Autumn 2008

Issue Twenty Nine

• The Andrew Robson Bridge Club

31 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 4HH

020 7471 4626

Our first Cruise a huge success see pages 16 & 17

• Andrew's two NEW books Fabulous holiday programme IEW Advanced Defence Course

The acclaimed Bridge Lessons series A lesson and an illustrative deal per page, to perfect your understanding of ... Double • Slam • Overcall • Opening Lead • Weak Two Finesse • Stayman & Transfer • Signal & Discard • Endplay & Squeeze including Responder & **Bidding** as Opener Fourth Suit Forcing the two Bridge lessons new books: Bridg See p14 for sample by Andre. deal Copies available in the Club or from our new online shop Responder & Bidding as Opener Fourth Suit Forcing where you can now order AND pay : and 4 4 and 9 9 . . . each www.arobson.co.uk



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Andrew's Editorial

Uniquely special is how we all feel – myself, my wonderful team and you fabulous members. <u>We</u> know that there's no other Bridge Club like it, but it's

especially nice to be recognised globally. Here are some extracts from ex-President of the World Bridge Federation Bobby Wolff's acclaimed book "The Lone Wolff":

"While we were in London on the way to the World Championships in 2005, we decided to find a Bridge Club. We chose Andy Robson's, a special friend and a much respected



world bridge personality and teacher." (Anybody can call me Andy if they make nice comments like that – ed.). "We were treated to an unforgettably positive experience....it was obvious from the moment we arrived that his workplace was a labour of love...Andy's staff expended a great deal of time enlightening his patrons and offering them expert guidance...the scorecard was the best I had seen for clarity, convention notification, and for helpful information...I am not embarrassed to admit that I was so taken with their efforts, I pilfered a few convention cards and brought them back to the USA....by the way if you are ever in London and a free night presents itself, a trip to Andy's Bridge establishment will be an evening well spent."

Thank you so much Bobby - that really means a lot, especially for someone of your standing in the world of Bridge. As we all know, though, ARBC is hardly a oneman show – quite the reverse. I've said it before and I'll say it again (and again): I have a fantastic team and really super members. It's YOU who make the Club so special. Thank you to you all.

You will enjoy reading this Magazine. Our first Cruise proved a huge success – and you will surely smile when you look at two highly amusing accounts on pages 16 and 17. See some lovely photos, for which I give big thanks to Gilly Cardiff and Natasha. They have given me so many really, really nice pictures of you (pages 8 and 13), and, for a change, there is also a small photographic display of members of staff (page 6). Read about David and me winning the prestigious Crockfords Cup – overleaf. And there's lots more, including shameless plugs for my two new books in the Bridge Lessons series: "Bidding as Opener", plus "Responder & Fourth Suit Forcing". They're two of my favourites – and I am sure they'll benefit your game.

Following the success of the cruise, led by the dynamic duo of Jack and Lorna, there are many more exciting holiday opportunities. In chronological order:

Returns to the delightful Millstream Hotel in Bosham.
 Our November weekend is now fully booked, but there are places on next Spring's Midweek break (31st March – 3rd April 2009).

• Back to the oh-so-special Hotel Alex in the heart of the delightful Zermatt (January 24th – 31st 2009).

• A second cruise – to the beautiful Norwegian Fjords (June 28th – July 5th 2009).

• A return after several years to the unforgettable Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa, on Lake Maggiore (September 12th – 19th 2009).

Read about these exciting opportunities in more detail on pages 9-12.

Closer to home, there are many excitements to look forward to at ARBC as the summer draws to a close, and Bridge returns to the forefront of our minds (if it was ever away). My new Advanced Defence course begins, along with the other courses, in mid-September (see accompanying pamphlet for details of all courses). The return of Saturday Bridge follows soon after (October 3rd). A month later and we have the always enjoyable annual Championship Pairs (November 15th). Children's Courses take place on December 22nd and 23rd. Oh, and I almost forgot, the Christmas Party will be held on December 19th, where we'll all drink to another happy year at ARBC, as we play some lighthearted Chicago Bridge (for free!). The Club will be shut after the Tuesday evening duplicate on December 23rd, and will open again on Monday January 5th 2009.

Have a happy Autumn, at and away from the Club, and thank you all for your support,

One final thing: there is a huge amount of lost property in the Club that has accrued – including over 20 lovely scarves. Please come and reclaim before

we give it away to Charity.



Thankyou to Lorna Vestey's 'Ace Art' for all pictures at ARBC. Front cover: Dubrovnik - a highlight of our Cruise.

Winning the Crockfords Cup by Andrew

It really is enormous. The Cup I mean. [My four team members – Alexander Allfrey (who runs our Donhead satellite), our own David, the Daily Telegraph's Tony Forrester and myself could barely carry it.] I didn't mean the achievement...but we were pretty happy about that.

Arriving at the hotel venue in Hinckley, Leicestershire, on a sunny Saturday morning in mid-May, an hour before play started, I hoped that my team had recovered from our near-win the Spring Fours the previous weekend (we'd snatched defeat from the jaws of victory). We were all raring to go.

The first deal is so often a portent of things to come, and I was pleased to make a slightly chancy double of a hesitant auction to 4^{\clubsuit} . Down three, after a slight misplay by declarer. I exhaled inwardly – in spite of the strongest ever field in the eight-team final, I thought we'd do it.

We did – but not without coming from behind, lying just third at the half-way stage and well behind the overnight leaders. This was perhaps the key board in the head-to-head match with those leaders early the next morning:

Dealer: South	North - South Vunerable			
	Andrew ♣ 863 ♥ K2 ♦ Q873 ♣ A874			
 ▲ J 10 7 ♥ 8 4 ♦ K J 10 6 5 ♣ 10 3 	$ \begin{array}{c} N \\ W \\ E \\ S \end{array} \begin{array}{c} A \\ Q \\ 9 \\ 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0$			
	 ▲ K ▲ A Q J 9 7 5 ◆ 9 4 ♣ K 9 5 2 Jexander 			

The Bidding					
S	W	N	Е		
1♥	pass	1NT	pass		
2♥	pass	pass	2♠		
pass	pass	3♥	pass		
pass	3♠	4♥	end		

I had no real business bidding $4 \clubsuit$, but my three small spades looked to be facing shortage, and I liked my three high cards. Plus, they pay you well for making a vulnerable game, and I thought my opponents might be feeling a little groggy (one is a professional pokerplaying night-owl).

4♥ looks to have four top losers, but Alexander showed his class. West led a passive trump, which declarer won in hand and immediately advanced the nine of diamonds. West omitted to play the ten, so this ran to East's ace. East returned a diamond, playing for a third-round ruff, whereupon West won the king and (still failing to play the ace of spades), returned the jack of diamonds.

Phew! Alexander played low from dummy, and could now draw trumps, cross to the ace clubs, and discard his king of spades on the promoted queen of diamonds. He next played king of clubs and gave up a club, able to ruff the spade return and cash a long club. 10 tricks and game made.

Quote by Peter Stocken

They say of ARBC that if you play there long enough, you will meet everybody you have ever known.

Read Andrew weekly in the Country Life Magazine





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Duplicate Ethics by Andrew

There is a fine line between encouraging less experienced players & giving them a non-threatening duplicate environment on the one hand; and playing (strictly) by the rules on the other. With this fine line in mind, let me draw your attention to three important things:

(A) If you are playing a convention, both you and partner should know it properly. If the convention occurs, the partner of the conventional bidder should tell the opponents exactly what the bid means. The conventional bidder should never say anything, including "Oh, I forgot", or "I haven't got that", or indeed volunteer any information at all. If partner's explanation proves to be incorrect, then call the Tournament Director over at the end – they're very charming, and they will try to restore equity in the nicest possible way. (B) After you have turned over your card (to the previous trick), strictly speaking you are not allowed to have a look at the other player's cards again (although you can look at your card). If an opponent chooses to waive this rule, letting you look at the last trick after you've turned your card over, thank them, for they are not compelled to do so.

(C) You are allowed to pause. But you are not allowed to bid based on partner's pause. Please never bid based on partner's hesitation, reasoning, "Partner paused, so I thought he had something, so I felt safer to bid". I'm afraid this reasoning is not part of Bridge.

Okay, that's the boring bit over. Can I just say what a fantastic lot of Duplicate Players you are, and how proud of you all I am. The game of Bridge is played in a wonderful spirit at 31 Parsons Green Lane, and the last thing I wish to do is quell that spirit. The purpose of this small piece is in no way chiding, rather educating.

Andrew's Fabulous Team



The wonderful Caroline



The maestro David



Nick



Martin - welcome back & Marina's baby Sky



Jack and Lorna cruising



Grazyna and Sergei



And don't forget Richard, Natasha, Emma, Peter, Pip, Paddy, Heather, Brian, Jane, and all others who help to make the team so special.



A5 leaflet (Issue 29 Autumn 08):Layout 1 7/8/08 15:05 Page 7

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Dicky Darzi



Judith Charles



Eddie Kulukundis



Douglas Johnstone



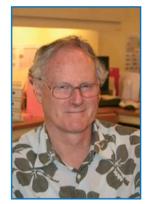
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Mark Jackson



Sally Chandler

ARBC Bridge Holiday Programme

Dear ARBC Members,

How time flies; I can hardly believe it is a year since we left London for Yorkshire. When the sun has shone, village life has been blissful with meals in the garden and walks in the Dales, in between changing nappies! I even had time to play in a Bridge tournament, the Yorkshire Masters Pairs, and was lucky enough to win, helped by making 4^{\clubsuit} doubled plus one on the first hand, always a good omen.

I have had an amazing response to the 2009 Zermatt Ski/Bridge Holiday with over 25 confirmed bookings so far. However we can take as many as 40, so if you fancy enjoying your two favourite pastimes in a world famous resort, then you know where to come.



The November Millstream weekend is fully booked but we are already taking bookings for our April 2009 Midweek break to the same hotel. Our first midweek break was very well received last year and once again, we will be organising a lunch and afternoon excursion.

2009 promises to be a great year for ARBC Holidays. Our second cruise takes us to the Norwegian Fjords at the end of June and I must thank all the members for the kind words they wrote about the recent Mediterranean Cruise. I know that many people were a bit nervous about going on a cruise but the combination of having our exclusive ARBC group, dedicated Bridge room and ARBC dining tables, meant that we only had to socialise with others if we wanted to. The hardest part about the cruise was keeping up with the drinking pace of the ARBC members and my wonderful co-host.

I have recently finalised the Italian Lakes information sheets and bookings are well under way for this September 2009 holiday. Many ARBC members thought our 2005 trip (to the same hotel) was our best ever holiday, so we are really looking forward to our return. The hotel overlooks Lake Maggiore and there are two fantastic excursions organised.

As the new season beckons, good luck with those tricky 3NT contracts and hope to see you soon.

Best wishes

Jack, Annabel and Sophie

Contact: Jack Stocken Mobile: 07775 892 720 Email: jack@yorkshirebridge.com www.arobson.co.uk/holidays.php3

ARBC Holidays

Zermatt Ski Trip

Saturday 24th to 31st January 2009

We are delighted to be returning to the Hotel Alex in Zermatt for our annual ski trip, which was such a popular destination three years ago. Jack, assisted by Lorna, will be hosting an informative and entertaining Bridge programme, suitable for ALL levels. By popular demand, we have booked William and his colleague Gerry to be our personal ski guides for the week.

Hotel Alex facilities include a heated swimming pool and tennis court, both indoors, a sauna, a fitness area and also body massages and solarium (not included).

I have 30 bookings for this holiday already, so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Prices from £1330





Millstream Midweek Break

Tuesday 31st March - Friday 3rd April 2009

After the great success of our first midweek trip to this marvellous hotel, Jack and Lorna are delighted to announce that they are hosting another Spring Bridge holiday to the Millstream. As it is a midweek break we are able to stay for an extra night, so more time to, hone up your skills at the Bridge table! We will also organise an optional excursion with lunch.

The mixture of Bridge play, teaching, good company and gastronomy make for the perfect break. Please book early as numbers are limited.



Prices from £430

Contact: Jack Stocken Mobile: 07775 892 720 Email: jack@yorkshirebridge.com www.arobson.co.uk/holidays.php3

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ARBC Holidays

Norwegian Fjords Cruise on Balmoral

28th June - 5th July 2009

After the huge success of June's Mediterranean Cruise we are very much looking forward to our June 2009 Cruise with a fascinatingly contrasting itinerary on board the Balmoral – a homecoming for Norwegian company Fred. Olsen, sailing conveniently from the UK to the Norwegian Fjords. The whole trip is wonderfully enhanced by the exclusive opportunity to enjoy Bridge each day in the airy card room, hosted by Jack Stocken and Lorna Heaton. A special welcome cocktail party gives you the opportunity to meet your fellow Bridge players very early in the cruise, and the combination of exciting time ashore, and lots of play on board is irresistible.

Your itinerary:

Sunday 28th June - Embark conveniently in Dover

Monday 29th June - A day at sea to familiarise yourself with the ship

Tuesday 30th June - A day in lovely Bergen, Norway's ancient capital, to explore its picturesque streets and ancient market, not to mention the beautiful surrounding countryside

Wednesday 1st July - Enjoy the picturesque town of Olden with its two ancient churches, pretty buildings, and wonderful walks

Thursday 2nd July - Spend the morning in the delightful village of Flam. See the crystal clear streams and towering mountains, not to mention the world famous Flam Valley railway. The afternoon is spent in Gudvangen where waterfalls line the steep mountainsides, and goat farms lie scattered about the lush green valleys.

Friday 3rd July - Beautiful Eidfjord is where you can see the best known waterfall in Norway, Voringfossen

Saturday 4th July - A day at sea

Sunday 5th July - Disembark Dover

Although Norway, like England, has unpredictable summer weather, you can expect to enjoy some sunny days and long, long summer evenings at this time of year.

Fares start from £788 per person for twins, and £1,344 for singles. We have limited singles available, and are holding cabins until the end of September so we suggest you BOOK NOW to secure your place on this very special trip.

Call Sharon Trigg at Mundy Cruising 020 7734 4404 *or email sharon@mundycruising.co.uk Further details are on the Club website www.arobson.co.uk or in the Club foyer.*

Contact: Sharon Trigg Tel: 020 7734 4404 Email: sharon@mundycruising.co.uk www.arobson.co.uk/holidays.php3

ARBC Holidays

Italian Lakes

Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa, overlooking Lake Maggiore 12th - 19th September 2009



We are delighted to return to this most charming location in Italy. As usual, Jack will be in charge of both the Bridge and holiday organisation. Bookings are well underway.

The hotel has marvellous lakeside views, acclaimed menus combining international cuisine with local traditional Piedmont dishes. The wine cellar offers a vast selection of Italian and international wines.

We are organising two excursions, one to the Borromean Islands, which will include lunch in a delightful restaurant on the Isola dei Pescatori ("Fishermen's Island") and visits to the two Palaces and botanical gardens on the other islands. The other will be to Lake Orta, a small lake a short distance from Stresa. On Lake Orta we will be visiting the 4th Century Basilica on the Island of Saint Giulio. Lunch will be eaten in a charming restaurant in the town of Orta, on the lake.

There are seven golf courses within a few kilometres of Stresa, and tennis and swimming are available at the Regina Palace. There is also a new indoor swimming pool and fitness centre.

There will be a tuition session each day (5pm-7pm) and a gentle Duplicate after dinner (9pm – 11pm). The standard, as always, is friendly Intermediate.

Prices from £1595

ARBC holidays are great fun, and it is important to stress that they are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate each night; instead the emphasis is on instruction, with a little gentle competition played in the friendly, social manner that so typefies the ethos of the Club. Details of how to contact Jack are below - we look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew and the team

Contact: Jack Stocken Mobile: 07775 892 720 Email: jack@yorkshirebridge.com www.arobson.co.uk/holidays.php3

Photos



Nick Aylwin, Sarah Hill, Katie Grange



Lucy Morris, Hillary Fallon and James Mates



Cherry Harris, Indira Nair, Lucy Le Fanu



Kristina Sanne, Camilla Ramsay, Chantelle Rowntree, Sam Watson



Virginia Bredin and Judy Beecroft



Gina Streeks, Sandra Rider, Amy Greenhalgh



Michael Kaye and Bridget McDougall



Allan and Melanie Lockhart, David McLachlan, Harry de Groot

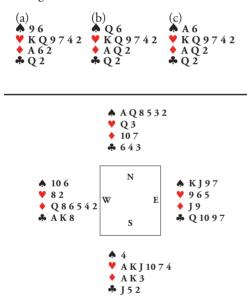


Deal from Andrew's NEW Bidding as Opener book

We are focussing on opener repeating his suit, and have established that, provided you are happy to open 1NT with a five-card major in a 5332 shape (and I hope you are!), opener normally has six cards. He certainly has six in an auction such as 1 - 2 - 2 where he could conveniently introduce a second four-card suit (although not in an auction such as 1 - 2 - 2where he couldn't).

The other important issue is opener's strength, for he should jump the bidding in his six-card suit when he has 16+ points.

Consider the following hands after the bidding $1 \vee - 1 \wedge - ?$



Rebid 2Ψ with (a) and (b), showing up to 15 points. Rebid 3Ψ with (c), showing 16+ points. In terms of the number of hearts, a jump repeat always guarantees six+ cards. In this auction, $(1\Psi - 1 \spadesuit - ?)$, Hand (a) and (b)'s 2Ψ rebid also guarantees six cards. This is because any hand with just five hearts would have a preferable rebid.

To illustrate, with none of these three opening hands would you open 1♥ and rebid 2♥ over 1♠:



(d). Open 1NT.

(e). Open 1♥ and (over 1♠) rebid 1NT.

(f). Open 1♥ and (over 1♠) rebid 2♣, showing the 5-4 shape.

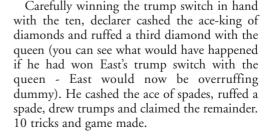
Dealer: South		Vulnerability: Neither	
S	W	Ν	Ε
1♥	Pass	1	Pass
3♥(1)	Pass	4♥(2)	End

(1) Jumping to show 16+ points. Six cards are a requirement for the jump repeat, although in this auction, six cards would be held for the 2Ψ rebid also.

(2) Buoyed by partner's jump. North knows that the partnership have at least 24 points and an eight-card fit, and loves his $\mathbf{\nabla} Q$.

Contract 4♥ Opening Lead: ♣A

On our deal, West led the ace of clubs, East encouraging with the ten, then king and a third club to East's queen. East found the best switch to a trump (cutting down dummy's ruffing value).





We've been playing for years ...

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Douglas&Gordon 🎽

n

douglasandgordon.com

Cruising with ARBC by Philippa Berry

Why did no-one tell us that bridge cruising was so exhausting, but also so friendly and fun?

Lorna, struggling with a large bag of bridge paraphernalia, met the Gatwick contingent, and shepherded us through the chaos of Rome airport and onto Balmoral. Jack, with the Manchester players, was nowhere to be seen.

Calls of "we can't leave without Jack" could be heard ringing from the upper decks as Lorna dutifully (or apprehensively?) waited up for the delayed Manchester flight which finally arrived at 2am, and Balmoral could finally set sail.



Brilliant organisation by Jack and Lorna left no time for boredom, with instruction in the morning and Chicago in the afternoon, expertly fitted around tours. Friendly Duplicate every evening was the gently competitive highlight with awards on the last night.

Exclusive use of the card room was brilliant for us but didn't go down well with other card players on board, a rival (very small!) bridge group were reduced to using the busy atrium area – we suggest the next trip may need to be taken under a pseudonym.

During the cruise, 'virtual emails' were being 'sent' to Andrew daily – with many wry and witty comments.

"Dear Andrew ... why does Jack keep calling the ship a ferry?"

"Dear Andrew ... no idea what fuel Lorna is running on, but day after day she turns up to the card room, sweeps open the doors and announces 'showtime'!"



"Dear Andrew ... would a kick under the table not suffice as signalling – Jack's lessons are proving challenging, particularly for those of us burning the candle at both ends."

One real text message that did get through: "Dear Andrew ... Lorna is at the roulette table, about to put all on red or black – please advise." The delayed reply (well, it was midnight) came through the next morning: "red". Sadly Lorna had placed it on black. Is Andrew always right?

Jack and Lorna's handling of a disparate group of 38 players was executed brilliantly, both socially and professionally. We could not have asked for more, and by the end of the cruise the group effort had paid off and everyone mixed happily.

One final note, Jack so enjoyed wearing 'black tie' he now only answers to the name Bond, James Bond delusions of grandeur we think – but all in all a most successful inaugural cruising holiday– many thanks to all at the Club who helped put it together.





Ship to Shore by Lorna

We set off on the inaugural ARBC Bridge Cruise from Rome on the Balmoral Fred Olsen Ship (sometimes misnamed a "boat" by myself). Including Jack and myself we were forty strong – a great team. Having established Port and Starboard and duly managed our exit drill in case of emergency, we sailed forth to Naples, Sicily, Malta, Corfu, Brindisi, Dubrovnik and ending up in Venice – how lucky we were.

Jack introduced a very entertaining and informative Bridge programme for the group cumulating with Gentle Duplicate most evenings, before a delicious dinner in one of four dinning rooms. Hopefully there was something for everyone, I for one certainly benefited from some of his lessons held during the morning sessions taken from Andrew's Advanced Play courses – amazing what one can forget and need a little jolt to get back on track.



There were fantastic excursions to take part in at every port we visited. Numerous on board activities for those with the energy, two swimming pools and four turns round the main deck amounted to one mile. There was also an amazing gym, hairdresser and beauty rooms which Sisi Edmiston particularly enjoyed...... All in all one could be as busy as one wished. Greville and Sue Burn were our champions of the deck quoits.....

The after-dinner "experience" was usually hosted by Nigel Brooks (or Mr. Niggle as he was fondly known in the Lido Bar). The experience normally took the form of drinks – cocktails or liquors with the girls (the hardcore being Philippa and Carol), followed by a quick (well it never lasted for long in my case) turn on the gaming tables. Maureen Kavanagh was certainly the star of this department. Before I end this paragraph, Susan Brooks has to take the first prize for the most understanding and patient wife on board....



There was also the ship's own live entertainment to be enjoyed which I know many did – numerous bars to be visited – in fact quite easy to get lost...

I, for one, had never been on a cruise before – it was certainly a great experience – I found it very exciting arriving at a new destination every morning – one never knew quite where one was – a wonderful floating hotel with the most fantastic staff whom were all so courteous, kind and extremely helpful.



My favourite places were Malta, Dubrovnik and of course Venice. We were not blessed with the perfect weather but nor was the whole of Europe at that time, but it certainly did not dampen our spirits. My thanks go to the whole group who made it a most entertaining and enjoyable experience for Jack and myself.





"No one else has the capacity to explain Bridge more clearly than Andrew" Omar Sharif

Children's Bridge Courses

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December (10.30 - 12.30, 14.00 - 16.00) Cost: £20 per session (including refreshments)

- · Bring your children to whichever session(s) you want
- Should you wish to leave your children for both sessions, we will look after your children over lunch.
- Everyone welcome, from complete beginners to more experienced players.

Please book in with Lorna



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Dates for your Diary

17th September 17th September 3rd October 9th October 13th November 15th November 21st - 23rd November 19th December 22nd - 23rd December 24th December - 4th January 2009 24th - 31st January 2009 31st March - 3rd April 28th June - 5th July 2009 12th - 19th September 2009 Open evening Taster Session Saturday Duplicate restarts Simultaneous Pairs Simultaneous Pairs Annual Championship Pairs Millstream Weekend Christmas Party Childrens Bridge Club Closed Ski Trip to Zermatt Millstream Midweek Break Norwegian Fjords Cruise Trip to Italian Lakes



from 18.00



Editor: Andrew Advertising: Jack Design & Print: Printalicious Ltd T: 020 7223 6996

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A5 leaflet (Issue 29 Autumn 08):Layout 1 748/08 15:05 Page 20

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