not to give away information and take the bull by the horns and bid game. *A few months ago Sam asked me what I would bid with this hand.* *Continued on page 8*

continued from page 7

My choice was 5C, but without much conviction. Sam hasn't recognized the hand, because at the table he bid 3NT. However, and I admit to being wise after the event, 5C may be marginally better. Because: - (1) As Brian says that even when partner has SKx and you would want to be in 3NT, 5C might still be OK. (2) There is almost certainly going to be a spade lead against 3NT and if there is no stop in spades, there is a danger of losing the first six or seven tricks. In 5C if there are top losers then it would be unlucky to be more than one light. (3) There is more chance of a favourable lead against 5C as a spade lead might not be so clearcut. Never mind Sam, you got it right the second time!

Ian: Three no-trump. I am obviously concerned about a spade lead. Firstly, the opponents have not yet led a spade. Secondly, if they do lead a spade they may be four – four. Thirdly, if they are not four – four, they may be blocked or become blocked by an error. Fourthly, after the spades they might not lead a heart. And last, if you are frightened of the dark don't go out at night. The alternative game of 5C also has potential top losers and to pass would be ultra-conservative.

This is tough and there is little to choose between 3NT and 5C. My choice on this occasion is runner-up in the popularity stakes. The hand is from the Camrose Trials:-

	North	
	♠ AK975	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ 832	
	♣ 862	
West		East
♠ T2		♠ J6
♥ KT85		♥ Q7
♦ AKQ7		♦ 54
♣ AT7		♣ KQJ9543
	South	
	♠ Q843	
	♥ 96432	
	♦ JT96	
	♣ -	

So there were three top losers in a club contract and six top losers in a no-trump contract. Although the Par score for E/W is +130, 5C often succeeded as the lead was usually the diamond Jack. It failed on the occasion when West's response to partner's pre-empt was a probing 3D.

Problem 2

Love all;imps; Dealer East

<i>West</i>				
♠ AK9852	W	N	E	S
♥ KT98	-	-	1D	P
♦ -	1S	P	2H	P
♣ K98	?			

Marks: 3H 10; 3C 9; 4NT 8.

Gordon: Four no-trump. RKCB. I think that we are likely to hold all five key cards, and 4NT will lead to me finding out about the trump Queen, with a grand slam in hearts a real possibility. If a Key Card is missing, I will stop in 6H (risking a possible damaging Club lead). I am concerned that a fourth suit forcing 3C would muddy the waters - my hand is far too good to follow that up with 4H.

Brian: Three hearts. Very much a matter of system. I play a form of Lebensohl here such that a raise to 3H is forcing. I could live with 2S, if forcing, then support hearts later. I'm not going to jump to 3S, and I am not confident that he will read 4D as a splinter. If neither 3H nor 2S is forcing, then I guess we have to go through 3C. That cramps the auction and often gets very murky – which is why Lebensohl is such a good idea here.

I am slightly surprised that none of the other panellists mentioned Lebensohl or such- like. I know that some of you have similar methods. Perhaps because there is no specific mention in the system summary, you are reluctant to diverge. In summary after a one level response

a reverse shows 5-4 and is forcing for one round. Some in these parts have this refinement. In response to this reverse, with an unsuitable and minimum hand, responder bids the cheaper of 2NT and 4th suit as a scramble and opener relays to the next suit. Responder may now pass or picks a suit- non-forcing. With a non-minimum hand, responder bids naturally, forcing to game. I strongly recommend this cousin of Lebensohl to readers. It really does help.

Stewart: Three hearts. Opener has reversed. I am not so happy with the void in partner's suit. Slam looks a possibility, but my King of clubs may be badly placed. A raise to 3H is forcing and I will then await developments. If partner were now to cue 4C, we are on our way.

Janice: Three Clubs. Partner has reversed into my second suit. I am tempted to ask with 4NT for hearts but wait a minute...a lot of partner's strength might be in his diamond suit and it is possible he could hold two useless clubs. If this is the case then a club lead through my holding will not be good. I need to find out about his club holding so, I will temporise with the forcing 3C. This enables me to find out not only about the clubs but partner's full shape. We might very well have a double fit too in spades and hearts and this gives me options as to best side/level of contract to play in.

Sandy: Three clubs. Fourth suit forcing. Opener still has room for three spades, and if he has I will RKCB in spades. If opener bids anything else, I will then RKCB with hearts the agreed suit (the second suit bid) after fourth suit forcing.

As Brian and Gordon say there is a danger of the auction entering
Continued on Page 9

*Continued from page 8
murky waters.*

Sam: Three hearts. Two hearts by partner is game forcing, so support and leave space to explore slam.

In standard Acol it is generally accepted that a reverse after a response at the one level by partner is not forcing to game, nor should it be. Although in most instances a raise to 3H is unlikely to be passed.

Ian: Three clubs. This looks like a hand with a lot of potential and too good for an immediate 4H, although I would prefer my clubs and diamonds swapped. If 3H after openers reverse was forcing, that could work well but I don't want to be winning the post mortem after +230. 3C should give me opportunity to find out where some of partner's black suit values lie.

Ian has made the case for the Lebensohl – type application. This would allow the bid of 3H to be unequivocally forcing, and would show heart support and values. However if this tool is not available, the 3C bid seems the best choice.

Also give yourself a high mark if you bid 2S forcing, because Lebensohl is in your armoury.

Problem 3

N/S game; pairs; Dealer North

<i>West</i>	W	N	E	S
♠ 8	-	-	1C	P
♥ AK2	1D	P	1H	P
♦ JT98752	?			
♣ A2				

Marks: Pass 10; 1NT 8;
Double 7.

Gordon Pass. Partner was unable to take any action over 1C, and any plus score in our most

suitable contract may be tough to achieve; the vulnerability persuades me that +200 is a real possibility, while our plus score might be only 120 or even 90.

Brian: Pass. I am trading on the vulnerability and form of scoring. Partner is only short in clubs if also weak – when defending may well be correct. With no overcall, our only game would be 3NT, but there are many hands partner can hold where we go +200/300 on defence but have no game (or +100 against +90 on offense).

Stewart: Double. A protective 1NT in this position may show 11-14 maximum here. Others may have a lower range. I will start with a double and if for example partner responds 1S, I will rebid 1NT to show a strong no-trump hand with 15+.

Janice: One no-trump. A fourth seat 1NT contract after two passes is usually around 11-14 with guard/s. In this instance I have a point more but the club-opener is sitting over me so I feel okay re this. Also I don't have a doubling hand. I have to bid something as partner looks to have some values when south has meekly passed his partner's 1C opener. So be it, 1NT. *I agree that this hand should be downgraded. If I were to decide to bid, I would be prepared to downgrade it by a full 2 points.*

Sandy: One no-trump. I play this as wide range (11-16). If partner is interested he bids 2C, the responses being: - 2D = minimum; 2H/2S = maximum with the major; and 2NT = maximum with no major.

This seems like a playable arrangement (rather like Crowhurst). But possibly you might finish in an occasional 2NT contract with insufficient values. I do welcome suggested additional bidding tools that are not included in the system summary, just as long as you don't try to change the system. The summary is only a guideline.

Me? Personally I would have passed - let them sweat!!!
I think you should have followed your gut instinct.

Sam: Pass. Partner is short in clubs and has not overcalled. You are too strong to bid a protective 1NT. If you double and get a 1S response a rebid of 1NT should show a stronger hand. Opponents are vulnerable, so take your plus score. *Yes, if partner had a five card major and some values, then surely he would have overcalled at this vulnerability. On the other hand partner may not be so short in clubs and may have some values – all the more reason to pass.*

Ian: Double. In the protective position 1NT shows about 9/13 although the range can be extended by a point or so, 10/14 also being acceptable, subject to your agreements and style. If I was allowed to have 14, I would downgrade this hand and bid 1NT. Since 9(10)/13 is more common this hand is too strong for 1NT, although not by much. I am going to double and rebid 1NT to show the 15/17 range.

Scores

1=, Brian Senior, Sam Malkani	29
3, Gordon Smith	28
4=, Sandy Anderson, Stewart Duguid	27
6=, Janice Thomson, Ian Dick	26

Congratulations to Brian and Sam on scoring well in a tough set. Indeed all did well.

Extracts from November's Council Minutes

+ News



No Fluke

After being the youngest ever Scott to play at National level last year, Yvonne Wiseman has proved it was no fluke by again qualifying to play in the Lady Milne. Her partner is also an Ayrshire lass, Fiona McQuaker.



Senior Camrose

Jim Wilcox has accepted the position of Match manager for next year's Senior Camrose. A sub committee will be formed in March.

Breene and Buchanan

There was clash with the Senior Camrose qualifier resulting in a small number of entries so it's been decided to re-arrange the date in the new year. Watch the website for the new date.

Pollok Williamson again sponsored the Ayrshire Swiss teams red pointed event. Many thanks to Stewart Duguid for his continued support.

300 Club – October £25 Winners

F. Murphy	165
K. Malkani	177
E. Munro	55

Give the Kiss a Miss

By Ian Dalziel

I know there were complaints that there was too much sex in the last Bulletin! Perhaps this is inevitable with a younger editor and we "oldies" will just have to become broader minded. However I would like to raise the tone with this article about kissing and bridge.



At the bridge centre you are now encouraged to put antiseptic gel on your hands to stop spreading infection through handling cards. However have you ever noticed that some players actually hold the cards up to their mouth and effectively "kiss the cards"? Yes it's important to "hold your cards up" but this is going too far! These cards will have been handled by many others and if you kiss them, can you imagine the infections you will pick up? Even worse, if another player in your position is also kissing the cards you are effectively kissing each other! Look around at your fellow club members, how many of them would you like to kiss?

However, kissing in the bridge scene seems to be on the increase. At prize givings it has become "de rigueur" for the presenter of the prizes to kiss each of the winners instead of just shaking their hand and congratulating them. Interestingly if a woman presents the prizes it's "all kiss all" but if a man presents the prizes then he kisses all the women but not the men. I'm just waiting for some man to insist on his "human right" to be kissed by a man!

While we all think of ourselves as eminently desirable to the opposite sex, we only find a *minority* of others desirable. Some people groan at the thought of receiving their prize and thus kissing the prize giver. I have even heard people say "I'm so glad I didn't win a prize when I see whose presenting them!" Of course the presenter may feel the same way about some recipients of the prizes!

Kissing should be something special, a show of affection between two people who really like each other, let's not debase it. No more kissing at prize givings please! The next time I win a prize at bridge I will politely opt out of the kissing by claiming that I have a cold and don't want to spread the infection. However I may be persuaded to make an exception depending on who was presenting the prize!

Ayrshire Swiss teams – red pointed

Sponsored by Pollok Williamson.

12	1	Russell McClymont, Chris Laraway, Lynn Drummond, Barbara Gaw
3	2	Bob McKinnon, I Patrick, Jim Forsyth, Nat Fell
4	3	Janice Thomson, Eddie McGeough, John Stevenson, Frances Murphy
16	4	David Wiseman, Sandra Wiseman, Ralph Wiseman, Gordon Smith
14	5	Sam Malkani, Kate Malkani, Sandy Anderson, Stewart Duguid
2	6	Fiona Abbott, Pauline Phillips, Angela Knox, Jean Cunningham
9	7	David Gerrard, Catherine Gerrard, Jim McMenemy, Ian McIntyre
10	8	Duncan Rodger, Suresh Tyagi, Peter Hodgson, Willie Nelson
6	9	Bill Ramsay, Morag Ridley, Margaret Brown, Sandy Martin
7	10=	Henry Crone, Stephen Cole, Robin Cooke, Margaret Cooke
13	10=	Leslie Wilson, Pat Wilson, Andy Kilpatrick, Robert Thomson
1	12=	Donnie Graham, Anne Graham, Ronnie Alexander, Jean Alexander
5	12=	Ian Burn, Stewart Pinkerton, Stoian Kableshkov, Andy Raeburn
8	14	Nancy Morgan, Irene Sword, Bryan McGuire, Roy Henderson
15	15	Jim Tudor, Alison Tudor, Anne Braid, Sam McNair
11	16	Steve Gray, Shirley Moore, Neil Falconer, Alex O'Hara

Ayrshire Pairs semi finals.

1st Ayrshire Pairs semi - 12th November

1	Frances Murphy & John Stevenson	58.97
2	Chris Gurney & Thomson Kerr	58.01
3	Ann Fraser & Nice McKell	56.73
4	Jack Lowe & Stuart McCreadie	54.49
5	Donnie & Ann Graham	53.53
6	Sam McNair & Ann Braid	50.64
7	Douglas Brown & Sharon Lindsay	50.32
8	Neil Falconer & Anne Cattanach	49.68
9	Bill Ramsay & Stewart Martindale	47.76
10	Beryl Docherty & M Fisher	47.44
11	Caryl O'Donoghue & Sue Fraser	46.79
12	D Cattanach & N Lawrie	44.55
13	J Carr & Margaret Withers	41.99
14	John Kerr & Ira Clement	40.38

2nd Ayrshire pairs semi - 23rd November

1	Jack Cree & Tom Morgan	60.71
2	Jim Tudor & John Bryson	58.93
3	Sandy Martin & Margaret Brown	55.95
4=	Mike O'leary & Hilary O'Leary	55.06
4=	Eddie McGeough & Janice Thomson	55.06
6	Andy Raeburn & Stoian Kableshkov	54.12
7	Sam & Kate Malkani	53.87
8	Alison Hughes & Ann Prigg	52.47
9	Robin Gardiner & Angela Knox	50.60
10	Ronnie & Jean Alexander	49.40
11	Sandy Anderson & Stewart Duguid	47.32
12	Fiona Abbott & Pauline Phillips	46.73
13	Wilma Stewart & Joyce Hodgson	43.68
14=	Michael Holm & I Tulloch	43.45
14=	Margaret Drummond & B Smith	43.45
16	Jill Breckenridge & Grace Kennedy	41.76
17	Eileen Anderson & Valerie McCall	38.10

League Results **31.12.11****Division One**

Ardeer v. Kilmarnock Annanhill	10-10
Kyle Aran v. Troon South Beach	17-3
Kilmarnock Grange v. Kilmarnock Annanhill	14-6
Kyle Arran v. Portland A	16-4
Kilwinning Abbey v. Kilmarnock Annanhill	18-2
Troon South Beach v. Ardeer	11-9
Troon South Beach v. Kilwinning Abbey	11-9
Kyle Arran v. Troon Eglinton	20-0
Kilwinning Abbey v. Kilmarnock Grange	12-8
Kilwinning Abbey v. Ardeer	20-0
Troon South Beach v. Troon Eglinton	15-5

Division Two

Largs v. Troon Bentinck	17-3
Kyle Bute v. Kilwinning Corsehill	14-6
Riggs v. Portland B	17-3
Kyle Bute v. Troon Bentinck	15-5
Portland B v. Bruce	10-10
Kilwinning Corsehill v. Portland B	19-1
Riggs v. Bruce	10-10
Kilwinning Corsehill v. Largs	12-8

League Tables **31.12.11**

Division 1	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	IMPs	VPs
Kilwinning Abbey	4	3	1	0	173	59
Kyle Arran	3	3	0	0	196	53
Troon South Beach	4	3	1	0	-3	40
Kilmarnock Grange	2	1	1	0	20	22
Ardeer	3	0	2	1	-113	19
Kilmarnock Annanhill	3	0	2	1	-97	18
Troon Eglinton	2	0	2	0	-135	5
Portland A	1	0	1	0	-41	4
Division 2	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	IMPs	VPs
Kilwinning Corsehill	3	2	1	0	60	37
Kyle Bute	2	2	0	0	64	29
Riggs	2	1	0	1	56	27
Largs	2	1	1	0	37	25
Bruce	2	0	0	2	-2	20
Portland B	3	0	2	1	-125	14
Troon Bentinck	2	0	2	0	-90	8

Coming Up.....

In addition to the events listed on the front page of the bulletin, at the beginning of February there's the Munro cup on Sunday 5th February. Entries to me (Jim Tudor) for that. The competition is open to players below the rank of Master. Note there will still be a Winter Sunday club on this day.

Wednesday 8th February, Tourney teams of 4 qualifier. Entries to Donnie Graham please.

Saturday / Sunday 11th/12th February, Mixed Pairs and Teams at Hutcheson Grammar school. Check the SBU website for entry details.

Wednesday 15th February, the National pairs quarter final at the bridge centre. Check the website for qualifiers from the ABU and Kyle heats.

**FOR
2012**