

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



Editor: Brad Coles (editor@abf.com.au)

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SAND TO SEA – THEME DAY AT THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Winners Deanna Cruickshank, Desley Strik, Paul Hendry, Thea Hobson, Annette Hendry, Janet Franklin
Photos by Anne Russell.

Special award
Abigail Wanigaratne
& Ann Mellings



=2nd place Jane Stearns, Di Emms, Leslie Watt, Russell Watt



4th place Tim Rigter, Charlotte Jager,
Rachelle van Heuven, Anna Kalma

=2nd place Victor Kooter, Peter Daffurn, Judith Howard, Lauri Belfield



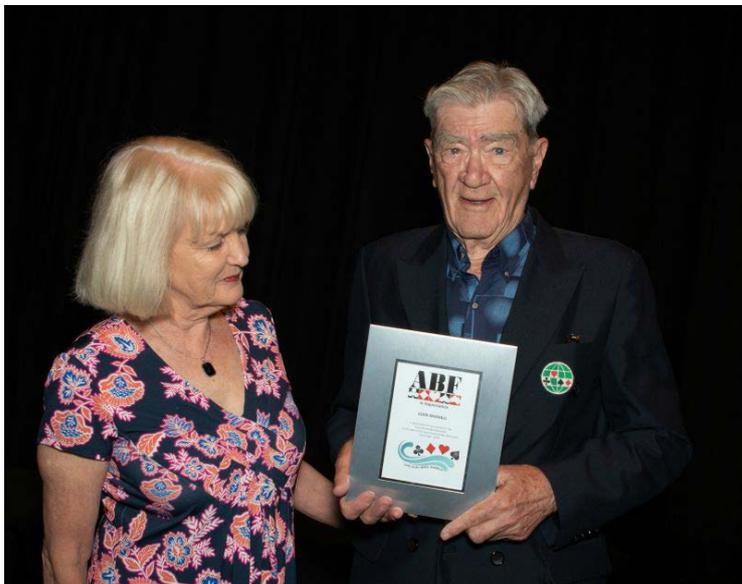
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Letters to the Editor and feedback: editor@abf.com.au

**DEADLINES FOR JUNE EDITION
ADVERTISING: 18 MAY 2019
ARTICLES: 20 MAY 2019**



John Wignall receiving his Certificate of Appreciation from Allison Stralow at the Gold Coast Congress



I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to Brad Coles, the new ABF Newsletter Editor. Brad's experience as Editor of *Australian Bridge Magazine* will complement our newsletter and advance our aim to provide a publication suitable for all players. Brad is originally from the Blue Mountains region in NSW and now resides in the ACT. He is the Tournament Organiser of the annual Australia-Wide Pairs events, and has represented both NSW (2013) and the ACT (2017-2018) at the Australian National Championships, winning silver on two occasions. Brad's intention is that everyone who reads this newsletter should learn something they can take to the bridge table.

Last month, the ABF undertook a review of the ABF Strategic Plan. Thank you to Gregory Lewin and Angela Turrell from Global Sapphire who volunteered their time to facilitate the workshop. Membership is the life-blood of our association and the primary purpose for the organisation. The ABF's central strategy will be to grow member satisfaction among the 37,000+ Bridge Club members in Australia, from beginners to experts. Engaged happy members will retain their membership and be more likely to recommend bridge to others. This will in turn promote the growth of bridge in Australia. We will do this through activities focussed on relationship building with members, driving leadership in bridge standards, and pursuing operational excellence. The 2019-2021 Strategic Plan will be presented to ABF Council at the Annual General Meeting in Canberra on 27-28 April.

The ABF Daily Column was successfully launched on March 1st. This is a service the ABF agreed to provide as newspapers have commenced phasing out bridge columns. Ron Klinger has provided the link to seven highly regarded bridge columnists who each write a daily hand. It is suitable for all levels as they pose problems and provide solutions, rather than talk about systems. This daily bridge column is accessible by annual subscription only and at just \$1 a week, \$52 a year it is affordable to all. More information can be found at

<https://www.abf.com.au/daily-column/>

The ABF reminds clubs that funds of up to \$50,000 are available from the James O'Sullivan, (JOS) Trust Fund as a loan at minimal interest to carry out renovations, acquire club premises, or for the updating of equipment. Applications are to be lodged in the first instance with the Secretariat of the ABF,

secretariat@abf.com.au

attention the Chairman of the JOS Trust.

Finally, I congratulate the QBA, Tim Runting, and Kim Ellaway on another highly successful Gold Coast Congress. The GCC is widely acknowledged as one of the finest bridge events in the world. Thank you also for hosting the Gold Coast Victory Dinner where I had the pleasure of presenting a certificate of appreciation to John Wignall for his 32 years of service to the ABF as President of Zone Seven.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Management Committee please email:

abf_pres@gmail.com.

Allison Stralow, ABF President



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Mary & Malcolm Brooks

I needed to buy a new car but life is busy and I really did not have time to tour the showrooms and I am not good at driving a hard bargain. The whole process was so efficient and easy and I collected my new car from my preferred showroom very quickly and at a considerably reduced price. I would recommend the service to others in the market for a new car.



Bruce Neill

When we decided we needed a new car so our Labrador dog could ride safely in the rear, we expected Red Plum would get us a good deal - and they did! What we didn't anticipate was that we would be looking for a vehicle currently in very short supply, and how hard it might have been to get exactly what we wanted without their help. Thanks, Red Plum.

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AUDREY AND ARTHUR PORTER

Our heartfelt congratulations go to Audrey, 94, and Arthur Porter, 98, who celebrated their 75th (Platinum) wedding anniversary in January this year. They are the oldest members of Glenelg Contract Bridge Club, and possibly the oldest couple still playing bridge in Australia.

Audrey and Arthur would have to be the most well known and loved couple at Glenelg Bridge Club.

Audrey was born in 1924 in Croydon, South Australia, one of three children, who, at the age of 13, moved with her family to Wollongong, NSW, in search of work during the Depression years. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, the WAAF, in 1942 and was posted to the RAAF base at Richmond, NSW.

Arthur was the 6th of 7 children and was born in 1920 in Laura, in the mid-north of South Australia. He was a good student and enjoyed learning. He completed four years at Gladstone High School, quite an accomplishment in those early times. He related an interesting story of how he made extra money in 1937 sewing wheat bags in his holidays. He was paid 1½d a bag, 12/6 for 100 bags and one day his record was 150 bags for 18/, working from 6am to 7.30pm. He was a very tired and sore boy that day!

Arthur began his 46 years at the Tramways in Adelaide in 1938, starting as a junior clerk and ending as Finance Manager when he retired.

During the war he was in the Paratroopers and was stationed at Richmond RAAF base when he met Audrey in 1943. They married in



January 1944 in Sydney and in December of that year their first child, Arthur, a long-time President of our club, was born. Arthur was in Darwin when the Japanese started bombing in February 1943. Ships in the harbour and the post office and the aerodrome were bombed. Strategically, the camps were not bombed. He was in the Army for just under five years and did 13 jumps in total. Arthur went back to the Tramways after the war and worked there until 1983, when he retired.

Audrey has been a tireless volunteer throughout her life, working with Meals on Wheels for 35 years, making sandwiches at St Andrews Church for 20 years, and she was involved with church basketball for 35 years. She received the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club for outstanding service to the community. She was also Treasurer at Glenelg Bridge Club for 11 years. Arthur was Club President for one year. Audrey and Arthur began playing bridge in earnest after Arthur retired, with Audrey having played for 29 years and Arthur longer. They are both National Masters with 2 stars, a great achievement.

They are very proud of their son and daughter and their four grandchildren. During their retirement, they have enjoyed many cruises and bridge cruises.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I would like to thank the outgoing Editor, Barbara Travis, for all her advice and assistance with my first issue of this Newsletter. Barbara's excellent organisational skills turned an intimidating task into a very simple process.

Apart from some small cosmetic changes, the Newsletter will continue as it did under Barbara's editorship. There is one new feature that you should find useful: you will now be able to view interactive bridge movies of some of the play problems that appear in the Newsletter. (Competitors in last year's Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs will already be familiar with this feature.)

Where you see this button **PLAY** next to a hand diagram, click to open the movie in a new window. The movie will guide you through the recommended line of play, with written commentary explaining the bidding and play where appropriate. In some cases, there will also be an option allowing you to play through the deal on your own, with you controlling the cards played by all four hands. Some of the more complex movies will not be playable on Apple mobile devices, but in these cases you will be redirected to a less elaborate non-Flash version.

Here is an example, using the play problem on page 23. **PLAY** This link will open either a Flash Movie, or an interactive hand diagram (both provided by Bridge Base Online). As you step through the card play with the NEXT button, the editor's comments will appear in the chat box alongside the hand diagram.

Over time, I would also like to add some more instructional columns from teachers to the Newsletter. The first of these is a new regular column from Sydney teacher William Jenner-O'Shea, whose first contribution appears on page 12 of this issue.

Finally, over the past few weeks many people have asked how my new role as editor will affect the future of my other magazine, *Australian Bridge*. The simple answer is that I will remain as editor of both publications (as well as the online magazine *Australian Bridge Novice Edition*) and I have enlisted the services of Stephen Lester to help with the extra workload. Stephen is a previous editor of both *Australian Bridge* and this Newsletter, so he will be a huge asset in both roles.

The two publications will remain independent of each other, although I will include occasional highlights from *Australian Bridge* in this Newsletter. In this issue, for example, I have included a couple of deals from Liam Milne's report on the Gold Coast Teams, which appears in the April issue of *Australian Bridge*.

If you would like to submit articles for this Newsletter, the email address has not changed:

[**editor@abf.com.au**](mailto:editor@abf.com.au)

If you enjoyed the Porters' story, above, or Nance Tierney's poem on page 22, please send some stories of your own!

Brad Coles



One of the considerations for teachers when presenting bridge in a modern way is how to teach major suit raises, one of the most important areas of all.

Memorising point count differences for new students is NOT important at first, but what is important is when to introduce the fact that weak hands with very good fits for partner should bid game regardless of points. For example,

1♥ pass 4♥

What should we teach for this point range for beginners and novice players?

Should it be 13+ points and three or more trumps, or should it be 0-5 points and five trumps?

Partner opens 1♥, next passes, and you hold:

♠ A 3 ♥ K Q 10 6 ♦ A 5 4 ♣ 10 8 6 3

Should this be a raise to game? Or should this?

♠ 3 ♥ K Q 10 6 5 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ 10 8 6 3

I've always wondered whether to suggest the weak long trump hand (sometimes unattractively called "The Weak Freak", an expression I DON'T use) from the outset, and although I was tempted to start with the weak long trump suit for my newly updated beginners' book (Play Bridge 1), I chose the following:

1♥ pass pass = 0-5

1♥ pass 2♥ = 6-10

1♥ pass 3♥ = 11-12

1♥ pass 4♥ = 13+

Although the examples I used in the book mostly had four trumps, I didn't go into the difference between three and four or even five trumps. That's too much for beginners.

The point differences are not so important but showing them WHY plenty of trumps are good in dummy is important. Show students from the outset that if dummy has four trumps, you'll

take more tricks when declarer has losers in dummy's short suit than if there are only three trumps.

I made the limit raise 11, 12 instead of 10 – 12, because when responder decides to jump in trumps to the three level ie 1♥ pass 3♥, opener should consider that they don't need much to bid game. Too many students jump on poor 10 counts with three trumps.

So, in later lessons, certainly not in beginners courses, students will benefit in looking at when a 10 point hand is a good one and when it is not. I believe you can educate students to appreciate longer trump support.

Eg, Compare these two 10 HCP hands. Opener has started with 1♥ and the next hand passes:

Hand A

♠ K 7 3 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ Q J 5 4 ♣ J 10 8

Hand B

♠ 7 3 ♥ Q 10 9 8 ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ A 10 9

On hand A, it's a raise only to 2♥ for sure; flat 4-3-3-3 shape, no aces, and queens and jacks.

But Hand B values a lot more highly than Hand A.

Four trumps, two aces, a doubleton and nines and tens.

So if from early days, you show students that having aces means first round controls of the suit, and holding an extra trump means more chance to trump opener's shortages, I'm sure they will get it.

So when do you introduce the weak jump to game with

♠ 3 ♥ K Q 10 6 5 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ 10 8 6 3

and the Jacoby 2NT convention for this?

♠ A 3 ♥ K Q 10 6 ♦ A 5 4 ♣ 10 8 6 3

Answer: No particular time, just when you feel your class will be able to manage the difference!

Joan Butts

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BRIDGE HEAVEN

The first few months of the year were a very busy time for ABF marketing with major congresses in Canberra and Broadbeach and a number of new marketing initiatives announced.

ABF Marketing Congress Stand

ABF Marketing had a prominent stand at both congresses which allows us to communicate and discuss the wide range of services that the ABF provides to support clubs and players. Canberra was the last SFOB congress to be convened by Roy Nixon before handing over to Jane Reynolds for next year, and the few problems with space on moving to the Rex in 2018 were overcome, I think to the satisfaction of all.

Marketing Newsletter Columns

The SFOB Bulletins and subsequently the Gold Coast Congress Bulletins provided me with the opportunity to communicate with bridge players by writing a column that looked at: Australia's place in the bridge world, the performance of bridge clubs, the challenge clubs face from attrition with an old player base in a highly competitive leisure market. However, there are also opportunities for increasing the number of new players and increasing the retention ratio. These columns are all available on the SFOB and GCC Bulletins or by contacting

marketing@abf.com.au

A major outcome has been that a number of clubs from the north of Queensland, to the cities of Sydney and Melbourne, from Perth in the West to the east coast of Victoria have approached me at congresses or written to express the difficulties they are encountering with falling memberships and seeking assistance.

ABF Marketing Special Project Grants

The ABF have announced a national scheme of ABF Marketing Special Project Grants to assist clubs. The new approach to national marketing is to employ highly targeted Facebook campaigns with the ABF providing administrative and financial support to clubs. It will be a Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP) with Clubs and the ABF sharing the costs. There will be a number of conditions for successful applicants including providing local input into the campaigns, entry and exit surveys, and reporting the campaign results directly to the ABF. There will be requirements for the clubs, where possible, to provide free introductory sessions, offer teaching classes regularly, personal coaching at all times, supervised and rookie sessions year round, and the introduction of a "Buddy" system. The value to a bridge club of each new member is an average \$400 a year, for some clubs well over \$1000, while the revenue to the ABF for capitation and masterpoint fees is \$22 per year. Get your application in and join the project to grow members and ensure your club's future.

ABF Daily Bridge Column

The President, Allison Stralow, has reported separately on the launch of an ABF Daily Bridge Column with seven international expert bridge writers and columnists led by Ron Klinger. With the decline in bridge columns in newspapers around the world the objective of the ABF is to provide the best teaching for Australian players of all standards who want to improve their bridge skills and enjoyment. It was a great team effort in a very short period of time from the new Technology Officer, Mark Guthrie, creating an online subscription and payment system, Jane Rasmussen editing seven columnists every week and publishing the daily column plus the marketing team all working with Allison and Ron. Wing Roberts has created the art work for the Tree Of life based on ancient mythology with the branches representing the knowledge of the columnists and the ABF being the serpent at the base of the tree protecting it from intruders. You will see the leaflets for the ABF Daily Bridge Column at congresses and in Newsletters. Please ask [ABF Marketing](#) for leaflets if you do not have any and display them at your club and encourage people to subscribe at

www.abf.com.au/Daily-Column

ABF Personalised SMS Results service

The Technology Officer, Mark Guthrie, has created a text message service to your phone that will give your score and rank for the previous round and your seating position for the next round. This will save many people from having to watch the rotating screens and trying to search for their name and table number. The software is offered free by the ABF to all developers of scoring software to make available to congress convenors around Australia, so register your phone number at

<https://tinyurl.com/GCCSMS>

Peter J. Cox – ABF Head of Marketing



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TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The ABF Tournament Committee is responsible for the regulations governing tournaments run under the auspices of the ABF, and makes recommendations to the Management Committee about issues related to those tournaments. It also provides advice on the process by which teams qualify to represent Australia. It meets three or four times each year.



The ABF will be increasing the number of tables that are recorded by cameras at major events, both as a preventative measure to discourage breaches of security (e.g. cheating) and as a tool for directors. The Tournament Regulations will be amended to mandate that directors access and use relevant footage when making decisions and rulings (e.g. to establish the length of hesitations).

For more details on these and other matters considered by the Tournament committee, the minutes are available on the ABF website.

David Morgan

Decisions to emerge from the February meeting:

After a request from players, teams entering the Playoffs will be able to change partnership lineups, provided that each entered pair plays at least 50% of the boards.

The augmentation rules (which apply when a team of four wins the Playoffs or when one of the pairs in the winning team is unexpectedly unavailable) have been tightened.

The system regulations that allow Highly Unusual Methods to be used in Playoffs (when permitted in the World Championships) have been retained.

The starting time for 64-board matches will be brought forward in the future to allow an earlier finish, and the TC recommends that tournament organisers provide lunch to all players to shorten the lunch break.

Future Mixed Teams playoffs will only be open to contending teams.



The 2019 Women's Team: Helena Dawson, Lorna Ichilcik, Helene Pitt, Avril Zets, Giselle Mundell and Rena Kaplan

ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE FEDERATION Open Event The Joseph Greenfeld Congress

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A GAME AT THE CLUB with Barbara Travis

A recent session has provided me with plenty of hands for analysis.

First, I held this hand:

♠ K 8 2	♥ Q J 4	♦ K J 8 7 6 5	♣ K
WEST Me	NORTH LHO	EAST Partner	SOUTH RHO
2♦	3♥	1♠	pass
?		4♠	pass

We were playing Standard, so my 2♦ response merely showed 10+ HCP rather than being game forcing. This meant that partner's 4♠ rebid showed a very good hand. My problem was: Did we have control of the heart suit? We had no agreements, so I just punted 6♠, successfully.

After the session, I discussed this hand with a few friends. My 'correct' rebid was to bid 5♠. Bidding our own major freely at the 5-level is not a sign of madness. It actually asks partner to bid slam with control of their suit. (Refer to the Open Playoffs article in December 2018, where Andy Hung now bid 6NT, protecting his K-x in the suit – both from the lead and from a ruff.)

Partner's hand was:

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

so my 6♠ bid worked this time.

Try this hand:

♠ 2	♥ K 9 7 2	♦ K 9 7 6 2	♣ A 10 2
-----	-----------	-------------	----------

Board 1, nil vulnerable, and the auction started:

WEST Me	NORTH	EAST Partner	SOUTH
	pass	1♠	2♥
?			

At the vulnerability and with my lack of fit for partner, I decided to try for a penalty if partner reopened with the hoped-for double.

pass	pass	2♠	pass
?			

Partner's 2♠ rebid indicated that she held a hand unsuited to penalising 2♥. Now I tested partner's knowledge of continuations:

2NT	all pass
-----	----------

We have since discussed that my 2NT bid shows a hand that indicates I was interested in penalising 2♥. Mind you, I probably should have rebid 3NT, and so should she after 2NT:

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

She should have bid 3NT now, comfortable that she was giving me seven or eight tricks. 2NT making 12 tricks was our only bottom of the day. I'm prepared to take a large proportion of the blame for my 2NT bid, but she's also learnt that solid suits are good for raising to 3NT. I never mind a bad result if it leads to an educational outcome.

A few hands later we had another result 'linked' to negative doubles. The auction started:

(1♦)	1♥	(1♠) ...
------	----	----------

Our opponents ended up in 3♠ on a 4-3 fit, for the dreaded -200, and our only top of the day. When someone overcalls 1♥, one agreement when playing negative doubles, is to use the double to show a four-card spade suit, and bidding 1♠ shows 5+ spades. This application allows you to make use of the overcall to be more precise about your spade suit, so that your side knows whether there is a fit or not and, therefore, whether to keep competing in the spade ("master") suit.

On another hand, my partner thought I was a genius for my opening lead. My RHO had opened 1NT and played there. I was on lead holding:

♠ 10 7 3	♥ A 9 8	♦ A 10 9 7	♣ A 8 6
----------	---------	------------	---------

For a number of years, I have been philosophically opposed to leading from three-card or four-card suit headed by the ace when on lead against notrump contracts. Basically, it seems to give extra tricks to declarer. That reasoning was behind my lead of the ♠10 (I didn't lead a low one because I didn't want to encourage my partner!). Partner won the ♠Q, with declarer dropping the jack, and continued a spade. This is the whole hand:

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

The spade lead gave us time to cash our eight winners quickly, resulting in an equal top.

After the session, quite a few people asked me how to deal with the following hand; there had been varied outcomes after RHO's 4♠ opening bid:

♠ A 3 2	♥ K	♦ A 9 4	♣ K Q J 9 6 3
---------	-----	---------	---------------

After some thought, I chose to bid 5♣, primarily because I didn't want to double – showing a good hand – but hear partner bid 5♥. Partner held:

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

If your partner doubles a four-level opening bid, 4♠ on this hand, rather than committing to one particular suit, you are better served to respond 4NT. This 4NT bid indicates that you have two places you would be happy to play. So when partner now bids 5♣, you 'correct' to 5♦ to show both red suits. On this hand, you would finish in 5♦, which makes – as does 5♣ (clubs being 4-1).

In December's "A Game at the Club", I mentioned that people need to balance when the opposition subsides at the two-level in a known eight-card fit. Obviously, my partner had learnt this lesson well, because she did balance after this auction:

WEST Me	NORTH	EAST Partner	SOUTH
	1♦	pass	2♦
pass	pass	dbl	

The auction continued:

	1♦	pass	2♦
pass	pass	dbl	pass
2♥	pass	pass	3♦
pass	pass	3♥	all pass

Partner bid on to 3♥ hoping we held a nine-card fit:

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

Given we were vulnerable, it was important to go down only one trick; -100 would be better than -110 or -130, but -200 would be a bottom. On a diamond lead, and with the hearts breaking 2-2, I was able to eliminate the diamond suit, then exit in clubs, making the opponents start the spade suit, and getting a spade trick at the end, for -100.

One session and so many lessons!

Barbara Travis



For those who want to travel around the world playing bridge tournaments there is now a website that puts all this information in a single place. This is a great initiative.

Bridge Scanner is the brainchild of Erikas Vainikonis who loves playing bridge wherever in the world he travels to. He has visited Australia a number of times and cites the Gold Coast Congress as one of the best tournaments in the world. He is planning a visit in 2020.

Bridge Scanner has all the necessary details of events taking place and the contact details of the Congress organisers. It provides the bridge traveller with lots of pertinent information.

Bridge Scanner also allows tournament organisers to post details of their event to the world. Having travelling visitors to your bridge tournament can only add to the allure of any event.

Playing in a big bridge tournament overseas is a great experience and is to be enjoyed playing your favourite game in new places. It is well worth a few days of your holiday to fit in a bridge tournament.

Charles Page

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AUSTRALIAN MIXED TEAM PLAYOFF by Ben Thompson

Husband and wife Matthew Thomson & Cathryn Herden together with Dave Beauchamp & Jodi Tutty snagged the gold medal at the Asia Cup in Goa in June last year. Renee Cooper and I loosely arranged to join them for the Australian Mixed Team Playoff shortly afterwards. Unfortunately, Matthew & Cat had to pull out for family reasons and so we headed off 4-handed to this brand-new Australia Day weekend event in Sydney.



The Mixed teams world championship this year sits alongside the Open (Bermuda Bowl), Women (Venice Cup) and Seniors events. Last year in Orlando, the Mixed was the biggest of the four main teams events, and a very strong event indeed.

With many players in new and unfamiliar partnerships, the stage was set for a wide-open playoff, with 2 days of qualifying followed by day-long semi-finals and final.

The qualifying was 10x12 board matches of Swiss teams split over Friday-Saturday

On the 2nd last board of qualifying, we picked up a handy game swing to get us across the line when Renee & I bid and made a straightforward 4♥ while Dave & Jodi successfully defended a less appealing 3NT.

Top 6 at the end of qualifying

Place	Win	Draw	Loss	IMPs	Score	Total
1 GOLD	6	0	4	141	17.08	132.64
2 DARLING	8	0	2	83	15.79	124.58
3 GROSVENOR	7	0	3	91	14.22	123.02
4 TUTTY	7	0	3	53	11.05	116.57
5 GIURA	6	0	4	59	7.39	113.84
6 FOSTER	7	0	3	44	5.78	113.60

It looked like we'd been a bit lucky, but luck is a two-way street. For example, in match 6 Dave & Jodi bid to an excellent grand slam that went down to 4-1 trumps. If it had made, we would have qualified 1st. Dave argues that Swiss is a poor way to select finalists and the way this qualifying Swiss panned out certainly hasn't dissuaded him.

The semi finals were four sets of 16 boards on Sunday.

Gold (Leigh Gold – Kitty Muntz, Jamie Ebery – Kim Frazer), as winners of the qualifying, had choice of semi-final opponents. Darling, 2nd place qualifiers, elected to be chooseable and were duly chosen.

We pulled out to a 40-22 lead over Grosvenor in the 1st set and piled on 59 imps to 6 in the 2nd for a lead of 71.

We ended up winning 168 to 87. Gold won the other match 153 to 75, and both teams headed off to dinner virtually tasting the ultimate prize.

The final was four sets of 16 boards on Monday.

The first set of the final was very tight with 10 flat boards and a scoreline of 13-11 in favour of Gold.

We made it more fun for the audience in the 2nd set, turning over 101 IMPs – but with a net margin of 5 IMPs to us, leaving us ahead by a whopping 3 IMPs at the half.

Our team showed more aggression at both tables on this board:

Board 22

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

Open Room

WEST Beauchamp	NORTH	EAST Tutty	SOUTH
		1♦	dbl
1NT	pass	pass	2♥
3♦	pass	pass	dbl
pass	3♥	all pass	

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH Renee	EAST	SOUTH Ben
		pass	1♥
pass	1NT	pass	2♣ ¹
pass	2♥	pass	4♥
all pass			

1. 2♣ was a regular 2♥ rebid, or some 16+ hand.

The play was simple. As is often the case in bridge, the hand was effectively decided in the bidding.

Renee & I had noticed in the Open Playoff that the Hans team (who dominated that event and gave us a solid thumping in the semi-final) all enthusiastically double for fun and profit. We've been applying our lesson, including this nice hand from set 2 of the final:

Board 28

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

WEST Frazer	NORTH Cooper	EAST Ebery	SOUTH Thompson
1NT	dbl	pass forcing	pass
rdbl forced	pass	2♦ ^{♦+♠}	dbl
all pass			

Renee's initial double was penalty, even though 1NT was strong. Jamie's initial pass forced redouble and his 2♦ showed diamonds and spades. My double was takeout.

It's normally right to lead trumps against doubled partscores, but in this situation I led spades angling for a ruff because partner will have entries to give me a ruff, but she must be in some danger of getting endplayed. I wanted to see her signal(s), to help me get her off a late endplay. Success to the tune of +500.

In the other room, North didn't like her 15-count quite as much over Dave's 1NT. He was a little surprised to emerge with eight tricks and a little more surprised to collect 12 imps for his efforts.

Winning the third set 43-11 stretched our lead to 35. That's a gettable margin playing your best "normal" bridge, and that's how Gold approached it.

On board 54, Dave & Jodi put us 48 ahead with 10 to play with a very nice auction to 6♦ while our opponents languished in 4♥.

Board 54	♠ K J 3 2		
E/EW	♥ 10		
	♦ 10 6		
	♣ K 9 5 4 3 2		
♠ A Q 7		♠ 9 6 4	
♥ A Q 8 4 3 2		♥ J 9 6	
♦ A J		♦ K Q 8 5 4 3	
♣ A 8		♣ Q	
	♠ 10 8 5		
	♥ K 7 5		
	♦ 9 7 2		
	♣ J 10 7 6		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Beauchamp		Tutty	
		pass	pass
2♣	pass	3♣ ¹	pass
3♦	pass	4♣	pass
6♦	all pass		

1. 3♣ showed a semi-positive with 6+♦ and two of the top three honours.

After the ♣ cue Dave knew Jodi couldn't have anything else, but with his major suit tenaces protected, he was confident he'd have time to generate the extra tricks he would need in the heart suit.

The remaining boards were flat enough for our taste as we won the final set 33-21 and the match by 47.

Thanks to all our opponents, the director Matt McManus, and the convener Marcia Scudder for a very friendly and enjoyable tournament. Well played and commiserations to the GOLD team.

Dave, Jodi, Renee and I were all very very (very) pleased to have won the inaugural mixed team playoff. Dave, Jodi and I have all experienced international mixed teams events and know how tough they are, and how much fun they are.

A few weeks later, the ABF approved our request to augment Pele Rankin and Stephen Fischer (who played very well together in the playoff), and Pete Hollands as our non-playing captain. We're all very much looking forward to having a swing at the APBF in Singapore in June and the world championships in September in China.

Ben Thompson



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DECLARER PLAY TECHNIQUE

Once a month I run a workshop aimed at Club level players at the Sydney Bridge Centre. The topics vary among Bidding, Declarer Play and Defence, and the last one that I ran was all about Declarer Play. The main purpose of this workshop was to run through the correct process when dummy is first put down.



In a notrump contract, count your sure winners, then look for potential winners. If you can see which tricks you need, then play for them, perhaps losing the lead to establish the tricks. Look out for blocked suits, and manage your entries along the way.

In a suit contract, usually count your losers, from the long trump hand's perspective. If you don't have too many losers, then drawing trumps is often best. If you have too many losers, don't draw trumps. Try to discard your losers or trump them.

This hand caused some grief for a few players. Plan your play in 4♠ by South:

♠ J 7 4
♥ Q 9 7 5 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ 3 2

Lead: ♦K

PLAY

♠ A K 9 8 6 5		
♥ 6	SOUTH	NORTH
♦ 4 3 2	1♠	2♠
♣ A K Q	4♠	pass

North makes a simple raise of spades, hoping that partner doesn't get too excited. Once South finds a fit, she should bid straight to game!

Bidding Tip: With only 6-9 points, North is too weak to show her hearts along the way, since she might only get to make one bid.

West leads the ♦K against 4♠ by South, and declarer should take the ♦A on the first round.

At trick one, counting winners, and losers, you have four winners outside the spades, and likely five or six tricks there. You have two diamond losers, and the ♥A, and perhaps if the spades 'behave nicely', then the ♠Q might not be lost, but not today!

Also notice that the clubs will provide a discard, but that discarding a heart from dummy doesn't help, so a diamond must be discarded.

On the diamond lead, declarer wins the lead in dummy. **With potentially only nine tricks, and needing ten, declarer shouldn't draw trumps.** Declarer should play three rounds of clubs and discard a diamond, and then play diamonds, with the view to trump one (gaining a trick, and eliminating a loser). Then draw trumps. The odds with nine trumps are to play the ♠A and ♠K. The ♠Q doesn't drop, but leave it alone for now; ruff your diamond loser in dummy, and then you can give up the top trump and claim ten tricks.

If North-South had played two rounds of trumps earlier, hoping to catch the ♠Q, and then tried diamonds, the defenders might have won the lead, and played a third spade, running dummy out of trumps.

William Jenner-O'Shea

Click the PLAY button in the hand diagram to view the movie

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

HIGH THERE

Teams ♠ Q 8 6
S/All ♥ Q 8 7 5 3
♦ A Q J 8
♣ 10

♠ K J 4
♥ 4
♦ 10 9 4
♣ A Q 9 8 5 3



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♣	4♣ ¹	5♣	1♥
all pass			5♥

1. Strong, 0-1 club, 4+hearts.

West leads the ♣A-10-K-J. What should West play next?

♠ Q 8 6
♥ Q 8 7 5 3
♦ A Q J 8
♣ 10

♠ K J 4
♥ 4
♦ 10 9 4
♣ A Q 9 8 5 3

♠ A 10 7 5
♥ —
♦ 7 6 5 3
♣ K 7 6 4 2

♠ 9 3 2
♥ A K J 10 9 6 2
♦ K 2
♣ J

Contract: 5♥ by South. Lead: ♣A.

At two tables in the semi finals of a National Teams, West led the ♣A against 5♥. One East played a much too subtle ♣7. West switched to the ♦10 and South made 11 tricks, +650.

At the other table, East played the ♣K at trick one. This could hardly cost. Even if South had the ♣Q, one discard from dummy would not help South.

The ♣K screams for a spade switch (a suit-preference signal). It is hard to find a clearer suit-preference signal, but West here also switched to the 'safe' ♦10, no swing.

If West reads East's ♣K correctly, West should switch to the ♠K and continue with the ♠J. This gives the defence another three tricks and takes 5♥ two down.

Switching to the ♠4 would also give the defence three spade tricks if dummy plays low and East puts in the ♠10. East is far more likely to play the ♠A and return a spade. That takes 5♥ down, but only by one trick.

After the ♠K wins, West should play the ♠J next, not the ♠4. If West continues with the ♠4, low from dummy, East will play the ♠A, not the ♠10.

Ron Klinger

GOLD COAST CONGRESS

The Gold Coast Teams final was won by COUTTS (James Coutts, Shane Harrison, Nabil Edgton, Liam Milne, Andy Hung, Ellena Moskovsky), with a landslide 126-48 win over the world class team of Tony Nunn, Justin Mill, Michael Ware, GeO Tislevoll, Hugh McGann and Matthew Thomson.

Liam Milne has written up the whole event in *Australian Bridge*, featuring several deals from the qualifying rounds and some highlights from the final. Here are a couple of hands from that article.

This one from the first day of qualifying demonstrates the impressive imagination of Michael Whibley:

Board 16	♠ J 10 6 4				
W/EW	♥ J 9 8 5				
	♦ K Q 9 7				
	♣ 3				
	♠ K Q 8 5		♠ A 9		
	♥ 7 4 3		♥ K Q 10		
	♦ A 8		♦ 6 5 4		
	♣ A K 4 2		♣ J 10 8 6 5		
	♠ 7 3 2				
	♥ A 6 2				
	♦ J 10 3 2				
	♣ Q 9 7				

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	pass	3♣	pass
3♦	pass	3NT	all pass

1. Puppet Stayman.
2. No five-card major.

Assuming declarer misguesses the clubs, which is likely, NS have two chances to find a diamond lead and beat 3NT. Whibley did misguess the clubs, but he found a clever way to deflect South from the killing diamond switch.

North led the ♠J, and Whibley ducked in both hands, letting the ♠J win. Thinking that she had struck declarer's weakness, North continued spades to "knock out" dummy's bare ace. Declarer did misguess the clubs, cashing the ♣AK and playing a third one, but South fell into the trap and continued spades. This gave declarer time to set up a heart for the ninth trick.

The Coutts team picked up 15 imps on the following wild board from the tenth round. Liam presented it as an opening lead problem:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Caprera	Moskovsky	Brenner	Edgton
pass	1♣	1♦	dbl ¹
rdbl	3♣	3♦	3NT
dbl	pass	pass	rdbl ²
all pass			

1. 4+ hearts.
2. Intended as 'doubt' – possibility of playing 3NT, but invitation to pull.

What would you lead against 3NT redoubled as West holding

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

Although it does sound like declarer is prepared for a diamond lead, it's very hard to find the winning lead of a spade.

Board 16	♠ —
W/EW	♥ K 7
	♦ Q 8 4 3
	♣ A Q J 9 7 5 2
	♠ A Q 8 7
	♥ J 8 6 4
	♦ 6 2
	♣ K 8 3
	♠ K J 10 6 5
	♥ 10 3
	♦ K J 10 9 7 5
	♣ —
	♠ 9 4 3 2
	♥ A Q 9 5 2
	♦ A
	♣ 10 6 4

In fact West led a diamond and South ran clubs; West discarded well to prevent the third overtrick, but that was still +1200 for NS.

You can read Liam's full report on the Teams event in the April issue of *Australian Bridge Magazine*.

Earlier in the week, the Bobby Richman Pairs Championship was won by Stephen Fischer and Therese Demarco. In the event's daily bulletin, Liam Milne wrote: "... their aggressive approach to bidding (frequently bidding one more for the road) was instrumental in their success here. Numerous times the opponents were headed for a good result until either Demarco or Fischer bid to the five-level and gave them a problem."

There is no better example than the final board of the event:

Board 27	♠ A K 7 3
S/Nil	♥ 10 9 8 7 6
	♦ 4
	♣ Q J 10
	♠ J 6 4
	♥ A K Q
	♦ A Q 9 7 3 2
	♣ 3
	♠ Q 9
	♥ J 4 3
	♦ 10 8 6 5
	♣ A 8 6 4
	♠ 10 8 5 2
	♥ 5 2
	♦ K J
	♣ K 9 7 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Demarco		Fischer
1♣ ¹	dbl ²	rdbl	pass
3♦	3♥	pass	2♥
4♦	pass	5♦	pass
			all pass

1. Precision, artificial strong club.
2. Both majors.

NS's aggressive preemption goaded EW into a poor 5♦ contract. North led ♠AK and gave South a ruff, and the ♣A was two off, helping Fischer and Demarco (pictured) to maintain the lead that they had held throughout the final session.



We all know bridge is a hard game to learn. So teachers come up with advice that is right most of the time. They intend this as a guide, but it's often taken as a rule, something to be obeyed. As we get better, we learn when to follow the guides and when not to. But it's hard for newcomers, as this three-board round from a state pairs event showed.

West was a relative newcomer to the game; East, while still young, has won a national title and represented the country.

On the first board my partner opened 4♦ showing a good 4♠ opening and I bid 4♠ to play. West knew that fourth-best of the longest and strongest was the rule to follow for opening leads so led the ♥9. This turned out to be from AJT932 and didn't work so well. After the hand East very considerably explained that, while fourth-best was a helpful maxim, usually it was not a good idea to underlead an ace.

On the second board I again declared 4♠. West ignored her partner's heart bid and led the fourth-best ♣6. Dummy had ♣Q943 opposite my ♣102 so I played low, hoping the opening leader had the jack. No luck as third hand played the jack, which won. But when East returned a club, he and I discovered that West had both the ace and king!

This time, East graciously said that, while it fooled me on this deal, it's usually not a good idea to underlead an AK.

On the third board I passed, West opened 1♠, partner bid 2NT (unusual, showing clubs and diamonds), East jumped to 4♠ and I chose 5♣. Once again West was on lead. After some thought out came the ♠9. As dummy came down East couldn't help but smile then played low as I ruffed.

The reason for the smile? East held jack-ten-fifth spade and knew partner had led fourth-best from AKQ986!

Now he was going to have to explain why it usually wasn't a good idea to underlead an AKQ!

The following hand came up last week in a Matchpoint game on Bridge Base Online. We are South, declarer in 2♥:

♠ A 8 3
♥ J 6
♦ 7 6 2
♣ 10 9 8 6 2

Lead: ♠J

♠ K 9 7
♥ A Q 7 5 3 2
♦ 10
♣ A 7 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	pass	1♠	2♥
all pass			

We will lose a spade, a diamond and two clubs, so it is easy to focus on our goal: we must avoid two heart losers. What is the correct play in the heart suit?

Some players won the ♠A in dummy and played the ♥J. This is not a winning line. If East has the king, he will cover the jack, forcing South to win the ace. If trumps are 3-2, then all is well; the ♥Q will draw one more trump from each defender, and we will be left with just one trump loser. However, this line fails if either defender started with four trumps.

The more common line was to play West for the ♥K. West had opened the bidding, yet the opening lead marked East with the ♠Q and one of the high diamonds (West would have led a diamond with ♦AKQ). There was still some room for East to hold the ♥K, but it was far more likely to be with West.

These players led a small heart towards the ♥J, through West's presumed ♥K. Their plan was that if West played low, dummy's jack would win the trick. Alternatively, if West rose with the ♥K, then dummy's jack would win a trick later.

This is a good plan, if a little short-sighted. We will be fine if West rises with the ♥K, but if West is familiar with the "second hand low" rule, he will play small and let our jack win. This will be the position after the first heart has been played:

	♥ 6	
♥ K 10 9		♥ —
	♥ A Q 7 5 3	

Yes, the ♥J has scored, but it has not helped us. Eventually, West's ♥K will fulfil its natural destiny of capturing our ♥Q, and we will still have to lose another trick to the ♥10.

So, what is the correct line? Well, you may have noticed that both of the previous plays worked on a 3-2 break, and failed on a 4-1 break. In fact, pretty much any line will work on a 3-2 break. The ♥A, ♥Q and ♥J will account for all three rounds of trumps, losing just one trick. So the 3-2 breaks are irrelevant, and our goal is to find a 4-1 break that we can deal with.

If you give this a bit of thought, you will see that there is just one 4-1 break that works well for us: a singleton ♥K. The correct line is to cash the ♥A, hoping to drop the ♥K. This line avoids two losers on any 3-2 break (just like all other lines) as well as whenever the ♥K is singleton.

I'd like to tell you that the ♥K was singleton, and good technique won the board. In practice, West had the singleton ♥10 and the board was flat, one off at every table. Still, there is some satisfaction in finding the correct play, even when the benefits don't show up on the scoresheet.

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MY FAVOURITE HAND with Margaret Bourke

Margi Bourke was South on this deal. Her partner opened a multi 2♦ and she responded with the 2NT enquiry. North's 3♦ rebid showed an upper-range hand with long spades and she jumped to game in that suit.



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

West led the queen of diamonds and East played the king. As there was no reason to play this card unless it was a singleton, Margi mentally placed diamonds as 6-1. When she played the ace of trumps, West produced a suspicious looking ten. As she had two impending club losers, she could afford to lose only one trick in the trump suit.

If Margi had crossed to dummy in hearts and led the queen of trumps, West would win the trick with the now bare king of trumps. Then a second round of diamonds would promote one of East's trumps into a second trick in the suit. (If the diamond exit is ruffed high East's eight of trumps will make a trick while ruffing low would see East overruff; either way the contract would fail.)

As West seemed to have six diamonds it was likely that East had the longer defensive trump holding. Margi reckoned that West was unlikely to play the ten of trumps under the ace from ♠K10x, so her best chance was to find him with the king-ten doubleton in the suit. As a result, after she crossed to dummy with a heart and continued with the four of trumps. Once West won the trick with the king of trumps Margi could afford to ruff West's diamond exit with the nine. All that remained was to draw East's two remaining trumps with the queen and jack while claiming a total of ten tricks.

Tim Bourke

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♦ multi	pass	2NT enquiry
all pass	3♦ spades	pass	4♠

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BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS

OPEN PAIRS

- 1 Therese Demarco - Stephen Fischer
 - 2 Sophie Ashton - Sartaj Hans
 - 3 Peter Livesey - Peter Gill
 - 4 Bill Hirst - Phil Gue
 - 5 Michael Whibley - Matthew Brown
 - 6 Justin Williams - Nathan van Jole
 - 7 Ron Klinger - Matt Mullamphy
 - 8 James Coutts - Ellena Moskovsky
 - 9 Ben Thompson - David Beauchamp
 - 10 Karen Creet - Andrew Creet
- B Michael Yuen - Robert Todd
 C Nicky Strasser - George Bilski
 D Marlene Watts - Michael Prescott
 E George Sun - Alice Young
 F Julian Foster - David Weston
 G Craig Francis - Richard Wallis
 H Jamie McFall - Frances Gaunt

SENIORS PAIRS

- 1 Tony Marinos - Peter Grant
 - 2 Dee Harley - Elizabeth Havas
 - 3 Arjuna de Livera - George Kozakos
- B Peter Chan - Bob Sebesfi



INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

- 1 Kinga Hajmasi - Andrew Michl
 - 2 Keith Blinco - Eric Baker
 - 3 Rob Hurst - Rowan Corbett
 - 4 Julia Zhu - Tony Jiang
- B Jenny Williams - Ian Barfoot
 C Max Gilbert - Kathy Gilbert
 D Freddie Zulfiqar - John Aquino
 E Barbara O'Shea - Glenda Parmenter

RESTRICTED PAIRS

- 1 Neil Williams - Peter Fitzmaurice
 - 2 Maciej Szczesny - Mariusz Tumilowicz
 - 3 Sam Ward - Julia Barnett
 - 4 David Earnshaw - Daniel Chua
- B Brad Tattersfield - Jan Borren
 C Alex Penklis - Phillip Halloran
 D Jane O'Brien - Chris Hagen
 E Delores Graves - Suzanne Cole
 F Di Garside - Donna Fitch

NOVICE PAIRS

- 1 Martin Brown - Gail McKenzie
 - 2 Martin Coote - James Harvey
 - 3 James Parker - Warwick Wilkins
 - 4 Sonia Roulston - Anna Swanson
 - 5 Debbie Kennedy - Jennifer Clarebrough
 - 6 Aijun Yang - Sameer Pandya
- B Sue Smith - Penny van der Riet
 C Fiona Trescowthick - Sarah Acton
 D Wendy Casey - Barbara Moni

TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

QUALIFIERS

- 1 MCALLISTER (John Mcallister - Sartaj Hans - Matthew Brown - Michael Whibley)
- 2 FISCHER (Stephen Fischer - Marianne Bookallil - Peter Reynolds - David Appleton)
- 3 VAN DER VLUGT (Maurits Van Der Vlugt, Marshall Lewis, Kim Morrison, Chris Hughes)
- 4 BEAUCHAMP (David Beauchamp, Jodi Tutty, Nathan van Jole, Justin Williams)
- 5 WARE (Michael Ware, Geo Tislevoll, Tony Nunn, Justin Mill, Matthew Thomson, Hugh McGann)
- 6 COUTTS (James Coutts - Shane Harrison - Nabil Edgton - Ellena Moskovsky - Liam Milne - Andy Hung)

OPEN TEAMS – ROUND OF FOUR

- COUTTS 61 defeated MCALLISTER 41
 WARE 63 defeated BEAUCHAMP 27

OPEN TEAMS – SEMI FINAL

- COUTTS 90 defeated VAN DER VLUGT 70
 WARE 79 defeated FISCHER 50

OPEN TEAMS – FINAL

- COUTTS 130 defeated VAN DER VLUGT 47

SENIORS' TEAMS

- NAGY (Zolly Nagy, David Middleton, David Smith, Neil Ewart) 117 defeated MENDICK (Stephen Mendick, Bernard Waters, Tony Marinos, Peter Grant) 82

INTERMEDIATE TEAMS

- BAKER (Eric Baker, Keith Blinco, Max Holewa, Diane Holewa) 93 defeated HAJMASI (Kinga Hajmasi, Andrew Michl, Tony Jiang, Julia Zhu) 91



NOVICE TEAMS

- YATES (Bernard Yates, Nick Hullah, Kerry Barns, Sylvia Bray) 161 defeated ANDERSON (Nola Anderson, Diane Smith, Jenny Reid, Diane Dwyer) 82

GOLD COAST RESULTS

Restricted Teams winners Fran Martin, Chris Hagen, Jane O'Brien



RESTRICTED TEAMS

BANNISTER (Ian Bannister, Fran Martin, Jane O'Brien, Chris Hagen) 123 defeated STEVENS (Margaret Stevens, Sue Luby, Neil Williams, Kevin Murray) 115

MONDAY BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

OPEN NS

- 1 Matthew Thomson - Hugh McGann
- 2 Ken Dawson - Andrew Slater

OPEN EW

- 1 Greg Lee - Alan Currie
- 2 Mike Longmire - Pat Beattie
- 3 Tom Kiss - Alasdair Beck

0-500 MP

- 1 Sonja Ramsund - Margaret Azar
- 2 Rebecca Delaney - Lesley Fraser
- 3 Elizabeth Neil - Maureen Collins



0-500 Swiss Pairs winners Margaret Azar & Sonja Ramsund

WEEKEND MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

OPEN

- 1 Michael Pemberton - Chris Ackerley
- 2 Greg Buzzard - Harry Shepherd
- 3 Gray McMullin - Pamela Nisbet

0-500 MP

- 1 Linda Norman - Wendy Gibson
- 2 Esther Saunders - Colin Saunders
- 3 Jim Stewart - David Owen

NOVICE EVENTS

SUNDAY ROOKIE PAIRS

- NS Stephen Bennett - Louise Bennett
EW Caroline Nelson - Felicity McKenzie

0-50 MASTERPOINT PAIRS – TUESDAY

- NS Upasana Shanti - Lynda Laffan
EW Dianne Hiles - Richard Booth

0-50 MASTERPOINT PAIRS – WEDNESDAY

- 1 Jane Clitheroe - Barbara Dillner
- 2 Eugene Pereira - Rex Meadowcroft
- 3 Dianne Hiles - Richard Booth

0-50 MASTERPOINT BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Robyn Lichter - Judy Leiba
- 2 Margaret Brown - Jan Malcolm
- 3 Anne Moase - Penny Talley

THURSDAY ROOKIE PAIRS

- NS Caroline Nelson - Felicity McKenzie
EW Jenny Sanders - Keith Sanders

FRIDAY NOVICE PAIRS

- 1 Gary Petterson - Laurie Bell
- 2 Anne Moase - Penny Talley
- 3 Tony Thorne - Elizabeth Thorne

IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

- Jane Beeby - Michael Wilkinson,
Anne Somerville - Geoff Eyles
Intermediate: Paul Corry - Chris Fernando
Restricted: Annette Hagan - Janice Willoughby

SERES-MCMAHON MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Robert Krochmalik - Viv Wood
- 2 Roger Thomas - Graham Wakefield
- 3 John McMahon - Nico Ranson

HOLIDAY WALK-INS

- Janet Johnson - Bobbie Greenwood
Johan Roose - Judith Roose-Driver
Jack Rohde - Lex Ranke

Australian Mixed Teams Playoff

SEMI FINAL

Gold 153 defeated Darling (Marina Darling, Justin Mill, Annette Maluish, Andrew Mill) 75

Tutty 175 defeated Grosvenor (Hugh Grosvenor, Viv Wood, Simon Hinge, Ann Paton) 87

FINAL

Tutty (Jodi Tutty, David Beauchamp, Renee Cooper, Ben Thompson) 140 defeated Gold (Leigh Gold, Kitty Muntz, Jamie Ebery, Kim Frazer) 93



Australian Mixed Team Jodi Tutty, David Beauchamp, Renee Cooper, Ben Thompson

SEE PAGE 24 FOR ANSWERS

HAND 1

♠ K 5
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ K 8 7

♠ A 10 2
♥ J 10 5
♦ A 8 5 4
♣ A 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
pass	1♥	pass	1NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

Lead: ♠Q.
What is your plan?

HAND 2

♠ Q 3
♥ 9 7
♦ A J 9 5 2
♣ Q 8 5 4

♠ K 10 8 6 5 2
♥ K 8
♦ K 6
♣ A K 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
pass	1NT	2♥	3♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

Lead: ♥2 – seven – ace – eight.
Trick 2: ♥Q – king – four – nine.
What is your plan?

HAND 3

♠ 9 6 3 2
♥ A 8 6
♦ A K 7 6
♣ A 6

♠ A K Q J
♥ 9 7
♦ 4
♣ Q J 9 5 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♣
3♥	dbl	pass	4♠
pass	4NT	pass	5♠ ^{2+Q}
pass	6♠	all pass	

West led the ♣3.
What is your plan?

CONTEMPORARY MASTERPOINTS

Various tournaments use masterpoints to stream participants into different fields. For example, each year Sydney North clubs run an interclub teams and interclub pairs. At one such event, a player noted that people like herself are committed to playing in A grade due to the number of masterpoints accumulated over many decades, whereas B grade would be more appropriate (and conversely, an up and coming newer player who had not yet earned many masterpoints should play in A grade).

How can we more accurately separate players by standard? The ABF has not adopted the Ratings scheme sponsored by the late Alan Woods, so that is out. Judgement, perhaps. But is there any chance the masterpoint centre could produce another masterpoint report where historical points are downgraded. "Decayed Masterpoints" seems an accurate title but perhaps something like "Contemporary Masterpoints" sounds better. (Another possibility is "Adjusted Masterpoints" or AMPs.)

For example, every month when updates are done, these "CMPs" would have their existing points reduced by 1%, and new points added on. The CMPs would thus always be lower than (or the same as, for players who have only just started to win points) the normal masterpoint total. If it is not feasible to go back and make historical changes, one could start the process for each month in the future and the CMPs would slowly gain in meaning.

The traditional masterpoint rankings would still retain their normal significance and be a status symbol of lifetime achievement, but CMPs could be used as required for grading purposes (e.g. Interclub competitions such as the one mentioned above where players are split into grades based on MPs, or for determining who is eligible for Restricted prizes at congresses). They would not need to be given prominence, as long as there was an option on the website to search for them in a similar fashion to how one searches for regular MPs.

Just to be clear, people would not lose their points or rankings (that would upset some); rather the current system of masterpoints would still be publicised and promoted, but those interested (e.g. handicappers) could also look up contemporary masterpoints.

Of course, there are many other ways this issue could be tackled. These CMPs could be adjusted to include points won overseas, and adjustments made for those who play in clubs which do not issue masterpoints. Recent points could be bolstered, as well as older points being decayed. But for those who seek a better system of grading, any progress would be welcome.

Derrick Browne, Trumps Bridge Centre

Best wishes to four members of the Australian Youth Team, Matt Smith, Jamie Thompson, Nico Ranson & John McMahon, who are playing at the White House Junior Internationals in Amsterdam as we go to print. See the ABF web site for result updates.

Good for the Grey Cells

A local 12 year-old believes playing bridge supports school and life skills.

PADDY Taylor believes that the game of bridge is good for strategic thinking and good for social skills.

"There is a very rigid underlying social etiquette in bridge and the same in life. Some of my friends at school spend 12 hours a day on a device. This is like old people being shut away at home. Playing bridge is very social and you talk with so many different people," said Paddy.

The mental challenges of bridge complement Paddy's love of surfing and also playing in the Kenmore under 14 soccer team.

Playing bridge in the largest international bridge congress in the

Southern Hemisphere was "a cool experience" says the 12 year old local Brookfield boy. His parents and Kenmore State High School teachers supported Paddy taking a week off school to attend this once a year major event. Between working and playing bridge he studied and submitted school assignments by email.

He was expecting to work at the 10 day Congress, but played in a competition when someone became sick. As he has been playing at Kenmore Bridge Club with players of all levels, this was not an issue for him. He and his partner came fifth in the day long competition.



The Gold Coast Bridge Congress attracts 2500 players from all over the world and has been convened by Kenmore local Therese Tully who is the Grand Aunt of Paddy. Therese has been a valuable mentor to Paddy and

introduced him to Kenmore Bridge Club where he plays regularly during his school holidays. Paddy says "bridge opens a lot of opportunities and if you are on the youth team you can go overseas and interstate."



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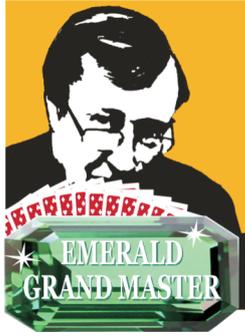
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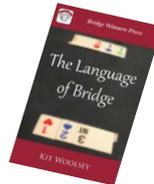
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ACTION WHEN RHO OPENS ONE OF A MAJOR

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable:

- | WEST | NORTH | EAST
(1♥) | SOUTH
? |
|--------------|---------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. ♠ K 6 2 | ♥ 7 2 | ♦ Q 9 8 | ♣ A Q J 6 4 |
| 2. ♠ K 6 2 | ♥ 6 3 | ♦ A Q J | ♣ Q 9 8 4 2 |
| 3. ♠ Q 7 3 | ♥ Q 2 | ♦ A J 4 | ♣ Q J 5 4 3 |
| 4. ♠ A K 3 | ♥ 7 6 3 | ♦ A 8 7 5 | ♣ Q 10 3 |
| 5. ♠ A Q 6 5 | ♥ 7 2 | ♦ A Q 9 8 2 | ♣ 7 5 |
| 6. ♠ A Q 6 5 | ♥ 7 6 | ♦ 7 5 | ♣ A Q 9 8 2 |
| 7. ♠ A K 4 2 | ♥ 6 | ♦ A 2 | ♣ 10 8 7 6 5 3 |
| 8. ♠ K Q 6 5 | ♥ 2 | ♦ A 10 8 7 | ♣ 9 8 6 5 |
| 9. ♠ 7 5 | ♥ 5 | ♦ J 10 6 5 | ♣ K Q J 10 5 4 |
| 10. ♠ 8 | ♥ 8 2 | ♦ 9 2 | ♣ A Q 10 9 6 5 4 2 |

SOLUTIONS

1. ♠ K 6 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ Q 9 8 ♣ A Q J 6 4
 2♣. You would like to have a better hand and a better suit, a six-card suit would be a big plus. The main problem with overcalling 2♣ at the expert level is that your LHO may have four or five clubs and you suffer a hefty penalty in 2♣ doubled when your RHO reopens with a double.

However, overcalling competes for the partscore, indicates a good lead and sets up a possible sacrifice. In the early 1980s Stephen Burgess and Paul Marston crossed The Ditch and cut a swathe through the local experts. Marston kept statistics on all their actions and these sort of overcalls proved to be big winners.

2. ♠ K 6 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ A Q J ♣ Q 9 8 4 2
 Double. You would rather show a more all-round hand than emphasise your motley club suit. If the opponents are going to declare the hand and you can somehow indicate a good lead to partner you can consider that you have won the bidding.

3. ♠ Q 7 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ A J 4 ♣ Q J 5 4 3
 Pass. Even though you have 12 HCP your hand is too poor to overcall or double. There are four aces and four kings in the pack that will take between 6-8 tricks on most deals. You have only one ace and lots of queens and jacks including the doubleton queen of your RHO's suit. You have a defensive type of hand so don't get involved in the auction.



paul@bridgegear.com

4. ♠ A K 3 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ A 8 7 5 ♣ Q 10 3
 Double. You only have three spades and you are 4333 but this is the safest time to get into the auction and you should bid now while you have the opportunity. Imagine partner has 8 or 9 HCP and a five- or six-card suit, it is surely up to you to get your side into the bidding.

5. ♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A Q 9 8 2 ♣ 7 5
 Double. And if partner replies 2♣ then you bid 2♦. Bidding 2♦ over 2♣ in this situation is an exception to the general rule of doubling first to show a strong hand and shows no more than a minimum. This style is called Equal Level Conversion.

6. ♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A Q 9 8 2
 2♣. If you made a takeout double and partner responded 2♦, the most likely response, then you would be poorly placed. Your plan is to follow up your 2♣ overcall with 2♠ given the opportunity. This is a little pushy but it is better than doubling and hearing partner bid 2♦.

7. ♠ A K 4 2 ♥ 6 ♦ A 2 ♣ 10 8 7 6 5 3
 2♣. This is not a good lead-directing bid but with 6-4 shape your hand is much better than it looks and you can follow up with 2♠ given the chance. Give partner a modest collection such as xx-xxx-Kxxx-AKxx and 12 tricks are there as long as clubs break 2-1, a big favourite. Don't forget, 6-4 bid more!

8. ♠ K Q 6 5 ♥ 2 ♦ A 10 8 7 ♣ 9 8 6 5
 Double. Only 9 HCP but the perfect shape for a takeout double. You are much better to bid now than wait. The acid test for an overcall or a takeout double is how you would feel if partner jumped to game and you'd feel pretty positive about your chances if partner jumped to 4♠.

9. ♠ 7 5 ♥ 5 ♦ J 10 6 5 ♣ K Q J 10 5 4
 3♣. A weak jump overcall – 6-10 HCP and a six- or seven-card suit. Your hand doesn't look that good but your strong club suit gives you added protection and you have extra playing strength with your 6-4 shape. Your shortage in the majors means this is an action hand and there could well be bad breaks for the opponents if they stretch to enter the auction.

10. ♠ 8 ♥ 8 2 ♦ 9 2 ♣ A Q 10 9 6 5 4 2
 4♣. Preempts at the four-level should likewise indicate an eight-card suit by The Law of Total Tricks and here your hand is perfect. Some "aggressive" players would bid 5♣ but this more or less forces the opponents to double you for penalties. My preference is to bid the value of my hand and try and lure the opponents into the bidding where there are a number of ways they can get it wrong.

Paul Lavings

NANCE TIERNEY TURNS 90



Nance started her 90th birthday celebrations on Friday 8th February by playing bridge at the Mollymook Bridge Club where she is a Life Master.

Nance was born Anne Therese (thereafter called Nance) Faulkner in Hurstville in 1929 at the beginning of the Great Depression. She tells us that the two events were not connected. Hers was a conventional childhood

with lots of time spent on the tennis court.

After school and business college, she worked for some time in an office before joining an airline.

Brian and Nance were married in Sydney in 1955, and subsequently lived in Deniliquin for five years and then for 28 years in Leeton, where their three children were born.

In 1984, they joined the Leeton Bridge Club where they were taught by skilled instructors, and Nance was lucky to acquire a good partner. Nance is now sharing the skills she learned earlier in life with newer bridge players.

When they retired to Mollymook in 1989 they were instrumental in helping to establish the Mollymook Bridge Club in 1990.

When asked for comments about her time playing bridge, she replied, "Over the years I've met some great people, some weirdos and have had some special partners. It was a good idea to hit the Bridge Trail."

And finally she contributed this short poem which summarises life by the seaside:

"As I'm now a nonagenarian,
Who's lived in places agrarian,
I'm happy by the sea,
And think that's the key,
To being a happy Aquarian."

*Sue Tooth,
Mollymook Bridge Club*



Nance's birthday party at the Mollymook Bridge Club

A THOUGHTFUL GIFT

Have you noticed that as we all grow older the statement "I don't know what to get you for a gift" seems to be heard all too often?

At the Mackay Bridge Club in Queensland, one of our 'older' members Eddie Kliese, who commenced playing Bridge in 1997, was lucky enough to have a thoughtful family who came up with a unique present for him at Christmas time 2018.



Eddie's son Gregory and his wife Noeleen, who both play bridge in Mackay, made Eddie feel quite special come Christmas morning when opening his gift from all the family.

In a Christmas gift bag Eddie found not one, but 52 separate clear plastic bags, each one containing both a single playing card plus a \$5 note. This will pay for 52 games of Bridge for Eddie who does play several times a week. The Christmas gift bag also contained the empty box to put all the single playing cards in so that Eddie could use the full deck at a later date.

To say that Eddie was very touched that his family had put so much thought into his gift was apparent when Eddie brought the gift bag into to bridge club to show all of us fellow members. As bridge players I thought you would all appreciate this story and we all may be able to drop some 'helpful gift ideas' to our loved ones.

Diane Holewa, Mackay Bridge Club

For those bridge players who care about the environment, the ABF's sponsor, PENLINE, makes Reusable Coffee cups and Water Bottles, as part of its "War on Waste". If you are interested in more information, please contact Maryo Derofo by email: maryo@penline.com.au

CARD PLAY PROBLEM

S/EW ♠ 5
PLAY ♥ J 9 4 2
 ♦ A Q J 6 5 3
 ♣ J 5

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

♠ K Q J
 ♥ K Q 8 3
 ♦ 7 4 2
 ♣ A 7 4

This won't be a problem if trumps are 3-2, but West's ♥A suggests a 4-1 break – this means we can't simply cross to the ♥K and ♥Q without setting up a trick for East's ♥10.

This is the position after you ruff the third club:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♣	pass	1NT
pass	4♥	all pass	2♥

West leads the ♣3 (fourth highest) and you play the ♣J, covered by the king and ace. This leaves you with a club loser to go with the ♥A and ♠A, so you'll need to find the diamond finesse onside.

You start by leading a small trump, and West pops up with the ace as East follows. This is a good start; now you know there are no extra trump losers. West plays a spade to East's ace, and the defenders play two more rounds of clubs as you ruff in dummy. What next?

* * * * *

You will need to take the diamond finesse twice, after drawing trumps, but your only entries to hand are in the trump suit.

Needing two entries to hand, you must overtake the ♥J with the ♥Q. Now you can take the diamond finesse, and come back to hand by finessing the ♥8. Draw the last trump, and a second diamond finesse leads to ten tricks.

One last thing: did you keep a small trump in dummy so you could finesse the ♥8? If you carelessly wasted your small trumps, leaving ♥J9 in dummy, then the ♥8 will no longer be an entry.

BRIDGE MOVIE: You can click the **PLAY** button, above left, to step through a movie version of the play of this hand, illustrating both the winning and the losing line of play.

Brad Coles



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HOW WOULD YOU PLAY? – SOLUTIONS by Barbara Travis

HAND 1

PLAY

♠ K 5
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ K 8 7

♠ Q J 9 8 7
♥ 9 6
♦ K 3 2
♣ 9 6 4

♠ 6 4 3
♥ A 8 4 2
♦ 7 6
♣ Q J 10 2

♠ A 10 2
♥ J 10 5
♦ A 8 5 4
♣ A 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♥	pass	1♦
pass	3NT	all pass	1NT

Lead: ♠Q. What is your plan?

You should win the ♠K at trick 1, to keep the spade 'tenace' intact.

You have five top tricks and can score extra tricks with your diamonds and hearts. Which suit should you play first?

Given the spade position (East should throw the ♠10 at trick one if they hold it – not discouraging, rather telling partner that the spades are now solid), you do not want East on lead, but do not mind having West on lead.

You have the ♠A10 and West has the jack, so if West leads spades you get an extra trick.

You should take the diamond finesse immediately. If it is failing, you want to remove West's later entry. West wins the ♦K (either first or second lead) but cannot lead the spades safely.

When you regain the lead, work on hearts, and now your contract is safe.

If you lead hearts first, then East should win the ♥A and lead another spade through your ♠A10. When the diamond finesse fails, the defence have five tricks.

HAND 2

PLAY

♠ Q 3
♥ 9 7
♦ A J 9 5 2
♣ Q 8 5 4

♠ J 9 7 4
♥ 10 4 2
♦ 4 3
♣ J 9 7 6

♠ A
♥ A Q J 6 5 3
♦ Q 10 8 7
♣ 10 3

♠ K 10 8 6 5 2
♥ K 8
♦ K 6
♣ A K 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1NT	2♥	1♠
pass	4♠	all pass	3♠

Lead: ♥2 – seven – ace – eight.

Trick 2: ♥Q – king – four – nine.

What is your plan?

Your only problem is negotiating the trump suit to ensure a maximum of two losers, i.e. allowing for 4-1 breaks.

Since East has shown values, the ♠A is more likely to be in their hand. However, you can cope with a singleton ♠J or ♠9 regardless, it is just the singleton ♠A that matters (♠A-J-9-x is unmanageable).

You must allow for East to hold singleton ♠A, by leading the first trump from dummy – and leading the ♠3 not the ♠Q first.

So cross to dummy at trick three, then lead the ♠3, catching East's short ♠A. Now you only lose two spade tricks, one to the ace and one to the jack, together with the ♥A.

HAND 3

PLAY

♠ 9 6 3 2
♥ A 8 6
♦ A K 7 6
♣ A 6

♠ 10 8 4
♥ K J 10 5 4 3 2
♦ 10 2
♣ 3

♠ 7 5
♥ Q
♦ Q J 9 8 5 3
♣ K 10 8 7

♠ A K Q J
♥ 9 7
♦ 4
♣ Q J 9 5 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♥	dbl	pass	1♣
pass	4NT ^{RKCB}	pass	4♠
pass	6♠	all pass	5♠ ^{2+Q}

West led the ♣3.

What is your plan?

Andrew Robson wrote a BOLS tip, "When a preemptive bidder leads a different suit against a trump contract, play for the lead to be a singleton, but when he leads from a broken holding in his own suit play him for a singleton trump." Based on this assumption, you should rise with dummy's ♣A at trick one and then draw three rounds of trumps, noting that West held three of them – which gives further weight to the notion that the club lead was a singleton.

You cannot afford to lead the ♣Q from hand though. If you do so, East can duck or win. If he wins, he can exit with the ♥Q, but you will no longer have the entries to your own hand to bring in the club suit so will end up down one trick.

Instead, you must cross to dummy, leading your diamond to dummy's ace, then lead the ♣6 towards your hand. When East follows with the ♣8, you cover with the ♣9. When this wins, you can continue with the ♣Q, throwing a diamond from dummy. When East wins the ♣Q, you can win his ♥Q return in dummy with the ♥A, discard your heart loser on the ♦K, then cross back to hand to cash your club suit.

COVER UP THE SECOND TIME

Esteemed Uncle,

I still don't completely get this business about covering honours with honours. Wouldn't it be nice to have a rule that was simple and worked every time? When you taught me all that stuff about promoting small cards, I thought it was a revelation, but recently the whole business has fallen on stony ground. What's the good of playing well if the opponents seem to be able to see through the back of the cards?

Here are a couple of examples:

COVER UP #1

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

Glenda led the ♥K South's 3NT and declarer let her win the first trick, so she switched to a club (ugh!). Declarer played the jack from dummy and led the ♠Q. I covered (did you teach me to do that?) and declarer won with the ace. Next, he played the ♠9 and ran it! Now he took 11 tricks. No one else made that number.

COVER UP #2

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

South was in 4♠ and Glenda took the first two heart tricks before playing a spade. Declarer drew three rounds of trumps finishing in dummy and played the ♦J. Like a good little soldier, I covered with the queen. South took her ace and played a diamond towards dummy's ♦10. Glenda won her king but we took no more tricks. Quite a lot of people went off. How?

*Perplexed as always,
Cathy*

Dear Perplexed,

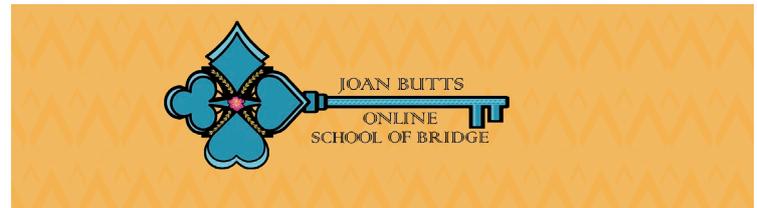
You have the right idea. Covering honours creates the opportunity to promote your partner's cards, but timing is also important because covering at the right time will reduce declarer's options. In both examples, you have been in the fortunate position of seeing what is in dummy and the fact that there are two honours that you can cover, as opposed to the usual one. It is often harder when declarer leads from hand because you cannot see the cards behind the honour lead.

In the first case, you gain no immediate advantage by covering the first-played honour. But look at what happens if declarer holds the first trick with the queen. He will no longer be in a position to pick up Glenda's ten. If his next move is to lead the jack, now you will cover. If he leads low, he will have to play the ace in order to deal with the ten. Your side will score a trick in the suit.

In the second case, whether partner has the king or the ace (she must have one of them for your side to gain any diamond tricks) you have little to lose by not covering first time. If declarer has length, your Q9 will become very strong cards and if declarer has something like Kx, you will benefit whenever she guesses incorrectly.

Cover the last of a sequence of honours to maximise your tricks as defenders. So, have we got that covered?

*Warmest regards,
David*



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STEPPING UP

After West and North pass, East bids 1♦ (showing 4+) and you overcall 2♣. West passes and your partner comes to life with a 5♣ bid which is the final contract. West leads the ♦6. Can you see a way to make 5♣ when the dummy is revealed?



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

You may wonder why partner failed to open 1♣ with his 13 HCP, but you know to focus on the problem at hand. You observe that with your 14 HCP there are only 13 HCP in the opponents' hands and you would expect most (if not all) to lie with East.

Anyway, back to the play. You play the ♦10 from dummy and East quickly plays the ♦A. You follow with the ♦3 (to confuse East if West has led a singleton). East then cashes the ♠A and exits with the ♣7. West follows, meaning the trumps are 2-1.

Having lost two tricks already, you must win the rest. You can see five club tricks, two spade tricks (ruffing one), a diamond and two hearts which only totals ten. Where is the eleventh to come from? You could try the heart finesse, but since you expect East to hold the ♥Q success there looks unlikely. Is there any way around this?

Yes, there is. Make it impossible for East to hold on to all his winners. Squeeze him out of them.

After drawing the remaining trump, cash your winning spade and ruff a spade. Next play out all your remaining clubs and the ♦K, retaining dummy's three hearts. You will also be left with only three cards (♥K,7 and ♦2). And of course, East too has only three cards. If your ♦2 isn't high (you have been watching the discards), then East is holding one diamond and only two hearts. You can now confidently play the ♥K and ♥A making the ♥J high and rejoice in squeezing East in order to make your contract. You are now on the road to be known as a better card player.

Here is the full deal:

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

Dennis Zines

IS ONLINE BRIDGE DESTROYING OUR CLUBS?

We live in a world where technology increasingly dominates every facet of our lives. It has now become possible to shop, date, read, watch movies, order food and do many other things all from a computer screen in the comfort and privacy of our own homes. We should pause, however, and consider the impact this is having on our lives and our engagement with our community. Human beings are social animals and have thrived within groups for as long as history is recorded. What is the result, then, of our increasingly isolated lives spent in a room in front of a computer?

As bridge lovers, we all enjoy getting together and playing this wonderful game. It has been responsible for the development of friendships, relationships, and often inspires travel to the far reaches of the world. We also enjoy the annual Gold Coast Congress, where the social aspect of the game, both during hours of play and afterwards, provides much entertainment and networking amongst those of us who share a passion for the game, and also our partners who may not play but enjoy the activities organised by those who care not just about the players, but the interests of their nearest and dearest.

Unfortunately, as a society, we are so caught up in our screens that we are not thinking about what is happening to our lives and social structures whilst our attention is being diverted by our devices. What happens to our shops and businesses whilst we are all busy purchasing online? What will become of our restaurants, bars and music venues when everyone "orders in" via Uber Eats, and plays all their music on Spotify?

These are all issues we must ponder and now begin to address in terms of Bridge. Sadly, there has been a huge decline in attendance in our clubs for evening bridge. It has become easier for people to play bridge online in their homes with a glass of wine at their fingertips than to go out to their local club, play and interact with people. Even worse, evenings that were very popular have been shut down due to lack of numbers.

It is easy to stay at home and play online. You can play with anyone you choose, you can drink without worrying about driving or transport. It has all become TOO easy. Most people would say that they will go back to attending a club when it suits them or attend on a sporadic basis.

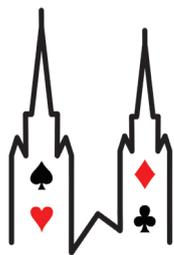
The reality is this: people who are passionate about bridge and keep the clubs running cannot do so with falling numbers. Our facilities are wonderful, as are the people running the clubs—most of whom dedicate time and effort above and beyond what is expected to keep the game and clubs going.

We must now ask ourselves this. Are the bridge clubs going to be there waiting for us to wake up from our online stupor? The way things are going, the answer is this: NO. Please ask yourself the next time you opt out of going to play evening bridge to sit and play online: how would I feel if the OPTION to attend a social game on an evening JUST IS NOT THERE?

Our bridge clubs need people. People need people. People like us who love bridge need others of like mind to play with. We all need outings and to interact socially with others. So, the next time you decide to stay in and play online, please consider that the facility you do not support may not be there when you most need it. Our clubs need attendance for evening bridge to stay alive.

Please take the time to read this article and to think deeply about how much bridge means to you. Your club needs your support on a regular basis to guarantee its survival.

Patrick Bugler, QCBC Brisbane



ADELAIDE



Autumn Nationals 2019

Ridley Centre, Wayville Showgrounds

Thursday 2 & Friday 3 May - Swiss Pairs

(Open, Seniors, Women, Under Life Master)

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 May - Teams

(Open, Under Life Master)

Monday 6 May - Consolation Teams and Pairs

(and Teams final)

All events attract Gold masterpoints

PQPs awarded in all events except Consolation and Under Life Master

Entry fees: Pairs \$260, Teams \$540

(Special discount where entry fee paid in full in one transaction by credit card or EFT by 3 April)

Consolation \$10 per player

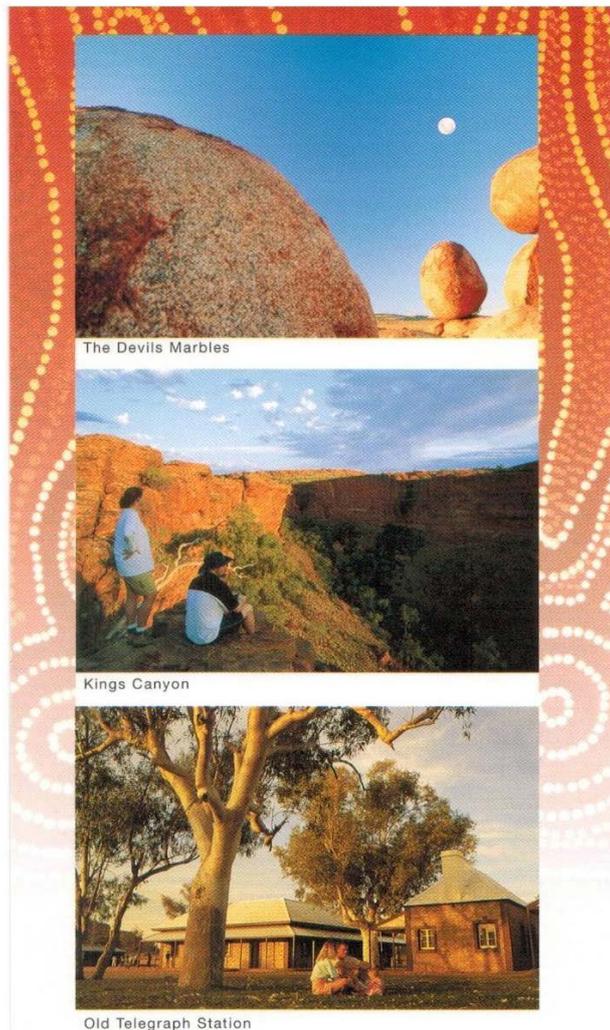
Tournament Organiser Jinny Fuss

04 740 740 05

ANOT.Organiser@gmail.com

See website for full details - www.abfevents.com.au/events/anot/2019

Not comfortable with computers or the Internet? Just ring Jinny



The Devils Marbles

Kings Canyon

Old Telegraph Station



Territory Gold Bridge Festival in Alice Springs

4th - 8th September 2019

Matchpoint Pairs - Sept 4th 9.30am & 2.15pm
Sept 5th 9.30am

Swiss Teams - Sept 5th 7.30pm

Sept 6th 9.30am & 2.15pm

Swiss Pairs (with PQP's) - Sept 7th & 8th

9.30am & 2.15 pm

**ALL WITH GOLD MASTERPOINTS
and CASH PRIZES**

Director: Matthew McManus

VENUE: Alice Springs Convention Centre

Enquiries to the Tournament Organiser:

Eileen Boocock: 0409 677 356 or

tgbf@abf.com.au

Visit NTBA Website for entry forms and
more information www.ntba.com.au



ANC Events - GOLD POINTS
Congress Events - RED POINTS

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 13 - 25 2019



Bayview Eden Hotel
6 Queens Road Melbourne

Tournament Organiser: Belinda Lindsay
belinda_lindsay@iinet.net.au

abfevents.com.au/events/anc/2019/

