

AYRSHIRE DISTRICT BULLETIN



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Oh Pairs...

Big changes to the first round format of both the Ayrshire pairs and National pairs this year. To ensure that people don't miss their regular club nights due to Ayrshire pairs heats, all first round heats will be played on Monday nights throughout October. The ABU and four clubs will run heats; The Savoy, Troon, Portland and Largs.

The SBU are keen to encourage more people to enter the National pairs and have changed the format for this competition. Clubs are encouraged to run heats and SBU members can play in as many heats as they like. There's obviously no necessity to carry on to the semi-finals if qualifiers don't want to but it is hoped that most will. Please encourage your club to run a heat.

The Ayrshire youngsters; Yvonne Wiseman, Ralph Wiseman and Stewart Pinkerton represented Scotland's youth team in the European championships over the Summer. Stewart gives a flavour of the tournament on page 2.

On the 'Shut your Facebook' & Council minutes pages there's a brief explanation of the new MEMPAD system and Ayrshire's new weekday competition; 'The Ronnie Alexander'.

Congratulations Fiona Abbott and Pauline Phillips (pictured) who won the pairs event at the Central District Congress.



During the Summer we had very sad news that Irene Sword had passed away. Irene was liked and respected by absolutely everyone, and is already sadly missed. Below is an email I received from her last year.

Thank you Jim for your email with results of last night's Pollok Williamson competition. You know, that's what I truly like about BRIDGE - the company we keep.

All the best. Irene Sword.



Double Danish Delight By Stewart Pinkerton

Playing a strong NT (15-17), 5 card majors with a short club, 2 over 1 forcing to game; in the European Championship in Poland, against the Danish team, I was dealt the following hand as West :

West

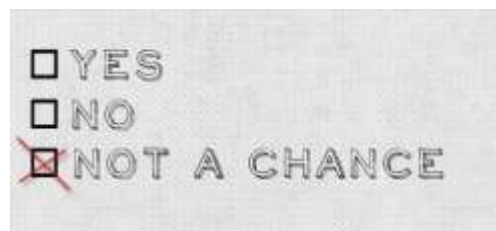
♠ K J
♥ A 8 7 6
♦ K J 10
♣ 7 6 3 2

We are vulnerable as are the Danish. My partner Jun Nakamuro Pinder as East opens the bidding with **1D** South overcalls **1S** and I decide to **Double** with 4 hearts unsure of where the auction is going and north bids **1NT** this gets passed back to me. **1NT** puts me off looking for game so I settle for a part score and bid **2D** to play but north decided to be competitive and bids **2H** my partner then bids **3C** thinking I must have clubs for my **Double** this is passed back to me and I think my partner has extra values to bid **3C**, that he can't show. I think **3NT** is a reasonable spot so I bid it. North now confused, wonders how we can come from nearly passing out a part score to **3NT** and **Doubles** probably out of principle. My partner now **Redoubles** for take- out and I mistake the bid, and this gets passed out. So I am now playing as West **3NT** doubled & redoubled. The queen of spades is lead and my partner puts down:

East

♠ 9 8 7 3
♥ 3
♦ A Q 8 7
♣ A Q 8 5

Lead ♠Q



West

♠ K J
♥ A 8 7 6
♦ K J 10
♣ 7 6 3 2

With seven top tricks on the lead, I now need to scrape together 2 tricks. There are two possible places: spades and clubs. If I am hoping for the club finesse to work for eight I now need one more. For a further trick in clubs I need a 3-2 break. However any 4-1, 5-0 split will beat me so I turn my attention to spades.

I am guaranteed 2 tricks from spades if I can knock out A10. The queen runs to my king and I now play the jack forcing out the ace of spades. Now South must be out of spades (unless North has overcalled a with a 4 card suit) so I know the location of the ten of spades. This means that if a heart comes back all I have to do is duck the heart twice (leaving South with no more Hearts), cross over to the queen of clubs and knock out the ten and claim nine.

After the ace of spades is knocked out a heart is returned and I duck twice, winning the third one, and play a small club to the queen. This wins and I knock out the ten of spades and claim the contract. By this point my partner has left the table to go the toilet (scared of the result) so for now the Danish captain has filled in as dummy and has to watch **3NT XX** roll in for +1000 (she was not happy).

This was just one of the many exciting boards of that round.... such as north holding 31 points, but that's another story.....

Squeazy – Peasy By Stuart McCreadie

The long hot summer and the Pollok –Williamson have come and gone. Board 3 from round 13 was of interest.

♠ 4		♠ QJ9875
♥ KQJT853		♥ 762
♦ AT7		♦ Q9
♣ A7		♣ K8
♠ 632		♠ AKT
♥ 9		♥ A4
♦ J642		♦ K853
♣ QT632		♣ J954

Dlr: S
Vul: E-W



The pair who bid and made 7H scored a complete top, although 7NT can also make. However most would be content at match point to be declaring in 6NT. Stewart and I languished in 4NT and I refuse to divulge our bidding sequence on the grounds that the evidence might incriminate me. The analysis of the optimum play to make all 13 tricks is instructive.

As most may have deduced from the title this hand is about squeeze play. The terms and words that appear in italics belong to the jargon of the language describing squeeze play. I am not going to provide a glossary of these terms. Most of them are self explanatory, and those that are not can be readily found in Wikipedia. First however these four categories of squeeze require definition.

A *Simple Squeeze* is a play in which a single defender is squeezed in two suits. *Simple* is something of a misnomer. This squeeze is not necessarily all that simple. The category includes the *Criss-Cross* squeeze which is difficult. But forget the *Criss –Cross* squeeze as it is not relevant to this hand.

A *Double Squeeze* is a play in which both defenders are squeezed. Typically one opponent defends one suit, while his partner defends another, while each (before the squeeze culminates) can guard the third suit.

A *Triple Squeeze* is a play in which a single defender is squeezed in three suits.

A *Compound Squeeze* is a complex ending involving a *triple squeeze* followed by a *double* (or sometimes *simple*) squeeze. The name may be derived from introductory chemistry where a compound is defined as a substance made up of at least two elements.

Before embarking on a squeeze Declarer should try to visualise the ending and confirm that the necessary conditions for the squeeze are satisfied. This is not easy. A check list of items that frequently need to be taken into account are – Does the *Count* need to be *rectified*: identify the *Threats* and confirm that they are correctly placed: identify the *final squeeze card*: make sure that there is an *Entry* to the established threat: and play the cards in the correct order including performing if necessary a *Vienna Coup* – this is an overblown name for the play of cashing winners in one *threat suit* early to prevent that threat being blocked when the final squeeze card is played. It does not deserve the title of *Coup*.

Let's get back to the hand at the top and the chosen contract of 6NT. South is declarer and attempts to make all 13 tricks....

During the auction East has bid spades. This should give declarer the clue that a *double squeeze* may be possible if East has fewer than 3 diamonds. West may be squeezed in diamonds and clubs and East may be squeezed in spades and clubs. Apart from an unlikely DQJ doubleton a squeeze is the only legitimate way to make 13 tricks.

The more straightforward squeeze play happens when the opening lead is either a diamond or a heart and that is Scenario 1. Will a *Double Squeeze* operate?

Declarer should go through the checklist. Does he need to *rectify the count*? No – he can take 12 out of 13 tricks and in any case he can't lose a trick. *Identify the threats* – the threat against West is the 3rd diamond in the North hand; the threat against East is the ST; and the *common threat* is the C7. The *squeeze card* that operates against East is the last heart. West waits a little longer to be squeezed. Check that *entry requirements* are satisfied; cash the winners in the correct order executing the *Vienna Coup* in the process. – this means that in principle the top diamonds should

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be cashed at an early stage, although in this particular case that could be delayed until after the final heart is played but before the spade is led from the North hand.

Declarer should cash the top diamonds and run the hearts and plan to arrive at this ending.

	♠ 4	
	♥ 8	
	♦ T	
	♣ A7	
♠ 6		♠ QJ9
♥ -		♥ -
♦ J6		♦ -
♣ QT		♣ K8
	♠ AKT	
	♥ -	
	♦ 8	
	♣ J	



On the last heart East is squeezed in spades and clubs and has to release a club. South discards his diamond and West, not squeezed on this trick, can discard an *idle* diamond. Then two top spades and it is West's turn to be squeezed. On the second spade West releases a club as he has to retain the DJ. The C7 is now established for the 13th trick.

Note that the *threats* are the DT against West and the ST against East. The *common threat* is the C7. Opponents have to guard diamonds and spades respectively and are unable to guard the clubs.

In Clyde Love's classic book on squeezes this squeeze would be classified as a *Type R Sequential* (or *Non-simultaneous*) *Double Squeeze*. Put that in your pipe and smoke it! It is *sequential* because opponents are squeezed on different tricks. In this case East is squeezed on trick 9 and West on trick 11.

Scenario 2 is when the opening lead is either a spade or a club. Now when South tries to construct an ending for a *double squeeze* he finds that the necessary *entries* have been messed up by the lead. When this happens, very occasionally the rare *Double Guard Squeeze* can come to the rescue as in this case. *Double* - because both opponents are squeezed and *Guard* - because in addition one opponent is squeezed out of a guard. The name may suggest otherwise, but the *Double Guard Squeeze* properly belongs to the category of *Compound Squeezes* rather than *Double Squeezes*.

The lead when I was declarer was a dutiful spade as East had bid spades. Now I could not arrive at the *double squeeze* ending above as a necessary entry in spades had been removed. I should plan instead to arrive at this ending. Note that this time I must not cash the top diamonds.

	♠ -	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AT7	
	♣ A7	
♠ -		♠ Q9
♥ -		♥ -
♦ J642		♦ Q9
♣ QT		♣ K8
	♠ AT	
	♥ -	
	♦ K85	
	♣ J	



On North's last heart, if East discards a club then South will discard an *idle* diamond and West will also discard a diamond. Now North crosses to the DK and when North plays the SA West is squeezed in diamonds and clubs.

So East does slightly better by discarding a diamond on the last heart. As before Declarer enters hand with the DK noting that the DQ is played by East and West again can release an *idle* diamond. And on the SA West is able to discard a club. But declarer can now make the 13th trick by finessing the diamond.

East has been squeezed in three suits. He has been guarding spades, clubs and in a way diamonds. He had been helping to guard the diamonds but has been squeezed out of his *guard* card, leaving his partner open to a finesse. In effect East has been subjected to a type of *triple squeeze*. And West is squeezed in two suits – diamonds and clubs. As both opponents are squeezed it can be seen that there is a *double squeeze* following the *triple squeeze* on East.

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And it can now be recognized that this *Double Guard Squeeze* belongs to the category of *Compound Squeezes*. It has to be noted that if at all possible a standard *double squeeze* ending is to be preferred to a *compound squeeze* ending or its offshoot the *double guard squeeze* ending. There is more uncertainty with the *double guard squeeze*. Instead of one doubly defended suit as in the *double squeeze* there are two doubly defended suits in the *double guard squeeze*. This may well lead to more ambiguity in the double guard squeeze as it can be difficult to be sure at the critical time which suit has been abandoned by the defender who has been squeezed in three suits. For example if in this hand East had started with DQJ doubleton, the expert may fail to take 13 tricks. In the endgame he may not read the ending and attempt to finesse, when a beginner will simply cash 13 top tricks. Did I see this ending at the table? Absolutely not. Mistakenly I played a top diamond early and there was no genuine squeeze. So I played the long heart suit and hoped for the best. Not a bad idea when you are no expert. Defenders under pressure misdefended slightly and I emerged with a 13th trick. If there is anything more difficult than planning a squeeze, then it must be defending against a squeeze. In fact on the night 6 out of 10 declarers made 13 tricks in whatever contract they played. I congratulate any of those declarers who visualized the ending and planned the squeeze.

Finally it looks as though an initial club lead might break up the squeeze. But declarer can arrive at this ending.

	♠ 4	
	♥ 5	
	♦ AT7	
	♣ 7	
♠ -		♠ QJ9
♥ -		♥ -
♦ J642		♦ Q9
♣ QT		♣ K
	♠ AKT	
	♥ -	
	♦ K8	
	♣ J	



With Dummy to play, I leave it to the reader to confirm that again the *Double Guard Squeeze* will operate.



Do you wish to enter the wonderful world of squeezes? Clyde Love, an American Professor of Mathematics, published his defining work on squeezes in 1959 – “Bridge Squeezes Complete”. His classification of squeezes and the squeeze vocabulary he invented has largely stood the test of time. However after fifty years the book did require revision, and Linda Lee and Julian Pottage have done a good job with the 2nd edition published in 2010. However there is a health warning. The book is tough going, and I didn’t manage to reach the end. There is some gain but there may be more pain. Perhaps I’ll just continue to reel off my long suit and hope for the best.

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)

The new Ayrshire pairs format seems quite radical and will certainly solve the problem of people missing their club nights. However, I see that the SBU have introduced a new format for the National pairs where people can play in as many heats as they want. Wasn't this the initial proposal that was rejected by the ABU council? Why are the ABU and SBU not singing from the same hymn sheet?

Mr E. Toomee

Good to see nice new windows and blinds in the bridge centre.

Carrie Daway

Windows were installed by Radburys of Ayr (we promised to give them a plug if they knocked off a few quid!). Ed.

What roles have changed on the ABU council this year?

Ian Kwizative

Donnie Graham has left the council after doing a great job as local competitions convenor. Tom Lindsay now takes over that position. Eddie McGeough is the new Chairman with Jim Tudor as Vice Chairman. Alison Tudor has joined the Council and Maureen Rennie has also joined, as the new Mini-bridge coordinator taking over from Sam Malkani who, in his term as Mini-bridge coordinator, did an excellent job in helping to increase the number of children enjoying Mini-bridge in Ayrshire. Jim Campbell and Chris Laraway have come off the committee.

What is MEMPAD?

Euan Meetoo

MEMPAD is the new internet facility for all members to view their master point totals. Other information is also available on the pages. Each member has their own login so they are viewing just their personal information. If you haven't signed up yet Euan (and everyone) I strongly advise you to as it is an excellent system. Email Janet Rixon to get a username and password. Her email address is masterpoints@scottishbridge.co.uk . Club secretaries will now also be able to upload master points from club nights meaning that member's points totals will be updated soon after they've played at a club.

How should cars park in the ABC car park. Some park in the entrance for a quick getaway but this makes it awkward for cars to manoeuvre in and out?

Colin Allkars

It's a few years ago now that the ABU decided to increase the size of the entrance to the car park to enable easier access in and out of the car park. If cars park in the entrance it again restricts the access room and means it was a waste of time widening the entrance. The only exception is if someone with restricted mobility is parking then they can use the space on the left hand side, so please leave this clear if that's not you.....Ed!

I enjoyed playing in the Pollok Williamson competition this year but is it really necessary for Jim Tudor to shout at us when directing?

Lilly Liver

Sorry, I shall try to curtail my natural violent tendencies in future Lilly.....If you behave yourself that is! Ed.

Who are all these people who contribute to 'Shut your facebook'? I've not heard of any of them?

Sam Fernando

Let's just say they are 'friends' of mine Sam. And if nobody else submits any comments you'll get more of the same for the rest of the season ☺ Ed.

What would you bid now?

By Brian Senior

And so a new season begins. As the cricket is going well, with both England and, more importantly, Yorkshire, on top in the format that matters, perhaps I will be in a good mood and be generous with my marking?

The basic system is Acol (incorporating 3 Weak 2s, so 2C is the only forcing opener) 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...

① *South* N-S vul; Matchpoints

	W	N	E	S
♠ AK874				
♥ QJ73	3C	X	3NT	?
♦ J986				
♣ -				

② *South* E-W vul ; Matchpoints

	W	N	E	S
♠ K85				
♥ J753				
♦ A96	P	1C	1D	1H
♣ 754	2D	2S	P	?

③ *South* All vul; Matchpoints

	W	N	E	S
♠ J9542				
♥ AKQ874	-	1D	2C	2H
♦ 92	P	5H	P	?
♣ -				

Problem 1.

N-S vul; Matchpoints
Dealer West

<i>South</i>	W	N	E	S
♠ AK874				
♥ QJ73	3C	X	3NT	?
♦ J986				
♣ -				

Marks: 4C – 10, 4S – 8.

Janice: 4S – So many ifs and buts here. Partner should have at least 3-card tolerance for the Majors. If I cue 4C, he could be bidding from two 3-card holdings and say 4H which won't be good as per it looks likely I will be tapped right away. 4S looks the best option although a diamond slam might be on. East however, with his 3NT gamble, looks likely to have cards to defend such a contract and indeed, put it down.

Sandy: 4S – I think our quiz master and East are showing their sense of humour but at this vulnerability I need to hope I'm exposing the joke by bidding and expecting to make 4S else have a word with partner about 3 level take-out doubles!!

I think it would be unlucky to find partner with no four-card major but, if that was indeed the case, he would surely hold at least four diamonds and would respond 4D to a 4C cuebid. Now we can bid 4S and play the five-three fit. Or cuebid 5C in search of a diamond slam. If instead he responds 4H, we will have at least a four-four fit. Hence, I am with the majority on this one.

Stewart: 4C – Pick a Major.

But, as above, only if holding at least a four-card suit.

Sam: 4C – East's 3NT is some sort of club fit, trying to stop their opponents from bidding. The worst distribution partner can have is 3-3-5-2 and if this is the case, they will bid 4D after my 4C and I can bid 4S. If West had pre-empted 3D, this is a different scenario and I would bid 4S.

Jim: 4C – East may have some club support and a smattering of points in the other suits for her 3NT bid. Or she may just be 'at it'! A 4-4 Heart fit may produce an extra trick as opposed to a 5-3 or 5-4 spade fit.

Stuart: 4C – It appears that East is playing silly b----rs and psyching.

He will doubtless have club support. I could start with a double but I prefer 4C – the bid I would have made if East had passed. Partner probably has at least one major and we are not stopping short of slam. And if he happens to bid 4D, that's fine too.

Slam is certainly a possibility, particularly as East's psychic 3NT suggests that partner has little wasted in clubs. This is a case where the 'clever' bid actually helps the opposition to judge correctly.

Problem 2

E-W vul; Matchpoints ; Dealer West

<i>South</i>	W	N	E	S
♠ K85	P	1C	1D	1H
♥ J753	2D	2S	P	?
♦ A96				
♣ 754				

Marks: 3C – 10, 2NT – 9, 3S/4S – 8

Sandy: 3S – Partner most likely to have 5 spades for this bid (else double) either 5-5 or 6-5 but I don't think I'm good enough to bid 4S so I will invite with 3S.

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Stewart: 4S – Partner must be two-suited, 6C and 5S so I bid 4S.

If 2S does indeed promise six-five, then to support spades is clear. However, while that is a perfectly reasonable approach, most would bid 2S with a strong five-four, just as in an uncontested auction, and that is clearly the assumption made by the rest of the panel.

Janice: 2NT – Partner has a good hand. I will show my values and wait for further description of his holdings.

Sam: 2NT - This is a difficult problem, it depends on partnership understanding. Some play 2NT as a weak wriggle and any other bid as forcing, but I play a natural game and my hand is worth 2NT.

I bid 2NT at the table, thinking this to be the best way to discover if partner held extra distribution, and we missed a decent but failing 6C. The hand contains two very good cards, the spade king and diamond ace, but has poor distribution and no fitting club honour. On balance, however, I have come round to the view that the more encouraging 3C is marginally the better choice.

Stuart: 3C – Partner shows reversing values. Do I want to put the brakes on? If I did I would bid a Lebensohl type 2NT, warning partner that I have a minimum response and the values I do have may well be in the wrong places. However I like my SK, the DA and the three-card club support. The 3C bid is game forcing. Occasionally we will get too high.

Jim: 3C – I'm not overly enthusiastic about this flat hand with poor intermediates. Perhaps Pass is an option at this type of scoring but partner could have a good hand, so I give preference to Clubs.

Both Sam and Stuart mention the

possibility of playing 2NT as Lebensohl. Most of my partnerships do use Lebensohl facing a reverse in an uncontested auction. Should we still do so when the opposition are also bidding? Probably, as the ability to sign off with a weak hand is still valuable, but the situation has changed somewhat, as there is no guarantee of having a trump fit and, if 3NT is to be the final contract, it may on occasion be important to play it the right way up, suggesting that playing 2NT as natural also has merit.

Problem 3.

All vul; Matchpoints; dealer North.

<i>South</i>	W	N	E	S
♠ J9542	-	1D	2C	2H
♥ AKQ874	P	5H	P	?
♦ 92				
♣ -				

Marks: 7H –10, 6C – 9, 6H –6.

Sandy: 6H – My understanding of a non-competitive five-level bid of the trump suit means “I'm only worried about the trump quality” this suit looks to solve that problem.

At the table, partner intended his 5H bid to ask for a club control – he had a lot of strength in spades and diamonds and just assumed that I would have good trumps. But, whether he is seeking good hearts or a club control, surely we have the perfect holding in either case and 6H is not sufficient.

Janice: 6C – According to my heart holding, partner's are modest!! Seeing this, he could be saying if my hearts are good, bid six. However he might well be looking at two small clubs and asking if I can control this ‘enemy suit’ (both options depend on partnership understanding. I will cover both and bid 6C.

That, I think, is better than 6H, as it caters to our exceptional holdings in both clubs and hearts, and gives

partner a chance to go on. However, ‘real men’ bid:

Stewart: 7H – at first I thought 6H but I think 7H is a better bid.

Jim : 7H – I expect North's 5H is asking for a club control, yet he has poor hearts. So what's going on? Has North something like:

– / J x x x x / A K Q x x x / x x? If so a 4S splinter might have been a better bid by him. Anyway, I can't think what other hand North might have, so I'll just bid the grand slam with our combined 20 points!

Stuart: 7H – Like the previous problem the answer depends on partnership agreements. With most of my regular partners, five of a major in this situation asks partner to bid slam if he has a control in the opponents' suit. Here I have not only first round control in clubs – I have the three top trump honours. And he is asking me to bid a small slam without these three cards!

On the other hand if partner is asking me to bid 6H with better than expected hearts, I still bid 7H with these super hearts. So I qualify my first statement – 7H is my bid whatever the partnership agreements.

Sam: 7H – Partner has asked me to bid slam, if I can hold the club suit to one loser, so with no losers I bid the grand slam.

If we are 100% certain that partner is asking for a club control, then surely we should bid 7H, as we have both first-round control, when we are being invited to bid 6H with only second-round control, and we have exceptional trumps. If we think that partner is asking for good hearts to bid slam, then maybe 6C is an option, just in case partner was stretching a little.

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What would You Bid now Marks

Problem	1	2	3	Total
Stuart McCreadie	10	10	10	30
Jim Tudor	10	10	10	30
Sam Malkani	10	9	10	29
Stewart Duguid	10	8	10	28
Janice Thomson	8	9	9	26
Sandy Anderson	8	8	6	22

An Unwise Duck & a Simple Coup

By Jim Tutor

*Thank you to David Sands
for the name!*

My thanks also to Alex Crawford who told me that he reads my educational articles. This has given me sufficient encouragement to continue for another season, in the hope of doubling my readership!

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

N	E	S	W
-	-	1C	Pass
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
2D	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South with 18 points opens a club and rebids 1H after North's 1D response. Some might prefer an opener's jump shift of 2H but I prefer not to leap around with hands like this..

North's rebid of Diamonds in this sequence shows a weak hand with 6 cards.

South decides to downgrade his hand with the singleton Diamond and bids 2NT. North, perhaps wearing rose coloured spectacles, bids 3NT.

West choses to lead a spade. From KQ and two small 4th highest would be correct at NT but the 10 here beefs up the suit making the ♠K a better choice. East discourages with the 2 and South ducks. The reason for ducking is that South will now make 2 tricks in Spades if West continues the suit. In Stuart McCreadie's article in this bulletin he talks of a simple coup but this one is the simplest, named the Bath coup. Be sure to boast to your peers that you pulled off a coup at the bridge table the first time this comes up. ☺

After the discouraging card from East, West switches to ♥10 to South's Queen.

South now plays a Diamond. What should West play, and why?

It may appear irrelevant on the surface what West plays from 3 small, but here we have a situation where Dummy has a long suit with no outside entry.

Looking at the problem from East's point of view; she needs to know if she should duck the Diamond or take the trick. And how can she tell? West will play his lowest Diamond, in this instance, showing an odd number of cards. Clearly here that must be 3 Diamonds. So East *knows* to take the Ace on the first trick.

Should East duck, then South can now make his contract with the Club finesse.

Had partner a doubleton Diamond then he should play high-low to show an even number.

If you are going to 'give count' in instances such as this where there is a long suit in dummy, then a lot of trust in partner is required. So Alex, make sure your partner reads this as well !!

Extracts from August's Council Minutes



New Weekday Competition

In response to last year's Opinion survey carried out by the ABU, a new competition will be trialled on Thursday 17th October. For players below the rank of Scottish Master. There will be prizes for the winners and also prizes based on master point rank. The new event is named after Ronnie Alexander. Currently the syllabus has another date scheduled for later in the season but this will be reviewed based on the success of the October competition.

BridgeMates

If any clubs are thinking about using Bridgmates, Maureen Rennie has offered to help them get started.

Contact me or Maureen if you're interested....Ed

300 Club, £25 Winners

May A. Graham 108, P. Phillips 88, M. Evans 33

June A. Clark 20, R. Stuart 11, A. Hughes 83

July R. Moore 7, H. Crone 125, K. Wilson 95

Aug. Troon BC 38, S. Duguid 122, K. Wilson 95

Congratulations to Ann and Donnie Graham winning the Kenny MacKay Hospice pairs in May. They played at the Troon club and scored 63.47%

Mini Mo.

Maureen Rennie is to be the new mini-bridge coordinator, taking over from Sam Malkani. Currently 6 schools participate. If you would like to get involved please contact Maureen.

Ian Stewart cup

.....for the person who has achieved the most in National competitions over the past year, will be awarded to Yvonne Wiseman for her win in the Frischmann ; 3rd in the Farquharson pairs ; placings in national teams events and in the Stirling pairs.
Wow!!

New Dishwasher

Clubs are asked **not** to run the new centre dishwasher when there's nobody on the premises.

+ News

Bridge in the Press

The weekly bridge news and problem articles that have appeared in the Ayrshire post for the last couple of years will be extended to the Kilmarnock Standard and Irvine Herald.

Ann Galt

This year's Ann Galt will raise money to help 'Crossroads' who give vital assistance to carers. Based in Ayrshire, they will make good use of any money we can raise. Please encourage your clubs to hold a raffle to help increase this year's donation.

Leagues

The second division will be reduced to 6 teams after Kyle Bute were forced to withdraw this year.



Finances

Barclays and RBS show a balance of £12,611.94 and the Junior fund has £193.06.

The 300 club balance at 3rd August was £1428

The Pollok Williamson Summer Competition. By Janice Thomson

Once again we say "Cheerio" to the Summer season
Each Wednesday night it gave us reason,
To spruce up, get out and meet our friends
Who, each week, never failed to attend.

The amazing Isobel; as keen as the rest,
With the delightful Elizabeth, did their best
To achieve their goal of fifty percent.
That, indeed, was their intent

The young star Stewart, played with the Master.
Each night he played faster and faster.
Showing talent and very real skill,
In years to come he will surely be "brill".

Play from Bobby and Ian was consistently good,
However, did Ian play like Bobby thought he should?
The true gent, Henry; the stoic Sandy—
After the bridge he would buy Stewart a brandy!

The weeks, of course, went in too fast,
When we all really wanted it to last and last.

In the end, rising triumphant, Alison and Jim,
Taking the trophy (and the prize money!)...a very good win.



Results



Pollok Williamson Summer Competition.

Championship

Average, 12 best scores.

1 st = Alison Tudor, Jim Tudor	59.68%	2 x £70
3 Sam Malkani	59.35%	£50
4 Kate Malkani	59.03%	£40
5 Ian Burn	58.81%	£30
6 Stuart McCreadie	58.81%	£20
7 Bobby Moore	58.24%	£15
8 Sandy Anderson	57.72%	£10
9 Janice Thomson	56.69%	
10 Stewart Duguid	56.49%	

Handicap

Average, 12 best scores.

1 st Alison Tudor	61.68%	<i>winner of championship</i>
2 Irene Davidson	58.75%	£50
3 John Hendry	57.99%	£40
4 Stewart Pinkerton	56.82%	£30
5 Frances Duck	55.99%	£25
6= Betty Laing	55.95%	£17.50
6= Donald Laing	57.72%	£17.50
8 Stephen Cole	55.56%	£10
9= Nicé McKell	55.22%	£2.50
9= Ann Fraser	55.22%	£2.50

Viking Pairs 4th September

1	<u>Sandy Anderson & Stewart Duguid</u>	66.67
2	<u>Eddie McGeough & Janice Thomson</u>	64.81
3	<u>Jack Cleland & Ian Adamson</u>	62.27
4	<u>Ralph & David Wiseman</u>	58.33
5	<u>Ian Burn & Bobby Moore</u>	57.87
6	<u>Sam & Kate Malkani</u>	56.71
7	<u>Stuart McCreadie & Stewart Pinkerton</u>	53.01
8	<u>Fiona Abbott & Pauline Phillips</u>	52.31
9	<u>Donnie & Anne Graham</u>	51.85
10	<u>Shirley Moore & Steve Gray</u>	51.62
11	<u>David & Ira Clement</u>	50.46
12	<u>Anne Braid & Sam McNair</u>	49.77
13	<u>Jean Cunningham & Angela Knox</u>	48.15
14	<u>Frances Murphy & Rita Stuart</u>	47.22
15	<u>Nice McKell & Anne Fraser</u>	46.30
16	<u>Henry Crone & Stephen Cole</u>	42.82
17	<u>Thomson & Thomson Kerr</u>	39.35
18	<u>Jim Hendry & Andrew Pelling</u>	37.73
19	<u>Irene Davidson & Jean Parker</u>	35.65
20	<u>Elizabeth McGlinchey & Isobel Miller</u>	27.08

Viking Teams 11th September

1	<u>Ian Burn & Bobby Moore</u>	99
	<u>Stewart Duguid & Sandy Anderson</u>	
2	<u>Jim & Alison Tudor</u>	96
	<u>Eddie McGeough & Janice Thomson</u>	
3	<u>Rita Stuart & Frances Murphy</u>	83
	<u>Anne Fraser & Nice McKell</u>	
4	<u>Stuart McCreadie & Jack Lowe</u>	74
	<u>Gordon Smith & David Wiseman</u>	
5	<u>Fiona Abbott & Pauline Phillips</u>	68
	<u>Robin Gardiner & Angela Knox</u>	
6	<u>Steve Gray & Shirley Moore</u>	51
	<u>David & Ira Clement</u>	
7	<u>Jack Cleland & Ian Adamson</u>	46
	<u>Ann & Donnie Graham</u>	
8	<u>Thomson & John Kerr</u>	43
	<u>Henry Crone & Stephen Cole</u>	