



Bridge: A MindSport For All

Connects People, Challenges Minds

We would like to thank everyone for participating in the Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am tournament in order to celebrate bridge as a mind-sport. The Keep Bridge Alive campaign was launched a year ago at the University of Stirling, and this bulletin provides a flavour of how we celebrated together as a community

The KBA Pro-Am had two aims – one was to fundraise for the work we're doing and the other was to raise the profile of bridge. Keep Bridge Alive is our fundraising name, but moving forward in terms of promoting the game beyond the bridge community, we will be using our new name: *Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA)*. This new name will cover research, policy and practice initiatives from the project whilst also promoting mind-sports and the fun and enjoyment that bridge can and does bring to many.

Feedback from non-bridge players suggests that it is an exciting and intriguing name because many of them have never heard of mind-sports. The key goals of the *BAMSA* project, *Bridge: A MindSport for All*, are to work in collaboration with bridge organisations to transform the image of bridge, to increase participation across all ages and to enhance the sustainability of the mind-sport.

Why is it important that we do research on bridge? First, it is worth noting that chess is widely regarded as beneficial, particularly by schools, because academics have been writing about it for decades. However, bridge in comparison has very little published evidence on how it can enrich lives. We all know what bridge means to us and why we continue to play it, but now we need to spread those messages further afield.

So what are some of these benefits that our research has found? Firstly, nowadays there is too much screen time – individually many of us, and particularly children and young people are glued to our electronic devices. There is evidence that children are struggling to learn basic life skills such as empathy and cooperation - because you can't learn empathy through a screen. Bridge, as a partnership game, is ideal for enabling young people to develop these kinds of transferable skills alongside analytical thinking and strategic planning.

Secondly, according to a recent survey, a fifth of the UK population suffers from social isolation and loneliness, and that is affecting people of all ages, not just older people. Once again, bridge offers a great solution: you're never bored or lonely if you play bridge, and importantly bridge also enables us to create a sense of connection across the generations and helps to bring families together. Thus, *Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA)* aims for mind-sports, like bridge, to become recognised for a wide range of benefits that address contemporary societal issues: overuse of digital devices, limited intergenerational contact, social isolation and loneliness.

Bridge is not just a game because it gives us a sense of belonging to a wider community – that is both local to where we play (in our home club or socially) but also global. So, bridge really can make a difference to people's lives, and that's why my favourite slogan is the one that David Burn suggested: *If you keep bridge alive, it'll do the same for you*. But Sally Brock's motto still wins the prize for the most amusing slogan so far: *Play bridge and find your next husband!*

Enjoy the KBA Bulletin, and huge thanks to the Bulletin team: Francesca Canali, Tim Rees, Simon Cochemé, Anne Rosen, Mark Horton, Ron Tacchi and Miriam Snellgrove. For more information about the *BAMSA* work see: <https://keepbridgealive.bridgecloud.com/>

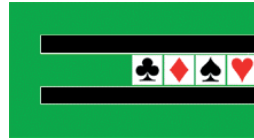
We are delighted to announce that the total raised from this event was just over £56,000. There's still time to donate if you haven't already done so, and huge thanks to those of you who have: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/u5c0e5e7810869>

Samantha Punch, coordinator of the BAMSA Project



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The KBA Event

by Tim Rees and Simon Cochemé

Introduction (Tim)

I went along to the Keep Bridge Alive event organised by Professor Samantha Punch and her team from the University of Stirling. The event was in the magnificent setting of Stationers' Hall near St Paul's Cathedral, in the heart of London. This historic building was originally built around 1600, but had to be rebuilt after it was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666, and the current building dates from 1673.

The first thing that happened was that Sam announced a change of name for the cause. Keep Bridge Alive had been the working title for the last 12 months; now the project was being renamed to Bridge: A MindSport for All (Connects People, Challenges Minds). This gives the non-bridge playing public a better idea of how bridge should be perceived: not as a dying pastime, but as a sport of the mind. The "for all" signifies that everyone can compete on an equal footing, irrespective of age, gender and social background. A 14 year old can compete with and against an 80 year old, with no barriers.

Zia Mahmood then gave a short speech to open the evening. He welcomed everyone, and explained more about the cause and the event. Following a reception and a buffet, the guest of honour (Victoria Coren Mitchell, the host of Only Connect on BBC2)

did a question and answer session. The audience asked various questions relating to bridge and poker (Victoria's other card game). Victoria told us that she learned to play when she was 7 or 8 years old, playing with family and friends, and holding the cards in both hands (which incidentally is exactly how I started to play). Victoria was asked what she thought the main difference was between bridge and poker. Victoria replied that in poker, the aim is to deceive everyone else at the table, whereas in bridge, you need to inform partner of the truth. The final question to Victoria was how she thought the bridge-playing experience might be improved. She replied that the "entry level welcome" could be improved. In both bridge and poker, tournament players are used to how everything is done, whereas for a newcomer, it can all be very daunting. Victoria gave as an example the first time she played at a club. She opened the bidding by saying "one heart", and then wondered why the opponent was calling for the director. Having not played club bridge before, Victoria had not seen bidding boxes. The director sorted everything out, and luckily Victoria was not put off playing.

Once the Q&A session was complete, 76 pairs sat down to play an evening's bridge. Simon Cochemé and I wandered round the room looking for good hands and interesting stories – here are some of them.




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“What’s That?” (Tim)

I wandered past Victoria’s table, and sat down to watch one board. It turned out to be spectacular:

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Simon	—	Victoria
2♠	Dble	Redble	1NT

At this point, Victoria pointed at the redouble and said “What’s that?” West started to explain what it showed, but Victoria said “No. Literally, what’s that?”. Not having used bidding boxes much, she had never seen a blue card. When told it was a redouble, she was happy to await developments. As it turned out, there weren’t any. Victoria’s partner, Simon Stocken, was happy to defend.

Two rounds of hearts forced declarer, who then played on clubs. He ruffed the third round high, and Simon discarded the ♦2 to make sure he had trump control. When declarer now tried to draw trumps, the roof fell in and he only made the ♦A at the end. That was -2200, the biggest penalty of the evening.




Mark Horton and Sally Brock

(Simon)

It must be very rare to hope that your contract fails, but Sally Brock was pleased to go one down on board 1:

Board 1. Dealer North. All Vul.


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

Sally, playing with Frances Loughridge, was declarer in 5♣, on the lead of the ♠Q. She could see that 3NT would make 11 tricks if the clubs broke 2-2. So her best chance of an above average board was that clubs would be 3-1.

Sally’s wish came true and 17 pairs went down in 3NT, many of them more than one down, so Sally and Frances scored 54%.

Elsewhere in the forest, Janet de Botton and Tom Townsend managed to get 3NT six off Janet (South) led the ♦K, on which Tom played the jack. Tom won the third round of clubs, cashed the ♦10-9 and led the ♠Q. Declarer covered, so Janet won with the ace, made her remaining two diamonds and returned the ♠8, nicely unblocking the suit. The defence made five spades, four diamonds and a club for a complete top. (I wouldn’t bet against seeing this deal sometime soon in The Telegraph and/or the Spectator.)

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tom	—	Janet	—
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		


Andrew “Tosh” McIntosh and Helen Rose bid to 4♥. Tom Townsend felt that the auction required an attacking lead, and chose the ♦7. His aggression was rewarded when Janet de Botton was able to win with the ace, return the ♦3, and get a ruff. With the ace of trumps to come, that was one down. Tom might have been disappointed to discover that 13 other pairs (out of 36) got the same result. Nevertheless, +50 scored a more than respectable 79%.



Declarer might still go down on a spade lead, by playing trumps and giving North a second (easier) chance to lead a diamond. Declarer can make on a spade lead by taking two quick discards on the spades to avoid a diamond ruff. An initial club lead will definitely let 4♥ make (with an overtrick if South plays the ♣K).

Simon Stocken and Victoria Coren Mitchell were East-West on this board, against Sarah Bell and Clark Pitts.

Board 8. Dealer West. All Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Victoria		Simon	
Pass	Pass	1NT	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

West and North both started with passes, (in)actions probably not found at most tables. North led a heart. Victoria won and took a spade finesse. Then came the ♣-A-K and a club ruff. Another trump finesse and another club ruff set up a club winner in dummy and led to ten tricks. Nicely done.

Despite the fact that five pairs played in 3♠ doubled, making 9 or 10 tricks, Simon and Victoria scored 63% on the board.

Here are tournament winners Ed Jones and Richard Bowley getting one of their many good boards:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A 3 ♥ K 10 8 6 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A Q J 8 3		♠ 9 5 ♥ A Q 9 4 3 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ 10 7 5	♠ Q 10 8 7 ♥ J 2 ♦ K J 10 9 5 ♣ K 2
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West	North	East	South
Ed		Richard	
—	1NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

North opened a weak NT and East, Richard, doubled. In their two-minute discussion before the event Ed and Richard had agreed that the double of 1NT (even a weak one) showed a four card major and a five or six card minor. Ed converted the double for penalties and North ran to 2♥. Ed doubled this and South took it out to 2♠. Now Richard doubled for penalties and there matters rested.

East-West can make game in no-trumps, so a 500 penalty wasn't going to be good enough. South dropped a trick in the play and Ed and Richard ended up with +800. As it happens, only four pairs bid and made 3NT, so +500 would have been an excellent score. Was +800 a top? No! Tommy Garvey and Annabelle Burrows made 3NT redoubled, with two overtricks. For those of you not used to playing in, let alone making, redoubled contracts, that scored 1800.

(Tim)

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 9 2 ♥ K Q 9 6 ♦ 9 5 3 ♣ 10 7 5 3		♠ A Q 8 7 5 4 ♥ A 7 4 2 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ -	♠ K J 10 6 3 ♥ J ♦ Q 8 6 4 2 ♣ J 4
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West	North	East	South
Athena		Les	
1♠	Pass	4♠	5♣
5♠	6♣	Dble	All Pass

I watched this hand at several tables. The auction almost always started 1♠-4♠. At this point, the Pro players were happy to overcall 5♣.


The Ams were more reluctant, and a common comment was that it was risky to bid, as 5♣ could easily go two down, which would be a bottom at the vulnerability.

The Ams were concentrating on the visible risk of bidding. As the commentary booklet points out, it can actually be more risky in terms of the final percentage on the board to pass. This is one of the hallmarks of a successful player: knowing when a risk is worth taking.

At one table I watched, Les Steel did overcall 5♣, and Athena Chow then sacrificed in 6♣. When West led ♠A, Les got out for one down and 90% on the board.



Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 9 7 6 4 3 ♥ 8 4 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ A 9 4		♠ A 10 8 5 2 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ A Q 10 8 ♣ 8	♠ J ♥ J 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K Q J 10 7 6 5 3 ♠ K Q ♥ A K Q 10 5 3 ♦ K 5 4 2 ♣ 2
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West	North	East	South
Helen		Andrew	
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



East doubled 4♥ at least 10 times. I say “at least”, because at one table (and possibly more), West panicked and removed the double to 5♣. And there was at least one Ghestem mix-up on this board.


At most tables, South played in 4♥ on an auction similar to that in the commentary booklet. Some Easts doubled this, holding good values in the side suits and knowing partner had long clubs. Ideally, partner would have the ♣A and, after the double, would know to lead it.

That didn't happen here, but East's diamond pips were good enough to beat the contract, usually by two tricks, either by taking a spade ruff or declarer not playing a diamond when he was in dummy at trick 2. At tables where both of these things happened, 4♠ was three down.

Andrew “Tosh” McIntosh was one of the ones who doubled. His partner, Helen Rose, should probably lead her spade now, but the ♣K lead was still enough for two down when declarer drew trumps (if he leads a diamond from dummy, Tosh can still beat it by two by going in with the Ace and giving Helen a club ruff).



Board 14. Dealer East. All Vul.


♠ A Q 9 6 2 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A J 9 2 ♣ A 3		♠ J 8 4 3 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ 6 5 ♣ K 8 5 2	♠ K 10 7 ♥ A Q J 8 4 ♦ 4 3 ♣ Q J 9 ♠ 5 ♥ 9 6 2 ♦ K Q 10 8 7 ♣ 10 7 6 4
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West	North	East	South
Steve		Jonathan	
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dble	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

As is often the case at love all, it was necessary to declare on this hand. Many auctions got as far as 3♦ by North/South. Some East/Wests went on to 3♥, and if allowed to play there, they got a good score even though they went down. Playing a diamond contract scored 70%, defending 3♥ only scored 25%.

A few enterprising pairs tried 2♠, because of the pairs scoring. In the auction above, Jonathan Harris removed Steve Root's double to 2♦, and Steve then tried 2S for the extra points. When the defence didn't force him or knock out his ♣A, he was able to make 9 tricks for 97% on the board.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Jamie		David	
—	—	—	1♥
2♥	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

David Kendrick was impressed by his partner (one of the juniors, Jamie Fegarty), recognising that distribution was more important than points in a competitive auction, and bidding Michaels on the West hand. The 6th diamond makes up for the lack of points. Several players overcalled 3♦ (weak) instead, but this only showed six of their cards. After the 2♥ overcall, David was able to sacrifice in 4♠.

David and Jamie went on to finish second overall; with Jamie the top Junior, and David the top Senior.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stefan		Tessa	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

The official commentary for this board says that 7♥ is doomed to fail on the lie of the cards. At our featured table, Stefan Skorchev borrowed a point to

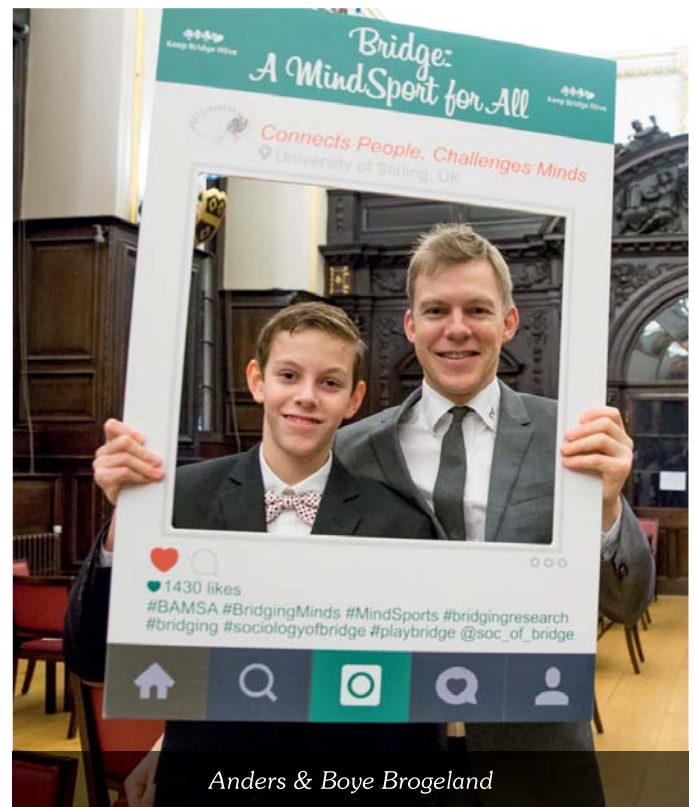
open 2NT. After a transfer auction, Tessa Greenslade wasn't sure what 6♣ should mean, but she knew it showed a good hand and she thought that partner was unlikely to pass it. After a long think, Stefan bid 7♥.

East led the ♣A, after which the contract was unbeatable. Declarer played off all his major cards (ruffing a spade on the way), and West was squeezed in the minor suits. Tessa and Stefan were the only pair to bid 7♥, but several others made 13 tricks, either by North on the same lead, or by South when East played the ♣A when the nine was led from dummy.

Boye Brogeland and John Adams didn't get to 7♥ (they were one of the pairs to make 13 tricks in 6♥ when East played the ♣A). Boye has explained how he would have made 13 tricks anyway, without this help:

“You draw three rounds of trumps and play four rounds of spades which you ruff (if spades are 3-3 or the jack shows, you pitch one diamond in dummy and claim 13 tricks). West has to discard two clubs and then the ten or the jack of clubs. Sure, this might be a falsecard, but more often it's a forced card, and if so, West has 2-2-4-5 distribution. If you now ruff a club, West will follow with the jack or the ten of clubs, and your assumption of the distribution seems right. So you should play the ace of diamonds and run the 10 of diamonds (you have a trump left to ruff dummy's last club to repeat the finesse if West covers).”

Boye has also pointed out that if West leads a club, you cover the ten/jack with the queen, and then squeeze West in the minors.




Anders & Boye Brogeland

Finally, an amusing story on this board. At one table, North opened 1♥ and East bid 3♣. South made a sputnik double, showing 4 spades and 4 diamonds – a perfect description of their hand. The 5-card support for partner seemed less important!

(Simon)

Board 19 was one of the first of a set of four consecutive slam boards:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tracy		Ronan	
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	3♦	3♥	6♦


Ronan Valentine, a Scottish Junior International, playing with Tracy Capal, took the high road to the diamond slam. West, Geoff Oldfield, led the ♦A and



switched to the ♥J. Declarer ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and ruffed a heart. Now he cashed three rounds of spades and found that East, Mikael Rimstedt, had started with 3-8-0-2 distribution. Ronan played ♣A and, when East dropped the ♣10, rejected the club finesse and dropped the ♣Q for +920 and 96% of the matchpoints.

Ed Jones and Richard Bowley were the overall winners, and Ed gave me the details of their only complete top:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ed		Richard	
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Ed opened 1NT as dealer, not wanting to open 1♣ and rebid 2♦ with such poor clubs. Richard transferred to hearts and then splintered with 4♣. This improved Ed's hand enormously and he took control and drove to the slam.


North must have fancied his chances of beating the contract with all his seemingly well placed honours, and led the ♠K. Ed won, ruffed a club, and ran the ♦J. North's ♠Q continuation was trumped and Ed was able to ruff another spade high, draw trumps, and throw two spades on the winning diamonds. 12 tricks made – one spade, six hearts, two diamonds and two spade ruffs.

I asked Ed if he could make it on a trump lead. "Tricky!" he said, adding "Impossible?". Deep Finesse says you can make it, because North has only three spades and three clubs. Trumps 2-2 helps as well! After cross-ruffing in spades and clubs, you draw trumps. When you eventually take the diamond finesse at trick 9, North has only diamonds left.

About half the field made 12 tricks in hearts, but Ed and Richard were the only people to bid the slam.

This was the first board I watched, with Kay Preddy and Angela McCready North-South:

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kay		Angela	
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

Angela won the club lead in dummy and played to ruff two hearts in dummy. The early appearance of the ♥K helped her to 12 tricks. A nice tranquil part-score, where favourably placed cards in the majors meant that, without a trump lead, 12 tricks were available. Plus 170 was worth 54%.



Things were not quite so smooth at other tables. At one end of the spectrum eight pairs went off in 3NT.

One of these involved a father-daughter battle, where David Bakhshi (playing with Martin Jones) led a heart from the East hand against Jasmin Bakhshi, a junior international, partnering Jan Kamras, President of the European Bridge League. The result was four down. There was the same end result when North (yes, North) played in 5♥.

Six pairs achieved a normal-ish result of 5♦, but six pairs pushed on to 6♦. Four didn't make it, but Archie Bouverie and Swedish World Champion Ida Grönkvist did.


Pride of place goes to Dennis Bilde and Jonathan Kendle who had this auction:

West	North	East	South
	Jonathan		Dennis
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Redble
All Pass			

East, Stefan Skorchev, reported the deal to me, and was so keen to appear in this Bulletin, that he sportingly said I could mention his name. His partner, who would definitely prefer to remain anonymous, led a spade to the queen, king and ruff. For those of you, like me, who don't play in redoubled slams, the score was 1830.

Simon Stocken and Victoria Coren Mitchell were North-South on this deal, against Norman Selway and Gilly Cardiff.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Simon	Pass	Victoria
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	5♣



pairs who are languishing in game; 6♠ minus one would have been a terrible result. As it was, bidding and making 6♣ scored 70%.

Anders Brogeland and Owen Leigh also took the 'spades-agreed' route to 5♠, but Owen then made an excellent decision to switch horses.

West	North	East	South
—	Anders	Pass	Owen
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5♥
All Pass		Pass	6♣

North-South had a straightforward auction to 6♣, not a board for delicate bidding in an unfamiliar partnership.

6♣ really is an excellent contract. Norman led a heart and Simon had no problem disposing of his losing spade on one of dummy's top diamonds. Simon and Victoria will have been disappointed that the ♠Q was doubleton, meaning that those in 6♠ and 6NT were fortunate to make their contracts. On the other hand, many of those who agreed spades then used Roman Keycard Blackwood from the South hand, and followed up with a queen-ask. When North denied holding the queen of trumps, they subsided in 5♠, making 12 or 13 tricks.

There is a lot to be said for bidding the slam in the correct denomination, making sure you beat all the

Anders and Owen finished 11th on 57.26%, earning 14 year old Anders bragging rights over his father, Boye, who was 'languishing' in 15th place. English junior Louise Selway, partnering Victor Silverstone, didn't beat either of the Brogelands, but she did finish ahead of both her mother, Kay Preddy, and her father, Norman.

Samantha Punch and Victoria Coren-Mitchell



The Winners

Congratulations to the winners, Richard Bowley and Ed Jones

The top 12 pairs got prizes:

1	Ed Jones & Richard Bowley	63.69%
2	Jamie Fegarty & David Kendrick	61.07%
3	Phil King & Guy Malcolm	60.45%
4	Ida Grönkvist & Archie Bouverie	59.38%
5	Andrew Black & James Mates	59.14%
6	Stephen Peterkin & David Douglas	58.93%
7	John Carroll & Andrew Murphy	58.78%
8	Steve Root & Jonathan Harris	57.92%
9	Kathrine Bertheau & Richard Hazell	57.32%
9	Gunnar Hallberg & Warner Solomon	57.32%
11	Anders Brogeland & Owen Leigh	57.26%
12	Mikael Rimstedt & Geoff Oldfield	56.55%

For the full results, visit <https://keepbridgealive.bridgecloud.com/>

There were also some special category prizes:

New to tournaments (sponsored by First For Bridge):

1. Guy Malcolm
2. Patricia Davenport
3. Alison Pritchard

Best amateur partnership:

Phil and Martin Stephens

Highest placed Scot:

Kenny Watson
(playing with David Burn)

Highest placed President:

Eddie McGeogh (SBU)
(playing with Jun Nakamaru-Pinder)

Highest placed junior in an intergenerational partnership:

Charles Bucknell and Chris Kemp



*Ed and Richard with
the WBF President Gianarrigo Rona*

The successful bidders in the silent auction were:

Item No.	Pro	Winner
1	Mike Bell	Helen Rose
2	Sarah Bell	Helen Rose
3	Sally Brock	Clarke Pitts
4	Simon Cope	Alan Martin
5	Kieran Dyke	Paul Nicholas
6	Tommy Garvey	Annabel Burrows
7	David Gold	Catherine Seale
8	Maruša Gold	Jonathan Davis
9	Gunnar Hallberg	Ed Sunley
10	Fredrik Helness	Catherine Seale
11	Phil King	James Mates
12	Andrew McIntosh	Marion Robertson
13	Artur Malinowski	James Mates
14	Barry Myers	Charles Eddis
15	Tom Paske	Gilly Cardiff
16	Andrew Robson	Fiona Leathers
17	Neil Rosen	Catherine Seale
18	James Thrower	Jonathan Lillycrop
19	Todor Tiholov	Patrick Lawrence
20	Stefano Tommasini	John Skerritt
21	Liz McGowan	Robert Waugh
22	Stephen Peterkin	Archie Bouverie
23	Sam Punch	Stewart Duguid
24	Brian Short	Robert Waugh

Item No.	Item	Winner
25	Collectors' bundle of rare bridge magazines	Tim Rees
26	Round of golf for two at Loch Lomond Golf Club	Kenny Watson
27	KBA Pro-Am Collage wooden puzzle, one layer with a frame Made by Simon Stocken, 3rd generation jigsaw maker	Stephen Peterkin
28	Dinner for two and house wine at restaurant La Poule au Pot in London	Kitty Teltscher



Bridge: A MindSport For All
Connects People, Challenges Minds

OUR REFLECTIONS

By Tim Rees

The event was superbly organised by Sam and her team, and directed extremely efficiently by Gordon Rainsford and Jonathan Lillycrop. In addition to directing during the event, their hard work setting up and putting away everything was much appreciated.

Sam had also organised a raffle prior to the event, to allow anyone the chance to play with a Pro for the night. This was well supported, and provided valuable publicity for KBA (now Bridge: A MindSport for All).

In addition, there was a tombola and a blind auction on the night. The tombola raised £1,050 and the blind auction £4,120. Various donations increased the total to £10,000. An anonymous donor had previously promised to double anything raised up to £10,000, so £20,000 was raised on the night. The amount raised prior to the event (from the Pro auction, KBA patrons and supporters) was £36,486, making the total amount raised £56,486.

Sport has generally been associated (in the UK at least) with physical activity and keeping the body healthy. Now much more emphasis is being put on mental health, so the concept of mind sports, to keep the mind active and healthy, should be more acceptable to the general public and also to government. Furthermore, bridge allows young people to interact with people of all ages. It was encouraging to see so many inter-generational partnerships on the night, and so many people obviously enjoying themselves.

Sam started her bridge research 5 years ago, in her spare time. KBA was launched a year ago to enable the data collected to be analysed and written up for academic publication. The money raised for Bridge: A MindSport for All will enable two part-time researchers to work with Sam for the next 18 months to finish this off, create accessible resources from the findings and disseminate the results widely.

Sam's work will also publicise bridge as a mind-sport, and with her drive and enthusiasm, the results should be impressive.

By Simon Cochemé

After some welcome messages and some excellent refreshments, there was a short and witty Q&A with guest celebrity Victoria Coren Mitchell, champion poker player, and host of BBC's Only Connect.

She asked for her personal comments to be treated as confidential, so it would not be appropriate to reveal that she said that her husband, David Mitchell, plays bridge like a 7 year old.

Victoria only plays bridge a couple of times a year (she says), so her performance, partnering Simon Stocken, in finishing just below average, but ahead of quite a few stars, is to be applauded.

152 players from 12 countries took part, including several players who had flown in just for this event. The superstars included Zia Mahmood, Sabine Auken, Boye Brogeland, Nicola Smith, Dennis Bilde and Sally Brock, as well as four of the current Swedish Venice Cup holders.

Also giving their support to the excellent cause, and playing, were the Presidents of the World Bridge Federation, Gianarrigio Rona, and of the European Bridge League, Jan Kamras. The Presidents of the English and Scottish Bridge Unions also played.

By some of the participants

"Thank you for such an enjoyable evening. I do not think I have ever been to a better run "charity" event. You managed to attract a fantastic array of the best players in town (and from Europe) and it was great fun to play with them. I hope you raised your target sum and more. It is a great cause."

"What a wonderful evening. Everyone I spoke to said they had the most wonderful time. It was beautifully organised. Thank you so so much. I am thrilled you raised so much money." (Caroline Brooman-White)

"Wow - what a totally brilliant night you organised - it was such fun and beautifully done, and in the most perfect place." (Gilly Cardiff)

"Really Well Done! Nice venue, event, cause, everything.....even the pianist was decent!" (Kevin Castner)

"Thanks again. You did amazingly well. Was a fantastic and very memorable evening, met lots of interesting people." (David Gold)

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and a wonderful opportunity to play with and against Bridge Royalty! I think I'm hooked..." (Antony Williams)

"That was very good fun thank you. It must have been an enormous job to put it all together, congratulations, it was brilliant: fun, relaxed, great room, etc." (David Douglas)

It was a pleasure to be there. I know it's a mammoth task to organise something like this so I would like to say a very big congratulations to you all on a hugely successful entertaining night very well received by all. (John Carroll)

"I thought the evening went very well – most enjoyable and highly successful. Well done... Thanks very much and good luck." (Janet de Botton)

"Well done for organising a wonderful event which I thoroughly enjoyed... Great company, food was delicious and great bridge too.... I'm still on a high about the whole event and telling everyone in sight!" (Suzanne Anisfield)

Full House


by Mark Horton

Apart from the presence of the BeBRIDGE Ambassador, Zia Mahmood, the major attraction at the Keep Bridge Alive Pro Am Pairs was Poker star and TV Presenter Victoria Coren-Mitchell.

I was thinking of using the title Victoria's Secret, but then it occurred to me that it might afford Francesca the opportunity to add some salacious photograph. You will have to use your imagination, which, come to think of it, is not such a bad idea for a Mind Sport.

Wanting to reflect Victoria's brilliance at Poker, I settled for something that reflects the fact that I have selected five deals from the event.


Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Garvey	Stocken	Burrows	Coren-M.
—	—	—	1♥
2♥*	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Tommy Garvey's entrance into the auction ensured that EW would take a fair share of the match points. Victoria led the ♦7 and Simon won with the king. At this point a spade switch would have given the defenders a shot at three down (only managed by Luigi Molinaro & Tanny Gordon) as they can prevent declarer from ruffing a heart, which would have saved a few points. Simon's ♥K meant declarer had eight tricks, -300 and 42-28 for EW.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cornfield	Stocken	Clow	Coren-M.
—	—	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

One of the best ways to keep your eye in at this game (and to give yourself a chance to improve) is to watch people play (especially if they are strong players). You can compare their efforts with your thoughts as to how best to play or defend a particular hand.

Sitting behind Victoria, it seemed to me that your best shot might be to lead a spade, hoping to set up a potential ruff. However, the commentary, (written by Mike Lawrence, Jenny Wolpert, Adam Grossack, Adam Wildavsky, Joel Wooldridge and Kit Woolsey) suggested the ♦J was 'pretty normal' and that was Victoria's choice. Now declarer had an easy route to eleven tricks by winning in hand and leading a low heart. If South takes the ace and switches to a spade, declarer can go up with dummy's ace and pitch her clubs on the diamonds. +450 was worth 50-20.


If South leads the ♠10 declarer has no real chance - North will win with the king and return a spade and then South wins the first heart and puts North in with a club to get a spade ruff.

Four pairs managed to defeat 4♥ - their reward was a whopping 65-5.

I have just started writing a column about wine for BeBRIDGE - 'Did Someone say Redders?'

Vintage Wine Gifts owned by Giles Wigoder is located in London. His brother Charles is a keen player and when I spotted he was competing I had to watch a couple of deals - they were not without interest:

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.


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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Malinowski	Castner	Wigoder
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

The only way to be sure of defeating 6♦ is to lead the ♦A and continue with a second diamond, but Roy Welland went with the natural choice of the ♣4. Charles won with dummy's ace and thought for some time, weighing up which major suit finesse to take. (As the cards lie a cross-ruff works like a charm - the Rueful Rabbit would make the hand by playing the ♠A at trick two and accidentally ruffing it with the ♦2! After recovering from the shock, he cashes the ♥A, ruffs a heart and plays the ♠Q, running it when East does not cover.) When he eventually went with a heart to the queen, West won and played two rounds of diamonds, worth 52-18 for EW.

Two pairs made 6♦ - Dennis Bilde & Jonathan Kendall and Ida Grönkvist & Archie Bouverie, but Dennis was doubled for a rare 70-0.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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


West	North	East	South
Welland	Malinowski	Castner	Wigoder
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Dble	5♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

4♥ Cue bid
 4NT RKCB
 5♦ 0-3 key cards

Slams are like London buses, you wait for ages and then two turn up at the same time.

The eight pairs who reached 6♣ scored 49-21, but those who gambled on the spades coming in for no loser collected 61-9. Ida Grönkvist & Archie Bouverie tried 6NT - worth 66-4, while Emma Övelius & Jonathan Davies and James Thrower and Henry Rose made 6♠ with an overtrick for 69-1.

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stevens	Stocken	Stevens	Coren-M.
—	—	—	1NT
2♠*	Dble	Rdbl	All Pass

I think West's overcall was spades and a minor. No doubt East could have bid a 'pass or correct' 3♣ over the double, but decided to raise the ante with a redouble.

North led the ♥6 and Victoria won with the ace and played a second heart. Declarer does best to pitch the ♣3 on that, but he ruffed and played a club. Victoria won and played two more rounds of the suit and when declarer ruffed, Simon pitched the ♦2. That more or less ensures two down and -1000, but when declarer then decided to play two rounds of spades the penalty went up from to -2200, depriving Gunnar Hallberg and Warner Solomon of a top as it eclipsed the -1100 they had achieved against 5♦ doubled.


Action Stations

by Ron Tacchi

Stationers Hall, the home of the Stationers Livery Company was the venue for the Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am event. Around 1400, manuscript writers and illuminators plied their trade close by St Paul's Cathedral, setting up stalls that became known as 'stations'. They acquired the nickname 'Stationers' and that was the name given to the guild that was established in 1403. Armed with pen and paper I set off in search of suitable material.

Pro vs Amateur

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Some Wests would have continued with 2♣ over their partner's 1NT but here the amateur preferred allowing the pro to play the contract.

A certain Bridge Magazine Editor penned a book contrasting the play of an amateur and an expert and this is a fine example – an apparently simple hand but watch how the amateur gives away information and how the pro takes advantage.

The lead was a fourth best five of hearts, declarer calling for dummy's nine which was headed by North's ace, declarer contributing the three. North returned his ♥4 taken by the king, and this was followed by a small spade towards dummy; when the defender made the mistake of hesitating before playing small it pinpointed the position of the ace of spades for declarer who now led a small club from dummy to his ten. South took her ace and now made her second error by continuing

the heart suit into declarer's tenace giving him an extra heart trick.


Is it evident that you should switch to diamonds?

At trick two when partner returned the ♥4 you know he does not have three hearts (he would have returned his highest heart) so you know his holding is either a doubleton (or a very unlikely ♥AQ104 when the queen would be the right card to play at trick one). It is very probable that declarer has the missing hearts so your main hope is that partner has cards in the diamond suit, as is the case here.

However, when declarer won the third round of hearts with his ten he was able in all tranquillity to lead another spade toward dummy. South hopped up with ace but now declarer had the rest of the tricks when the spades broke favourably. The defence only took their three aces giving E/W +180, a shared top, 66.5-3.5.

Rapier vs Sabre

Board 16. Dealer West E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥*
All Pass			

6♥ Much soul searching before subsiding in the small slam.


A good hand for Acol as North will open the bidding with 1♥ which gives N/S a good chance of finding the excellent grand slam. However, at the table I watched, the partnership was playing five-card majors. South had the problem of how to continue over 4♥;

obviously he was not going to stop short of slam but what would be the best way to explore the chances of the grand slam. The problem in such events is that one does not have time to make detailed agreements for infrequent events. Had South made a cue-bid of 4♠, North would not have an easy continuation with her two club losers. Perhaps the answer might be for South to try a bid of 6♣ which must show an interest in the grand slam and almost certainly a club void. North would then have good reason to advance to the seven-level.

A bad news – good news story for South. When dummy appeared, it seems almost certain that there are thirteen tricks to be had, only if the spades don't break and the jack is not singleton or doubleton AND the diamonds split badly offside will the contract be in danger. It was South's lucky day, the 90+% slam was doomed to failure. I hope declarer had bought a lottery ticket that day or at least some tickets for the KBA Tombola.

Bakhshi vs Bakhshi – Filicide.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Martin Jones	Jasmine Bakhshi	David Bakhshi	Jan Kamras
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

I was watching between David Bakhshi and Jan Kamras, President of the European Bridge League. At the end of the auction I was wondering which club David would lead against his daughter's game contract but was surprised when he chose the four of hearts. For his daughter it was a heart-breaker (unfortunately for Simon Cochemé East did not have the ♥8) as the hand immediately fell to pieces. The lead took out dummy's only entry so there was no source of tricks and the contract failed horribly. Father had inflicted a mortal blow to his daughter's hopes.

On the deal that followed Jasmine was debating whether or not to bid a slam in spades when she had ♠J72 and knew partner had ♠AK653 without the queen and decided not to proceed as the trump suit would need no losers. Of course David held precisely queen doubleton and so gave the knife an extra little twist.

