

AYRSHIRE DISTRICT BULLETIN



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Doubling in Dublin.

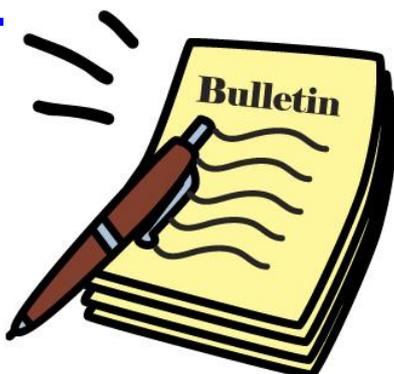
Scotland entered a team of 4 for both this year's Peggy Bayer and Junior Camrose. This year the competition was held in Dublin. From Ayrshire; Yvonne Wiseman, Ralph Wiseman and Stewart Pinkerton (partnering Jun Nakamaru Pinder) came a close 2nd to England in the Peggy Bayer but had a double win over the auld enemy in their 3 head to head matches. This was Stewart Pinkerton's first Peggy Bayer, hopefully he'll be selected for the next few years and soon experience a victory over the home nations.

In the Junior Camrose Scotland had an excellent win, with England finishing in 2nd place. Gordon Smith gives a report on page 12.

The Munro cup has suffered from reduced numbers over the last couple of years, both this year and last have been merged with the Winter Sunday club to make the event viable.

There was a suggestion in last month's bulletin to have a separate convenor for the Ayrshire pairs, if there was to be a reform of the format; it might be worth extending this idea to other events, like the Munro cup, so the convenors can concentrate their efforts on publicity and generating interest in the competition?

This year's Munro cup winners were Stephen Cole (left) and Jim Thomson pictured below.





The ABC : see how it grows

By Ronnie Alexander

Success first time

Change is a constant and the ABC was no exception. Much had happened in the three years since the ABC was first proposed. By 1980 bridge had seen a rapid expansion in Ayrshire although to what extent the ABC was responsible is debateable. It certainly contributed. All heats of national competitions could now be played there and as mentioned in the last article new classes were introducing new players and new clubs were forming.

The Riggs we know about and now in 1980 the Monday night class formed the Bruce club. The Kyle, also from a class, followed later in 1986. In addition to all that, there were more entries in Ayrshire competitions and there were 25 member clubs with three league divisions which were in effect four as the third was divided between north and south Ayrshire to ease travel problems. At the 1980 AGM it was reported that 42 events of different descriptions had taken place in the ABC. The evenings were well booked and it was hoped to encourage afternoon use. There was also a constant programme of minor repairs and improvements: roof, painting, electrics, toilets, new windows, new front door. There was even a serious discussion about installing a one-armed bandit which was fortunately defeated in the committee but only narrowly. As an irrelevant aside showing society as it was thirty years ago, a suggestion was made to ban smoking but this was dismissed as impracticable. And to prove that not all bridge players welcomed change there was an objection to the use of silent bidders. For the younger members these were cards which were placed in the middle of the table and which the player pointed to in order to make a bid. This avoided any suspicious inflection in the voice when making a bid orally. Their use did not eliminate totally dubious practices as it used to be said if you wanted to bid 2.5 spades you put your finger or pencil on the line between the two and the three. That cannot be true surely? Bidding boxes had arrived at the SBU in 1983 and Ayrshire decided to try out this novel way of bidding in December 1983. The rest you know.

Expansion needed

Digression over and back to the narrative proper. All this increase in activity put pressure on the ABC and in July came the first mention of a possible extension to be built on the newly acquired ground. Initially a fairly modest extension “to accommodate teams of four matches” was envisaged, but even that was challenged as unwise. Nevertheless the proposal had to be investigated and by August a plan was submitted with a probable cost of £8,500. One thing which spurred on the plan was a change in school lets which left several clubs struggling to find venues for matches so extra space in the ABC was likely to find willing takers. By July 1981 provisional planning permission had been obtained. The opposition was not to be brushed aside and there were serious suggestions that the ABU should look to buy or lease other property in Prestwick or Ayr and indeed inquiries were made about various properties, none being found available or affordable. If they had had their way the ABC was to be sold or let and it was even considered enquiring about planning permission for two houses on the site.

Continued on page 3

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Bigger and Better

Although the committee had decided to accept the first plan submitted in 1981 they were persuaded by the opposition to delay going ahead and in March 1982 new plans were submitted for a bigger extension than first proposed when to everyone's relief these were accepted. Work could now proceed and was to start first week in June. It is difficult to establish when work actually started but at all events it was finished for the start of the season. One slight problem remained. How were the two rooms to be named? Arran/Bute. ABC1/ABC2, Board Room/Card Room, all of these were discussed and finally the committee settled for the Closed Room. Has anyone ever heard it called that? For a time Red Room and Green Room, based on the colour of the table cloths, gained currency but it seems to have lost favour. Players arriving for competitions are usually told "You're through there". Why didn't they just call it Ben the Hoose? The financing was handled deftly once again. Short term loans were obtained from individuals, the ABU had sufficient funds to make a substantial contribution and the balance was made up by a loan from the SDA as was for then a favourable rate of interest of 13.3%. By December 1983 repayment of the individual loans had begun and much of the SDA loan had been repaid. Quite an achievement.

Although the committee did not move as swiftly and decisively this time as they had when first getting the ABC their efforts resulted in the same success. From its official opening by the SBU President at the President v. Vice President's match in October 1982 it has served the ABC well. Quite apart from the extra playing space, which sadly is not needed so much now, it is invaluable on those occasions which combine play and a social function such as feeding. e.g. Ayrshire v Renfrewshire, and many more, when food is set out in the main room and there is elbow room for everyone.

More improvements

There have of course been other important improvements. The ladies toilet used to be very much smaller than today, the rest of the space being taken up by the kitchen which communicated via a hatch into the main room. Both facilities had to be improved so a new kitchen was made which took up playing space certainly but which could be deemed a bit more convenient. Meanwhile the ladies toilet became luxurious(?). The gents were not ignored. Their place was not enlarged but it was certainly modernised. Drop in some time. The other noticeable change was the creation of an office corner. This was the result of pleading by directors. In the (not very) old days directors had to sit down at the end of an evening and enter scores on a large sheet called a recap sheet and then the scores had to be added up. A process which requires concentration and freedom from interruption. Unfortunately the poor souls would struggle with their arithmetic while players jostled their elbow, breathed down their neck and asked silly questions. So in self defence they pleaded for a wee private corner. Now that they have got it, it matters much less as the clever computers do all the work. Still even a computer has to be protected. The work of maintenance and minor improvements never stops and everyone who uses the ABC should ponder occasionally on all the work that goes on to ensure that everything runs smoothly. We are lucky in Ayrshire. No other district in Scotland has its own premises and ours are admired by all who visit it from outside Ayrshire. We all have a duty to look after it.

Know Your ABC By Ian Adamson

The colleague mentioned by Ronnie Alexander in last month's Bulletin was Bill Wilson. Bill played in one of the four teams in Kilmarnock Bridge Club at that time with Bob Havlin and he also latterly played with Gordon McDonald in the Prestwick Club. He informed me that the Old Cronies Hall was up for sale and I brought it up at the next Council Meeting.

The Council wanted a feasibility study before purchasing the Hall. Unfortunately the report concluded that the Hall would not be viable. The main reason was that none of the local Clubs showed any interest in using the premises and there were not enough ABU competitions to make the project viable. The Prestwick Club who at that time played in the Conservative Rooms (now Nicoll Design) at the foot of Bellevue Road had not indicated they would be willing to play in the new Hall. The report certainly had a point, as here is an extract from the SBU 1974-75 brochure.

LEAGUE – A Teams of Eight League of two divisions with promotion and relegation.

PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP CUP.

AYRSHIRE CUP – A Teams of Four Knock out event.

TOURNEY CUP – A Multiple Teams of Four Contest

TEAMS OF FOUR KNOCK OUT CUP – The Captain plays third of the boards with each of the team members.

Now the 1984-85 brochure

The above +

300 Club (Individual, restricted entry): ABU Individual: Ann Galt (Pairs Championship) First round in Clubs.

Final March 2: Viking Congress

Caledonian Congress: Presidents-Vice President Match: Adamson Cup

ABU Christmas Social: Ayrshire Congress; John Barr (Swiss Teams).

So you can see a massive increase in matches throughout Ayrshire being played at the Centre.

At the 1979 AGM a vote was taken that we should purchase the Old Cronies Hall. There was only one small snag and that was that we had very little money in the ABU funds at that time. For my sins I was appointed after the AGM to form a Committee and select who I wanted to help raise capital and work out how to bring the hall up to a decent standard. Ian Dick; Stuart McCreadie; Jerry Wall and Ian Stewart were high jacked and Ian Dick agreed to become Treasurer of the Committee. I think the purpose was to see if the Hall could be viable on its own.

How to raise the money was the biggest problem. We asked for Interest Free Loans from all club members in Ayrshire. Ian Dick and myself went round the Clubs with a begging bowl asking for interest free loans. We managed to raise £3455 with the majority of the amount coming from 1 member. With the £3445 and other money we had raised we were now in a position to buy the Centre.

It was also Ian who suggested we start the 300 Club. This managed to bring in £1880.55 from March 1978 to March 1981 and this is still bringing in money. In the beginning we ran an Individual Competition latterly the event was changed to Pairs. This was a fantastic result when you consider the price we paid for the Hall.

Betty Stewart was in charge of the Catering Committee, which consisted of Betty Stewart! Betty held two Buffet Dinners a year plus other activities. She raised a total of £564 from March 1978 to March 1981. The dinners were very popular especially the Christmas one and well-attended and great value. Harvey and Mary Sloan from New Cumnock were always to fore whenever any dinners were being held!

We held a total of 5 fetes, one in Ayr Town Hall, two in the Bingo Hall in Irvine and 2 in Rozelle at the Holy Fair. Ann McQuillan from the Kilwinning Club owned the bingo hall and she gave us the use of the premises free. The big talking point at the Irvine venue was the fire. The dish cloth caught fire and everybody ran to put the fire out but when I ran to phone 999 my wife thought I was running out of the hall! The Fire Brigade duly arrived but the fire was out by the time that they came.

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At Rozelle we had a pegboard with holes and we placed raffle tickets into the holes. If anybody picked raffle ticket number 1000 they would win a bottle of whisky. It was very difficult to win this bottle as we had number 1000 in our hands. There were many other prizes namely coconut rings (the left over from the Town Hall fete) so every time someone was successful with the coconut rings we shouted out that we had another winner. Unfortunately the crowds were getting bigger and bigger and the tickets fewer and fewer until in the end we had an extremely difficult job of placing the Number 1000 ticket back into the board. The Town Hall and one Rozelle Fetes raised £633 I don't have the results for the two Irvine and the other Rozelle one but I would think it would be slightly less

The Hall required a great deal of work on it. It had a coal fire heating system, which meant that someone would have to clean and set the fire in the winter for every time the hall was in use. There was a stage at the top of the room and that had to be dismantled. Inside and outside had to be painted and a new carpet plus the toilets and kitchen had to be modernised. Tables were purchased at Callan's Auction Rooms. The tables were cleaned, painted and recovered. Douglas (Jenny Milliagans husband) and Bill Anderson from Kilwinning were always on hand when any painting was required. The open ceiling was another problem and required a false ceiling to help bring down the heating bills. The cost of the ceiling and boiler was about £500 each. Jim Murdoch's priority was the ceiling but I wanted the boiler because I knew I would be left cleaning and stoking the old coal boiler. Ian Dick settled the argument by saying we would get the money from somewhere. The boiler was renewed to gas and the false ceiling was fitted and yes the money came in!

All this required money not forgetting the Car Park, which was a covered in weeds and stones. That was not our problem at that moment as it belonged to the Town Council. A Council official did come down later and Ian Dick and I saw him and he asked how much we were willing to pay for the land. We said about £500 He replied that the wall was worth more than that. Ian said we were going to knock the wall down to allow members cars better access to park their cars. In the end we purchased the land for £500.

Gordon Smith started a class on Thursdays in the Autumn of 1977 and this eventually became the Riggs Bridge Club and in 1978 a new class started on Mondays but the Council wanted the students from that class to join other clubs in the District. I kept the class going until the Autumn of 1980 when that formed into the Bruce Bridge Club. The classes generated £670 from September 1979 to September 1980.

The Summer Matched Pointed Pairs Bridge Competition to be played on Wednesdays was proposed by Crombie McNeil and the 70% snowball introduced. This raised a total of £828 in two years.

The Council asked all Clubs if they would introduce a 5p levy on the clubs table money. This had the effect of some clubs paying a great deal and others nothing. The following is a list of who paid what. Kilmarnock £297.20: Kilwinning £140.10: Ardeer £75.55; Riggs £75.50: Portland £50: Stevenston: £30: Beith: £25: Greenan: £25: New Cumnock: £20: Dalry £15: Caledonian: £15: Bruce: £20: Saltcoats £10 : St. Leonards £10: West Kilbride £10; Ayr £3. Other donations totalled £48.85. This raised a grand figure of £843. I did not know that Caledonian had donated £200 that must have been in the 1976-77 session. At the 1980 AGM the £1 per Home Member was introduced and this had the effect of increasing the Affiliation Fees by £799. It was such a good idea for raising money that the SBU adopted it but unfortunately they have kept on raising the fees while on the other hand the ABU have kept the £1 constant since 1980. Life Patrons was also introduced to raise money bringing in over £1000 in the first three years. Most of the loans were paid back very quickly.

Jack Cleland, and myself played against Bill Wilson and Joe Woods in the hall during the renovations and might have been the first bridge game to be played there. When the cards were not running in our favour Jack would wave the Union Jack (the flag belonged to the Orange Order) over the table to try and remove the Hoodoo. The Christadelphian Group also used the Hall on Sundays. They had very few members and their treasurer travelled from the Lake District every month

Many members did a lot of hard work to bring the Centre up to the standard it is today we just happened to be there at the right moment. We are very fortunate now to have such a good facility and the present Council are to be congratulated on keeping up the good work. If there is anybody I have forgotten to mention it was intentional!

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)

Ayrshire Leagues; I was having a look at the league tables which are beautifully laid out and kept up to date by Frances Murphy who has done this excellent job for as long as I can remember.

Tron being the biggest club in Ayrshire have three teams. Kyle and Portland each have two teams but it's quite amazing that Kilmarnock and Kilwinning also field two teams despite having only 5 or 6 tables on their club nights. I can only assume that almost every member of these clubs play in their teams! The other clubs each have one team. It's disappointing to see that Prestwick with 12-14 tables and Savoy with 10-12 tables no longer enter a team in the league.

Playing in the leagues was always my favourite form of bridge, you can play at your own pace and you get to know you opponents' game. You don't need to move tables so can fully concentrate, you get or give a nice supper at the break so there is a social aspect too. It gives you a chance to meet people from different clubs and you play against people of a similar standard. I strongly recommend it. (I know I "retired" from team matches when I reached my 40th birthday but I have very fond memories ☺.)

Ian Dalziel

I do hear comments on the league match supper breaks, for and against. Please let me know what you think....Ed.

I paid £5 for the bulletin at the beginning of the year but now find I can read it for free on the internet?

Stony Broke

Even though the bulletin is available on the ABU site many still prefer a hard copy. For people to print this off themselves would cost more than the fiver.

With the bulletin being freely available on-line it means there's a chance of attracting new readers, and we want to encourage as many as possible to have an interest in what's happening in Ayrshire.

Again, let me know what you think please readers.....Ed.

Two people have put themselves forward for the post of SBU president this year; Mike Ash and Archie Bouverie. The Scottish bridge magazine had its front cover emblazoned with a picture of just Mike Ash. I think this is quite wrong, surely both should have been on the cover. Is the SBU President democratically elected or is it really a foregone conclusion?

Millie Tant

The path at the front of the bridge centre is quite dark when the last person leaves after an evening's bridge. Could I suggest that a light on a timer be installed, or perhaps a motion sensor light?

E. Lumination

I'll put this to the ABU council Mr Lumination.....Ed.

Well done Henry Crone on reviving the Breene and Buchanan this year, as both have struggled for numbers over the last 3 years or so. After this year's success hopefully it'll be easier to attract even more entrants next year.

Mij Trudo

For the last two years National pairs qualifiers from Ayrshire have been allowed to play in the Stirling semi-final rather than make the trip to Dundee. This seemed totally sensible to me, but this year we're back to half in Stirling, half in Dundee. This is no way to encourage people to enter the national events when the next round is potentially a 4 hour round trip. Not to mention the cost of the petrol for the unnecessary extra miles. Carbon Footprint SBU??!

Gary Meehome

A Finesse Too Far.....by Ian Dalziel

They say pawns are the soul of chess, I think finessing is the soul of bridge. Even if you play bridge for a lifetime you will still be learning new suit combinations. There are 656 in the bridge encyclopedia and that doesn't claim to be exhaustive! A beginner who quickly grasps finessing almost certainly has "card sense" and will make fast progress. Those who struggle with the basic finesses will have to work much harder to become a good player.

A finesse position exists (for declarer) where the number of tricks depends on the location of defender's honours. When dummy goes down we scan each suit and, if a finesse exists, put down an imaginary flag which says "handle with care". We may decide there is a better way than taking the finesse, or we may try and get opponents to lead the suit to us, but we must first recognise that the finesse exists.

How often will a suit contain a finesse position? Have a guess.

Have a guess...

Well to answer this question I naturally went back to my large archive of computer dealt hands. I examined a random sample of 250 hands which is 1,000 suit combinations. 52% of the suits contained a finesse position so on average each time dummy goes down, two of the four suits will have a finesse. Were you near the mark?

How often will a hand contain at least one finesse? Of the 250 hands only 17 (7%) had no finesses at all. These 17 hands were much easier to play than most of the others, indeed barring bad breaks you could usually predict the number of tricks made. In short, if finessing didn't exist, bridge might be an easy game (as Iain McLeod's book said!).

Hence at every session of bridge you will be faced with about 24 suit combinations as declarer and half of them will contain a finesse. How many do you recognise like an old friend? How many are uncharted waters? Can you work those out from first principles at the table? It's not easy to do. So the more combinations you have at your fingertips, the more time you have to plan the rest of the hand.

Even some "simple" combinations can be quite difficult. I struggled with this one.....

JT _x $\begin{array}{ c } \hline W \quad N \\ \hline S \quad E \\ \hline \end{array}$ Kxx	How can you attempt to get 2 tricks with this combination against best defence? The key cards missing are of course A & Q. If West holds the Q, you have no chance. What if East holds the Q and West the Ace.....
JT _x A98x $\begin{array}{ c } \hline W \quad N \\ \hline S \quad E \\ \hline \end{array}$ Qxx Kxx	You run the J and East covers. It goes J, Q, K, A and you make only the ten. If E doesn't cover the J, but covers the 10 later you make only the K. All that effort for the one trick which you had from the start (by force).
JT _x 98xx $\begin{array}{ c } \hline W \quad N \\ \hline S \quad E \\ \hline \end{array}$ AQx Kxx	Let's give East the A and Q. You run the J if East covers with Q it goes J,Q,K but the 10 loses to the A later, so one trick again. If East covers the J with A, then covers T with Q next time still one trick, I'm no better off. Perhaps when I run the J the first time E might not cover but with 2 honours this is unlikely.

So with best defence I have only one trick no matter how the cards lie. Well there's a faint chance that East started with AQ bare, or singleton Q in either hand, or a bare Ace with West, but that's only a combined 2%. I should try for an end play. If East leads the suit I'm home, also if East covers the first round with the Ace, he might be end played. Perhaps I can force East to discard down to AQ bare then one lead from dummy and it's all over.

But I didn't have time to work all this out at the table. In fact I wasted a valuable entry to dummy to take this "finesse" which didn't really exist! However I'll know it the next time, except the next time the combination will be slightly different (say JT8 + Kxx) and it's back to square one!

What would you bid now?

By Stuart McCreadie

Welcome back. Simple Simon and Mrs Tuppence Worth have commented in the Bulletin that perhaps the Bidding Feature is a bit too complex for many readers. I do take on board the criticism and I should really try to avoid too many hands which give scope for pet conventions. However if the hands were too simple then all the experts would agree with each other and readers don't want that. I believe it is instructive when an expert gives reasons for his bid, or explains why he prefers one bid to another. For example Hands 1 and 3 in this set are really about judgement and less experienced players are not at a disadvantage.

It is difficult to get a balance, but I hope there is something in most of the articles for the regular club player.

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>♠ QJ74 ♥ K873 ♦ T974 ♣ A</p>	<p>E/W game; imps</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2C*</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>?</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>* Acol big hand</p>	W	N	E	S	-	-	2C*	P	?				<p>② <i>West</i></p> <p>♠ 74 ♥ AK83 ♦ KJ ♣ AKT84</p>	<p>Love all ; pairs</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1C</td><td>P</td><td>1D</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>1H</td><td>P</td><td>1S*</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>?</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>*4th Suit Forcing</p>	W	N	E	S	1C	P	1D	P	1H	P	1S*	P	?				<p>③ <i>West</i></p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ AT83 ♦ 6 ♣ AQT8432</p>	<p>Game all; imps</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>P</td><td>1D</td><td>2S*</td></tr> <tr><td>3C</td><td>3S</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>?</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>*Weak</p>	W	N	E	S	-	P	1D	2S*	3C	3S	3NT	P		?		
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Problem 1.

E/W game; imps
Dealer East

<p><i>West</i></p> <p>♠ QJ74 ♥ K873 ♦ T974 ♣ A</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2C*</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>?</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>*Acol big hand</p>	W	N	E	S	-	-	2C*	P	?			
W	N	E	S										
-	-	2C*	P										
?													

Marks: 2D 10; 2NT 7
Other bids 3.

Gordon: Two diamonds. Waiting (to find out what variety of strong hand partner holds). What else?

Brian: Two diamonds. For me, this is automatic. I would only make a positive if I had a suit worthy of such, while 2NT would be distortion with a singleton and would pre-empt our own auction. This leaves us very well placed over all but a 3C rebid – and nobody who has started with a positive will be any better off. For what it is worth, I will bid 3D over 3C, hoping to hear a

second suit from partner.

Stewart: Two diamonds: 2D in the modern game can be a waiting bid and not necessarily a negative. But I suppose the answer you are looking for is 2NT showing 8-10 balanced. *Not at all. 2D is perfect.*

Janice: Two diamonds. I don't feel I can bid 2NT with this collection. So I will temporize with this 2D relay. Let's see what partner's rebid is before taking more positive action.

Yes, I too think that 2D is clear-cut. Indeed I find that it is becoming increasingly rare for me to make the bid of 2NT, although in the old days with an Ace and a King you were told to give a positive. 2D is now a negative or waiting bid.

Sandy: Two no trump. Do I mislead partner about my high card points or my shape? I choose to show a balanced positive. We will always find a major fit via a 3C Stayman rebid from opener.

I agree there are the values for the

2NT bid. A 3C rebid from opener would definitely show a big hand with clubs, and is not Stayman, although that would be nice if it were. Some crossed lines here, I think.

Sam: Two diamonds. Yes, I know I have a positive reply, but I prefer to keep the bidding low and await developments. Modern methods in bidding suggest that after a 2C opening : - 2H = negative and 2D = semi-positive (two Queens or more).

This method is one with which I am not acquainted. It sounds interesting and next time we have a little time you can expand and perhaps convince me. One obvious drawback would seem to be that opener with a big hand with hearts cannot show his hearts until the 3-level. And what about some big 2-suited hands? But maybe the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

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Ian: Two diamonds. Waiting. I don't have a suit with which I would like to give a positive. I don't want to bid 2NT without trying to find a fit somewhere. There is very likely to be at least a small slam somewhere, and I will let partner know what he needs to know in due course.

In general with positive values but no stand-out suit, it is usually better to wait and see with what type of hand partner opened 2C. If he rebids in no trump to show a strong balanced hand, I have Stayman available. If he has a suit (not clubs), I will agree the suit and then RKCB is available. If he has clubs, I have 6NT available.

The general philosophy is sound, but I would be more restrained if partner has the strong hand with clubs. Let's hope that he doesn't have for example a void in diamonds or spades! Also if partner should have a big two-suited hand then a small/grand slam in his other suit might be the best spot. I would be in no rush to get to 6NT.

Problem 2

Love all; pairs ; Dealer West

<i>West</i>				
♠ 74	W	N	E	S
♥ AK83	1C	P	1D	P
♦ KJ	1H	P	1S*	P
♣ AK784	?			

*Fourth suit forcing

Marks: 3C 10; 3D/2C/2D/2S 8

Gordon: Three clubs. Fourth suit forcing is a very valuable tool, but this is one of the (many) occasions which makes my response awkward. 3D is an alternative (and again rather an unsatisfactory) bid.

Brian: Three clubs. Unlike some other raises of FSF, a spade raise is natural here in Acol, 2S minimum, 3S extras and game-forcing. I'd rather lie about the sixth club than the third diamond, so 3C it is.

Stewart: Two spades. Instead of 1S as FSF, I would have bid 2S fourth suit forcing and indeed forcing to game. The modern trend is that FSF is forcing to game, and the only exception is here when spades (the fourth suit) can be bid at the one-level. It should be natural and forcing for one round.

After the actual auction (and I don't go along with this auction) I choose 2S asking partner if he has a spade stop, as East has not promised a spade suit.

Very pertinent observations from Stewart. But as Brian points out, a spade raise here should be natural, as the 1S bid does not exclude the possibility of a four card spade suit. The 2S bid is therefore wrong. But as Stewart has made good arguments for more modern methods he gets a good mark.

Janice: Three clubs. The conductor was "flummoxed" with Problem 3 in last month's set...I am "flummoxed" with this bidding! Why no reverse from West; and the 1S from East, I always thought, in this sequence of bidding, was a suit. Anyway, I suppose all depends on partnership understanding. With this latter, with my regular partner, a bid of 2C would not necessarily be on-going (even with the FSF bid) and in any case, FSF basically asks for further description of partner's hand. So, I bid 3C. It is not perfect but then the game is full of imperfections.

Janice makes two good points. As West she would like to rebid 2H on the hand to show a reverse. Jack Lowe, my partner at Kilwinning, would agree. I think that this one is a matter of style. I would always rebid 1H and expect my partner to keep the bidding alive with all but the poorest of hands. I would allow East to pass with ♠ Qxxx ♥ Qxx ♦ Qxxxx ♣ x. With any better hands I would expect partner to bid. For me to rebid 2H, I would want a more extreme distributional hand.

Stewart and Sandy make the same point as Janice re the 1S bid, and

here I think they win the argument, although many including myself play this as a normal FSF. Janice is entitled to be ever so slightly flummoxed!

Sandy: Three clubs. Feel like blasting 3NT as both opponents had the chance to bid spades and didn't, but 3C is forcing. 2S now in my book would be a no trump probe showing a half stop e.g. Qx or Jxx. *Not so – see above.*

Many experts now recommend that in this specific bidding sequence, 1S is natural and forcing for one round and a jump to 2S is fourth suit forcing denying a spade suit. Some non-experts (Stewart and I) also use and like it!!

Such modesty! The weight of expert opinion does indeed appear to be with you. It is probably marginal, but as in any game the margins are important, and that is where the game is won. I am often fifteen years behind modern developments. So within the next three years, I should be emerging from the last century.

Sam: Two clubs. This bid is forcing, as fourth suit forcing promises another bid. I can show a strong hand with my next bid.

How forcing is fourth suit forcing? There does not seem to be consensus. Is it forcing for one round? Does it promise one more bid as Sam suggests? Does it force to game? It does seem to be becoming more common (especially in America) that FSF can be game-forcing. Possibly it fits in well with their two over-one game-force system. But it is also becoming more prevalent here.

It really depends on partnership agreements. And depending on your agreements West's choice of bid after partner's FSF will vary. It is also complicated by the fact that the fourth suit has been bid at

Continued on Page 10

*Continued from page 9
the one-level. This may make it a special case and some may wish to apply different rules as to how forcing the 1S bid ought to be.*

For what it is worth my method is the same as Sam's, although I am not claiming that this method is superior. Many would say that 2C is not forcing

Ian: Three diamonds. Forcing - I don't have a spade stop, I do however have a 19-count and want to be in game somewhere. Most of the panellists have had to compromise with their third bid, and reasonably chose 3C. But certainly 3D is an alternative.

The methods and styles of the panellists in this situation are varied. All the panellists seem to be confident in their methods, and no doubt all will arrive eventually at the correct destination. However some partnerships (ok –me in particular!) may feel that this particular bidding sequence warrants further discussion.

Problem 3.

Game all; imps; dealer North.

West

♠ 7
♥ AT83
♦ 6
♣ AQT8432

W	N	E	S
-	P	1D	2S*
3C	3S	3NT	P
?			

*Weak

Marks: Pass 10; 4C 8; 4NT 7.

Gordon: Pass. Partner's spade holding appears to be robust, and he would surely double if he held four

hearts. 3NT seems to be the likeliest game.

Brian: Pass. This one is not quite automatic as 5C could be better, but I have shown this much already and I have also shown a long suit. Meanwhile, it is a bit late for me to start to guess that we might have a heart fit – if partner has four hearts and an iffy spade holding he should have doubled 3S to show his extra values.

I think I too would pass at the table, but the panellists who consider a possible club slam have a case.

Stewart: Pass. Partner has made his choice. Probably he has a good hand or a double stop in clubs.

Janice: Four clubs. Of course I am worried re a possible heart fit but a bid of 4H now is not a choice. So, I bid the forcing 4C. A club slam is a possibility. *It may well be worth investigating a club slam, and this would be the way forward. There is still time to put the brakes on.*

Sandy: Four no trump. Losing Trick Count would suggest that with my five-loser hand, a slam should be bid despite North's vulnerable raise in spades. I will check for Aces with Blackwood, pass 5C if none and bid 6C otherwise.

I think that 4NT here is quantitative/invitational, as certainly from East's point of view no suit has been agreed.

Sam: Pass. I hope partner has a fit for my clubs or has solid diamonds. If not, a score will be going in the minus column.

Ian: Four no trump. Invitational to 6NT. My partner has a spade stop and an opening bid. I have eight tricks if the clubs are coming in. And if they don't, 3NT might not be making anyway.

If this hand is deemed good enough to explore slam possibilities, then 4C should be the way forward. It will show the extra long club suit. And if partner is not interested, then 5C will be the final contract. Occasionally this will be too high if partner has bid 3NT on the basis of a solid diamond suit.

Well done to Gordon and Brian on their maximum scores.

Scores

1= Brian Senior	30
1= Gordon Smith	30
3= Sam Malkani	28
3= Janice Thomson	28
3= Stewart Duguid	28
6, Ian Dick	25
7, Sandy Anderson	24



Alvin Roth a very ethical player is defending 7NT in a money rubber bridge game the declarer reduces to a three card ending. Dummy has the Axx of spades and declarer the KJ10. The lead is in declarer's hand and he leads the SJ. Second hand has xxx and Roth Qxx. Second hand goes into an act trying to make declarer think he has the queen and finally plays low. Declarer, taken in by the hesitation, also plays low. Roth, holding the queen, also plays low allowing the jack to take the trick and the declarer to make 7NT. When Roth's partner asks him why he didn't take the SQ, Roth says: "Because I thought you had it!"

Extracts from February's Council Minutes



+ News

A bit on the Side :

Concerns were raised about the proposed side tables in the bridge centre. The difficulty in cleaning the centre and the stability of the tables need to be considered. Discussions ongoing

Agnes Templeton Trophy

The children's annual mini-bridge tournament will soon be taking place, the likely date is 21st March

Winter Sundays

The Winter Sunday club had its last session on 5th February. Due to falling numbers the club has been finished earlier than planned.

Norvite

The Norvite simultaneous pairs had 6 tables. A significant drop in numbers from last year. The Council wondered if a weekend would be better than a Wednesday evening.

What do readers think?

2nd & 3rd

In the National mixed swiss pairs at Hutcheson Grammar Sandra Wiseman and David Wiseman finished 2nd and Ann Graham and Donnie Graham finished 3rd.

TV Debate

A proposal was put forward for the new screen in the centre to display the scrolling results throughout all events. This was rejected as it was felt that tactics could be influenced during the final round.

Ayrshire Congress

Entry forms for the Ayrshire congress (28th – 29th April) are available on the ABU website, or contact Donnie Graham 01563 521 052

Bridge history on-line by Ian Dalziel

The gold Cup is Britain's premier bridge competition. It's a knock out teams of four and was started in 1932. Apparently the cup is made of real gold! The list of winners is like a who's who of all great British players of the last 80 years. Boris Shapiro has won it 11 times, first in 1946 at the age of 37 and his last win was in 1998 at the age of 89! It surely means with good health we have a lot of bridge ahead of us and none of us has reached our peak! Tony Forrester has won it 10 times and as he is only 58 he surely hopes to beat Boris's record. Terence Reese won it 8 times.

Perhaps the most famous win was by the Acol Team in 1936 which included Iain McLeod and Skid Simon. In recent years the final was played at Peebles at the SBU winter congress but next year it will move to a new venue. The 2011 entry of 200 teams (including 10 from Scotland) includes all the best players in Britain today.

A list of the winners from 1932 to 2011 can be found on the BGB web site and it makes interesting reading. The link is www.bridgegreatbritain.org choose [archive](#) from the menu then [gold cup roll of honour](#).

Another interesting piece of bridge history is the obituary page on the EBU web site. This has fascinating information about the great players from the past. Do you have a bridge hero no longer with us? Mine is Skid Simon and I found out a lot about him from this page which I didn't know before. Here is the web address... www.ebu.co.uk/general/biographies/obituaries

If you want to know more about the great players of today then the EBU web site has it too... www.ebu.co.uk/general/biographies/players/

Young, Gifted.....And Back.

By Gordon Smith

The 2012 Home International Matches for the Junior Camrose Trophy and the Peggy Bayer Trophy for players aged under 25 and under 20 respectively took place in the Dublin area on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th February.

Following the double success for England in Ayr last year, the Scottish players hoped to stop a repeat performance, although that goal was a tough one considering that both Scottish teams consisted of only 4 players. There was one new cap in the Junior Camrose team (Krzysztof Nguyen), while 3 out of 4 in the Peggy Bayer team were from Ayrshire (Yvonne and Ralph Wiseman and Stewart Pinkerton), with Stewart making his debut.

Unfortunately, there was no Welsh team in either event this time, and each team played 3 12-board matches against each of the other 3 teams – a total of 108 boards.

Firstly, here is a question from one of the weekend's deals:-

With only your side Vulnerable, your left-hand opponent

Dealer and both opponents Passing, your Partner opens 1S. What do you call?

♠ QJ652

♥ A

♦ 652

♣ K732

More on this later

Here is a summary of the action which took place over the weekend in the two events:-

The Peggy Bayer

England defeated Scotland 24-6 in the first match of the weekend, and Scottish draws against each of the Irish teams during the weekend helped to increase the overall English lead. However, Scotland had two excellent wins over England, the second one cutting the English lead to 8 VPs, and the final table looked like this:-

England	182
Scotland	167
Northern Ireland	102
Ireland	77

Overall, it was a fine performance by the Scottish Team-of-Four; Scotland got the better of all the other teams, but England scored better against the two Irish teams.

The Junior Camrose

England defeated Scotland 19-11 in the first match, and, following some insignificant results, Scotland defeated England to reduce the overall English lead. Then, after two more rounds, Scotland drew level with England, and in the final match between Scotland and England, Scotland trounced England 25-5 to gain a significant advantage over the Auld Enemy; this lead was easily maintained and the final table looked like this:-

Scotland	156
England	141
Ireland	122
Northern Ireland	121

This was a magnificent result for the four Scottish players; Scotland got the better of all the other teams, despite all of the other teams providing stiff opposition.

Returning to the question posed earlier, I think that many of us would settle for a direct 4S, but not Juniors! For Scotland, Philip Morrison made an off-centre 4H Splinter bid (normally the bid shows a small singleton or void), and Frazer Morgan bid 6S after finding out about his partner's Ace, SQ and CK. The good 6S was missed by the English despite a strong- Spade-raise 2NT response to 1S, and Scotland gained 12 IMPs on the way to the 25-5 win.

Here is the full deal:-

North			
♠ QJ652			
♥ A			
♦ 652			
♣ K732			
West		East	
♠ 74		♠ 3	
♥ K872		♥ J96	
♦ K9873		♦ AJT4	
♣ 96		♣ QT854	
South			
♠ AKT98			
♥ QT543			
♦ Q			
♣ AJ			
		Dealer	
		East	

The Auction was :-

S	N
1S	4H (1)
4NT (2)	5C (3)
5D (4)	6C (5)
6S	Pass

(1) Splinter with Spade support

(2) RKCB

(3) 0 or 4 key cards

(4) Do you have SQ ?

(5) Yes, plus KC

Results

Munro Cup* 5th Feb (merged with Winter Sunday)

1	Eddie McGeough & Katherine Garven	61.00
2	*Stephen Cole & Jim Thomson	58.00
3	Ian Burn & Bobby Moore	51.50
4	*Eva Brown & Jen Neilson	51.00
5	Henry Crone & Jim Murray	49.00
6	Stewart Duguid & Stewart Pinkerton	47.50
7	*Joan Kirk & Ella Dunlop	47.00
8	*Betty Grant & Cathie Goldie	45.50
9	*Jean Parker & Valerie Wood	45.00
10	Irene Sword & Nancy Morgan	44.50

Breene (Ladies pairs) 25th Feb

1	Frances Murphy & Marion Hill	63.33
2	Fiona Abbott & Pauline Phillips	62.08
3	Ann Braid & Margaret Brown	59.17
4	Libby Crone & Joyce Rodger	51.67
5	Jean Cunningham & Angela Knox	50.83
6	Nicé McKell & Ann Fraser	50.00
7	Maureen Rennie & Alison Tudor	49.58
8	Frances Duck & Irene Sword	43.75
9	Maureen Murray & Nan Tait	42.08
10	Brenda Law & Jackie McCrindle	39.17
11	Katherine Garven & San Lobel	38.33

Buchanan (Men's pairs) 25th Feb

1	Jim Tudor & Eddie McGeough	61.25
2	Gordon Smith & David Wiseman	60.42
3	Ian Burn & Bobby Moore	57.08
4=	Thomson Kerr & Chris Gurney	53.75
4=	Chris Laraway & J Watson	53.75
6=	Stewart Duguid & Sam Malkani	49.17
6=	Neil Thomson & James Steen	49.17
8	Ronnie Alexander & Donnie Graham	47.92
9	Roderick MacLennan & Bill Ramsay	45.00
10	Henry Crone & Stephen Cole	40.42
11	J Campbell & Ian Ellison	32.92

National Pairs Quarter final Wednesday 15th Feb

1	Ralph Wiseman & David Wiseman	62.74
2	Fiona Abbott & Pauline Phillips	60.10
3	Jim Steen & Neil Thomson	59.86
4	Sandy Martin & Margaret Brown	58.89
5	Jean Cunningham & Angela Knox	56.73
6	Stewart Duguid & Sandy Anderson	55.53
7	Alan Lochrie & Joe Woods	55.29
8	Donnie & Ann Graham	55.05
9	Gordon Smith & Sam Malkani	54.57
10	Stoian Kableshkov & Andy Raeburn	51.44
11	Tom Lindsay & Steve Gray	46.63
12	Stephanie Peaker & Joyce Hodgson	46.15
13	Wilma Stewart & Bill Girvan	43.75
14	Eddie McGeough & Janice Thomson	43.03
15	Angela Rose & Jean Parker	41.59
16	Maureen Murray & Nan Tait	40.63
17	Frances Duck & John Haslehurst	36.30
18	Roderick MacLennan & Bill Ramsay	31.73

Tourney Cup Qualifier Wednesday 8th Feb

1	Steve Gray & Alison Tudor	74	4	Gordon Smith & David Wiseman	42
	Jim Tudor & John Bryson			Ralph & Sandra Wiseman	
2	Eddie McGeough & Janice Thomson	61	5	Stephen Cole & Henry Crone	41
	Stoian Kableshkov & Ian Burn			Margaret & Robin Cooke	
3	Sandy Anderson & Stewart Duguid	59	6	Donnie & Anne Graham	23
	Sam & Kate Malkani			Tom Morgan & Ian Bowie	

Coming up.....Ayrshire pairs final – Sunday 25th March 1pmJesner pairs – Sunday 1st April 2pmJohnston / Kennedy pairs – Sunday 1st April**League Results 26.02.12****Division One**

Troon South Beach v. Portland A	18-2
Kilmarnock Grange v. Troon Eglinton	12-8
Kyle Arran v. Ardeer	20-0
Kyle Arran v. Kilmarnock Grange	18-2
Kilwinning Abbey v. Kyle Arran	10-10
Troon South Beach v. Kilmarnock Grange	13-7

Division Two

Riggs v. Troon Bentinck	15-5
Largs v. Portland B	16-4
Riggs v. Kilwinning Corsehill	14-6

League Tables 26.02.12

Division 1	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	IMPs	VPs
Kyle Arran	6	5	0	1	358	101
Troon South Beach	6	5	1	0	80	71
Kilwinning Abbey	5	3	1	1	175	69
Kilmarnock Grange	5	2	3	0	-44	43
Ardeer	5	1	3	1	-151	37
Kilmarnock Annanhill	4	1	2	1	-58	33
Troon Eglinton	4	0	4	0	-190	18
Portland A	3	0	3	0	-170	8
Division 2	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	IMPs	VPs
Riggs	5	4	0	1	140	69
Kilwinning Corsehill	5	3	2	0	94	61
Largs	4	2	2	0	56	48
Kyle Bute	3	3	0	0	106	45
Bruce	3	0	1	2	-44	24
Portland B	4	0	3	1	-168	18
Troon Bentinck	4	0	4	0	-184	15

Ann Galt - Club winners:-

1	Iain and Anne Bannatyne (Ardeer)	72.50%
2	Billy Gibson & J Kelk (Kilwinning)	70.94%
3	J Cleland and I Adamson (Troon)	69.37%
4	Sam McNair & Anne Braid (Riggs)	66.07%
5	Andy Raeburn & S Kableshkov (Kyle)	64.58%
6	Thelma Ling & Betty Smith (Largs)	63.19%
7	I Adamson & J McClymont (Kilmarnock)	62.92%
8	Ann Gray & Angela Sharp (Greenan)	62.85%
9	Joe Woods & Stephen Woods (Bruce)	62.72%
10	Alec Murray & D Paterson (Portland)	62.50%
11	Hilary Robertson & Rose Dodds (Savoy)	61.98%
12	N Falconer & A Cattanach (Prestwick)	60.96%
13	Tom & Irene Lindsay (St Leonards)	59.38%
14	Agnes Lamont & Margaret Little (Afton)	59.29%

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