

The electronic newsletter for students from the EBU studying using the Bridge for All scheme

Spring 2013

Welcome to the fifth edition of the electronic Ruffian.



Personnel at the Aylesbury Office

There are two full time members of staff who work at the Aylesbury Office in the Education department:

Lisa Miller – Bridge for All administrator. Contact Lisa on 01296 317217 lisa@ebu.co.uk for any help regarding *Bridge for All* membership, books and stationery

John Pain – Education Manager. Contact John on 01296 317218 john@ebu.co.uk for anything else in bridge education.

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John's thoughts

Welcome back to term two for those who started lessons before Christmas and a warm welcome to those just starting. I hope you are enjoying your lessons.

Following another successful weekend at Wroxton in October we are planning to make more use of this popular venue. Our final weekend visit to Derby is in April (details later on) but from next April we will be adding Wroxton as our spring venue adding to the regular Autumn one which will continue. And we continue to run our flagship event during the Brighton Summer Meeting – again details can be found later on. There is no limit on space at Brighton, but the other two events are limited to 36 people at each and Wroxton always tends to fill very quickly.

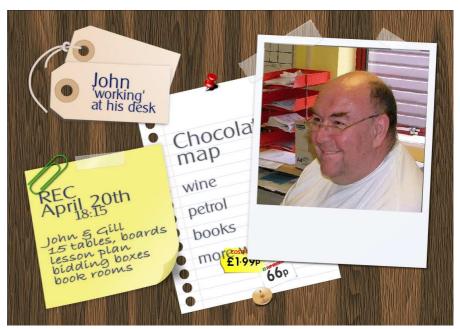
One of our other events is the Junior Teach In, which is held over the bank holiday weekend in August at Loughborough University. Although intended for young players to learn and play bridge at a variety of levels many bring their parents or grandparents who join in as well. So if your bridge is perhaps just one step ahead of your child or grandchild why not give it a go. It's a really good weekend.

Details of all the events are later on the in the magazine.

Pay to Play

Please send Lisa an email (<u>lisa@ebu.co.uk</u>) to say when you finish being a student and move on to play in an affiliated EBU club. That way we can change your membership flag. Unfortunately we don't have an automatic way of doing this.

John Pain – Bridge for All Manager



Really Easy Competitive Bidding

One of the later books in the Really Easy series is *Really Easy Competitive Bidding*. For the first term in your lessons you have uninterrupted auctions. In other words when one side is bidding all the other side do is sit and 'pass'. The quiet side shouldn't fall asleep as there are clues from the bidding that should help with your defence of the hand. Real life isn't like that and in many auctions both sides will be bidding in an attempt to win the contract.

Just because the opposition open the bidding doesn't mean they will play the hand – one opponent may open with 12 HCP, but if his partner has no points at all it means that you 28 HCP between you and your partner, which should be enough to make game.

Really Easy Competitive Bidding takes you through the different ways you can compete in the auction and, even if you don't end up as the declaring side, may give clues to successfully defeating the contract.

Here is a sample from chapter 4 of the book – this is the section on overcalling 1NT.

No trump overcalls

No trump overcalls are the simplest ones to consider first, because our normal bidding methods are used to respond.

- ▲ A64
- ♥ J105 C
- Opener bids 14, what do you overcall?
- KQ7
- The answer, which hurts many players, is to pass, despite the 13 HCP that would happily open 1NT.
- ♣ K532

Don't overcall just because you have opening bid values

When you open the bidding with 13 HCP, you assume each of the other three players has their share of the missing points, so partner will have 9 HCP on average and your side should have a combined 22 HCP to the opponents' combined 18 HCP. Normally that's enough for seven tricks. If you overcall on 13 HCP and the opening bidder has at least 13 HCP too, that leaves at most 14 HCP for the other two hands, an average of 7 HCP each. So you can expect your side to have a combined 20 HCP count. The opening club lead will immediately set up winners for the defence and you will be lucky to make five tricks.

Worse still, left hand opponent knows his partner has an opening bid. If he is a bit better than expected, say 10 HCP, he can make a penalty double and that should get the opponents a good score. You will have to play the hand with at most four points in dummy!

So it is wise to make your 1NT overcall a bit stronger. Agree the exact strength with your partner but either 16-18 or 15-17 HCP are sensible ranges. This book assumes 16-18 HCP but play what you prefer.

- AK2
- ♥ Q 10 5
- QJ109
- ♣ KQ3
- Opener bids 1. With 17 HCP and two club stops, this is a very good 1NT overcall. You can expect partner to have five of the remaining ten points, giving a combined 22 HCP. Even if partner has fewer points, you should make two diamonds, two spades and two clubs in your own hand, so need not fear a

penalty double.

Responding to a 1NT overcall

After a 1NT overcall your side should play exactly the same methods as you do after a 1NT opening bid. Remember, the hand is stronger by about 4 HCP and adjust the point ranges accordingly.

Use Stayman, transfer responses, natural responses, whatever you usually play. Once the 1NT overcall has been made, partner is in charge of the auction – just as when 1NT has been opened. Should game be bid, it will be easier to play because you know where all the high cards are. In fact, provided you have opener's suit well stopped, game often makes on a lower point count.

Takeout double if third hand bids

- ▲ 10975
- KJ32 Over the opening 1. bid, your partner overcalls 1NT. Third hand bids 2. What do you do now?
- A 8 6 4
- **.** 9

With 8 HCP game is possible. Without opponent's 2♣ bid, you would bid a Stayman 2♣ and raised a major suit reply to 3♥/♠ or bid 2NT over 2♠. Third hand has spoiled your plan by bidding 2♣.

How would you have bid if partner had opened 1NT and the next hand had made a natural 2* bid? This is another area where you need to agree your methods with partner.

Standard English Acol suggests that you play double for takeout in both auctions. This is the same as you would do if partner opened 1 • and the next hand overcalled 2 •, double is takeout and asks partner for more information. There is more on take out doubles in a later chapter.

This takeout double shows some values. You expect partner to respond but, with a very good holding in their suit, partner can pass for penalties.

If you double any natural suit bid, up to and including 2♠ as your first bid, it is for takeout. This is true whether partner opened or overcalled, either in a suit or no trumps.

Bidding stronger balanced hands

If a 1NT overcall is restricted to 16-18 points, how should stronger balanced hands with stoppers in the suit opened be bid?

In simple systems, a 2NT overcall by second seat is available, covering the same range as a 2NT opening bid. But many people use the 2NT overcall to show the two lower unbid suits (see a later chapter), so the suggested treatment includes the full range of points from 19 HCP upwards.

All hands with 19+ HCP start with a double. For example

- A K 2
- ◆ A J 5

 Opener bids 1♣. You double, as with 20 HCP you are too strong for 1NT. Third
- Q J 10 9 hand passes and partner responds 1 v. What do you bid now?
- ♣ KQ3

Bid 1NT. It shows a 19-21 hand. Since partner has already made one natural bid, all continuations are natural. Partner will have few points, so it's important not to get carried away by your monster hand. Partner would need about 5 HCP to raise to 2NT and 6 HCP to bid 3NT.

If your hand is a bit stronger, say your hearts are ▼A K J rather than ▼A J 5, then rebid 2NT showing 22-24 HCP. Any more than that you might as well shoot 3NT and hope for the best. Deduct a point from these point ranges if you play a 15-17 HCP 1NT overcall.

No hand can be bid accurately to the nearest point, so you need to use your commonsense. A hand with a good 5-card suit is often worth an extra trick and should be upgraded. A hand with only one stopper in the suit opened will be harder to play and should be downgraded.

A J 6

Opener bids 1. You double with 20 HCP. Third hand passes and partner responds 1. Going on the above figures you would bid 1NT but with this

K Q J 10 9 strong 20 count you can see eight tricks in your own hand, so 2NT is a better

🔥 AJ10 bid.

Look at shape as well as points, when you value your hand

Bidding no trumps in fourth seat

If left hand opens the bidding, partner passes and third hand responds, you are fourth to speak. A 1NT overcall can still be made, but it is wise to be well up to strength, since partner may be very weak.

It is different if third hand passes the opening bid, showing fewer than five points. Your partner must have values and even game is possible.

∧ K(Q87	Dealer V	/est : Love a	all		
v K9		West	North	East	South	
• K7	7	1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT	
4 10	95	Pass	2 . *	Pass	2♦	
 ▲ 103 ▼ AJ 1064 ◆ A65 ♣ A62 ◆ Q3 ◆ Q4 ♣ KJ 	32 J 10 4	Pass All Pass * 2* is	2NT Stayman	Pass	3NT	

North passes 1♥. East won't reply with 3 HCP, so the bidding comes to South who is in the **protective position** – so called as South must protect his side's best score. Whilst in second seat South needs 16-18 HCP to bid 1NT, in the protective position South can bid it on 12-14. The danger of a penalty double no longer exists, as North is marked with some values.

North responds to this protective 1NT exactly as if a weak 1NT had been opened. In this case, with 11 HCP, North checks whether partner has four spades before inviting game with 2NT.

When South has a balanced 15+ HCP, he would double first. If North responds 1♠ to the double of 1hx, South bids 1NT showing 15-18. If the response is 2♣ or 2♦ South has to bid 2NT. Some people play that a protective no trump shows 12-15 HCP to avoid overbidding.

However if South has a really strong hand, there is less inference that North has values. A 2NT bid should be natural and show 19-21 HCP, with subsequent bidding as if South had opened 2NT.

Sample auctions using no trump overcalls

North	South	Auction				
♠ K Q 7 4	♠ A J 10	West	North	East	South	
♥ K Q 6 5	♥ J 10 7 4	1 ♦	1NT	pass	2*	
♦A Q 2	♦K 5	Pass	2♥	pass	4♥	
♣ J 5	♣ 9632	1NT is b	est, despite l	both majors	s. If North were to double, a	
		2♣ respo	onse by Sout	th would ca	ause a problem.	
▲ K Q 7 4	♦ J 10 2	West	North	East	South	
♥ K Q 6 5	v 974	1 ♦	double	pass	2*	
♦A Q J	♦ 854	Pass	2NT	pass	3NT	
♣ A J	♣ K 10 9 3	North is	too strong fo	r an immed	diate 1NT.	
♠ K Q 8 4	▲ J 10 9 2	West	North	East	South	
♥ K965	∀ A 4	1 ♦	1NT	pass	2*	
♦A Q 2	♦ 8 5	Pass	2♥	pass	2NT	
. •Q 6	. K9853	Pass	4 ^	-		
		South m	ust have a m	ajor to use	e Stayman.	
♦ K 8 2	♠ QJ93	West	North	East	South	
♥ K J 5	♥ Q 10 6 2	1 ♦	1NT	2♦	double	
♦ K Q J 10	♦ 5	South's	South's double is takeout, but North converts to penalty and			
♣A 10 6	♣ J953	leads ♦ k	ζ.			
♠ A K Q 10	♦ J32	West	North	East	South	
♥ K Q J 10	♥ 7 3 2	1 ♦	double	pass	2*	
♦A J 10	♦ 98	Pass	3NT			
♣ A 5	♣ J9873	North is	too strong fo	r an immed	diate 1NT	
♠ A 8 7	▲ J963	West	North	East	South	
♥ K 6 4	♥ A 7 3	1 ♦	double	1NT	all pass	
♦A 10 2	♦ 853	The Nort	th hand is no	t worth 1N	T – the diamonds are not	
. A765	4 10 9 3			e if you fee	I you must do something,	
		rather th				
♠ A 8 7	♠ QJ63	West	North	East	South	
♥ 10 6	♥ A K 3 2	1 ♦	1NT	pass	2*	
♦A J 10	♦ 8 5	Pass	2♦	pass	3NT	
. KQJ76	4 1093	This 15 HCP is always worth a 1NT bid.				

Quiz

West opens 1♥. As North, would you bid on the hand shown? If 1♥ were followed by two passes, would you bid as South?

1	2	3	4	5	6
♠ A 7 4	♠ A 7 4	♠ A J 9	 A 7	♦ A74	♠ A Q 7 4
♥ Q 9 4 3	♥ Q J 9 3	∀ K Q 9 4	y 9432	♥ Q 10 9	∀ A 9
♦ K Q 7	♦ K Q J 10	♦K Q J 10	♦A K J	♦ K Q J 7 3	♦ KJ1043
. ⊀K 7 2	. ⊀K 7	. ⊀ 7	. A 8 7 2	. ⊀K 7	. ⊀K 7

Answers are on the next page

1	AA74 ♥Q943 •KQ7 •K72	Pass in second seat, you have no good bid to make. After two passes you would bid a protective 1NT, showing 12- 14 HCP
2	AA74 ♥QJ93 ♦KQJ10 &K7	1NT. Two jacks better than the last example but much stronger in tricks, with three diamonds, two hearts and one in each black suit a possibility After two passes you would double then bid no trumps.
3	AAJ9 ▼KQ94 ◆KQJ10 &K7	Double. Too strong for an immediate 1NT. Bid 1NT after a 1sx response and 2NT after 2♣ or 2♠. This shows a good 18 to 21 HCP. When protecting bid 2NT, showing 19-21 HCP.
4	AA7 ♥9432 ◆AKJ AA872	If you must bid, it has to be 1NT, but with only four tricks and a poor heart stop don't be surprised when you go down. A pass in fourth seat is likely to be the best result too, partner hasn't bid with short hearts.
5	AA74 ♥Q109 ♦KQJ73 ♣K7	1NT. This is thin on points but good on tricks, so 1NT is better than 2♦. Awkward to decide in fourth seat, an overweight 1NT should score better than bidding 2♦.
6	AAQ74 ♥A9 ♦KJ1043 ♣K7	Double. Great if partner responds 1♠. Over the more likely 2♣ response, you bid 2♦ showing a good hand and at least a 5-card diamond suit. Double in fourth seat too.

All Really Easy books are available from the Bridge Shop – see details on Page 12.



The James Bond hand

Here's a freak hand which featured in *Moonraker* by Ian Fleming, but when it was turned into a film the bridge game wasn't featured. Shame.

↑ 109	87	Dealer Sc	outh		
v 654		West	North	East	South
• -					7 . *
. 765	32	Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
♠ 65432	 AKQJ	All Pass			
v 109872	AKQJ				
♦J109	◆ A K				
 -	♣ KJ9				
^ -					
y -					
• Q87	765432				
. AQ	1084				

Of course it's a rigged hand. Bond sits South with M. as his partner; the evil villain Drax is East with his sidekick Meyer sitting West. East doubles with some relish that he will get a huge penalty, but Bond redoubles sewing the seed of doubt in Drax's mind.

Meyer has to find a lead and after a long thought chose the ◆J.

Now is your chance for glory as you have to make 7♣ redoubled. Answer on the next page.

The James Bond hand

How did you get on?

Well it's a completely different game when the hand is rigged and you know where all the outstanding cards are. In many bridge puzzles you are allowed to see all four hands but that doesn't necessarily make the problem any easier. Such a problem is called a *double dummy* problem.

You ruff the diamond lead in dummy and lead ♣3. Whatever East plays you just cover it – so the 10 covers the 9, queen covers the jack etc. Now play another diamond and ruff it. That drops East's ♠A, play another club and cover East's card. Now play the ♣A which brings down the last club, cash ♠Q which draws the last diamond and all the diamonds are now good. A grand slam on only eight high card points.

And finally work out the score – assuming this is non-vulnerable AND you are playing duplicate you would get 1960 for your trouble (seven club tricks at 20 = 140 but doubled and redoubled makes it 560. You get 100 for making a redoubled contract, 300 for game and 1000 for a non vulnerable grand slam).



Our man in Havana?

Who remembers the 1958 film adaptation of Graham Green's novel, starring Alec Guiness? Well, maybe not but the EBU does have a number of it's qualified teachers living in various outposts around the world doing their best to spread the Acol word. So 'Our man in'

Perhaps our furthest flung (and nearest to Cuba) is John Cullingworth, formerly of Dartford, Kent but now flying the flag in Tobago. Harris Raphael runs bridge breaks in the Dordogne, France as does Kedagh von Roretz in Tuscany, Italy. Anne Owen is teaching bridge in Malaga, Spain.

Nearer to home we have a number of teachers in Scotland (Maurice Piggott and Laura Porro) and Wales (Anne Davies, Anne Jones, Keith and Carol Butler) who use the *Bridge for All* materials as their home unions do not have a similar course to ours.

We've also had a few people wishing to take the EBU's Club Tournament Director qualification from overseas and where it's been impossible to bring them over to a course (Australia and New Zealand are a bit far) I've been able to do a written paper alternative for the assessment. When I visited Botswana in 2008 I ran the Club TD course there and qualified about 12 people.

So the EBU is spreading far and wide.



Bridge in the House of Lords

On 24th January the All Party Parliamentary Group demonstrated their further support for the development of duplicate bridge, by inviting eighteen pupils from two primary schools to the Houses of Parliament to play a game of Minibridge. The schools that attended were from London: St Peter's - Eaton Square and St Christina's School, and have been playing Minibridge for two years.

On their arrival, the children were treated to a meeting with the Lord Speaker of the House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza, and then to a grand tour of the Houses of Parliament conducted by Lord Skelmersdale and Lord Hamilton.



This was followed by a Minibridge match in the River Room which the Lord Speaker had graciously made available for the event. After 8 boards of Minibridge had been played, it was announced by the Tournament Director Gordon Rainsford, that the St Christina's team had won overall. Well done to them.

The EBU extend their grateful thanks to Baroness Henig, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for organising this event. We would also like to thank the teachers Samantha Sharples (St Peter's) and Bronagh Finnison (St Christina's School) and all their pupils for demonstrating how Minibridge is a great way of learning maths and logic whilst having lots of fun.

Report by Matt Betts - EBU Press and Communications Officer



Events for students in 2013 10thReally Easy Summer Congresses at Brighton

Novices and students – Monday 12th to Wednesday 14th August

Next Step – Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th August



The **novices and students** will be expected to play Standard English Acol and playing sessions will be between 15 and 21 boards. There will be an instructional session on Monday afternoon. There will be two play sessions on Tuesday and a longer single session on Wednesday. You will probably still be in your first year of learning or be part way through the second year. You may have had some experience of a supervised bridge session at the club but are probably not a regular club player yet.

For the **Next Step event** students will be able to use their own familiar system and more boards will be played – 21 to 24 boards per session. The emphasis will be more on play and there will only be one instruction session for this group. You will probably have been playing at a local club for a few months but may not have tried a County or EBU event before.



Both events are priced at only £41 for the bridge, but players have to make their own arrangements regarding accommodation and refreshments.

You can make your entry by ringing Peter or Dawn in the EBU Competitions Department – 01296 317203/219.

You can book rooms at the Metropole Hotel by ringing 01273 775432 but we have a booking service for non-Metropole Hotel accommodation http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/abs.htm

Really Easy Congress Programmes

	Novices & students		Next step	
Monday	2.00pm - 4.00pm Lesson			
12th	4.00pm Free tir	ne		
12111	7.00pm – 10.00pm Play se	ssion		
	10am - 12.30pm Play wi	th set hands		
Tuesday	12.30pm – 2.30pm Free tir	ne		
Tuesday 13th	2.30pm - 5.30pm Play se	ssion	2.00pm	Play session
1301	Free evening – gentle play av	ailable.	5.00pm	Free time
			7.00pm -10.00pm	Play session
Modpoodov	10.30am Play session -	- Swiss Pairs	10.30am Play	session – Swiss Pairs
Wednesday 14th	3.30pm Final results ar	nd departure	3.30pm	Free time
1401	(includes lunch break)	•	7.00pm -10.00pm	Play session
			10am	Lecture
Thursday			11.30am	Free time
15th			1.30pm	Play session
			4.30pm Fina	Il results and departure

We are pleased to announce that in addition to the usual staff of Gill Pain and Ian Mitchell there will be guest tutors once again – Tessa Templeton and Nicole Cook.

If you are an experienced 'Next Stepper' you might like to try our new 'Brighton Lite' events which are played over both weekends of the Brighton Summer Meeting. The first weekend (August 10th/11th) features two one-day Green Pointed Swiss Team events and two one-day Green Pointed stratified Swiss Pairs events on the second weekend (August 17th/18th). For full details of all 'Brighton Lite' events click on this link

http://www.ebu.co.uk/general/frontpage/documents/BrightonLite_version2.pdf

Bridge for All Breaks 2013 and 2014

Really Easy Spring Break – The Midland Hotel, Derby – April 19th to 21st 2013

There is still time to enter our spring break where we are returning to our popular spring venue of the Midland Hotel. This attractive hotel is right opposite Derby Railway station. We can only take 36 people for the weekend, which is suitable for both 1st and 2nd year students.



There will be four playing sessions Friday evening, late Saturday afternoon and evening and an extended session on Sunday either side of a light lunch. There will be an instructional session on Saturday morning allowing some free time afterwards.

The hotel package of two nights dinner, bed and breakfast is £143 per person. There is no single person supplement. Hotel bookings should be made direct with the hotel on 01332 345894 quoting reference 61815.

The bridge fee of £40 per person. You can make your entry by ringing Peter or Dawn in the EBU Competitions Department – 01296 317203/219.

Please note that it is not possible to entertain non-residential guests at this event. There is a limit of 36 places available.



Really Easy Wroxton Breaks – The Wroxton House Hotel, Nr Banbury October 25th to 27th 2013 March 28th to 30th 2014 October 24th to 26th 2014

There are three weekends planned for these popular weekend house parties for more experienced newer players, with up to 5 years experience.



There will be one instructional session on Saturday morning but otherwise the emphasis is on play.

The hotel package consists of two night dinner, bed, breakfast and sandwich lunch on Sunday. Tea and coffee will be served twice on Saturday and once on Sunday.

The hotel package for October 2013 is £177 single occupancy, (£147 per person sharing a twin/double room). Hotel bookings should be made direct with the hotel on 01295 730777 quoting Group Booking Reference 45537.

(For 2014 the rates are £182 for single occupancy/£156 pp sharing (March 2014 ref: 47543, October 2014 ref: 45569))

The bridge fee of £40 per person.

Please note that it is not possible to entertain non-residential guests at this event.

There is a limit of 36 places available. There are a limited number of single occupancy rooms.

(Future Wroxton dates – March 28th to 30th 2014 and October 24th to 26th 2014)

All our events use duplimated boards with hand records and the latest Bridgemate technology for scoring. Final results are displayed within minutes of the final table finishing.

You can make your entry for any of our events by ringing Peter or Dawn in the EBU Competitions Department – 01296 317203/219.

The Junior Teach In 2013 Loughborough University

This is a really fun weekend of bridge for ages 6-20, but adults are welcome too. Absolute beginners through to junior internationals. Everyone loves it and comes back each year. You are quite good enough. You will have a room of your own and lots of food. £135 for children; £150 for accompanying adults.

It will be held over the weekend of **23rd to 25th August 2013** at Loughborough University. For more details, visit http://www.ebu.co.uk/youth/JTI%20Leaflet%202013.pdf

You can ask your bridge teacher about it.

It is ideal for parents and grandparents to bring the children. Adults can join in the bridge classes and the bridge sessions.

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Do you have any news about your own bridge learning experiences or what it was like when you went to the club. I would love to hear your news about anything bridge related. Please email john@ebu.co.uk with any snippets that you think others would like to read about.

Use classroom equipment at home Available from the Bridge Shop



Pellisier tables - folding wood tables

798mm square; Mahogany coloured frame; folding for easy stacking

Club tables - folding plastic tables

Black with metal legs; top 34 inches square

Corded velvet table covers - Green, wine or blue
Bidding boxes, set of four - Red or green
Bidding buddies, set of four - Red, green or dark blue
Card holder (semi-circular, sits on the table)

Plastic card holder (circular, hand held, set of 4: red, green, yellow, blue)
Carta Mundi Superluxe playing cards (supplied per dozen)
Black Jack cards Large figures for easy reading (Min. order 2 packs)
Presentation Packs of Cards (2 packs)

Plastic wallets (set of 16)

Books in the Really Easy Series

Really Easy Bidding

Really Easy Play in No Trumps

Really Easy Play with Trumps

Really Easy Defence

Really Easy Mistakes

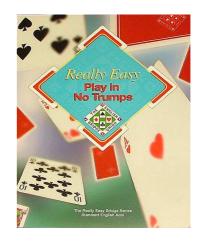
Really Easy Competitive Bidding

Really Easy Modern Acol

Really Easy Slams

Practice Beginning Bridge

Practice Continuing Bridge





Little Book of Bridge tips
Standard English System Summary Card
Useful Conventions Summary Card
Carriage costs will be added to orders.

Prices on application from the Bridge Shop – they often have special deals

How to order: Telephone 01296 397851 between 9am and 5pm and ask for the Bridge Shop, or send an email to bridge.shop@ebu.co.uk.

Alternatively, an order can be faxed (01296 317220)

You can pay by credit card or we can send you an invoice with your goods.