

# 45TH WORLD 2021 BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



## DAILY BULLETIN

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## WELCOME RETURN



After an interval of more than two years, it is fitting that the resumption of World Championship play takes place in Salsomaggiore Terme, a town renowned for the therapeutic and healing properties of its thermal spas that has a long history of hosting major bridge events.

Over the next thirteen days the world's finest players will meet face to face for the right to win the ultimate prize of a World Championship title.

Following yesterday's Captain's meeting and Welcome, it is down to business as the Round Robins get under way. Now is the time to recall the words of Rudyard Kipling that are written on the wall of the player's entrance at Wimbledon:

*If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same*

SALSONAGGIORE TERME 2022  
MARCH 27TH APRIL 9TH







## Addenda to the Supplemental Conditions of Contest

16.2 Should read: In all matches, regardless of the number of stanzas, the first mentioned team sits NS in the Open Room throughout.

23.2 Should read:

In the Round Robin

- a) For the first such offence a warning will be issued
- b) For the second offence there will be a penalty of 0,5 VP
- c) For the third offence onward there will be a penalty of 1VP

23.4.1 Should read:

Excess time apportioned to a table during the Round Robin

0+ – -5 minutes late 0,2 VP per minute or part thereof

5+ – -10 minutes late 0,4 VP per minute or part thereof

10+ the match will be truncated by removing unplayed boards....

24 The first two paragraph stay as they are, the following ones are cancelled

24.1 An agreed score that is proven erroneous to the complete satisfaction of the Head Tournament Director, shall be corrected up to 30 minutes after the posting of the scores at the end of play of the penultimate match of the round robin, and the penultimate stanza of a KO match. As for the last match, and the last stanza, the correction period expires 30 minutes after the end of play in that specific match.



# SCHEDULE, DRAW, BBO MATCHES

## BERMUDA BOWL

### Round 1 – 10.00

ARGENTINA	-	NEW ZEALAND
EGYPT	-	SWITZERLAND
UAE	-	ITALY
URUGUAY	-	SWEDEN
GUADELOUPE	-	USA 2
SINGAPORE	-	CANADA
ISRAEL	-	CHINA HONG KONG
<b>BBO</b> DENMARK	-	ENGLAND
BULGARIA	-	USA 1
<b>BBO</b> AUSTRALIA	-	NORWAY
<b>BBO</b> NETHERLANDS	-	SOUTH AFRICA
HUNGARY	-	INDIA

### Round 2 – 13.30

ISRAEL	-	ARGENTINA
DENMARK	-	EGYPT
AUSTRALIA	-	UAE
NETHERLANDS	-	URUGUAY
INDIA	-	GUADELOUPE
ENGLAND	-	SINGAPORE
BULGARIA	-	SOUTH AFRICA
<b>BBO</b> SWITZERLAND	-	ITALY
CHINA HONG KONG	-	CANADA
<b>BBO</b> NORWAY	-	SWEDEN
HUNGARY	-	NEW ZEALAND
<b>BBO</b> USA 2	-	USA 1

### Round 3 – 16.15

<b>BBO</b> ARGENTINA	-	SWITZERLAND
EGYPT	-	BULGARIA
UAE	-	NORWAY
URUGUAY	-	HUNGARY
GUADELOUPE	-	USA 1
SINGAPORE	-	SOUTH AFRICA
<b>BBO</b> DENMARK	-	AUSTRALIA
CHINA HONG KONG	-	NEW ZEALAND
ITALY	-	ENGLAND
<b>BBO</b> SWEDEN	-	NETHERLANDS
<b>BBO</b> USA 2	-	ISRAEL
INDIA	-	CANADA

## VENICE CUP

### Round 1 – 10.00

PORTUGAL	-	HUNGARY
MOROCCO	-	ITALY
UAE	-	INDIA
EGYPT	-	BELGIUM
GERMANY	-	USA 2
AUSTRALIA	-	SPAIN
ARGENTINA	-	POLAND
NORWAY	-	DENMARK
FRANCE	-	SCOTLAND
CANADA	-	TURKEY
BRAZIL	-	USA 1
<b>BBO</b> ENGLAND	-	SWEDEN

### Round 2 – 13.30

GERMANY	-	PORTUGAL
USA 2	-	MOROCCO
BRAZIL	-	UAE
DENMARK	-	EGYPT
AUSTRALIA	-	ENGLAND
SPAIN	-	ARGENTINA
BELGIUM	-	POLAND
<b>BBO</b> FRANCE	-	NORWAY
CANADA	-	SWEDEN
INDIA	-	USA 1
SCOTLAND	-	HUNGARY
ITALY	-	TURKEY

### Round 3 – 16.15

PORTUGAL	-	AUSTRALIA
MOROCCO	-	ENGLAND
UAE	-	SCOTLAND
EGYPT	-	POLAND
SPAIN	-	FRANCE
ARGENTINA	-	ITALY
DENMARK	-	TURKEY
CANADA	-	BELGIUM
INDIA	-	NORWAY
BRAZIL	-	HUNGARY
SWEDEN	-	GERMANY
<b>BBO</b> USA 2	-	USA 1

## D'ORSI TROPHY

### Round 1 – 10.00

GUADELOUPE	-	BRAZIL
EGYPT	-	ARGENTINA
PAKISTAN	-	BELGIUM
MOROCCO	-	SWEDEN
NORWAY	-	USA 1
GERMANY	-	ICELAND
AUSTRALIA	-	USA 2
<b>BBO</b> DENMARK	-	FRANCE
POLAND	-	TURKEY
NETHERLANDS	-	ITALY
INDIA	-	CANADA
BULGARIA	-	ENGLAND

### Round 2 – 13.30

NORWAY	-	GUADELOUPE
USA 1	-	EGYPT
INDIA	-	PAKISTAN
ENGLAND	-	MOROCCO
GERMANY	-	DENMARK
ICELAND	-	AUSTRALIA
ARGENTINA	-	ITALY
POLAND	-	BULGARIA
NETHERLANDS	-	FRANCE
BELGIUM	-	CANADA
TURKEY	-	BRAZIL
<b>BBO</b> SWEDEN	-	USA 2

### Round 3 – 16.15

GUADELOUPE	-	GERMANY
EGYPT	-	DENMARK
PAKISTAN	-	TURKEY
MOROCCO	-	USA 2
ICELAND	-	POLAND
AUSTRALIA	-	ARGENTINA
USA 1	-	CANADA
NETHERLANDS	-	SWEDEN
BELGIUM	-	BULGARIA
INDIA	-	BRAZIL
FRANCE	-	NORWAY
ENGLAND	-	ITALY

## WUHAN CUP

### Round 1 – 10.00

GUATEMALA	-	PORTUGAL
TUNISIA	-	ITALY
JORDAN	-	CHILE
EGYPT	-	CROATIA
TURKEY	-	USA 2
LATVIA	-	INDIA
NETHERLANDS	-	ROMANIA
FRANCE	-	SINGAPORE
DENMARK	-	ISRAEL
BELGIUM	-	ARGENTINA
POLAND	-	AUSTRALIA
<b>BBO</b> GERMANY	-	USA 1

### Round 2 – 13.30

TURKEY	-	GUATEMALA
USA 2	-	TUNISIA
POLAND	-	JORDAN
ROMANIA	-	EGYPT
CROATIA	-	USA 1
INDIA	-	GERMANY
ITALY	-	ARGENTINA
DENMARK	-	NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM	-	SINGAPORE
CHILE	-	AUSTRALIA
ISRAEL	-	PORTUGAL
<b>BBO</b> LATVIA	-	FRANCE

### Round 3 – 16.15

GUATEMALA	-	LATVIA
TUNISIA	-	FRANCE
JORDAN	-	ISRAEL
EGYPT	-	USA 1
INDIA	-	DENMARK
ROMANIA	-	ARGENTINA
USA 2	-	AUSTRALIA
BELGIUM	-	CROATIA
CHILE	-	NETHERLANDS
POLAND	-	PORTUGAL
SINGAPORE	-	TURKEY
<b>BBO</b> GERMANY	-	ITALY

## WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear friends,  
good morning and welcome to Salsomaggiore Terme to celebrate together the 45th World 2021 Bridge team Championships.

After a 2019 full of satisfactions and successes, culminating with the great event in Wuhan where we celebrated a sumptuous World Championship, the Covid19 pandemic, which started as an evil twist of fate right from Wuhan, brought us to our knees for two long entire year's length. Even today the cursed virus is not completely eradicated and has not abandoned its negative effects, even if a light has begun to glimpse and has allowed us to be here today all together to celebrate our World Championship.

I want to emphasize that being here in Salsomaggiore is an even more important sign because Salsomaggiore is considered the City of Bridge and this year celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of its collaboration with the WBF. From the 1992 the Olympics, to today's World Championship, a thirty-year hug that has brought prestige to bridge.

I want to thank Salsomaggiore for its willingness to host us and in particular the Mayor who is here with us today together with the representative of the regional government to give us his greeting and his welcome, not forgetting the support received from the Italian Federation, to which also goes our thanks.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we have had to take rigid decisions that have forced us to adopt restrictions without which this event could not have seen the light. Moreover, I am sure that all together we will accept these restrictions that allow us to finally be together and to enjoy an event of this magnitude together.

In addition to the measures that have been forced by the pandemic, due to an adverse fate, we have had to take other drastic decisions for facts due exclusively to the will of man in his worst essence of "homo homini lupus".

The ferocious, unacceptable aggression of Russia against Ukraine that we have condemned and still condemn in no uncertain terms has led us to exclude the Russian representatives from these championships. We did it with extreme bitterness for the penalty that was inflicted on absolutely innocent players, but we did it firmly and without any hesitation precisely to show our full and absolute solidarity with Ukraine and its people. Although Ukraine is not here with us physically today, not having qualified, we certainly feel it here with us in spirit and we give it a big, sincere and fraternal applause.

Dear friends, once again I thank you and your Federations for your enthusiastic participation in this event which has filled us with pride and swept away any uncertainty about its success. Thanks to you we are starting in the best way, at full speed and I am sure that we will continue on the same standard until the final goal.

Un grande abbraccio a tutti

*Gianarrigo Rona  
WBF President*





To bridge players everywhere – whether those here in Salsomaggiore enjoying the first Championship where we can play together since 2019, or to players worldwide who are interested in bridge and its future.

Dear friends

I am sure that you have all been affected by the events of the past two years, by not being able to meet, to play bridge together whether at your local clubs or at congresses or championships. So much changed with the onset of this dreadful virus. Life changed a great deal for everyone in so many areas and affecting so many activities, but I remind you that many players discovered after seeing Bill Gates and his partners playing the first bridge online World Cup I organized some years ago, that we can at least continue to play bridge online, on different platforms, against robots or playing with our own partners whether they were friends or comparative strangers, extending our boundaries worldwide.

As a result, we saw a big rise in bridge online where at least we could play our much loved game, although I know that many players, champions or not, were very reluctant to play online and on tablets. I just believe that due to these special circumstances many of them were pleased to find they can continue to play and even professionally. I do not think it surprising that initially we had to face a lot of cheating, although God knows why people feel the need to cheat. Maybe it is out of a sense of pride which later becomes their shame, or possibly for money where they take the risk of losing a great deal more than they can win.

The WBF took measures as did many NBOs and since then we have heard of far fewer cases and let us hope there will be no more. I apologize for referring to these difficult subjects at the point when we are coming back to play face to face but it is important, especially perhaps for the high level players, to appreciate that the image of bridge as well as their own reputations were at stake.

If we compare bridge with other mind sports we benefit considerably less than chess or poker since we have not had the opportunity during this period of trouble to increase our membership, to improve our visibility and to promote our game, which demonstrates that from now on we have to increase the acceptance and use of online games and tablets showing that bridge is a modern game that can be played and enjoyed by everybody.

Whenever we can't meet let's play online – there are many Championship and other events being held very successfully in this way, notably the Zonal qualifying events for the World Teams which were organised in Europe, the USA, Asia and the other zones.

When we can play on site, consider using the new technology available on tablets which greatly reduces the possibility of unauthorized information, which help the directors to determine the real facts and timing, and when playing in a major Championship, which can dispatch immediately on vu graph all the matches without error ( no more recorders ). They mean no more duplication and Bridgemates ...but we can still have the presence of the players at the same table, without cards and bidding boxes, yes, but with the opportunity for better recollection of the bidding and play on a screen.

I remind you that when screens and bidding boxes were first introduced the players were first reluctant but later recognised the benefits and became enthusiastic about their use. Screens are not so widely used other than in major Championships, but the use of bidding boxes has become completely normal and expected at all levels. I am confident it will be the same with the tablet systems some of you experienced already with pleasure while we wait to see what the future will bring to make our sport even better. Technology is moving very fast, and it seems that almost daily we hear of new innovations in so many fields, and I am sure that bridge will be one of those fields as things develop. Who knows where the Metaverse will lead us – developments there could be really exciting.

For now, however, enjoy playing our wonderful game in the old fashioned way whenever you can, and it is safe to do so, but take time to think a little bit about your future and the future of bridge

*José Damiani  
Président Emeritus*



# APOCALYPSE NOW?

Mark Horton

**Dateline: March 24/25 Paris, France.**

**Event: The NukKAI Challenge**

Eight great champions, (Brad Moss, Thomas Bessis, Sabine Auken, Bénédicte Cronier, Mikael Rimstedt, Roy Welland, Anna Gulevich & Nevena Senior) assembled to test their declarer play skills against that of NukK over 800 deals.

The contract was always 3NT after the sequence 1NT-2NT-3NT.

Making the contract scored 10 points, with an extra point being awarded for each overtrick.

The defence was by the robot WB5 and was deterministic, producing the same defence when the sequence of cards was identical.

The score was updated every hour and there was a live stream via YouTube.

I followed some of the play on day one and picked out a few deals:

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

West	North	East	South
WB5	Auken	WB5	Auken
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠8 and Sabine won with the nine and played a diamond for the ten and jack. When that held, she played a heart to the ace and a second diamond. When West proved to have started with the ♦AQ10 she could not be denied nine tricks.

At first glance a club lead appears threatening, as East can switch to a heart at trick two. However, declarer employs the same strategy, rising with the ace and playing a diamond.

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

<p>♠ Q 9 4 3 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ A K 3</p>
---

West	North	East	South
WB5	Bessis	WB5	Bessis
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♣6 and declarer put up dummy's jack. When it held he played a spade, catching East in a Morton's Fork coup. When the ♠Q held declarer cashed the ♦K and continued with the ten. When that also held he played a spade and the appearance of West's jack meant he was assured of 10 tricks.

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

<p>♠ K 10 8 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ A Q 9 7 6</p>
---

West	North	East	South
WB5	Gulevich	WB5	Gulevich
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led the ♠5 and declarer played low from dummy, taking East's jack with the king and cashing the ♦A. When that collected the king, she ran the ♦10 and then played a low club to dummy's jack. East could win and play a spade, but declarer had nine tricks.

I spotted one deal where the Robot declarer had a combination consisting of  
 ♦ AKJ105 opposite  
 ♦ 732  
 with no outside entry to the five-card suit. It rejected the finesse, cashing the AK, felling the doubleton queen offside!

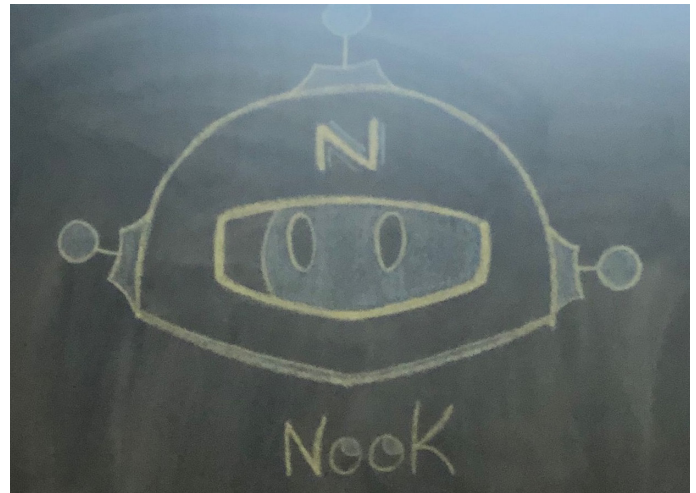
At the last point where I could see the scores, Nukk led 3688-3112 after 474/800 deals. Anna Gulevich was ahead of her robot 407-390!

What this may mean for the future of bridge is unclear – human chess players have become used to being second best when faced by a computer.

*This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.*  
 Sir Winston Churchill

By the time the contest came to an end all the champions had been defeated, the final score being 6147-5238.

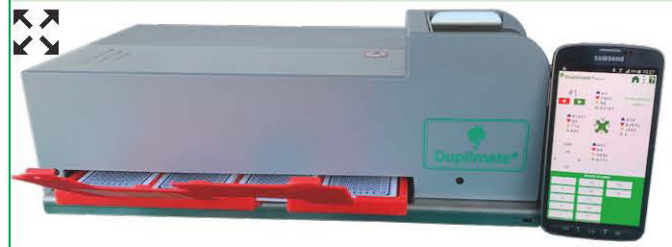
When the machine learns how to bid ...



Nook - the Artificial Intelligence - photo: Arianna Testa

### Championship offer

NEW dealing machines of the type used to duplicate the boards at these championships are sold for the occasional price **EUR 2700** during the championships. Contact the book stall or email [anna@jannersten.com](mailto:anna@jannersten.com)



The closing ceremony - photo: Arianna Testa





# THE SCOTTISH PLAY

Mark Horton

If you are student of the Bard's works you may be aware that it is thought to be unlucky to say Macbeth inside a theatre unless you are performing or rehearsing the play, the Scottish Play being a common substitution. Searching for some entertaining deals that might put you in the right frame of mind for the tasks that lie ahead over the next two weeks I spotted some entertaining videos on the *New Tricks Bridge Club* web site. If you take a moment to watch one of them, you are sure to be entertained by the thoughts of the players during the bidding and play and the instantaneous post-mortems.

We'll start with some deals from a match between England and the USA:

*By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes*  
(Macbeth Act 4 Scene 1)

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wolpert	Robson	Barrington	Townsend
—	—	3♣	Dble
5♣	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

When North was able to come in over 5♣ South made a grand slam try with 6♣ and North was delighted to accept.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Crouch	A Grossack	Zia	Z Grossack
—	—	3♣	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

I can recall many years ago having discussions with the likes of Tony Forrester and the late John Armstrong about how one should proceed after a 3NT overcall. One possibility is to continue to use Stayman and Transfers, another to use 4♣ as a range enquiry.

It was a big swing to England.

*Confusion now hath made his masterpiece*  
Macbeth Act 2 Scene 3

This was the final deal of the match and with England enjoying a healthy lead only pride was at stake.

Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Wolpert	Robson	Barrington	Townsend
Pass	2♣*	2♦	2♥
5♦	6♣	All Pass	

West considered the possibility of jumping directly to 6♦, but reflecting on the vulnerability and the fact that South had been able to show a suit he settled for 5♦.

East led the ♦K and declarer took all the tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Crouch	A Grossack	Zia	Z Grossack
Pass	2♣*	3♦	3♥
5♦	Dble	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣	Dble	6♦*
Pass	6NT	Dble	All Pass

5NT Pick a slam

Zia is busy writing a new book – this deal might be a





## Double, double toil and trouble

Macbeth Act 4 Scene 1

Nick Sandqvist has made some entertaining videos featuring deals from major events. This one comes from the final of the Winter Games in 2020.

Dealer North. All Vul.

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



Sjoert Brink

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Multon	Meckstroth	Zimmermann	Zia
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♠*	3♦*	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♠ Spades and a minor

3♦ Hearts, invitational plus

West led the ♦10 and when East followed with the nine, declarer won and played back the five, East winning with the queen and returning the ♠9. Declarer took West's king with the ace and ruffed a diamond as East followed with the ace, but West overruffed, cashed the ♠Q and gave his partner a ruff. There was still a heart to come, so that was -500.

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Lorenzini	Brink
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♠*	3♦*	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Once again West led the ♦10 but here East took the ace and returned the eight, declarer winning and playing the ♠5 for the queen and ace. Now came a low heart and East fell into declarer's brilliantly conceived trap by putting up the queen. Declarer won with the ace and collected West's ten. The ♥8 went to East's queen and he tried forcing declarer with the ♦Q. After ruffing declarer cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club in dummy, drew trumps and played a spade for +790 and 15 IMPs.



Zia Mahmood



# Mr. Biltcliffe Takes The Clapham Omnibus

Rich Canto

It is a well-kept secret that in the bridge world I am the 'man on the Clapham Omnibus'. A Distinguished Bridge Author regularly calls upon my talents whenever he wishes to know what a sentient, but non-expert bridge player would do in various situations. The upshot of this arrangement is that he gains knowledge of how lesser players approach the game of bridge whilst I glean insights into experts' techniques. This combined with my copious readings of bridge tomes has raised the level of my game to competent. These afore-mentioned tomes sometimes inspire me to attempt to emulate some coup within them that takes my fancy – I am particularly fond of the early Reese books and have even landed a grand slam by leaving winners in dummy 'Lonely as a Rock', also I landed a 3NT contract by ducking the first round holding AKQxx in a suit.

The one coup that always pleases me is one brought to my attention by David Bird, a gentleman who has written more bridge books than I have taken successful finesses, it is the Biltcliffe coup. For the one person who is unaware as to what a Biltcliffe coup is it can be defined as a situation whereby you could have passed out the auction and let the opponents play in a part-score, but you insist upon bidding and they then reach a game which you double and, of course, the contract is a success. It is one of my favourite moments when I am on the right side of the coup.

This weekend playing in the Division 1 Club Teams Championship the following hand occurred:

Dealer North, All Vul.

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



Your humble scribe

♠ 6  
♥ A 9 8 7 6 4  
♦ —  
♣ A K 10 7 5 4

After a couple of Passes I ventured a bid of One Heart and West overcalled with One Spade. Two passes ensued whereupon I essayed Two Clubs and West persisted with Two Diamonds. Partner now sprung to life with a bid of Three Clubs. Now I can virtually underwrite Five Clubs as partner has at least four clubs and a maximum of two hearts – my problem is that their diamonds are higher ranked than my clubs. My reverie is disturbed by a call of Three Diamonds from East, what should I now do I ask myself. I am hopeful that the bidding will not die at the four-level so I temporise with Four Clubs. There is a worrying moment when West pauses and eventually passes, as does my partner. Have I done the wrong thing? No! East comes to my rescue with another diamond bid. In tempo I now produce the Five Club card but West is not yet done - he continues with Five Diamonds. I will not be denied my chance of glory, all I need from partner is four clubs and either a singleton heart or the king. Six Clubs I call and West closes the auction with a Double. The bidding was:

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

Partner has exactly what I need with his singleton heart, the fifth club is an unnecessary bonus. Fortunately for West he started with the ace of spades, had he chosen the ace of diamonds I would have made an overtrick.. I was not tested in the play and claimed at trick three after West continued with his diamond ace and I then discovered that the trumps broke kindly. The opposition could have passed out in a part-score and then had the further opportunity of passing out in game. My first and probably last Biltcliffe slam coup. 'La cerise sur le gateau' was that somehow in the other room our pair played in Three Diamonds making it on the nose. 17 IMPs to the good guys. Just goes to show that even the man on the Clapham Omnibus can learn how to sandbag ☺. I shall correspond again should I ever effect a grand slam Biltcliffe coup.