

ABF

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.



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

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The Victor Champion Cup, previously scheduled to take place at Marvel Stadium, has once again been cancelled. See page 4 for latest details.





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Front cover image: the venue of the now-cancelled VCC in Melbourne. See the President's report for details.

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IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE
 with
Ron Klinger
Solution on page 15

Teams
 W/All

♠ Q J 7 4
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ A K 7
 ♣ A J 7 2



♠ A K 9 8 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q 9 6 4 2
 ♣ K Q 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠ ¹	dbl ²	rdbl ³	6♥
all pass			

- 0-7 points, any shape.
- 16+ points, any shape.
- Shows a good hand.

West leads the ♦5: ace - two - ten. Declarer plays the ♠4 from dummy. What do you play as East?



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison
Stralow



In the last newsletter I suggested that the period of coronavirus lockdown, border closure induced turmoil and the cancellation of face-to-face bridge events seemed to be coming to an end. Little did I know that the virus was circling and the ABF Board would have to make the difficult decision to postpone the 2021 ANC and Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Swiss Pairs scheduled for July. Robina McConnell confirmed the new dates for these events are 6-18 November 2021. The ANC Committee has quickly readjusted and is planning for a successful event in November, when the weather will be warmer and the wildflowers will be in full bloom.

Regrettably the VBA and BFACT have confirmed the cancellation of the VCC and Canberra in Bloom for 2021. The primary reason is the ongoing COVID situation with lockdowns and border closures across Australia. Thank you to Geoff Schaller, Margaret Kyburz and their teams for all of their hard work to try to run these events. The VBA will run an Online Spring Congress on the weekend of 28-29 August, so please consider entering through MyABF.

Bridge clubs are an essential part of the structure of bridge in Australia as they provide players with meaningful engagement with others in their local communities, through a common interest that caters for all ages, skills and abilities. We all love to hear of clubs that have success stories and in times like these they motivate us to keep going.



January 2018 on the day when bridge was first played at the new clubhouse. Many of the current 102 members played that day.



The Hawks Nest Clubhouse at full occupancy. The event was a competition between various Hunter-based bridge clubs.

Hawkes Nest Bridge Club, in New South Wales, turning their dream to build their own premises into reality, is indeed a success story. A core group of members worked tirelessly for years to achieve this dream. Members made donations, gave interest free loans, lobbied politicians and applied for grants, including a loan from the ABF through the James O'Sullivan Trust Fund. They now have their own premises, which was opened in January 2018.

In June this year Hawkes Nest Bridge Club eliminated all debt when they made the final repayment to the James O'Sullivan Trust Fund. Although they have had to postpone their special lunch to celebrate in July, they can be proud of what they have achieved in four years. I hope their success story will inspire others to chase their dreams.

The World Bridge Federation has announced the dates for the postponed 2021 World Bridge Teams. The new dates are 27 March to 9 April 2022. The ABF Board will make a decision later this year on whether Australia will compete in the event as there are a number of issues to consider, one being the ability to travel outside Australia.

Although, the World Bridge Federation is recognised by the International Olympic Committee, Bridge is not included in the Olympic Programme at Tokyo because it is defined as a 'mind sport.' Indeed Bridge is a mind sport for all, as it is a sport in which the objective is to test our mental strength. The 25th Mind Sports Olympiad will take place from 13 August to 5 September and will be online. The provisional schedule can be viewed at:

<https://docs.google.com>

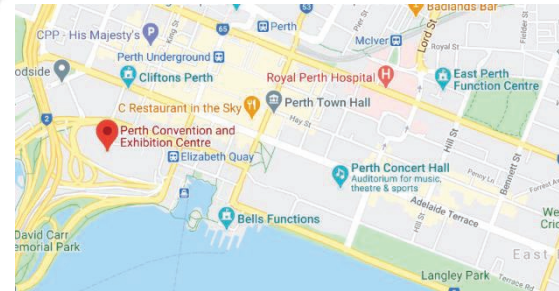
My thoughts are with all members of the bridge community that have recently gone back into lockdown. Please stay safe.

abf.pres@gmail.com



Warm-Up with The
Joan Prince
Memorial Swan
River Swiss Pairs,
sponsored by
Daisy Pool Covers

Perth ANC 2021



6th-18th November

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Phone: 1300 55 18 11
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ENTRY INFORMATION

Please note that entries to the ANC open on the MYABF website.

Lodge online– simply go to:

For **The Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Swiss Pairs. Sponsored by Daisy Pool Covers:**

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/6> and follow the prompts.

For all **other ANC events:** <https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/7> and follow the prompts.

Tournament Organiser:

Robina McConnell
email: bina360@hotmail.com
phone: 0400943367

Entry Manager:

Jane Reynolds
email: janereynoldsbridge@gmail.com
phone: 0402074070

ABF President:

Allison Stralow
email: president@abf.com.au

Chief Tournament Director:

Matt McManus

All
Congress
Events have
a 1st cash
Prize of
\$100.





MARKETING REPORT

Peter Cox



KEEP BRIDGE ALIVE

Samantha Punch is an international bridge player and Professor of Sociology at Stirling University in Scotland. In 2019 Samantha organised the 'Keep Bridge Alive' campaign to raise funds to research the Sociology of Bridge and highlight the benefits and skills of bridge to persuade governments and organisations to invest in bridge in schools, universities and local communities.



Samantha again organised the fourth annual but the first Online **BAMSA Conference 2021 – Bridge: A Mindsport for All**.

BAMSA is an academic, research-led project that explores the social world of bridge and the benefits of Mindsport. The four-day event brought together academics, practitioners and policymakers to exchange ideas, review case studies and share good practice.

There were 400 registrations from 79 countries, 70 panellists from 20 countries, 100 academics and 300 players. Pre-recorded presentations and abstracts were provided in advance for each session, and they are worth looking through if you are interested. These are all available to be viewed online at **BAMSA** and the live presentations will be available in about September.

There are far too many papers and presentations for me to analyse in detail here, however you may be interested in what we may learn from the international bridge scene and the significant contribution Australia made to the Conference.

Day 1: Bridge as a Mindsport

The conference was opened with the **WBF President's Address** by Gianarrigo Rona.

Kim Frazer, the ABF Secretary and champion shooter, was interviewed in advance by Samantha Punch and presented live in the opening session discussing her book *Gaining the Mental Edge*. Professor David Scott from Texas A&M University reflected on 30 years research and segmentation of bridge into social and serious players and other academics from China, Israel, the USA and the UK delivered research findings.

Day 2A: Impact of a Global Pandemic on Bridge

Videos and live presentations were presented on the responses by bridge to COVID from the ACBL in the USA, clubs in the UK, the European Bridge League and English Bridge Union.

ABF Marketing provided a paper and a short five-minute presentation on [Australia – The International and National Tournaments: Opportunities and Challenges](#).

I also prepared a 20-minute video **Australia – The Post-COVID Experience**.

Most other countries were not back to playing F2F after 15 months and Australian clubs had been opened for up to 12 months. We had a lot to contribute on post-COVID bridge experience.

Day 2B: Digital Bridge and Cheating

The Panel on cheating included the WBF, Boye Brogeland, Steve Weinstein and Jan Kramas (Pres EBL).

Day 3A: Bridging Generations

Polly Fong and her team from the University of Queensland provided a video on **A Social Identity Perspective on the Role of Third-Places and Ageing in Practice**.

Anne Russell from the Kenmore Club provided a live presentation on the Research experience.

Chris Panagiotaros from the Western Sydney University provided a video on **how bridge provides an opportunity for social cohesiveness, reduce isolation and restore community**.

Day 3B: Gender, Sexism and Bridge

This session may be of interest to some, though many of the issues we have discussed before, in particular whether there should be Women's only events. Australia leads the bridge world on gender diversity with the ABF President, Secretary, half the ABF Council, many state and club volunteers and 70% of our members being women.

Day 4A: New Approach to Teaching and Recruitment

A number of videos and presentations may be of interest to those in Teaching including from Norway, Denmark, England, Japan, Czech Republic, Ireland and several from the USA.

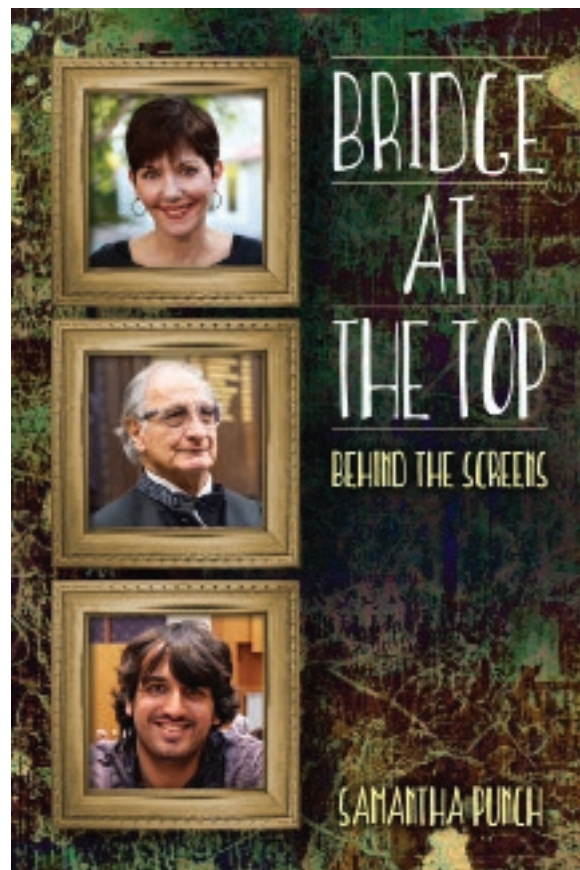
Day 4B: Marketing

The Marketing session at the end of the conference was centred on the research by Samantha Punch and her team on four distinct types of players: the Socialiser, Competitor, Self-Improver and the Mind Gamer. Further research is to be conducted but the test is whether a marketing strategy can be developed that is affordable and grow bridge in the future. **Playing your Life: Developing Strategies and Managing Impressions in the Game of Bridge.**

ABF Marketing provided a video presentation on **Marketing Challenges facing Bridge after COVID.**

Behind The Screens

Samantha Punch has launched a new book *Bridge At The Top: Behind the Screens* with the best interviews from the course of her research of many of the world's top bridge players, coaches and even sponsors.



ONLINE LOCKDOWN WINNERS

The return to Lockdowns in NSW and Victoria in July has created another surge in playing online. The ABF Nationwide Online Sunday games have reached 100 tables a week for the first time in 2021 after dropping to about 60 tables a week in May.

The ABF Club Online Games also grew again and the BBO revenue distributed to clubs doubled to \$50,000 in June. The total revenue from BBO since May 2020 has reached \$830,000.

Top Online Clubs

The outstanding club in Australia for Online games is the North Shore Bridge Club who in July added more Restricted, Rookie and Supervised sessions a week to a total of 16 sessions and 170 tables. Further, the 17 Open Online sessions provide over 300 tables for nearly a combined 500 tables a week on RealBridge. Paul Marston has about 340 online tables a week including a very large teaching contingent. SABA has over 250 tables of face to face bridge a week followed by the WABC with about 200, Canberra 170 and QBC with 100 tables.

Congratulations to these clubs for providing a wide selection of sessions and the teaching of beginners which is so important for the future of bridge.

Special Online events have been doing well with the Sydney Bridge Centre Online Charity Congress attracting 86 pairs and the Peninsula Online Swiss Pairs 126 pairs.

On the international scene the USA have just run the North American Online Bridge Championships which was won by the Nickell team. Liam Milne and Sartaj Hans provided great commentary on Vugraph alongside some international bridge stars.

Board	Result	NS	EW	NS	EW
43	3NTN-2	100	--	--	--
44	3AC-1	50	6	--	--
45	3VE-2	200	3	--	--
46	3EV+1	130	3	1	--
47	1NTS-2	200	--	--	--
48	3NTW-1	100	4	--	--
49					
50					
51					
52					
53					
54					
55					
56					

MYABF UPDATE

Julian Foster

julian.foster@abf.com.au



My ABF features and progress

myABF has now passed 2,500 signed up users.

Since the major update to the Congress listing page, players will not have noticed that much change in recent months. We have, however, still been busy! As with all software, there is a lot of work behind the scenes that also has to be done. Recently this has included:

- Congress improvements: small bug fixes and enhancements made to the Congress administration areas used by Tournament Organisers.
- An improved help-desk system to properly manage incoming requests and allow them to be allocated to staff (as opposed to all of them being emailed to me!)
- A 'club administration portal'. This is the start of an area in the system where nominated administrators for clubs will be able to maintain the club's details and allocate rights to other users to run congresses and manage the organisation's bridge credits account. At present I have to do all of that manually. In future this area will expand a lot more.

Withdrawing and refunding congress entries

In recent weeks various lockdowns have unfortunately caused the VCC, the ANC and some club congresses to be deferred to new dates, or cancelled. This has caused additional headaches for the tournament organisers and it has also led to the need to make a lot of refunds to players who are not able to play on the revised dates. Many thanks to Jane Rasmussen who has had the extra workload of processing these refunds. In the case of the VCC where the revised tournament is shorter, partial refunds are also due to continuing entrants because of a reduced teams entry fee.

myABF has also been challenged in handling these situations. It may be worth clarifying how refunds work through myABF.

The first thing to say is that if you have paid directly to the organising body (e.g. via a bank transfer) then any refund is normally handled directly by them.

Where you have paid using Bridge Credits, however, the money to refund these entries comes from the ABF rather than the Congress.

If you are entered in an event which has been cancelled or deferred and you cannot play the revised dates the actions you need to take are:

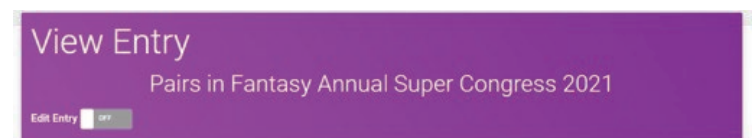
1. Withdraw your entry (note this is if you want to withdraw the **WHOLE** entry, not just one player)

Any player in an entry can access the entry to make changes. They can also withdraw the whole entry.

You can open your entry in a number of ways but the easiest is through the "Your Upcoming Events" box on your dashboard:



Click the event name (the right hand link) and that will open your entry.



View all entries

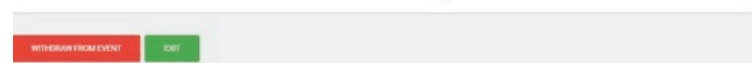
Entry status is: Complete

You made this entry

Category: Category 1

Player	Payment Method	Entry Fee	Status
Julian Foster	Bridge Credits	34 credits	Paid
Mark Githra	Bridge Credits	34 credits	Paid

Click to view or edit comment



To withdraw you click the red "Withdraw From Event" button at the bottom left. (Note if you are too close to the event date you may get a message asking you to contact the Organiser directly instead).

Once you withdraw, that will automatically return any Bridge Credits paid to the accounts of the players who paid them. All players in the entry and the Tournament Organiser will also receive email notifications.

At that point you can keep those returned credits in your account. Remember this is an account you have with the ABF, it is not specific to the congress you originally paid for. You can use those credits when paying for ANY congress listed in MYABF. Therefore, if you are likely to be entering something else, you are encouraged to do this – see tips below for why.

2. (Optionally) request a credit card refund

If you do want a refund of your entry fee returned to the credit card you used to pay originally, the procedure is as follows:

- a) Use the Contact MYABF Support function in the Support page of MYABF to send a request for a card refund. Please let us know which event(s) and how much you are seeking a refund for.
- b) The refunds are processed by the ABF Head Office. Note that all refunds are done through reversal or part-reversal of the card used to pay originally. The ABF will NOT make a payment direct to your bank account. Stripe repayments say they can take from 5-10 days (in reality it's usually less).
- c) Your Bridge Credits account balance will be reduced by the refund amount. Note that if you have already used some or all of the returned credits on other entries, any card refund is limited to the balance on your account.

Payment & refund tips – how we can all help reduce costs

The ABF pays fees to Stripe for all card transactions. Clubs organising congresses effectively bear these costs as the ABF withholds an amount when paying entry fee income across to them (State bodies using eWay for online entries to National events in the past also bore card transaction fees). Therefore the higher these costs end up being, the higher entry fees to congresses have to be.

Like most organisations, Stripe charges fees based on a flat rate per transaction plus a percentage. Therefore the fees are minimised by having fewer larger transactions rather than lots of small transactions. It is for this reason the minimum manual top-up is \$50.

The money in your MYABF account is yours, so obviously you are perfectly entitled to do whatever you want. But, where you can, the following tips will help minimise transaction fees which we all ultimately share the cost of:

1. Periodically top up your account with larger sums and use those to pay for entries rather than paying each entry at a time.

Why? Because fees are less on one \$300 top-up than on three separate \$100 payments.

2. Use the Shopping Cart feature in MYABF to put multiple entries together and then pay for them together.

Why? Same reason. If you have three \$100 entries, fees are less if you combine them and pay \$300 than if you separately process three \$100 payments – it's also easier for you as you only have to key in your card details once!

You do this by clicking "Add to cart" when completing an entry. Then later access your cart through the shopping trolley icon at the top right of your screen. You can then confirm and pay for multiple entries together.

3. Keep returned credits in your account rather than requesting credit card refunds.

Why? When a payment is refunded Stripe does not return the transaction fees so, even though you as a player receive the full amount, the ABF bears those fees and it will have to bear them again if you subsequently make another payment back into the system.

We hope as more funds come through the Bridge Credits system, this will give the ABF increased negotiating power with Stripe to further reduce fees and benefit all bridge players.

Finally, if you think a mistake has been made, **PLEASE CONTACT US FIRST!** We have recently had an incident where a transaction (which is in fact a valid transaction) was disputed directly by a player to Stripe. That has given rise to a \$25 fee which could have been avoided had the player simply approached us first.

Julian Foster, MYABF Project Manager



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YOUTH BRIDGE NEWS

with
Rebecca O'Reilly

PRO-AM BRIDGE – THE REAL DEAL

With the postponement of the Perth ANC and recent lockdowns across the country, face to face bridge hasn't been an option for many of our youth players. In spite of this, players have embraced the change to online platforms and are making the most of the increased opportunities that come with combining online bridge and some extra free time.

NSW, Victoria and SA recently combined their forces to get eight pairs competing in a Matchpoint event on Real Deal Bridge.

Bragging rights for the night went to Danni Fuller and Rebecca O'Reilly from Victoria (NS winners) and David Gue and Bertie Morgan of SA (EW winners).

Looking to keep the momentum for online bridge rolling, there was no better time for a Pro-Am. For those unfamiliar with the format, professional players volunteer their time to partner with an amateur (in

this case youth) player. It was a successful night with some great questions and hand analysis happening on zoom after the game. The knowledge and expertise the pros had to offer was greatly appreciated, with everyone benefiting from the experience. See page 24 for a full report on the event.

A special mention and thank you needs to go to Laura and Pete Hollands, as well as Real Deal Bridge, for making these events possible. Their ongoing support and generosity to youth bridge has made these games so popular amongst the youth players, both in lockdown and not.

Hopefully getting back to face-to-face bridge will be an option in the near future. When this happens, we hope to find increased opportunities to enhance youth player development by combining the different advantages of both face to face and online bridge.

SYSTEM
Round 1/3
Ends in 00:03:50
Board 5
Vul N/S
Dealer N

Hand: K♠, Q♠, J♠, 10♠, 2♠, 7♥, A♣, J♣, 5♣, K♦, 5♦, 4♦, 3♦, 3♦

South: 4SS Win:0 Loss:0

East: [Empty hand]

West: [Empty hand]

Players: Danni Fuller, Victoria Thompson, Jamie Thompson, Rebecca O'Reilly

Chat: Type here to chat... SEND MESSAGE

REAL DEAL BRIDGE

	N	E	S	W
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥	
PASS	PASS	4♣	PASS	
PASS	PASS			

Are Your Alerts Up To Scratch?

by Paul Lavings

paul@bridgegear.com



When the bidding proceeds:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	(1♥)	dbl	

the double could be four spades, 4+ spades, 5+ spades, deny spades, or show the unbid minor. Not since around 1970 has anyone played it as penalties – it is always a negative double of some sort.

It is particularly frustrating when you ask what the double means and the answer is “a Negative Double”. Of course it is a negative double, we all know that. The answer “Negative Double” reminds me of this cartoon:



When I hear (or see) the answer “Negative” I think, “Wow, so that’s a negative double!” The kindest thing I can say about this answer is that it’s lazy and unthinking, rather than evasive and misleading. It seems you either have to let the matter rest without knowing what the double means, or ask again while explaining that yes, you understand it is a negative double. But what does it show? Four spades? Fewer than four spades? Spades and diamonds?

The 2017 Laws of Bridge state:

LAW 40A 1(b)

Each partnership has a duty to make its partnership understandings available to its opponents.

LAW 39B 5(a)

When explaining the significance of partner’s call or play in reply to an opponent’s enquiry (see Law 20) a player shall disclose all special information conveyed to him through partnership agreement or partnership experience but he need not disclose inferences drawn from his knowledge and experience of matters generally known to bridge players.

* * * * *

Clearly, saying “A Negative Double” constitutes an infringement.

On the same track, I was watching a BBO match a few nights back and the bidding proceeded:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	(pass)	2♠	

On BBO you alert your own calls. I have seen this 2♠ response played as a six-card suit and 0-5, 0-6, 4-8, 5-8 and 6-9 HCP, but the alert was simply “weak”. My guess would be 0-6 HCP, but it was actually 8 HCP. A similar ploy is to label a call “preemptive” rather than give a range of strength. Both “weak” and “preemptive” are surely insufficient explanations.

Pre-COVID I was playing in a consolation event at the World Championships in Orlando. An opponent I didn’t know said “negative” when I asked about his partner’s double of 1♥. This was a bad start. We got that sorted out and got on to the play. I was declarer and when my LHO played a card I turned to my RHO and asked, “What’s that?”

“A discard,” was the brief reply.



Joan Butts



Teaching Bridge To Beginners: Lesson Two

What's in the lesson?

Having introduced the concepts of declarer, dummy, the defenders, the opening lead, finding a fit, drawing trumps and counting tricks, (pew!) in the very first bridge lesson, and then finishing with Mini Bridge, the next lesson will introduce the language of bidding.

This is a big step up, but students will already be asking, "how do you actually find a fit, how do you know what's in partner's hand?" Explain the way the bidding works, and touch on scoring, because students want to know how to win at this game. Just explain there are two parts to it: a trick score and a bonus score, and that the more they bid, the more they stand to gain.

Valuing a Hand

Next, talk about hand shapes, and you'll do them a great service if you teach them to value length. I believe you can introduce the idea that there's more to a good hand than high card points right from the start. Show them by putting hands up on the table and asking them to change certain cards around (this is the technique of "transitions" and fun to do) that tens and nines in a long suit will yield more tricks than not having these middle cards. Honours in long suits are also a plus, but no beginners book will contain hands that are less than "perfect" anyway, so they are "protected".

Because balanced hands occur more frequently than unbalanced ones, talk about these first, and next the majors. Don't spend too much time on minor-suit openings as this will come later. Show them the bidding ladder, the ranks of the suits, and the rules for bidding. Show them the difference between the opener and the responder.

General Lesson Plan

The teacher introduces a concept for a few minutes in the beginning, and then has the students bid and play (with help) a set hand. After that, ask the

class to put the hand face-up on the table, dummy style, and slowly go through everything they need to know about that hand, card by card. The more involved they are with this and the more they ask questions, the better. Repeat this process four or five times, and that's your lesson!

Play Point: Promotion

As the second part of the plan involves using a particular technique to develop extra tricks needed for the contract, show them how promotion works. Ask them to put one suit only on the table, and give them the exact cards you want them to see. Start with KQJxx opposite xxx, and show them that you must lose the lead once to turn the middle cards into winners. I tell them that promotion at the bridge table is similar to promotion in the workplace: someone at the top needs to go before you can move up.

They will not realise that promotion requires a certain combination of cards, or that you **always** need to lose the lead for promotion to occur. Naturally they hate losing the lead, but it's a teacher's duty to show them why you're doing it. Also, they won't



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know how many times they need to lose the lead or that the number of tricks you can promote will depend on what you started with in the first place. Show them via transitions on the table how this happens, and they will be relieved!

What's hard about the second lesson?

MAJORS VS MINORS

The fact that you've taught them five+ cards for a major, but not necessarily for a minor, is difficult. The agony of the short club is **not** needed at all. When a teacher does mention a minor opening at this delicate stage, explain that when you don't have five cards in a major but you do have enough points to open, start with your better-looking or longer, minor.

OPENER? RESPONDER?

They will be mixed up about what is needed for opener and for responder. Emphasise that while a responder bids on 6+ points when their partner has opened, they would never **open** with that. Students become confused about which position they are in. Finally, the scoring will be a mystery to them, and it's not important at this stage.

HAVE I COVERED ENOUGH?

Teachers often worry that they don't get through the whole chapter in a lesson. It is far better to

move at the students' pace than to push them too quickly. It's not the end of the world if you don't cover everything in a chapter, because you can return to it later.

A SPIRAL CURRICULUM

The best way to teach bridge is to use a Spiral approach, whereby you introduce the concept in its simplest form first, and then later (maybe months later), when they have absorbed the basic idea, add the next layer. You can do this as they are "spiraling" upwards with their knowledge.

Josh Waitzkin in his marvellous book *The Art of Learning* had this to say (not necessarily about bridge, but for any discipline):

"A student must initially become immersed in the fundamentals in order to have any potential to reach a higher level of skill. Initially one or two critical themes will be considered at once, but over time, the intuition learns to integrate more and more principles into a sense of flow. Eventually the foundation is so deeply internalized that it is no longer consciously considered, but is lived. This process continuously cycles along as deeper layers of the art are soaked in."

Let's start our new students very slowly and carefully with the fundamentals only... eventually they will fly!

Around The Clubs

Here are a couple of wild slam hands that came up recently. Peter Cooke and Gwen Hindhaugh sent us this spectacular hand from the Warrnambool Bridge Club.

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

While EW have an easy grand slam, the remarkable feature of the deal is NS can also make a slam with their combined nine-count! Only one pair reached a small slam on the board (East-West, of course).

Johnno Newman sent another unexpected slam which he received from Rob Ward. Rob opened a strong 2♣ and was faced with this unusual rebid problem as West:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♣	pass	2♦	7♠
?			

Rob had no choice but to double, but found a very un-friendly layout:

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

7♠x cost 2470, which is not normally what you want in a Teams game. However, this result was actually a 10-imp pickup, as Rob's teammates brought back +2940:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	pass	pass	2♥
4♠	5♥	pass	5♠
pass	6♣	pass	6♠
dbl	7♥	pass	7♠
dbl	rdbl!	all pass	



TEACHING TIPS with Ian Dalziel

Full-Blooded Post Mortems, Part Two



Ian Dalziel is a teacher and regular columnist for "Mr Bridge" magazine in the UK, where this column was originally published.

Last time, I mentioned that I use computer dealt random hands for my supervised play sessions, and now I want to tell you why they are useful for the post mortems.

I don't have a dealing machine, so we make up the hands manually using printouts from Dealmaster Pro. It doesn't take long to make up a hand from a suited deck, so with plenty of willing helpers, the job takes no time at all. Don't worry – the players never remember the hands they make up.

Did you know that Dealmaster Pro has a speaking option which will read out where each card should go from a suited deck? We don't use it, but some might find it helpful.

Dealmaster Pro allows me to preview each hand before printing it. I never change the cards (that would be interfering with nature), but may rotate some hands to give each player a share of the good cards. I have a check form (shown) to ensure this happens but I still get complaints that, "I didn't hold a decent hand all morning!"

I also reject hands which would be passed out with the system I teach. I probably shouldn't, but it's easier that way.

Dealmaster Pro also shows all makeable contracts by best play on both sides (double dummy analysis) so I include this on the traveller. This used to be done by Deep Finesse software, but is now done by Bo Haglund's Double Dummy Solver (DDS), which is much faster. Of course, this isn't always the same as 'real bridge' but it's a very useful analytical tool for the post mortem and the players are fascinated by it. If someone fails in a contract which the computer makes, they always want to know why. Was it only possible double dummy or could declarer have known to take the correct line? Declarer is always chuffed to 'beat the computer' but then the defenders want to know where they

went wrong. DDS tells the players how they would have fared in contracts different from the one actually played. It's true this is just an approximation to what would have actually happened, but it usually satisfies them. In addition, the 'human results' at other tables are shown on the traveller so, if the teacher is slow in arriving, they have plenty to study and can start their own 'friendly' post mortem.

In my 'designer traveller' (see next page), the DDS info is shown in a box – game contracts are in red, slams in blue and partscores in black. This means I can see at a glance the kind of hand it is. If the tricks made by both North and South (or East and West) are the same, I just put in one figure to save space. If they differ and the contract is likely to be played both ways, I put in both figures. Dealmaster Pro also gives the HCP of each hand which I show in a yellow circle. The dealer is marked with a square on the outside of the circle and an arrow points to North.

The columns and rows in my traveller are carefully measured to facilitate clear writing. Most commercially produced travellers are badly designed, consequently the written data is sometimes unreadable. I number the travellers on the outside with a double sided printer (duplex) or just run the sheets through twice. I even print lines on the outside so that the travellers can be folded neatly. This is a traveller like no other.

In the example shown on the next page, North or South can make 3♠, East or West can make 4♣, 6♦ or 1♥. East makes 3NT but West makes 4NT. North has 6 HCP, East 15 HCP, South 7 HCP and West 12 HCP. North is dealer

Check list for practice session 11.08.15						
No.	Dealer	Vul	N	S	E	W
1	N	---		√		
2	E	NS	√		√	√
3	S	EW		√		
4	W	ALL			√	
5	N	NS	√			√
6	E	EW		√	√	
7	S	ALL	√			√
8	W	---		√	√	
9	N	EW	√			√
10	E	ALL		√		
11	S	---			√	
12	W	NS	√	√		
13	N	ALL				√
14	E	---	√			
15	S	NS			√	√
16	W	EW		√	√	
17	N	---	√			
18	E	NS				√
19	S	EW		√		
20	W	ALL	√		√	
Totals			8	8	8	7



WYSIWYG

What You Say Is What You Get

by Laura Woodruff, Portugal

(reprinted from the IBPA Bulletin, June 2021)

Don't berate partner for not being the player you want them to be

Okay, so I am paraphrasing (or murdering), the original.

Over the course of a long, but not particularly illustrious, bridge career, I have noticed that people seldom say what they mean. At least, they seldom mean what their interlocutor thinks they meant. To take the most common example, "Why did you ...?", it is clear that this does not actually mean, "Why did you ...?" (More on this later).

This problem of miscommunication is compounded by humans' propensity to leap to their own defence when criticised in public. Any disagreement is likely to become acrimonious if one of the two parties feels humiliated by having their shortcomings exposed before their friends and peers, and even more so if the other party is grandstanding. Try as one might not to eavesdrop, it's really more or less impossible to avoid overhearing when one is sitting at an 85cm square card table, so any argument at the table is an argument conducted in public; and, worse, in front of a public whose opinion probably matters.

Clearly, it is possible for two evenly-matched, mutually respectful players in partnership to discuss system misunderstandings and signalling problems without stabbing each other to death. That is not, however, the situation most players find themselves

in. Most partnerships contain at least one player who thinks he is better than the other (occasionally he actually is), and often two. Comments about partner's discard of the four of diamonds rather than the two of diamonds or the decision to open two spades other than one spade therefore become an exercise in asserting superiority, a spur to defensive rebuttal, a contest for the approval of the onlooking opponents: in short, a battle of wills. (Alternatively, the underdog starts to feel ... well, underdoggy, which is never a recipe for success in bridge.)

Even discussions in the bar or over dinner are less likely to be productive if the parties don't say what they actually mean. To return to our example: "Why did you ...?", let us admit, freely and honestly, that we do not want to hear why our partner did what he/she did:

A: Why did you take the heart finesse?

B: Because I didn't think C would have opened the bidding without the king of hearts.

A: But you don't know where the queen of clubs is.

B: No, I know, but I couldn't see any way to find out, and if ...

A: It was obvious that, if D had had the queen of clubs, he would have played it at trick four.

B: But why? Why can't he have the queen of clubs and still return his partner's suit? Isn't it possible that ...?

A: Why are you arguing with me? Don't you want to get better? I don't know why I bother playing with you!

What did A actually mean here? Does he really want to understand why his partner took the doomed heart finesse? Of course not: about 99% of the time, he means, "You should not have taken the heart finesse," with the corollary, "And I want to hear you admit it." Better for him to say so, plainly, rather than lure his partner into the trap of trying to answer a question which hasn't, in reality, been asked.

Is B arguing? No, he's trying to answer what appears to be a genuine question. The poor chump doesn't understand that the answer his partner is seeking is, "You are right. I was wrong." Since, however, not only did A not really mean, "Why did you take the heart finesse?" but has, in his own mind, heard himself say, "Please admit that you shouldn't have taken the heart finesse," he perceives B's increasingly desperate answers as argument.

Here's a more weaselly example: "What did you think two notrump meant?" On the face of it, this is a genuine enquiry as to what partner believed he was saying when he bid two notrump. Gentle reader, do not be fooled: it is neither genuine nor an enquiry. The questioner is simply waiting for the opportunity to pounce:

A: What did you think two notrump meant?

B: I was trying to show that I had invitational points and a stopper in their suit.

A: That's ridiculous. Two notrump can't possibly be natural in this sequence.

Now if B is incautious enough to ask why, the conversation will continue:

B: Why?

A: Nobody – literally nobody – plays that as natural these days.

B: Well, some people do. Joe Bloggs does. Mrs. Featherstonehaugh does. I didn't think we'd discussed playing it as anything else.

A: Fine. If you want to argue with me, go ahead. But you're never going to improve if you won't listen to what I'm telling you.

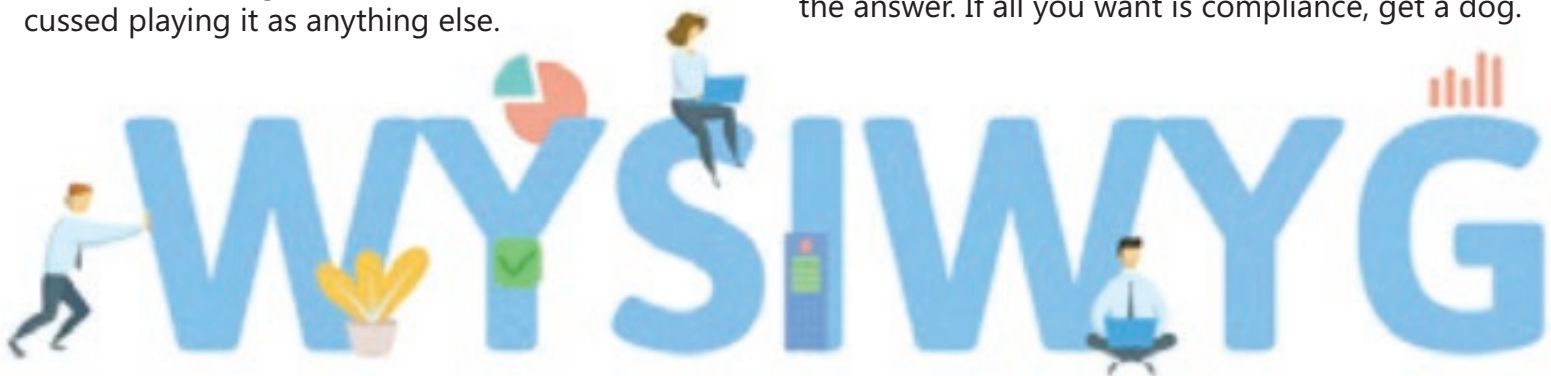
If you recognise yourself or your partner in these exchanges, or any version of them, please stop. If you are A (I don't actually expect anyone to admit, even to themselves, to being A), stop asking questions the answer to which you do not wish to hear. Retrain yourself to say what you actually mean; or else to listen to the answer to the question you mistakenly asked aloud, and accept that your partner is doing as you requested: explaining why he did whatever he did. Recognise that explanation is not argument. If you are B, understand that no question has been asked, and that you are instead expected meekly to bow your head and intone, "Mea culpa." Ask A to reframe the question, or better still, to say what he really means.

Please also accept that if you play with someone who is not as good as you (or, more likely, not as good as you think you are), he will make more mistakes than you do. If you can't bear to witness his mistakes, stop playing with him. If, on the other hand, your partner is your wife and you like going to congresses in France with her, for the company, the sun, the food, and above all the wine, stop berating her for not being the player you want her to be.

And if you must discuss the deals – for without discussion there can surely be no improvement – do it out of earshot of everyone else, so that you are not tempted to show off and your partner is not forced onto the defensive. Once you are in that charming little bistro or sunning yourselves over breakfast on the balcony, at least try to pretend that you respect your partner's judgment: that you are discussing these deals as equals.

If partner doesn't understand, accept that this is not wilful obtuseness, it's lack of (the right kind of) intelligence, about which he can do nothing, or want of experience, which you can continue to provide if you choose. Explain kindly, rather than browbeating him for his ignorance.

Don't ask questions when you don't want to hear the answer. If all you want is compliance, get a dog.



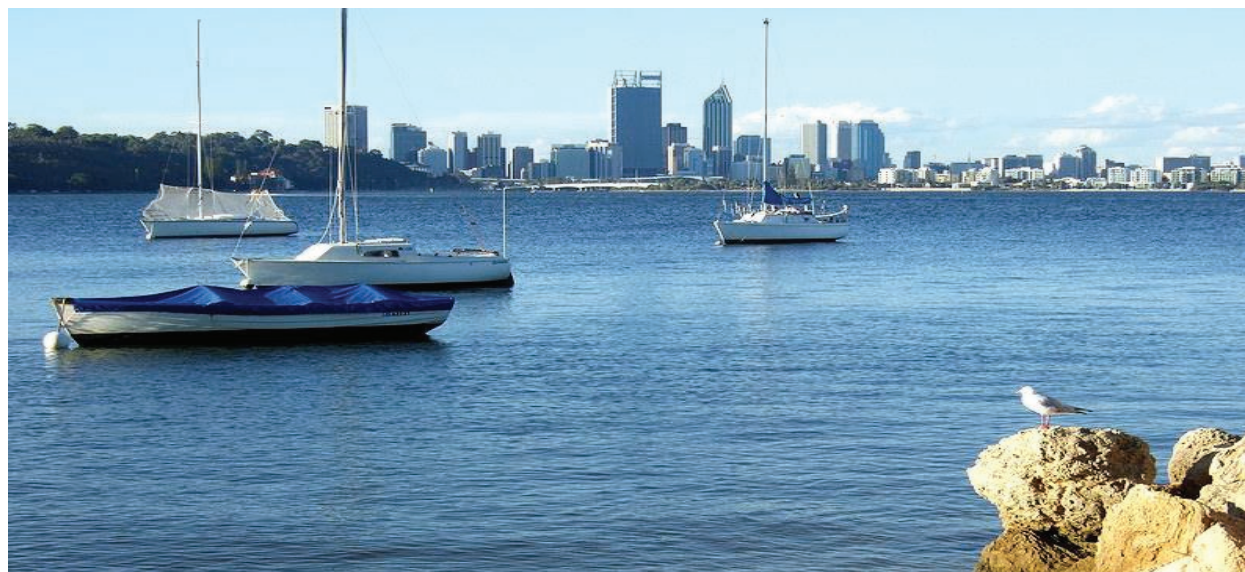


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A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

I really liked this "lesson hand" from a recent game. You hold:

♠ A Q 7 5 3 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ K 4

WEST	NORTH Partner	EAST	SOUTH You
	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	?

When one first learns bridge, this sort of hand is one where you would rebid 3NT. However, the problem is that you do not have hearts properly held for 3NT. Using fourth-suit forcing helps solve this problem, so you would be better served to bid 2♥ (fourth-suit forcing). [Note though, that partner has reversed, so if you already play 'Blackout' you should use other forcing bids instead.]

		...	2♥
pass	3♦	pass	?

Now partner has shown five diamonds and six clubs. They may not have the usual 16 HCP that is usually needed for a reverse, given that a 5-6 is stronger in playing strength. However, it is up to you to judge your hand.

Your hand has grown enormously, given the minor suit cards and the ♠A. You have already created a game forcing auction, so simply raise partner's 3♦ bid to 4♦, allowing them to work with you.

If they now cue bid 4♥, you should reach the excellent 6♦ contract! At the same time, you have avoided a silly 3NT contract. Partner held:

♠ 9 2 ♥ — ♦ A J 10 8 2 ♣ A Q J 10 6 5

Playing Pairs, with nobody vulnerable, your RHO opens 1NT and you hold:

♠ 3 ♥ K Q 10 9 6 4 3 ♦ A 2 ♣ 8 4 3

What would you bid?

Those who overcalled 2♥ (or its equivalent via versions of Cappelletti) allowed the opposition too

much space. LHO could now bid 3♣, game forcing, and opener could rebid 3NT, making 11 tricks.

Those who overcalled 3♥ left their LHO in an unenviable position. They mostly bid 4♣, holding:

♠ K J 8 ♥ — ♦ 7 6 4 3 ♣ K Q J 10 9 7

and ended up in 5♣, which can be held to ten tricks on the lead of the ♦A (with partner holding the ♦K, so you can get a ruff), but even 11 tricks in 5♣ wasn't going to prove a good score.

Remember, preempts exist for a reason. Don't be too concerned about the occasional penalty. Be more interested in making life more difficult for the opponents.

What does this auction mean to you (nil vulnerable)?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
1♣	pass	1NT/2NT	3♠?

What is South's late 3♠ bid? By rights, it should indicate seven spades and four hearts – the sort of hand where you don't preempt initially. Now North will be in a good position to work out what to bid (or how to defend). On the hand in question, North held a singleton spade and ♥A10972.

If South had been able to overcall 2♠, similarly it would indicate six spades and four hearts. Keep these delayed bids in mind, if and when partner makes them.

Our opponents let a game through, when I would have defended differently. Firstly, here's the auction:

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

1. Multi 2♦ (weak two in hearts or spades, or big and balanced).
2. Pass or correct.
3. Hearts.

You
 ♠ J 2
 ♥ 9 8 6 5 3 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A K 7 3



Dummy
 ♠ A 4 3
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ Q J 10 4 2
 ♣ 9 5 2

You lead the ♣A, promising the king, and partner plays the ♣Q – which, by my agreements shows the ♣J. You therefore cash the ♣K and continue with a third club. Declarer ruffs, draws trumps and claims ten tricks.

If I had been South, on the ♣A I would have dropped the ♣J. After the hand, South said that he thought his queen was suit preference, however it should promise the jack (rather than being suit preference). The jack would carry far more weight encouraging partner to switch, which would lead to the defeat of the contract.

This was the full hand:

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

Two defences defeat the contract.

Firstly, North can switch to a heart at trick two, South ruffing and returning a club for a second heart ruff. Then ♦A then takes the contract down two tricks.

Alternatively, North may switch to the singleton diamond. South can then cash the ♣Q and lead a second diamond, promoting a trump trick. South could also return a small club, having won the ♦A, and this should force North to switch to a heart, for the ruff.

The only card that really confuses North defensively is playing the ♣Q under the ace at trick one!

This South hand proved challenging to bid:

♠ K Q 10 4 3 ♥ 8 4 ♦ K J 10 9 7 6 ♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	1♠
2♥	pass ¹	pass	3♦
3♥	3NT	pass	?

1. I had earlier reminded partner that a rebid of 2NT here shows 18-19 HCP (the same as a jump rebid to 2NT, after my 1♠ response) so he did well by passing.

What would you do with that South hand? Would you settle in 3NT or would you prefer to play in a suit, given your 5-6 distribution (and West's heart rebid)?

I opted to rebid 4♦. I'm not sure exactly why partner chose to rebid 5♦ with 2-2 in my suits, but it worked just fine, his hand being:

♠ 7 5 ♥ A 10 7 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ K Q J 6 5

His ♥10 made 3NT a good contract, but 5♦ was fine too. Win the ♥A at trick one, discard the heart loser on the ♣K at trick two, establishing another two club winners. When the ♦Q was singleton onside, the hand was easy to play.

How would you defend when your RHO has bid to 4♥ doubled, and you hold this hand:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	2♣	pass (!)	pass
1♥	4♣	4♥	3♣
3♥	dbl	all pass	pass
pass			

You
 ♠ Q
 ♥ K 9 8 7 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A K 9 8 7 2



Dummy
 ♠ K 9 6 2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A 9 8 4 3
 ♣ 10 6 4

You lead the ♣A, partner playing the ♣3 and declarer the ♣5.

You should continue with a small club to partner's honours. All you should be interested in with this hand is shortening declarer's trumps; you should not be interested in trying to trump yourself. Declarer ruffs the second club, then leads the ♥A, all following, and a second heart. You win the ♥K and lead another top club, and now you will have trump control (or declarer can discard, but you now have at least four tricks).

You have two natural trump tricks, so ruffing is not gaining you additional tricks. Just think about trump control on such hands. The full deal:

The Language of Bidding, 6th edition—

Updated & expanded for 2021

With more than 50,000 copies sold, *The Language of Bidding* has long had a special place in the lives of many Australian bridge players. That role is set to continue. It is now available in a brand new edition that makes it both more effective and more simple than ever before.

It has 18 chapters, up from 14 in the previous edition, yet the length of the book is about the same. It includes a new chapter on slam bidding when you know partner's shortage. This was inspired by Paul's successful online Bidding Judgement course. It also includes a full discussion about the proper use of control bidding.

More simple & effective

The response of 1NT over a major is 6-11 HCP, not 6-9 (10) HCP as before. This one small change means a new suit response at the 2-level is now 12+ HCP. This makes the bidding more effective because it allows you to address the crucial question of fit before you have worry about a possible slam.

This change also makes the bidding more simple because you no longer have to worry about reverses and jump shifts after a two level response. Little wonder it has been embraced by all serious players in the modern game.

Available from:

The Bridge Shop <https://www.bridgeshop.com.au/>

Paul Lavings <http://www.bridgegear.com/>

Grand Slam Books <https://www.grandslambooks.com/books.html>



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

Lastly, there was a classic hand where people went down:

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

North opened 1NT and was raised to 3NT. East led the ♦4 - two - ten - king.

The hand looks simple – just create club winners.

Declarer led the ♣K, ducked by East. The ♣9 was covered by the ten and jack, winning. Now the clubs are marked as 4-1, with East holding the two club entries, meaning the contract is at risk.

It is time to abandon the clubs, testing the hearts instead.

Cash the ♥A, felling East's ten. Now you are most likely to finesse the ♥J, but you will have nine tricks (two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs).

Note that East, holding those club spots, does better to win the ♣K with the ace. He can then lead a second diamond, removing declarer's last diamond stopper (even if declarer ducks the second diamond).

Declarer will have to read the hand well to make now, needing to drop the ♥Q10 to keep East from the lead.

Hands such as the one above contribute to my never-ending love of this wonderful game.



What's happening online?

Kim Frazer

Aussie teams excelling in the new age of international online events

Just when we all thought everything was getting back to normal, most of us got hit with more lockdowns. Even WA got locked down for about five minutes. I was all set to head to WA for the ANC in Perth and the opportunity to use up some of my flight credits, but sadly they are back in my airline account, and we are back into on-line bridge events.

There is a wide variety of these to choose from. In our pre-publication meeting, the ABF Newsletter Editor Brad happened to mention he was competing in the final of the monthly Reynolds Teams event as part of the Kozakos team (George Kozakos, George Smolanko, Brad Coles, Bruce Neill, Ron Cooper, Tania Lloyd and Hugh Grosvenor). It occurred to me that the Aussies have been doing quite well in these online events in recent times.

Earlier this year the Ashton team of Sophie Ashton, Sartaj Hans, David Beauchamp, Jodi Tutty, Maurits van der Vlugt and Avi Kanetkar were victorious in a Reynolds final, easily defeating a team from Turkey. Here is one of the hands from an earlier knockout round in that event, with a clever discard by Sartaj Hans:

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

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

East reached a routine 4♠ and faced a five-nil trump break. A low club will always defeat the contract, however Hans started with a low spade. From here it is possible to make the contract, and declarer started on the right path with a heart up to the king and ace followed by winning the club return in hand and playing a diamond up to dummy's ace. He continued with the ♥Q pitching a club, and, misreading the count on the hand due to Hans following with the ♥J, took the wrong path by continuing with ♦Q and ♦10. Hans ruffed, cashed ♣Q and exited a low heart – declarer was forced to ruff, and had to go one down.

Reynolds Knockouts have been running since April 2020 and if you like teams matches and can manage the scheduling with overseas opponents, this might be worth a try for you. For details and to enter, go to

www.reynoldsteammatches.com

For something closer to home and in our time zone, you could consider the ABF's weekly Nationwide Pairs' events which are held every Sunday afternoon. There are also many online events organised by State Associations, NSWBA in particular, and some clubs have open invitation congresses such as the North Shore Bridge Club. For those unable or unwilling to return to F2F bridge, these events provide a great option to get your bridge fix while we wait for life to return to normal.

Another regularly organised online event is the 'Joust' matches organised by Cynthia Belonogoff and Hank Youngerman on The Bridge Zone:

www.bridgezone.org/logins/default.asp?Org=WB

In January this year, Team JAKKAL (Jamie Ebery - Kim Frazer, Kitty Muntz - Leigh Gold) were victorious in the Joust final beating the aforementioned Reynolds team. A full report on that win can be found in the February 2021 edition of [Australian Bridge Magazine](#). In that match, slam bidding played a massive part in the final result, and here is one hand I particularly liked from that tournament:

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

WEST Ebery	NORTH Kerr	EAST Frazer	SOUTH Reynolds
4♠	pass	6♠	all pass

On the lead of the ♦3 declarer has 11 top tricks and the contract looks doomed to failure with no way for declarer to escape the two heart losers, however South's insertion of the ♦Q at trick 1 set the stage for a double squeeze (inserting the ♦8 would have prevented the squeeze). After ruffing the diamond, Ebery played two rounds of spades ending in dummy and exited a low diamond ruffed in hand. He continued with the ♥9 which lost to South's ♥J with South continuing with the ♥K won with dummy's ace. Declarer cashed the ♦A pitching a heart from hand and exited with the ♠9 won in hand followed by another round of spades leaving this position:

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

When the last spade is played – North has to keep the ♦K so pitches a club while South has to keep three clubs so pitches the heart and the slam is home. Nicely played by Ebery and 14 imps to JAKKAL when 6♠ was defeated at the other table on the same lead.

All Joust matches are a knockout format and with a new event starting every month, if the team is knocked out there is an optional consolation event to contest (also a knockout format). Hence as a minimum, teams are guaranteed two matches in each event and the minimum match length is 28+ boards for qualifying rounds and 36+ boards for the finals, with teams agreeing on the format. Longer matches are possible if both teams agree. The Bridgezone is also running two pairs' events "The Gauntlet" and "The Knarly Knights" so there is plenty of bridge for all.

They say success comes in threes, so let's hope that holds true for the Kozakos team and that they score up another victory for 'Team Oz' in their upcoming Reynolds final (scheduled for 4-5 September).

Photos: David Beauchamp - Jodi Tutty, Leigh Gold - Kitty Muntz, Tania Lloyd - Hugh Grosvenor (photo from the Cessnock Advertiser), George Smolanko - George Kozakos, Sartaj Hans - Sophie Ashton, Kim Frazer - Jamie Ebery.

Beware of the tribe

by Laura Ginnan



Most players love sitting down at the table against a youth pair that they haven't seen around. Not only do they have an enjoyable match, but they often end up with a great result and have smiling opponents afterwards, a rare sight in bridge. If you find yourself in this position, BEWARE, do not fall into the trap of thinking that you will have an easy match at your next encounter. If you do, chances are they will have not only settled the score from last encounter but have hit the lead by the time the final card is played. If you didn't get this advice soon enough and have fallen victim, don't worry, you aren't alone. The rate of development for youth players is phenomenal! There are a number of reasons for their rapid progress but today I wanted to highlight how powerful the tribe of past and present youth players is.

I have been lucky enough to have been involved in the full spectrum of youth bridge, starting out as a 10-year-old who could barely follow suit and ending up representing Australia at the World Championships in 2014. Since 'expiring' my youth status, I have played some of my most enjoyable youth bridge. There are some precious additional years where expired players can participate in some youth events but are ineligible to trial for the representative team. There are also pro-am style events which can be open to anyone who has ever played youth bridge. It's much more fun playing these events as an expirée partnering an up-and-coming young gun, and reliving the days when 1400 was a regular score.

With Sydney, Victoria and Adelaide in lockdown, there was an opportunity to run an online pro-am. Bec O'Reilly had the task of herding the cats youth players. I had the much easier job of lining up the experts. Because the event was online, I was not geographically restricted and could cast a wide net. I put the call out to some Aussie youth royalty who have spread their wings and now live overseas. Ish Del'Monte and Alex Lockwood joined from abroad. In Germany, Alex was playing at a civilised hour in the middle of the morning. In the US, Ish was tuning in at the wee hours of the morning!

The event was hosted by Real Deal Bridge and the highlight was seeing 12-year-old Layla Bastick take

out top honours playing with Renee Cooper, scoring a massive 70%.

Here's a "Planning The Play" problem that Layla was faced with in the event. Plan your play in 4♠ by South when West leads the ♦A and switches to a heart to dummy's queen and East's king. WARNING: This is the bridge version of "Are you smarter than a 5th grader".

Dummy
♠ K 7 4
♥ Q 4
♦ J 8 5 4
♣ 10 9 8 5

Declarer
♠ A Q J 6 3
♥ A 7 5 3
♦ 6
♣ A J 3

WEST Thompson	NORTH Cooper	EAST Doecke	SOUTH Bastick
			1♠
pass	2♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

Layla did spectacularly! When you consider losers, there are a couple of hearts which will need to be trumped, and the double finesse in clubs. This is a fair bit of work to do, and the entries to dummy are limited.

Layla won the ♥A at trick two and shot back another heart (setting up the void in dummy).

The heart was won and the defence tried to cash the ♦K. Layla trumped in hand and played a heart, which was ruffed in dummy.

Using that precious entry the first club finesse was taken, with full technique points for leading the ten from dummy.

The defence then played a spade which she won in hand and trumped the final heart with the king of trumps. That last entry was all that she needed to finesse the club again and get the lead back to hand to draw trumps and claim.

Here is the full deal:



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

Here are the top results:

North-South

- 1 Andrew Spooner - Ish Del'Monte
- 2 James Coutts - Bertie Morgan

East-West

- 1 Layla Bastick - Renee Cooper
- 2 Bec O'Reilly - Alex Lockwood

All of the players, the young and old of the youth tribe, had a great time in the event which was provided by the Australian made, owned and operated Real Deal Bridge. The calibre of experts who took

part is testament to the sense of belonging and community in the youth tribe. The experts that play not only enjoy helping the next generation flourish but are also able to use these events as a chance to find out who will be coming for them next!

In his 2001 convenor report for the Australian Youth Championships Peter Gill noted that the first 25 teams to win the Australian Youth Championship Teams have all included at least one player who has gone on to represent Australia at Open or Women's bridge. We are on track to keep this going for the next 25 years and I expect that talent like Layla's will mean that this is always the case.

The online platform Real Deal Bridge is raising money for youth bridge with two exciting initiatives. There are a number of duplicate sessions each month which feature a celebrity speaker. 50c from each participant in these games is donated to youth bridge.

Real Deal Bridge will also be hosting an online program event on 23 October. A raffle will be held to win an entry to play with a leading Australian player in this game. Raffle tickets can be purchased online through www.realdealbridge.com.

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with
Barbara
Travis



Solutions on page 31

QUESTION 1

♠ 10 7
♥ A K J 10 7
♦ J 8 4
♣ J 7 5

♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ Q 3
♦ 6 5
♣ A K 10 4

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

1. 1NT was alerted as showing both minors.

West leads the ♦K, then a diamond to the ace, and East-West cash the first four diamond tricks (discarding two spades from hand and one from dummy), before West exits with a heart. How would you play?

QUESTION 2

♠ 7 3
♥ K
♦ A Q 7 5 3 2
♣ 9 4 3 2

♠ A Q 5 4 2
♥ A 4 3
♦ K 6
♣ A K 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	3NT	all pass	2NT

West leads the ♥Q, your king winning. How would you play?

QUESTION 3

♠ J
♥ K Q 9 6
♦ A 8 7 6 2
♣ A K J

♠ K Q 9 7 6 4 3
♥ 2
♦ 5
♣ Q 10 8 2

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

This hand comes from a Teams match, where your objective is to make the contract rather than worrying about overtricks.

West leads the ♦3. You win with the ♦A and lead the ♠J. East wins ♠A and continues with the ♦K. How would you play?

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com



PARTNER OPENS 1♥ YOU REPLY 1♠ AND PARTNER REBIDS 3♥

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

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

SOLUTIONS

1. Pass. Opener's 3♥ rebid is not forcing and typically 15-18 HCP. Normally responder would carry on to game with 8 HCP but a closer look reveals that your hand is mostly queens and jacks with one solitary king. You will likely have four losers in 4♥, so pass is recommended.

2. 4♥. With two aces you want to go to game, but should you choose 3NT or 4♥? In notrumps you may be vulnerable in clubs, spades or even diamonds. In 4♥ you have two valuable entries to dummy to take two finesses while opener's six-card suit will be trumps, protecting you from attack in a weak suit.

3. 3NT. You have 10 HCP including the magical ♥Q but you have no ace or king. There are four aces and four kings in the pack and they are all likely to take tricks (especially the aces). Partner is a good chance to have two aces and two kings so in 4♥ you are likely missing four top tricks. 3NT is a good shot, you are well upholstered in every suit and should have plenty of winners as long as you don't lose too many first.

4. 3♠. With two kings and 8 HCP you want to go to game, but 4♠ or 3NT could be the right contract. 3♥ is not forcing but if responder bids over 3♥ that sets up a game force. Whether opener now rebids 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠ you are probably in the right contract.

5. 3♠. The temptation is to bid 3NT, but ♦J10x is not a stopper and opener will imagine you have stoppers in

both clubs and diamonds. Over 3♠ opener would raise spades with Kx, and 4♠ would be the best contract opposite say:

♠ K x ♥ A K x x x x ♦ x x ♣ A Q x

where the defence could well take the first five diamond tricks against 3NT.

6. 3♠. You might be tempted to bid 4♥ and go with the known eight-card fit but if you have an eight-card (or nine-card) spade fit that would be a better contract. When you have a choice of trump suits it is normally better to go with the trump length in the weaker hand. Opener's hand with lots of aces and kings will be a much better dummy in 4♠ than your hand with a string of spades in 4♥.

7. 4♣. With your healthy opening bid opposite opener's jump rebid you are in the slam zone. I recommend partnerships discuss the meaning of 4♣ in this and similar situations and agree it is a cuebid agreeing hearts and showing first and second round controls up-the-line.

Agreeing hearts with a cuebid is a much more frequent situation than wanting to show a second suit. If opener now bids 4♥ over 4♣ they deny a diamond control so you happily pass 4♥ knowing you are missing at least two top diamonds. If opener bids 4♦ over 4♣ you have made a try for slam so just bid 4♥. If opener is maximum they should now carry on with 4NT Keycard Blackwood.

8. 4♣. Now if partner cuebids 4♦ you are not missing two losers in any side suit and you have enough to go to slam yourself. There may even be a grand slam on. You continue with 4NT and if opener shows one keycard with 5♣ (14/30 responses) you bid 5♦ asking for ♥Q. If opener bids 5♥ showing two keycards but no queen of trumps bid 6♥. If opener's response is 5♠ showing two keycards and the ♥Q then continue with 5NT confirming your side has all the keycards + ♥Q. Opener can then bid 6♥ with no side king, show specific kings or jump to 7♥ with something like

♠ K x ♥ A Q J 10 x x ♦ A K x ♣ x x .

9. 4NT. You have 18 HCP, which is an awful lot when opener makes a jump rebid. If opener replies 5♣ showing one or four keycards (must be four) you can count 13 tricks with two spades, six hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. You should bid 7NT and not 7♥. If the hearts break 4-1 and 7♥ fails you may have 13 tricks in no-trumps with a finesse or a bit of luck.

10. 3♠. You can't bid 4♣ since that would be a cue agreeing hearts. If opener bids 3NT over 3♠ then you can now bid 4♣ as a second suit and get your shapely hand across.

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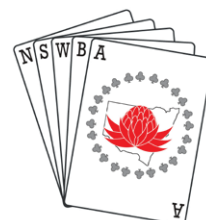
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WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with William Jenner-O'Shea

COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND GAME TRIES

The focus of this month's workshop was competitive bidding. Most competitive bidding decisions are based on judgement rather than conventions or rules.

There is one very important and useful principle though: if you and partner have found a fit, and the opponents have bid over you, bidding to three-of-our-fit is never an invitation, it is just a competitive bid.

You usually want to outbid the opposition, and you rarely want to look for game when three or four players have been bidding.

You open 1♠ and partner raises to 2♠. The next opponent overcalls 3♣. What do you do on each of these hands.

HAND 1

♠ A K J 10 7 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ 8 5 4

You have 14 HCP, but your hand is balanced. You only have eight trumps, so nothing 'extra'. You have potentially three losers in the clubs. Despite having a few extra points, you should probably pass the 3♣ bid and defend. Balanced hands are usually better at defending, and not as good at competing higher.

HAND 2

♠ K Q J 10 7 5 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ 4

You opened with only 11 HCP, but with a good shapely hand. You have a sixth trump, and you



have a singleton in their suit. There is no chance for game, but you should compete. You should bid 3♠. This is not invitational, just competitive. Shapely hands, with extra trumps, play better and should often bid again.

HAND 3

♠ A 10 9 6 3 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ 6 ♣ K J 9 7

You have a reasonable hand, and a side suit singleton, but your clubs are good for defending. You have good defence potential. You should PASS the 3♣ bid and try to take them down. You might also consider doubling them in 3♣. After we agree a fit, a common agreement is that doubles are penalties, even at the two- or three-level.

HAND 4

♠ K Q 10 8 6 ♥ A J 9 2 ♦ A Q ♣ 3 2

With this hand you want to invite partner to game with 8-10 points, but not get to game with 6-7 points. Bidding 3♠ would not be an invitation, so you need to make a game try. Bid 3♥. Bidding a new suit below three-of-our-fit is an invitation to game. Here 3♥ is the more natural bid available between hearts and diamonds. Note that if the overcall had been 3♦, then 3♥ would be a completely artificial game try, and show nothing about hearts. If the overcall had been 3♥, then you would need to discuss with partner whether double would still be for penalties, or perhaps a Last Train game try, since there would be no other way to invite.



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Card Play Curiosities

Brad Coles

In one of my other magazines, *Australian Bridge Online Edition*, we have been running a series of articles on the Hold-Up Play. These articles generally focus on holding up an ace, to sever the opponents' communication or preserve your own communication.

If you've been following those columns, you should be quite skilled at hold-up plays by now. However, no amount of study will prepare you for this rare quadruple hold-up, which turned up at the table just after the last column was published:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH (YOU)
1♦ *	dbl	1♣ *	pass
dbl	2♠	pass	1♠
		dbl	all pass

East's 1♣ opening is a strong club, and 1♦ is an artificial game force (usually balanced). Partner's double shows both majors, West's double is for takeout, and East's is not.

West leads the trump king, and partner's dummy is an accurate reflection of his bidding skill. The ♠K wins, West plays a heart to East's ten, and East cashes three more trumps (West accurately throwing clubs). Good news: dummy's fifth spade is the last trump, so we are taking at least one trick!

East cashes the ♦A and continues with the ♦J (an error, which we will come back to later). What are our chances of taking a second trick after this defence?

If we ruff the diamond, the defence will take the rest, squeezing dummy in hearts and clubs. If we want to take a club trick, we need to cut their communication by stripping West of all of his hearts. This means holding up our trump trick for a while.

On East's ♦J, throw a heart from dummy (thankful that East is still on lead and cannot attack hearts). The defence play two more rounds of diamonds, as dummy continues to discard hearts:

<p>♠ — ♥ 6 4 ♦ — ♣ A J</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ K Q 10</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ A Q 5 ♦ — ♣ 8</p>
<p>♠ — ♥ 7 ♦ — ♣ 9 4 3</p>		

Once the diamond tricks have run out, West switches to his penultimate heart, and we hold up our trump one last time, pitching a club. Finally, at trick 11, we ruff the next heart and play the ♣K. West is down to just ♣AJ, and has to give dummy the last trick, while East's last heart winner remains stranded.

For taking two tricks, we are awarded a non-vulnerable -1400, which is better than partner deserved. He advises, "You would have done better if you'd kept your heart stopper," while we scan the room looking for someone to play with next week.

The order of dummy's discards is critical. While dummy has three hearts, West cannot attack that suit without setting up dummy's last heart. While dummy has only one heart, West can never get his partner on lead to cash the fourth heart (as dummy will be able to ruff at the perfect time). Dummy is only vulnerable when holding exactly two hearts – if West switches to hearts at that precise moment, East can win the ♥AQ and cash a fourth round, allowing West to pitch his last club loser (the ♣J).

Thanks to a small defensive error, East was on lead at the critical moment, protecting dummy from a heart attack. It would have done West no good to overtake the ♦J with the queen, because in that case dummy would discard a club and keep his heart guard intact (while South's ♦9 would now protect against a diamond continuation). The winning defence to ensure 1700 was to lead the ♦7, allowing West to get on lead cheaply with the ♦8. This catches North in an unusual squeeze without the count: West can continue diamonds, switching to play three rounds of hearts as soon as North inevitably releases his first heart.

Annual subscriptions to the Online version of Australian Bridge (a simplified version of the magazine aimed at average club players) are available for \$25 per year. More experienced players can subscribe to the full magazine (hardcopy) for \$69 per year. Contact Brad at mail@australianbridge.com for details.

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with Barbara Travis

Solutions to problems on page 26

HAND 1

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

Against South's 3NT, West leads the ♦K, then a diamond to the ace, and East-West cash the first four diamond tricks (discarding two spades from hand and one from dummy), before West exits with a heart.

East has shown up with the ♦A, despite West's minor-showing 1NT bid. West is, therefore, likely to hold both the ♠K and ♣Q (especially when holding only nine cards in the minors).

Win the ♥Q, cash the ♣A and ♣K, then run the heart suit from dummy, discarding your small clubs from hand. You will come to an end position where North has a small spade and the ♣J, and South has the ♠AQ. On the final heart, West has to keep the ♣Q to cover the clubs and the ♠K5 to cover the spade suit, so is squeezed out of one of the black cards. Declarer can lead a spade to the ace, dropping the ♠K offside, for his ninth trick.

HAND 2

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

Against South's 3NT, West leads the ♥Q, the king winning.

If the diamonds break 3-2 you have six diamonds, two hearts, two clubs and one or two spades. But – what will happen if the diamonds break 4-1? Since your heart entry to dummy has been removed, you will only have

three diamond tricks. Therefore, you should think about alternatives for additional tricks: combine your options.

Diamonds can wait. In fact, spades can wait too. Your first 'additional chance' is for something good to happen in the club suit. You should cash the ♣A then the ♣K. When East plays the ♣Q and ♣10, continue with another club. If they break 3-3 or when West holds the ♣J, you have three clubs tricks, ensuring your contract (and overtricks if the diamonds break).

At the table, declarer went down when he tackled diamonds first, assuming they would break.

HAND 3

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

This hand comes from a Teams match, where your objective is to make the contract rather than worrying about overtricks.

West leads the ♦3 against your 4♠ contract. You win with the ♦A and lead the ♠J. East wins the ♠A and continues with the ♦K.

If you trump with the ♠9, West will overruff with the ♠10, then lead a heart to partner's ace. Another diamond will promote West's ♠8 into a winner. If you trump high, the ♠82 becomes a winner. If you trump with the ♠7, then they can overtrump with the ♠8. One off.

This hand lends itself to severing the defensive communications. On the ♦K continuation, you must discard the ♥2, which is always a loser. When the next high diamond is led, you can trump with the ♠9. West over-trumps with the ♠10, but now you are cold. A club lead runs to your queen, so you can draw trumps, then have the remaining tricks. A heart returns simply sees you trump out the ♥A, then draw trumps, making ten tricks.





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