

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



Editor: Barbara Travis (editor@abf.com.au)

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GOAN GOLD FOR OUR MIXED TEAM by Jodi Tutty



Australia's golden Mixed Team, 3rd Asia Cup, Goa (India)
Left to right: Matthew Thomson, Cathryn Herden, David Beauchamp, Jodi Tutty

West	North	East	South
		3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♣
5♥	5♠	Pass	Pass
Double All Pass			

As South, I was all set to preempt 4♣ when East opened 3♥ in front of me. With the truisms, 'Don't preempt over a preempt' and David's favourite, 'As Ted would say, what is an 8-card suit called? Trumps', running through my head, I chose to Pass. (At least I could argue I didn't have an 8-card suit in the post-mortem.) I was very fortunate in how the auction went, in that I got to bid 4♣ which then described my hand pretty accurately. I thought David judged the auction very well to bid 5♠, rather than double or pass. His rationale was that the bidding marked me with a likely heart void and long spades (though he didn't quite picture the 9-carder).

After the opening lead of the ♥A, I played the ♣Q at trick 2 to avoid a diamond loser, and 5♠ X rolled in.

In our match, the board was flat as the auction at the other table went:

West	North	East	South
Matthew		Cathryn	
		3♥	3♣
4♥	4♣	Pass	Pass
5♥	Double	Pass	5♠
Double	All Pass		

We were however, the only match of the 8 semi-finals to have a flat board. In all the other matches, IMPs flowed. At all tables, the final contract was doubled, although the actual contract varied considerably: 4♠ X, 5♥ X, 5♠ S X, 6♥ X and 6♠ X. All the Souths but ours either passed or bid 4♣ after the 3♥ preempt.

I'm waiting for my next 9-card suit to be dealt. I am willing to bet that the initial bid by half the field won't be Pass!

It was a thrill for all of us to top the round robin qualifying, and then to win the semi-final and final. Many thanks to my fantastic partner David and teammates Cathryn and Matthew. The only other thing we could have wished for was that Margaret and Stephen had been there as well.

Jodi Tutty

In June, I had the good fortune to play in the 3rd Asia Cup in Goa as part of the Australian Mixed Team. Even better, we were lucky enough to win it! Initially we had a six-person team of Matthew Thomson and Cathryn Herden, Margaret Bourke and Stephen Fischer, and David Beauchamp and me. However just before we left Australia, in a bitter blow, Margaret had to pull out. This win is for you, Margaret and Stephen.

For David and me, it was a blast from the past or, more precisely, 35 years ago. Not only was that the last time we had played bridge together, it was also about the time when we were backpacking in India together. The backpacking had had somewhat disastrous results, as David had gastro trouble for weeks on end and I had to be medivac-ed back to Australia. As David's wife, Anita Curtis, remarked, when she wasn't shaking her head in disbelief, some people learn from experience!

This time, once we got to India, things couldn't have gone better. Accommodation, food and bridge all went well.

So, to the bridge and here is the hand that stuck out most. Not only did I pick up a 9-card suit but I also passed.

Dealer East	♠ K Q		
EW Vul	♥ Q 10 3		
	♦ A 9 8 6 4		
	♣ K J 3		
♠ A		♠ 7	
♥ A 9		♥ K J 8 7 6 5 4 2	
♦ K 10 7 3 2		♦ Q	
♣ A 9 8 7 4		♣ 6 5 2	
	♠ J 10 9 8 6 5 4 3 2		
	♥ void		
	♦ J 5		
	♣ Q 10		

Our best wishes now go to the Australian Youth Team, heading to the 2018 World Youth Team Championships in China, from 8th to 18th August.

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**CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB
 NOVICE AND RESTRICTED CONGRESS**

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th August 2018
Swiss Pairs on Saturday, Swiss Teams on Sunday
Entries via NSWBA website
or email John Redfearn at cccbridgeclub@gmail.com

DEADLINES FOR OCTOBER 2018:
ADVERTISING: 20TH SEPTEMBER 2018
ARTICLES: 24TH SEPTEMBER 2018

In the last 3 months, I have had the pleasure of emailing my congratulations to the winners of a mixture of novice, restricted, pairs and team events at the Barrier Reef Congress, the ANOT and the VCC. It is good to see the glory was spread around. I add my congratulations to the Tournament Organisers and the volunteers who contributed in some form to the success of these events. As players we often take for granted the hours of work these members put in before, during and after the events.

I was also pleased to congratulate our Australian representatives who had podium finishes in either the Asia Cup or the Yeh Cup. Details of the winners and place getters can be found in the IPTF Report on page 5.

As a result of the WBF introducing a Mixed Team category at World events, and following player feedback, the ABF will conduct an Australian Mixed Teams Championships, which will offer the winners the chance to represent Australia. This event will be held in Sydney on the Australia Day Weekend 2019 at the NSWBA and will be open entry to teams of 4 or 6 players who play as mixed pairs. Qualifying will be Friday 25th and Saturday 26th January, with Semi finals on Sunday 27th and Finals on Monday 28th. The Management Committee is very pleased that Marcia Scudder will be the Tournament Organiser and Matthew McManus the CTD and Scorer at this event. Save these dates in your 2019 calendar and watch the ABF website for more details.

The program for Youth Week 2019 has been finalised by the ABF Youth Coordinators, Leigh and Bianca Gold. With an increased focus on development, Youth Week will present an ideal opportunity for new young players to experience bridge under the guidance of some of our best players. The ABF sees youth development as a key strategic priority for the future of bridge and has committed to further activities for youth development in the year ahead.

Next week I am heading to Hobart for the Australian National Teams Championship where I look forward to catching up with my bridge family. TBIB will again sponsor the Butler events and have confirmed they will continue this sponsorship in Victoria in 2019 and Adelaide in 2020. The ABF values the relationship that has been developed with TBIB and is pleased to see they now provide various styles of support, sponsorship and promotion to the game of bridge in every Australian State and Territory.

Finally, thank you to the Willetton Bridge Club for the invitation to play at your newly affiliated club. I enjoyed the hospitality, especially the sponge cake, and the opportunity to talk to the players about the many benefits the ABF has to offer to members of affiliated clubs. Thank you also to the Albury Bridge Club for welcoming me when I called in during my Victorian road trip.

The best of bridge to you all.

Allison Stralow
 ABF President

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OUR WOMEN IN GOA - BRONZE MEDALLISTS

The Bulletin at the 3rd Asia Cup reported on several matches each day, and this article has been extracted from one of those reports.

The following two hands come from a qualifying round match where our Australian Women's Team played Chinese Taipei.

Board 3
Dealer South EW Vul

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

<i>West</i> <i>Reynolds</i>	<i>North</i> <i>Liu Pei Hu</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Wood</i>	<i>South</i> <i>So Ho Yee</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	All Pass

<i>West</i> <i>Yin Shou C</i>	<i>North</i> <i>Bird</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Yin Yu Lin</i>	<i>South</i> <i>Creet</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Assuming East's 2♥ bid showed the equivalent of a weak 2 in hearts, West could have tried raising to 3♥, and our girls would have ended up in game. 2♥ played well, and Wood made 11 tricks, for +200.

The Chinese Taipei women appear to have a Gazilli auction, where the 2♣ bid followed by 2♠ showed 5-4 in the blacks in a minimum opening, and East had only shown 8+ HCP. Surprisingly, 2♣ went down, and Australia gained 7 IMPs.

Board 6
Dealer East EW Vul

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

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

<i>West</i> <i>Reynolds</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Wood</i>	<i>South</i>
Double (♠)	Redouble	1♣	1♥
2♠	2NT	1♠ (3 spades)	Pass
All Pass		Pass	3NT

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i> <i>Bird</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i> <i>Creet</i>
2♠ (weak)	3♦	1♣	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♥
		All Pass	

After South's 1♥ overcall, North-South were always heading to game. North's 2NT right-sided the contract, and 10 tricks made easily with the diamond finesse.

Creet passed as South, with a poor heart suit. However, once Bird bid 3♦ perhaps she should have cue bid 3♠. After all, with such good diamonds, her partner had to have good values outside the diamond suit. Mind you, North could also have tried 3NT over the 3♥ bid, but I imagine the lack of quality of her suit discouraged her.

The Women qualified 2nd, lost their Semi Final, but won the play-off for the bronze medal - well done to the team: Sheila Bird - Karen Creet, Viv Wood - Jane Reynolds, Jenny Thompson - Eva Caplan, Kim Morrison (NPC).



Jane Reynolds, Eva Caplan, Jenny Thompson, Karen Creet, Viv Wood, Sheila Bird, Kim Morrison (NPC) with bronze medals

A TRIBUTE TO MARJORY McCORMACK, OAM

This item was originally titled "Marjory McCormack, OAM, turns 100", however Marjory passed away on 2nd June 2018.

Members of Leeton Soldiers Bridge Club celebrated with Marjory McCormack and her family and friends when she achieved 100 years in March.

Marjory was an inaugural member of the Leeton Club, when it started in 1979 as a social group, and then in 1980 when it was affiliated with the ABF. She is a Life Member of the Club, and played Bridge very well until 2017, when her eyesight deteriorated.

From the outset, Marjory wanted to play bridge competitively. She and an equally intrepid group of inexperienced players from the fledgling Leeton Club regularly competed through the 1980s in what we now know as the Summer Festival of Bridge. Wins were hard to come by, but the experience gained from facing off against the high calibre of players in those Canberra fields proved very valuable. It lifted the standard of play in Leeton Club, which has remained very competitive in regional events ever since.

Also, Marjory has always been very supportive of regional bridge, particularly the Club Congresses in our own South West NSW Region, and clubs bordering on our own region. She has a particular "soft spot" for our nearest neighbouring club, Griffith Bridge Club. In 1983 she donated the McCormack Shield, to be a perpetual trophy for the annual team competition between Leeton and Griffith Clubs.

At home in Leeton, Marjory was very active in recruiting and mentoring new members of the Club. She was particularly supportive when a contingent of new players from the adjoining town of Narrandera started playing in Leeton in the 1990s. She participated in as many Congresses, and State and National Events as she could fit into her busy life. She was a full-time teacher and was a member of Red Cross, Probus, Inner Wheel and the Country/National Party. She was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her services to the Community.

She also played golf and bowls and, typically, always gave 100% in those sports too.

Marjory certainly made the most of her 100 years.

Margaret O'Leary, Leeton Soldiers Bridge Club



MARKETING OUR GAME

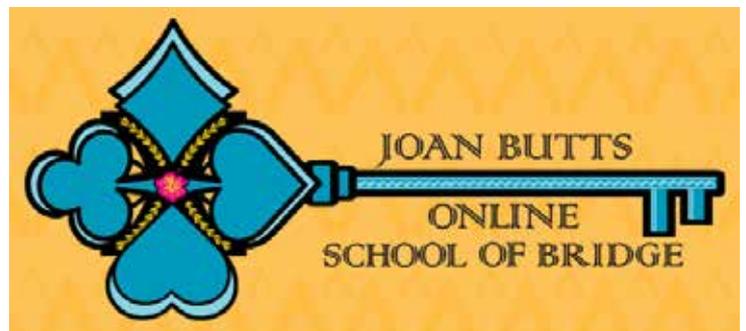
Given that the vast majority of bridge players who have played at Club level for several years are disciplined and intelligent people, I have often wondered why we don't set up connections between clubs internationally, such as sister clubs, so that international bridge tragics can stay with overseas players when visiting their country. A little like Airbnb.

There is probably even more we can do on a national and international scale, including seeking opportunities for co-branding, given our global numbers.

In addition, there is also the possibility of establishing bridge scholarships for junior players. Whilst we may be a little under-funded at the Club, State and national levels to pull off something so exciting, such as funding a Bridge Youth Scholarship, just imagine, for a moment, how much more attractive our game would be if our youngest and brightest could travel to some top-level bridge countries for a fully-funded year of university study and bridge tuition, playing with the best in the world, during their gap year. For any of this to happen we would need a conference of all national Federations (not so hard to arrange and fund) and a Warren Buffett or Twiggy Forrest to sponsor (maybe not so hard, either).

It is a shame that there doesn't seem to be much out of the box marketing for such a deeply fascinating and rewarding sport.

Philip Roberts, Gold Coast BC



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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH

The Australian Under 26 team of Jamie Thompson – Matt Smith, Tomer Libman – Andrew Spooner and Renee Cooper – Francesca McGrath, with Mike Doecke (NPC) reached the Quarter Finals of the Online Youth Championships losing to Egypt in a closely fought battle.

The major event for the Youth team will be the World Youth Teams Championship this month in Suzhou, China, and the team will be heading there directly from the ANC in Hobart.

INTERNATIONAL OPEN / SENIORS / WOMEN

Several teams are also making their way to the USA in September for the World Bridge Series which will be held in Orlando.

Messages of support for all our teams may be sent to teamoz@abf.com.au. Regular reporting on their progress will be provided by Chris Hughes on the ABF website at: <http://www.abfevents.com.au/itm/reports.asp>



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our medallists from the 3rd Asia Cup in Goa which was held in June.

MIXED TEAMS

GOLD: Matthew Thomson – Cathryn Herden, David Beauchamp – Jodi Tutty

MIXED PAIRS

SILVER: Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer

MEN'S PAIRS

SILVER; Andy Hung – Sartaj Hans

WOMEN'S TEAMS

BRONZE; Karen Creet – Sheila Bird, Viv Wood – Jane Reynolds, Jenny Thompson – Eva Caplan, Kim Morrison (NPC)

Further congratulations to Warren Lazer – Pauline Gumby who also won a bronze medal in the Open Pairs event at the Yeh Bros Cup.

Kim Frazer



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MAJOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS

VICTOR CHAMPION CHAMPIONSHIPS

7th - 10th June, Melbourne

WALLY SCOTT OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1st James Coutts - Tony Nunn
- 2nd Jeanette Reitzer - Kevin Rosenberg
- 3rd Glen Coutts - Moss Wylie

VICTOR MUNTZ RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Alastair Lowe - Susie Groves
- 2nd Alex Penklis - Rob Ward
- 3rd Mary Adams - Pamela Richardson

FRANK POWER UNDER 200 MPs SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Mary & Steve Colling
- 2nd Michael Sullivan - Duncan Rae
- 3rd Sandy Spencer - John Delaney

McCANCE SENIORS' SWISS PAIRS

- 1st George Kozakos - Arjuna De Livera
- 2nd Rex Livingstone - Paul Hill
- 3rd Zoli Nagy - Boris Tencer

SARA TISHLER WOMEN'S SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Elizabeth Havas - Diana Smart
- 2nd Rena Kaplan - Giselle Mundell
- 3rd Laura Ginnan - Eva Samuel

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP SWISS TEAMS

- 1st HARRISON: Shane Harrison - Stephen Williams,
Jamie Thompson - Matt Smith
- 2nd BACH: Ashley Bach - Paul Dalley,
Matt Mullamphy - Ron Klinger
- 3rd HUDSON: David Hudson - Paul Lavings,
Jonathan Free - Michael Smart

CHARLIE SNASHALL RESTRICTED TEAMS

- 1st Andrew Slutzkin - Fraser Thorpe,
Lanny Chan - Ann McKay



James Coutts and Tony Nunn,
winners of the VCC's Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs

3rd ASIA CUP

4th - 10th June, Goa, India

MIXED TEAMS

- 1st AUSTRALIA: Jodi Tutty - David Beauchamp,
Cathryn Herden - Matthew Thomson (p.c.)
- 2nd CHINESE TAIPEI A

WOMEN'S TEAMS

- 1st CHINESE TAIPEI
- 2nd CHINA
- 3rd AUSTRALIA: Jane Reynolds - Viv Wood, Sheila Bird -
Karen Creet, Eva Caplan - Jenny Thompson

The Women lost their semi final to China, but won the Playoff for Bronze against India B.

MEN'S TEAMS

- 1st CHINA
- 2nd CHINA HONG KONG (by 1 IMP)

Our Men's team finished 5th of 14 teams.

SENIORS' TEAMS

- 1st CHINESE TAIPEI A
- 2nd INDIA B

The Seniors' team finished 7th of the 12 teams competing.

SUPER MIXED TEAMS (no Australian Team)

- 1st INDIA B
- 2nd JAPAN

MEN'S PAIRS

- 2nd Andy Hung - Sartaj Hans

MIXED PAIRS

- 2nd Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

YEH BROS CUP

1st - 5th July, Beijing, China

YEH BROS TEAMS

- 1st USA (Kranyak)
- 2nd MONACO

Australia finished 3rd in the Consolation Swiss Teams.

Well done: Joe Haffer - Phil Markey
Justin Mill - Tony Nunn
Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

YEH BROS PAIRS

Congratulations to Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer for finishing 3rd in the Pairs, winning US\$4,000. Phil Markey and Joe Haffer also qualified for the Final, finishing 7th of the 10 pairs.

Note: The number of entries to the Yeh Bros Pairs was limited, and only two of the three Australian pairs were granted entry, so Tony Nunn - Justin Mill didn't play, despite being 'the best' Australian pair in the Teams.

WHEN LUCK IS WITH YOU: AUTUMN NATIONAL OPEN PAIRS by Matt Smith

Matt Smith and Jamie Thompson, from our Under 26 team, won the ANOT Open Swiss Pairs in Adelaide. Matt has written up some of their more memorable hands.

On the first board of the event we bid to 1NT. I played the hand badly, and finished one down. Suddenly, a frantic director appeared and started comparing the board we just played to the hand record. As it turned out, the board had been misdealt and had to be averaged. With that sort of luck, we were going to have a good event. The directors were the heroes of Round 1. They prevented three misdealt boards from circulating through the session.

Dealer East	<i>North</i>		
Nil Vul	♠ Q		
	♥ K Q 8		
	♦ Q J 3 2		
	♣ A Q J 9 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	2♣	2♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	Pass
Pass	?		

Imagine you are North and have doubled their 2♣ for take-out. East immediately redoubles. What would you do now?

This hand demonstrates how nice it is to have simple blanket agreements. In our bidding notes, we have a rule that passing an opponent's penalty redouble is always to play. When the redouble was passed back to Jamie, he was unconcerned by East's confidence, and passed happily. The full hand:

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

We took 4 spades, 2 clubs, and only 1 diamond (when declarer got diamonds right) for +600 and 7 IMPs.

Now you hold these West cards (East-West vulnerable):

<i>West</i>			
♠ 9 2			
♥ Q 8 6 5			
♦ K J 8 4 2			
♣ 9 4			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣	1♦
?			

What would you do as West after South overcalls 1♦? Pass or bid 1♥?

At the table, I chose to Pass, intending to pass out 1♦ X. This plan would have been much better if North-South were vulnerable. However, that was not what transpired.

This was the auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Double	5♣	Double	Pass
Pass	5♦	Double	All Pass

Instead of defending 1♦ X, we were now defending 5♦ X!

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

I led a low diamond to prevent heart ruffs in dummy. Luckily enough, the singleton ♦A was in dummy. We ended up taking 1 spade, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds and 1 club. 5♦ X, down 6 for +1400 and 15 IMPs.

The same opponents got their revenge on another wild hand.

Dealer South	<i>♠ A 7 5</i>	
Nil Vul	♥ A 8	
	♦ A Q J 8 4 3	
	♣ J 3	
♠ K Q J 9 6 4		♠ 10 8 3 2
♥ K 9		♥ J 6
♦ void		♦ 10 5
♣ A 9 7 5 4		♣ K 10 8 6 2
	♠ void	
	♥ Q 10 7 5 4 3 2	
	♦ K 9 7 6 2	
	♣ Q	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

The ♠K was led. South discarded their singleton club on the ♠A, played ♥A and another heart, and claimed 12 tricks when hearts broke 2-2. 5♥ X, +1 for -750 and -13 IMPs. On this board, 16 E-W pairs played in either 4♠ X or 5♠ X, making 11 tricks on the ♥A lead, and 11 N-S pairs played in 4♥, 5♥ or 5♦ making. The datum for the board was -10. This meant approximately 11 IMPs went to the side that declared the hand. (Two E-W pairs went one down in 6♣, and one N-S pair went down in 7♦ X. Funnily enough, these three scores were close to par, losing only 3 IMPs against the datum.)

DID YOU KNOW?

There are also sites for Teachers:
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 and
 Directors: www.abfevents.com.au/directors/index.asp

Jamie declared this next hand very well.

Dealer East ♠ J 10 4 3
 Nil Vul ♥ K 9 2
 ♦ 8 7 6
 ♣ 10 5 2

♠ A 8
 ♥ A J 10 6 3
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ Q 9 6 3

♠ 9 7 6 5
 ♥ 8 5 4
 ♦ K Q 5 4
 ♣ K 8

♠ K Q 2
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ A J 9 2
 ♣ A J 7 4

<i>West</i> Smith	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i> Thompson	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1NT
2♦ (hearts)	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass

South led the ♠K, and continued with the ♠Q when Jamie ducked trick 1. With a loser in every suit, Jamie tried to ruff dummy's two losing clubs in his hand. He played a club to the King at Trick 3, losing to South's Ace. South switched to the ♥7, and North won the ♥10 with the King. North returned the ♦8 to the King and South's Ace. South then exited with the ♥Q, which left Jamie with only one trump to ruff clubs. Jamie cashed the ♣Q, ruffed a club, then ruffed a spade back to dummy. He drew North's last trump with the ♥J, reaching this three-card ending:

♠ J	♠ 9
♥ ---	♥ ---
♦ 8 7	♦ Q 5
♣ ---	♣ ---
♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ 6	♥ ---
♦ 10	♦ J 9
♣ 9	♣ J

Jamie had created a double squeeze position. North guarded the spades, South guarded the clubs, so neither opponent would be able to guard the diamond suit as well. Jamie cashed the ♥6. North couldn't discard the ♠J (the ♠9 would become a winner), so she discarded a diamond. Jamie now threw his ♠9. South was in a similar predicament. He couldn't discard his ♣J (the ♣9 would become a winner), so he also discarded a diamond. Jamie was then able to play the ♦10 to his ♦Q, dropping both the remaining diamonds, and he won the last trick with his ♦5. Making 9 tricks, and a very nicely played hand.

To win you don't have to be flashy or sensational. We won the ANOT pairs by capitalising on our opponents' mistakes and doing our best to minimise our errors – the so-called secret to winning bridge.

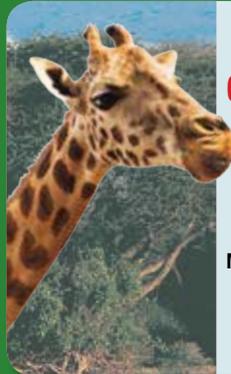
Matt Smith

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PERTH TO CAPE TOWN

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VCC's WALLY SCOTT OPEN SWISS PAIRS by James Coutts

As a recent immigrant [from one of the more remote areas of New Zealand], one of the things I knew was going to be good about this country was the amount of quality bridge events there are throughout the course of the year. I was excited about playing the VCC Teams in my new hometown on a team with friends and great players Liam Milne, Justin Mill and Tony Nunn. Originally, I was intending to play the Teams only (annual leave constraints are already tight!), but when I found out Liam and Justin would be playing professionally in the Pairs but Tony wasn't entered, I asked him for a game and he agreed. That seemed like too good an opportunity to pass up. The VCC Open Swiss Pairs consists of eight rounds of 14 boards, scored against datum. 14 boards is pretty long for a Pairs match; definitely longer than Swiss Pairs in New Zealand. I liked the longer matches, which seemed to eliminate a bit of the bad luck and resulting frustration that can come from having one bad board. Here you have more time to recover.

Our first match was relatively uneventful, the biggest swing being in the wrong direction when I had to make a lead choice. As West, you hold:

♠ 7 3
♥ J 9 7 6
♦ 9 8 7 6 5
♣ A 2

You hear this auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	3NT *	Pass	4♣ *
Pass	4♥ *	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1♣ was Acol, 4+ clubs. 3NT was 13-15 balanced with no 4-card major, although South thought it showed 15-16 HCP balanced, 4♣ was a key card ask and 4♥ showed one key card.

Without a whole lot to go on, and not wanting to give up a two-way guess that I thought may exist in spades, I led what looked like the most passive thing in my hand - a diamond. This was not a success when partner had the ♠ K-Q and our opponents quickly racked up 1370 when two spades disappeared on ♦ A-x opposite ♦ K-Q-J-10. A thin 30 point slam that makes against you on the wrong lead is not the way you want to start a Swiss Pairs event. I was hoping the rest of the event was not going to continue along these lines; thankfully we did enough in the rest of the match to come away with a small win.

Our second match was against one of the top seeded pairs: Ashley Bach and Paul Dalley. They bid another two making slams against us but at least these were cold so I hoped not to lose too much. Still, it meant that there would be at least a bit of catching up to do. Try this hand as declarer. You are South, after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♣ *
Pass	1♦ *	1♠	2♥
2NT *	4♥	All Pass	

1♣ showed 2+ clubs, 1♦ showed 4+ hearts, 2♥ showed 4-card support, and 2NT showed a mixed raise (around 6-9 HCP with 4 spades)

West led the ♠5 (3rd from even, low from odd) and your hands are:

♠ A
♥ A J 9 8
♦ Q 10 4
♣ Q 9 7 4 3

♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ K Q 6 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ A 10

One of those hands with lots of options - the kind that I like as dummy, rather than as declarer. Tony did well when he started with a club to the Ace and a club back to the ♣Q. West popped up with the ♣K and switched to a trump, dummy's 8 holding. Tony then played the ♠Q, pitching a diamond. West ruffed and tapped dummy with a spade. Tony ruffed a club high, ruffed a third spade in dummy and then played a diamond to the ♦A. He then ruffed his last spade and played the last club pitching his last diamond. West was down to the ♥10-5 and the ♦K, and there was nothing he could do. Well played Tony. It's not even obvious what the best line is when you can see all four hands.

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

One of the hardest things about defending is when declarer puts you to an early guess when you don't know enough about the hand yet. As West, you hold:

Dummy
♠ 8 7
♥ J 10 8 2
♦ J 10 5
♣ K 8 6 2

♠ J 4 2
♥ Q 9 6 5 4
♦ 8
♣ A 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	1♦ (4+♦)
2♠	Double	Pass	1NT
All Pass			3NT

1NT shows 18-19 HCP. You lead the 2♠ to the 7 - 9 - King, then declarer plays the ♥7 towards dummy.

Is declarer trying to build a heart trick from A-x-x or K-x-x? Or do they have A-K-x-(x)? It seems unlikely that a third heart will be their ninth trick right now, as that would mean declarer has 3 hearts and presumably 2 spade tricks, meaning they would need to have the ♦A-K-Q to go with ♠A-K and ♥A-K, which is impossible given they didn't open 2♣. Our West thought and eventually played low, playing me as declarer to have A-x-x or K-x-x. Although this wasn't my ninth trick, I could now

switch to diamonds and knock out East's ♦A, his entry to the long spades. I don't know whether I would have got it right or wrong as a defender, but I am glad I wasn't put to the test. The full hand:

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

+400 was worth 10 IMPs, which contributed to another win, and at the end of the first day we had four wins from four matches, and 66.59 VPs out of 80. This wasn't enough to lead the event though, with Ben Thompson and Martin Doran having an even better day, scoring 67.82.

There was bad news for us first up on the second day, when we lost to Ben and Martin by 14 IMPs, and suddenly we were 10.31 VPs behind them with three rounds to go. We were going to need some things to go our way.

One thing I have noticed about my own game, in the bidding, is that I often lazily do what seems normal and obvious at the time, without thinking enough about future problems that might arise as a result of my actions. When I watch the world's best players on VuGraph, I am always amazed at the amount of foresight they seem to have in the auction. Here is a prime example of what I mean, from the next match when, as mentioned above, we were in need of some IMPs. Sitting South, vulnerable against not, you hold:

♠ A
♥ K 7
♦ K Q 10 9 6 3
♣ K Q J 3

The auction starts:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♣	Pass	?

2♣! Well, opposite a hand with something like 9 HCP and 6 clubs, this hand is huge, I thought. I started with 3♣, splinter. West doubled, partner and East passed, and I redoubled showing first round control. Why not? West passed, partner bid 4♦, East passed and it was my turn again. Great, partner has the ♦A. If he has the ♣A, which seems likely for the vulnerable 2♣ bid, then slam looks excellent.

It was time for 4NT (key card). Partner bid 5H, two key cards. I'm sure the astute as well as many of the not-particularly-astute have already seen the problem: we (I) have spent the whole auction making it extremely obvious to everyone that East should not lead a spade, and dummy is about to go down in 6♣ with ♥K-x. If Tony had the QH we will be alright, but two Aces, a Queen and a 6-card suit adds up to the type of hand that both he and I would usually open. Why did I keep making such descriptive bids!? Anyway, I tried to look for a way to recover and it dawned on me that 6♦ from my side could be good. Opposite ♦A-x-(x) (imagine A-J!), or even the singleton Ace, I just need to play trumps for no loser. This seemed a lot better than hoping for a major mis-defence on opening lead, so that's what I eventually bid. The full hand:

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

I was right about the hearts, but as can be seen, that didn't prevent another poor result for us in the slam zone when East held ♦J-x-x-x. I don't know what the best way to bid my hand is, but this board will certainly stick with me for a while, and will hopefully make me give more thought to planning later rounds of the bidding in future. Despite this board, we ended up with a good win and were back at table 1.

Playing bridge against family isn't much fun, because someone has to lose, and for the final match we played against my brother Sam. It felt like we were getting the better of most of the boards, small amounts of IMPs at a time. There was one final opportunity for Tony to shine.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	2♥	Double
3♥	Double	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

As South, he was playing 5♦ on the lead of the ♥Q and a second heart to the King, ruffed. After drawing trumps in two rounds (East having ♦J-x), and cross-ruffing two clubs (East having 3 clubs and West having 4) and the last heart (West following), the 4-card ending with South on lead was:

♠ J 9 5		♠ 2 cards
♥ ---		♥ 2 cards
♦ 10		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ ---
♠ 4 cards		
♥ ---		
♦ ---		
♣ ---		
♠ A 7 2		
♥ ---		
♦ 8		
♣ ---		

Tony played a low spade towards the ♠J and West was helpless, given he held ♠K Q 10 8. This was a very nice exercise in counting, earning us 10 IMPs, which resulted in us having a comfortable win in the match and in the event, as it turned out, as many of the other matches around us in the later rounds were reasonably low-scoring. I'm sure it will surprise no one that Tony played great bridge, and despite some tough hands it didn't surprise me that I had a most enjoyable first major pairs event in my new country.

BACK-TO-BACK: THE VCC OPEN TEAMS by Matt Smith

The VCC was won by the HARRISON team, Shane Harrison – Stephen (Stevie) Williams, Jamie Thompson – Matt Smith, one of the youngest teams ever to win an Australian Open national event.

On the last round of the event, there were three teams with a chance to win: HARRISON, BACH (Ashley Bach – Paul Dalley, Matt Mullamphy – Ron Klinger), and MILNE (Liam Milne – James Coutts, Justin Mill – Tony Nunn). BACH and MILNE were playing each other.

We won our match 13.96 VPs, but a big win by either of the other two teams would see them overtake us. Our team waited anxiously for half an hour as the progressive scores updated. BACH had a 14.42 VP win but it wasn't enough. After that torture, we held on to win the VCC by a little more than 2 VPs.

This was the first Open national teams win for Stevie and me. Jamie and Shane won the VCC Open Teams in 2017, so achieved the rare feat of winning the event back-to-back.

I'd like to share two wonderful hands.

Dealer West	♠ Q 8 5 2		
Nil Vul	♥ Q J 5		
	♦ 9 4 2		
	♣ J 6 2		
♠ A 10 4 3		♠ K J 7 6	
♥ K 8 2		♥ 10 9 3	
♦ Q J 10 7 5		♦ 8	
♣ Q		♣ K 10 9 8 4	
	♠ 9		
	♥ A 7 6 4		
	♦ A K 6 3		
	♣ A 7 5 3		
West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Double
2♣	All pass		

This hand was a Stevie Williams special. At the other table, Jamie and I bid to 4♣ and went one down. When the opponents stopped in 2♣, it looked like our team was going to lose IMPs. Williams, holding the South cards, had other ideas. He led the ♥4 away from the Ace! Declarer played low from dummy and Harrison won his ♥J. When Williams regained the lead, he underled the ♥A again! Declarer, completely deceived, played low and the ♥Q won. Declarer must have been flustered when Williams turned up with the ♥A, as he played on cross-ruff lines and lost to both the ♠8 and ♠Q. The outcome was down two. Compared with our 4♣ -1, that was 2 IMPs to the good guys!



Matt Smith, Stephen Williams, Jamie Thompson, Shane Harrison

The following hand was played by Kevin Rosenberg, an American junior world champion, during the Open Swiss Pairs.

Dealer East			
EW Vul			
♠ K 3		♠ A Q 9 6	
♥ J 8 3		♥ 10	
♦ A J 10 7 6 3		♦ Q 9 8 5	
♣ Q 3		♣ A 10 9 2	
West	North	East	South
		<i>Rosenberg</i>	
		1♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	All pass		

South led a heart to North's King, and the ♣8 was returned. Kevin rose ♣A and decided to cash the ♦A before playing three rounds of spades pitching dummy's losing club. However, on the ♦A, North discarded the ♠2. What now?

It looks obvious to try to discard the losing club on the third spade winner, but that innocuous spade discard by North gave Kevin reason to pause. He had shown spade values in the auction. Why did North discard a spade so early? Kevin deduced that North must hold five spades, and so cashing three top spades was not going to work. Instead, he cashed the ♠K and led the ♠3 from dummy. When North played low, Kevin finessed the ♠9! This was the full layout:

Dealer East	♠ J 10 5 4 2		
EW Vul	♥ A K 5 4		
	♦ void		
	♣ J 8 5 4		
♠ K 3		♠ A Q 9 6	
♥ J 8 3		♥ 10	
♦ A J 10 7 6 3		♦ Q 9 8 5	
♣ Q 3		♣ A 10 9 2	
	♠ 8 7		
	♥ Q 9 7 6 2		
	♦ K 4 2		
	♣ K 7 6		

When the ♠9 held, the ♠Q followed, ruffed by South and over-ruffed in dummy. Kevin ruffed a heart back to hand and led the ♠A. South ruffed with his last trump, the ♦K, and Kevin discarded the losing ♣Q to make the contract.

Matt Smith

Matt and Jamie also won the ANOT Open Swiss Pairs (see earlier article). It's wonderful to have our younger players achieving success in Open events.

Jamie and Matt's consistency are the result of regular hard work on their partnership and their system.

Well done and the best of luck in the World Youth Championships. Ed.

AUSTRALIA'S MEN'S TEAM AT THE 3RD ASIA CUP by Andy Hung

The 3rd Asia Cup was recently held in Goa, India. The city has a nice blend of Indian and Portuguese culture, and coupled with the sea, magnificent beaches and the seafood cuisine, it was certainly a great location to hold the quadrennial Asia Cup. The tournament was originally scheduled to be in Bangladesh, and the Bridge Federation of India certainly did a great job of hosting the event at the last minute.

The Men's team had a great run in the first half of their Round Robin, but unfortunately fell short towards the end and came 5th. Here were some of the interesting hands from the tournament.

The fourth board from the first match was a bit of a tester. Try it out:

Dealer South ♠ Q 10 8 6 2
All Vul ♥ 8 5
♦ A 7 3
♣ A Q 7

♠ K 9 4
♥ A Q 10 3 2
♦ Q 10
♣ K J 2

The auction was plain and simple, 1NT followed by a transfer to spades, then the 3NT choice of games was converted to 4♠.

West led the ♠10. I won with dummy's ♣A and led a spade to my ♠K and West's Ace, as East pitched an encouraging diamond! West continued with the ♣9. I decided to win dummy's ♣Q and, with nothing better to do, I tried a low heart to the ♥10 but this lost to the ♥J. West continued another club to my King (East following). How would you play from here?

Given the 5-0 trump break, the spade intermediate cards restrict West to two spade winners, and with a heart lost, I couldn't afford to lose any more tricks. Since East was void in spades, he was likely to hold the ♥K, so I had to assume the second heart finesse would work. If hearts were 3-3, then the contract makes, but it was more likely that East held four hearts. If that was the case, was there a way home from here?

After a bit of thought, I found a line to make, assuming East had both red Kings. As I couldn't ruff a heart in dummy (that would promote a third trump winner for West), I would draw all the trumps, and as East discarded before me, in the 5-card end-position, he would be forced to either bare his ♦K to a singleton, or give up the heart suit. This is the situation I envisaged:

♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ A Q 3	♥ K x x
♦ Q 10	♦ K x
♣ ---	♣ ---

As dummy's last trump is played, which will lose to West, East is squeezed in the red suits.

So I ran the ♠9 and East discarded a club. A spade to the ♠8 saw East pitch a diamond, and on the ♠Q he pitched another low diamond as I discarded a heart.

I now played the ♠10 and East finally relinquished a heart, so I pitched my ♦10, thinking my hearts were now established via one finesse. To my surprise, when West won the ♠J, he returned the ♥K! The full deal:

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

It appears that my assumptions were all wrong! Not only was the ♥K with West, but I was also taken in by East's encouraging diamond discard. It appears that East-West were not giving count (it would be a good idea for East to give count since he knows that his partner has all of the remaining points, so knowing the distribution of the suits would be much more helpful), and it allowed my contract to make.

Here's a bidding problem. Nil vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 7 6 5 4 2
♥ void
♦ Q 5
♣ Q 10 8 6 5 4

Partner opens 1♦ (4+ diamonds), and RHO makes a weak jump overcall of 2♥. It would have been handy to be playing Negative Free Bids here, but unfortunately you aren't, so you Pass, and your LHO jumps to 4♥, passed back to you. What would you do?

Dealer East	♠ A 10	
Nil Vul	♥ Q 10 8	
	♦ K J 9 3	
	♣ A J 3 2	
♠ 7 6 5 4 2		♠ Q 8 3
♥ void		♥ K J 9 5
♦ Q 5		♦ A 7 4 2
♣ Q 10 8 6 5 4		♣ K 7
	♠ K J 9	
	♥ A 7 6 4 3 2	
	♦ 10 8 6	
	♣ 9	

Were you tempted? With great reluctance, I decided to pass, and was duly rewarded when my partner turned up with ♥K-J-9-5! Declarer didn't take the safety play in the trump suit - certainly reasonable, given I was clearly short in diamonds, so we took 4♥ one off. At the other table, the Singaporeans couldn't resist the temptation, and Max/Dave took 4♠ X down 4 for a nice +800.

This next board was nicely played by Sartaj Hans.

Dealer South ♠ J 9 8 7 2
EW Vul ♥ J 4 3
♦ 8 4
♣ 9 8 3

♠ A 5
♥ A 9 7 6 5 2
♦ J 5
♣ K 10 6

♠ Q 6 3
♥ K Q
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ J 7 5 2

♠ K 10 4
♥ 10 8
♦ A Q 10 7 2
♣ A Q 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Andy Hung</i>		<i>Sartaj Hans</i>	
2♦ (1 Major)	Pass	4♥ (P/correct)	1NT (15-17) All Pass

South led a trump to Sartaj's ♥Q and he correctly played a club to the ♣10 which held. He crossed to his hand with the ♥K and played another club. South rose with the ♣A and exited with a club to dummy's King. With nine tricks in the bag, Sartaj had to establish the tenth trick from either the ♠Q or ♦K. Since South was a heavy favourite to hold all the missing high cards given his 1NT opening, Sartaj ran all his trumps and came down to this four-card ending:

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

Sartaj watched South's discards very carefully, and since the ♦Q hadn't appeared yet, Sartaj guessed correctly that South held at least ♦A-Q, so he cashed the ♠A and exited a spade. Either South had come down to a singleton ♠K, or he had kept ♠K-x and ♦A-Q and was now endplayed into giving Sartaj his ♦K.

My final offering is a hand that was played well by Sartaj and defended well by Phil (Markey) as they both read the positions very accurately.

Dealer East ♠ J 10 3
EW Vul ♥ A 7 6 2
♦ 8 4 2
♣ A 9 6

♠ K 6
♥ 9 8
♦ Q J 10 6 5
♣ K 8 3 2

♠ A 7 4
♥ K 10 5
♦ A K 7 3
♣ Q 10 4

♠ Q 9 8 5 2
♥ Q J 4 3
♦ 9
♣ J 7 5

The auction was identical at both tables, a straightforward 1NT-3NT with both Souths leading a spade.

Sartaj Hans was the declarer at one table and he ducked the spade to North's ♠10, won the next spade in dummy and, rather than commit to the clubs, he decided to cash five rounds of diamonds to put pressure on the opponents. North discarded a heart and a club, whereas South was under an enormous pressure. South parted with a heart and a spade quite easily, and eventually discarded another heart and a spade, as Sartaj discarded a heart on the last diamond.

Sartaj now played a club to the ♣Q which held, and now a club to the King! He figured that South was a favourite to hold at least one club honour (since South didn't discard a club), and if it was the Ace, South might have ducked the ♣Q, so that if Sartaj had ♣Q-10-9, he may be induced to run the ♣10 on the next round. However, if the clubs were distributed as they were, since North had already discarded a club he would have no clubs left. On winning the ♣A, North switched to a low heart and Sartaj rose with the King, his ninth trick. If North had instead played a spade to Sartaj's Ace, Sartaj could then exit a club to South's ♣J, and now South would have to open up the hearts (South had discarded two spades so he could only take one more spade trick).

At the other table, Phil also led a spade and the first three tricks were identical. When declarer was running the diamonds, Phil carefully thought about his discards. He knew that the cards were lying favourably for declarer, so Phil's first two discards were two small clubs! Declarer was taken in, thinking that the club discards were either from the Ace (and no Jack, since it would be weird to discard two clubs from ♣A-J-x-x), or from a club suit with no honours. Thus, after cashing the diamonds, declarer played a club to the ♣10. Phil scored his now bare ♣J and exited with the ♥Q, establishing five tricks for the defence (one spade, two clubs, and two hearts), before declarer can establish his ninth.

The Australian Men's team was performing well and were leading after Round 8 (of 13), but several unlucky matches followed and we finished 5th, just missing out on a top four qualifying spot. Congratulations to team China who topped the Round Robin and went on to win the Gold medal.

(Sartaj Hans and Andy Hung then finished 2nd in the Men's Pairs.)

Andy Hung

*Australian Men's Team, 3rd Asia Cup, Goa:
(L to R): Maxim Henbest, Andy Hung, Phil Markey,
Joe Haffer, David Wiltshire, Sartaj Hans*



Australian tournaments are held in high regard overseas because they are both well run and enjoyable. The credit for this lies with the various tournament officials who have taken their turn and then passed on their knowledge to others. This is particularly true of our Senior Directors who mentor the next generation. Many of these Directors are held in high regard on both the International and World stage.

Richard Grenside broke onto the international scene when he first directed at the World Championships in 1986. Over the next 26 years Richard worked at 24 of the WBF Open World championships. During this time he served as either the second or third most Senior Director of the WBF. As one would expect from such a long serving international Director, Richard compiled an impressive CV which included being the CTD at four World Youth Championships, Far East Championships (now APBF), the Yeh Brothers Cup and a range of other International events (including the Open European Championships). He was also the inaugural Chief Director for the annual NEC Tournament, a role that he held for an excess of 20 years. Following his retirement from the WBF, he was made an Honorary WBF Chief Tournament Director in 2014.



Richard Grenside with his wife, Sue

The late Chris Diment began attending World Championships at the beginning of the 1990s. In the early years he served primarily in various administrative roles to do with systems and system cards, but in the later years he progressed to being a WBF Director.

Sean Mullamphy, having first worked at the Far East Championships, was then invited to various World Youth events in the latter part of the 1990s. A decade later he subsequently made the transition to Open events and has now worked at four Open World Championships.



Sean Mullamphy, Roz Jones, Chris Diment

Matthew McManus began working internationally in New Zealand at the beginning of the 1990s and still returns each year for their National Congress. He was the Chief Director for the APBF Championships the last time they were held in Australia and was the Assistant Chief Director in New Zealand. He has also served at World Youth Championships in the dual capacities of both a Scorer and a Director.



Matt McManus

Laurie Kelso's association with the WBF began when he was invited to direct at the World Youth Championships. He then made the transition to the WBF Open Championships, which he now attends annually. Over time Laurie has ascended the WBF TD hierarchy and in 2017 became one of the organisations Co-Head Tournament Directors. Now that the number of Championships attended has reached double figures, he also serves on both the WBF Systems and Laws Committees, and thus was intimately involved in the preparation of the 2017 version of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.



Laurie Kelso

At the 2008 World Championships in Beijing, all five of the above-mentioned individuals were present. This set the record for the greatest number of Directors from a single nation ever to be employed by the WBF at the same event!

Directors are at events to ensure that everyone enjoys a fair and pleasant game of bridge. It is clear that the ABF is well served by Directors who are recognised on both the International and World stage.

Allison Stralow

AN AUTOMATIC SQUEEZE

From the Bulletins, 3rd Asia Cup, Goa.

This board was one with immense potential for errors in both bidding and play.

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

In the Super Mixed match between India A and Thailand, both pairs bid to 6♥ by North. Both Easts led their trump. Both declarers won in dummy and played a diamond to the ♦K. After East won the ♦A, the play differed.

The Thai East returned a daring small club. Declarer had no choice but to risk the club finesse, and ended up with 12 tricks after taking the spade finesse.

The Indian East returned a less risky (for the defence) spade. Declarer took the marked spade finesse (marked since East had overcalled in spades), and cashed the ♠A discarding a club. He then ruffed dummy's diamond losers, and drew trumps as he did so. This was the scenario with the last trump to be cashed:

♠ ---	♠ ---	♠ K
♥ 10	♥ ---	♥ ---
♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ Q 8	♣ ---	♣ K 6
♠ ---	♠ 10	
♥ ---	♥ ---	
♦ ---	♦ ---	
♣ J 10 7	♣ A 2	

When the ♥10 was led, East was helpless and had to surrender.

Once East had overcalled 1♣, the black suit squeeze became a fairly automatic choice of play.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ABF website has a large amount of information for all levels of players. One particular page is the "Players' Page" which contains information on Results for Past Events, information for Current and Upcoming Events, and Latest News.

It can be reached either by: www.abf.com.au, then click on "Players" at the top of the page, or www.abfevents.com.au which takes you directly to the Players' Page.

DEFENSIVE THINKING

Dealer South	♠ 5		
EW Vul	♥ K J 10 6 5 4		
	♦ J 10 8 5 2		
	♣ Q		
	♠ J 10 3	♠ Q 9 8 6 2	
	♥ 9 8 2	♥ Q	
	♦ A K 9 6 4	♦ void	
	♣ 6 2	♣ A K J 10 9 8 4	
		♠ A K 7 4	
		♥ A 7 3	
		♦ Q 7 3	
		♣ 7 5 3	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	2♥*	1♣
3♦	3♥	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			Double

Opening Lead: ♥A

Outcomes at bridge are often determined by which partner becomes the declarer. Many contracts, say 4♣, can be reached by different declarers, due to the many bidding systems and conventions players play today. This can lead to a wide range of results.

Take this hand, from the Final of the Men's Pairs at the 3rd Asia Cup, held in Goa, India recently, which produced a huge range of scores.

East's cue bid of 2♥ showed a two-suiter, spades and a minor. West was unsure which minor but should have bid spades immediately (knowing of the guaranteed fit) as happened at most tables, rather than mentioning his diamonds, thus leading to East being the declarer rather than West. With West as declarer, the contract made after a heart lead and then a diamond switch. With East the declarer, decide who will be successful - East or the defence?

Many Souths erred. They led the ♥A and correctly continued hearts. East trumped, then led a low spade and South mundanely played second hand low. Most declarers then continued with another spade, South winning, and continuing with hearts but now declarer was in control abandoning trumps and playing clubs. The defence was on the right track to make declarer trump in the long hand and thus lose trump control, but can you spot how that can be done?

When declarer plays a low spade at trick three South must hop up with a top spade and cash another top spade, before playing hearts. Now declarer has no chance, losing three trump tricks and the ace of hearts. If South does not cash the second top spade, declarer should come to 10 tricks. East can then abandon trumps, a reasonable assumption after South's double and simply play clubs, to come to 10 tricks.

(With West as declarer, the same outcome should arise – with South continuing hearts at trick 2, rather than switching to diamonds. This sort of hand is about wresting trump control from declarer. Ed.)

Nigel Rosendorff

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

HAND 1

♠ 10 6
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ A Q 5
♣ A 8 5 3

♠ A K J 9 3
♥ A K J 2
♦ 2
♣ K Q 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♣ (GF)	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥ (min GF)	Pass	4NT (RKCB)
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

West leads the ♦10.
How would you play?

HAND 2

♠ K J 10 8 4
♥ 3 2
♦ A K J 3
♣ K 10

♠ 9 2
♥ A K 10
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ A 9 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1♣
2♥	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♥Q.
How would you play?

HAND 3

♠ A J 9 4
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A Q
♣ Q 10 5 4

♠ K Q 10 8 7
♥ 9 5
♦ K J
♣ A 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
1♥	Double	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

West leads the ♥A, ♥K, then ♥Q, ruffed by South.
How would you play?

Solutions on Page 24

MY FAVOURITE HAND

WARREN LAZER

PLANNING THE PLAY

One of my favourite hands occurred in the 2006 Spring National Open Teams. It isn't a very fancy hand but it has a good lesson attached.

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

West	North	East	South
	Gumby		Lazer
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠ (forcing)
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT (RKCB)
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

The bidding doesn't seem that difficult but more than half the field stopped in game. South, with a one-loser suit and six-loser hand, should always bid to at least 6♣ when North jump rebids in hearts.

West led the ♣J. My plan involved establishing the heart suit whilst also drawing trumps.

I won the lead in dummy, cashed the ♠A and ♠K, crossed to the ♥A and ruffed a heart. Now I led the ♠J, losing to West's ♠Q. I won West's (minor suit) exit in dummy, ruffed another heart to hand, and drew the last trump. I still had one more entry to dummy to win the ♥K and the long hearts, providing discards for my two diamonds.

This line was 100% as long as trumps were no worse than 4-1 and hearts no worse than 4-2. A number of very competent declarers, including my counterpart at the other table, went down in 6♣ by attempting to trump the third round of diamonds in dummy.

Why do I like this hand? I am pretty sure that this is the only hand that I have played on which I planned the play to all 13 tricks before playing to trick 1! It did involve an extremely lengthy 'think' at trick 1, but was very quickly played once the planning had been completed.

Warren Lazer



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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, JUNE 23 2018

MIXED TEAM PLAYOFF, 2019

Australia Day weekend, Sydney 2019

The WBF has introduced a Mixed Team category at World events. Following player feedback, the ABF will conduct a Mixed Team playoff in Sydney on the Australia Day weekend. In 2019, this event will be an open entry to teams of 4 or 6 players who play as mixed pairs.

The Management Committee is very pleased that Marcia Scudder had agreed to be the Tournament Organiser of this event.

Further information will be available soon via the ABF website.

YOUTH WEEK, 5TH – 11TH JANUARY 2019

The Management Committee confirmed the appointment of Leigh and Bianca Gold as the Tournament Organisers of Youth Week 2019. It will be held at Burton and Garran Hall, ANU. This venue has been designated as an alcohol-free space for the duration of Youth Week.

APBF 2020

The APBF has asked Australia if we are interested in hosting the 2020 Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress.

After discussions with the ABF Council and States, preliminary negotiations are currently being held with BAWA to investigate the possibility of holding the event in Perth.

EXPERIENCED PLAYERS PLAYING IN RESTRICTED EVENTS

To avoid experienced overseas players who settle in Australia from playing in restricted events, a process to manage the masterpoint status of these players is being implemented.

Also, following complaints from ABF restricted players about there not being a level playing field for Grand Slam Bridge Club players entering novice and restricted events, the ABF and Grand Slam clubs are co-operating to introduce eligibility requirements that prevent Grand Slam players from competing in events for which they are demonstrably over-qualified.

APPEALS PROCESS AT NATIONAL EVENTS

Consistent with developments at major international events where the use of Appeals Committees has been discontinued, the Management Committee discussed moving away from an Appeals Process to the use of a Review Process. More work will need to be done before this can be implemented at events.

HERVEY BAY BRIDGE HOLIDAY

Sunday 18th – Friday 23rd November 2018

Andy Hung invites you to a getaway Bridge Holiday in Hervey Bay at the 4½ star Oceans Resort & Spa, perfectly situated on the waterfront opposite the Urangan Beach Pier!

Enjoy the warm subtropical climate, long sandy beaches, calm blue ocean, it's a fantastic getaway destination for relaxation combined with bridge lessons with Andy Hung! More info www.andyhungbridge.com



The All-Inclusive Package:

- ♥ Five nights at the 4½ star luxurious Oceans Resort & Spa (with onsite parking)
- ♥ All bridge activities; professional seminars with a full set of notes, duplicate sessions, and hand analysis and discussion
- ♥ All meals incl. breakfast, afternoon tea, from Sunday lunch on arrival to Friday lunch prior to departure (all dinners except for one dinner where you are free to roam!)
- ♥ Farewell drinks with Friday lunch
- ♥ Option for a one day tour of Fraser Island (at additional cost)

Pricing:

- ◆ 4ppl sharing 2 bedroom 2 bathroom apt \$1595pp
- ◆ 2ppl sharing 2 bedroom 2 bathroom apt \$1695pp
- ◆ 2ppl sharing 1 bedroom 1 bathroom apt \$1595pp
- ◆ Single 1 bedroom 1 bathroom apt \$1895pp

The Bridge:

- ♣ Professional bridge seminars with Andy
- ♣ **Topic focus:** Don't be Afraid of No Trump!
 - Declarer: Tips to improve your NT Play
 - Defence: Identify best leads vs. NT & defend better
 - Bidding: Bid better in NT's with cuebids!

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COUP 9: THE SCISSORS COUP

Reproduced with the permission of Brian Senior.

Communications are crucial in the play and defence of a bridge hand. A Scissors Coup is a stratagem by declarer designed to cut the defensive communications such that the defender who can make a play which will prove fatal to declarer's contract is prevented from gaining the lead to make that play.

The derivation of the name is, I think, obvious, as the scissors cut the opposing communications.

Dealer East	♠ K 9 7 5		
None Vul	♥ 3 2		
	♦ 7 6		
	♣ K 10 7 4 3		
♠ J 8 3		♠ 6 4 2	
♥ 8 4		♥ A Q 10 9 7 6 5	
♦ A J		♦ 2	
♣ A J 9 6 5 2		♣ Q 8	
	♠ A Q 10		
	♥ K J		
	♦ K Q 10 9 8 5 4 3		
	♣ void		

West	North	East	South
		3♥	5♦

All Pass

Superficially, declarer's contract looks to be secure, with just the two red Aces to be lost.

However, West leads the ♥8 and East judges that this is likely to be from a doubleton rather than a singleton – perhaps because South is marked with very long diamonds so will be short in the other suits, perhaps because South might have tried 3NT if holding a double heart stopper.

Anyway, East plays the ♥Q and declarer wins the ♥K. The contract will now be defeated on straightforward play. Declarer leads the ♦K to West's Ace and a second heart is led to East's ♥A. A third heart will now promote a trick for the ♦J – down one.

Declarer can overcome this excellent defence by crossing to the ♠K to lead the ♣K, on which he discards his ♥J. West wins the ♣A, but the heart play for the trump promotion is no longer possible. The Scissors Coup has done its work and the contract is home. The play is almost certain to succeed. East opened 3♥ non-vulnerable and is marked with the ♥A, so is highly unlikely to hold the ♣A or ♦A.

[Furthermore, it can't "cost" to do this!]

Brian Senior



ABF President, Allison Stralow, visiting Willetton Bridge Club, newly-affiliated to the ABF.

A PAIR OF SCISSORS COUPS MISSED

I'm sure that many plays and bids are 'missed' and therefore we think such plays are special.

Below is a hand from the 1993 Swiss Pairs Championship in Hobart.

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

The ♦7 was led against South's 4♥ contract. Declarer won the trick in dummy and led a small trump. When East showed out, he inserted the ♥10, which West won. The ♦5 continuation signalled his doubleton.

Declarer now cashed the ♥A and followed with the ♥Q, which West won. West now underled his ♣A and still had a trump left to ruff the diamond his partner returned.

Nick Hardy commented, "This was good defence by West, but declarer missed a simple entry-killing play, a relative of the Scissors Coup. When the trump situation was revealed, declarer should have recognised the danger of a diamond ruff, so should have risen with the ♥A and led a club immediately, cutting off the threat of an entry to the East hand." If that play had been found, East would have continued a diamond, but declarer would have worked on the trump suit, and West was no longer able to reach East's hand for the diamond ruff.

Similarly, in the 2012 ANOT, against Andrew Peake and me, declarer failed in a makeable contract:

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

South was playing in 4♠ after heart intervention by East-West. West led the ♣8, an obvious shortage. The first trick went ♣8 – 10 – Queen – Ace. Declarer crossed to dummy via the diamond finesse, to lead trumps. The ♠10 lost to West's ♠Q, and another club was returned. When West won the next spade lead, he could cross to the ♥A and receive a club ruff, for one off.

Rather than hoping that a spade honour was onside, declarer should have led a heart at trick two. This is the best approach to the hand, no matter how the spade suit lies, simply because of its impact in terms of cutting our communications, and would have ensured the safety of this particular 4♠ contract.

LOCATION DISCOVERY

Teams. South dealer. North-South Vulnerable

North
 ♠ 3 2
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ Q 9 3 2
 ♣ A K Q J 9

East
 ♠ A Q 10
 ♥ Q 10 2
 ♦ J 8 5 4
 ♣ 10 4 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

West leads the ♠5, fourth-highest.
 Plan the defence for East.

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

Contract: 4♥ by South.
 Lead: ♠6.

East knows that there are no club tricks for the defence and at best one diamond trick. West would have led a top diamond with ♦A-K. East can see that at best there are two spade tricks and one diamond trick outside of trumps. If West has the ♠K, then East can hope that West has the ♦K or ♦A and the ♥J. If West does not have the ♠K, East knows that the defence will need two tricks from the hearts.

From the ♠5, fourth-highest, East can tell that West has four or five spades only. Therefore, South has three or four spades. East should play the ♠Q at trick 1 to locate the ♠K. If the ♠Q wins, East can cash the ♠A and play a diamond to hope for a diamond and a trump trick or two trump tricks.

When South wins trick 1 and returns a spade, East wins. Needing two tricks from the hearts, East switches to a low heart. The defence can take two heart tricks and cash another spade.

Note that it does not help declarer to win the ♠K and start running the clubs to discard two spade losers. West can ruff the fourth club, cash the ♥A and exit with a spade. The defence will come to three heart tricks, and a diamond trick later.

Ron Klinger

From the IBPA January 2018, written by Ron Klinger about Jim Wallis.

There are some bridge players who have more than just a touch of genius and play this game with flair. One of them is Jim Wallis of Queensland. See if you can match him on this problem:

Dealer North, EW Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	2♣ (weak)	3♣	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ A K Q J 7 4 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ 10 9 5

I am prepared to wager that you have not come up with the Wallis bid. He bid 3NT! Who has ever played in 3NT with a known 7-6 fit in a major suit? Wallis judged that the opponents figured to have at least a 9-card fit in hearts. In defence, North-South had no spade tricks. That left North-South unlikely to defeat the opposition game contract/s.

Even if 3NT went 9 down, that would be only -450 compared with 620 or more if East-West played in 4♥. Anyway, 3NT was passed out.

The deal arose in New Zealand some 20 years ago.

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

West led the ♣3 – 8 – King – 5. East cashed the ♣A, 10 from South, and West unblocked the Queen. East played a third club, won by South's ♣9. South crossed to the ♥A and played the ♠3, diamond discard, ♠2. When West showed out, East nearly fell off his chair. Have you ever won a trick in No Trumps with a 3, on the first round of the suit?

Ron Klinger

MEMORIES

This hand had me remembering when an opponent opened 4♠ against me. Dummy came down with 4 spades. Declarer led a spade from dummy, I discarded, declarer won the trump Ace, and partner discarded! I nearly fell off my seat - but more because my partner had not even batted an eyelid when I had shown out first.

This article, published in Australian Bridge in December 1972, is reproduced with the permission of Brad Coles.

The Bridgerama (VuGraph) commentator's voice boomed across the audience. Bermuda Bowl as good as over... three boards left... Challengers 33 IMPs down... even the Old Master's magic can't help now...

The Old Master looked down at his cards, though the paste-board patterns were indelibly etched in his mind. Three boards. He glanced across at his partner. Zettner's brow was furrowed too. Despite some good pickups in this last session, they must still be at least 30 or more IMPs down. The champions, Frawley- Kinston, were silent – they knew the title was theirs once again.

Five years they had held the world crown, and the sixth was merely minutes away. 56 IMPs up – 16 boards to play. No team in the Bowl could recover that ground. Even counting some sure losses, they had to be well ahead.

As the Old Master waited for the next hand, the old question rose once more. Could this be the one, the perfect hand, the work of art? What was the perfect hand? Was Culbertson right? Was it nothing more than success stemming from opponents' errors? What was beauty in bridge anyway? Was it nine top tricks in 3NT? Though he couldn't pin it down, he felt there had to be something more, some intangible combination of power in the cards.

Suddenly, he felt very tired, recalling the dilemma in which he constantly found himself in his 40 years' playing. Percentages or elegance? Play to win or play for perfection? Before him rose the shadows of games and tournaments lost because he could never quite resolve which he wanted. He remembered the hand that had cost him the Olympiad because he played for the squeeze rather than the finesse.

Frawley's Pass woke him from his reverie. The dream of the perfect hand faded. His partner opened 1♦ and Kinston interposed 2♥, a weak bid based on long hearts. The Old Master looked at his hand:

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ void
♦ 9
♣ A K Q J 9 7 6 4

A straightforward 3♣? 4♣ to emphasise their solidity? The scientists would know – they would get to the cold grand slam or avoid the unmakeable small slam, but their tortuous approach repelled him – too often it pointed the way to astute defenders. Neither side was vulnerable.

"Six clubs."

He smiled wryly, imagining what the commentators would be saying. A leap into the unknown. It could be disastrous, but it was no time to be dainty. The likely heart lead might give him time to work on the diamonds.

Frawley looked up quickly, paused slightly and passed. Zettner passed and Kinston doubled. Lightner. A diamond lead. A bad sign. All passed, and the ♦2 was led.

♠ A K 3
♥ K J 8 5
♦ Q 10 8 7 5
♣ 8

♠ Q 9 2
♥ A 6 2
♦ J 4 3 2
♣ 10 5 3

♠ 10 8 5
♥ Q 10 9 7 4 3
♦ A K 6
♣ 2

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ void
♦ 9
♣ A K Q J 9 7 6 4

The Old Master called for a low diamond and the ♦K won.

In the Closed Room, North-South reached 3NT and made 10 tricks, the commentator told the audience. If 6♣ is made, the Challengers will gain 12 IMPs, but unless East makes the fatal ♦A continuation, South will have to lose a spade ultimately. I predict East will exit the ♣2.

East thought for some time, then the trump appeared. The Old Master won and drew two more rounds of trumps, discarding two hearts from dummy. East discarded the ♥7-4. The Old Master stopped to think. East began with the ♦A-K. Not the ♥A – that would be too strong for a weak jump interpose. Six hearts headed by the Queen. Kinston was strict about suit quality. With seven, he would have bid 3♥; without the ♥Q the suit would have been too poor. Probably he was 3-6-3-1 with 9 HCP. That must be all, for the ♠Q would also make the hand too strong for a "weak" 2♥. So, West held the ♠Q, ♥A and ♦J. That might be just too much to manage.

Suddenly, the Old Master was no longer tired. As he pieced the play together, conviction refreshed him. He played three more rounds of clubs, pitching a spade, diamond and the ♥J. West threw a diamond and two hearts; East discarded hearts. This was the position:

♠ A K
♥ K
♦ Q 10 8
♣ ---

♠ Q 9 2
♥ A
♦ J 4
♣ ---

♠ 10 8 5
♥ Q
♦ A 6
♣ ---

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ 6 4

The Old Master played another club and watched West writhe. If West discarded a spade, the ♠A-K would drop the ♠Q, while a diamond discard would allow the ♦J to be pinned. West studied for a long time and finally ditched the ♥A. But the hand was an open book. A spade to dummy, and the ♥K put West in the vice again. He threw the ♦4. The Old Master reached across and touched the ♦Q, murmuring softly, "The pin is mightier than the sword." As East covered and West dropped the ♦J, the hand was over.

A triple squeeze... brilliancy... Old Master still has spark of genius... 10 years since he played internationally... included in Challengers team as sentimental gesture... long career... now proved back at best... assured of second in the world... 12 IMPs to Challengers... not enough to stave off defeat...

In the Open Room, Frawley growled bitterly at Kinston. "A spade return at trick two beats it. Takes out his entry prematurely."

"Sure. And I also knew South didn't have ♠J-9-x-x in spades, didn't I?"

The Old Master looked at them sorrowfully. Why was there always so much rancour at the top? He looked as Frawley sat, tight-lipped and stubborn – Frawley, contemptuous of opponents and partners alike – acknowledged as the world's best, yet unable to brook losing a game or a match.

These thoughts were brushed aside as the Old Master picked up the cards. Second-last hand. At least they had made a fight of it. They were vulnerable against not. His partner, dealer, passed. So did Kinston. He looked at

♠ A
♥ A K 6 2
♦ K J 10 9 2
♣ K 4 3

and opened 1♦.

Frawley cleared his throat. "Three spades."

Pass from Zettner, Pass from Kinston. What now? "Four hearts."

"Four spades."

The Old Master looked at Frawley curiously. A bead of perspiration rested on Frawley's brow. Was he shaken, that fine bridge mind, the leading theorist in the world? Frawley, who had expounded "pre-empt what you are worth", breaking his own tenets? 3♠, then 4♠. Why not 4♠ at once? The Old Master noticed a slight tremble in Frawley's left hand.

Zettner, patting his hair nervously, tugging at a loose strand, pondered, then bid 5♥. Kinston's double was loud and crisp, and everyone passed. Frawley pulled out the ♠K, and dummy came down.

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

Closed Room... 4♠ doubled... two down... +300 to Champions... headed for big swing... South must lose two hearts and a club at least... 5♦ a chance... 5♥ hopeless... bad split...

The Old Master surveyed the two hands. East would obviously have four trumps at least, maybe five. Prospects were not good. Winning the ♠A, he played the ♦J. Frawley played the ♦8 as a matter of doubleton reflex, then pulled his hand away as if burnt. The Old Master suddenly saw a glimmer of hope as dummy's ♦7 became a third entry. Could West have a key singleton in trumps?

Dummy's ♦A won and the ♥J was played. The Old Master felt his heart pounding... was there a chance after all? If East

held ♥Q-10-9-7, all was lost. The ♥Q topped the ♥J, the Old Master played his ♥K and looked at Frawley's card – the ♥7.

The first hurdle was over. Would the other cards behave also? The Old Master moved into the strange world of bridge intuition. Lines of play ran through his mind, the cards swirled into patterns, disappeared, regrouped, blended into a position six tricks away. The Old Master, satisfied with his plan, played the ♦10 to the ♦Q and called for dummy's ♠J. Kinston played low. So did the others. Another club from dummy. This time Kinston took his ♣A and forced South with a spade return. The Old Master ruffed with the ♥2 and reviewed the situation.

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

No, there was no flaw. It had to be right. He played the ♣K and crossed to dummy's ♦7 with his well-preserved deuce. The Old Master carefully picked over the end position he had seen before. There was no escape.

A small trump was played from dummy. East sat there thinking. He would have to split then 10-9, thought the Old Master; if not, I win with the ♥6, cash the ♥K, and play a diamond, discarding my losing club from dummy.

Kinston thought interminably; finally, the ♥9. Declarer played the ♥K and then, luxuriously, treasuring the touch, the Old Master played a diamond and put the ♥8 on from dummy.

Brilliant timing and end-play, the 'Rama commentator shrieked shrilly. If East overruffs and plays a club, South ruffs in hand and ruffs the last diamond in dummy. If East overruffs and plays a trump, South wins and his hand is high. And if East discards his club, dummy's club promotes South's ♥6 en passant...

In the Open Room, the Old Master wondered what was happening. Had the commentators seen the position as he had? Was there any chance of snatching victory from the jaws of defeat? The last two hands had to be gains, but how close was the fight? He could not hear the commentator.

...+850 to the Challengers... 11 IMPs... Champions still 10 IMPs up... additional drama... youth versus age... fantastic finale...

The audience hushed as the lights on the Bridgerama board flickered, then lit up the last hand.

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

The commentator broke into an excited jabber. Closed room... Champions overboard... reached 7NT... trying to duplicate the probably gamble in Open Room... two down... Challengers have chance... must stay out of slam... game gives them 11 IMPs and victory... slam doomed... bad diamond break... spade finesse loses...

In the Open Room, the silence was almost unbearable. The Old Master knew what the others were thinking. Last board. How small was the margin? Was there a chance or was the match already over? The audience already knew, but the players had to gauge the results for themselves. He looked at his hand. Six diamonds and four spades. The opposition was vulnerable, they were not. He was second to speak. The age-old question arose, to pre-empt or not to pre-empt? The "authorities" all said not to pre-empt with a side four-card major, also that a second-hand pre-empt was less desirable since one opponent had already passed. He made up his mind. The thought of the perfect hand casually flitted across his mind. He dismissed it as Kinston passed quickly.

"Three diamonds."

Pass from Frawley, nervously. Zettner sat for an eternity. The Old Master knew he must be thinking about slam chances, and was pleased that his diamond suit was respectable. Pre-empts at favourable vulnerability can often be filthy.

As the minutes toiled on, the audience became restless.

3NT... why doesn't he bid 3NT? How can he think of a slam with nothing in diamonds. 5♦ is all right too...

"Six diamonds."

The audience groaned.

Three passes followed quickly. Frawley sat for some time considering his lead, then the ♣10 hit the table. The Old Master surveyed the dummy and his own hand.

The slam was reasonable. Had they reached it in the other room? If he didn't lose a diamond trick, the slam was home. With a diamond loser, he still had chances. The ♥J might fall in three rounds, the spade finesse was there, and the ♣Q might appear. He looked at the lead. The ♠10. Had Frawley led away from the ♣Q? Would the club finesse work at trick one? Not a tempting lead against a small slam. The Old Master played the ♣K and took the diamond finesse.

The ♦Q held. He played the ♥4 to the ♥K, and played another diamond to the ♦J. Frawley showed out.

If he makes the slam, Challengers win by 4 IMPs... if he goes down, Champions have lucky escape.

The Old Master searched his mind. It was merely a matter of taking all the chances in the right order. One of them would probably succeed. But the quest for perfection tortured him. Painfully, he scanned dummy again. Once more he searched the position, wondering why he was hesitating, why he did not continue.

Suddenly he saw it, and everything else faded except the patterns of force generated by the cards as they glided into their predestined place. Again, the testing of each play, racked by the error of his original analysis, soothed by what he could see unfolding before him. Finally, he played the ♦A, discarding dummy's low spade. Then the ♥Q, dropping dummy's ♥6 on it.

♠ A Q
♥ A 10
♦ ---
♣ A J 4

♠ J 6 3 2
♥ ---
♦ 10 5 3
♣ ---

The Old Master considered the final position cherishingly. The Aces – the master cards – one in each suit in dummy... each supported by a different lower honour, side by side... each tenace agape, waiting for East to yield up the twelfth trick... each suit having a finesse in available in it... but the only finesse taken successfully turning out not to gain a trick... the suits blending together, in harmony and unison, to succeed no matter where the enemy cards lay.

The victory was his. He had but to take it. With trembling fingers, he took the ♦10, putting East on lead, softly asking for dummy's ♣4, and whispered gently to the opposition a single word.

"Checkmate."

Ron Klingler



Sara Tishler Women's Pairs winners (VCC):
Diana Smart - Elizabeth Havas



Winners of the Victor Muntz Restricted Pairs at the VCC:
Susie Groves - Alastair Lowe

LAST BOARD: THE US TRIALS

This deal was reported on *Bridge Winners* (www.bridgewinners.com), by *Bart Bramley*. The event selected the US1 team for the 2019 world championships.

Over the last three 15-board segments of the Final, NICKELL v. LALL, each team had held a lead of around 50 IMPs, but with one board to go the match was tied. At one table, Justin Lall opened the East hand 1♥, Kevin Bathurst showed a forcing 1NT response by bidding 1♠, and Bobby Levin closed the auction with a jump to 4♣. Lall led two high hearts, so after drawing trumps Levin crossed to dummy, ruffed a heart dropping the queen, and claimed 12 tricks.

In the other room the twelfth trick was more significant. Rodwell, perhaps playing for a swing (his team was well behind at the start of the set), never bid with the East hand, and Pepsi - Zia powered into the decent 6♣. Slam is better than the club guess, as declarer can exert pressure on the defenders.

Here is the full deal:

Board 120	<i>Pepsi</i>		
Dealer East	♠ A K Q J 10 8 4		
	♥ 9		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A J 10 5		
<i>Meckstroth</i>		<i>Rodwell</i>	
♠ 9 6		♠ 7 5 2	
♥ Q 3 2		♥ A K 10 7 4	
♦ Q 10 6 5 4		♦ J 9 7	
♣ 9 4 2		♣ Q 7	
	<i>Zia</i>		
	♠ 3		
	♥ J 8 6 5		
	♦ A K 8 2		
	♣ K 8 6 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦ (cue)
Pass	5♥ (cue)	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Rodwell led the ♥K (Meckstroth played the ♥2, standard count on a King lead at trick 1) and shifted to the ♦7. Pepsi won and ran five trumps to produce this ending:



Winners of the Frank Power Swiss Pairs (Under 200 MPs), VCC: Mary and Steve Colling (with Ben Thompson - left)

♠ 8 4
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ A J 10 5

♠ ---
♥ Q
♦ Q 10
♣ 9 4 2

♠ ---
♥ A 10
♦ J 9
♣ Q 7

♠ ---
♥ J
♦ K 8
♣ K 8 6

At the table, Pepsi led a club to the King and finessed in clubs, losing to the Queen. The 11 IMP swing to NICKELL was the final margin.

Should Pepsi have made it? Pepsi should have cashed at least one more trump, probably both. In the ending, he had a good idea of the count.

Both defenders had carded honestly at the first two tricks and then made their easier discards first - Rodwell threw his two spare hearts, while Meckstroth threw his two spare diamonds (after dummy had thrown one) and then a heart. Perhaps Pepsi should have ruffed a diamond immediately, as Kit Woolsey suggested in real time, but declarer's actual sequence left a diamond threat in dummy that BOTH defenders had to worry about.

Therefore, the actual distribution was the most likely one, and Pepsi clearly played for it. However, finishing the trumps would have reinforced that knowledge, and it would have produced the count squeeze no matter how the defenders discarded. On the penultimate trump dummy can spare a club. If Rodwell ever throws a diamond then dummy throws its last heart and Meckstroth will have to guard diamonds and be squeezed out of a club on the last trump.

If Rodwell instead throws both of his hearts, then dummy throws its low diamond. When Pepsi crosses to the ♠K and cashes the ♦K, Meckstroth is count-squeezed to release a club as he needs to keep the ♥Q.

It would not have cost anything for Pepsi to play for this, except possibly an extra 50-point undertrick, which may have been on his mind.

I don't recall ever seeing a compound count squeeze before.

Bart Bramley



Winners of the McCance Seniors' Swiss Pairs (VCC): Arjuna De Livera - George Kozakos (with Ben Thompson)

HAND 1

♠ 10 6
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ A Q 5
♣ A 8 5 3

♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ 5
♦ 10 9 8
♣ J 9 7 6 4

♠ 7 5
♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ K J 7 6 4 3
♣ 10

♠ A K J 9 3
♥ A K J 2
♦ 2
♣ K Q 2

6♥ by South.

West leads the ♦10. Declarer can see that there will be no problem if the trumps broke 3-2. If they are 4-1, then it may be necessary to trump a diamond.

Having won the ♦A, cash the ♥A and ♥K. The 4-1 break now presents the problem of how to tackle the spade suit.

The declarer decided that he could not make his contract if spades broke 5-1. So, to avoid the embarrassment of losing a trick to a club ruff if West held the ♠Q and 5 clubs (i.e. avoiding crossing to the ♣A to take the spade finesse), declarer led a small spade from hand at trick 4. West won the ♠Q and continued diamonds. Declarer ruffed with the ♥2, cashed the ♥J, crossed to dummy (either with the ♠10 or ♣A) to draw the last trump, then claimed with 6 more black suit winners.

HAND 2

♠ K J 10 8 4
♥ 3 2
♦ A K J 3
♣ K 10

♠ 9 2
♥ A K 10
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ A 9 7 4

3NT by South. West leads the ♥Q.

West's 2♥ was defined as a weak jump, so South has some ideas how to play the hand.

On the ♥Q lead, East plays a low heart. (If you ask about signals, you find the opponents do not use signals.)

Do you win the first heart and, if so, what do you do?
Do you duck the first heart and, if so, what is your plan?

If you win the first heart, you have to plan how to play the spade suit. When you lead from hand towards dummy, you have to pick the spades correctly. Should you play the ♠J and East wins the ♠Q, she can return another heart, and when West proves to hold the ♠A you will go down. However, should you play the ♠K and East wins the ♠A, she can return another heart, and when West proves to hold the ♠Q you will go down. Therefore, winning the first heart is inadvisable.

You should duck the ♥Q at trick 1. West continues the suit, East following, and you win. Now you can play on the spade suit. As long as West has 6 hearts, you are now safe. You lead a spade and finesse the ♠9.

East wins, but has no hearts left to remove your last heart stopper, so you have time to win their exit card and develop three more winners in the spade suit.
One example for the whole hand is:

♠ K J 10 8 4
♥ 3 2
♦ A K J 3
♣ K 10

♠ A 6 3
♥ Q J 9 8 7 4
♦ 10
♣ 6 5 3

♠ Q 7 5
♥ 6 5
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ Q J 8 2

♠ 9 2
♥ A K 10
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ A 9 7 4

HAND 3

♠ A J 9 4
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A Q
♣ Q 10 5 4

♠ 6 2
♥ A K Q 10 6
♦ 8 5
♣ K J 9 3

♠ 4 3
♥ J 7 4
♦ 10 9 7 6 4 3 2
♣ 6

♠ K Q 10 8 7
♥ 9 5
♦ K J
♣ A 8 7 2

4♣ by South. West leads the ♥A, ♥K, then ♥Q, ruffed by South.

You expect West to hold the ♣K, but have to play carefully, allowing for any 4-1 break in clubs.

Draw trumps in two rounds then, given the trumps break 2-2, you can afford to cash the ♦A and the ♦K. Lead a low club from hand, and play the ♣Q when West plays low. Return to hand with a trump and lead another club towards dummy. When West wins the ♣J, he is end-played – either giving a ruff-and-discard or leading away from his ♣K-9. The contract also always makes when West has the singleton ♣K or if East has the singleton ♣J.

(If you lead the ♣A first, then a small club, you have to decide to play for a 4-1 break immediately by finessing the ♣10. This line is clearly inferior!)



The pastry chef's tribute to the 3rd Asia Cup - everything is edible except the table

A GRAND COUP

Dealer South

♠ 6
♥ 8 7 3
♦ 9 7 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 9 3

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

♠ K J
♥ A 2
♦ A K Q J 10 8 6
♣ A K

♠ 10 8 5 4 2
♥ J 10 6 5 4
♦ void
♣ J 7 5

This hand arose at a charity bridge duplicate competition. At my table, East was very practical when his partner opened the bidding with 1♠. The auction proceeded:

1♠	4NT (RKCB)
5♣ (1 key card)	7NT

There was nothing to the play, despite the bad diamond break – 4 spade tricks, 3 heart tricks, 5 diamond tricks, 2 club tricks – more than enough.

Obviously East-West should play in 7NT, but a few pairs tried other contracts. Well done to Peter Colmer, who executed his trump coup to make his grand slam, 7♦. Fortunately for him, he received a heart lead, because a later pair playing in 7♦ received the deadly spade lead, meaning that 7♦ had to fail.

Playing 7♦ on a non-spade lead, you will win the ♥10 lead with the ♥A. You discover the 6-0 trump break when you cash the ♦A, and can stop trumps or cash up to three more top trumps before embarking on your trump reduction/coup. You do have to decide whether to play North for a singleton club or spade, which has some risk. The winning line is to cash the top two clubs, cross to dummy with the ♥K and cash the ♥Q, discarding your ♠J, then ruff a club to hand. Now you overtake the ♠K with the ♠A and lead a (top) spade through North, who has only diamonds left – capturing the ♦9 en route.

The hand is particularly interesting should someone play in 7♣, which also makes on a grand coup – using dummy's diamond winners to capture South's spade suit.

What a great hand – you should play in 7NT, but can make 7♣ or 7♦ on grand coups!

Barbara Travis

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DEMYSTIFYING DEFENSE

By Patrick O'Connor

Masterpoint Press, 2018

Patrick O'Connor, from Australia, won the American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year award in 2012 with his first book, A First Book of Bridge Problems. He then published A Second Book of Bridge Problems. With his latest book, Demystifying Defense, he explains many important defensive concepts, from the Opening Lead, through to the concepts of Second Player Plays Low to Third Player Plays High, and then discusses Defensive Signalling, so that defence is not such a 'dark hole' for less experienced bridge players.

There are then 40 hands provided, clarifying the various topics. My reviewer particularly enjoyed Deal 18, a good example of the Rule of 11.

"We are East. Our hand is:

♠ 7 2
♥ K 9 4
♦ Q J 2
♣ 9 8 7 5 2

North opens 1NT, we pass, and South bids 3♠, showing at least six spades and 10+ HCP. Partner passes and North raises to 4♠. Partner leads the ♠A and dummy comes down.

♠ Q 9 4 3
♥ A J 7
♦ A K 10 8
♣ J 10

♠ 7 2
♥ K 9 4
♦ Q J 2
♣ 9 8 7 5 2

Partner cashes the ♠A and ♠K, declarer playing the ♠3 and ♠Q. It looks like declarer is out of clubs. Partner switches to the ♥6 and the ♥7 is played from dummy. Things look comfortable for the defence. We already have two tricks and we have the ♥K and the ♦Q-J sitting over dummy. The immediate issue is what to play to this trick.

Assuming partner has led his fourth-best heart, how many hearts higher than this ♥6 are in the remaining three hands?

The Rule of 11 tells us to subtract the number of partner's spot card, 6, from 11. This reveals that there are five cards higher than the ♥6 in the other hands. All three of dummy's hearts are higher than the ♥6 and so are our ♥K and ♥9.

How many hearts higher than the ♥6 does declarer have?

Dummy has three and we have two, so declarer has none.

Which card do we play to this trick?

We play the ♥9. As expected, it wins. Since partner must have the ♥Q, we can safely exit with the ♥K and wait for the setting trick in one of the red suits (here it will be in diamonds).

Here is the full deal:

♠ Q 9 4 3
♥ A J 7
♦ A K 10 8
♣ J 10

♠ 5
♥ Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A K 6 4

♠ 7 2
♥ K 9 4
♦ Q J 2
♣ 9 8 7 5 2

♠ A K J 10 8 6
♥ 5 2
♦ 9 6 5
♣ Q 3

It would be a mistake to win the third trick with the ♥K. Declarer would win the return, draw trumps and finesse the ♥J. This would then allow declarer to discard the diamond loser on the ♥A.

POST MORTEM

This shows the usefulness of the Rule of 11. It is a good idea to get into the habit of using it on any opening lead of a small spot card. It doesn't work when partner hasn't led from a four-card or longer suit, but it is good practice to do the calculation."

If you are still learning how to defend together with your partner, rather than feeling like you and your partner are not working together, then this book will show you what both you and your partner need to do.



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OFF OR ON?

Dear Venerable and Ancient One,

A sudden thought struck me the other day when I held:

- ♠ K J 3
- ♥ Q 10 7
- ♦ A K 5 4
- ♣ K J 5

My right-hand opponent opened with a Multi 2♦ (weak in either major or maybe some kind of 20+ HCP balanced sort of thing) and I bid 2NT to show a strong balanced hand.

My left-hand opponent passed and Glenda bid 3♦. My big problem was whether 3♦ showed hearts or diamonds. As far as I remember, we hadn't discussed this and I always thought that transfers were OK over real NT openings but not after overcalls.

Actually, I bid 3NT and that was alright but, before anyone led, my partner explained that she meant 3♦ as a transfer. Was that right? What should we be doing?

*Luv,
Cathy*

Dear Young and Foolish One,

What a time to consider your bidding agreements! I can't tell you what you were supposed to understand but I would have thought that it might have been discussed in a partnership that has been functioning for quite a while.

The notion of 'System on' is pertinent to auctions where Stayman and transfers still apply.

The shift in modern times has been very much towards 'System on' whenever a player makes what is effectively a natural opening call of no-trumps. The uniformity gained as a result places much less strain on the memory. So, there are quite a lot of auctions where we need to be clear:

- Rebids of 2NT after strong openings such as 2♣ or 2♦.
- Overcalls of 1NT after ordinary openings.
- Overcalls of 2NT after weak or Multi opening bids.
- A reopening bid of 1NT (1<suit>: Pass: Pass: 1NT). This should also apply if you have a natural (20-22) call of 2NT in the same position.

Some situations create greater merit for using Stayman and Transfers than others. For example, over a Multi 2♦, there are distinct benefits to having 'System on', so we might as well use it whenever there is a 2NT overcall over a weak opening bid.

There is a gap here. If your RHO opens 2♠, essentially showing spades, what does a call of 3♥ mean in response to your 2NT overcall? There are a number of possible uses including stopper check and minor suit Stayman. Any of those works, or find a new use and make a name for yourself! I have no particular recommendation.

*Regards,
David*

WHY 1430?

Revered Relly,

Glenda and I have recently and bravely adopted Roman Key Card Blackwood. As so often happens, we have run into some philosophical issues straight away. Glenda would like to play 1430 responses as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|----|------------------------|
| 4NT | 5♣ | 1 or 4 Key cards. |
| | 5♦ | 0 or 3 Key cards |
| | 5♥ | 2, with no trump Queen |
| | 5♠ | 2 with the trump Queen |

The trouble is that I am used to starting at nought and I have already forgotten once. What advantage is there to using 1430, if any?

At this stage, we are not using the continuation (you know, asking for the trump Queen after 5♣ and 5♦). Is that wrong?

*Cheers,
Cathy*

Dear Cathy,

Using 1430 rather than 0314 is predicated on the notion that the opportunity to ask for the trump Queen will be taken from time to time. Given that you will no doubt progress to this point in the future, this creates a slight bias in favour of 1430. The reason is quite simply that you need maximum room when partner has shown 1 key card. If partner shows 0 then, as often as not, you want to sign off in 5. If partner has 3, you have plenty of space to check for the trump Queen (presumably looking for the 7-level).

Therefore, space is at a premium whenever the responder has just 1 key card and the secondary ask becomes an option whenever hearts are trumps. The problem is that you have run out of space after 5♦, showing one key card.

I wouldn't rush the trump Queen ask, but keep it in mind for the future. Here are my recommended responses:

Either Major is trumps.

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 5♣ | 1 or 4 Key cards. |
| 5♦ | 0 or 3 Key cards |
| 5♥ | 2, with no trump Queen |
| 5♠ | 2 with the trump Queen |

4NT 5♣ 1 key card

Then:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5♦ | Asks for the trump Queen |
| 5-trump suit | No trump Queen |
| 5NT | Trump Queen, no Kings |
| Other bid | Trump Queen + Kings of the 'bid suit' |

When I first looked at Roman Key Card, everyone used 0314 and so did I. Now the trend is to use 1430 and this is probably best in the long run. It is not so hard to remember if you recall that this is the score for a vulnerable Major slam.

*Kind regards,
David*

OVERBIDDING AND UNDERPLAYING A HAND

You pick up the following hand, and your partner opens 1♥. How would you bid?

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

The overbidders instantly bid 4NT, assuming partner will have the 'right' cards for slam. Firstly, opener may have a minimum hand, for instance some 5-3-3-2 handshape and 12 HCP. Secondly, you have two top losers in clubs.

When you bid Roman Key Card Blackwood 4NT, you need to know that the partnership has control in each of the outside suits. You also need to know what you plan to do after partner's response; imagine if they show two key cards – will you be bashing 6♥ now, or will you now (too late) worry about the club suit?

Let's approach the auction in a more disciplined and structured manner:

- | | | |
|----|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1♥ | 1♠ | New suit, so forcing |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | Fourth suit game forcing |
| 3♣ | 3♥ | Partner has a 5-5; 3♥ sets hearts |
| 4♣ | 4NT | Partner's 4♣ should be a cue bid |
| 5♦ | 5NT | 0 or 3 key cards |
| 6♥ | Pass | No outside Kings (no ♣K) |

Why use fourth suit forcing? You have such a good hand, you are too good to rebid 4♥, a delayed game raise, showing about 13-15 TP. Using fourth suit forcing, then agreeing one of partner's suits, shows a stronger hand.

When partner rebids 3♣, showing a 5-5, you know that your ♠A and ♦A-K will cover their three cards in those suits, so now you are much more interested in slam than if they had shown a more balanced hand.

After using fourth suit forcing, you can bid either 3♥ or 4♥. 4♥ now would show about 16-17 TP, whereas the 3♥ rebid shows an even stronger hand.

Now it is up to partner to think about whether their hand is good or bad – not in terms of HCP but in terms of key cards. If they have a decent hand, they should cooperate, rather than rebidding 4♥, so 4♣ becomes a control cue bid, denying a spade honour, but showing the Ace or King in clubs.

Now we will take declarer's seat for the play in 6♥:

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

The ♠10 is led. At many tables, declarer took the spade finesse (underplay #1), then drew trumps (underplay #2), and then tried the club finesse, relying on one of the ♣K-J being onside.

There is no need to take the spade finesse, since you can use the top two diamonds to discard your second spade. Win the ♠A, then use the diamonds immediately. Now you should work on the club suit. There is no need to rely on club finesses when you can trump your club losers in dummy instead. You don't want to lead even one round of trumps, because if clubs break 4-2 you may need to ruff twice in dummy, and your opponent may return a second trump when they win the club.

You don't have enough trumps in dummy to deal with 5-1 club breaks, so you may as well lead the ♣Q now, finessing. If North covers, you can draw trumps and then make the clubs into winners. At the table, the ♣Q runs around to your LHO's ♣K. Whatever LHO returns, you win, cash the ♠A and trump a club in dummy. LHO's ♠J falls on this round, and you have 12 tricks now. Just draw trumps and cash your clubs.

Barbara Travis

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WHEN YOUR STAYMAN IS DOUBLED

After you open 1NT and partner bids 2♣ Stayman, sometimes your RHO is able to make a lead-directing double. Usually you would just ignore the double and continue normally, but at times when you have very strong clubs such as ♣AQJ85, you may want to suggest 2♣XX as a contract. At other times, your clubs may be very weak such as ♣xx, and you are afraid that the partnership should steer away from 3NT without a club stopper. How should you handle this situation?

There are lots of variations that you can play here, but this is an easy one to remember:

1NT	Pass	2♣	Double
?			

OPENER'S CONTINUATIONS

Opener makes their normal response with a club stopper:

1NT	Pass	2♣	Double
2♦ / 2♥ / 2♠			

show a club stopper, with your normal meaning for that particular bid.

Opener passes to deny a club stopper:

1NT	Pass	2♣	Double
Pass			

denies a club stopper (does not say anything about the Majors)

RESPONDER'S CONTINUATIONS AFTER OPENER'S PASS

1NT	Pass	2♣	Double
Pass	Pass	?	
		XX	Re-Stayman
		2♦	Weak hand, typically 4-4-5-0 shape
		2♥	Weak with at least 4-5 in the Majors
		2♠	Weak with at least 5-4 in the Majors

OPENER'S REBIDS AFTER THE REDOUBLE WHICH RE-STARTS STAYMAN

1NT	Pass	2♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Redouble	Pass
?			

2♦	No Major
2♥	4 spades
2♠	4 hearts
2NT	4-4 in the Majors

The reason for the swap in 2♥ and 2♠ rebids when responder reinitiates Stayman is because, if opener has no club stopper, the final contract would be better declared by responder, not the opener. Of course, this can be a dangerous situation if someone forgets that the 2♥ and 2♠ rebids are inverted, so if you want to make it easy to remember, simply keep your normal Stayman responses without any inversions.

Otherwise, the easiest way to remember this is – after a Double of Stayman:

- Bidding immediately (normal Stayman responses) promises a club stopper
- Redouble is a suggestion to play in 2♣ XX
- Pass denies a club stopper

Over the Pass, responder can either sign off in 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠, or Redouble to reinitiate Stayman. How opener replies when responder initiates Stayman is up to you and your partner to agree on.

Here's an example:

♠ K Q J 2		♠ 5 3		
♥ A Q 7 3		♥ K J 8 5		
♦ A 3		♦ K Q 9 5		
♣ 5 3 2		♣ K 8 4		
1NT	Pass	2♣	Double	(1) Pass = No club stopper
Pass (1)	Pass	Redouble (2)	Pass	(2) Redouble = Re-Stayman
2NT (3)	Pass	4♥	All Pass	(3) 2NT = 4-4 in the Majors

During the regular social drink and a quick discussion after the Thursday night bridge session at our local club, Sarah and her partner, Peter, came over to me and asked me if I ever get too emotionally involved at the bridge table. Before Sarah went any further, I said, "I try to keep my private life separate from my bridge activities." Sarah continued, "You know that I don't mean that kind of emotion, but I am aware of some love matches that have started during bridge sessions."

"Jeremy," she said with some exasperation, "what do you think of Jeremy?" I was a little taken aback by this question, so I decided to tread carefully as I was sure that she would give her thoughts anyway. "He is a very competent player and seems like quiet a nice bloke," I volunteered. "Jeremy is a good player," she said. "however, he seems to gloat a little too much with respect to his successful exploits, especially against me." She seemed to raise her voice at the last part of the sentence.

"I am not sure what you mean," I said. Sarah continued, "After he plays a contract and gets a good result against me, he will point out to his partner why he played the hand the way he did. However, I know that it is really directed at me to highlight something that I did incorrectly in defence."

"I think you are being a little paranoid Sarah. He may only be clarifying his approach to his partner when there may have been an alternative method of playing the hand," I replied.

Sarah said, "Be that as it may, I never seem to get a good result against him and I was dying to teach him a lesson. I got my chance on Board 13".

"I held the following hand as South".

♠ A J 10 5
♥ Q J 4
♦ 10 9
♣ J 5 3 2

"Peter opened a weak 2♥. Jeremy's partner, Jason, bid 3♣. I volunteered a 3♥ bid to up the ante and Jeremy bid 3♠. Peter thought for a few seconds over this but eventually passed. Jason now bid 4♣. I thought to myself, 'I have got you this time,' and I doubled, which ended the auction." Sarah paused for a minute to gather her thoughts.

I decided to fill the void with a simple question. "Did you get revenge on this hand for all the previous failings?"

Even louder than before, she said, "Jeremy made 4♣ doubled and I had the misfortune to enter 790 into the electronic device and ask him to accept the result. He did this gladly, of course, and Jason congratulated him for his play on the hand, adding insult to injury."

This was the full hand:

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

Sarah commented on the play. "Peter led the ♥A and then the ♥K. I indicated that I had three hearts but he knew that from the bidding, I suppose. Peter then thought for a little while and eventually led the ♥8. Jeremy threw the ♣6 from dummy and I had to follow suit while Jeremy ruffed with the ♠8 in his hand. He then led the ♣8 from his hand, Peter played the ♣4, dummy played the ♣A and I followed with the ♣2, giving reverse count. Jeremy now led the ♠6 from dummy, I followed nonchalantly with the ♠5 and Jeremy contributed the ♠3 and partner the ♠4. That is just how things go when I play against Jeremy – he wins a trump trick with the ♠6 when everybody followed to the trump lead."

"Anyway, this was the situation now with the lead in dummy with that annoying ♠6:

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

"Jeremy led the ♠2 and, no matter what I did, I could only get one trump trick," she concluded sadly.

I said, "There is an excellent lesson to this hand. When the opponents have bid a vulnerable game voluntarily and, especially when you sit in front of the declarer (i.e. your trumps can be finessed), do not assist the declarer in the play of the hand. Without the double, declarer most likely would lead a small spade to the ♠K and you would have beaten the contract. You were trying to get +200 instead of +100 but..."

Sarah interrupted, "I know, I know... but I got -790. I guess you have a point but, one day, I will get my revenge and teach that Jeremy a lesson."

Chris Hughes

Ed: ADDITIONAL MORAL TO THIS STORY: Don't let a particular opponent psyche you out. You will continue to get poor results!



Winners of the Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams at the VCC: Andrew Slutzkin, Lanny Chan, Fraser Thorpe, Ann McKay (with Ben Thompson, President VBA, in the middle)

ACTION WHEN THE OPENING BID IS PASSED AROUND TO YOU IN 4TH SEAT

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

(1♦) Pass (Pass) ?

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

1. Double. There is little in current bridge literature on re-opening in fourth seat possibly because the situation has become rarer over the passage of time. Nowadays overcalls are much lighter plus responder will try to rake up a response to an opening bid of 1-suit, so it's not often both second and third seat pass over an opening bid.

Around 1983, I asked Paul Marston what was the minimum point count for re-opening in 4th seat, and he said 6 HCP with the right shape (4-4-1-4 vs 1D). In his "The Complete Book on Balancing in Contract Bridge", Mike Lawrence also says 6 HCP is the minimum. 6 HCP is too aggressive for me but certainly 8 HCP, as here, or even 7 HCP would sometimes qualify.

2. Double. You have less shape but more HCP and this hand qualifies handsomely for 4th seat action. Traditionally the 4th seat bidder imagines their hand as 2 HCP stronger and takes the appropriate action. So here you imagine you have 11 HCP and you would surely double with this shape and 11 HCP sitting directly over the opener.

When advancer responds the fourth seat bidder adds 2 HCP to the normal meaning and bids accordingly, so if advancer replied 2NT to the double for instance, normally showing 11-12 HCP, their partner plays them for 13-14 HCP.

3. 1♥. In the direct seat your hand would be too anaemic to overcall but, if you mentally add 2 HCP, your hand qualifies. Remember your partner is marked with values so you are

balancing, bidding for both of you. The opponents are unlikely to have miscounted their HCP and you don't want to suffer the indignity of conceding 70 or 90 when your side can make 110 or 140.

4. 2♥. In the balancing position, intermediate jump overcalls are the traditional method. As only one of the other three players was prepared to make a bid, you are much more likely to have a good hand such as this rather than a 6-10 HCP weak jump overcall. Anyway, with a 'real' weak jump overcall you might well decide to pass out 1♦.

5. Double. In the direct seat you would satisfy yourself with an overcall of 1♥, but in 4th seat you should imagine you are 2 HCP stronger and double before you bid your hearts.

6. 1♥. I don't like to overcall 4-card suits but in 4th seat you may have little choice. In the direct seat you could pass over 1♦ intending to later double spades for takeout. In fourth seat you are the last to bid, so if you pass the contract will be 1♦.

7. 1NT. One of my pet hates is playing 15-18 HCP, system on, for a 4th seat 1NT. You are bidding for both you and your partner, so it makes sense to play 1NT as 11-14 HCP, balanced, expecting partner to have fair values opposite.

It feels wrong to make a takeout double when your hand indicates bidding notrumps. You might double and play in a 4-3 major fit instead of 1NT since you can't double then rebid 1NT with 11 HCP. 1NT figures to play well with the opening bidder's HCP "sandwiched" between two opponents.

8. 1NT. You don't need a stopper for a fourth seat 1NT. In fact, it is likely to be better when you don't have one since then your partner's diamond honours sit over the opener.

9. Double. Since 1NT is 11-14 HCP, you plan to double first and then bid 1NT. Both Al Roth and Mike Lawrence recommend(ed) that against 1♣ and 1♦ the 4th seat 1NT should be 11-14 HCP, but against 1♥ and 1♠ the 4th seat 1NT is stronger, say 15-18 HCP.

With 15-18 HCP, balanced, if you double 1S your partner will normally reply at the two level so now if you bid 2NT you should have more than 15-18 HCP.

10. 2NT. Since the notrump ranges don't all fit in when the 4th seat 1NT is 11-14 HCP, the jump to 2NT is needed to show a balanced hand of 19-20 HCP. With 21-22 HCP, double and next bid 2NT, and with 23-24 HCP, double and bid 3NT next.

Paul Lavings



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