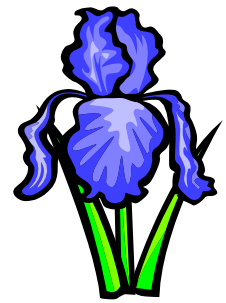




# County Newsletter



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## Latest Results

The County Ladies pairs was won convincingly by Pauline Norman & Sally Clark. The runners-up were Joyce Kennedy & Maureen Foster with Margaret Ainscough & Sue Fjortoft third.

The MBC charity teams was won by Ted Reveley, Ralph Churney, Mike Swanson and Colin Humphrey. The event raised over £1000 for the Samantha Dickinson Brain Tumor Trust.

The winners of the May Day swiss pairs were Diane and Duncan Ault. Ric and Julia Dearing were 2nd with Peter Swarbrick and Jean McKeown 3rd.

The County mixed pairs champions are Ann Dorricott and Barry Griffies who finished a magnificent 9% clear of the 'field'. Second place went to Joan Marray and Julian Merrill with Ivy Blackwell and Roger Arnold third.

The leading three pairs in the one day green point event at MBC on May 22nd were 1. Chris Pope and Peter Kaufmann, 2. Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield 3. Michael Byrne and Tom Slater. Well done to the winners for successfully defending their title.

## Editorial

Space is at a premium in this issue so little room for me to pontificate (thanks goodness I hear you all saying). I just want to apologise to those of you who have done well in events but whose results I have not been able to include, whilst also encouraging you to keep sending me material. There is always less going on in the Summer so issue 7 needs your input. By the time the next newsletter goes out, the first two rounds of the Northern Counties League will have taken place, so **Good Luck** to all our teams and look out for interesting hands for me to use.

### *The Merseyside League*

*The Merseyside Bridge League has just completed it's 62nd season. For me and most of the players it remains a pleasure to compete in. For those who are not currently involved, the League provides a chance to play teams matches regularly from September to April. Whilst the number of teams has been reasonably static for a few years, the end of season pairs event has lost favour with the membership. When I started in the league (eons ago), the pairs event was held over three sessions and had over 50 pairs competing. I am pleased to say that due to the efforts of Dave & Jean Keen, along with the support of the committee, the event was much better attended this year, with 20 pairs involved, and it is to be hoped that even more will compete next year.*

*The main events of the League season went as follows*

*Swiss Teams 1st Dusty Millers Blue 2nd Arrowe 3rd Acolytes*

*Division One 1st Sutton 2nd Dusty Millers Blue 3rd Abercrombie*

*Division Two 1st North West AS 2nd WFC 3rd Wirralpool*

*Division Three 1st Dusty Millers Red 2nd Acolytes 3rd Green Team*

*The knockout teams was won by Sutton with PSA the runners-up. The consolation event for teams eliminated in round 1 was won by Arrowe with Aigburth second.*

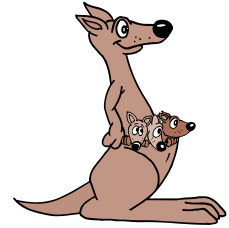
*Championship Pairs 1st Richard Davies and Stuart Scholes 2nd Dave Shaw and Bernard Krasner 3rd David Stevenson and Liz Commins*

### **Killarney Congress**

Quite a few local players made the trip to Killarney during May and they were very successful. Dave & Jean Keen along with Bill Hirst and Patrick Collins retained their Mixed Teams title. Barry Wennell and Suzy Lawson won the Swiss Pairs and Ted Reveley was part of the foursome that triumphed in the Men's Teams. Also, Ted was 2nd in the mixed pairs partnering Rhona Goldenfield and Beth Wennell was in the team that finished runners-up in the Women's teams event.

## A HAND FROM DOWN UNDER

By Tim Bourke



Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
		2♥	3♥
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

The cue bid of three hearts promised a big hand and when South bid five spades, North had an easy raise to slam; perhaps he should even have cue bid six hearts to invite the grand.

West led the two of hearts, which was taken by dummy's ace. After ruffing a heart, which is nearly always good technique, declarer played the ace of trumps, getting the bad news that the contract was in trouble.

Declarer continued by cashing the queen of clubs followed by the ace and king of diamonds. When a thoughtless East ruffed the latter he found himself endplayed and had to exit with the jack of clubs to dummy's king. When dummy's ace of clubs was played to the next trick, East had to ruff. However, declarer overruffed, drew the last trump and organised a diamond ruff on the table for his twelfth trick.

East should discard the jack of clubs on the second diamond winner. Then if declarer continues diamonds, East ruffs the queen of diamonds and exits with a heart. The best declarer can do is to discard a diamond from hand, ruff in dummy and advance the ace of clubs. However, when East ruffs this with the nine of trumps, declarer has no answer; either West makes a diamond trick or, after declarer's last diamond is ruffed with dummy's ten of trumps, East makes his jack of spades. Consequently, declarer would have finished one trick short of his contract.

## The Deva BC Pairs Final by Bob Pitts

The Deva BC Championship Pairs was won this year by Julian Merrill and Richard Alcock. This is the first win in this event for either of them, though I am sure not the last. Well done to them both.

The most interesting deal of the final was this one, which I thought my partner Simon Whitehouse played rather well.

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

Simon played in the normal contract of 3NT from the South seat. West did not find a heart lead at trick 1, which gave a chance for twelve tricks. Actually, a spade was led and Simon correctly viewed to take this in his own hand, preserving the queen in dummy as it might be needed later. Next came a diamond to the king and when the queen fell, he played a club to the king. West should really have ducked this (smoothly) to give declarer a guess, but it was taken and spades were continued. With West holding three cards in diamonds and seemingly spade length. Simon decided to play East to hold length in hearts and clubs,. So he cashed the spade and diamond winners leading to this end position:

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

Now the five of diamonds pitching the club from dummy squeezed East. If West had switched to a heart when in at trick 3, Simon planned to win with the ace, cash the ace of spades, followed by all the diamonds leading to :

	♠ Q	
	♥ J	
	♦	
	♣ 10	
♠ J		♠
♥ 9 7		♥ K
♦		♦
♣		♣ J 9
	♠ 10	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣ Q 2	

And now the spade ten to his carefully preserved queen in dummy again would have finished off East and also produced twelve tricks.

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## Calendar

All events here are correct at time of publishing but you are advised to take the precaution of checking with the organisers in all cases.

### June

9th	Liverpool Open Teams	Liverpool BC
11th	Northern Counties League	Round 1
16th	Jim Davies Swiss Teams	Heswall BC
23rd	County AGM	Liverpool BC
28th	Bill Hughes Sim. Pairs	Deva BC

### July

2nd	Northern Counties League	Round 2
16th/17th	President's Cup	Sheffield
25th/26th	BGB simultaneous pairs	Clubs

### August

12th-21st	EBU Summer Congress	Brighton
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### September

10th	Northern Counties League	Round 3
12th/13th	EBU simultaneous pairs	Clubs
17th/18th	Merseyside BC Congress	MBC

## County green pointed Swiss Pairs *by Bob Pitts*

This popular event was held on May 22nd at Merseyside BC and the winners are to be congratulated for retaining their title ahead of a good field. To be successful in pairs events you have to be prepared to back your judgement even if it is not always reflected in your scores - check out this pair of deals that winner Peter Kaufmann showed me.

### Dealer W Love All

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

In their penultimate match, Peter and partner Chris Pope (N/S) faced Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield. As Peter says, you can't just sit back and let good opponents have an easy ride, so as North he came in with an Astro 2 clubs showing hearts and a minor over the opening 1NT bid. East doubled this and minus 300 for two off was a poor score as the E/W 'field' had missed the makeable 3NT. However, 2 boards later...

### Dealer East Game All

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

After three passes, Peter opened 2NT and Chris transferred to hearts and then offered 3NT as a final contract. Playing teams opting for the heart game would be obvious, but Peter decided to take his chances in 3NT. After an opening spade lead this looked like an error, but with the hearts lying favourably, Peter soon wrapped up 12 tricks, earning a complete top with the field in four hearts.