

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



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A GAME FOR LIFE by John Brockwell

It is 1971. The scene is the old Parkroyal Motor Inn in Brisbane. South Australia is playing ACT in the final of the ANC Open Teams. The scores are desperately close as the last board is placed on the table. No one knows just how close – Fred Gitelman is only six years old and BBO is decades away into the future.

1971 room 1:

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

Orientation rotated for convenience

WEST Middleton	NORTH Hoffman	EAST Horowitz	SOUTH Hancock
pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
pass	2♣	2♥	4♠
all pass			

Lead: ♥3. Denis Howard reported for *Australian Bridge Magazine*:

“Facing at least one spade loser, two heart losers and a dubious diamond finesse, Hancock won the heart lead and played the club king, overtaking with the ace. Then followed the spade finesse, ace and a small spade. After two hearts had been cashed, declarer ruffed the next heart and finessed the club ten to land the contract and 10 imps for ACT”.

Although South Australia are defeated in 5♣ in Room 2, Tony Hancock’s effort is not quite enough. South Australia prevail by 5 imps. The team: John Horowitz, David Lusk, Zolly Nagy, David Middleton, George Smolanko and Tex Wundke.

Fast forward 48 years to 2019. The scene is the Bayview Eden Hotel in Melbourne. South Australia is playing New South Wales in the final of the ANC Open Teams. As the last board



is placed on the table everyone in the world – apart from the players – knows, thanks to the magic of BBO, that New South Wales is leading by 0.2 of an imp.

2019 room 1:

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

Orientation rotated for convenience

WEST Buchen	NORTH de Luca	EAST Thomson	SOUTH Lusk
pass	pass	dbl	1♥
all pass			1♠

Lead: ♦5. According to Deep Finesse, EW can make 2♦ and NS can make 2♥ but not 1♠. In Room 2, David Anderson and Ian Hilditch (EW) bid 3♦ over 2♥ and make eight tricks for -50 to South Australia. In Room 1, David Lusk buys the hand for 1♠, so South Australia wins the contract in both rooms. As often happens with nondescript hands, neither the defence nor the declarer play is optimal. West leads the ♦5 to the two, queen and ace. Declarer runs the ♣7 to East’s nine. Declarer wins the club continuation and plays a third club. In with the ♣K, West leads the ♦10, jack, king, ruff. At trick six, declarer plays the ♥3, four, eight and ace. East now plays his remaining heart and declarer rises king and plays a third heart. In with the queen, West plays a third diamond, ruffed. Declarer now has a diamond trick, two diamond ruffs, a club and a heart and is assured of two trump tricks with ♠AJ opposite ♠Q63. Seven tricks and contract made for +80 and 1 imp to South Australia. They win the 60-board match by 0.8 of an imp. The team: David Anderson, Attilio de Luca, Ian Hilditch, David Lusk, George Smolanko, Justin Williams.

Apart from the series of coincidences between 1971 and 2019, two particular aspects of the anecdote are cause for astonishment. First, there is the 48-year gap between David Lusk’s and George Smolanko’s initial and most recent wins in the ANC Open Teams. Second, a half-century on, all six members of the 1971 South Australian team (average age 22 years at the time) are alive and well and all of them, except Tex Wundke, are still playing bridge on a regular basis. Bridge is a game for life.

APOLOGIES

There were two major errors in the June issue. On page two of the June issue (and all previous issues) the email address of the ABF President was given as abf_pres@gmail.com. Allison's actual address does not have a "_" character. The address is

abf.pres@gmail.com

In another error, on the Tournament Results page (page 14 of the June issue), we reported McCALLUM as winners of the ANOT. The actual winners, as reported on page 20 of that same issue, were ASHTON: Sophie Ashton, Paul Gosney, Helena Dawson and Sartaj Hans.

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Photos this issue by Bianca Gold

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER EDITION
ADVERTISING: 14 SEPTEMBER 2019
ARTICLES: 14 SEPTEMBER 2019**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The ABF Strategic Plan states that our mission is to foster and promote the enjoyment and participation in the sport of bridge throughout Australia. The 80th Australian National Championships at the Bayview Eden, Melbourne was a wonderful example of players participating in and enjoying our great game.



This is an important event on the ABF Calendar, not only for the fierce competition, but also for the social aspect of the game. The ANC draws people of all ages together with a common interest, and creates a community spirit of belonging. This was very evident in Melbourne as I watched players from competing teams discussing hands whilst sharing a drink. The banter between the players showed their camaraderie and respect for each other. Mission accomplished.

Once again the ABF provided a generous subsidy to two pairs from each state and territory to participate in the Restricted Butler event at the ANC. For many of these pairs, this is their first foray into a national bridge competition and quite often becomes the start of an ongoing passion for our national congress scene. Congratulations to the winners of all of the restricted events.

Thank you to all of the players who took the time to chat with me about various aspects of the ABF. This informal feedback gives the Management Committee food for thought, and helps us to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of our organisation.

Congratulations to Belinda Lindsay, the VBA and the ANC Organising Committee for a well-run event, which featured a delightful cocktail party with the Victorian Governor at Government House. Well done to the winning Interstate teams and runners up.

Bruce Neill, Ben Thompson and I attended the 1st WBF/APBF National Bridge Organisations Officers' Seminar in Singapore from the 8th-10th of June, where the President of the WBF, Gianarrigo Rona, tabled a report, "The Bridge Federations in the Third Millennium". Interested players and administrators can find this and other seminar documents on the WBF Website:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/seminars-courses/#singapore-2019>

This was a valuable opportunity to network with other NBOs. Although we have challenges, the seminar reinforced that the Australian Bridge Federation is in a healthy position because of our strong financial position and steady number of registered players.

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

abf.pres@gmail.com

The best of bridge to you all.

Allison Stralow, ABF President

USEFUL REPORTS ON THE MASTERPOINTS WEBSITE FOR PLAYERS, CLUBS AND EVENT ORGANISERS

The ABF has over 35,000 registered players through its 354 affiliated bridge clubs. Active registered bridge players can play in club, congress, state or national level events earning green, red and gold masterpoints. As you might expect, to keep track of all these players, clubs and the masterpoints issued for events together with the necessary invoicing and payment systems involves the setting up, population and management of a considerable national database and payments system. The public access to this database is managed through a dedicated website: www.abfmasterpoints.com.au. While this site can be accessed indirectly through the ABF's main website – www.abf.com.au – bridge players, club and state officials should bookmark the dedicated website in their favourites folders. This article, the first in a series, seeks to show players, clubs and event organisers the many useful reports that are available to view, download or print.

Whether you use the direct URL or go via the main ABF website, the landing page is as follows:

There is a menu of options on the left side of every page, and there is also a detailed Site Map. Help for various functions is also available from the left menu which is split into five sections.

The top section contains a link to the Masterpoint Centre (MPC) home page (see left), as well as a Contact Us that contains contact details not only for the Centre, but also for all the State Masterpoint Secretaries and the website developer Peter Busch.

The next section is entitled Reporting and contains various masterpoint reports that will be mainly of interest to players wanting to see how they are performing on a yearly or longer-term basis. For instance, there is a report on the current rankings in the annual McCutcheon competition. This recognises the achievements of players earning the most masterpoints in their respective

grades. State and Club reports synthesise this masterpoint earning on an annual basis, most earned all time and most improved players in clubs and states. There is also a complete list of ABF registered clubs, links to ad hoc news items, historical Masterpoint Centre Newsletters (which are published each month), and a Downloads page with the latest datasets for third party scoring programs.

Another useful feature for players wanting to check whether their current masterpoint awards and totals from national, state or club events have been credited to them is the Masterpoints Lookup tab under the Players Section. It even records masterpoints submitted but still pending, being fully credited to your account. Event organisers at all levels can search this database using player names, club name, ABF Number or the name of the event played in to check player eligibility to enter certain MP restricted events. Player Statements, Home Club Members reports of any club and reports of masterpoints issued for any national or state event can be viewed, downloaded or printed off.

Masterpoint Awards - By ABF Number

Awards can be searched by Player name, ABF Number, Club or Event. Choose your search basis below.

By Name	By ABF Number	By Home Club	By Event
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Enter ABF Number

As part of a suite of forthcoming technology improvements, the ABF is presently looking into providing all players, who have given their up-to-date email address to the ABF, a personalised quarterly Player Statement of their masterpoints earned over the previous 12 months. To ensure you will be included on any future Centre mailouts, please visit here and add your current details:

<https://www.abf.com.au/abf-mailing-list/>

The Centre would welcome any queries or suggestions from clubs and/or players about the ABF Masterpoint Centre or our website. Please use the email:

masterpoints@abf.com.au

We will then use your feedback as a guide for any future articles from the Centre. The section of the website used by Club Masterpoint Secretaries and its features will be discussed in our next article in December.

Roy Nixon & David Weston



REVERSING IN A GAME FORCING AUCTION

The idea that opener, when making a rebid after a two-over-one sequence, shows shape as a first priority, is popular when both players know they are committed to at least game.

But there are variations in opinion here, so let's discuss what the sequence

1♥ 2♣
2♠

would mean in the two-over-one style. Some play this as being any opening hand, even a minimum, but others feel that although full reverse values are not needed, these hands should not be absolute minimums. Why? Because the range is too wide for partner to know how far to go. Should responder stop in game, or look for slam? It's too hard if opener's range could be 12-19.

Another area along the same lines for describing hands with 5-4 shape (when the second suit is ranked below the first), is when opener needs to bid at the three-level to show their exact shape. Is this permissible with a minimum, or do you need a bit more?

Here's a typical hand, with David Appleton and GeO Tislevoll giving their opinions:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
?			
♠ K J 10 9 2	♥ 4	♦ K 8 3	♣ A J 4 3

After the 2♥ response to the 1♠ opening, what should opener do now? Do they show the club suit at the three-level, or rebid spades?

David Appleton Answer: 2♠. The partnership needs agreements here. Firstly, to bid at the three-level immediately:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
3♣			

ought to be 15+, otherwise our collective values will be nearly impossible to determine. This means I should rebid at the two-level.

Now, whether this is a 2♠ or 2NT rebid is up to the partnership. I prefer 2♠, but that is purely style. If you think 2♠ ought to promise six cards, then I guess we will bid 2NT. By the way, I think swapping the 2NT and 2♠ bids here is much superior, but maybe only for really experienced partnerships.

GeO Tislevoll Answer: 2♠. In 2/1 game force, there are different styles on the requirements for rebidding a side suit at the three-level, as in this situation. I am clearly in favour of the agreement that 3♣ in this situation is showing extras, around 15 points. This is to make it easier for the responder to diagnose the combined strength before we get too high. There-

fore, the rebid of two of the major is not necessarily showing six cards, but is a default bid which may be six cards in the major, or may be a 5-4 hand with a side suit that will take the bidding too high to show.

Joan Butts Summing Up:

Both GeO & David would bid 2♠ here first, before rebidding the club suit. One of their concerns is that if the partnership shows shape at any cost, then a 3♣ bid could be very wide-ranging – 12 points up to 19! And it would then be hard to know exactly how far to go. Because we're in a game force when responder started with 2♥ we can now rebid spades, and later show the club suit if necessary. Partner will get the correct message, that opener is minimum with spades and clubs. For example:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
2♠	pass	2NT	pass
3♣, etc			

Joan Butts



Learn to play with Joan Butts Bridge books



Play Bridge 1: A Workbook for the Absolute Beginner
\$20.00



Play Bridge: A Guide by Your Side
\$13.50



Play Bridge 2: A Workbook for Help with Play
\$20.00



Introduction to Two Over One Game Force
\$17.00



Managing the Play Workbook
\$15.00



Conventions to Improve Your Strong Hand Bidding Workbook
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\$15.00



Competitive Bidding Workbook
\$15.00

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Bulk discounts will automatically be applied to eligible orders.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE COMES UP TRUMPS

The 2019 Australian National Championships were held in Melbourne and were a great success in several ways.

The Victorian Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau (pictured below, centre) hosted a cocktail party for the players attending the 80th ANC Championships, on the Thursday evening of the Interstate teams event.



Government House was magnificent and the Governor absolutely charming, with the event reflecting the importance of the bridge community.

Secondly, the attendances at the ANC were well up on previous years, which was a reward for the organisers led by Belinda Lindsay and the huge team of volunteers. Bridge is very dependent on volunteers in the clubs and congresses around Australia, and the ABF is looking at how to recognise volunteers at a club, state and national level in the future.



The third outstanding feature at the ANC was the youth teams from all around Australia, with players as young as ten providing enthusiasm, endeavour and a family personality to the event. Some had even come from overseas, with Jade Wilkinson, aged 10 (pictured

above with Taydon Gold at Government House) having flown to Canberra to qualify at the trials, and again flown in from Tokyo for the actual tournament.

VOLUNTEERS TO BE FACEBOOK MODERATORS

The ABF has a Facebook page, and we would like to try and increase the number of visitors and likes to the page. The coverage of the APBF in Singapore did increase traffic to both the ABF Facebook page, and the results on the ABF web site, but we would like to grow this in the future, particularly for the Australian teams in September competing at the World Championships in Wuhan, China. If you are enthusiastic and love bridge, and would like to be a moderator to post stories, photos and discussions then please contact

marketing@abf.com.au

SPAM BOX

If you are not receiving the occasional ABF Marketing Newsletter, can you please check your Junk Email or Spam box in case the ABF material has gone there.

ABF NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive the ABF bi-monthly Newsletter, the SMS Notifications service for results at congresses, or the ABF Marketing Newsletter for updates on coming events, then there are several ways. Go direct to the ABF Sign Up form, or to the ABF Mailing List at the bottom of the ABF Home page. Of course, you can unsubscribe easily to any of these services if you no longer need them.



ABF GRANTS TO GROW YOUR BRIDGE CLUB

We all know the story – the average bridge player is aged over 70, life expectancy for men is 80, and women 84, and bridge club's memberships are falling as the attrition rate grows.

The ABF is taking a two-pronged approach to attract new members:

1. A Facebook advertising campaign to try and increase the numbers of beginners.
2. A conversion program to increase the retention rate of beginners, from lessons to supervised though to becoming playing members of clubs.

The ABF is prepared to fund half the Facebook advertising costs, to a limit of \$500, and will provide the marketing and technical expertise and support.

The clubs are to introduce a "Buddy" system as a central core objective to support the new players to becoming club members, and the clubs are to provide regular teaching and supervised sessions.

Please try and motivate your club to participate in this program to stop the decline in members and to grow your club for the future.

Some of the larger clubs may feel that it is not worth the effort for only \$500, but over half of the largest clubs are losing the most members, and the advertising is only part of the ABF Grants package to try and grow membership. Your support and involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Please read the 2019 Application Process and the Frequently Asked Questions at

<https://www.abf.com.au/marketing/docs/ABFMarketingSpecialProjectGrants2019.pdf>

Applications for funding from the ABF are being accepted now and submissions can be made at

tinyurl.com/ABFApplications2019v1

If the link does not work then cut and paste it into your browser.

Finally, can you please confirm your application by email to

petercox@ozemail.com.au

or ring 0413 676 326 to ask for any help or advice.

Also, if you wish to put in a combined application for a number of clubs in your geographic area this would be greatly welcomed.

The application only takes a few minutes to complete, after you have read the process and decided to participate. The future of bridge and your club is dependent on the willingness of clubs and their members to welcome new members, and the ABF is committed to helping drive and fund this process.

Peter Cox

IBPA NOMINATION by Ron Klinger

The following hand is among the seven nominations for Best-Played Hand at the upcoming IBPA Awards. The hand was played by Barbara Travis and reported by Ron Klinger.

In the 128-board final of the 2018 Australian Women's Play-off, PITT (Helene Pitt - Helena Dawson, Lorna Ichilcik - Rena Kaplan, Giselle Mundell - Avril Zets) defeated TRAVIS (Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke - Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty) by 236-214.

This deal comes from the semi-finals of that event:

Board 37	♠ J 6 4		
E/W	♥ K 10 6 2		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A K 7 5 3		
♠ 10 9 7 3		♠ 5	
♥ Q 9 7		♥ A 5 4 3	
♦ Q 10 6 5 2		♦ J 9 4	
♣ 8		♣ J 9 6 4 2	
	♠ A K Q 8 2		
	♥ J 8		
	♦ A K 8 7		
	♣ Q 10		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♣ ^{GF}	pass	1♠
pass	4♠	pass	2♦
pass	5♣	pass	4NT
all pass			6♠

West led her singleton eight of clubs: three - jack - queen. As this was dummy's suit, Barbara Travis (South) took the lead to be a singleton. She also placed the ♥A with East - why would West lead a singleton in dummy's suit if West had the ♥A?

If South drew trumps and cashed the ♣10, she had no sure entry to dummy to reach the clubs. Accordingly, she played the ♦A, ruffed a low diamond and drew trumps. East shed a low heart, a diamond and a club. Declarer played her fifth trump and East pitched another heart, leaving:

Board 37	♠ —		
E/W	♥ K 10		
	♦ —		
	♣ A K 7		
♠ —		♠ —	
♥ Q 9		♥ A 5	
♦ Q 10 6		♦ —	
♣ —		♣ 9 6 4	
	♠ —		
	♥ J 8		
	♦ K 8		
	♣ 10		

South cashed the ♦K, discarding the ♥10 from dummy, and East was doomed. She discarded the ♥5. South cashed the ♣10 and played a heart, using East as the stepping-stone to reach dummy's ♠AK. That was plus 980 and a win of 11 imps. At the other three tables, North-South played in 4♠.

Michael Whibley is also a nominee in the same category, reported by Liam Milne. Whibley's hand has already appeared in this newsletter (April issue, page 13).

A GAME AT THE CLUB with Barbara Travis

Sitting West, you hold:

♠ J 9 8 6 4 ♥ A Q J 10 5 ♦ 8 ♣ 3 2

You have no method for opening a weak major two-suiter so you pass, hoping you will be able to show this two-suited hand on the second round of the bidding. The auction proceeds:

EW Vul, Dealer South

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♦	pass	pass
?			1NT

Even though your partner passed, you should bid here. Firstly, your RHO has denied a major and, also, your partner may have passed in the knowledge you were already a passed hand.

When West passed, North raised 1NT to 3NT, and your side has been kept out of your major game.

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

3NT was down one trick on the ♥Q lead. +50 wasn't great recompense for 4♥ or 4♠, making 11 tricks with both finesses working. Admittedly, North-South might reach 5♣, going one off on the spade lead through dummy - but you need to be bidding and pushing the opponents around.

So - how do you show this hand? What should you bid? You might bid 2♦, which is still a Michaels Cue Bid, showing both majors. If you do so, your partner might choose a jump to 4♠, knowing there is a massive double fit in the majors.

I have noticed that people tend to 'underbid' opposite their partner's Michaels Cue Bids. Firstly, you have to discard the notion of HCP and adopt the notions of fit and 'quick tricks' - like you should do after partner preempts. The East hand is an excellent hand, despite its lack of points. You know you have a ten-card fit in spades, with the opening points on your right. You also know you have a nine-card heart fit, meaning you have a double fit. Finally, the singleton ♣A gives you the ability to trump - it is likely partner has longer clubs and shorter diamonds, given your minor-suit holdings.

Here's an example of responding to a Michaels Cue Bid. You hold:

♠ 9	♥ A J 10 8 7	♦ 10 9 2	♣ K 9 6 2
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
dbl	?	1♦	2♦ majors

Partner has shown at least 5-5 in the majors. Interestingly, the double says that RHO would like to double at least one of your suits – clearly spades. Is your hand good or bad given those considerations?

I think this hand qualifies as an automatic 4♥ bid. You know you have at least a ten-card heart fit, and RHO probably has good spades which you can trump, since they can't be doubling based on hearts. Furthermore, if RHO has good spades it is more likely that your partner has some cards in the minors.

My opponent bid just 3♥, leaving the final decision to their partner, and the auction was passed out. South's hand was no surprise:

♠ 8 7 6 3 2 ♥ K Q 5 4 3 ♦ — ♣ A 4 3

10 tricks in hearts were easy, and 11 tricks were available if you established the fifth spade in dummy as a long trick.

Here's a lead question instead. Sitting North, you hold the following hand and see this auction:

♠ K 7 6 5 ♥ A K 2 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ A 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1NT ¹	2♣ ²	pass
2♠	pass	pass	2NT ³
3♠	all pass		

- 15-17 balanced.
- Both majors.
- Given the lack of action on the first round, the delayed 2NT bid should indicate length in both minors.

What would you lead? West must now hold four spades, and is quite likely to be short in hearts, so it seemed 'right' to lead a trump. Here's the hand:

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

The trump ran around to West's ♠8, with South discarding an encouraging diamond. A small club was led, and it was important to rise with the ♣A to lead another trump. Declarer won the second spade to lead a heart, won with the ♥K. A third trump lead left declarer one trick short. This hand is from the Women's Playoff. (In the Seniors' Final, 3♠ doubled made on a non-trump lead.)

On the next hand, I found an unusual lead, but with good reason. RHO had opened a strong 2NT, and the opponents had then had a transfer sequence to 4♥. I held:

♠ J 9 ♥ K J 10 7 ♦ J 8 7 2 ♣ A 6 2

My heart suit would provide two or three tricks, depending on who held the ace and who had the queen. I thought that it seemed likely that we needed to cash any tricks we had before there were discards taken in dummy. Therefore, I led the ♣A and got an encouraging ♣3 from partner, so I led a second club to his king (!) and waited for our two heart tricks. These were the opposition hands:

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

4♥ can certainly make if the club winners are not taken immediately, and our opponent would definitely have made his contract.

My last offering is a slam contract. You are playing in 6♦, East (no opposition bidding) on a heart lead:

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

You have a 'guess' at trick one – has South led from the ♥K or ♥J? In this case, you cannot guess correctly since North has both heart honours over the queen. Anyway, you try the queen, North covering with the king forcing your ace.

Now it is time to turn your attention to the trump suit. Usually when you have a nine-card fit missing J-x-x-x, you should first play an honour from the hand where you hold TWO honours. However, the difference on this hand is that you are missing both the ♦J and ♦10. You must play the suit differently to allow for a 4-0 trump break. You have to start by leading the honour from the hand where you have only ONE honour. On this hand, you should lead the ♦K.

If diamonds break 4-0, you can only make if South has all four diamonds. You will always have a diamond loser if North has J-10-x-x. However, if South has J-10-x-x you need to be able to finesse their diamond honours twice, meaning you need to have both dummy's honours intact to be able to finesse twice. Our declarer failed this suit combination 'test', cashing one of West's honours and going down when South proved to have all four trumps.

Suit combinations are fascinating but challenging to recognise at the table. You can read all about them, but until you encounter each combination at the table – getting it wrong – you tend to struggle to remember and identify the recommended lines of play.

Barbara Travis



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DEFENDING AGAINST NOTRUMP CONTRACTS

This month's Workshop at Sydney Bridge Centre was all about notrumps. There were a few interesting hands that were focussed on the defence to notrumps. Your partner leads the ♥4 against the opponent's 1NT-3NT auction and here is what you see.



	♠ 6 5 4					
	♥ A K					
	♦ Q 10 6					
	♣ Q J 10 9 8					
♥ 4	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 10 9 2	
N						
W E						
S						
		♥ 6 5 3				
		♦ 9 4 3				
		♣ A K 3				
	♥ 7					

From the opening lead, it appears that partner has a long heart suit, including one or both missing honours. Many players don't appreciate why we lead fourth-highest, and it is not always easy to use, but if partner leads a fourth-highest card, and turns up with a lower card, then she started with five cards in that suit. A good tip for defenders struggling to interpret signals, is to look at declarer's number card, and assume that it is their lowest card. Here, when declarer plays the ♥7, they probably don't have the ♥2, which means your partner started with five hearts. Clever, but not impossible to work out with a bit of practice!

When declarer plays clubs, you win your ♣K and need to decide what to do next.

There are two very common and costly errors that people make, that you need to avoid to become a good defender. Do not play your other club winner, since that sets up three winners in dummy, and declarer will make her game.

The other mistake is looking at the ♥A in dummy and deciding not to play that suit.

In notrumps, usually the best defence is to persist on one suit and lead that suit at every opportunity.

To defeat 3NT here, you need to lead hearts to knock out the ace, and then lead hearts again when you regain the lead with your other club winner. Partner started with ♥Q10842, and if you can knock out the ♥AK, she can win three heart tricks. Any other defence allows 3NT to be made.

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

After mastering the idea of persisting on one suit, here is a hand that tripped up some good players:

	♠ K 5					
	♥ 6 4 3					
	♦ A K J 10 7 3					
	♣ A 2					
♠ J	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A 6 3	
N						
W E						
S						
		♥ Q 10 5				
		♦ 8 6 4 2				
		♣ 8 7 5				

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♦	pass	1NT ¹²⁻¹⁴
pass	3NT	all pass	

Partner leads the ♠J and dummy plays the ♠5.

How would you defend differently if dummy had played the ♠K?

If you were paying close attention to the first hand, you might have deduced that the correct defence is to win the ♠A and lead back a spade. Not this time.

The reason that we lead top of a sequence is to help partner to work out what we have. The ♠J lead means that partner usually has ♠J109 and usually long spades, but does not have the ♠Q. Since the ♠Q is not in dummy, and you don't have it, then declarer must have that card.

Looking at dummy closely, there are a lot of winners there. Dummy has six diamonds, and you suspect that they are all winners. Even if your partner has the ♦Q, it is almost certainly going to be a singleton, and it can be finessed anyway. Dummy also has the ♣A. Coupled with declarer's spade tricks, this contract is looking very good for them.

When you are defending notrumps, and dummy has a long powerful suit, you must take your tricks quickly, or not at all. Left to her own, declarer is going to win at least nine tricks.

Your only chance to defeat 3NT is to win the ♠A immediately, and switch suits. With the ♣A in dummy, hearts is the only option.

You must hope that your partner has a few good hearts and that you can get them quickly.

You have the ♥Q105 and there are no high hearts in dummy. You are hoping partner has some high hearts, but to help the defence you should lead the ♥Q or the ♥10 from a three-card suit. If declarer has the ♥K, playing a big one will 'push it' out of her, or you will win the trick and can play your other big one.

Winning the ♠A straight away was your only chance, whichever card was played from dummy. Continuing spades was never going to succeed here, so switching suits was your only chance. The ♣A in dummy made hearts the only chance for success. Defence is hard, because you have to look for all of these little chances, and you still need to hope that partner has the ♥A.

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

Defeating this contract would be an excellent result, at any level of bridge game.

William Jenner-O'Shea

AFTER 'JEOPARDY!' WILL JAMES HOLZHAUER CONQUER BRIDGE?

The following article originally appeared in the July issue of the Bridge Bulletin, the official magazine of the American Contract Bridge League.

When someone wins \$38,000 in a single day of "Jeopardy!" it's a big payday. James Holzhauer changed the face of the game in April when he averaged more than double that across his first 22 wins. By that time, when he got a two-week hiatus for the teachers tournament, he'd won \$1.69 million and held the 12 biggest single-day winnings. He was second to Ken Jennings only in length of streak, 74 games, and total winnings, \$2,520,700 – a record Holzhauer was poised to break on day 33 when his streak ended June 3. Holzhauer won \$US2,462,216 in 32 games.

As Holzhauer became the star of the show, "Jeopardy!" viewers learned a lot about the professional sports gambler from Las Vegas. One thing that didn't come up in the first 27 times Alex Trebek interviewed him is that he's a bridge player. Bridge finally got a mention on day 28 – Memorial Day, in case you missed it.

Holzhauer has only played in a handful of bridge tournaments, mainly in the Las Vegas and Chicago areas – more than three-fourths of his masterpoints are from online play – but he went to the San Diego NABC in 2017. He made it into the Daily Bulletin there in a photo spread about fashion, and that was enough for him to be recognized when he began on "Jeopardy!"

Holzhauer began playing young, despite not having any bridge players in his family. "I just woke up one day when I was maybe 14 and decided I was going to learn to play bridge," Holzhauer says. "I am self-taught at almost everything I do." He began playing online.

His family was hosting a foreign exchange student from Germany who noticed Holzhauer playing online. "This must be a cultural difference," the student said. "In Germany, only grandparents play bridge."

Holzhauer grew up in the Chicago area. When he came home from elementary school, he would sit with his grandmother and watch "Jeopardy!" It was his dream to be on the show, and he promised his grandmother that he would make it. He'd been taking the online test every year for as long as it's been offered and three times got invited to audition.

In the meantime, he also tried another TV trivia show: "The Chase," where contestants compete against a villainous trivia champion known as The Beast. Holzhauer and his team of three appeared in 2014 and won \$175,000. In a 2017 tweet, The Beast called Holzhauer the best player he ever faced on all versions of the show. James' wife, Melissa Holzhauer, appeared on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and won \$28,800.

It was almost two years after his last audition when he finally got called to appear on "Jeopardy!" He decided he needed to practise using a buzzer, so he had a friend build him one. He spent a year practising for "Jeopardy!" and studied trivia in the children's section of the library. "Books that engage children,

they come at you rapid-fire with different subjects, and I've seen lots and lots of answers that came straight from that."

As Holzhauer became a "Jeopardy!" star, articles appeared all over the news about him. Many of them focused on his strategy for building big jackpots: going after the biggest-value clues first to build a substantial bank and then hunting for the Daily Doubles, usually risking everything on the first one and large amounts in Double Jeopardy. Sometimes it seemed he'd already put the game out of reach before his opponents figured out what's going on.

But Holzhauer beat his opponents to the buzzer more than three-fifths of the time, and he was right 97% of the time. It's not hard to find 80% of the Daily Doubles when you control the board that amount of the time. When you know all the answers and are unbeatable on the buzzer, does it even matter what order you tackle the clues?

"I think a lot is being made in the press of my game-board

strategy because people confuse correlation (he wins and plays differently) with causation (he wins because he plays differently)," Holzhauer says. "The reality is that success at Jeopardy mostly boils down to timing the buzzer and knowing your trivia."

He describes the advantage of going bottom-up as an extra edge. "A little extra edge is the difference between winning and losing at my job (or at bridge) so I wouldn't discount it completely."

By the time Final Jeopardy came around, throughout the vast majority of the streak, Holzhauer had not just more than twice the winnings of his nearest competitor, but often as much as ten times their amount. With the game safely in hand, he would still take a big bet – almost as much as he could afford to protect against his opponents doubling their scores. And he maintained his accuracy average there too,

missing just one Final Jeopardy in all 33 appearances.

He got it right in his last show, too, but was trailing Emma Boettcher, a librarian who did her thesis on "Jeopardy!" clues. She took the lead by getting both Daily Doubles in the Double Jeopardy round and managed to control the board a fair amount as well. Holzhauer didn't miss a single clue that day.

Now that his run on "Jeopardy!" is over, Holzhauer faces a lot of opportunities and questions about what's next. One thing on his agenda this summer is the Summer NABC in Las Vegas. Along with playing, he's sponsoring a brunch for Collegiate Bridge Bowl players and making an appearance at the Youth NABC. And at some point later on: getting serious about bridge.

Though he's not a Life Master yet – he needs about 4 gold points and 18 silver – Holzhauer has big plans for his future in bridge. "I don't half-ass anything," Holzhauer says. "I want to be a world-class bridge player someday, and when I really start pursuing that, I wouldn't bet against me."

Chip Dombrowski, USA, for the ACBL Bulletin



**The front cover
of the July 2019
ACBL Bulletin**

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY

SEE PAGE 24 FOR ANSWERS

HAND 1

♠ J 5 4
♥ 10 5
♦ K 8 6 4
♣ Q 10 7 4

♠ A Q
♥ A 7 3 2
♦ A Q 2
♣ K J 9 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	3NT	all pass	2NT ²⁰⁻²¹

West leads the ♥K.
What is your plan?

HAND 2

♠ K 6 4
♥ 7 2
♦ 9 7 4
♣ A K 7 4 2

♠ A 8 7 5 3
♥ A 6 4
♦ A J 6 5
♣ 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass all pass	3♠	pass	1♠ 4♠

West leads the ♥Q.
What is your plan?

HAND 3

♠ K 9 6 5
♥ A 9 2
♦ J 10 4
♣ Q J 4

♠ A Q J 10 3
♥ K J 4
♦ 8 6
♣ K 10 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass pass	2♦ 4♠	1♦ pass all pass	1♠ 3♣

West leads the ♦2 (3rd or 5th highest). East cashes the ♦A, ♦K, and leads the ♦Q, which you trump.

What is your plan?

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENSE – QUESTION

SEE PAGE 21 FOR ANSWERS

Teams ♠ 9
N/All ♥ K Q 5 3
♦ K 9 2
♣ J 10 9 4 3

♠ A 10 7 6
♥ 8 7 6 4 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ 8



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	1NT ¹	2♠ ²

all pass

1. 15-17.
2. 5+ spades and 4+ minor.

You, West, lead a low heart, won by South with the ace. Declarer leads the ♠J: six - nine - five and continues with the ♠Q, which you take with the ace, partner playing ♠2 and dummy throwing ♣3. You switch to the ♣8 and East wins with the ♣Q. East continues with the ♣K, South following. What do you discard? (Partner's high-low in spades shows an odd number of trumps.)

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GET TO KNOW OUR YOUTH STATE COORDINATORS

Introducing our newly appointed Tasmanian Coordinator Cedric Parker. With a courier business in South Africa, Cedric has found himself supporting his wife Felicity, who is on a three-year contract with Tasmanian Health Services as a specialist anaesthesiologist. With plenty of time on his hands, we are fortunate to have Cedric spend time and energy on youth bridge in Tasmania.

Cedric started teaching bridge at Marist Regional College in March last year and has eight guys who regularly attend sessions twice a week. After organising the very first school bridge tournament in Tasmania recently, he arranged to set up regular duplicate sessions on Mondays after school with a two table movement using Bridgemates.

In his other spare time he also teaches bridge at East Ulverstone Primary School as part of his church's Life at Play outreach. Shortly he will commence mentoring youth at another Ulverstone High School and is hoping that this may open the door to start teaching bridge there as well.

His ultimate aim is to stage inter-school bridge tournaments in preparation for establishing a Tasmanian Youth bridge team.

Cedric first came to our attention after a newspaper article on his first competition:

Recently the Burnie Bridge Club held its first tournament for high school students. Four teams from Marist Regional College played the cards for close to three hours, with Caleb Kirkpatrick and Hamish Coull eventually claiming the tournament trophy.

Burnie Bridge Club committee member Cedric Parker said the tournament was organised off the back of the free bridge lessons launched at Marist in 2018.

"When they play at school, it's very much a fun thing. They laugh and they joke and so on," he said.

"Here they are going to feel it when they make a mistake because the other players play exactly the same boards, and they will see how they did relative to the others.

"So they will start to understand that it is actually a very competitive game and it's not just a matter of luck in terms of what cards you are dealt."

Mr Parker hoped the Burnie Bridge Club could eventually host an intra-school tournament and support the formation of a youth team to enter the Australian National Championships.

ANC YOUTH

The ANC has just concluded in Melbourne where each state sends an Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth team to battle it out for State honours. The Youth field played 15 matches in a triple round robin format. It was good to see so many younger players contesting this year which bodes well for the future of the game. In the picture below, the governor of Victoria meets with the under 16s.



At the end of the round robins, NSW and SA were locked into the finals and this board occurred in the first stanza of the final.

Board 12	♠ A 7 6 5	♠ Q 10 9 3 2	
	♥ A 3	♥ J 8 6	
	♦ J 7 4	♦ Q 9	
	♣ A Q J 5	♣ 10 8 4	
♠ K J		♠ 8 4	
♥ K 10 9 5 4 2		♥ Q 7	
♦ 8 5		♦ A K 10 6 3 2	
♣ 9 6 3		♣ K 7 2	

WEST Peacock	NORTH Davey	EAST Phillips	SOUTH Gue
2♥	dbl	pass	3NT
pass	4NT	pass	6NT
all pass			

After a weak two in the first room, North and East made sensible actions and South chose to close his eyes and bid 3NT with only a partial stop. North's action was slightly aggressive with partner possibly having to stretch to bid 3NT. South's next action can only be described as youthful exuberance but you can't argue with success.

WEST Davey	NORTH Topper	EAST Bartley	SOUTH Rose
2♥	dbl	3♥	all pass

In the other room East pushed the bidding with 3♥, putting the South player to a guess. While 3NT no longer looks like a playable contract, I'm surprised that diamonds weren't offered as a potential place to play. SA won the battle, but did not win the war, going down to NSW 200.6 to 138.



Youth winners Alex Phillips, Ailsa Peacock, Charles McMahon npc, Matt Smith, John McMahon (absent Lara Topper, Jacob Rose)

YOUTH NEWS

Congratulations to Renee Cooper on winning the Women's Butler at the ANC. Renee will now team up with Andrew Spooner, Nico Ranson, John McMahon, Matt Smith and Jamie Thompson as they travel to Sweden to play in the Chairman's Cup before heading to Croatia to play in the Junior World Championship.

*Keep up with all the news at the
Australian Youth Bridge page on Facebook*

Leigh and Bianca Gold

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS by Julian Foster

The following hands are taken from Julian Foster's upcoming article in the October issue of Australian Bridge Magazine.

The ANC this year moved to Melbourne where the various State and Territory teams gathered at the Bayview Eden hotel, a venue already familiar to those who play the VCC.

At the end of the round robin the scores in the 4 divisions were:

	OPEN	WOMEN	SENIOR	YOUTH
1	SA 637.9	ACT 610.7	NSW 678.4	NSW 795.3
2	NSW 570.3	WA 595.6	QLD 635.8	SA 579.4
3	QLD 517.2	NSW 592.8	ACT 612.8	QLD 530.9
4	VIC 478.7	QLD 508.4	SA 516.6	VIC 446.0
5	ACT 477.1	SA 495.6	VIC 431.4	ACT 399.2
6	WA 389.8	VIC 357.3	WA 331.4	WA 396.9
7	TAS 356.0	TAS 266.6	TAS 219.7	

SA won the Open round robin comfortably, having led pretty much the whole way. This year the 2nd v 3rd repechage had been abolished, so commiserations to QLD who had started extremely well but slipped back towards the end. NSW got our act together to qualify 2nd. Both VIC and ACT probably felt they should have done better.

The Open final, five sets of 12 boards, would therefore be between SA and NSW, with SA having a 6.8 imp carry forward (remember that 0.8 for later...).

Here is an interesting hand from the second set:

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



Women's champions ACT: Jodi Tutty npc, Adrienne Stephens, Julia Hoffman, Erin Tewes, Pam Crichton, Elizabeth Havas (Margaret Bourke absent)



Open runners-up NSW: John McIlrath npc, Peter Buchen, David Weston, Julian Foster (Matthew Thomson, Lynn Kalmin and Lorna Ichilcik absent)

WEST Weston	NORTH Hilditch	EAST Foster	SOUTH Anderson
1♠	2♥	pass	pass
dbl	pass	3♣	3♥
pass	pass	3♠	all pass

Should East do more over 3♥? It is very tempting. But South has not raised hearts immediately so partner is not guaranteed to have singleton heart. My somewhat wimpy 3♠ ended the auction and +170 felt a really bad score when we make 6♣! Jumping to 4♣ over the double might express the hand better. Or re-evaluating after the delayed raise.

Luckily for us the other table bid:



ABN: 70 053 651 666



ABN: 82 057 199 126

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GOLD POINTS

PQPs: 1st 24,
2nd 18, 3rd 12, 4th 6



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	David Burn: 0409 661 010 david.burn01@gmail.com

WEST Williams	NORTH Buchen	EAST Smolanko	SOUTH Thomson
			pass
1♠	dbl	pass	2♦
pass	pass	3♣	pass
pass	3♦	pass	pass
4♣	all pass		

Also +170!

Set 4 had a bizarre situation that I have never seen before:

Board 1	♠ A 4 2
N/Nil	♥ 2
	♦ 9 7 4 3
	♣ Q J 5 3 2
♠ J 9 8	♠ K 10 5
♥ 10 6	♥ K J 5 4 3
♦ A Q 10 8 6 5	♦ K J
♣ A 8	♣ 9 6 4
	♠ Q 7 6 3
	♥ A Q 9 8 7
	♦ 2
	♣ K 10 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	1NT	2♣ majors
dbl	pass	pass	pass
3♦	pass	3NT	all pass

Anyone notice the technical glitch here? The auction was actually over in 2♣ doubled – but none of the players realised and continued bidding! We can't even accuse them of having a "senior moment" – this was the Open division! After the club lead 3NT had no chance and went one off. Given 2♣ can make an overtrick for NS, NSW converted their score from +280 to +50 by failing to notice the auction was over!

I am told there were differing explanations on each side of the screen about North's pass of the double, so it is possible that the director would not have allowed 2♣ doubled to stand anyway. But nothing was mentioned by either team at the time, so the only person who knew something weird had happened was the BBO operator, who had to "undo" the final pass and fudge the auction to get back to 3NT.

At my table the bidding started the same, but West bid 3♦ immediately and East bid 3NT. When South led a heart that was my eighth trick, and the run of the diamonds gave South



Senior champions NSW: Peter Jeffery, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Nicky Strasser, Hugh Grosvenor npc, George Bilski, Andrew Markovics


a lot of discard problems, so I was able to set up a spade trick and later scored a 10th trick on an endplay. That meant a gain of 10 imps for NSW.

Given how close the match ended up being, there has of course been plenty of discussion about the situation after the event – the BBO operator is an impartial observer so was surely right to not say anything. What would have happened if either team or captain had noticed what took place though?

Last year the ANC final came down to a big slam swing on the penultimate board. This year it was a much more mundane hand with a one-level contract on the last board determining the result. Although none of the players knew it, NSW were in front by 0.2 imps going into the final board. That board has already been reported by John Brockwell on Page One of this issue – David Lusk's +80 in 1♠ produced one imp for South Australia, turning -0.2 into a final score of +0.8. Who said overtricks don't matter at Teams!

The final was played in great spirit and, being so close, could have easily gone either way. Congratulations to SA who had a win over NSW that was almost as narrow two years ago too.

In the other divisions, congratulations to ACT who won the Women's over WA, while NSW Seniors prevailed over QLD (again close – only 10 imps between them with two boards to go). In the youth, NSW won fairly comfortably over SA. Some of the recent strong NSW youth contingent is about to get too old, so their recent dominance may be about to end. All through the youth division, it struck me how wonderful it is to see the top players willingly partnering novice players and helping them develop (notable examples being Renee Cooper and Francesca McGrath for WA, Andrew Spooner for ACT and, in the past, Lauren Travis for SA and Jamie Thompson for VIC). Great credit should go to all these players.



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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Australian National Championships – Teams

OPEN

SA (David Anderson, Ian Hilditch, George Smolanko, Justin Williams, Attilio De Luca, David Lusk) 93.8 def NSW (Julian Foster, David Weston, Peter Buchen, Matthew Thomson, Lynn Kalmin, Lorna Ichilcik) 93

WOMEN

ACT (Margaret Bourke, Elizabeth Havas, Pam Crichton, Julia Hoffman, Erin Tewes, Adrienne Stephens) 111.5 def WA (Kirstyn Fuller, Deana Wilson, Deborah Frankel, Deidre Greenfeld, Viv Wood, Jane Reynolds) 89

YOUTH

NSW (Matt Smith, John McMahon, Lara Topper, Jacob Rose, Ailsa Peacock, Alex Phillips) 200.6 def SA (George Bartley, Lincoln Davey, Bertie Morgan, Jessica Curtis, David Gue, Fletcher Davey) 138

SENIORS

NSW (George Bilski, Nicky Strasser, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Andrew Markovics, Peter Jeffery) 121.3 def QLD (Richard Ward, Therese Tully, Gheorghii Belonogov, Ewa Kowalczyk, Tony Hutton, Neville Francis) 107

Australian National Championships – Butler

OPEN

- 1 Michael Courtney - Paul Wyer 253
- 2 Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer 246
- 3 Sartaj Hans - Lauren Travis 241
- 4 Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg
- 5 Peter Buchen - George Smolanko
- 6 Howard Melbourne - Paul Dalley 213.03
- 7 Tony Nunn - Elizabeth Adams 210.89
- 8 Joachim Haffer - Simon Hinge 204.16
- 9 Bruce Neill - Avinash Kanetkar 203.80
- 10 Philip Markey - David Appleton 201.22



RESTRICTED

- 1 Kailun Zhang - Jack Huang 125.69
- 2 Prithiraj De Zoysa - Michael Sullivan 121.44
- 3 David Earnshaw - Daniel Chua 115.26
- 4 Natasha Jacobs - Jennifer Carter 112.01
- 5 Maryanne Bird - Peter George 108.06
- 6 Sue Martin - Sue Falkingham 101.76
- 7 Felicity Wivell - Susan Bezette 101.34
- 8 Susie Groves - Alastair Lowe 101.05
- 9 Rodney Macey - Bevin Brooks 99.81
- 10 Paulina Martin - Ming Li 99.72

WOMEN

- 1 Deana Wilson - Renee Cooper 124.52
- 2 Susan Humphries - Jessica Brake 107.06
- 3 Alison Dawson - Elizabeth Zeller 104.73
- 4 Giselle Mundell - Rena Kaplan 101.95
- 5 Janeen Solomon - Pele Rankin 91.67
- 6 Viv Wood - Sue Lusk 83.66
- 7 Inez Glanger - Marcia Scudder 82.60
- 8 Janet Kahler - Alison Farthing 79.71

SENIORS

- 1 Michael Smart - Jonathan Free 119.15
- 2 Neil Ewart - Ian Robinson 114.98
- 3 Chris Hughes - Kim Morrison 110.31
- 4 Andrew Braithwaite - Ian Thomson
- 5 Martin Bloom - Nigel Rosendorff 103.78
- 6 Niek van Vucht - Patricia McDonald
- 7 Peter Kahler - Jeannette Collins 83.84
- 8 Stephen Mendick - Bernard Waters



ANC – Interstate Pairs

OPEN

- 1 Chris Stead - Richard Hills 142.01
- 2 Neil Ewart - Simon Henbest 118.30
- 3 Paul Hooykaas - Ralph Parker 115.27
- 4 Andrew Macready-Bryan - Jenny Thompson 110.10
- 5 Mimi Packer - Jonathan Free 109.86

WOMEN

- 1 Kirstyn Fuller - Deana Wilson 119.59
- 2 Belinda Pearson - Susie Hall 117.02
- 3 Sue Spurway - Sue O'Brien 104.17
- 4 Jan Tunks - Lou McKenna 103.55
- 5 Val Biltoft - Cynthia Belonogoff 103.42



SENIORS

- 1 Peter Popp - Andy Babiszewski 137.94
- 2 Neville Francis - Tony Hutton 122.33
- 3 Normand Maclaurin - Paul Collins 120.72
- 4 David Hoffman - Sean Mullamphy 119.09
- 5 Arthur Robbins - Douglas Newlands 114.73

YOUTH

- 1 Ben Leung - Jasmine Skeate 84.39
- 2 Damon Flicker - Rebecca O'Reilly 68.66

ANC SWISS PAIRS A

- 1 Stephen Sharp - Danny Sharp 116.31
- 2 Jamie Thompson - Matt Smith 113.87
- 3 Vanessa Brown - Will Jenner-O'Shea 110.28
- 4 Sue O'Brien - Paul Collins 108.93
- 5 Justin Mill - Peter Strasser 103.49

ANC SWISS PAIRS B

- 1 Wynne Webber - Ann Paton 115.29
- 2 Ian Lisle - Vicky Lisle 114.18
- 3 Margaret Yuill - Jenny Hoff 112.86
- 4 Bill Nash - James Wallis 112.18
- 5 Eva Samuel - Peter Hollands 108.58

ANC Congress Events

BRIDGE GEAR WELCOME SWISS PAIRS

Open: Sue O'Brien - Paul Collins
Restricted: David Hollands - Elizabeth Byrnes

BRIDGE VID SWISS PAIRS

Open: Kim Frazer - Jamie Ebery
Restricted: Karen Thompson - Jennifer Matheson

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

PRODUCTION COMPANY SWISS PAIRS

Open: Justin Mill - Sue Read
Restricted: Alan Cransberg - Kimberley Zhao

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EW: David Happell - Melroy Decouto

FELICITY BEALE MATCHPOINT PAIRS

NS: Ian Lisle - Ross Crichton
EW: Lyndy Hickman - John Bristow

BAYSIDE BC NOVICE PAIRS

1 Philip Young - Lynda Young
2 John Robertson - Ian Hardham

MOONEE VALLEY BC MATCHPOINT PAIRS

NS: Charles McMahon - John McMahon
EW: Bertie Morgan - George Bartley

WAVERLEY BC MATCHPOINT PAIRS

NS: James Wallis - Bill Nash
EW: Bertie Morgan - George Bartley

Victor Champion Cup Festival

WALLY SCOTT OPEN SWISS PAIRS

1 Liam Milne - Tony Nunn 125.41
2 Malcolm Carter - Tony Hutton 111.7
3 Mike Doecke - Johnno Newman 111.28
4 Hugh Grosvenor - Tony Leibowitz 108.59
5 Ron Cooper - Phil Gue 106.15
6 Lauren Travis - Jamie Thompson 105.4
7 Chris Mulley - Matthew Raisin 104.88
8 Lavy Libman - Tomer Libman 103.19
9 David Hudson - Paul Lavings 102.2
10 David Hoffman - David Wawn 101.83

FRANK POWER TROPHY <200 MP SWISS PAIRS



1 Nicholas Kotros - Rob Nurse 106.61
2 Ron Wescott - Graham Forbes 106.22
3 John Doyle - Vicki Szpak 103.57
4 Jenny Monger - Don Heggie 95.51
5 Maeve Doyle - Diana Mcauliffe 93.35
6 Margie Michaels - Barry Michaels 87.34
7 Helen Schapper - Kerri Jones 83.04
8 Karen Loudon - David Loudon 81.05
9 Christine Holmes - Peter Holmes 79.43
10 Serita Mudford - Bronwyn Simmonds 79.15

MCCANCE SENIORS' SWISS PAIRS

1 Ian Robinson - George Kozakos 109.39
2 Sue Ingham - Terry Brown 101.99
3 Neil Ewart - Simon Henbest 100.67
4 Nigel Rosendorff - Martin Bloom 97.5
5 Elizabeth Havas - Dee Harley 96.91
6 Boris Tencer - Zolly Nagy 93.89
7 Richard Ward - Therese Tully 91.06
8 Alan Race - Martin Willcox 90.73
9 Arthur Robbins - Gary Ridgway 89.28
10 Rex Livingston - Paul Hill 86.87

SARA TISHLER WOMEN'S SWISS PAIRS

1 Susie Hall - Penny Corrigan 103.84
2 Dianne Marler - Alison Dawson 101.52
3 Erica Windmiller - Thea Cowie 100.85
4 Toni Sharp - Marilyn Chadwick 97.93
5 Jane Reynolds - Margaret Bourke 95.7
6 Alison Fallon - Susan Emerson 94.08
7 Lou McKenna - Jan Tunks 91.9
8 Janet Hill - Sally Murray-White 91.86
9 Jan Hackett - Kae French 89.99
10 Anna St Clair - Di Smart 89.27

VICTOR MUNTZ RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

1 Jennifer Andrews - Meredith Goodlet
2 Ismail Gulec - Sam Lovick 116
3 Tony Georgeson - Libby Persson 98
4 Tassi Georgiadis - Joanne Bakas 97
5 Warren Cousins - Michael Pogson 94
6 Sherril Harries - Maggie Stratford 93
7 Jim Stewart - David Owen 92.49
8 Tim Legge - Lisa Yoffa 90.51
9 Steve Colling - Mary Colling 88.56
10 Maryanne Bird - Catherine Harris 87.91
11 Kevin & Marion Taylor 84.31
12 Nick Walsh - Seb Wright 83.37



VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

1 Phil Markey, Andrew Spooner, Matthew Mullamphy, Ron Klingler 137.9
2 Keiran Crowe-Mai, Peter Hollands, Laura Ginnan, Ann Baker, Colin Baker, Lucy Henbest 137.7
3 Shane Harrison, Stephen Williams, Matt Smith, Jamie Thompson 132.84
4 Nico Ranson, John McMahon, Joe Haffer, Leigh Gold 131.92
5 Ellena Moskovsky, Lauren Travis, Sophie Ashton, Fraser Rew 130.93
6 Axel Johannsson, David Appleton, Marianne Bookallil, Sebastian Yuen 129.05
7 Hugh McGann, Matthew Thomson, James Coutts, Kevin Rosenberg 128.93
8 Martin Bloom, Nigel Rosendorff, Terry Brown, Sue Ingham 128.30
9 Paul Brayshaw, Chris Mulley, Simon Brayshaw, Matthew Raisin 128.10
10 Neil Ewart, Simon Henbest, David Hoffman, David Wawn 127.27

CHARLIE SNASHALL RESTRICTED TEAMS

Maryanne Bird, Catherine Harris, Colin Jasper, Allan Hardie

2019 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP by Phil Markey

I started my competitive bridge career with a lot of second place finishes in national events. The Blue Ribbon Pairs, the ANOT, the GNOT and a loss in the final of the open teams at the ANC. Eventually the worm would turn and it was some weird looking team at the 1998 VCC that finally produced a first place finish. Team Cormack (Jan Cormack, Stephen Lester, Keiran Dyke, Joachim Haffer and Phil Markey). There was some vague plan that the only established partnership would play a lot, that being Haffer/Markey in this strange 5 person combination. I played the first match with Joe and afterwards said not for the first or last time that I would never play with him again and didn't for the remaining matches. Ends up we resolved to do a full rotation using 10 different partnerships on our way to victory.

2019 and a normal looking team for this years VCC (Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Phil Markey and Andrew Spooner) although I had never spoken a word to my partner, Andrew Spooner, prior to the event. It was a lunch with Mike Doecke the Australian Junior Team captain/coach a few months before that caused this partnership as he assured me that Andrew was the right fit for a promising junior likely to be corruptible into playing my preferred system.

Andrew and I finished the last set of this year's VCC with just a few minutes on the play clock and as usual hunted down team mates to score. I am a frantic scorer and I like it done my way. Klinger has gotten used to this behaviour and is content to accommodate me. Within a few seconds of the last board being scored the numbers line up and I declare it a win by 27 imps. That might be enough but we are going to need other results to go our way.

The worst news is that I am going to have to wait. Experience tells me that there are two choices, and for me only one of the choices is viable. I could wait around the playing area speaking to parties interested or involved in the result, slowly and anxiously collecting the information required, or I could hang around outside and chat with people uninterested in the result. Max Henbest, champion bloke that he is, offered me a spare beer so I enjoy that whilst chatting with the usual crowd outside.

Alcohol and nicotine consumed, I return to the playing area, but sadly there is still no firm indication of the result. I linger just long enough for Mike Doecke to ask how the "Spoon Man" went today.

Round 9 ♠ 10
Board 4 ♥ K 10 9 5 2
W/All ♦ K 9 2
♣ A K 9 4

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

♠ Q 9 8 4 3
♥ A J 8 6
♦ J
♣ Q 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gold	Spooner	Haffer	Markey
1♦	1♥	1♠	4♥
all pass			

A clutch round 9 match against many times partner but otherwise arch enemy Joachim Haffer.

Joe starts with the Jack of clubs which Andrew wins with the ace. Unfortunately Andrew decides to complicate life by cashing the king of hearts at trick 2. Yuk. A spade runs to Leigh's king and another spade is ruffed in hand by Andrew who now tries the king of diamonds. Leigh wins the ace of diamonds and exits a heart which runs to the 8 in dummy. A small club from dummy and Leigh decides not to ruff and pitches a diamond as the king of clubs wins. A diamond ruff in dummy followed by another spade.

Leigh decides to ruff this trick with the queen of trumps as Andrew pitches a diamond leaving this end position:

Leigh exits with his last trump as Andrew follows. Joe is not able to hide some concern about this defence and with no good answer decides to pitch a club (pitching a spade would have likewise led to the 10th trick in that suit). Spooner promptly cashes the queen of clubs and faces the two winners left in his hand for +620.

♠ —	♠ A
♥ 10 9	♥ —
♦ —	♦ 8
♣ 9 4	♣ 10 8
♠ —	♠ Q 9
♥ 7	♥ A
♦ Q 10 6	♦ —
♣ —	♣ Q

Is it a Trump Squeeze or a Suicide Squeeze? You don't know, and don't care too much about the nomenclature. At the table there is a discussion from your opponents about how this happened and what it was. Normally you would say nothing after a good board but their post mortem is a license and this is the arch enemy with several boards to go so you proffer that you like the name Fratricide Squeeze. "Fratricide" being murdering your brother, you explain.

Andrew must have been just a bit nervous before the last two matches but it would be impossible to know without asking. Standard partnership behaviour over the last two days was to say nothing so I went with that.

Round 9 ♠ J 10 6 2
Board 7 ♥ A 5
S/All ♦ J 9 6 3 2
♣ 6 4

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♥*	pass	1♣
pass	4♠	all pass	3♠

1♥ showed spades and 3♠ showed about 17 balanced or semi balanced with four spades. Andrew didn't seem to think much before raising to 4♠. Leigh led a trump. If trumps break and diamonds are 3-3 and the ace of clubs is onside this should be an easy contract. I get two out of three and finish a scrambling one off.

Round 9 ♠ K 4
 Board 9 ♥ A Q 8 6 2
 N/EW ♦ A K Q 7 6 3
 ♣ —

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

♠ A J 6
 ♥ 9 5 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ Q J 10 8 7 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	pass	1NT
pass	2♥	pass	3♣
pass	3♥	pass	4♥
pass	4♠	pass	5♣
pass	6♥	all pass	

1NT was the usual 6-9 no major. 4♠ was keycard and 5♣ admitted to a keycard.

Andrew did at least pause before wheeling out Blackwood, but one was obviously plenty as the response caught a 6♥ bid. A bit of a diamond break, trumps breaking with the king inside or some miracle J10 tight holding. Again, a scrambling one off.

I told Doecke that Andrew got some judgement things a bit wrong on the last day but that it was hard to complain when his attitude under pressure was to go for blood. In a tough match the last opponent you want is the one who is going for everything. I was glad he was my partner.

It seems like a long time since play finished. Someone asks for the exact margin of your victory as you had previously stated that it was "about 30imps". This question mostly means it is going to be tight, and in turn that means a second beer and more nicotine. Before leaving again, I told Andrew to find me outside if he was 100% what the result was.

Dave Wiltshire wanders outside after a while and he says you are going to win! That feels good, but until you see a teammate and confirm, there is still doubt. All doubt is removed as you see Andrew coming down the stairs from the playing area to find you. It is not the look on his face but the slightly elevated speed and bounce in his step that gives it away.

In a brutally close finish the unfortunate second-place team, by 0.2 VP, was Crowe-Mai (Keiran Crowe-Mai, Pete Hollands, Laura Ginnan, Lucy Henbest, Ann Baker and Colin Baker). They beat the arch enemy, Ranson (Nico Ranson, John McMahon, Leigh Gold and Joachim Haffer) in the last round by enough to put Ranson out of contention but one imp too few to win themselves.

Finally, after four or five attempts over a lot of years, you get to hug Ron Klinger. He sticks his hand out with a big grin when you find him – as if that would be enough.

Phil Markey

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OPENER'S ACTION AFTER A NEGATIVE DOUBLE OF A 1♠ OVERCALL

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

paul@bridgegear.com



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

1. 1NT. What does the double of 1♠ mean? When opponents overcall a major over your minor suit opening the emphasis is on finding a possible fit in the other major. When opponents overcall over your major the emphasis is on finding a fit in either of the other two suits. So this double focusses on a possible major suit fit and promises 4+ hearts.

Your choices are 1NT, 2♣ or 2♥. 2♣ to me is unthinkable, opener rebidding a 5 card minor over a one-level response. 2♥, in a possible 4-3 fit, seems an unnecessary risk when responder would expect you to have 4 hearts and may bid 4♥ when 3NT is a better contract. 1NT is an easy choice.

2. 1NT. Responder would make a negative double of 1♠ with something like:

♠ K 10 9 3 ♥ J 8 6 4 ♦ A 2 ♣ 8 5 3

and could certainly have good spades. Your hand is balanced so you should make a bid to reflect that despite your lack of a spade stopper.

Let's say your partner had only two spades also and the opponents could take five spade tricks against your 1NT. That would mean they probably had about half the points in the pack and a 5-4 spade fit. To be allowed to play in 1NT would be considered a bargain when you could still take 7 tricks and make 1NT and opps could make 2♠.

3. 2♦. A normal reverse showing at least 5-4 and 15+ HCPs. If you imagine your partner had responded 1♥ this is the bid

you would choose. In effect this is what has happened so you still bid 2♦. To have to jump to 3♦ would take away your own space and mean responder would have to bid 4♣ to give preference and sign off.

4. 1NT. You can't bid 2♦ since that would be a reverse but in fact you are happy to rebid 1NT on your semi-balanced minimum and take your chances there.

5. 2♠. When you rebid 1NT in this auction responder can check back with 2♠ whether you have a stopper or not. If you rebid 2NT you don't have as much space available and a better idea is to bid the opponents' suit over the double of 1♠ and ask for a stopper. Now if responder has a stopper you will end up in notrumps or perhaps a 5-3 heart fit.

6. 3♥. Don't fall into the trap of bidding a lazy 2♥ on this quality hand with its host of extra features. Compare it to something like:

♠ A J 2 ♥ A J 7 5 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ Q 3 2

where you would also bid 2♥.

7. 3♥. It's almost a 4♥ bid and 3♥ is also the bid you'd make on a shapely invitation as in question 6 above. This is one of the advantages of the 1♠ overcall, taking space away from the opponents and limiting their number of available sequences.

8. 4♥. This time your spade honour is the ace rather than the king under the overcaller's ace and your hand is a whole lot better. Partner's double should be 6+ HCPs so your hand is worth a 4♥ bid.

9. 3♠. You have a whale of a hand and by good fortune you have the space to show it with a splinter bid of 3♠. Give partner as little as

♠ 5 4 ♥ Q 8 7 4 2 ♦ J 6 ♣ Q J 9 4

and you make 6♥ as long as hearts are not 4-0 and there is no club ruff on the opening lead.

10. 2♥. I'm going out on a limb here. I would never dream of raising responder's one-level response without 4 card support except when I have an outside singleton and this is a similar situation. I remember having this hand a long time ago, I don't recall the exact details but I bid 2♥ in tempo and the hand was very exciting, bidding and making game in a 4-3 heart fit.

Paul Lavings



cup2go

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AROUND THE CLUBS

Alexandrina Contract Bridge Club celebrated its 8th birthday lunch at the Victoria Hotel in Strathalbyn (SA) on June 5th, with most members in attendance – and why not, the lunch is paid for from club funds! So, after filling our tummies with very good pub food, we paused for the awarding of prizes, chief of which was the Club Championship. This was won by Garry Skuse and Peter van Engelen, shown in the photo on either side of our club president, Beryl Williams.



They are shown holding the Margret Warren Cup (named after our club founder) and "The Marj", a shield which was donated by Garry and Helen Conolly in memory of Marj Edmonds, a lady who has recently gone to the Great Bridge Club in the sky. Marj collapsed at our club in February and died of heart failure, aged 91, in hospital that evening. She and Helen had been Club Champions in 2017. Her motto was, "I love my bridge," and that is the title of the commemorative prize shield to be awarded to the pair with the best attendance over the past year.

John Elliott, Alexandrina

AUSTRALIA-WIDE NOVICE PAIRS



Congratulations to Christine & Neil Cramer from the Blue Mountains Bridge Club, winners of the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs.

See the August issue of [Australian Bridge Magazine](#) for some hands from the event, and photos of the major prize winners:

- 1 Neil & Christine Cramer *Blue Mountains* 73.1
- 2 Sue Evershed & John Simmonds *Peninsula* 72.5
- 3 Sheila Bishop & Jenny Walkden *Nedlands* 70.9
- 4 Brian Harris & Faye Shelton *Maylands* 69.5
- 5 John Martin & James Taylor *Trumps* 69.4
- 6 Daile Falconer & Thomas Delisi *GS Double Bay* 69.1
- 7 Cesar Forcadela & Jean Mallac *Sale* 68.4
- 8 Cecilia Dries & Kay Boggs *Tamworth* 68.3
- 9 Toni Paramore & Roman Naiman *East* 67.8
- 10 Colleen Long & Colleen Skipsey *Bunbury* 67.8

The next Australia-Wide events, to be played in clubs all around Australia, are the Australia-Wide Open Pairs (25-31 August) and the Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs (25-31 October). For enquiries, you can contact the convenor at mail@australianbridge.com.



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DOES 4+4 = 5+3 ?

I'm Back!

I read somewhere that it is usually to your advantage to play in a 4-4 fit rather than a 5-3 fit. Only recently someone made a comment at the table to that effect (probably after we reach some other contract). I think I saw it mentioned as the Rule of 4 and 4.

So I guess what I would like to know is whether this has some basis in fact and, if it does, why is it so?

Also, should we be bidding differently to take whatever advantage comes from this?

*Luv,
Cathy*

Hi Back,

If remembering this involves naming it the Rule of 4 and 4, then I am OK with it. As always, remembering the name of a rule is of less value than understanding its origin and purpose.

Please do not overhaul your system to accommodate this principle, but be aware of it in situations where you have learnt enough about the hand to be able to make a choice. The best applications of this principle occur on high-level hand where plenty of information may be exchanged.

Let's look at a hand:

WEST	EAST
♠ A Q J 3	♠ K 8 5 4
♥ A Q J 6 5	♥ K 7 2
♦ 5 4	♦ A 3
♣ K 5	♣ Q 7 3 2

It would be reasonable to play this hand in a slam. Would you rather be in 6♥ or 6♠?

In 6♥, unless the opponents lead the ♣A, making both your ♣K and ♣Q into winners, your trick tally in 6♥ would be five heart tricks, four spade tricks, one diamond and one club, giving you 11 tricks. In 6♠, assuming a diamond lead and a 3-2 break, you will be able to draw trumps (three rounds), then take five heart tricks on which the small diamond loser and a club can be discarded. In addition to the ♦A and the club trick, you will also get a fifth trump trick by trumping the small diamond. This gives you 12 tricks.

The principle is that you can usually make five trump tricks (or more) out of a 4-4 trump fit, whereas your 5-3 fit will often just give you five tricks, whether they are trumps or not.

You will note that in the example hand above, if East-West are playing five-card majors, the 5-3 fit will be revealed on the opening bid of 1♥. Unless East responds 1♠, the 4-4 fit will be lost. This type of precautionary bid (responding 1♠) only needs to be applied to stronger responding hands (i.e. with 6-9 Total Points, you should raise to 2♥, but with more points you can introduce the four-card spade suit first).

Here is another example:

♠ A Q 7	♠ K J 8 4 3
♥ A 9 6 5	♥ K 10 4 2
♦ 9 7 6 4	♦ Q 2
♣ A J	♣ 9 5
1NT ¹⁵⁻¹⁷	2♥
2♠	3♥ five spades + four hearts
?	

From what we have learned, the game should be bid in hearts, not spades, so you rebid 4♥ next.

The opening lead was a diamond, to the ♦A. A second diamond was taken by the ♦K, and a club switch knocked out the ♣A. The same defence against 4♠ leaves you with nothing more than the hope that the ♥Q-J are doubleton. However, in 4♥, declarer had one other chance when trumps broke 3-2 but with no ♥Q-J doubleton. He next tried three rounds of spades ending in hand, and, to his relief, the player with the long heart had to follow to all three spades. He was now able to lead a fourth round of spades and discard his ♣J, not really caring whether it was trumped or not. Once again, the outside 5-card suit was the saviour when the 4-4 fit was chosen as trumps.

I realise that one or two hands proves little, but you can see how the theory can stand up in practice.

*Regards,
David*

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CREATING OPTIONS

On this deal from a National Open Teams, West missed the chance to give declarer a losing option and to score an extra undertrick if declarer miscued:



George Rosenkranz, a major figure of the 20th century, died on 23 June 2019, aged 102. As a chemist at Syntex Corporation in Mexico City, Rosenkranz headed the team responsible for the developments which led to the creation of the oral contraceptive pill. He was also involved in the development of Naproxen (an anti-inflammatory) and the first practical synthesis of cortisone (the drug used to treat rheumatoid arthritis).

As a bridge player, Rosenkranz won 12 NABC titles, including three Vanderbilts, two Spingolds and one Reisinger. He was the author of 15 bridge books, with several being based on his system creation, Romex. Australia's Avon Wilsmore, a system innovator in his own right, was one of the players who used the Romex system – he describes the system as well-organised and fun to play.

Rosenkranz was the 1976 Precision Award winner (for best article or series on a system or convention) and the 2000 Blackwood Award recipient (an ACBL Hall Of Fame award for individuals who have contributed greatly to bridge).

His most lasting contribution to bridge bidding is the Rosenkranz Double: a double or redouble by overcaller's partner showing an honour in overcaller's suit (whereas a direct raise would deny an honour).

At the American Nationals in Washington in 1984, Rosenkranz' wife Edith was kidnapped at gunpoint and ransomed for one million dollars. Rosenkranz dropped off the money, leaving it under a car in a parking lot, and Edith was returned safely. Subsequently, FBI agents following the money were able to capture the kidnapers, one of whom was a bridge player.

Brad Coles

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
all pass	pass	1NT ¹	2♠ ²

- 15-17.
- 5+ spades and 4+ minor.

Lead: ♥4. South won with the ♥A and continued with the ♠J: six - nine - five, followed by the ♠Q, taken by West with the ace. On this East played the ♠2, the high low in trumps confirming an odd number, while dummy threw the ♣3.

West shifted to the ♣8 and East won with the ♣Q and played the ♣K next, South following. West had to decide what to throw.

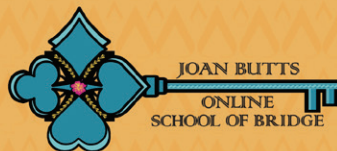
In practice, West threw a diamond and East continued with the ♣A, ruffed with the ♠8 and over-ruffed with the ♠10. After a diamond ducked to the queen and the ♦A cashed, East played another club, promoting West's ♠7 for two down.

On the second round of clubs, West should throw a heart. It is clear that South began with ♥A bare (failure to take a discard on dummy's hearts) and five spades. If South has four diamonds and three clubs, partner will cash the ♣A and time enough then to throw a diamond. If South's pattern is 5-1-5-2, then there is no point in throwing a diamond, as East will have only two diamonds and cannot give West a diamond ruff.

Suppose West does throw a heart and the play goes the same way thereafter. ♣A, ruffed with the ♠8, over-ruffed. Diamond ducked to the ♦Q, ♦A cashed and another club played. To stay two down, South must ruff with the ♠K and exit with a trump. If declarer ruffs low, West overruffs and gives East a diamond ruff for three down.

Never give a declarer an even break.

Ron Klingler



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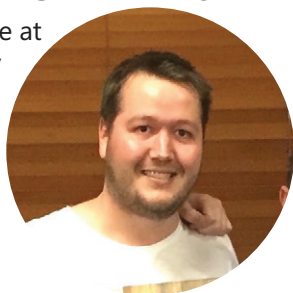
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DEFENDING IS HARD – MAKE IT SIMPLER FOR PARTNER

This interesting defensive problem arose at the Barrier Reef Congress. I had an easy path to defence but I still messed up the hand.



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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	pass dbl	pass 3♠	1♦ all pass

I opened 1♦, West overcalled 1♠ and partner doubled. East's raise to 3♠ was a "mixed raise" – less than an invitation, but more values than a "preemptive raise".

My partner led the ♦Q. I have the jack, so the lead must be a singleton or doubleton. Dummy also has a doubleton, but partner will be able to ruff the third diamond higher than dummy's trump five. If I cash two diamonds and play a third one, partner will ruff, but dummy will simply throw a club loser away and we will lose one of our club tricks. To get enough tricks to beat 3♠, we will need to take two club tricks before I give partner a diamond ruff.

With this in mind, I encouraged the diamond lead, won the second round with the jack, and switched to the ♣6. Partner won the ♣Q and cashed the ♣A, and I realised that the plan had gone awry. Partner switched to a heart, and declarer wrapped up nine tricks pretty comfortably.

So, I knew what was going on, I knew how to beat 3♠, but still wasn't able to do it. Partner could have won the ♣Q and returned a club back to me, choosing to play me for the ♣K – this would have worked on this hand, but might not work on other hands. Maybe I could have switched to the ♣10, so if declarer doesn't cover with the jack then I can cash the ♣K myself without giving partner a problem.

The difficulty lies in the fact that I have solved the problem, but partner does not have the same information as me. Maybe

partner thought that I might have the ♥K, so two hearts and two diamonds would be enough.

I need to simplify this problem for partner, and the way to do that is to leave partner with a more obvious winning option. The solution is to leave partner with a diamond to lead back to me.

Let's start the hand again. Partner leads the ♦Q. Instead of just encouraging the lead, I will overtake it with the ♦K. Now I switch to the ♣6. Partner can win the ♣Q and cash the ♣A, but then they will play a second diamond and I will be on lead at the correct time. If partner actually started with a singleton diamond, they would be forced to return a low club after winning the ♣Q, but in that case they might be able to work it out.

I think a lot of defence is about simplifying things for your partner, so that they have an easy path to the winning defence. Yes, partner could have solved it – they could have underled the ♣A to get me on lead with my ♣K, but underleading aces isn't something that comes naturally, and if you get caught napping or you don't come up with an alternative plan then you can go astray.

I think that's an important lesson for finding a good defence. Where possible, think about what your partner's problem might be, and try to find a way to simplify the solution.

<https://bridgevid.com>

Peter Hollands

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RE: IS ONLINE BRIDGE DESTROYING OUR CLUBS?

April 2019, page 26.

An interesting speculation from Patrick Bugler at QCBC Brisbane. It would seem, from the gist of his column, that he has little or no information as to whether this is true or not. The laudable message from the text suggests that we get ourselves off to the local club rather than in front of a computer. I'm all in favour of that.

So what are we talking about when we engage ourselves with a bridge browser or application? Is it for education or play? Is it to play against real opponents or AI (artificial intelligence)?

I can only respond as a relative newcomer to bridge. Although the typical demographic (I am a retiree), I am strongly engaged with computer technology (somewhat less typical).

My view is that the average player tends to use a computer to enhance his or her bridge experience, mainly to see their results corresponding to actual play of club sessions.

Following that, I would suggest that the next go to, in the digital domain, would be the occasional educational reference (either interactive or passive).

Only lastly, to actual bridge online play.

The problem for relative newcomers to computer bridge is that it is hard to find a good AI bridge program that is cheap or free (you get what you pay for). By this, I mean that you can set your bidding and card play preferences correctly and with minimum fuss. I currently use an European Bridge company browser, and although the graphic interface is first class, I only get ten free deals a month (hardly enough to take me away from my local) as I consider that taking out a subscription is too expensive on top of the three sessions a week I pay for at my club. Not only that, part of the experience is destructive in that the preferences don't allow me to set my personal playing conventions correctly. I have to play to Mr. AI's whim. Also, if I wish to play with real human beings, then I have to find someone who will play regularly, within the same conventions and preferably with a headset microphone so we can at least have the occasional observation or grunt at a bad hand, rather than suffering in silence or hen-pecking in chat. To me (a beginner to average player), playing online bridge is quite boring for any length of time, in sharp contrast to the social enjoyment I get from attending my local club. The club wins hands down.

So, I have to disagree with Mr. Bugler.

It's more fair to assume that age, driving at night, location remoteness, weather conditions in winter, and grandchildren are more likely culprits.

However, the largest culprit is (as we all know), the aged player base.

Let me recount a true story.

I was lucky enough to experience, in my youth, a far sighted national fencing coach in the UK. He concluded that the established method of coaching the sport of fencing consisted of six months of footwork and exercise before a student was even allowed to hold a weapon. He initiated a training scheme where young people were encouraged to learn basic safety aspects of the sport and then 'have a go' right off the bat. Folks loved it. They got the chance to fight – the reason why they were interested in taking the sport up, and then were taught the correct way of facilitating the weapon as they went along.

Bridge, like chess, is an intellectual pursuit that has a stigma attached to it, in that its play conventions are complicated and take a lifetime to master. We have to stop chanting that

mantra to our more transient and mercurial youth. They have a lot to fit into their lifetimes these days.

So, in closing, would supervising a bunch of kids with a few packs of cards and some basic play on a Saturday afternoon at your local club do the trick?

Graham Lockwood, Surfers Paradise Bridge Club

RE: THE BUDDY SYSTEM

June 2019, page 4.

Some time ago I offered to make myself available to new bridge players who were too timid to move up from Supervised Play. When it was mentioned to the lecturer the retort was, "What does he know about mentoring?"

That missed the point entirely, as I was only offering to hold their hand until they realised that competitive play is not as scary as it looks. It only takes a couple of sessions to become comfortable, especially if they have an experienced player as partner.

I have subsequently (and surreptitiously) helped to successfully transfer several newcomers into the playing ranks and I hope I haven't damaged their play! Some long time players must have forgotten what a stressful experience it is to play 30+ hands competitively for the first time. A sympathetic helping hand can make the transition so much easier, and help bridge avoid losing potential new players.

Alan Midwood, Surfers Paradise

RE: CONTEMPORARY MASTERPOINTS

June 2019, page 26.

I read with compassion the letter of the experienced 85-year-old player who has decided not to return to the Gold Coast Congress. This is very sad – here is an elderly person who loves bridge, but time has caught up with skills.

Young gung-ho bridge players are lauded in your pages – shouldn't congresses provide a section for players at the 'pointy end of life', players who have contributed much to our great game?

Give them a reason to keep going: enjoying social company, and a healthy sense of self esteem at a congress.

Margaret Skeen, Ocean Grove Bridge Club

Margaret wrote this letter while competing at the Geelong Congress, which is one of several local congress events that do offer a separate section for restricted players. I suspect that most congresses would be willing to offer this option if they had the numbers to support it (that is, both enough restricted players and enough non-restricted players). However, the problem from the original letter (older players whose masterpoints exceed their skill level) is a tougher one to solve. In the absence of a true "contemporary masterpoints" system, maybe the ABF should offer exemptions on request, to allow ineligible players to be included in a restricted field on a non-contending basis.

The only consolation I can offer is to remind you that most sportspeople lose more than they win. Even at top level, nearly everyone falls short of the target they were hoping for, and it's important (if you can manage it) to not let your enjoyment or your self esteem be determined solely by your finishing position or your win rate. Easier said than done, of course, but at the end of the day it's just a game, and the social benefits are still worthwhile even when the results are disappointing. – Ed

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY? – SOLUTIONS by Barbara Travis

HAND 1

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

West leads the ♥K.

It is best is to let the ♥K win, ducking a second heart too. On the third heart, East shows out, so you know that West has five hearts.

You need to establish the club suit, but what should you do when East wins and returns a small spade? Should you finesse or rely on the diamond suit breaking 3-3?

The odds say that a finesse (50%) is better than a 3-3 break (35.5%)...

You should play the diamond suit first. Once you discover the diamond break, you know whether you need to take the spade finesse.

If the diamonds are 3-3, win the ♠A and take your nine tricks (as is the situation on this hand). If the diamonds are 4-2, you need to take the finesse of the ♠Q for your ninth trick.

HAND 2

PLAY

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
pass	3♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

West led the ♥Q.

Clearly you need trumps to be 3-2. If North had held the ♦10-9, you would have double-finessed diamonds but, without the 10, that line is unreasonable.

The best option for a tenth trick is to establish the long club. Hoping clubs break 4-3 is around 60%.

Duck trick 1. Win the heart continuation. Play a club to the ♣A and ruff a club.

Cash the ♠A, then the ♠K, then cash the ♣K – discarding a diamond and checking the club suit is breaking 4-3. Now you should ruff another club. You return to dummy with the heart ruff, to cash the long club – discarding a second diamond. Your losers are one spade, one heart, and only one diamond.

HAND 3

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	3♣
pass	4♠	all pass	

West leads the ♦2 (third and fifth-highest). East cashes the ♦A, ♦K, and leads the ♦Q, which you trump.

You have lost two diamonds and must lose one club trick. Therefore, to make your contract you need to 'solve' the heart suit. On such hands, you need to leave the heart suit until the end, when you have gathered more information about the whole hand.

You draw three rounds of trumps, noting that East followed to all three rounds. Next, you lead a club to the queen and East's ace. East returns a club which you win in dummy, then return to your hand with the third club, East following to all three clubs. East apparently has either a 3-1-5-4 shape, or a 3-2-5-3 hand shape. This is the key to solving the heart suit.

If East has a singleton heart, you need it to be either the ten or queen. If he has a doubleton heart, he does not hold the ♥Q or he would have opened 1NT, 15-17 HCP.

There is no longer any point in finessing towards the ♥J. You should cash the ♥K, in case East holds the singleton ♥Q or ♥10. When no honour falls, you have to hope that East had the 3-2-5-3 hand shape, and that East holds ♥10-x.

Lead the ♥J, and finesse if West plays low, succeeding when East plays the ♥10.

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ROSE-COLOURED GLASSES

On the next deal I was North and showed more enthusiasm than warranted, but partner excelled and capitalised on my exuberance. This is what happened.



S/EW **PLAY**
 ♠ K 9
 ♥ A 5 4 3 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ A 9 8 5 2

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

♠ 7 5
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ 9 8 6 4 3
 ♣ Q 10 6 4

♠ Q J 8 6 4 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K 10 7 2
 ♣ K J

The bidding went as follows:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2♠ ¹
dbl	4♠ ²	all pass	

- In our system showing six spades and 8-11 HCP.
- My rose-tinted glasses clearly revealed that:
 - West will have hearts and so partner won't;
 - My ♠K9 will bolster his suit;
 - Aces are good;
 - I have a singleton.

Thus, I leapt on hope rather than rationality. I think this is what double counting means to auditors.

Anyway, West led the ♥K which partner won with the ♥A and led the ♦J to the ♦Q. West drew two rounds of trumps with partner winning the ♠K in dummy. A heart ruff followed, and the outstanding trump was drawn, East pitching a diamond.

Partner noted the two hearts from East (jack, nine) suggesting a doubleton, and worked out that, on probabilities, East controlled both minors. The play then went as follows:

The ♦K lost to the ♦A. South ruffed the heart return and was then in the following position:

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

Now he could cash ♦10 and the ♠8, squeezing East for the tenth trick. Not too difficult.

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25 DEFENSIVE TIPS by EDDIE KANTAR

1. When leading partner's supported suit, lead your highest card with three or four small headed by the 9 or lower. The lead of a low card in a supported suit shows an honour.

When leading partner's unsupported suit, lead high from a doubleton, but low from any three or four cards not headed by a sequence. With the ace, if you lead the suit, lead the ace.

2. If you lead the ace from AKx(x) against suit contracts:

(a) The lead of the ace is a trick one convention only. After trick one, the king is led.

(b) In a supported suit, or in any suit partner has bid, the king is led from the ace-king. Leading the ace in either of these situations, denies the king.

(c) From AK doubleton, everything is reversed.

3. To lead top of a sequence at notrump, the suit should either be headed by three adjacent honours:

♠ K Q J ♥ Q J 10 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ 10 9 8 ,

or the third card can be missing by one place:

♠ K Q 10 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ J 10 8 ♣ 10 9 7 .

Suits headed by two touching honours, (KQ9, QJ8, J107 and 1096), are not considered sequences and with four or more cards lead 4th best. With exactly three cards, lead the highest.

4. To lead an honour card against a suit contract, two adjacent honours are necessary, not three, and the higher honour is led. Lead the ace from AKx(x), the king from KQx(x), the queen from QJx(x), the J from J10x(x) and the 10 from 109x(x).

5. In general, the lead of a low card shows strength (low from something) and the lead of a relatively high spot card (top of nothing) shows weakness. (See tip 9.)

6. When partner leads low from length and dummy has small cards, third hand plays high. However, if third hand has equal high cards, third hand plays the lower or lowest equal. With K10x, play the king; from KQx, the queen; from KQJ(x), the jack.

7. When returning a suit partner has led, return the higher with two cards remaining, and the lowest with three cards remaining. With A105 win the ace and return the 10. With A1065, win the ace and return the five.

8. When partner leads low, dummy has an honour, and you have a higher and a lower honour, insert your lower honour if dummy plays low.

Say dummy has the Q54 or the J54 and you have K106(x), play the 10. Similarly when dummy has Qxx or Kxx, play the jack from AJx(x) and the 10 from AJ10(x).

9. There will be times when partner leads a low card in one suit, gets the lead in another suit, and leads a second suit; you take the trick. Which suit to return? If partner leads a high card (weakness) in the second suit, partner wants the first suit returned. If partner leads a low card (strength) in the second suit, partner wants the second suit returned. Bridge is actually a fun game. It really is.

10. One doesn't lead the same against 3NT as against 6NT. Against 6NT avoid leading from an honour unless you have a sequence.

With:

♠ K 10 7 6 3 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ J 5 ♣ Q 9 2

Lead the ♠6 against 3NT, the ♥J against 6NT. If they have 32-33 HCP, guess how many HCP partner has!

11. At notrump one key is to keep communications with partner's hand. If partner's lead looks like the top of a doubleton and you have AKxxx(x) with no sure outside entry, simply encourage. Let partner keep that second card so partner can return the suit if he gets in. Instead of two tricks you might wind up taking four or five!

12. When declarer ignores a strong suit in dummy lacking one honour, such as KQJ10(x) or AQJ10(x), assume declarer has the honour. If he doesn't, why isn't he setting up that suit? Wouldn't you?

13. When there is a short side suit in dummy and declarer draws all of dummy's trumps, the inference is that declarer doesn't have any losers to trump in that suit. Translation: it is safe to discard that suit.

14. When discarding, keep four-card length parity with dummy.

Say dummy has a four-card suit (AKQ8), and you have the (9432). Your highest card is higher than dummy's lowest card, the signal to hang on to that suit for dear life.

15. It is important to count declarer's tricks as the play progresses. If you can see that declarer has enough tricks in three suits to make the contract, shift to the 4th suit. Some chance is better than no chance.

16. When dummy tables, add declarer's likely point count to dummy's known count. Now add that total to your point count and subtract from 40 to determine how many points partner has. It works!

The bidding has gone 1NT-3NT (playing a 15-17 notrump). Partner leads and dummy has 10 HCP. Assume declarer has the middle count, 16, so they have 26 HCP, give or take one point, leaving you and partner with 14. You know how many points you have, so it is easy enough to figure out how many partner has. You can do the same to figure out declarer's point count if you know partner's. It's easiest to figure out declarer's or partner's point count if either one has made a limited bid.

17. When defending a suit contract, there are two main techniques declarer uses to garner extra tricks: (1) setting up a long suit in dummy, (2) ruffing losers in the shorter trump hand (usually the dummy).

If dummy tables with a long and a short suit and you have the long suit bottled up, lead trumps because the long suit is not usable. If the long suit looks scary, play an attacking defense going for outside tricks quickly. If the dummy comes down balanced, declarer has no place to get rid of losers and will eventually lose them. Your best defense is to play passively by leading 'safe' suits, possibly including a trump, and sit back and wait for your tricks. Of course it may take years to be able to recognize a 'safe' suit. Patience.

18. The best time to lead a short suit is with trump control. Ax(x) or Kxx are great trump holdings to lead from shortness. However, if trumping will cost you a trump trick, leads from shortness with trump holdings such as J10xx, QJ9x or K10xx are counterproductive.

19. When signaling encouragement with equal spot cards, signal with the higher or highest equal.

With A987, signal encouragement with the nine denying the ten. If you lazily signal with the eight, you deny the nine. Strong partners watch stuff like this and defend accordingly.

20. When giving partner a ruff, the card you lead is suit preference telling partner which suit you want returned.

The return of a relatively high spot card asks for a return in the higher ranking of the two remaining side suits. A return of your lowest card asks for a return in the lower ranking side suit. A return of a middle card is designed to torture partner! Just kidding. It actually means you have no preference and asks partner to use her impeccable judgment.

21. When dummy is expected to come down with a long, strong side suit at a trump contract, and there are two unbid suits, lead your stronger suit. However, if one suit is headed by an ace, lead the other.

With KJxx and Kxxx lead from the KJxx; with AJxx and Qxxx, lead from the Qxxx.

22. If you are sure that there are zero possible defensive tricks coming from the side suits, give declarer a ruff-and-discard! You read correctly. A ruff-and-discard often promotes a defensive trump trick. Go for it!

23. Counting is where it's at. Say declarer has bid two suits, starting with a higher ranking major suit, indicating a likely 5-4 pattern, and winds up in notrump. If the opening lead is 'count revealing' perhaps a fourth best deuce in another suit, suddenly you have a complete count on the hand at trick one! Nobody will want to play against you.

24. Defenders take tricks with the lower or lowest equal. Taking a trick with a higher equal in theory denies the lower equal.

Dummy

♥ A J 10 x



You

♥ K Q x

Say declarer leads low to the jack. Take the trick with the queen. If you take it with the king, you deny the queen and partner will think declarer has it. Taking the trick with the king is a "false card" and works best when partner is not at all involved in the defense.

25. At a suit contract when an opponent leads the queen of an unbid suit, dummy has Kxx(x) and you have small cards, duck the first two or three rounds of the suit. The ace is marked on your right and if RHO has shortness, the ace will pop up, and presto, the king is a winner.

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Excellent 4* Accommodation overlooking its own lake. Included in this price –

- 4 nights accommodation at The Briars Inn.
- All Drinks on NYE & welcome night.
- All breakies & dinners including NYE party.
- NYE Entertainer.
- A 7 Session B4Red Pairs.
- 3 tutorials & Lesson Notes.

JAMBEROO – Post New Years – JAMBEROO RESORT - JANUARY 04 – 07 \$ 785 T/S



Jamberoo RESORT has recently been refurbished.

- 3 nights accommodation.
- All breakfasts & dinners.
- All bridge fees & Workshops.
- Welcome Drinks.
- 2 Lunches including 1 at Jamberoo Pub.
- & heaps of fun on the gorgeous south coast region.

Sydney Spring Nationals



16 - 24 OCTOBER 2019

**TBIB OPEN TEAMS
TWO MEN AND A TRUCK RESTRICTED TEAMS**

**DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS
TED CHADWICK RESTRICTED PAIRS
SPRING NATIONAL NOVICE PAIRS**

**LINDA STERN WOMEN'S TEAMS
BOBBY EVANS SENIORS' TEAMS**

Gold Masterpoints & Playoff Qualifying Points

**Venue: Level 2, Canterbury Park Racecourse
96 King St, Ashbury**

Chief Tournament Director: Matthew McManus

Tournament Organiser: Mike Prescott (0435 528 872)

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/spnot/2019/>

Email: sn@abf.com.au

Held under the auspices of:



The Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated

ABN: 70 053 651 666

&

The NSW Bridge Association Ltd

ABN: 61 000 438 648

