



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

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

No. 194 December 2018

Approved for Print Post S65001/00163

ABN 70 053 651 666

AUSTRALIANS WIN INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Each year the International Bridge Press Association presents awards for the 'best' bid, played and defended hands. They were awarded at the Hainan Bridge Festival in China this year, in October. Both the winner and the journalist for each award received flights and entry to the Hainan Bridge Festival in addition to their prize and award. Congratulations to all.

RICHARD FREEMAN JUNIOR DEAL OF THE YEAR

Winner: Matt Smith
Journalist: Paul Lavings

A MATTER OF TIMING

Playing for NSW in the ANC Youth Interstate Teams (2017), Matt Smith faced this problem in Round 7 of the Qualifying Round Robin on a board where many declarers failed to make their 4♠ contract.

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

♠ 6 5
♥ 10 8 2
♦ A J 10 7
♣ K 9 8 3

♠ 8 4 2
♥ Q 9 7 6 5
♦ Q 9
♣ Q J 6

♠ A K J
♥ A J 3
♦ K 4 3
♣ 7 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
	Ranson		Smith
Pass	2♥ (spades)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Smith played with great foresight. West led the ♥8; Smith won with the King, cashed the ♣A, finessed the ♥J and pitched the ♣10 on the ♥A. He then ruffed a club high, came back to hand with a low trump, ruffed a second club high, came back to his hand with another low trump and ruffed a third club. In all, he scored three trump tricks with the ♠A-K-J, three club ruffs in dummy with the ♠Q-10-9, three hearts and the ♣A for 10 tricks and 10 IMPs.

If you let the heart lead run to the Jack, the timing is gone for the three ruffs in dummy. Smith's line succeeds when the heart finesse wins – by no means a certainty, but more likely on the ♥8 lead – hearts are no worse than 5-3 and the ♣A stands up.

Other short-listed candidates were Ola Rimstedt (twice), Adam Grossack, Noah Apteker, Stig Dybdahl – just a couple of world champions as competition!

GIDWANI FAMILY TRUST DEFENCE OF THE YEAR

Winner: GeO Tislevoll (NZ)
Journalist: Liam Milne

UNWANTED GIFT

When one must give declarer something eventually, it is often right to make that gift as soon as possible. Sometimes an early concession will come at an inconvenient moment for your opponent.

Dealer South ♠ K 10 9 7 6 5 2
Nil Vul ♥ J

♦ J 6 4
♣ K J

♠ Q
♥ 5 4
♦ K Q 10 9 3
♣ Q 10 4 3 2

♠ J 8 3
♥ A K Q 10 7 3 2
♦ A
♣ 9 8

♠ A 4
♥ 9 8 6
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ A 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♠	4♥	Pass All Pass

This deal is from the 2018 North Island Teams in New Zealand.

South, Michael Ware, led the ♠A. With a singleton of the suit led in dummy, North-South play suit preference at trick 1, so North, GeO Tislevoll, played the ♠2 to signal for clubs. Ware duly played the ♣A, followed by the ♣5 to the King. With three tricks in the bag, Tislevoll paused to consider the situation. Let's walk with him through what we know as North, followed by what we must assume to beat the contract.

Partner is a passed hand and has already shown up with two aces. He can't hold the ♦A as well, and if he has a natural trump trick declarer will go down whatever we play.

How many clubs do partner and declarer have? It looks like partner has four clubs and declarer has two (from the ♣5 continuation), but it's possible that partner is the one with a doubleton. If so, we'll have to hope partner has a trump trick. So, we can safely assume declarer has no more clubs left.

What about the spade suit? With four spades, partner would definitely have bid 1♠, and with three he would often have bid 4♠ anyway, knowing that there looked to be a 10-card fit. Besides, if declarer has only one spade left, it's hard to see what we can do to create another trick.

Given the lack of prospects in the minors, is there any chance of promoting a trump trick for partner? Yes: if partner has no spades left, we can simply play a spade, and partner will be able to ruff in front of dummy with a heart higher than the ♥5. But is there any real rush to do this? Not really. (to page 2)

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If declarer has a 4-6-1-2 shape, we can afford to play anything. Declarer can't run the diamonds, as they are blocked, and he will have to play spades himself. Partner can ruff in front of dummy and return a trump, and we shall make two more spades later.

How can we beat the contract if declarer has only three spades? A trump shift would appeal to many, given dummy's spade shortness and lack of long trumps. Projecting the play, however, the trump shift can't really work. Declarer will win the switch and either draw trumps and run the diamonds, or ruff a spade over to dummy and play off dummy's myriad minor-suit winners. Denying declarer two ruffs doesn't do anything because he was never going to take two ruffs.

If declarer can run a minor suit, we aren't likely to beat this contract. The focus must be on declarer holding good trumps, the bare ♠A, no more clubs, and three spades. On the critical layouts, therefore, declarer most likely has a 3-7-1-2 shape. Declarer's key problem is where to park the two spade losers. The 3-7-1-2 shape is one of the many layouts where a trump shift does nothing good for us, and likewise a diamond shift won't work. Declarer will win the diamond, take one round of trumps and then play as if we had switched to trumps [Ed: ruff a spade and discard the spade on a diamond winner].

Assuming our play matters, neither a diamond nor a heart is doing anything good, so it has to be a spade and it has to be now, counter-intuitively giving declarer a chance for a ruff in the dummy immediately. Which spade – the King or a low one?

If partner has the ♠J, both plays are the same, so assume declarer started with three spades to the Jack. Playing the King, ruffed in dummy, sets up declarer's Jack. He will draw trumps and claim, still assuming the trumps are solid. So, Tislevoll played a low spade at trick 4. The full deal was exactly as he had imagined it to be, and this time his play mattered a lot! Declarer won with the Jack, but this unwanted gift came too early to be useful. If declarer drew trumps, he'd be left with a losing spade. If declarer instead tried to ruff his last spade, South would have ruffed in front of dummy to beat the contract.

This deal was aesthetically appealing, not only because of the nice play and unusual theme, but also because of the situation declarer found himself in at the end: he had been given a cheap trick by the opponents and there were about 15 tricks between declarer's hand and dummy, yet there was no way to come to 10 tricks!

Other short-listed candidates were: Aida and Jan Jansma, GeO Tislevoll (Liam Milne) - again, Mike Becker and Allan Graves, Geir Helgemo (Peter Gill), Judy Scown (Terry Brown).



Matt Smith

Paul Lavings
Bridgegear
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NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

The New Year is the peak period for many bridge clubs in Australia as players practise for their annual sojourn to Canberra and the Gold Coast. It is also the time when many people in their 50s and 60s are becoming empty-nesters as their children leave home, or are facing semi-retirement. They are making New Year resolutions to take up new hobbies, face new challenges, become more social and travel. Bridge, fortunately, offers the combination of all these. Bridge clubs also need to make New Year resolutions to attract more new players, teach them to play and enjoy bridge and convert them into club members.

The Big Issue – high loss rate of existing players and low retention rate of beginners.

In Australia, the ABF, with an aging player group, faces a churn rate of 10% per annum, losing about 3,000 registered players a year. These need to be replaced just to maintain current membership, but since 2013 the number of new players has been in decline.

The second problem is that the 'retention rate', defined here as people who start beginners classes and are playing members one year later, appears fairly low. The English Bridge Union claim a retention rate of only 20% and from looking at the limited data available in Australia and speaking to leading clubs the retention rate averages probably about 25-35%. Some outstanding teaching clubs may achieve a slightly higher ratio.

Number of Beginners required by each Club to replace 10% lost members every year with a Beginners retention rate to 1 yr members of 33.3%						
Top 10 clubs Ranked by Members in 2017		Rank	Growth		Begin	Retain
Rk	Club	No	No	%	30%	33.3%
		2016	2017	2016-17		
1	South Australian Bridge Association	1203	1233	30 2%	370	123
2	North Shore Bridge Club Inc	1174	1216	42 4%	365	121
3	West Australian Bridge Club	965	977	12 1%	293	96
4	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	843	844	1 0%	253	84
5	NSWBA/Sydney Bridge Centre	843	796	-57 -7%	236	79
6	Trumps Bridge Centre	826	757	-69 -8%	227	76
7	Toowong Bridge Club Inc	737	726	-11 -1%	218	73
8	Canberra Bridge Club Inc	660	687	27 4%	206	69
9	Northern Suburbs Bridge Club Inc	611	590	-21 -3%	177	59
10	Peninsula Bridge Club - NSW	522	557	35 7%	167	56
Average size club by members		109			33	11
Median size club by members		56			17	6

The 10 largest clubs need between 167 and 370 beginners each year just to maintain membership, and even more, or a higher retention rate, if they are to grow. The 10 largest clubs have 22% of total ABF registered players and the top 20% of clubs have more than 60% of players. The average number of registered players per club is 109 requiring 33 new members. The median size club, with an equal number above and below it, only has 56 players and requires 17 beginners. Did your club achieve beginners this year equal to 30% of its membership?

Marketing for New Players - Facebook

Over the years some bridge clubs have tried traditional media outlets such as TV, radio, local newspapers and direct mail which are all expensive and do not seem to have had much success and certainly not a reasonable return on investment. As a result, I have run a trial using social media by advertising on Facebook, which has over 15 million monthly users in Australia, of which nearly 7 million are aged over 40, our main target market. The advantage of Facebook is that you can target highly-segmented markets by geographic regions, demographics and personal interests.

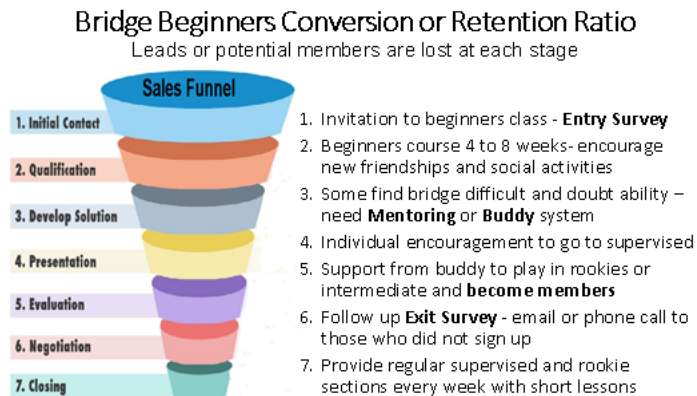
I chose my local area by postcodes in the eastern suburbs of Sydney with the heading Learn to Play bridge and three themes: fun, social and challenging game; the mental health benefits; and popularity with millions around the world featuring Warren Buffett and Bill Gates. For the outlay of only \$337 in a week, it was seen or reached over 4,000 people on 16,000 occasions and 121 people clicked on the link to a home page. On a cost per click basis, this was expensive but a fraction of the cost of a local paper advertisement or direct mail.

I believe the test showed potential but requires much more testing with different copy and photos and perhaps the inclusion of video to find the best combination. The great advantage of Facebook is its reach and the ability to target small geographic areas such as local postcodes. We know from earlier research that the major preference for choosing a club is location.

We would encourage some clubs to experiment with Facebook advertising and I would be pleased to assist with advice and contribute copy and photos. Further, the ABF is considering providing Marketing Special Projects Funding to clubs to assist them in a Facebook program.

Conversion or Retention Ratio

It is a waste of marketing expenditure if the retention rate of beginners is low and therefore we need to reduce the loss of beginners at each stage of the sales process. Every beginner who becomes a regular player is worth on average \$400 a year, or far more, to the club for the rest of their bridge-playing life. Registered players only contribute \$22 a year to the ABF for capitation and masterpoints, so it is in the clubs' interests to maximise membership.



Marketing

If you are attending the SFoB in Canberra or the Gold Coast Congress, please come and see me at the ABF Marketing stand to discuss how to undertake Facebook advertising or to discuss how to improve the conversion rate of beginners in your club.

I am available to visit your club or State body to conduct Marketing Workshops at any time, and there is a lot more information at the ABF Marketing web site.

Have a great 2019 and start with making a New Year resolution to grow your club.

Peter Cox, Head of Marketing





Sean Mullamphy has been an outstanding contributor to bridge for many years, both within Australia and internationally. Sometimes we don't realise just how much a person has contributed until we start to write about them. Many players will know that Sean suffered a heart attack in early 2016, which resulted in his stepping down from the role of Tournament Organiser of the Summer Festival of Bridge (SFoB), an event that he had been involved with since 1987 as either Organiser or Deputy Organiser.

On the world stage, Sean has been a Tournament Director for the World Bridge Federation (WBF) since 1989 and he also represented the ABF at the WBF meeting in Lille, France. Within Australia, Sean's list of contributions is extensive. He was Chief Tournament Director (CTD) for the ABF for about 10 years and CTD for both the Australian National Championships and the Playoffs for about 20 years. During this time, he was responsible for the production and security of all hand files for all ABF events. He also convened the Australian Open, Women's and Seniors' Teams selection events for five years.

During the 1990s Sean was very active in the ABF's Youth bridge program. He was Tournament Organiser of the National Youth Championships for about four years, and during that time he organised the ABF Youth program and produced the Youth Bulletin. He was non-playing captain of Australian Youth Teams in 1994 and 1995.

Sean is probably best known to bridge players as a director, although he was a member of the ACT Senior Team that were runners-up at the 2018 ANC in Hobart. He has held the position of President of the Australian Bridge Directors' Association (ABDA) since 2008. Sean has organised the annual ABDA seminar every year, as well as organising one in Wellington NZ, and he arranges for the presenters to donate their time to the event each year.

He was a member of the ABF Tournament Committee from 2014 to 2018, although he attended their meetings for many years prior to becoming a member. Sean was also a Member of the ABF National Authority.

During his time in his dual roles as CTD and Tournament Organiser for the ABF, Sean was innovative in seeking to improve the experience for players at national events. He was instrumental in the introduction of BridgeMates to all ABF events and he negotiated the initial agreement to buy them

from the Netherlands on behalf of the ABF. He also instigated the use of bidding boxes at the SFoB, and introduced side tables at the SFoB – now an expectation at National events. Sean also implemented an upgrade program to exchange wallets for plastic boards. He pushed for the introduction of an individual set of boards at each table in finals - used for the first time at the SFoB. Finally, he arranged for the acquisition of the current screens which are used in all Playoff events.

Sean continues to serve bridge in Australia as President of ABDA and as a member of the ABF NDAC (National Director Accreditation Committee).

Allison Stralow and Kim Frazer

ABF NEWS

ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE FEDERATION CONGRESS 2020

Robina McConnell has been appointed as Tournament Organiser for the event. Sponsorship has been obtained from the Perth Convention Bureau for event marketing, and Perth City Council will host a reception for delegates to the event.

Dates: 15th to 22nd April, 2020

RESTRICTED PLAYERS IN ABF/ABF LICENSED EVENTS

The Management Committee endorsed the Tournament Committee's recommendation that:

1. If a player wins a Restricted gold point event, that player cannot subsequently enter the same event with the same masterpoint restriction; and
2. If a player wins any two Restricted gold point events, then they will no longer be eligible to enter any such event with the same masterpoint restriction.

This change will apply to those entering and playing in any Restricted ABF and ABF licensed events from 1st October 2018 for future years.

ABF SUPPORTS DROUGHT RELIEF

At its September meeting, the ABF agreed to waive masterpoint fees for clubs undertaking fundraising efforts towards drought relief. The QBA reported that approximately \$23,382 had been raised to date in Queensland. Congratulations to all States, Territories and clubs who have participated.

2019 SPRING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The dates for the Spring National Championships in 2019 are now Wednesday 16th October to Thursday 24th October 2019.

(The dates changed from those initially advertised because the WBF changed the dates for the World Championships.)

SUMMER FoB GOING PLASTIC CUP-FREE

At the SFoB in 2018, more than 12,500 plastic water cups were used.

This January in Canberra, open water containers will not be permitted in the playing areas in 2019. Instead, if players require water during play, they will need to use personal refillable water bottles with a top or lid.

Players who already have such bottles they regularly use are invited to bring those into the hotel. A supply of personal refillable water bottles will be available at the Help Desk and from the Hotel (for a small fee).

Players are asked to join this green initiative in 2019. (See page 14 for information about Penline's reusable cups and bottles.)

AROUND THE CLUBS

Burnie Bridge Club members recently gathered in strength to honour the much loved Judith Miles (pictured below) at the Distillery Cafe at Hellyers to join her in celebrating her 90th birthday.

As temporary visitors to Tasmania, my wife Felicity and I have been hugely blessed by the warmth and welcome we have enjoyed at 'the friendliest bridge club in the world'!

One of the key reasons for this is that Christine Tongs organises special functions throughout the year where members can gather socially and get to know each other better.

Cedric Parker, Burnie BC



Judith Miles



Freda Kauffline celebrated her 100th birthday in October.

On Friday October 26, Freda said she had family with her for the day, and friends dropped in to see her throughout the whole day.

"I have a house full of flowers and full of lovely cards," said Freda.

A founding member of the Cooma-Monaro Bridge Club, Freda was presented with a life membership on Monday October 29.

Freda was born the eldest child in her family in Anembo, near Jerangle. She calls herself a 'bushie' and says she has led a very active life.

"As kids we had to milk cows, bring in wood, scrub the floors, and do all things kids from the bush need to do."

Freda believes playing bridge has kept her mind active and, other than some visibility problems, she still enjoys playing.

"I am very forgetful when it comes to names, but I remember everything about playing bridge," says Freda.

"I am so lucky to be part of this bridge club, it is a wonderful bridge club. I have made many wonderful friends here. I have also travelled around the country playing bridge. In NSW, Victoria, Queensland and Norfolk Island."

Cooma-Monaro Bridge Club



YOUTH WEEK: 5TH TO 11TH JANUARY 2019



*Fiske Warren and Kaiping Chen,
winners of the Golden West Swiss Pairs in both 2017 and 2018.*

MAJOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS

CANBERRA IN BLOOM FESTIVAL

28th September - 1st October, Gungahlin, ACT

ROYAL BLUEBELL MP SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Shane Harrison - Stephen Williams
- 2nd Jodi Tutty - David Beauchamp
- 3rd Jan Clarke - Di Coats

SPIDER ORCHID NOVICE & RESTRICTED MP SWISS PAIRS

Restricted

- 1st Neil Williams - Peter Fitzmaurice
- 2nd Louise & Michael Brassil

Novice

- 1st Claire Hughes - Cathi Bywater (8th overall)
- 2nd Dan Danton - Colin Davidson (9th overall)

GOLDEN WATTLE OPEN TEAMS

- 1st HILLS: Richard Hills - Chris Stead
Michael Cullen - John Brockwell
- 2nd BOOKALLIL: Marianne Bookallil - Michael Wilkinson
Stephen Fischer - Christy Geromboux
- 3rd D HOFFMAN: David Hoffman - Elizabeth Havas
Bernie Waters - Stephen Mendick

CANBERRA BELLS SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Stephen Williams - Jessica Brake
- 2nd David Hoffman - Elizabeth Havas
- 3rd Alison Farthing - Dorothy Jesner

FEDERATION ROSE NOVICE & RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

Restricted

- 1st Chris Crane - Caroline Dawson
- 2nd Andrew Kettle - Deborah Milner

Novice

- 1st Jeanette Harper - Gill Tidey (4th overall)
- 2nd Michael Randles - Benjamin Sadler (5th overall)

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CONGRESS

OPEN PAIRS

- 1st Liam Milne - James Coutts
- 2nd Michael Courtney - Paul Wyer

MIXED PAIRS

- 1st Michael Courtney - Rosie Don
- 2nd Peter Gill - Val Gardiner (NZ)
- 3rd Colin & Ann Baker

NEW ZEALAND TEAMS

SEMI-FINAL

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| REID: Martin Reid - Peter Newell | 104.09 |
| Liam Milne - James Coutts | |
| Justin Mill - Michael Ware | <i>defeated</i> |
| JACOB: Steph Jacob - Rebecca Wood | 71 |
| Wayne Burrows - Clair Miao | |
| STOUT: Graeme Stout - Jeff Miller | 92.31 |
| Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer | <i>defeated</i> |
| SPOONER: Andrew Spooner - Matt Smith | 61 |
| Nico Ranson - John McMahon | |

FINAL

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----------------|------|--------|
| STOUT | 156 | <i>defeated</i> | REID | 148.48 |
|-------|-----|-----------------|------|--------|

YOUTH TEST

(Delayed because the Australian Youth Team were playing the Semi Final of the Open Teams – well done!)

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----------------|----|-----|
| AUSTRALIA | 270 | <i>defeated</i> | NZ | 109 |
|-----------|-----|-----------------|----|-----|

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

NORTH-SOUTH

- 2nd Peter Gill - Val Gardiner (NZ)

EAST-WEST

- 2nd Ella Pattison - Michael Whibley

WORLD BRIDGE SERIES, ORLANDO

ROSENBLUM TEAMS (OPEN)

Qualifying (64 teams qualified)

- 9th McALLISTER: John McAllister - Roger Lee (USA)
Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung
Michael Whibley - Nabil Edgton
- 57th DALLEY: Paul Dalley - Ishmael Del'Monte
Ben Thompson --Russ Ekeblad (USA)
- 62nd HAFFER: Joe Haffer - Phil Markey
Matthias Felmy - Thomas Gotard (Germany)

Round of 64

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----------------|------------|-----|
| MAYBE | 96 | <i>defeated</i> | McALLISTER | 56 |
| PSZCZOLA | 149 | <i>defeated</i> | HAFFER | 77 |
| MUNICH SPURS | 116 | <i>defeated</i> | DALLEY | 113 |

RAND TEAMS (SENIORS)

Qualifying (31 teams, 16 qualified)

- 10th GRIZZLY KOALAS: Peter Buchen - Terry Brown
Paul Lavings - Robert Krochmalik
Michael Yuen - Nick Stock (Canada)

Round of 16

- | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----|
| MARILL | 124 | <i>defeated</i> | GRIZZLY KOALAS | 109 |
|--------|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----|

OPEN PAIRS

Semi-Final A

- 21st Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung (qualified)
- 76th Ben Thompson - Russ Ekeblad
- 93rd Paul Dalley - Ishmael Del'Monte

Semi-Final B (6 qualified to Final)

- 3rd Michael Whibley - Nabil Edgton

Final

- 27th Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung
- 43rd Michael Whibley - Nabil Edgton

WOMEN'S PAIRS

Semi Final

- 19th Diana Smart - Paula McLeish (qualified, did not finish)
- 22nd Anna St Clair - Kim Frazer

SENIORS' PAIRS

Semi-Final

- 7th Peter Buchen - Terry Brown (qualified)
- 43rd Paul Lavings - Robert Krochmalik

Final

- 27th Peter Buchen - Terry Brown

JOAN GERARD TROPHY (Consolation Pairs)

Joan Gerard Women

3rd Anna St Clair - Kim Frazer (22nd overall)

MIXED TEAMS

Qualifying (64 teams qualified)

34th CORNELL: Michael & Vivien Cornell
Ben & Jenny Thompson
88th FIFIROOS: Terry Brown - Liliane Kirchhoff (USA)
Peter & Kathy Buchen
93rd HARD YAKKA: Peter & Jane Reynolds
David & Paula McLeish

SPRING NATIONALS

17th - 25th October, Sydney

TWO MEN & A TRUCK RESTRICTED TEAMS

1st MIETZKE: Craig Mietzke - Denis Kristanda
Peter Bardos - David Emmerson
2nd MEYERS: Kit Meyers - Kerry Ryman
Catherine Else - Fiona Fawcett
3rd FEYDER: Robbie & Barry Feyder
Martin Brown - Gail McKenzie (*Best Novice Team*)

TBIB SPRING NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

QUALIFYING

1st HINGE: Simon Hinge - Stephen Lester
Ella Pattison - Nye Griffiths
2nd BURGESS: Stephen Burgess - Gabi Lorentz
Ron Klinger - Jonathan Free
Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings
3rd MACE: Brian Mace - Tom Jacob
Justin Williams - John Newman
4th BROWN: Vanessa Brown - Shane Harrison
Susan Humphries - William Jenner-O'Shea

SEMI FINALS

MACE	129	<i>defeated</i>	BURGESS	77.4
HINGE	160.8	<i>defeated</i>	BROWN	110

FINAL

HINGE	153.3	<i>defeated</i>	MACE	98
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DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS

1st Phil Markey - Michael Whibley
2nd Susan Humphries - William Jenner-O'Shea
3rd Maurits Van Der Vlugt - Andre Korenhof

TED CHADWICK RESTRICTED PAIRS

1st Martin Clear - Phillip Halloran
2nd Neil Williams - Rob Holgate
3rd Heidi Colenbrander - Ray Hurst

SPRING NATIONAL NOVICE PAIRS

1st Gail McKenzie - Martin Brown
2nd Jay Novak - Hugh Makin
3rd Maria Douglas - Mary Perrett

BOBBY EVANS SENIORS' TEAMS

QUALIFYING

1st BURGESS: Stephen Burgess - Gabi Lorentz
Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings
Kim Morrison - Paul Wyer
2nd BLOOM: Martin Bloom - Nigel Rosendorff
Jeanette Reitzer - Terry Brown
3rd FORDHAM: Peter Fordham - Chris Sundstrom
Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer
Barbara McDonald - Alan Walsh

FINAL

BURGESS	129.7	<i>defeated</i>	BLOOM	100
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LINDA STERN WOMEN'S TEAMS

QUALIFYING Pool A

1st GIBBONS (NZ): Jenna & Christine Gibbons
Stephanie Jacob - Rebecca Johnston
2nd TRAVIS: Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg
Margaret Bourke - Jane Reynolds
Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty

QUALIFYING Pool B

1st MUNDELL: Giselle Mundell - Avril Zets
Helene Pitt - Ruth Tobin
2nd TUCKER: Greer Tucker - Liz Sylvester
Eva Caplan - Anna St Clair

SEMI FINALS

TRAVIS	107	<i>defeated</i>	MUNDELL	33.1
GIBBONS	82.1	<i>defeated</i>	TUCKER	52

FINAL

GIBBONS	153.1	<i>defeated</i>	TRAVIS	97
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PENLINE MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1st Allison Stralow - Simon Hinge
2nd Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill
3rd Bina Kassam - Pauline Gumby

OPEN PLAYOFFS

SEMI FINALS

NEILL: Bruce Neill - Avi Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, Matthew Thomson - David Beauchamp 256.1
defeated
REYNOLDS: Peter Reynolds - David Appleton, Joe Haffer - Howard Melbourne, Stephen Fischer - David Morgan 200

HANS: Sartaj Hans - Peter Gill,
Andy Hung - Nabil Edgtton 303
defeated

THOMPSON: Ben Thompson - Renee Cooper, Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson, Shane Harrison - Andrew Peake 174.1

FINAL

HANS	277	<i>defeated</i>	NEILL	188.1
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GOLDEN WEST SWISS PAIRS

17-18th November, Mandurah, WA

1st Kaiping Chen - Fiske Warren
2nd Marie-France Merven - Nigel Dutton
3rd Trevor Fuller - Nick Cantatore



Winners of the Australian Open Team Playoff:
Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung, Nabil Edgtton, Peter Gill

WINNING IN NEW ZEALAND

Daily Bulletin 4 from the New Zealand National Congress featured this article about Liam Milne and James Coutts, both Kiwis now residing in Australia.

THERE MUST BE A REASON

why a relatively young pair can win the NZ Pairs in such convincing fashion. These three hands will give you a clue.

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

Liam Milne played in 3♠, North. The defence started with the ♦K, then switched to the ♠J, which Liam allowed to win. The spade continuation went to the Queen and Ace.

Liam cashed two high hearts and exited with his ♦10 to endplay East in this situation:

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

Having won the ♦A, if East plays a heart he concedes a ruff and discard, while a club solves that suit (given East's initial double). A diamond lead gives access to dummy's winners; if West discards, declarer can shed his clubs, whereas if West ruffs, Liam can use the ♠10 to reach dummy's diamonds.



Liam Milne and James Coutts

James Coutts was in the spotlight on the next hand.

Dealer East ♠ J 8 7 6 ♥ A 9 6 2 ♦ 3 ♣ A J 9 6 ♠ K ♥ J 4 3 ♦ Q 10 8 6 5 ♣ 10 4 3 2	♠ A 9 5 3 2 ♥ K 8 7 ♦ A 9 ♣ Q 7 5	♠ Q 10 4 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ K J 7 4 2 ♣ K 8	West Pass All Pass	North 2♣ (Majors)	East 1NT (weak) Pass	South Pass 4♠
---	--	--	------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------

A diamond was led to the King and Ace. James Coutts cashed the ♠A, bringing down West's King. That ♠K, together with the diamond play at trick 1 (the ♦K, not the Queen), marked the remaining key points with East.

James abandoned trumps to play accordingly. He ruffed a diamond and led a small club from dummy towards his ♣Q. This guaranteed three club winners, with the long club providing a discard of his potential heart loser. East won his ♣K and two trumps, but that was all.

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

James, South, received the lead of the ♣K, followed by the ♣Q. The heart continuation was taken by the Ace, and three rounds of spades followed with the finesse succeeding.

Now James had to negotiate the diamond suit. He weighed up his knowledge:

- East held 3 spades.
- Although West made a negative double, East was happy to bid 2♥ when he didn't have to, so it seemed likely he held 4 hearts.
- If West had held 5 clubs, surely he would have raised clubs rather than making a negative double with only 3 hearts, so it was more likely that East held 5 clubs.

That left space for only 1 diamond in East's hand, so James played the ♦A, bringing down East's ♦10, then finessed the ♦9 on the next round.

YOUTH ACCOLADES

This short article appeared in Daily Bulletin #8 from the New Zealand Nationals. This was written by the NZ Bulletin editor.

It was with some regret that I noticed the departure of the SPOONER team at the end of the NZ Teams semi-finals. I knew none of these guys before this week but, having watched them several times as they progressed, I was immensely impressed by their demeanour at the table. I was even more impressed by the number of opposing players who commented to me about what sporting and courteous players they were.

Even facing the disappointment of their exit from the Teams, they still managed to produce a hand for the bulletin. From the Teams quarter-finals:

♠ K 9 8 5 2
♥ Q 9 4
♦ Q 8 4 2
♣ 8

♠ A Q J 10 6
♥ A K 8
♦ 9 5
♣ K 5 2

♠ 7 4
♥ J 6 2
♦ A J 10 7 3
♣ J 10 9

♠ 3
♥ 10 7 5 3
♦ K 6
♣ A Q 7 6 4 3

East was playing in 3NT X, and the ♥4 was led. Dummy's Jack scored and declarer played a spade to the Queen and King. North exited the ♥Q to declarer's Ace and the ♠A was cashed while South discarded an encouraging ♣3. Declarer then led the ♦9 and North hopped with the Queen, in front of dummy's ♦A-J-10. Declarer ducked, and North continued a heart to the King. Declarer cashed his two spade tricks, throwing a club from dummy before playing a diamond to the Jack and (a surprising) King. South cashed the ♥10 and ♣A before exiting the ♣Q to declarer's King. Declarer's remaining ♣5 was beaten by South's ♣7 for 3NT to go two down.

The SPOONER team was our Australian Youth Team, comprising Matt Smith – Andrew Spooner, John McMahon – Nico Ranson. According to my informant, the unnamed North, who flew with the ♦Q to give declarer a losing option, was Matt Smith.

And congratulations to these four young Australians for being such ideal representatives for our game and our country.



*Winners of the New Zealand Open Teams:
Jeff Miller, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Graeme Stout.
On the last board they needed to bid a slam to win!*

SPRING NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

I was fortunate enough to be on the winning team for the recent TBIB Spring National Open Teams in Sydney. My partner was Simon Hinge, with team-mates Ella Pattison and Nye Griffiths.

Starting well, but with two bad losses along the way, by the last day of the qualifying we were in good form, winning the first two matches. With one match remaining, we were in 4th position behind BROWN, Vanessa Brown – Shane Harrison, Susan Humphries – Will Jenner-O'Shea, 117.68, MACE, Brian Mace – Tom Jacob (NZ), Justin Williams – John Newman, 113.03, TRAVIS, Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Therese Tully – Richard Ward, 111.37. Our score was 110.28. In the last match we played BROWN, and our 16.08 VP win left us in 1st place, when TRAVIS lost badly to BURGESS (Stephen Burgess – Gabi Lorentz, Paul Lavings – Robert Krochmalik, Jonathan Free – Ron Klinger), leaving TRAVIS out of contention and BURGESS in 2nd place. MACE held on against HAFFER, losing narrowly to retain 3rd while, thanks to their comfortable lead, much eroded in the last two matches, BROWN took the last semi-final place.

Pattison – Griffiths had some remarkable results, bringing in IMPs at badly needed times, through the qualifying, semi-final and final. Perhaps the most extraordinary was in Round 8 of the Qualifying:

Round 8, Board 7

Dealer South ♠ A Q J 8 4 3
All Vul ♥ 5
♦ A 9 8 5 4 3
♣ void

♠ 9 5 2
♥ K J 10 9 4 3
♦ 10 7
♣ K Q

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

♠ 10
♥ Q 7
♦ K Q J 6 2
♣ J 6 5 4 3

The bidding at our table:

West	North	East	South
2♥	3♥	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	5♥	4NT
			All Pass

On this comparatively tame bidding, North led ♦A, so Hinge was able to claim 13 tricks, setting up the club suit after drawing trumps, and discarding three spades from hand on the clubs. (A spade lead and continuation would have led to two down.)

The real action came in the room where Griffiths – Pattison sat North-South. After a highly competitive auction, North came to rest in 7♦ X, making, when East guessed to lead ♣A. Griffiths was able to set up the spades, discard dummy's hearts and claim 13 tricks for +2330; this went well with the +710 in the other room; 22 IMPs.

Thanks to our last-minute rise to the top, we were able to choose our opponents for the semi-final so, naturally enough, chose our last opponents, BROWN.



Winners of the Spring National Open Teams:
Simon Hinge, Stephen Lester, Ella Pattison, Nye Griffiths

Semi Final, Board 26 (final set)

- Dealer East ♠ K 7
- All Vul ♥ 10 9 7
- ♦ Q J 9 6 3
- ♣ 9 8 6

- ♠ J 10 3 2
- ♥ A K J 3
- ♦ 8 7
- ♣ Q J 2

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

- ♠ A Q 6 5 4
- ♥ Q 6 5 4
- ♦ 4
- ♣ A 5 3

West Lester	North	East Hinge	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
All Pass		2♦	Double

Semi-Final, Board 15 (final set)

- Dealer South ♠ J 9 5
- NS Vul ♥ K J 6 5 3
- ♦ 8
- ♣ K 10 5 3

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

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

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

West Lester	North Humphries	East Hinge	South J-O'Shea
		Double	Pass
1♦	1♥	2♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦ (2)	Pass
3NT (1)	Pass	6♦	Pass
4NT (3)	Pass		All Pass

1. Waiting
2. Minorwood
3. Two key cards, no trump Q

Lead: ♣10

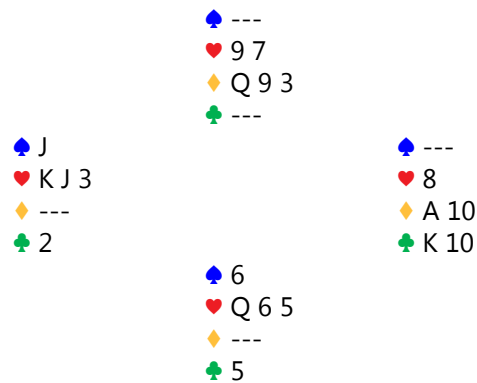
Not feeling so comfortable about being in slam on this deal, I had little choice but to duck the lead to my ♣Q, which won. I suspected from the lead that Humphries had a heart suit headed by the K-J, giving Jenner-O'Shea a singleton ♥Q. This was to influence my play later in the hand.

I played a diamond to the Queen, noting Humphries' ♦8, and my gut feeling was that it was a singleton, but I didn't follow my gut, instead playing a diamond to the King in hand. Three rounds of spades followed, with the suit breaking 3-3. Now I erred by playing the 13th spade. Jenner-O'Shea erred, too, in discarding a club. If he ruffs my spade, he is saved from the forthcoming throw in. I made no mistake now, playing a heart to the Ace, a diamond to the Ace and a fourth diamond, throwing Jenner-O'Shea in with his diamond trick to allow me two heart discards on the enforced club lead into the ♣A-J. 11 IMPs to HINGE when the contract at the other table was 5♦, making 11 tricks.

Simon Hinge showed his form on the next deal:

South's takeout double is perhaps marginally too weak for the action, and North had little choice but to leave the double in. South led the ♥4, and Hinge, playing carefully, won the ♥A to advance the ♦7, which won when it was not covered. The ♦8 was covered by the Jack and won in hand with the King. A club to the Queen followed, then a spade towards hand, as North rose the ♠K, and then played a spade to South's Queen. South cashed the ♣A, Hinge throwing dummy's ♣J, then the ♠A as North shed her last club and Hinge ruffed with a low trump.

This was the five-card endgame:



When Hinge played ♣10 and North ruffed, North was endplayed into leading a heart into dummy's tenace (or a diamond, with declarer drawing trumps), and quietly folded her cards; nine tricks, +380 and 13 IMPs when NS collected +500 from 3♦ X at the other table.

Winning the semi-final led to our playing the final against last year's victors, MACE. The second session gave us a comfortable lead, which we retained for the rest of the final.

Thanks to Nico Ranson, who got us under way well when he subbed for Nye in the first two rounds of the qualifying.

Stephen Lester

SPRING NATIONALS 2019

The dates for the Spring National Championships in 2019 are now Wednesday 16th October to Thursday 24th October 2019.

(The dates changed from those initially advertised because the WBF changed the dates for the World Championships.)

With 16 teams entered, the format was modified into two 8-team fields, playing a 7-match round robin. The top two teams in each section then played a 40 board semi-final while the remaining teams played two more matches as one field. Whilst this format worked for my team, I suspect those who do not qualify find little enjoyment in playing the additional two matches for no 'benefit'. Perhaps some thought could be given to there being some reward at the end of those two matches?

TRAVIS (Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke – Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil – Jodi Tutty) defeated MUNDELL (Giselle Mundell – Avril Zets, Helene Pitt – Ruth Tobin), comfortable winners of Pool B, in one semi-final, while Pool A winners, GIBBONS (Christine & Jenna Gibbons, Steph Jacob – Rebecca Johnston) defeated TUCKER (Greer Tucker – Liz Sylvester, Anna St Clair – Eva Caplan) in the other. GIBBONS (from New Zealand) led throughout the final, and were deserving winners.

Early in the final, I held the following hand:

♠ Q 8 5 3
♥ A 8 6 4
♦ A Q 10 5 2
♣ void

I opened 1♦, LHO overcalled 1♥ and partner doubled, showing four spades. Now RHO bid 5♣. Much as it might be tempting to bid, playing a 4-4 fit at the 5-level is not recommended as winning bridge, so I doubled to show interest in bidding if partner wanted to do so. Candice held 12 HCP, but a 4-4-3-2, so knew to pass. 5♣ X went down one trick, but we had got our plus score on the hand. The Gibbons play 4-card Major openings, with canape bids, so reached the 4-4 heart fit, which

failed (given there was a 5-0 break!).

Jenna Gibbons played in 4♥ with the following hands:

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

It was only a matter of overtricks, but Jenna still played this trump suit technically correctly. Rather than leading the ♥A, she led a small heart from the East hand, towards dummy's ♥J-9-8-4. If South held the doubleton King-10 or Queen-10 or 10-x, there would now be only one heart loser, which is exactly what the situation was. Candice held ♥Q-10 so, when she won the Queen, Jenna could now lead the ♥J, finessing my King and dropping the ♥10. This is better odds than playing for the doubleton K-Q, especially when my hand (North) had opened the bidding.

In an early match there was an interesting hand as both declarer and defender:

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

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The winners of the Linda Stern Women's Teams at the Spring Nationals, Sydney - from New Zealand: Rebecca Johnston, Jenna Gibbons, Christine Gibbons, Steph Jacob, with David Stern

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

When South chose to double, her spade suit was 'lost' in the auction. Over Candice's 1♠ response, I chose to reverse, overbidding a little. The 2NT rebid was Blackout, showing a weak hand; she was happy to leave me space to describe my hand more. There were several better places to play than our final 3NT contract, but on a non-spade lead it had chances.

North led the ♣4, which was won in dummy, and a heart was led to the ♥Q, winning. Not knowing that there were four club tricks, along with the three hearts and ♦A, and presumably the ♠K, Candice tried for diamond tricks, leading the ♦8 which ran to South's ♦K. South switched to the ♠Q, won with the King. Now when declarer led the ♦9, North had to be awake – playing the ♦10. If they played low, when known to hold the 10, declarer must play the ♦A – because either South had the King-Queen doubleton, or North had four diamonds ♦K-10-7-2 and they can't be picked up. There's that adage – "play the card you are known to hold". If North played the ♦10, then declarer would have had an awkward decision to make – whether South has the King-Queen, or whether North

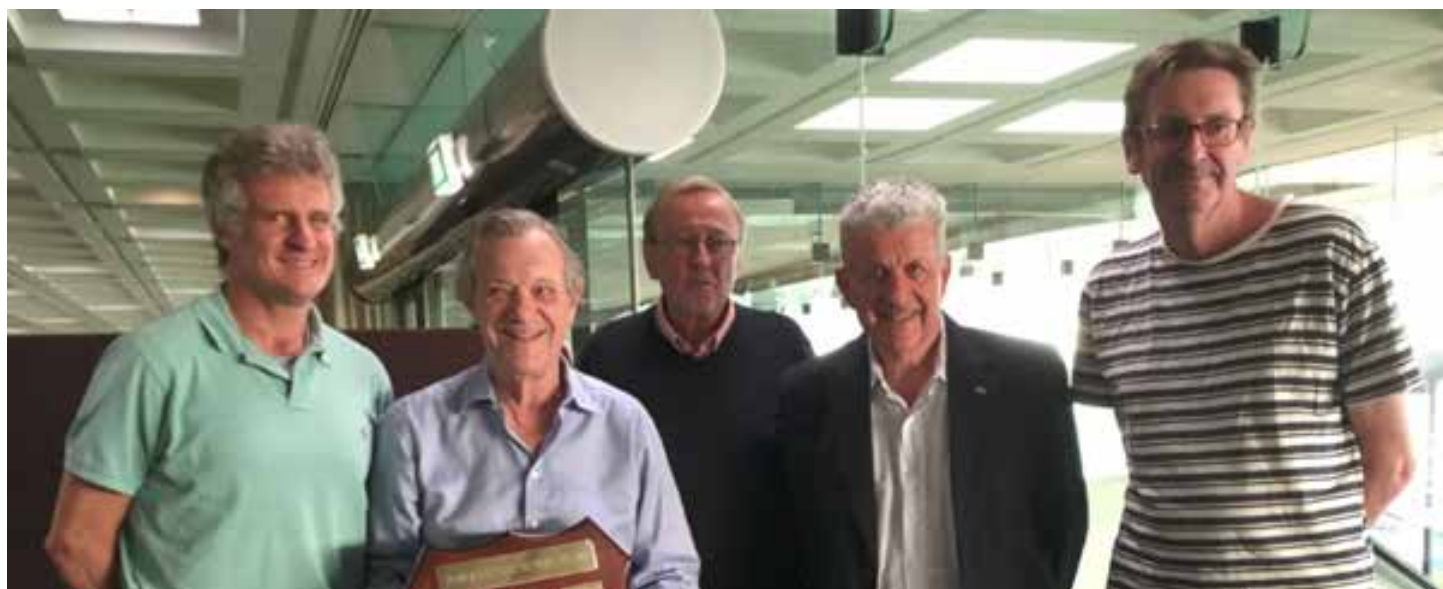
held the ♦Q-10-x.

We played this hand in 4♥ by East, which fails on the spade lead. Try 4♥ by West, with North having overcalled spades:

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

North leads the ♣K, getting a count card from South, and seeing West's Queen. At trick 2, North's best switch is the ♥K. Declarer needs to duck the ♥K, ensuring that South does not get the lead easily. If they do, they can switch to a spade while they still have trump control.

Having ducked the ♥K, the contract is now cold. Apart from any switch being beneficial to declarer, now West can cash the ♥A, then take the diamond finesse, keeping control of the hand, especially the spade suit.



Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams champions, Spring Nationals, Sydney: Michael Evans (Bobby Evans' son), Gabi Lorentz, Paul Lavings, Robert Krochmalik, Stephen Burgess (absent: Kim Morrison, Paul Wyer)

2019 OPEN PLAYOFF

After four days of bridge, 128-board Quarter Finals and Semi Finals, NEILL (Bruce Neill – Avi Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, David Beauchamp – Matthew Thomson) and HANS (Sartaj Hans – Peter Gill, Andy Hung – Nabil Edgtton) battled it out to become the Australian Open Team for 2019, in another 128-board match – eight 16-board sessions.

The match blew open during sets 3-5, when HANS out-scored NEILL by 62-7, 54-9 and 49-6, building a 140 IMP lead, although NEILL fought back in set 6, winning it 80-9. However, when HANS led by more than 110 IMPs with 16 boards remaining, the NEILL team conceded.

Andy Hung and Nabil Edgtton handled this deal very well:

Dealer West ♠ 8 7 5 4
EW Vul ♥ 10
 ♦ 10 9 8 5 4
 ♣ 10 8 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
Edgtton	Gumby	Hung	Lazer
1♠	Pass	2NT (1)	4♥
Pass (2)	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠ (3)	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Andy Hung's 2NT bid showed a game-forcing spade raise. After the 4♥ overcall, Nabil Edgtton's Pass was forcing (given they were in a game-forcing auction). Hung was a little stuck, rebidding 4♠ although he had a few extra values. Now when Edgtton bid 5♠ he showed a much stronger hand than if he had bid immediately over 4♠, but he also asked his partner for control of the heart suit (the suit bid by an opponent) for slam. Naturally, Edgtton was thinking of 6♠, so was probably surprised when Hung bid 6NT, protecting his ♥K.

6NT is cold, whereas the 6♣ contract reached at the other table suffered the indignity of the ♥A lead, a heart ruff and then a spade ruff!

Making bids like 6NT is winning bridge, and it was a pleasure to watch.

Andy Hung has provided this hand from the final where he realised that he could make dummy squeeze declarer!

West (dummy)

♠ K J 10 4 3
♥ K 6
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 8 4 2

South

♠ 7 2
♥ A J 9 8
♦ A 10 8
♣ Q J 6 5

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣ (1)	Pass	3NT	All Pass

(1) 3♣ was checkback, and 3NT denied 3 spades or 4 hearts

The lead was the ♣Q – 2 – 3 – King. Declarer cashed the ♠A then led a spade to dummy's ♠10 and North's ♠Q. North returned the ♣10, won by declarer's Ace. Now he exited with his ♣7 – Jack – 8 – ♥7 (discouraging). The position was:

West (dummy)

♠ K J 4
♥ K 6
♦ 7 5 4
♣ ---

South

♠ ---
♥ A J 9 8
♦ A 10 8
♣ 6

Declarer's distribution was now known to be 2-3-4-4.

Assuming the ♥K was an entry to dummy, declarer had four spade tricks, one heart, and three clubs. I held 12 HCP, dummy had 7, and declarer had 18-19, which leaves partner with a maximum of 3 HCP. Since he had already shown up with the ♠Q, this left at most the ♦J for partner.

Switching to a low diamond now to partner's ♦J and declarer's ♦Q would be no good, as that would present declarer with his ninth trick.

As the ♣6 was a threat card to declarer, he figured he could force declarer to cash those spades by switching to a heart. Declarer would have to rise ♥K and cash the three spades. But which four cards could he keep? If he kept a club, he would have only three cards left in the red suits, meaning he would have to open a red suit – and Andy would be discarding after him.

Trick 6: ♥9 – King – 2 – 3
Trick 7: ♠King – 6 – ♥5 – ♦8
Trick 8: ♠J – 8 – ♦3 – ♥8
Trick 9: ♠4 – ♥4 – ♦9 – ?

Trick 9 was when a club could be discarded, because declarer has kept his club winner. Declarer had discarded a heart and two diamonds, so his last four cards were one heart, two diamonds, one club.

He led a diamond to the King and Ace, but now the the ♥A could be cashed, dropping declarer's ♥Q, and the other heart was now a winner, for one down.

Declarer also realised he was going to be squeezed and did well to discard a heart on his first discard.

The hand was how Andy had envisioned it at trick 5.

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

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

Barbara Travis

The Mid-Term meeting of the ABF Council was held in Sydney in October. With the support of Council, the ABF Management Committee continues to assist building the infrastructure to support clubs through their state/ territory body. This is mainly through the provision of human resources to help the states and territories in the areas of marketing, teaching, directing, technology and youth development. I thank all the ABF Council for the contributions they make to the administration of Australian Bridge.

In our quest to attract more players and create a positive environment, clubs, states, territories and the ABF rely heavily on volunteers. Wednesday December 5th is International Volunteer Day. I encourage you all to thank a volunteer for the time they give to building the Australian Bridge community.

I am pleased to report on the generosity of Australian Bridge players in their support of the Drought Relief Appeal. Around the country, raffles were held, table fees for the week donated and fundraising jars placed in clubs. At the request of the Chair of the NSWBA Council, Richard Douglas, the ABF agreed to contribute by waiving masterpoint fees for sessions that were run to support the appeal. Congratulations to all clubs who participated or have an event planned in the near future. I hope to be able to give you a grand total of the monies raised in the ABF Newsletter in February.

Since 2004, the ABF has coordinated the NeuRA Bridge for Brain Research Challenge. This challenge promotes the benefits of playing bridge, whilst helping raise crucial funds required for research to find treatments and ultimately a cure for Alzheimer's and other dementias. I am delighted to report that the 2018 Challenge raised \$45,349, bringing the total raised since 2004 to \$603,110. The generous donations, from both individuals and clubs, will assist NeuRA to continue the vital research into Alzheimer's disease. A full copy of the 2018 report can be found on the ABF website.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Management Committee please email: abf_pres@gmail.com. Have a relaxing holiday season with your family and friends and a Happy New Year to you all.

Allison Stralow, ABF President



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MAKING CONTRACTS FROM THIN AIR

These two hands come from the IBPA Bulletin, March 2018.

While Australians play in the Gold Coast Congress, many Europeans play in the European Winter Games, including the Zimmermann Cup. The following two hands from the Zimmermann Cup demonstrate superb declarer play technique.

Dealer South ♠ J 8 6
EW Vul ♥ K J 9 7
♦ J 10 2
♣ K 8 7

♠ A K 10 7 5
♥ Q
♦ K Q 6
♣ A J 10 6

♠ Q 9 2
♥ A 6
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ Q 9 5 2

♠ 4 3
♥ 10 8 5 4 3 2
♦ A 9 7
♣ 4 3

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Palma</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Nystrom</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led the ♦4. Declarer won with dummy's ♦K and played the ♥Q. North put up the ♥K and must have been pleased when it held the trick. He returned the ♦10 and declarer won with the ♦A, played three rounds of spades, ruffing, and exited with a heart to South's ♥A.

When South exited with a diamond (a club was essential), declarer won with dummy's ♦Q and played a spade. Suddenly North's two certain trump tricks had been reduced to one. He could pitch a club, but so would declarer, who would then ruff a spade, cross to dummy with a club and play another club for +420.

And here's a hand where Zia managed to make a contract in which others failed:

Dealer South ♠ Q J 9
EW Vul ♥ J 9 7
♦ A 8 7 6 4 2
♣ 6

♠ 7 5
♥ A Q 8 2
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ 10 8 2

♠ A 4
♥ K 10 6 5 3
♦ Q 3
♣ A J 7 4

♠ K 10 8 6 3 2
♥ 4
♦ K
♣ K Q 9 5 3

At two tables, the auction and play were the same:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♦J. Declarer won in hand with the ♦K and played a spade to the ♠Q, East winning with the ♠A and accurately switching to a small heart. West won with the ♥Q and continued with the ♥A, declarer ruffing and playing the ♣K. East won the ♣A and returned a spade and declarer could manage only nine tricks, -50.

Zia's auction:

West	North <i>Meckstroth</i>	East	South <i>Zia</i>
			1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Double	All Pass

Once again, West led the ♦J. Time stood still as Zia calculated – eventually, he put up dummy's ♦A and played a club. East found the fine play of ducking, but to no avail. Declarer won, ruffed a club with the ♠Q, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club with the ♠9, ruffed another diamond and ruffed another club, West pitching the ♥8. Declarer ruffed another diamond and played the ♠K. He could not be prevented from making an overtrick, for +690. (Losing just one spade and one heart.)



*Two Men & a Truck Restricted Teams winners at the Spring Nationals, Sydney:
Peter Bardos, David Emmerson, Richard Kuipers (Two Men & a Truck), Craig Mietzke, Denis Kristanda*

COUP 11: THE SMOTHER PLAY

Reproduced with the permission of Brian Senior.

Though the name does not include the word 'coup', a Smother Play clearly belongs to that category of play technique.

It is another piece of bridge magic in which a defender's 'sure' trump trick vanishes into thin air. Like a number of the coups we have seen recently, the Smother Play is a rare beast, but magic tricks have a fascination for us all and it can come as quite a shock to the defender on the receiving end.

Dealer South ♠ J 7 4 3
All Vul ♥ A 9 3
 ♦ A K 6
 ♣ K 8 4

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

♠ A K 8
♥ Q J 10 8 5
♦ Q J 2
♣ A 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	4♥

6♥ is a borderline contract which will succeed whenever declarer can avoid a loser in one of the major suits.

She wins the ♦10 lead in hand and advances the ♥Q. It holds the trick so declarer continues with the ♥J. When East shows out, West is marked with a trump trick so it appears that declarer requires the ♠Q to fall under the Ace-King.

Declarer abandons the trump suit and cashes the top spades – no luck. Is there any hope remaining? Declarer cashes the remaining diamond winners then plays three rounds of clubs, ruffing.

Now she exits with the losing spade. East wins the ♠Q and has to return a minor-suit at trick 12. Declarer is down to the ♥10-8 and dummy to the ♠J and ♥A. Declarer ruffs, performs, and what is West to do? With the ♥K-7 remaining, if she plays the ♥K, dummy over-ruffs and declarer makes the last trick in hand. If West under-ruffs, dummy's spade is discarded and the ♥A wins trick 13. The sure trump trick has been smothered. Declarer needed some good fortune to balance the bad. Had East held a fourth spade, she could have led it and West could over-ruff declarer while dummy had to follow suit.

Brian Senior



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AN AUSTRALIAN SMOTHER PLAY

The IBPA Bulletin of January 2017 reported this smother play executed by Paul Lavings:

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

♠ A Q 4
♥ A K 7
♦ A 10 7 4
♣ Q J 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			3♠

West led the ♦K. Paul Lavings, South, won and played a low club to the ♣10 and ♣K. East switched to a low heart, won by declarer's ♥A. South returned the ♣Q to the ♣A and East played another heart, won with the ♥K. South cashed the ♣J, pitching a diamond from dummy and crossed to dummy with a heart ruff.

Next came the ♠J – 3 – 4 – 8, and the ♠2 – 5 – Q – ♦2. South exited with a diamond to the ♦J. This was now the position:

♠ 10 9	♠ 10 9
♥ --	♥ --
♦ 9	♦ K 6
♣ --	♥ --

♠ --	♠ K 6
♥ Q	♥ --
♦ Q	♦ --
♣ 7	♣ 8

♠ A
♥ --
♦ 10 7
♣ --

West cashed the ♦Q but, whatever came next, dummy ruffed and East's ♠K was doomed, whether by ruffing and being over-ruffed, or by under-ruffing dummy. Lavings had pulled off a rare Smother Coup.

Of the 13 pairs in 3♠, only two made it. West needed to retain the ♦2 to give East a diamond ruff.



Repeat winners of the Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs at the Spring Nationals, Sydney: Martin Clear and Phillip Halloran with Marilyn Chadwick

A NERVE-TESTING DEFENCE

Teams. East dealer. Nil Vulnerable.

North

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

East

♠ Q 8 6
♥ A K 2
♦ K J
♣ 9 8 7 4 2

West

2♥ (2)
4♥
Pass

North

3♥ (3)
4♠
5♠

East

1♣
Double
5♥
All Pass

South

1NT (1)
3♠
Double

- (1) 15-18, balanced
- (2) Natural, not forcing
- (3) Transfer to spades

West leads the ♥J – 5 – King – 3.
What next?

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

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

♠ Q 8 6
♥ A K 2
♦ K J
♣ 9 8 7 4 2

♠ K 10
♥ Q 9 3
♦ A Q 6 4
♣ A J 10 5

Contract: 5♠ by South.
Lead: ♥J.

If East returns a heart or switches to a club, declarer wins and plays the ♠K and ♠A. Then a diamond will pick up the whole diamond suit and South makes 11 tricks.

Switching to the ♦K will work if West has the ♦A, but there is a better move. It works if West has the ♦A and may work in other situations.

The great Tim Seres switched to the ♦J at trick 2! What was South to do? Playing the ♦Q would look silly if West won and gave East a diamond ruff. Rising with the ♦A would be successful if trumps were 2-1 or if West had all three.

South rose with the ♦A and played the ♠K. One down.

It is true that if West had the ♦A, switching to the ♦K would produce two down if East can ruff the third diamond without being over-ruffed, but your number 1 aim at teams is to defeat the contract.

Ron Klinger

Ron Klinger wrote up this hand for the IPBA Bulletin, July 2018, titled "A Hunting for Kings". It demonstrates how an expert analyses a hand to find a way to deflect declarer in a cold contract. Perhaps Charles had read the previous article?!

Dealer South ♠ A Q 8 5
Both Vul ♥ Q 10 6
♦ 6
♣ A Q 9 6 3

♠ 3 2
♥ A K 5 4 3 2
♦ J 7 3
♣ K J

West

1♥
Pass

North

2♣
4♠

East

Pass
All Pass

South

Pass
2♠

West led the ♥A – 6 – 7 (low like) – 9, and continued with the ♥K – 10 – 8 – Jack. What next?

Try counting the points around the table. The deal comes from a Butler Pairs at the NSW Bridge Association:

Dealer South ♠ A Q 8 5
Both Vul ♥ Q 10 6
♦ 6
♣ A Q 9 6 3

♠ 3 2
♥ A K 5 4 3 2
♦ J 7 3
♣ K J

♠ K 7
♥ 8 7
♦ Q 10 9 8 5 4
♣ 7 4 2

♠ J 10 9 6 4
♥ J 9
♦ A K 2
♣ 10 8 5

West has 12 HCP and dummy has 14 HCP. Declarer, a passed hand, figures to have about 9-11 HCP. That leaves 3-5 HCP for East, and so West cannot expect East to produce the ♠K and the ♦A. With clubs favourably placed for declarer, there seems to be no genuine chance for the defence to beat 4♠.

You know the clubs are lying well for declarer, but declarer does not know that. At trick 3, Charles McMahon switched to the ♣J! To declarer, that looked like a singleton or top of a doubleton. Since West had opened the bidding without the ♣K, West figured to have the ♠K, or so declarer thought. Accordingly, South won the ♣J shift with the Ace, crossed to the ♦A and led the ♠J – 3 – 5 – King. That was three tricks for the defence and the ♣K made it four, one off!

Ron Klinger

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HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

HAND 1
 ♠ 10 9 2
 ♥ A K 9 5 3
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ A J 2

♠ A Q J 8 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ K 7 5 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥ (2 key cards)	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West leads ♦J. What is your plan?

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

♠ K Q J 10 2
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ A 7 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	5♠

West leads ♦10. What is your plan?

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

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

♠ K 4 3
 ♥ A Q 10 9 8
 ♦ 7 6
 ♣ 7 5 3

♠ Q J 5
 ♥ K 7 6 3
 ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ K J 9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♦	1♥	3NT
All Pass			

West leads the ♥J – 2 – Q... What is your plan?

DON'T WASTE YOUR ENTRY

From *Australian Bridge (magazine)*, March 2018.
www.australianbridge.com

It's a 'can't-lose' situation when you try playing a deal that many experts got wrong. This is from the Blue Ribbon Pairs final in Honolulu:

♠ K J 10 4 3 2
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A 5 3

Vulnerable against not, you open 1♠ in third seat. After LHO overcalls 3♦, partner bids 3♣. Do you go to game? In general, you don't push for close games at Matchpoints. Here, where you might have had a much worse hand, I think you have enough to go on. Your Aces, 10s, good 6-card suit and, most importantly, the singleton diamond, are all valuable. You bid 4♠ and everyone passes.

The opening lead is the ♦K, and you see:

♠ Q 9 8 5
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ A J 5
 ♣ 10 6 4

♠ K J 10 4 3 2
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A 5 3

It looks like you have two clubs and the ♠A to lose, plus a guess for the ♥Q.

At half the tables, declarer won the ♦A and played a spade to the ♠K, all following. After East won the next spade, he shifted to clubs. (You shouldn't return a diamond – declarer just discards a club loser, allowing the ♦J to be established as a winner – for a second club discard. This is a loser-on-loser play.)

Do you like this line of declarer play? Let's say you win the club switch with the ♣A (maybe after ducking a round). Now what? You would like to 'strip the hand' and throw them in with the last club, to force them to lead hearts for you – then you won't need to guess who has the ♥Q. So, you cross to dummy in trumps and ruff the second diamonds. Oops. You can't get back to dummy to ruff that last diamond. (You could cross to dummy's ♥K or use dummy's last trump, but that defeats the purpose of the planned throw-in.)

Way back at trick 2, declarer should ruff a diamond in hand. Then he plays a trump and has the entries to eliminate the diamond suit. East can take the ♠A, but declarer can cross to dummy with another trump to ruff the last diamond. Eventually the defence is thrown in with the third club, having to open up the hearts or give declarer a ruff-and-discard.

The declarers who played a trump at trick 2 no longer had the entries for the 100% line of play. Half of the experts in the Blue Ribbon Pairs final failed to find the easy elimination line. How do I know? I kibitzed the deal at every table to write an article about the hand.

If you failed to ruff the diamonds, you could still recover by guessing the ♥Q, but why guess when you have a sure thing?

Larry Cohen

MY FAVOURITE HAND by Susan Humphries

When I was asked to write up my favourite hand, it took me a while to think of one of merit that also had a nice background story. I think so many bridge players could come up with five of their worst hands before they can come up with a good one!

On the hand below I sat South playing with Andi Boughey. We were playing a teams match in New Zealand against Jeter Liu (West) and John Wang (East) who a couple of months previously were my teammates when we won the 2017 NZ Open Interprovincial Championships (I played with Steph Jacob). The NZ Interprovincials are the equivalent of the Interstate Teams in Australia. This time we were facing each other at the Tauranga Congress.

Dealer South ♠ A J
 EW Vul ♥ A Q 7 2
 ♦ K 10 8 7
 ♣ K Q 10

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

♠ K 6 3
 ♥ K 9 5
 ♦ A 6 5 2
 ♣ A J 8

As dealer I opened a normal strong 1NT and quickly found myself declaring 6NT. Andi put down a lovely dummy and wished me luck as Jeter led the ♣6. As I surveyed the hand and started to count my tricks I was feeling like this hand should not be a problem – 2 spades + 3 hearts + 2 diamonds + 3 clubs = 10 top tricks and many chances for two more. Diamonds stood out as the suit to provide at least one more trick, and it could be two more with ♦Q-J doubleton, or the singleton ♦Q or ♦J with RHO.

I won the club and played the ♦A and a diamond and... my heart fell. My contract was not looking so hopeful now. Luckily, I have had it ingrained in me: DON'T GIVE UP, look for Plan B. I had to lose one diamond for sure and I would not be getting any extra trick from diamonds. So, even if hearts were 3-3, I would still need the spade finesse.

I let RHO win the second diamond and he returned the ♥3 – 5 – 10 to dummy's Q. That was odd - why didn't he simply return a club? Now I realised that it was time to see if this contract had any chance, by taking the spade finesse.

I led a club back to my hand - "That is why RHO didn't return a club, he didn't have any!" I thought - as RHO pitched a spade. Now I led a spade to the Jack, which held.

I now had 11 tricks. If hearts were 3-3, I had 12 tricks but I thought, "Is there any other possibility to make my contract?" What if RHO held four hearts and four diamonds? He would not be able to guard them both! I have to admit that squeezes fascinate me, but I am not at the skill level yet where I can see them clearly (BridgeMaster 2000 is helping me to improve). What was RHO's shape? If I needed him to have four hearts and four diamonds, 4-4-4-1 was possible. I cashed the ♠A, ♦K and ♣K, on which RHO pitched a spade, leaving this four-card ending:

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

♠ K
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ 6
 ♣ ---

I played a heart back to my hand. And now it was time for the squeeze card, the ♠K, on which I pitched the diamond from dummy. My RHO was looking very uncomfortable, and I now had a big grin on my face: "Got you!"

If he threw his diamond, my ♦6 was the twelfth trick. If he discarded a heart, dummy's long heart would become a winner. Jeter Liu (East) had a big grin on his face and said, "Very well played". I was so honoured by that comment, as we were teammates previously but opponents in this moment – however the beauty of bridge is that we can all enjoy it when someone plays a hand well. It was a flat board, but that memory of excitement and encouragement from my opponent will stay with me.

Susan Humphries



Michael Whibley and Phil Markey, who won the Dick Cummings Open Pairs, Sydney



*Best Novice Team in the Two Men & a Truck Restricted Teams at the Spring Nationals, Sydney:
 Robbie Feyder, Martin Brown, Gail McKenzie, Barry Feyder
 (3rd overall in the Restricted field)*

ENGLISH BEAUTIES

These are two hands from the English Summer Festival, held in August 2018.

Dealer East ♠ Q J 8 2
EW Vul ♥ 9 7 6 2
 ♦ J 10
 ♣ K 7 2

♠ 5 4 3
♥ A Q 4
♦ A K Q 4 2
♣ 6 3

♠ K 6
♥ K J 10 8
♦ 7
♣ A 10 9 8 5 4

♠ A 10 9 7
♥ 5 3
♦ 9 8 6 5 3
♣ Q J

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♠ (4th suit GF)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

If South leads a spade, declarer has nine immediate tricks. However, given that East had shown the spade stopper, the spade lead could easily be wrong, as in this case, because you want North to lead spades for you. So, South led a diamond.

Your plan should involve creating club tricks whilst ensuring that North does not gain the lead. You win the ♦Q, and lead a club to the 10 – Jack. You win South's diamond (or heart) continuation in dummy to lead another club, ducking again when North plays low, and now you have four club tricks.

Kay Preddy picked the eyes out of the following hand:

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

♠ 9 8 5
♥ 8
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A K Q 10 6 4

♠ A 3
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ J 9 8

♠ K Q J 10 7 6
♥ 4
♦ K 8 7 5 2
♣ 2

West	North	East	South
6NT	All Pass	2NT	3♠

Kay opened 2NT and, when South overcalled 3♠, Norman Selway just blasted 6NT, expecting to be contributing six tricks. South led the ♠K.

Kay Preddy found the winning line. She ducked the opening lead, and won the spade continuation.

She then cashed her three heart winners, throwing two diamonds from dummy, then ran five clubs, coming down to the ♦A-Q and ♥9 in hand, and a spade, diamond and club in dummy. Leading the last club from dummy now squeezed North down to a singleton diamond, since he had to guard hearts.

Now Kay discarded her heart loser, and South, in turn, was squeezed down to one diamond as he had to guard against

dummy's ♠9. A diamond to the ♦A was now guaranteed to drop the ♦K, whoever held it, and that was 12 tricks – and 112 out of 114 MPs.

Ducking the first trick was the first step to making the contract via a squeeze, rectifying the count. South's 3♠ bid would usually indicate a 6+ card suit, making North a heavy favourite to have heart length. That meant that declarer's threat cards were sitting over the opposition's guards in those suits, and that meant the double squeeze, where neither opponent could guard diamonds, was highly likely to work.

LIKE SON, LIKE FATHER

From the IBPA Bulletin, May 2018, written by Nils Kvangraven.

The best boards to read about are those in which the hero does something unusual that pays off. Morten Bilde plays a strong game and can go off-road to look for options in the play. He has impressed me many times with his solid, yet creative bridge. It's no wonder that his son, Dennis Bilde, has reached the stars, being among the world's best players. Morten is still going strong; you should be aware that when he arrives at your table, he is a gentleman, but has a sting in his card play.

Dealer North ♠ 8 6
NS Vul ♥ K J 9 3 2
 ♦ A 8 5
 ♣ 9 3 2

♠ 9 7 5
♥ A 7 6
♦ K Q 10 7 3
♣ A Q

♠ K J 10 4 3 2
♥ 8
♦ J 6 4
♣ J 7 5

♠ A Q
♥ Q 10 5 4
♦ 9 2
♣ K 10 8 6 4

West	North	East	South
Hoyland	Graversen	F Helness	M Bilde
	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT (enquiry)	Pass	3♥ (shortage)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

On this deal from the Zimmermann Cup at the 2nd European Winter Games in Monte Carlo, Morten showed us how to defend. The ♦9 was led. Declarer, Frederik Helness, played low and won the trick with his Jack, when North contributed the ♦5. Helness continued with a heart to the Ace, followed by the ♠9 – 6 – 2 – and the Ace (!) from South.

South shifted to the ♣4. Helness feared that a losing finesse in clubs would lead to a diamond ruff. If that were the case, he would have gone down in a cold contract. It seemed better to play safely for 10 tricks, by winning with the ♣A, followed by a second spade finesse. Therefore, Helness won with the ♣A. His next move was to repeat the spade finesse.

That was just what Morten Bilde had hoped for; the curtain went down for declarer. He could not deny the defence the ♦A and the ♣K, so the contract went one down. A 'cold' contract had been defeated.

It is hard to blame declarer. He had a very good reason for refusing the club finesse. After all, the spade finesse had worked and the contract looked safe. Frederik told me about this defence with a smile; he also enjoys a great defence even when he ends up on the losing end!

HAND 1

♠ 10 9 2
 ♥ A K 9 5 3
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ A J 2

♠ 6 4
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ 9 7 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 10 9 4

♠ A Q J 8 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ K 7 5 3

♠ K 7 5
 ♥ J 8 7 6 4
 ♦ J 10 8
 ♣ 8 6

Against your 6♠ West leads ♦J.

Win the ♥A and lead the ♠10, finessing. If West allows the spade to win, you have to realise that you do not need to finesse a second time – because if West wins a second spade, they can return another spade and you will need the (failing) club finesse.

After the first spade, lead a second spade to the ♠A, both opponents following. You can now lead the top three diamonds, discarding the club loser from dummy. Cross to the ♣A, discard your small club on the ♥K, then return a club to the ♣K, and ruff the ♣7 with the ♠9.

HAND 2

♠ 9 6 4 3
 ♥ A K 8 7 5
 ♦ A K
 ♣ K Q

♠ A 8 7 5
 ♥ 4
 ♦ Q 7 6 3
 ♣ J 10 9 6

♠ K Q J 10 2
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ A 7 3

♠ void
 ♥ Q 10 9 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 8 2
 ♣ 8 5 4 2

Against 6♠, West led ♦10 and the declarer foresaw no traps in the play. He took the first trick with the ♦A and led a trump to East's ♠5 and his ♠10.

Declarer next led a diamond to the ♦K and a second trump to East's ♠7 and his ♠J. After ruffing the ♦J with dummy's ♠9, declarer advanced dummy's last trump. East stepped up with his ♠A and returned a club. Declarer had to win this in dummy and tried to get back to hand (to draw the last trump) by ruffing a heart. While the ♥A stood up, the ♥K did not: East ruffed it, and the contract was one down.

Declarer rued the 5-1 heart break, but dummy was unmoved. "The only danger to the contract was bad breaks in both major suits and you should have played accordingly. At trick 2, cash the ♦K and play a trump. When the 4-0 break comes to light, you ruff your diamond loser in dummy with the ♠9 and cash the ♣K and ♣Q, followed by the ♥A. Only then do you play the next trump. East would have let you win that trick but, when he wins the next trump, he has no heart to play. No matter which suit he returns, you would win the trick in hand, draw the outstanding trump and claim the last two tricks with the ♣A and the ♥K.

"And, if by chance East had had a second heart, his lead of that

card would have put you safely in dummy, and you can ruff a heart back to hand."

[This play is known as the Dentist's Coup. You extract the defender's critical cards to ensure the safety of your contract against bad breaks.]

HAND 3

♠ A 10 9 2
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ K 9 5 2
 ♣ A Q 6

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

♠ K 4 3
 ♥ A Q 10 9 8
 ♦ 7 6
 ♣ 7 5 3

♠ Q J 5
 ♥ K 7 6 3
 ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ K J 9

West leads the ♥J – 2 – Q... What is your plan in 3NT?

Duck the ♥Q. East continues with the ♥A, followed by the ♥10. You win the ♥K. You can count eight sure tricks, so need to develop another in either diamonds or spades.

Your first move should be to cash the ♦A, ♦Q and ♦K. East discards a spade. Rather than relying on the spade finesse, which is to East's hand (the 'danger' hand), you can find your ninth trick by end-playing East.

Cash the ♣A, ♣Q and ♣K, all following, marking East with an original hand shape of 3-5-2-3 or 2-5-2-4. With four clubs plus the ♠K, East may well have thrown a club rather than baring the ♠K so early, so you exit with your last heart. East can cash his two heart tricks but then has to give you the last two tricks by leading away from his ♠K.

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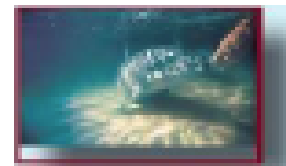
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I would like to question the wording of the introduction to the ABF's survey regarding funding for international representatives.

"...participation in world and regional championships is expensive and largely benefits a small number of members (in the case of the ABF, less than 0.5% of the 37,000-odd members)... In total, the ABF spends around 16% of its annual revenue holding playoffs and subsidising the travel costs of Australian representative teams participating in world championships and in the qualifying event ..."

I suggest it is not correct to describe international representation as largely benefitting a small number of members, or even that the expense is shouldered mainly by the ABF. It benefits the bridge population of Australia as a whole for reasons which seem so obvious that I don't think they need to be described. That 16% goes to all bridge players who participate in competitive bridge in Australia. Every time an Australian contender for representation plays in a local duplicate, a State championship etc, that player adds value to the event and to the standard of players in the vicinity. These representatives are often very generous with their expertise at local level. They are a vital link between bridge at the grass roots and elite international level.

Furthermore, the players who are part of the pool - I wish to include those who compete at playoff level and miss out sometimes or even all the time - bear a significant expense to do so. An expense that isn't just financial, but impinges on normal life such as families, jobs and holidays. Sacrifices are made, whether it is by those who hold down normal jobs and lives whilst attempting to compete, or those who choose the path of 'professional' which means an uncertain life at best.

Cathy Chua, Geneva/Adelaide

1. I do not agree with comments (article unsigned) about the Australian National Championships, Hobart. Was this person having a bad day? I thought the presentation was excellent at the cocktail party. So refreshing and expeditious. I did not observe any abuse of the drinks provision. Was the writer confusing this event with the Government House visit?

2. Please, please, Editor, get rid of the person/equipment producing those out of focus, fuzzy photos. Note the contrast with the top photo on page one. It would be better to have no photos at all. A good camera can be purchased economically these days. I presume a mobile phone was used to produce those annoying images.

3. I enjoy the varied articles which are most interesting, with their length very appropriate to the journal. They provide lots of great reading.

Margaret Gibbs, Hobart

Editor's reply:

(1) I wrote the introduction and I was in Hobart. I wasn't having a bad day; I wrote what I observed. Others have verbally told me that my feedback was 'harsh but fair, but the ABF won't like it'. I did not confuse the events. I certainly saw abuse of the free alcohol provided. Perhaps we were just in different areas of the hordes of people in attendance.

I acknowledged that the speeches were short and pithy, and thoroughly approved. From there on, things were chaotic.

(2) I am glad you appreciate the good photos in the Newsletter, mostly taken by me – at an event – as with the photo on Page One. I use my mobile phone (not a camera) but I ensure I take a close-up of faces. I keep asking tournament organisers to take close-ups, but they take full-length photos of people. However, I'll take the criticism on-board and omit blurry photos. Tournament Organisers take heed!

- Barbara


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A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

I'd like to share some of the more educational hands from a recent game at the club with one of my friends.

I held:

♠ A 8 4 3
♥ K 10 5
♦ 9 4 2
♣ K 9 2

West	North	East	South (me)
1♣	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT (7-10)
			?

I think I should now rebid 3NT. Partner now has six diamonds and a decent enough overcall (i.e. not a weak jump overcall), so the odds favour the ♦K being onside and the suit playing for six tricks. It's matchpoint pairs, so I need to bid the best-scoring and most practical contract.

At the table I rebid 2NT and partner passed, though she could also have bid 3NT now. Here's the hand:

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

West found the best lead of a spade, and I ducked East's ♠K. Now the ♦K is almost certainly onside. The ♠2 return indicated that spades were also 4-4, so I won the ♠A. However, I lacked entries for all the finesses I wanted to do, so just made 9 tricks.

I think we deserved the poor score that we ended up with – a meagre 17%.

After I'd played the following hand, partner said that she figured I'd done something special and would love me to explain after the session:

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

Lead: ♠3

The lead meant that I could no longer even hope to trump the diamond loser. I also lacked the entries to use the club finesse.

One option, which put all my eggs in the one basket, was to take the heart finesse. I decided, instead, to try to utilise both dummy's entries to make heart winners.

So I won the ♠J at trick 1, then led the ♥A and ♥Q to West's ♥K (East had played ♥9 then ♥2 - hopefully true reverse count). One hope was there was doubleton ♥J, but that didn't eventuate. I won the spade return with dummy's ♠K and led the ♥10 - ♥J, ruffed high. Now I could draw trumps and return to dummy's ♣A, discarding two diamonds on the long hearts.

(Obviously West could cash two diamonds, but didn't realise she needed to do so. Perhaps she should realise - given the heart situation.) Here is the full hand:

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

How do you play Michaels Cue Bids when the opponents have bid two 'suits'? I always play that the cue bid of opener's suit is the Michaels Cue Bid, showing the other two suits. One reason is that the cue bid keeps the bidding lower. The auction has started 1♥ - Pass - 1NT and you are holding:

♠ K Q 7 5 2
♥ 5
♦ 5 2
♣ A K Q 10 7

Unfortunately, I had never explained to my partner that 2♥ (opener's suit) would be the Michaels Cue Bid, so I chose to bid 2♠ in the interest of 'safety'. West now jumped to 4♥ and I thought partner did very well to bid 4♠. West bid a somewhat wild 5♥ and I continued with 5♠, defying David Beauchamp's warning that the 5-level belongs to the first side to bid there. All was well:

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

Partner drew some very accurate inferences – my spades weren't great, so I probably had shape.

If my other suit was diamonds, she could trump etc. However, her bidding decision/s would have been much easier if she had known that I held a 5-5; if my minor was clubs both sides had massive double fits, so 5♠ becomes an easy bid, and if my minor was diamonds, we had plenty of ruffing available. (My diamonds would also be decent because her spades indicated that mine were not super strong.)

Whilst on the topic of Michaels Cue Bids and the Unusual 2NT, a different notion cropped up. My LHO opened 1♥ and the opening bid was passed around to me, with:

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

Firstly, 2NT in the pass-out seat is supposed to show about 19-20 HCP and a balanced hand. I guess it is by agreement, but I've never played the Unusual 2NT bid in the pass-out seat. There are a number of reasons for this, but one that is worth bearing in mind is that if you have 10 cards in the minors, it is likely the opposition has a fit in the other major, since your partner didn't overcall in that suit. (Rule of Balancing: do NOT balance if you have a singleton or void in one of the unbid majors!)

I decided to pass, thinking that the opponents may have a big spade fit. However, it wasn't that at all – partner had the trap pass hand:

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

It's not that good a hand, but the diamond lead to my Ace, dropping declarer's singleton King brought some mirth. My switch to the ♥Q brought joy to partner's heart, though she did manage to keep a very poker face. Declarer went down 1 trick in 1♥, which was one of the few contracts our side could actually make! That scored us 75% of the matchpoints.

Has anyone noticed that people don't seem to be balancing as much against 2-Major as they used to? What's happened to the Law of Total Tricks? Has it gone out of favour? It works for me - don't let the opponents play at the 2-level with a known 8+ card fit.

We had a simple little auction:

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

- East held:
- ♠ A K 8 4
 - ♥ 7
 - ♦ J 10 8 7 5
 - ♣ 8 4 3

Why no double? We played very comfortably in 2♥, making nine tricks. Meantime, our opposition could easily make eight tricks in 2♣, nine if they picked my ♠10-9 offside. Strangely enough, we scored just below 50%. I'm not going to look at what others did on the hand!

I have several more games booked with friends, so I'll keep you updated about the more interesting hands.

Barbara Travis

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PROTECTING YOUR HONOUR

Dearest Fossil,

As usual, I seek your comments on a couple of (mis)plays of mine from recent excursions at the bridge table. As ever, I am keen to improve my game regardless of whatever evidence says that I can't! So here goes:

(MIS)PLAY #1

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

West opened a weak 2♠ and Glenda bid 2NT. I just bid 4♥ over that and West led the ♠Q. Naturally, I put the ♠K on that and East won. Now I couldn't make the contract. Apparently, I can get the ♠K as a trick if I don't play it. That is a bit weird, but should I have known?

(MIS)PLAY #2

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

We reached 3NT and West led the ♥J. I played my ♥Q and East covered with the ♥K. (Unlucky?) After that I had to lose one club, a spade and three hearts.

I guess I would have done better if I hadn't played my ♥Q at trick one. What guiding principle exists here?

Lots of hugs,

Cathy

Dear Miss Play,

There is a guiding principle that may help here. The more cards you have with an honour card, the better protection it has. So, in Case #1, you need your ♠K as a trick. You are in no hurry for it, as you have lots to guard the other suits. Unless West is being particularly clever, he or she doesn't have the ♠A. With the weak 2 opening to guide you, the spade suit looks to be an open book. So not only does a full view of the hand tell you that the ♠A will fall of its own accord [in two rounds – being distributed 6-3-2-2 around the table], you could have worked that out at the time. If you play low twice on the spades, your ♠K will become a tenth trick. If West has been smart enough to lead from ♠ A-Q-J-10-x-x, then good luck to him.

The same principle applies to your second example. Had you held ♥ Q-x in dummy and ♥ A-x-x-x in hand, then the ♥Q will lose all her protection after one trick. So, in that case, just play it and hope for the best. In this case, the ♥Q is protected by all the small cards that go with it. It looks unlikely that you desperately need the ♥Q as a trick but you do need it to make three or more tricks as difficult as possible for the opponents, so play low, win the ♥A and hope that the spot cards can protect the ♥Q for long enough. As the cards lie, West is never on lead again to put that ♥Q under further pressure, so any sensible line of play will see you home.

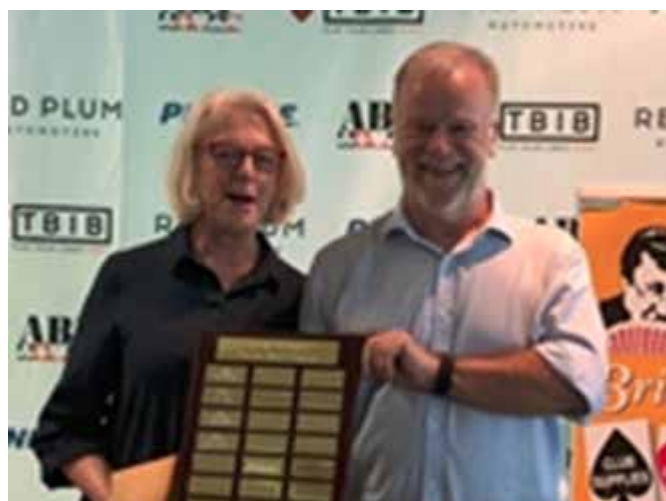
One other common holding is Q x
 opposite A 10 x

Here if they lead small, you only ever want to play the Queen if you are desperate for two quick tricks. Otherwise, just play low and capture an honour with your Ace. If the honour card is the King, your queen is promoted but even if it is the Jack, your Queen and 10 stand as equals against the King, giving you a second trick in the suit.

Ignore that evidence, everyone can improve.

Your calcified uncle,

David



Repeat winners of the Spring National Novice Pairs, Sydney: Gail McKenzie and Martin Brown

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DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN 3-CARD AND 4-CARD SUPPORT

Imagine you have an auction where you open 1♣, Pass by LHO, partner responds 1♥, and RHO overcalls 1♠. With 4-card heart support, we can raise the hearts to the relevant level with respect to our strength (so 2♥ shows 12-15, 3♥ 16-18 etc.). However, what if we only have 3-card support? Sometimes we would like to show our 3-card support since responder can easily have a five-card suit.

For example:

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
?			

Here, it would be great if West could show 3-card heart support as East-West can compete in hearts over the opponents' spades.

Eric Rodwell "invented" the convention called the Support Double. The Support Double applies only in this exact type of scenario where you open the bidding, your partner (responder) bids a suit, and fourth-hand overcalls. A raise of responder's suit shows 4-card support, whereas doubling (Support Double) shows 3-card support with any strength.

So, on the hand above, West can double to show 3-card heart support, and now if North competes to 2♠, East is able to compete with 3♥, knowing that the partnership has a fit. If East-West did not play support doubles, then the heart fit may be lost.

Example auctions:

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

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

(1) 3 hearts

Although West has a strong hand, he can show his 3-card heart support before rebidding his diamonds (you can even go as far as saying if opener does not make a Support Double, he is denying three-card support in responder's suit!).

After the Support Double, East knows of the heart fit and rebids 2♥ on his minimal hand. West has extra values so he can continue with 3♦ showing his extra length in diamonds (there's no need to bid 3♥ as West has already shown his 3-card heart support – he can show the feature of his long diamond suit). Bidding 3♦ also implies extra values, since if West has a minimum hand, he would just pass 2♥.

However, you do need to remain careful, because sometimes responder will have to rebid his suit with only four cards, as on the following hand:

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
Double (1)	Pass	2♠	
(1) 3 spades			

Tip 1 for Support Doubles:

You should play them if fourth-seat overcalls up to and including 2♥. This means if they overcall 2♠ or higher, Support Doubles are off because the auction will be forced to the 3-level. You can still play them if you would like, but opener will require extra values as he will be forcing the partnership to the 3-level.

Tip 2 for Support Doubles:

Support Doubles should not apply if responder bids at the 2-level, such as 1♦ - (Pass) - 2♣ - (2♠), as responder here is generally promising a 5-card suit, so you can simply support responder by raising to the 3-level.

Tip 3 for Support Doubles:

If fourth-seat interferes with a double instead, such as 1♦ - (Pass) - 1♠ - (Double), Support Doubles now become Support Redoubles, showing the same 3-card support for partner, with raises guaranteeing 4-card support.

Andy Hung



Photo Sophie Fazackerley

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RESPONDER'S ACTION WHEN RHO OVERCALLS

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

1♠ (2♣) ?

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

1. Pass. A negative double at the 2-level should only be used to show the two unbid suits. Let's say you double and the next hand jumps to 4♣ or 5♣, your partner should be free to bid 4♦ or 5♦ knowing you have at least 4-4 in the unbid suits and so have at least 4-card support. Here, with a single-suited hand you need to judge whether to bid 2♥ or pass.

A sensible agreement to have is that when there is an overcall of the opening bid and the bidding comes back to the opener, they must re-open, preferably with a double, with 0-2 cards in the opponent's suit (up to the level of 2♥). Knowing partner will re-open with 0-2 cards in clubs makes pass the right decision; now you will defend 2♣ when you each have three cards in the opponent's suit. If you bid 2♥ over 2♣, what will you bid when you hear the likely 2♠ from opener?

2. 2♥. Your choices are pass, 2♥ and double. In competition a 2-over-1 response is more competitive than constructive. You need to get into the bidding on the correct hand. If you bid 2♥ and opener rebids 2♣ you can pass, and 2♣ should be a sound contract in your 5-2 or 6-2 fit. Pass over 2C is unthinkable and 2♥ looks a better shot than a negative double.

3. Double. Only 6 HCP but you want to show you have the two other suits. Note the opener should not rebid their 5-card spade suit in this auction but prefer a three-card 2♦ or 2♥ bid – the negative doubler could have a singleton spade and you don't want to play a 5-1 fit.

4. 2♦. You have the right shape for a negative double but with such a good hand you are better to bid 2♦ and follow up with 3♥ to give a precise picture of your hand by showing you have more diamonds than hearts.

5. Double. Even though you have 12 HCP, your 4 little clubs are a big negative. It wouldn't be a big surprise to find that you have no game available.

6. Pass. Hoping that the opener can re-open with a double, so you can pass for penalties. Say you double instead and opener rebids 2♠, what now?

With four likely tricks in clubs sitting over the overcaller and a good safe lead with ♦J, you would reasonably expect 2♣ X to fail by 2 or 3 tricks for +300 or 500, and if opener is better than minimum perhaps 2♣ X will fail by 4 tricks for +800. Of course, you are relying on opener to re-open (hopefully with double) with 0-2 cards in opponent's suit – even with the most miserable minimum. Make this agreement ASAP.

7. 2NT. Much better to play 2NT as the normal Jacoby 2NT, showing a game force with 4+ spade support, even when opponents intervene. This puts you back on familiar ground.

8. 3♣. Cue-raise. If you don't like going to the 3-level, some might just double and play it by ear from there... The problem with that is you are putting an extra load on your negative doubles. It is better to keep it simple, so that the negative double always shows the two unbid suits and never 3-card support for opener's major.

9. 3♥. Jumps in competition should be fit-showing, showing a good suit with at least two top honours, and a 3-card fit for the suit opened. This applies to responding to overcalls in competition as well as to opening bids.

10. Pass. Don't forget opener promises to re-open with 0-2 clubs and, when partner (hopefully) re-opens with a double, you will take the easy decision to play for penalties and pass. Lead the ♥K and try to make declarer ruff and shorten their trumps.

On a good day you will hold declarer to two or three tricks for a penalty of 1400 or 1700. That's a good return when bidding a game will only get you 400, 420, 430 or 450. On a bad day, 2♣ X will only fail by three tricks for +500.

Paul Lavings



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