



# NEWSLETTER

## AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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

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**2023 Open Team to represent Australia  
in the Bermuda Bowl in Morocco:  
Tony Nunn, Paul Dalley, Jamie Thompson,  
Tony Leibowitz, Rob Fruewirth, Paul Gosney**



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Front cover image: 2023 Australian Team  
Tony Nunn, Paul Dalley, Jamie Thompson,  
Tony Leibowitz, Rob Fruewirth and Paul  
Gosney. Full story on page 8.

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with  
**Ron Klinger**

*Solution on page 22*

Pairs  
S/Nil

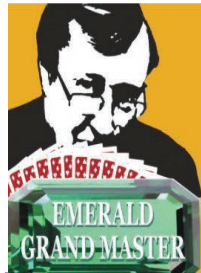
♠ K 9  
♥ A 9  
♦ K 9 8 6 4  
♣ A 5 4 3

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

N	E
W	S

South opens 1NT (11-14) and North raises to 3NT. West starts with the ♥3: nine - jack - queen. Declarer plays a diamond to the king, diamond to the ace and the ♦J to West's ♦Q. East followed with the ♦2 and then discards ♣2, ♣6 (playing high-encouraging discards). West plays the ♥2 to dummy's ace, eight from East, six from South. Declarer cashes dummy's diamond winners. What should West discard?





# Paul Lavings Bridgegear

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

[president@abf.com.au](mailto:president@abf.com.au)



The COVID-19 virus continued to introduce new challenges for the ABF in 2022. Although all borders opened, the numbers at Licensed events are below pre-COVID numbers. There are many factors causing the decline in numbers, but feedback suggests it is due to increase in the cost of travel and accommodation, players preferring to play on-line, and players concerned about their well-being. It is very pleasing to see players taking responsibility for their well-being as well as that of other and withdrawing from events if they are unwell. I expect we will become increasingly more confident in navigating our new world in 2023. Congratulations to all our Tournament Organisers and their teams for the successful running of ABF and ABF Licensed events in 2022.



On my recent trip to England, I visited the Warrington Bridge Club and had the opportunity to speak to many members. I thank the President, Jim Steele for his warm welcome. Although we are thousands of kilometres apart, we share the same goal to build our membership and develop a positive culture.

We did agree that volunteers and existing members are the greatest resources we have for spreading the word about the game we love to play. We need ambassadors and the best ambassadors are you. Telling others about the game and endorsing your club can be hugely effective. I put this into practice in the town of Chester when I saw a young man walking around with the Ace of Hearts placards. Rohan explained he was not promoting bridge, but he had heard of the game. I introduced myself and we exchanged emails as he was keen to find out more. I encourage you all to spread the word in 2023 as we have the right ingredients, we just need to stir the pot!



**We are looking for your ideas to improve your bridge experience and enjoyment.**

**Scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone or your favourite scanner app. You will then have the option of leaving suggestions anonymously, or you can also leave us your contact details and we will get back to you.**

Robina McConnell has retired as an ABF Councillor. During her time on Council, she was an active member of the Governance and MyABF Steering Committees. I thank Robina for her valuable contribution to ABF Council and wish her well in her roles as BAWA Executive Officer and as Tournament Organiser of the 2023 ANC to be held in Perth in July. A warm welcome to Chris Mulley who replaces Robina on the ABF Council.

The ABF continues to be grateful to TBIB for their ongoing support of national, state and club events. If you are travelling in 2023, I encourage you to ask TBIB about the ABF Members Travel Insurance Policy as it may suit your needs.

This time of year highlights the culmination of many hours of work by our wonderful volunteers, staff and contractors. I thank them all for their contributions in 2022. Without their dedication and hard work, we would not be heading into 2023 in such a strong position.

Have a relaxing holiday season with your family and friends and a Happy New Year to you all.



If you have any issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Board, please email

[president@  
abf.com.au](mailto:president@abf.com.au)





# MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox  
marketing@abf.com.au



As we are now approaching the end of the year it is a good opportunity to reflect on 2022 and plan for 2023.

## ABF REGISTERED PLAYERS

In 2020-21 many clubs, particularly in Victoria and NSW, were closed for lengthy periods due to COVID. The ACT was boosted by the non-affiliated Grand Slam Club closing in 2021, with several hundred players joining ABF affiliated clubs.

In 2022, with a few closures due to COVID, the number of registered ABF players declined by 4.6%. In total at the end of September 2022 registered players were down 11% compared to September 2019.

## NUMBERS OF TABLES PLAYED

In the USA and England the numbers of tables played is reported, but not in Australia. However, by using the value of Green Points received as a proxy we can get a fairly accurate comparison of the amount of bridge played in clubs here over the period. Online bridge in club games is included and one can see that Stepbridge in South Australia grew substantially in 2020/2021. This particularly affected clubs in SA, Victoria and WA. The ABF National Online games played on Sunday afternoons and Friday evenings on BBO were not included but the over 50 ABF online clubs that ran online games were included in the states' figures.

The chart shows that in July-September of each year, club tables played dropped by 44% in 2020, grew again as clubs reopened in 2021, though off a much lower base, but fell again by 2% in 2022.

The overall position is that in July-September 2022, the volume of club play is 20% down on the pre-

Registered ABF Players - End Sep 2019-2022

	2022/2021				2022/2019			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	No	% Chg	No	% Chg
ACT	924	871	1,044	943	-101	-9.7%	19	2%
NSW	13,760	13,042	12,165	11,527	-638	-5.2%	-2233	-16%
VIC	5,543	5,218	5,162	4,893	-269	-5.2%	-650	-12%
QLD	7,408	7,296	6,891	6,601	-290	-4.2%	-807	-11%
SA	2,247	2,227	2,336	2,232	-104	-4.5%	-15	-1%
WA	4,143	4,112	4,035	3,991	-44	-1.1%	-152	-4%
TAS	863	883	920	865	-55	-6.0%	2	0%
NT	133	147	149	140	-9	-6.0%	7	5%
Total	35,021	33,796	32,702	31,192	-1510	-4.6%	-3829	-11%
Change		-1,225	-1,094	-1,510				
% Chg		-3.5%	-3.2%	-4.6%				

## Comparison Green Points July-Sept 2019-2022

	2020/19	2021/20	2022/21	2022/2019
ACT	-39%	107%	-27%	-7%
NSW	-67%	57%	26%	-35%
VIC	-31%	26%	0%	-14%
QLD	-69%	122%	6%	-27%
SA	122%	4%	-32%	58%
WA	-30%	47%	-20%	-18%
Tas	-42%	74%	-2%	-1%
NT	-47%	0%	89%	-15%
Total	-44%	45%	-2%	-20%

Notes: ACT - Closure Non-Affil Club  
SA - Stepbridge Online

COVID year of 2019. This is consistent with the results for the March and June quarters as well.

This shows that not only have players not returned to clubs, but also that those who have returned are playing less frequently. NSW and Qld are the worst-affected states, but WA and SA clubs are also down.

## MARKETING ROLE FOR CLUBS

- Emphasise again that our 30,000+ members are our best and most cost effective sales force.
- Highlighted the need for clubs to provide a PREMIUM service to get people to leave their homes and play F2F bridge rather or in addition to playing online at home.
- PREMIUM service tournament organisers need to provide to attract players back to congresses.

## NEW PLAYERS

New players are essential to replace the over 3000 inactivated and deleted players each year.

The number of new players reached 2,807 in 2018, reduced to 2,547 in 2019 and crashed to 1,636 in 2020 as COVID closed down beginners' classes particularly in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

In 2021 the number of new players grew to 2,497. However, about 200 of these were from Grand Slam Canberra which closed and players joined ABF affiliated clubs in the ACT.

From the beginning of the year to the start of November 2022 the number of new players totalled

1,934 and ultimately may be less than the year 2021.

Of the approximately 330 ABF affiliated playing clubs, 229 clubs had at least one new member. This means that one third of clubs acquired no new members and another 100 clubs or 40% did not have enough to make up a table for supervised.

The top 20 clubs ranked by New Players, or about 10%, contributed 766 or 40% of the new players.

The chart shows the top 20 clubs for new players in 2020. In most cases the larger clubs have the advantages of experienced bridge teachers, facilities, a critical mass for supervised games and more members to refer new players.

The provision of online teaching for beginners, perhaps at least by the state organisations, should be considered as a way of teaching for the smaller clubs throughout Australia. Paul Marston has had great success with this approach teaching well over a thousand students online, the NSBC has run online classes, and Laura Ginnan has run online classes in conjunction with clubs.

## MARKETING TO NEW PLAYERS

Each year at this time ABF Marketing encourages clubs to organise teachers, syllabus, facilities and marketing strategies to create and promote courses for February - April which is the busiest time for clubs and teaching beginners in Australia.

## MARKETING WORKSHOPS

We offer FREE Club Management Workshops either in person or by Zoom with lots of tips from our past experience and from incorporating the USA and English programs on how to grow your club.

## TEN POINT PLAN FOR BRIDGE GROWTH

1. Social: creating a very friendly club and an activity perceived as good for mental health.
2. Members: 35,000-strong sales force, motivate them to bring friends.
3. Traditional marketing: emails, leaflets, media releases, local papers and radio.
4. Social media: advertising with Facebook, Google, Instagram is more highly targeted.
5. Teaching: bridge teaching on demand, online teaching in the future.
6. Retention: the Buddy System to help retain beginners as members.

## Clubs Ranked by New Players Year to October 2022

Club Name	2022	2021	Members
1 North Shore Bridge Club Inc	141	69	1533
2 SA Bridge Assoc.	74	115	902
3 Waverley Bridge Club Inc	49	33	519
4 Trumps Bridge Centre	47	42	555
5 Sydney Bridge Centre	39	36	554
6 Canberra Bridge Club Inc	38	167	709
7 Toowong Bridge Club Inc	37	44	593
8 Joondalup Bridge Club	35	30	213
9 Geelong Bridge Club	33	23	238
10 Tasmanian Bridge Association	32	51	439
11 Peninsula Bridge Club - NSW	29	34	458
12 Gold Coast Bridge Club	28	32	349
13 Surfers Paradise Bridge Club Inc	27	24	455
14 Stepbridge	24	25	214
15 Caloundra Contract Bridge Club Inc	23	25	229
16 Newcastle Bridge Club	23	26	285
17 Bungendore Bridge Club	22	2	48
18 Mandurah Bridge Club Inc	22	41	242
19 Undercroft Bridge Club Inc	22	37	365
20 Brisbane Water Bridge Club Inc	21	12	154
	766	868	9054

7. Incentives: grants and advertising subsidies to encourage local advertising.
8. Online: embrace in F2F clubs, convenience, partners not required.
9. Congresses: select and promote social aspects, location, accommodation, restaurants.
10. Workshops: Marketing and Management advice available free to all clubs.

## FACEBOOK ADVERTISING

Though we believe that the most effective form of marketing is through the existing members of clubs, if we are to grow in the future we need a further influx of new players.

Social media is a far more cost-effective way of advertising in the modern media market and Facebook is easily the number one social media platform.

Prior to COVID we ran a couple of Facebook Advertising tests including with the Canberra Bridge Club which were successful. Facebook has several advantages – specific targeting options including towns, regions, interests, income, demographics, campaign tracking, tight budget control, immediate traffic and fast ROI.

However, it is not easy to set up as it requires some technical skills and management time. Spending on the campaign does not reach all the target market and it requires a good teaching program by clubs for an immediate start.



As we saw in the New Players section of this report only a limited number of clubs have the size, drive, management and the teaching capabilities to attract and retain beginners. It is a typical Sales Funnel as people drop out during the teaching and supervised stages with a low retention rate at the end all around the world.

We recommend that we offer again a co-operative venture with clubs where the ABF subsidises clubs for 50% of the Facebook Advertising campaign to a limit of \$500 per club. One problem is that \$500 for the large clubs has not proven to be an inducement to undertake the Facebook campaign.

This should be a great investment for clubs because each new member is worth at least \$250-\$500 per year (less masterpoints) up to the average age of 84 for women and 80 for men.

The ABF only receives \$16.10 and the States about \$10 for each new member.

An alternative would be for the ABF and the States to run a national campaign for \$100,000+ to reach the 3.2 million Australians aged 50-65. However, the new players would need to be within about a half hour drive of the club to learn F2F. Otherwise the State bodies could consider running beginners' courses Online and then feeding the graduates into their local club.

### **BRIDGETV**

BridgeTV was established for all to enjoy, participate and learn more about our great game including:

1. Australian and international experts providing tips on how to improve your bridge.
2. Live commentary by expert players of top Australian and International bridge congresses.
3. Interviews with leading players in Australia and around the world.
4. Raising the profile of Australia's champion players as in other sports to motivate all player.

### **EXPERT TIPS**

Three world leading teachers, Andrew Robson from the UK, Larry Cohen from the USA and Australian Ron Klinger provide expert tips, videos, quizzes and articles for players who wish to improve their bridge.

### **LIVE COMMENTARY ON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

BridgeTV has now broadcast live commentaries involving Australian Bridge players from the World Team Championships in Italy, The ANOT in Adelaide, The Australian National Championships in South Australia, The North American Bridge Champion-

ships from Providence, Rhode Island in the USA, the World Series from Poland, the Spring Nationals from Sydney and the Open Team Playoff from Canberra. The BridgeTV coverage has been for 3-9 hours a day for up to 13 days in a row for World Championships and our expert commentators have made a wonderful contribution. The coverage has included exciting matches with Australian players doing well against world-leading teams in some matches.

### **COMMENTATORS**

Our great regular commentators have provided hundreds of hours of commentary all for free including Ron Klinger, Sartaj Hans, Barbara Travis, Phil Markey and Elizabeth Havas. Guest commentators and interviewees have included Ishmael Del'Monte, Paul Marston, Matt Mullamphy, Ian Thomson, Sophie Ashton, Nabil Edgtton, Maurits Van Der Vlugt, David Beauchamp, Robert Krochmalik, Giselle Mundell, Rena Kaplan, Kim Frazer, Barry Jones (NZ), James Coutts, Tony Leibowitz, Nick Jacob, Mike Doecke, Fraser Rew, David Thompson, Ron Cooper, Richard Brightling, David Stern, Terry Brown, John McIlrath and Charles Page.

### **FUTURE POTENTIAL SCHEDULE**

We are very grateful for the 30 leading Australian bridge players who have contributed their time, energy and expertise to sharing their experiences with the BridgeTV community. We hope they have enjoyed the experience and we look to growing the club in the future as all players are welcome to join in to Watch, Learn and Be Entertained. *Click **here** for the upcoming schedule.*

### **CLUBS ON BRIDGETV**

Why not make a small video of your club, a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party, or a group of bridge players having fun? Send them to

[marketing@abf.com.au](mailto:marketing@abf.com.au)

and we may display them on the BridgeTV web site and our **YouTube channel**.

### **MARKETING HELP**

If you would like help planning your advertising, A Marketing Workshop for your club, a Facebook Advertising campaign to increase beginners, a video promotion on BridgeTV or a presentation to a Retirement Village sponsor please contact

[marketing@abf.com.au](mailto:marketing@abf.com.au)

or Peter Cox on 0413 676 326.

# 2022 Open Playoff Final

by Brad Coles

The 2022 Open Playoff was won convincingly by Dalley (Paul Dalley - Tony Nunn, Tony Leibowitz - Paul Gosney, Robert Fruewirth - Jamie Thompson), with a 49-imp win over the top seeds Hans (Sartaj Hans - Peter Gill, James Coutts - Liam Milne, Shane Harrison - Andy Hung). The Dalley team will represent Australia at the Bermuda Bowl in Morocco.



A few years ago Sartaj wrote an article [here](#) about psyches in the Open Playoff. The article resulted in a bit of huffing and puffing from a few readers who believe that all psyches should be outlawed. Barely two weeks later, I was captaining a team in the Women's Playoffs, who were on the verge of a massive upset against the top seeds, and we were beaten by a psyche similar to the one in the article. The moral: it pays to be informed. If my team had read that article, they may have won the Playoffs.

With that in mind, I've compiled a list here of some of the most surprising bids that took place during this year's Open Final. The ABF Newsletter does not recommend that you try any of these bids at home without parental supervision – however, some people may find it useful to learn about the kind of aggressive bidding you might face if you play at the top level.

## 7-POINT OPENING BIDS

It costs \$1800 per team to enter the Playoff, so players like to get their money's worth by bidding whenever they have a chance. Here are some of the more interesting opening bids, beginning with Board 6:

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

At unfavourable vulnerability, this looks like a textbook 3♠ opening to me, but Sartaj chose 1♠ as dealer. Both options led to an easy 4♠ contract.

On Board 19, Tony Nunn opened 1♥ as dealer, favourable, on this eight-count:

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

Left with plenty of room, the opponents had an aggressive auction to end two down in a below-average 6♣. At the other table, James Coutts preferred a 4♥ opening, after which his opponents had a long but crowded auction to a hopeless 6NT, misdefended for two off and a flat board.

Tony Nunn and Paul Dalley play a mini-notrump when not vulnerable, which is 9-12 on the system card but always alerted as 8-12. It's a fun and useful convention, that gains more than it loses. I expect the point range was changed to 8-12 after a few hands like this (Board 117):

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

Paul opened 1NT on this hand, and Tony rescued to his five-card spade suit. The opponents came in with a takeout double and bid to their 26-point 3NT.

On some days, you just don't get dealt 8 points:

Board 72    ♠ A J 10 7 6

W/NS    ♥ K J 10 9

♦ —

♣ A K J 3

♠ 5 3

♥ Q 8

♦ K 6 3 2

♣ Q 10 7 6 2

♠ 9 4 2

♥ 7 6 4

♦ A J 10 9 8 5

♣ 9

♠ K Q 8

♥ A 5 3 2

♦ Q 7 4

♣ 8 5 4

WEST

Dalley

1NT

3♦

all pass

NORTH

Gill

dbl

4♦

EAST

Nunn

2♦

pass

SOUTH

Hans

dbl

4♥

One of the commentators on BridgeTV said that it's normal to upgrade weaker hands into your notrump range – who hasn't opened 1NT a point light at some time in their lives? I'm all in favour of upgrading, but it's not clear to me which features of this West hand warrant an upgrade. Anyway, whether this is 8-12, or 8-12 adjacent, Paul's 1NT bid got the job done, with opponents missing their decent slam



and makeable grand slam. The real action came at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Harrison	Thompson	Hung	Fruewirth
pass	1♠	2♦	3♦
4♦	5♦	7♦	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

Minus 1400 would have been a neat 1-imp pickup against a making slam, but was not a success compared with the actual 710 in 4♥ at the other table.

Unlike the previous example, this 8-12 1NT opening did have some useful values:

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

Despite the singleton heart and 7 HCP, Dalley opened 1NT, and Tony Nunn responded 4♥. The singleton ten of trumps, ♣A, and both diamond honours each contributed a full trick in the play, for an easy make – in fact, the ♥10 played a useful role in keeping trump control against the 5-1 trump break. This was a game swing when the other table stopped in 2♥.

The wildest 1NT opening came in the final set:

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

This hand, at first seat favourable, produced two different opening bids. Tony Nunn chose a weak 2♦, after which the opponents breezed into 3NT. Liam Milne took a much more destructive approach:

Board 115   ♠ 2  
N/EW   ♥ Q 6 4 3  
♦ J 10 7 5 2  
♣ 9 8 7

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Thompson	Milne	Fruewirth	Coutts
	1NT <sup>14-16 !!</sup>	pass	2♥ <sup>spades</sup>
dbl	pass	pass	2NT
all pass			

Jamie's double of 2♥ was lead-directing. Maybe he should have doubled again over 2NT, but at the state of the match (47 imps ahead) he decided to go quietly. East didn't have enough to act, as Jamie had doubled in a similar auction on 6 HCP earlier in the match. Five down in 2NT was a fine sacrifice against the vulnerable 3NT, for 8 imps to Hans.

Ironically, Jamie may have been partly responsible for his own demise here, as he had recently shown Liam a deal from the NABC where Boye Brogeland

made a similar psyche. Liam was already familiar with the concept though – he had made the same 1NT opening on a very similar hand in this event three years ago (appearing in this Newsletter in the afore-mentioned article by Sartaj, December 2019).

## OFF-SHAPE 1NT OPENINGS

Opening 1NT with two doubletons is fairly common these days, so this was probably an automatic choice for Shane Harrison in third seat favourable (Board 18):

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

The range is 14+ to 17, but this 13-count certainly looks like a good 14. Sadly, the 1NT opening lost the club fit, missing a profitable 5♣ sacrifice and losing 11 imps (to be fair, teammates could have saved 7 of these imps by doubling 5♣ and finding their defensive ruff).

A bit more extreme (Board 74):

♠ 6 5   ♥ 10 9   ♦ A K Q J 6   ♣ K J 9 5

Again in third seat, nil vul, Shane opened 1NT. Partner held

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

and bid Stayman, followed by 2♥ offering a choice of majors. 2♥ in the 4-2 fit was not the optimal spot, and lost 5 imps against 2♦ at the other table.

## 6-POINT OVERCALLS

The finalists were also aggressive when it came to overcalls. Board 65:

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

At favourable vul, Andy overcalled 1♠ over 1♥, buying a 4♠ raise from partner, but LHO held seven solid clubs and was not inconvenienced.

Three boards later he picked up another six-count (nil vul):

♠ 5   ♥ Q 9 6 4 2   ♦ K J 4 2   ♣ 9 5 2

The 1♥ overcall over 1♣ again provided no inconvenience, with opponents reaching a normal but failing 4♠ (flat board).

This one was a bit stronger (Board 75):

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

Dalley overcalled 1♠ over 1♣, and the opponents settled in 3♣ for a flat board (amusingly, the opponents could have made 4♠ despite the 5-1 break).

And this one was a bit weaker (Board 84):

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

Sartaj overcalled 1♠ over 1♥ (nil vul). His partner's raise to 4♠ did nothing to stop the opponents from getting to a flat 6♥.

This one has 12 HCP, but would not be everyone's idea of a two-level overcall (Board 91):

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

Andy overcalled 2♥ over 1♠ (nil vul). This provided the auction with some momentum, generating 5 imps by propelling the opponents into a poor 3NT.

That's fine for a non-vul overcall, but Andy won't be pushed around by vulnerability (Board 119):

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

With both opponents bidding (1♥-1♠) Andy tried a vulnerable 2♦ overcall with this 7-count. The opponents bid on to 6♣, via Blackwood, making 13 when the defence failed to cash the ♠AK. Disciplined bidders everywhere would love to hear that Andy's partner led a diamond because of the overcall, but it was actually Andy who was on lead, leading into a declarer who had bid spades.

Wild overcalls can even come at the three-level (Board 61):

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

After passing as dealer (nil vul) Jamie heard 1♥ on his left and a game-forcing 2NT four-card raise on his right. There's some safety in the knowledge that the opponents have a nine-card major fit, so Jamie's lead-directing 3♦ bid is far safer than it looks. The diamond lead saved an overtrick, but wasn't enough to beat 4♥. A flat 420 when declarer didn't manage to find the overtrick after the non-diamond lead at the other table.

Here's a stronger hand from the same set (Board 67):

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

Same auction, with both sides vulnerable this time. Andy Hung bid 3♦ for the lead, and bought a 5♦ raise and a 6♦ change-of-mind from partner, but opener had a void diamond and confidently bid a making grand slam.

## PREEMPTS

Preempts are also a great way to get into the bidding with a weak hand (Board 16):

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

Over a 1♣ opening on his right, Liam overcalled 3♥. Opener was strong enough to brush aside the obstruction and bid the making 3NT on his own. (Opener at the other table avoided the problem with a 19-point 2NT opening, which was a common strategy in this event.)

You wouldn't call this next one a light preempt, but it's certainly unusual (Board 28):

♠ K 9    ♥ Q 4    ♦ Q 4 3    ♣ Q 10 7 5 4 3

With K-Q-Q in the side suits, Paul Gosney opened 3♣ in first seat, favourable. This hand turned out to be a dream scenario for this kind of bid: after discovering the location of the ♠K early, declarer in 4♥ could not believe that Paul also held the red queens. The full deal was:

Board 28    ♠ A 7 4  
W/NS    ♥ K 9 6 5  
♦ A K J 5  
♣ A 9

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

Paul scored both queens when declarer finessed into the doubleton ♥Q, and also failed to take the winning diamond finesse (playing Paul's partner for ♦Qx offside). 4♥ was one off at this table.

At the other table West passed, of course, and partner delivered the obligatory six-point 1♠ overcall over the 1♦ opening. This also had the potential to cause a misguess in the red suits, but declarer had seen six-point overcalls before. He got the hearts wrong, but couldn't be talked out of the diamond finesse, making 4♥ for 13 imps.

On Board 42, Paul Dalley opened a weak two in diamonds, first seat favourable on

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

Partner raised to 4♦, offering 800, but fourth seat had a routine 4♠ bid for a mundane result.

Holding a four-card major on the side is no longer a barrier to preempting (Board 39):

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

Jamie Thompson opened 3♦ in first seat favourable, with stunning results. Next hand overcalled 3NT on a balanced 15-count, which was doubled and heading for 1700. However, the 3NT bidder rescued himself to 4♣ in his ♣AQ1087, finding four-card support in dummy and escaping for 800. This was ample compensation for the making 4♠ that would have been missed by Jamie's concealing the spade suit.

Here's an opening bid that will cause some heart attacks (Board 55):

♠ J 8    ♥ 4    ♦ J 9 8 3    ♣ K J 9 6 5 4

James Coutts opened 4♣ in first seat favourable. Tony Leibowitz judged well to double for takeout, despite holding five good spades and three small



hearts, and the result was 1100. At the other table, Paul Dalley settled for a mere 3♣ (he's a very timid bidder, as we all know). This also received a takeout double, but Paul's partner muddled the waters with a 3♥ response – both opponents had heart length, but neither was able to double, and they settled in their basic 4♠ contract instead of finding their 1100.

Most of the actions in this article are at favourable vulnerability, but here is a bold vulnerable preempt that paid huge dividends (Board 50):

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

Facing a passed partner and a 1NT opening on his right, Tony Leibowitz overcalled 4NT with both sides vulnerable:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gosney	Coutts	Leibowitz	Milne
pass	1NT	4NT	pass
5♣	all pass		

South held

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

and was unable to find a way into the auction, with 5♥ making. 5♣ could have been -800 if the defence had doubled and found their diamond ruffs (requiring a diamond lead from ♦Axx), but on the actual trump lead 5♣ was cold. It even made an overtrick when the ♠A ran away on the diamonds.

At the other table, Andy Hung chose 2NT, leaving room for a long and cooperative auction, with both North and West making useful contributions:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Harrison	Dalley	Hung	Nunn
pass	1NT	2NT	4♣ hearts
dbl	pass	4♦	4♥
pass	pass	5♣	pass
pass	5♦	pass	5♥
all pass			

5♥ also made, for a double-game 15 imps to Dalley.

Here is a board that produced a mini-psyche at both tables (Board 89):

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

After a 1♥ opening from partner (10-15, with both sides vul) Peter Gill responded 1NT. This allowed a cheap 2♣ overcall from the next player, and Peter's belated 4♥ bid couldn't stop them from reaching 5♣. At the other table, facing a standard 1♥ opening, Tony Leibowitz chose a Bergen 3♣ (a 7-11 four-card raise). This blocked fourth hand out of the auction, and opener's 4♥ rebid bought the contract for two off and 9 imps in. If Leibowitz had chosen a weaker raise, I believe that fourth seat would have entered the auction and reached their game.

We'll finish the article with an oddly conservative bid (Board 105):

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

At favourable, after a 1♦ opening on the left and a 1♥ response on the right, Tony Nunn overcalled 1♠, suppressing the club suit. Partner raised spades, but the opponents ignored this and bid an easy 3NT. At the other table, Andy Hung chose a Michaels 2♦ with the East cards:

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

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

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Harrison	Thompson	Hung	Fruewirth
pass	1♥	2♦ blacks	1♦
3♣	3♦	pass	dbl
all pass			4♦

This caused a tougher problem for the opponents, who had no room to look for a club stopper below 3NT. Maybe Fruewirth could have found a different bid at the end (both 3♥ and 3♠ seem like options) but all of the bids are reasonable. 4♦ lost 10 imps to the making 3NT at the other table.

After the event, Ella Jacob wrote: "This is a particularly exciting time for three new Australian Open Team representatives. Paul Dalley makes his international debut after some serious success with Tony Nunn in recent years. Tony Leibowitz makes his first team appearance having seen some great results with Paul Gosney lately. Finally, Jamie Thompson takes his spot on the Open Team after many years of being an incredible asset to Australian Youth Bridge (playing with Rob who has had quite a break since his last international representation). Congratulations to the extremely strong Hans team and congratulations to team Dalley! We look forward to seeing what you do at the BERMUDA BOWL!"

This article has looked at the aggressive nature of bidding in the Open Final. The January issue of *Australian Bridge Magazine* (available by subscription at [australianbridge.com](http://australianbridge.com)) will feature a separate article looking at the event from a more technical perspective, with an emphasis on partnership agreements.



Mixed Teams sponsors John and Val Brockwell, with the winning team Sophie Ashton, Dave Wiltshire, Phil Markey and Lauren Travis

## ‘Outback’ in Bloom

*Lauren Travis reports on the Mixed Teams at the Canberra In Bloom festival*

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a bridge player in possession of teammates, must be in want of a partner. Sophie Ashton, Dave Wiltshire, Lauren Travis, and ... Phil Markey. Those with experience will recognise me as a fool. Phil’s approach to the game is some sort of bridge-poker hybrid only truly understood by him and simply attempted (often poorly) by his partners. Canberra in Bloom provided my latest opportunity to practise the simultaneously structured and wild ‘Outback Acol’ system refined by Phil over the past 30 years.

This hand from the final is a fine example of Outback Acol’s straight-to-the-point strategy.

Board 22 ♠ Q 8 2  
E/W ♥ A 9  
♦ A J 7 2  
♣ A 10 7 2

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

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

♠ K J 10 4 3  
♥ J 10 8  
♦ 10 8 3  
♣ K 4

enough to bid game. West, with little information from the bidding and holding five hearts, made the obvious low heart lead and Phil was able to establish clubs to make nine tricks. 10 imps in when 2NT was played by North at the other table, failing on East’s automatic spade lead.

An aggressive approach to overcalling combined with a lack of documented system led to some comedy (for everyone but me) on another board from the final:

Board 18 ♠ A Q 6  
E/NS ♥ Q 7 4  
♦ 10 9 3  
♣ A Q 6 5

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

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

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

Jodi Tutty, as East, opened 1♣ and Phil made the standard overcall of 1♠ (note the vulnerability). After West passed, I faced two questions: how bad was Phil’s hand, and did we play cue raises? I sensibly concluded he could be Very Bad, and opted for a

Phil, as South, opened 1NT (9-13, maybe a sneaky 14) and my balanced 15-count was only just good



simple 2♣, planning to pass if he rebid 2♠. When the auction proceeded with three passes, it became clear that Phil's hand was indeed Very Bad, but so was my assumption that we played one of the most common conventions. The defence found several spade ruffs and the contract was highly unsuccessful.

It is time for me to acknowledge that Phil has dedicated the last few years to incorporating modern structures such as transfers over 1♣ and some 2/1 methods to increase the precision of his bidding. In turn, I dedicated approximately three hours to reading system notes, and twice as much time to stressing about forgetting them. On this hand from the semi-final, the methods came in very handy and we were the only pair to bid the grand slam:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	pass	4♠ <sup>3</sup>
pass	5♥ <sup>4</sup>	pass	5NT <sup>5</sup>
pass	7♥	all pass	

1. Either GF with clubs, GF balanced, or invitational or better with three-card support.
2. Extra strength with a solid 6+ card heart suit.
3. Keycard.
4. Two keycards with the queen.
5. Confirming all the keycards, offering grand slam.

After Phil confirmed that we held all the keycards, it seemed worth going for grand with my strong club holding. Our auction had once again given the opponents very little information about our holdings outside trumps, and after East's club lead I was able to ruff out the spades to establish a discard for my diamond. A more impressive, but also ridiculous, line would have been to cash the ♦A and run my heart and club winners, coming to this ending with West having held the guards in both spades and diamonds and needing to make one more discard:

♠ 5	
♥ —	
♦ 10	
♣ —	
♠ K J	
♥ —	
♦ K	
♣ —	
♠ A Q	
♥ —	
♦ —	
♣ —	



My final offering is exactly the sort of hand one usually wishes not to have in a final, although Phil seemed delighted at the excitement of our auction:

Board 29	♠ A K Q J 8 5 4		
N/Nil	♥ 10		
	♦ 10 9 8 5 3		
	♣ —		
♠ 10 6		♠ 9 7	
♥ A Q 9 5 4		♥ K J 8 7 3 2	
♦ J		♦ A 7	
♣ A J 10 7 3		♣ K 8 4	
	♠ 3 2		
	♥ 6		
	♦ K Q 6 4 2		
	♣ Q 9 6 5 2		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lauren		Phil	
	4♠	pass	pass
4NT	5♦	5♥	6♦
pass	pass	6♥	7♦
dbl	all pass		

On lead, Phil cashed the ♦A and, filled with adrenaline, didn't consider that I probably had a 5-5, so switched to clubs, with declarer claiming the remaining tricks.

At the other table, our teammates reported that Sophie took a slightly different approach to North's hand, with the auction (to the best of my admittedly poor recollection) going:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	2♥	dbl
4♥	4♠	5♥	pass
pass	5♠	pass	pass
dbl	all pass		

5♠ went one off due to the diamond ruff so, remarkably, the board was flat.

On a more serious note, the tournament was well-directed and highly enjoyable. Thank you to BFACT and Justine Beaumont for their organisation, Ronnie Ng for directing, and Val and John Brockwell for their sponsorship of the Mixed Teams event. Thanks also to our brilliant teammates who managed to keep a straight face throughout all our score-ups. This was my first experience at Canberra in Bloom and I certainly hope to return in the future!

### Other results

Spider Orchid Restricted And Novice MP Swiss Pairs:  
Andrew Refshauge - Michael Choueifate

Federation Rose Restricted And Novice Swiss Pairs:  
Brenda Watts - Leonie Jones

Golden Wattle Open Teams: Jenny Thompson, Ben Thompson, Renee Cooper, Ian Thomson

# MYABF UPDATE

## with Julian Foster

MYABF Project Manager  
julian.foster@abf.com.au



As I write this our developer is currently taking a well deserved holiday so there has been a short pause on direct development activity. But there's still plenty going on in preparing work for him when he gets back! One of the first things will be to complete the (already started) revamp of the main Congress listing so that it loads much faster.

### MYABF Support – we cannot read minds!

On occasions I have received support requests along these lines:

- "What time does the Pairs start?"
- "Can you help us find teammates for Sunday?"

Please remember:

- There are congresses from all over the country listed in MYABF, and it's growing all the time.
- We do not magically know which congress you are talking about!
- Therefore, if you contact MYABF support about a congress, please tell us which one!

Better still, however, if your query is about a congress, you often don't need to contact MYABF Support at all. Questions like the above are nothing to do with the MYABF software, they are questions for the Tournament Organiser. All we can do is forward them. But you can contact the Tournament Organiser directly. Here are two ways to do that:

### CONTACTING THE TOURNAMENT ORGANISER

a) Their contact details are in the People section on the main Congress web page. For example, here is the one from the Spring Nationals:

People	
Organiser:	Ian Lisle
Phone:	0425 255 980
Email:	sn@abf.com.au
Chief Tournament Director:	Matthew McManus

Simply phone or email the organiser using the details provided.

b) Even easier: there is a pink "Email Tournament Organiser" button at the top of the Congress web page which you can use.

Quick tip if you already have an entry in the congress: rather than go via the main congress listing (which currently takes a while to load), you can open it directly from the "Your Upcoming Events" box on your dashboard:

Your Upcoming Events		
Date	Congress	Event
16 Jan 2023	Summer Festival of Bridge 2023	South West Pacific Teams

Click in the Congress column to directly open the congress page.

Having opened the Congress page (here is the Spring Nationals one):

**NSWBA Sydney Spring Nationals**  
NSWBA - Spring Nats  
19th to 28th October 2022

[Click here to jump to program...](#) [Email Tournament Organiser](#)

The pink button will start an email in your default mail program already set up to go to the contact address the tournament has provided.

**Message** Insert Format text Options

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To: sn@abf.com.au <sn@abf.com.au> X

Cc:

NSWBA Sydney Spring Nationals

Simply type your query and send.



## Some video previews of the next releases

We have held off on doing a major new release while the developer is away. However, I have recently recorded two five-minute videos giving a quick run through the functions in the Club Admin function and the subsequent Club Session Payments function.

Club Admin (coming in December) will allow clubs to:

- Maintain their basic information and build a short profile page
- Upload and manage a list of their members
- Communicate with their members, or tagged groups of them, using custom email templates
- View and manage their "bridge credits" balance with the ABF
- Set up new congresses (instead of having to ask me to do it) and manage them

- Upload duplicate pairs results so their members can view them in myABF
- Control who has administration access to these areas (instead of having to ask me)

Video for Club Admin Overview:

<https://youtu.be/b9sPVLOzSok>

Club Session Payments (still under testing and later we will run a pilot) will allow clubs to accept, and players to use, bridge credits to pay table money for regular sessions (and extra items if desired) – beyond just using them for congress entries.

Video for Club Session Payments Overview:

[https://youtu.be/l\\_lw2Zbe2xA](https://youtu.be/l_lw2Zbe2xA)

As usual, please contact me with any questions.



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Barbara Travis



Susan Humphries



Liam Milne

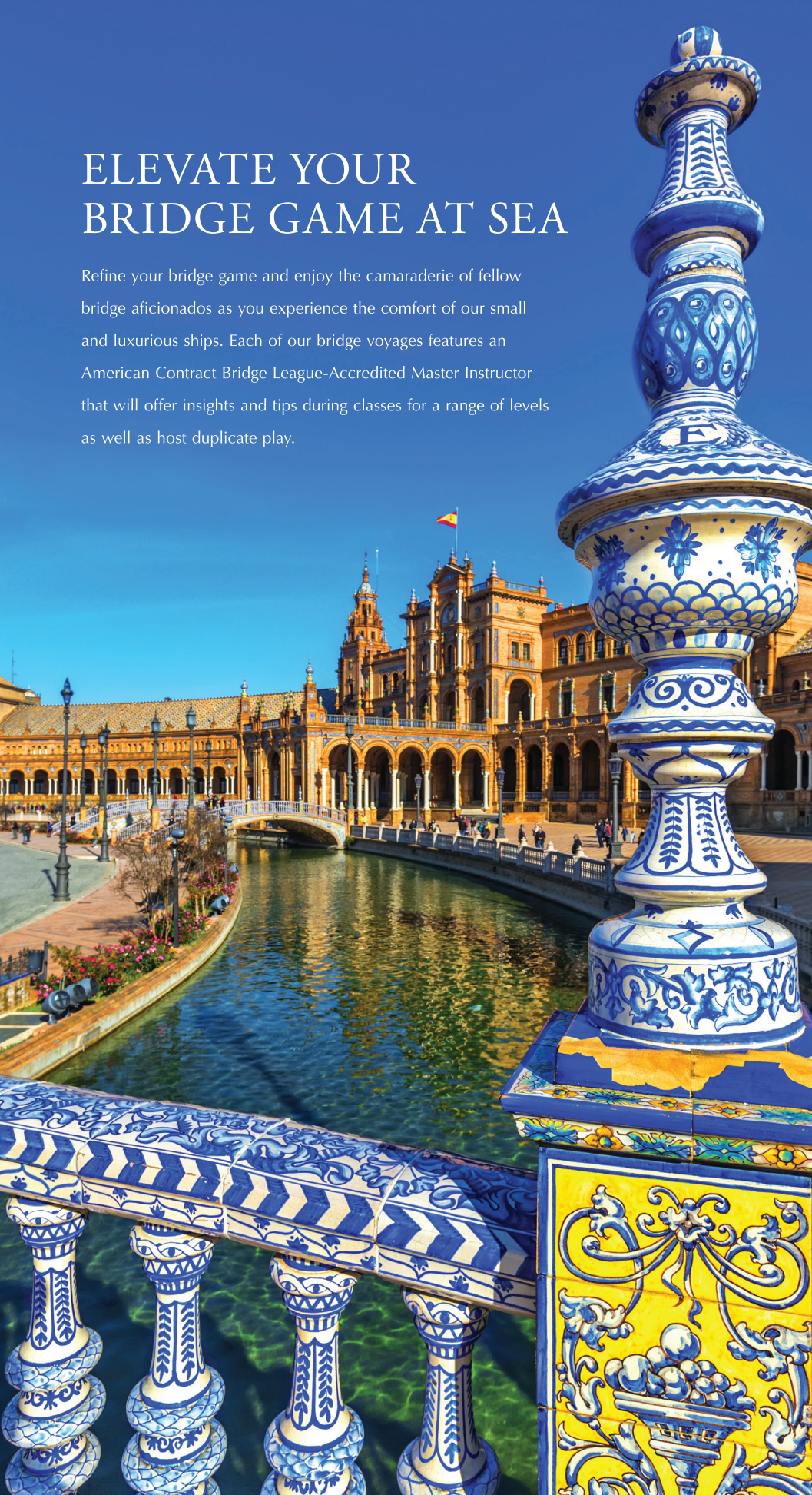
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TERMS & CONDITIONS, \*Fares and itineraries are accurate from 21st October 2022 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Fares shown are for category Veranda Stateroom. The quoted fares are valid for sale until 31st December 2022, unless sold out prior and include any/all savings/ upgrades. Airfares are additional. Cruise fares are per person, twin share (except fares for Concierge Level Solo Veranda, which are for single travellers), in AUD and include all taxes, port fees and on board gratuities. A Cruise Ship Fuel Surcharge may apply and, if applicable, is additional revenue to Oceania Cruises. OLife Choice offers are valid until 31st December 2022. Guests in the same stateroom must choose the same OLife Choice amenity and amenity must be chosen by final payment. Free Shore Excursions vary by voyage and exclude Oceania Select, Oceania Exclusive, Executive Collection, Food & Wine Trails, Wellness Discovery Tours by Aqua mar, Go Local, Go Green, Beyond Blueprints and Culinary Discovery Tours. Free Beverage Package amenity includes unlimited house wines, champagnes, and beers at lunch and dinner. Free Shipboard Credits are USD per stateroom, based on double occupancy and cannot be redeemed for cash or used for further discount off cruise fare, may be used for on board services only and any unused credit will be forfeited at the end of the cruise. Free Internet amenity does not include streaming and includes one login per stateroom, except Owner's, Vista & Oceania Suites, which receive two logins per suite. Visit OceaniaCruises.com/Internet for more details. Fares are valid only for residents of, and booking through travel advisors located in Australia, or through the Australia contact centre and are valid for new bookings only. The privacy and protection of personal data is very important to us, and we collect, use, share and secure that data as described in our privacy policy, which is available on our website at OceaniaCruises.com/legal/privacy-policy. For full terms & conditions that apply, please visit OceaniaCruises.com/terms. All rights reserved. Oceania Cruises is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Ships' Registry, Marshall Islands. NCL Australia Pty Ltd ABN 8060 7578 781.





# A GAME AT THE CLUB

**Barbara Travis**

[www.bridgeatbeaumont.com](http://www.bridgeatbeaumont.com)

Here's a hand I love. You are playing in 3NT and West leads the ♠5. What's your plan?

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

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

♠ 10 6 5  
♥ K 6 4  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ K 9 8 4

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

You try the ♠J, in case the lead is from the K-Q, and East covers with the queen. What now? Will you duck or will you win?

There are a few factors to consider on this hand. Firstly, you have only six winners, so you will have to lose the lead to create your diamond winners. Secondly, are you concerned about the spade suit?

Thirdly, are you concerned about any other suit?

Let's discuss the last question first. I think the club suit is of significant concern. If you duck the spade, what happens if East switches to clubs? Then you will have to duck again, but now the opponents have a two-pronged attack. If you duck a club, now the defence will be able to garner three spades, one club and the ♦A. Now let's consider the spade suit. West has led the ♠5. If the opponents lead fourth-highest, then West has only four spades. Why? You can see the 4-3-2 between your two hands, so West has no lower spades, meaning he started with four spades. You know the spades are breaking 4-4!

Win the spade lead, knock out the ♦A, and make nine tricks.

Sitting South, you are playing in 4♠, with no opposition bidding:

West leads the ♥J, ducked around to your queen. You have a heart loser, a diamond loser and a trump loser (assuming trumps break 3-2). The only issue is the diamond suit; if the diamonds break 4-2, you may have two losers in the suit.

If you draw two rounds of trumps, then work on diamonds, an opponent may be able to draw dummy's last trump, if the diamonds break 4-2. So, how can you manage that, plus the trump suit?

What you do is duck a diamond at trick 2. West continues the heart attack, and you ruff the third round. Now you can draw two rounds of trumps, then cash the ♦A and ♦K. When the diamonds prove to be 4-2, you still have the trump in dummy to ruff your fourth diamond. Test it out with the full hand.

♠ 10 6 5  
♥ K 6 4  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ K 9 8 4

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

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

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

I don't think people make preemptive overcalls nearly enough. There seems to be a modern trend just to make simple overcalls. Look at the impact of a weak jump overcall though:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	2♠
3♠ <sup>1</sup>	pass	?	

1. Cue raise (unassuming cue bid), showing a good hand (10+ TP) with diamond support.

What should East bid? I think East took a 'normal' action by bidding 3NT which, of course, failed.

Declarer ducked spades until the third round, at which point South's spade card should be suit preference. However, North, holding two diamonds, ducked the first diamond to get a discard signal from South instead. South discarded the ♠2 (low like), to say "lead clubs".

On the other hand, if South simply overcalls 1♠, West has far more space. They can cue bid 2♠, and over East's 2NT or 3♦ rebid, they can make another try for game, landing in 5♦ which is cold, rather than 3NT. With long suits, I like to remove as much bidding space as possible from the opposition.

Finally, here's a bidding question first. You hold:

♠ A J 5   ♥ K   ♦ A K 8 5   ♣ A Q 7 6 2

Let's say you open 1♣ and partner responds 1♠. What is your rebid?

Whilst a jump shift is game forcing, a reverse is only a one-round force – but it IS forcing and unlimited. On this auction, 2♦ is a reverse, so that's all you have to bid. (3♦ should actually be an opener's splinter bid on this hand!)

WEST	EAST
	1♣
1♠	2♦
2♥ <sup>1</sup>	2♠ <sup>2</sup>
4♠	

1. Fourth-suit forcing – though, on this hand, you plan to rebid 3♥ to show your 5-5!
2. Showing a 3-1-4-5 hand shape.

At the table, East jumped to 3♦, removing too many levels of bidding. West could have bid 3♥, but chose to rebid 3NT instead.

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

4♠ plays far better than 3NT. In fact, declarer didn't look after her entries to hand, so got cut off from her winners, and actually went down.

The interesting part of the defence was when North led the ♥2 at trick 1. South held ♥A98 and realised that West must have five hearts – so a 5-5 in the majors. That helped significantly with the defence!

Just remember, if you can reverse, then your bidding is forcing (and unlimited). You no longer need to jump to create the game force.

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# The Aces on Bridge

by Bobby Wolff



*This is the second in a series of deals featuring Margaret Bourke. These articles are taken from Bobby Wolff's daily bridge column, The Aces on Bridge, which appears in various publications across the USA. The Aces On Bridge was started by Ira Corn, founder of The Aces, the first professional bridge team. Wolff, one of the original Aces, took over the column in 1982. In it he reveals the secrets of a championship bridge player to both tournament and at-home players.*

Take the South cards and play along with Margi Bourke.

S/EW      ♠ K J 10 6  
♥ A 5 3  
♦ Q 7 2  
♣ A Q 2

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

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup>
pass	4♠	all pass	

1. Strong and artificial.  
2. Zero to three controls.

Opening Lead: ♣5

Using a strong club system, you get to show your spades and end in what appears to be the normal spot. (Yes, three notrump might be a better spot).

With at least three red-suit losers, it appears you will need the club finesse to work. You could play low from dummy, intending to pitch a heart on the third club later, but this is unlikely to gain. So cross your fingers and try the queen. When it holds, you draw trumps in two rounds then cash the club ace and ruff a club, eliminating that suit.

By exiting with ace and another heart next, you give yourself extra chances in diamonds. The defenders must broach diamonds, lest they give you a ruff-and-discard, and you need not rely on the diamond jack being in the East hand.

West does best by taking the heart king then leading one to his partner's queen, so East can shift to diamonds. With West being a passed hand, you know he cannot have both the diamond ace and diamond jack in addition to his seven points in the rounded suits, so it cannot be wrong to insert the diamond 10, then capture the jack with the queen and lead back to the king. To play the diamond eight instead could give you a guess on the next round if West covered with the nine.

This is how Margi Bourke played the hand to rack up her game bonus. Had she been left to tackle diamonds herself, she would doubtless have finessed the ten at some point and gone down.

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# BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com



## OPENER'S REBID IN A COMPETITIVE AUCTION

What would you call on the following hands, nil vul?

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

## SOLUTIONS

1. 2♠. The cuebid of the opponent's suit is traditionally played as a strong bid but in this situation it makes good sense to do the opposite and play it as a minimum hand with no definite direction.

For a raise to 3♦ responder is entitled to expect more than a flat, lifeless 12-count. Over your 2♠ responder is now free to bid 2NT or 3♣ which you will pass, and which will no doubt be a better contract than any number of diamonds.

2. 2NT. You have two stoppers in opponent's suit and you need to be the declarer if your side ends up in notrumps to protect your ♠Q. If responder rebids 3♣ or 3♦ over your 2NT you should pass with your minimum.

3. 2♠. Your spade holding is not a stopper and your hand is a minimum so make the weak bid of 2♠ asking for partner's guidance.

2♥ in this situation should be a reverse and show a good hand, say 15+ HCP.

If responder has a game force hand with five diamonds and four hearts they will follow up with 3♥ over your 2♠ so you will never miss a heart fit. With less than a game force with five diamonds and four hearts responder should double the 1♠ overcall to show 4+ hearts.

4. 3♦. Now this is a 3♦ bid, where you want to show your excellent support and your willingness to play in partner's suit.

5. 3♣. Partner's 2♦ in a competitive situation can be shaded. With eight or nine points and a six-card diamond suit or five diamonds and four clubs responder would be wary of passing and being shut out of the auction so would bid 2♦.

So, opener should be taking a defensive stance and bid 3♣ rather than 2NT to cater for the likely weaker hand opposite and offer a safe landing spot.

6. 3NT. The standard opener's jump in notrump with 18-19 balanced.

7. 3NT. You don't have 18-19 balanced but there is no other bid that adequately describes your hand. Let's hope if responder has a hand where 6NT is possible they show restraint and invite with 4NT which you will happily pass. Notrump over notrump is always invitational.

8. 3♠. You have a fine hand and a 3♠ splinter describes it to a tee. Now if responder continues with 3NT they have been warned about your shortage in spades and you can confidently pass.

9. 3♥. Again a splinter showing shortage, singleton or void, and extra values. If you had extra values with clubs and hearts you would simply bid a forcing 2♥, there would be no need to jump.

10. 4♠. Exclusion Keycard Blackwood asking for keycards excluding spades. If you visualise something like ♦AQxxx opposite you will see that you are very close to making 7♦. And responder could have six diamonds plus extra values like ♥K and ♣Q so you need to be thinking small slam or a grand slam over 2♦.

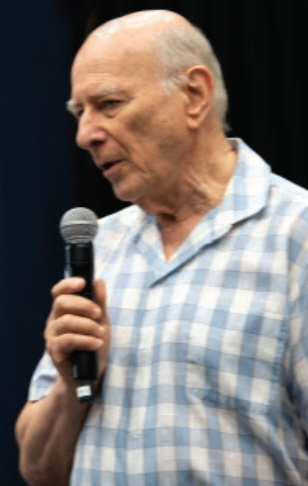
Responder now shows keycards excluding spades and if responder shows one keycard you can continue with the next step (not 5♦) asking for ♦Q and any outside kings.

If you haven't already bid 7♦ your follow-up of 5NT shows your side has all the keycards plus the ♦Q and responder will be able to judge the final contract, be it 6♦ or 7♦.

# IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

*Solution to problem on page 2*



## WEST HITS THE RIGHT PITCH

From a major pairs event:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT <sup>11-14</sup>
pass	3NT	all pass	

Lead: ♥3 - nine - jack - queen.

Declarer played low in dummy and East's ♥J was taken by the queen. A diamond to the king was followed by a low diamond and East discarded the ♣2. As East-West were playing high-encouraging, the ♣2 showed no interest in clubs. East was happy to

have hearts continued, as it seemed very likely that West held the ♥K.

South took the ♦A and played the ♦J to West's queen, East throwing another club. West's ♥2 knocked out the ♥A and set up three heart winners. Declarer cashed dummy's fourth diamond, East pitching the ♥4 and West had to make a discard. Many would dither at this point, but West let go the ♠5 without any apparent discomfort. On the fifth diamond, East discarded another club, South a spade and West threw the ♥5.

This was now the position:

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

Declarer has six tricks and can cash his winners to make 3NT and +400. In fact that would have produced ten tricks and a near top, but how was he to know the actual spade layout? This was pairs, where overtricks matter. Needing a good result to have any chance of finishing near the top, South was persuaded by West's spade discard and East's refusal to throw a spade that the ♠Q was most likely with East, especially as East figured to hold the spade length.

He cashed the ♠K and then the ♣A to see if any helpful cards appeared. Finally, he took the spade finesse and that was one down, giving East-West a 90% result. Nine tricks and +400 would have given North-South 55% and +430 was worth 86% to NS.

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# HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with  
Barbara  
Travis



*Solutions on page 24*

## QUESTION 1

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

♠ Q 5 3  
♥ J 9 5 3  
♦ K Q J 10 5  
♣ 5

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

♠ 10 6  
♥ —  
♦ A 9 8 6 3  
♣ A K 10 9 6 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	pass	2♣
pass	3♦ splinter	pass	4♦ cue
pass	4♥ cue	pass	5♣
pass	5♠ cue	pass	7♣
all pass			

This hand was played in a Teams match.

At table 1, West led the ♦K (he disliked leading a singleton trump). How would you play?

At table 2, West led his trump. How would you play?

## QUESTION 2

♠ Q 6 3  
♥ A J 2  
♦ K Q 5 2  
♣ Q 7 2

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

♠ J 8 4 2  
♥ 10 8 5 3  
♦ 6  
♣ J 8 5 3

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	6NT	all pass	2NT <sup>20-21</sup>

West leads the ♠10. How would you play?

## QUESTION 3

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

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

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

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

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

West leads the ♠6, definitely the most challenging lead. How will you play?



# HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with Barbara Travis

*Solutions to problems on page 23*

## HAND 1

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

This hand was played in a teams match, both tables playing in 7♣.

At Table 1, West led the ♦K (he disliked leading a singleton trump). How would you play?

At Table 2, West led his trump. How would you play?

TABLE 1: You have three aces, and ten trumps. As long as your three aces stand up, you can cross-ruff

the remaining ten tricks. You win the ♦A, discarding a spade from dummy. Then you trump a diamond in dummy. Your next step is to cash the ♥A, discarding your small spade, then the ♠A. Now you ruff a heart in hand with the ♣3. Once the ♣3 wins, you can play a high cross-ruff for the remaining tricks.

## TABLE 2:

The trump lead leaves you with only three ruffs in diamonds. You will need to establish a long card in one of the red suits. Fortunately, this declarer chose the 'right' suit (the one breaking 4-4): hearts. Since declarer needed to start by ruffing diamonds, so that he could keep the ♠A as the entry to the fifth heart, he won the first trick in hand. He threw a small spade on the ♦A, then ruffed a diamond. The ♥A came next, declarer discarding his spade loser, then the next five tricks were red suit ruffs, ending in hand. After drawing East's last trumps, declarer was able to cross to dummy's ♠A, cashing dummy's long heart at trick 13.

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**HAND 2**

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

♠ J 8 4 2  
 ♥ 10 8 5 3  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ J 8 5 3

**HAND 3**

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

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

West leads the ♠10 against 6NT by South.

There are 12 tricks, assuming diamonds play for four tricks. So, having won the first trick with the ♠Q, you cash the ♦K and ♦Q, discovering the 4-1 break offside.

You cross to hand with a club to the king, then try the heart finesse, playing dummy's jack. Now you have the potential to counteract the poor diamond break – by endplaying West.

You cash the four remaining black suit winners, ending in hand. Once West has followed to three rounds of both spades and club, West is marked with either two or three hearts. Simply lead a heart towards dummy – if West has only two hearts, the king will appear, and then you have three heart winners. When West follows with a low heart, you know West started with a 3-3-4-3 hand shape. Exit with the heart to West's king, and he will have to lead a diamond around to your ♦A-10, giving you your twelfth trick. (You shouldn't try the endplay by using diamonds to catch West. He may have only two hearts and four cards in a black suit!)

West leads the ♠6, definitely the most challenging lead against your 4♠. How will you play?

You need to take the double heart finesse, which means you need two entries to dummy. One can come from the ♠K, the other will need to be a diamond ruff.

At trick 2, lead a diamond. West wins the ♦K, shifting to the ♣K, which you win with the ace. Lead another diamond, won by East with the ace. East's best continuation is another trump, which you should win in dummy with the king (entry #1).

Now you need to make careful use of your entry. Lead a heart to the ten and queen. West will try a top club which you ruff, then you lead your third diamond, trumping in dummy with the ♠7 (entry #2).

Lead another heart from dummy, finessing your ♥9 if East plays low. Then draw the last trump, giving you six spade tricks, one diamond ruff, two hearts and one club.

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# HOW TO THINK



## with Andy Bowles

In the bidding, we often focus on what we've got in our own hand, but it's important to think about what the other players have too.

In the play, we often take one trick at a time, or we start by doing something that looks obvious. Then we only start thinking about the bigger picture a few tricks later. Sometimes that is too late, so it's a good habit to try to plan the play at trick one, before playing any card from dummy.

Dealer South, neither side vulnerable.

♠ 8 6 3 2

♥ A K 7 5

♦ K 7 5 3

♣ Q

♠ A

♥ J 4 3

♦ A Q 6 4 2

♣ J 10 9 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
pass	1♥	2♠	pass
pass	5♦	all pass	

Opening lead: ♠9

### The bidding

The first two bids are easy, but then East makes things harder with a jump to 2♠. Holding a minimum, South has nothing to say over that. Let's look at North's problem after 2♠ is passed around.

### How many diamonds has South shown?

At least three.

### How many spades might South have?

North has four, and East has at least six, so South can have at most three spades.

### Does that tell us anything about South's hand?

Aha! The only time that South opens 1♦ with three is with 4-4 in the majors. That is impossible, so South must have at least four diamonds.

### What is our hand worth in diamonds?

We have good support, a singleton, and prime high cards. Aces and kings work well in a high-level suit contract.

The ♣Q might or might not be useful, but at least it's in a suit where partner will have some length.

### What shall we bid?

Game. North jumps to 5♦ (though they might also have tried 3♠, looking for 3NT).

### The play

Now let's look at the play from South's perspective.

### What do we know?

East seems to have spades headed by the ♠KQJ10. They probably have only six of them, as with seven good spades they would have bid 3♠.

### How good is the contract?

We have only two likely losers: a heart and a club (unless diamonds are 4-0).

### So, shall we draw trumps?

Not so fast.

### If we draw three rounds of trumps, how many tricks do we have?

Five diamonds in hand, one ruff in dummy, and three major-suit winners makes nine. We need 11.

### Maybe trumps are 2-2. What then?

Five diamonds in hand, two ruffs in dummy, and three major-suit winners makes ten. Still not enough.

### What if we ruff three clubs in dummy first?

That would give us eleven tricks, but we don't have many entries to hand. We can ruff one spade in hand without being overruffed, but West will have only two spades. The third spade would be overruffed. We can't afford to ruff high twice, as that would create a trump loser. Also, East might overruff the last club.



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**If we get two club ruffs, that gives us ten tricks.**

**Can we get a heart trick as well?**

If trumps are 2-2, we could arrange to lead a heart to the jack and get two club ruffs in dummy. Then if East has ♥Q, or the hearts are 3-3, we'll get up to eleven. For example, draw trumps in two rounds, cash ♥A, and lead a heart from dummy.

(For advanced players, see what happens if you try to cater to trumps 3-1 as well as leading a heart to the jack.)

**OK, if we need trumps 2-2, we may as well draw trumps. Shall we do that?**

No. We haven't finished thinking yet.

**Can we do anything with the club suit?**

We have the queen, jack, ten and nine between us. If we were in notrumps, that would be worth two winners and two losers.

Maybe we can swap a heart loser for a club loser? Lose a club to the ace or king, then another club to the other honour, throwing a heart from dummy. Now we'll have two club winners. Use one of those winners to throw another heart from dummy. Our hearts will be AK opposite Jxx, and we can ruff a heart in dummy.

**If we do that, how many ruffs do we need to take in dummy?**

We won't need any club ruffs, as they will all be winners. We'll just need one heart ruff. We can cope with diamonds 3-1.

**OK, this seems like the best line. Shall we draw trumps?**

Suppose we draw three rounds of trumps, and then play a club to the queen. They take it and play a spade; we ruff and give up another club. We still have a spade ruff to our hand for cashing the club winners.

**Seems good. Shall we draw trumps?**

Wait a minute. If we draw three trumps and play a club, what will we do if ♣Q wins? We'll have five trumps and a ruff, three tricks in the majors, and ♣Q. That's only ten tricks. Our only entries to hand will be the two spade ruffs, but we'll need three entries to set up and cash the clubs.

**That would be a very clever defence, but maybe our opponents are clever. Is there anything we can do about it?**

Play a club at trick two. If they take that, then we can get back to the same position as we want to be – just ruff the spade return, draw trumps, and give up another club.

If they duck the first club, we draw three trumps ending in hand, then play another club. We still have two trumps in hand, so we still have enough entries to set up and cash the clubs.

**OK, a club it is. Are we good to go?**

Yes! The full deal:

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

## GNOT RESULTS

The 2022 GNOT Final ended in a tie between Canberra 2 (George Kozakos - Ian Thomson, Marianne Bookallil - Stephen Fischer) and Sydney 4 (Lakshmi Sunderasan - Fraser Rew, Jamie Thompson - Ella Jacob, Nick Jacob - Matt Smith). This is the first time since 2005 that this event has had joint winners.

At the end of play, Sydney were 4 imps in front, having won 5 imps on the following board pending a director's ruling:

Board 50	♠ K 10		
E/EW	♥ 2		
	♦ A 10 9 8 7 2		
	♣ K J 10 8		
♠ J 2		♠ 6 5	
♥ J 10 6 5		♥ A K Q 9 7 4 3	
♦ K Q 5 3		♦ 6 4	
♣ Q 5 4		♣ 7 6	
	♠ A Q 9 8 7 4 3		
	♥ 8		
	♦ J		
	♣ A 9 3 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sunderasan	Kozakos	Rew	Thomson
dbl	pass	1♥	4♠
		5♥	all pass

Result: 5♥-E, NS 300. Other table: 5♠-S, NS 480.

Playing behind screens, East told North that West's double was "penalty-oriented", while West told South that the double showed "values". North felt that he would have been more likely to double 5♥ if he had received West's explanation.

The director made a weighted ruling, awarding one imp to Sydney on the board, resulting in a joint win for Sydney and Canberra. Congratulations to all of the players involved, especially those who are experiencing their first national Teams victory.

*Brad Coles*



# TEACHING TIPS

with Ian Dalziel

## **BIDDING TENTS**

A lot of the teaching of bidding involves the uncontested auction. After the spoken lesson, students usually practise what they have been taught with prepared hands. The problem is that only one side is bidding and the other side is bored waiting their turn to bid on the next hand; if it's a long slam auction the other side might fall asleep! Then the hands are played out which can take more time than the bidding. Hence it will take 10 to 15 minutes per board, including the questions and discussion at the end.

Even if eight boards are played at the class, each pair will only be bidding four hands. If the lesson is about responding bids, each player will only 'respond' twice in the session. The best way for the student to learn is lots of practice, so this is not a very efficient use of the time.

My solution is to have them working in pairs using bidding tents. A bidding tent consists of a folded card with a hand on either side (just like a tent). The players bid the hand to conclusion (assuming opponents are silent) and write their bidding on a special pad (see later). When bidding is over, they open the tent and the two hands are shown inside with the recommended bidding and explanation. They check their bidding and, if they are wrong, they can see why. There are 20 tents in a set stacked on top of each other. When they finish one tent they put it at the bottom of the stack and bid the tent now on top. The dealer alternates.

The HCP are shown on the outside and inside of the tent. This saves time and prevents errors in counting points. The teacher is on hand to help, but is rarely needed – they teach themselves. The discussion is incredibly helpful; the students love it as no one is inactive or bored. 30-45 minutes is long enough, after that they have a tea break which is followed by random hands (see my previous column).

Initially, I produced these tents on card which needed two runs through the printer to print both sides. However, I changed the design to paper so that my

students could print their own tents for home use. An A5 sheet is folded in quarters to make the tent. This gives the same rigidity as card. Note that the dealer's hand needs to be upside down. One set of twenty tents can be made from printing ten pages of A4.

Each pair has a set of 20 tents.

Of course, this method

does need twice the number of tables needed for working in fours. Even if a pair does all 20 tents they can do them again by swapping hands; the dealer on odd numbered hands becomes dealer on the even numbers and vice versa. You can, therefore, bid 40 hands with one set of tents.

Tents enable you to practise bidding any time, anywhere; all you need is a partner – some even take the tents on holiday. I have 17 different sets of tents so my students have 680 hands to bid if they bid them both ways. Each set has a teaching theme so students sometimes choose to randomise them so that they don't know what's coming up next.

However, my version of Acol will be slightly different from yours; the differences will be small but noticeable. Hence, if you like the tents idea, you should make up your own. I used MS Publisher. You can also do them in Word if your version can turn text boxes upside down.

If you would like a free PDF and/or Publisher copy of my set on basic notrump slam bidding and the master sheet to make answer pads, email the address below. If you have Publisher, you can delete my hands and use it as a template for your own hands. If not, you can make your own template in Word using my PDF copy as a guide – quite a lot of work, but well worth it in the long run.

**[ildalziel@gmail.com](mailto:ildalziel@gmail.com)**

*Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK*



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



# Club vs club: the inaugural AWT Club Knockout Final

The Inaugural Final of the Australia Wide Teams Club Knockout will be held on RealBridge Tuesday 6 December at 7:30pm AEDT. Kibitzing will be available for all divisions via My ABF - Congress View. The finalists are:

## Open: Nedlands Bridge Club vs Moonee Valley Bridge Club



Vinod Nasta, Jonathan Free, Mimi Packer, Cynthia Belonogoff



George Lovrecz, Leo Saoud, TP Ranasinghe, Gordon McRobert

## Under 750: Canberra Bridge Club vs Mollymook Bridge Club



Elizabeth Yoo, Liz Shonk, Jo Thomas, A DeLorenzo, Helen Little



T Rolfe, Lauri Perino, Lucy Robinson, R Milbourne, M McTiernan

## Under 100: Brisbane Bridge Centre vs South Canberra Bridge Club



M Corney, Vanessa Brewis, J McGowan, Lilly Jia, Martin Wu



Paul Appelby, Kevin Caruana, Martha Griffiths, Brenda Watts

## Under 50: Waverley Bridge Club vs Wagga Wagga Bridge Club



Kevin Gu, Nitin Joglekar, Ann Zhu, Marg Ferguson



Marie Gin, Henry McMahon, Kyle Giggacher, Paul Gianniotis

Twenty eight teams kicked off the inaugural annual club knockout in September 2022 culminating in the final 6 December. Organiser Rob Ward said, "Special thank you to all Clubs and players who participated in this new event. Getting up and going had its challenges but we did and look forward to 2023 and beyond with enhancements that will make this event a highlight of the ABF Calendar."

[kibitz.realbridge.online](https://kibitz.realbridge.online)



# It Must Be Christmas

by John Elliott

N/NS

♠ —

♥ —

♦ K 10 6 5 3

♣ K Q 10 8 7 6 4 3

♠ A K J 8 5 2

♠ Q 9 6 4

♥ Q J 9 7 2

♥ A K 10 5 4 3

♦ J 9

♦ Q 7

♣ —

♣ 9

♠ 10 7 3

♥ 8 6

♦ A 8 4 2

♣ A J 5 2

*Christmas comes but once a year  
And so do hands like this  
Although October is now here  
The Red Man I could kiss.*

*Three Losers did I see at once  
No Aces in my hand  
And not my style is taking punts  
That's my normal stand.*

*From partner I would need two Aces  
To satisfy requirement,  
Be still, my heart, make sure my face is  
Showing no excitement.*

*An opening bid I now must make  
And carefully proceed  
There is a prize that's here at stake  
Errors I do not need.*

*Two No Trumps becomes my bid  
My meaning's in this packet  
It shows two 5-card Minor suits  
With opening points to back it.*

*Undaunted, East now has his say  
Those lovely Hearts to call  
And strongly hope that partner may  
Support and then stand tall.*

*In South's mind there rings a bell  
We have at least nine trumps  
It doesn't matter which I tell  
We'll show that we're not frumps.*

*So what to say, I'll cause some trouble  
Equal length in D & C,  
With two good suits, my bid is "Double"  
Look to North and see.*

*Meanwhile West sees chance for Game  
I have five Hearts as well  
And earn ourselves distinguished name  
As far as I can tell.*

*But North is not so easily cowed  
And bids 5 Clubs to boot  
East counters with 5 Hearts out loud  
With wisdom that is moot.*

*South is made of sterner stuff  
And leaves 5 hearts alone  
And wonders now if North's a bluff  
Will he do it on his own?*

*West now thought my turn has come  
To bid OUR slam and say  
Our High Card Points and DP sum  
Are going to save the day.*

*Six Hearts bid West with confidence  
That'll put them in their place  
With all our points and logic sense  
We'll win this bloody race.*

*But North's continues calmly fishing  
Little did they know,  
And what it was he had been wishing  
To cook them nice and slow.*

*The auction up to now was piecemeal  
To make opponents think  
There was a slam that they could steal  
And they'd be in the pink.*

*But North upset the applear, A  
A spanner in the works,  
7 Clubs was bid above the Heart.  
From where his cunning lurks.*

*A Sacrifice it surely seemed,  
It shouldn't make at all,  
Double now for penalty,  
Opponents then did call.*

*Pass, pass, pass, the auction's done  
Now let's look at play  
The Ace of Hearts was meant to run,  
Declarer ruffed instead.*

*A dozen trumps Declarer counted,  
Only one not seen,  
The Grand Slam play could be unmounted  
Only by a Queen.*

*But those us who read this must  
See as plain as day,  
The diamond Queen will hit the dust  
The Slam will surely stay.*

On the night that this hand was played, we were the only pair who bid 7♣. The Double was expected and not a surprise. But the gods were smiling at the time and maybe Santa Claus as well, but when the Bridge-mate came up with a score of 2330, few of us had ever seen such a score, the nearest being a rare 7NT vulnerable making 13 for 2220.

One East-West pair bid 6♥ doubled (Not Vulnerable) making 13 tricks for -1010, three others bid 6♥ making 11, four played in 5♥ making 13 for 510, and one other North-South pair played in 5♣ making 13 for 640.

In the bidding of this contract, I tried to make it seem that my 6♣ bid was a sacrifice, but I was taken aback by the auction going to 6♥. At that point my courage faltered with indecision, but at the critical moment when I reached out to my bidding box for the pass card, I changed my mind and went for the Grand Slam. If it hadn't been for that last-second correction, I would not have earned the right to write this story; the verse is a bonus.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ONLINE MASTERPOINTS

As online bridge is a different category of bridge to face-to-face bridge, by all means award masterpoints for online bridge as long as it is recognised as a different category. We have green, red and gold MPs. Why not Orange Masterpoints, OMPs for online master points? We have different masterpoints for Seniors events, Women's events as they are recognised as different categories to Open events. Likewise, the ABF can allocate different rates for OMPs, depending on the level of the events.

The ABF can also restrict the number of OMPs for achieving various levels, say 10% of the total required: Life Master: 300 MPs with a maximum of 30 OMPs. Grand Master: 1000 MPs with a maximum of 100 OMPs, together with the other requirements imposed.

*Ron Klinger*

## NOVICE EVENTS

After a gap of 45 years away from bridge I took some lessons and joined an ABF Club. When I heard about a National Novice Pairs event I thought, "That's for me," but when I was told that anyone with less than 100 MP was eligible to play I thought that my measly 1.24 MP (earned over a two year period) would suggest we would be cannon fodder. I initially said no to registering, but a short time later a new partner and I decided to 'have an experience'. Collectively we had fewer than 3 MP and would be playing together for the first time.

What bothered me was, how many years does it take to earn 100 MP and am I likely, recommencing the game at age 70, to ever be regarded as anything but a Novice? This got me to thinking that perhaps these events are misnamed.

Novice is derived from the Latin word novus, which means new. It is an old term often associated with a religious meaning – a person who entered a religious order and was under probation before taking vows.

So perhaps a 'novice bridge player' is learning a bidding system and how to play out the mechanics of a hand. They take lessons and then generally need some supervision to gradually embed the new knowledge. A bit like mentoring. Long term devotees of the game say that you never stop learning, but we can choose the level where we feel the most comfortable.

Some will say that you can't improve your game unless you play against better players. I generally agree with that, but I don't see why playing against players who are many grades above me is valuable. Being beaten all the time is more likely to be a turn-off.

So I asked myself, do I feel 'not yet competent' (incompetent may be a bit too harsh) or 'competent' insofar as understanding SAYC and being able to play a competitive/competent game? Resoundingly yes.

In terms of the naming of National Novice events, I would like to make a suggestion. A fellow club member was recently awarded ABF Bridge Ranking Certificate which is awarded when a player reaches the grand total of two masterpoints. He is now deemed a 'Graduate Master', which is the lowest level on the scale of 21 grades, and it only took him five years! I could well beat him!

Well, that satisfies the argument for me: 2 MP means no longer a Novice – you transitioned to become a Master. Graduate means an acknowledgement of a basic level of skill (competency) and Master is a higher level than a novice or apprentice.

Finally, a more serious request. If there are 21 'Master levels' can we not create a series of 'bands' to create a competition for those people ... maybe that is under 20 MP. The next band may be 21-50 MP, and so on. This will mean we will find challenging players to help us improve but without the humility of being smashed.

*Brian Hanson*

## FOR THE RECORD

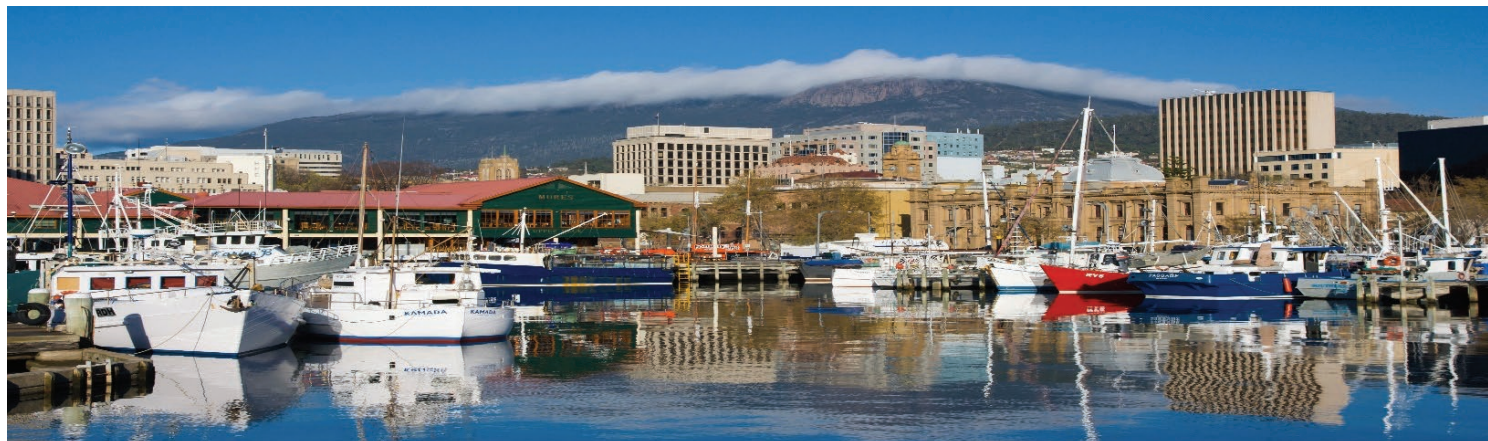
In her article about Joan Butts in the last issue, Sue Falkingham said that Joan started her own club in 1991. That is not quite accurate.

In the late 1980s, Joan arranged for me to do a teaching tour to Queensland. While there, I encouraged her to take up teaching bridge. This led to us opening the Grand Slam Brisbane on 15 September 1991 at 134 Racecourse Road, Hamilton. It was an upmarket club in a brand-new building, and it went very well. We reached around 500 members, most of whom had come through our teaching program.

After about six years, we split the partnership and closed the club. A while later, Joan did finally open her own club, but it was very much smaller and operated out of casual premises. She deserved the rest.

*Paul Marston*

# TASMANIAN FESTIVAL of BRIDGE



**MyState Bank Arena, Glenorchy**

**Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sun 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

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## **Thursday/Friday**

TFoB Restricted Swiss Pairs  
Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs – PQP event  
Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs

## **Saturday/Sunday**

TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs – PQP event

## **Sunday**

TFoB Rookie Swiss Pairs for players with < 25 MPs

**NEW**

## **Saturday Evening Dinner**

Bookings by 20<sup>th</sup> March essential

**NEW**

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***Entries now open on [myabf.com.au](https://myabf.com.au)***

or for entries and other enquiries contact

Entries Co-ordinator: [hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com](mailto:hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com) 0447 044 141

or Event Organiser

Katherine Marsden [kmarsden26@gmail.com](mailto:kmarsden26@gmail.com) 0418 135 618



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