



Friederike Baldeweg at the London Children's Ballet

The London Children's Ballet's Faithful Gelert

By Friederike Baldeweg, aged 11, of Summerlee Avenue

As a deer in the opening scene, I had to give 100% from the start. Looking into the audience in the Peacock theatre, I could see lots of intrigued faces staring back. I could see the boy playing Llewelyn walking on with his hunters. Watching this part in the rehearsal room many times before, I could probably have recited it myself, but in costume with the set it looked so enchanting.

The Welsh folktale of Faithful Gelert is well known. It is where Prince Llewelyn meets Joan and it is love at first sight. I played a guest in their wedding and it was a beautiful scene. The colourful dresses of the many guests mixed with the swirls, jumps and other festive dancing of the whole party nearly fooled me into believing that I was at a real wedding.

The next scene I'm called for is the Nursery Scene where Joan gives birth to baby Clova. I play a Silly Housemaid. This is the favourite of my parts because it's alive and full of character. Immediately Llewelyn proves to be protective of his child when he hits Gelert because he thinks his loyal dog is trying to bring harm to Clova.

An evil wolf attacks Gelert and Clova. Gelert tries to save the small girl and kills the wolf, but is badly injured; meanwhile Clova is hiding. When Llewelyn sees his daughter is missing and the blood on Gelert, he jumps to conclusions and slays his loyal friend. Every time I watch that part it makes my stomach churn. When I walk on for the final scene I feel as if it has really happened and that

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I am mourning the loss of a true companion.

Taking part in bringing the story alive was a fantastic experience of which I hope to achieve more. The whole company fitted together like 57 pieces of a jigsaw puzzle; all giving their own contribution. I will never forget the thrill of dancing on the stage and sharing my love of ballet with so many people.

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET SPECIAL TREATMENT LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT Lisa Nicolaou
 On 30th June 2002
 has applied to the London borough of Barnet Council for
 a special treatment licence for :-
ELEN BEAUTY, 148 HIGH ROAD EAST FINCHLEY N2 4ED
 so as to offer the following treatment:

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 ~ Massage
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 ~ Sun Tan Sessions
 ~ Waxing
 ~ Nail Treatments including Manicure & Pedicure

Anyone wishing to oppose the application must give notice in writing to:
 HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
 6TH FLOOR, BARNET HOUSE
 1255 HIGH ROAD
 WHETSTONE
 LONDON N20 0EJ

Within **FOUR WEEKS** of the date of this notice specifying the grounds of opposition.
 Persons objecting to the grant of a licence must be prepared to attend in person a hearing before The Appeals Panel of the Council.

YOUNG ARCHER

Everyone loves a story

By Diana Cormack

The ballet in which Friederike Baldeweg took part told a story which is known all over the world. Though there are many different versions, they all end in the same sad way.

This is the one that I know about faithful Gelert: Just outside the small town of Beddgelert in North Wales there is a field with a footpath leading to a tree near the middle. Under this tree stands a large gravestone, which was put there long ago in memory of a very special pet.

Gelert was a wolfhound owned by a mediaeval Welsh prince called Llewelyn. The pair were constant companions, not only when they were out hunting wolves in the forest but also at home in Llewelyn's castle. When the prince and his wife had a son, Gelert naturally seemed to become the baby's guard dog, much to their delight.

One day, leaving the baby at home with his nanny, they all went out hunting. There had been reports of a huge wolf roaming the forest nearby. The prince was worried when he noticed that Gelert had disappeared and then he remembered that Gelert had been behaving strangely recently. Where could he have got to?

A dreadful mistake

On his return to his castle, the first thing Llewelyn did was to call for Gelert and the baby's nanny. There was no reply, so he rushed to his son's room and was horrified to find it splattered with blood. The cradle was overturned, there was no sign of the child and then Llewelyn saw Gelert, his mouth and coat soaked with blood, lying exhausted in a corner.

"So you came back here to kill my son!" cried the prince. He drew his sword and plunged it into the dog, who died instantly.

Then, from under the cradle came a muffled cry. Llewelyn leapt to turn it over and found his

baby boy underneath, unharmed. As he bent to pick up the child, behind the cradle Llewelyn found the body of a huge wolf. He realised with horror that his faithful pet had fought and killed the wolf to protect his son.

Llewelyn was heartbroken. What a dreadful mistake he had made! How could he have thought that Gelert would have done such a thing? He couldn't bring Gelert back to life, but he could make sure that he was never forgotten. So, tenderly and tearfully, Llewelyn buried the wolfhound's body and marked his grave with a stone. The town of Beddgelert is a constant reminder of this, for in English it means "the Grave of Gelert."

Clever Dogs Corner

* **What does a comedian's dog eat?**

Funny bones.

* **What is a hush puppy?**

A dog that's lost its voice.

* **What did the dog say when he sat on the sandpaper?**

"Rough."

* **Which dog can tell the time?**

A watch dog.

Archer Bridge

By Mike Graham



Every bridge player loves to bid a slam. However, such undertakings are not to be taken lightly. One pre-requisite of a successful slam is the presence of sufficient controls in all four suits. At no-trumps, this means enough aces and kings; at a suit contract, a shortage may suffice.

Even with a shortage, though, you should have enough aces to avoid losing the first two tricks. To this end, many cunning devices have been invented over the years. Probably the best known is Blackwood, invented, strangely enough, by an Ameri-

can, Easley Blackwood. The mechanism is simple. A jump to Four Notrump asks partner how many aces he holds. In response, Five Clubs shows none (or four), Five Diamonds shows one, Five Hearts shows two, and Five Spades shows three. For example: ♠ AK854 ♥ 7 ♦ 5 ♣ AKQ842

Partner opens One Spade. This admittedly constructed hand is perfect for Blackwood – opposite one ace you bid Six Spades, opposite two aces Seven Spades, and opposite no aces a reproachful Five Spades.

The problem with Blackwood, though, is its very simplicity. Many players launch into Blackwood too soon in the auction. In a recent match, a player held the above hand with a club suit of KQJ1095. When his partner opened One Spade, he bid Blackwood. It was not until his partner responded Five Clubs, showing no aces, that he realised that his partnership would be contracting for eleven tricks when the opposition held three cashable aces. It has even happened in an international match – in the 1971 World Championship final, a French pair (in the interest of fairness, not a regular partnership) reached a contract of Seven Hearts on one board. The opponent who held the ace

of trumps doubled, which must have been a bit of a surprise for his partner, who held the other three aces.

Some modern methods attempt to improve on "normal" Blackwood by including the king of trumps as a fifth ace; in some circumstances, you can show the queen of trumps as well. We can investigate some of these methods in future articles.

Although Blackwood was inappropriate on the hand above, what was the alternative? Three Clubs looks right, and will work well if partner rebids a red suit. You can now bid Three Spades, and partner can cue-bid an ace at the four-level if he has one; now you can bid Blackwood, as you know the five level will be safe. Strangely enough, the most awkward rebid from opener is Three Spades. Using Blackwood now risks what actually happened. A four level bid in a red suit here should show the ace, so that's out. What you are left with is Four Spades, hoping that partner (who has heard you force with Three Clubs) has enough to go on – but I would not feel comfortable putting this hand down as dummy. Some hands are just too difficult. However, it is long odds on opener rebidding a red suit when you hold two red singletons, particularly with no bidding from the opposition.