

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



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NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS by Anne Lamport

Over the last few years I have been lucky enough to play in many of the NABC championships which are held every four months in a different part of the USA or Canada. The top players from around the world are there, and it is great to rub shoulders with many of these as friends and partners.

At this NABC I played with Christina Lund Madsen, European Champion from Denmark (one of my regular partners) in the opening pairs event, Adam Stocka from Sweden in the BAM teams, Ariana Testa from Italy in the Women's Teams, and Stefan Skorchev from Bulgaria in the A/X Teams.

I had a very special team in the KO Teams event where we managed third place! My team was Christina Lund Madsen, Juan Castro Castillo from Costa Rica and Lisi Covarrubias from Chile. A truly international team of great people and we had a lot of fun – coming third was a bonus!

On the last weekend there was as always a sizeable A/X Swiss Teams which typically attracts the majority of top players who are out of the Reisinger, one of the top national team events of the tournament. Our own Liam Milne and Andy Hung and team came 3rd in the Reisinger, which is an amazing accomplishment and we are very proud of them. I was playing in this event with Stefan Skorchev, a perfect partner and delightfully funny man. In one of the first rounds we played against our own defector (to Las Vegas now, where he lives with beautiful wife Lisa) and a good friend, Ishmael Del'Monte, and his partner Eldad Ginossar from Israel.

On this deal we played in 6♣, doubled by Ish, and I made it!



Anne Lamport with Zia at the NABC

S/EW ♠ Q 8 3
 ♥ 10 8 5 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ K Q 10 9 7 3

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

♠ A J 10 5
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K Q 4
 ♣ A J 8 6 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Eldad	Stefan	Ish	Anne
1♥	3♣	4♥	1♣
pass	6♣	dbl	5♣
			all pass

They led a diamond, I drew trumps and took a spade finesse, conceding a heart for 12 tricks and +1090! Unfortunately the USA is not as proficient as we are in dealing and recording most of the team events, so you have to deal yourself and play with no hand records. I had to get Ishmael and Stefan's help to remember the hand, as after hundreds of hands my brain is quite dead.

All in all, it was a fun but exhausting twelve days with lots of memories to have forever.

Anne Lamport



Bill Gates and Sharon Osberg at the 2019 NABC Fall Nationals

SEE PAGE 7 FOR ANSWER

Teams ♠ K
 E/W ♥ 3
 ♦ J 10 9 7
 ♣ K 10 9 8 6 4 3

♠ 10 9 4
 ♥ K Q 8 6 4
 ♦ K 6 5
 ♣ 7 5



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

1. Weak two in hearts or in spades
2. To play opposite spades, interested in going higher opposite hearts.

You, West, lead the ♠10: king, two, six. The ♦7 is led from dummy: four, two, king. What do you play now?

See page 7 for the solution

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Letters to the Editor and feedback: editor@abf.com.au

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HAND 1

♠ J 6 5
 ♥ Q 8 6
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ K J 9 6 3

♠ 7 4
 ♥ A K 10 5 3
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ A Q 4

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

West starts with the top three spades, and you ruff the third spade. What is your plan?

HAND 2

♠ 6 5 2
 ♥ 7
 ♦ J 9 8 5 3
 ♣ A K J 8

♠ K 7 3
 ♥ A K 2
 ♦ A Q 4
 ♣ Q 7 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♣
2♣	2♥	Pass	3NT
all pass			

West's 2♣ overcall showed at least 5-5 in the majors. North's 2♥ bid promised a limit raise or better in clubs (the cue raise of West's suit), so South bid the obvious game.

West leads the ♥Q. What is your plan?

HAND 3

♠ A 7 6 3
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ 10 5 4
 ♣ A 7 6 4

♠ 2
 ♥ A Q 7 5 3 2
 ♦ A 3 2
 ♣ K 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	1♥
1♠	1NT	pass	4♥
all pass			

West leads the ♠K. What is your plan?

See page 16 for the solutions

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Happy New Year to you all from the ABF Management Committee.

As I reflect on the devastating bushfires that have engulfed parts of Australia, our thoughts are with the fire fighters, fire-affected families and communities. I trust that the Australian Bridge community and their families have been able to stay safe during this difficult time.



To support those affected, the ABF is waiving masterpoint fees until the end of March for states, territories and clubs conducting events to raise funds for bushfire appeals. I have been heartened to hear of the amount of money already raised through these events and am confident that the generosity of our players will continue.

2020 will see our Australian Open, Women's, Seniors' and Mixed Teams competing at the Asia Pacific Bridge Congress in Perth in April. They will also represent Australia in the 16th World Bridge Games in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy from 21 August to 4 September. The Australian Under 26 team will compete in the Asia Pacific Bridge Congress in April and the 18th World Youth Team Championships in Salsomaggiore Terme from 31 July to 9 August.

I am also pleased to announce that an under-21 and under-16 team will represent Australia in the Asia Pacific Bridge Congress in Perth, as this is an excellent opportunity to give these youth players experience on our home soil. I wish all of the teams every success as they compete as our Australian Teams at International Bridge Tournaments in 2020.

Professor Michael Bryan has been assisting Legal Counsel for the past year, particularly on constitutional matters. The ABF is currently incorporated under ACT legislation. Although operat-

ing within the framework of ACT law has not caused any practical problems, the legislation is a bad fit for a federal organisation, such as the ABF, which exists to promote bridge nationally, as well as to represent Australia internationally, and whose councillors are drawn from every State and Territory. ABF Legal Counsel and Professor Bryan have recommended that the ABF be incorporated under federal legislation as a company limited by guarantee. This is a legal structure adopted by many other sports and non-profit organisations. The ABF also received independent advice from two different legal companies and both recommended the ABF make this change. The Management Committee has accepted the recommendation.

Compliance with the federal legislation requires changes to be made to the ABF constitution. A draft, revised constitution has been drawn up and sent out to all State and Territory representatives and other interested parties for comment. In general, the draft has aimed at minimalism: only those amendments necessary to comply with the Corporations Act have been made. The officers will become directors, and the management committee will be the Board of Directors which remains accountable to the councillors, representing the states and territories, at the Annual General Meeting. The representative structure of the ABF, voting rights, and the procedures for electing officers are all unchanged.

Following a period of consultation, the draft constitution will be submitted for approval at the May Annual General Meeting. If you have any feedback on the above change or any other issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Management Committee please email

abf.pres@gmail.com

Allison Stralow, ABF President



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BRIDGE MEMBERSHIP HOLDING STEADY

The number of registered bridge players with the ABF Masterpoint Centre at the end of December was 36,439 which is a very slight decline of 189 players or 0.5%.

However, at the end of the masterpoint year in March 2019 there was a sudden drop of 343 players which we believe to be largely due to the Masterpoint Centre encouraging clubs to clean out their deceased and inactive players so that the clubs are not charged for them. During the following 9 months this shortfall has been reduced by the growth of 154 registered players.

In reality, this is a great performance compared to the USA and to many other leading participant sports such as golf, tennis, cricket, bowls, netball and rugby which have been in steady decline.

The number of bridge tables played in the USA declined by 2% in 2019 and is down by 7% since 2014. New Zealand declined by 169 members or 1% in 2019.

Australian registered bridge players are up by 2,690 or about 8% over the last decade since 2010 which is very pleasing but as you can see our numbers have been challenged over the last 5 years with an aging player base over 70 and a high attrition rate.

ABF Registered Players – December

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	Reg Players 2018-19	
											No	% Chg
ACT	802	823	902	910	933	961	966	1,001	995	969	-26	-2.6%
NSW	13,838	13,699	14,022	14,524	14,775	14,833	14,619	14,550	14,353	14,263	-90	-0.6%
VIC	5,161	5,078	5,237	5,599	5,516	5,521	5,676	5,709	5,759	5,807	48	0.8%
QLD	7,277	7,486	7,645	7,892	8,031	8,000	7,934	7,810	7,735	7,683	-52	-0.7%
SA	1,584	1,657	1,693	1,864	1,959	2,068	2,116	2,144	2,475	2,342	-133	-5.4%
WA	4,158	4,233	4,272	4,351	4,389	4,351	4,396	4,317	4,294	4,299	5	0.1%
TAS	758	788	809	825	865	875	870	863	872	920	48	5.5%
NT	171	177	185	189	182	166	149	149	145	156	11	7.6%
Total	33,749	33,941	34,765	36,154	36,650	36,775	36,726	36,543	36,628	36,439	-189	-0.5%
Change number		192	824	1,389	496	125	-49	-183	85	-189		
% change		0.6%	2.4%	4.0%	1.4%	0.3%	-0.1%	-0.5%	0.2%	-0.5%		

1. Note: At the end of March 2019 a clean out of inactive or deceased club members with the Masterpoint Centre resulted in a decrease of 343 members which has subsequently been reduced by 154 to a total of -189.

NSW and Queensland, the largest states by players were only marginally down in 2019 but have declined by 4-5% over the last five years. Victoria, the state with the second largest population in Australia but the lowest bridge ratio to population, has been slowly growing for the last 10 years.

It is worth noting that Tasmania with a highly enthusiastic new teacher, Sue Falkingham, has increased members by 5.5% in 2019.

MEMBER PERFORMANCE BY LARGEST CLUBS

An analysis of the 20 largest clubs by registered ABF players in Australia shows that over 50% of those largest clubs have declined in 2019 and since 2012. This is led by the biggest club, The North Shore Bridge Club, though some of these may have moved to their fast growing satellite club in Lindfield.

The NSWBA and the Sydney Bridge Centre are now the same legal entity and has grown. The Waverley Bridge Club in Melbourne has lost members. Hopefully Trumps has stabilised and the Peninsular Bridge Club on Sydney's Northern beaches has continued to grow.

In my upcoming ABF Marketing Bulletin that is distributed by email I will provide more details on the performance of clubs so if you want to know how your club has performed and you do not receive the email then contact me to add you to the list.

Top 20 Ranked ABF Registered Players by Clubs 2012 to 2019

Rank	No.	Club	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-19		2012-19	
1	2-120	North Shore Bridge Club Inc	1,032	1,103	1,222	1,180	1,174	1,216	1,304	1,216	-88	-7%	184	18%
2	5-701	South Australian Bridge Association	832	971	1,098	1,183	1,203	1,233	1,295	1,179	-116	-9%	347	42%
3	6-795	West Australian Bridge Club	983	993	979	957	965	977	998	958	-40	-4%	-25	-3%
4	2-001	NSWBA/Sydney Bridge Centre	688	742	746	804	843	786	794	850	56	7%	162	24%
5	3-480	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	794	823	838	846	843	844	879	787	-92	-10%	-7	-1%
6	2-259	Trumps Bridge Centre	861	897	871	857	826	757	715	743	28	4%	-118	-14%
7	4-572	Toowong Bridge Club Inc	809	753	736	766	737	726	729	708	-21	-3%	-101	-12%
8	1-851	Canberra Bridge Club Inc	605	608	618	660	660	687	687	684	-3	0%	79	13%
9	2-210	Peninsula Bridge Club NSW	360	396	443	508	522	557	552	588	36	7%	228	63%
10	4-545	Northern Suburbs Bridge Club Inc	630	665	672	615	611	590	579	563	-16	-3%	-67	-11%
11	4-682	Surfers Paradise Bridge Club Inc	578	604	601	585	546	523	516	495	-21	-4%	-83	-14%
12	2-074	NSBC@Lindfield	441	406	363	325	338	349	359	435	76	21%	-6	-1%
13	7-801	Tasmanian Bridge Association	309	337	333	350	359	375	377	415	38	10%	106	34%
14	4-555	Queensland Contract Bridge Club	408	423	402	394	411	413	393	401	8	2%	-7	-2%
15	2-266	Turrumurra Bridge Club	393	401	447	472	454	440	423	397	-26	-6%	4	1%
16	6-788	South Perth Bridge Club	395	419	432	409	421	412	398	388	-10	-3%	-7	-2%
17	6-792	Undercroft Bridge Club Inc	407	401	395	398	379	387	385	384	-1	0%	-23	-6%
18	4-680	Sunshine Coast Contract Bridge Club Inc	359	372	374	385	374	370	385	369	-16	-4%	10	3%
19	4-632	Kenmore Bridge Club	184	268	335	360	356	355	360	364	4	1%	180	98%
20	4-688	Toowoomba Bridge Club Inc	357	365	384	372	363	339	339	344	5	1%	-13	-4%



At a local duplicate recently, a hand involving a minor-suit transfer came up.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1NT	pass	2♠ clubs

The 2♠ response to 1NT is a transfer to clubs. You usually have a choice of either accepting the transfer or “super-accepting”.

What is a super-accept? If you’ve asked partner to bid your suit, and they don’t, but instead bid the suit in between...

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1NT	pass	2♠ clubs
	2NT (instead of 3♣)		

it means they are “super accepting”, and saying they really like your club suit.

They are showing a hand with at least three cards headed by a top honour, and they are exploring the possibility of nine tricks in notrumps with the benefit of this minor suit.

3NT will be better than 5♣ or 5♦ (nine tricks are easier than eleven for the same score). And if partner’s hand is very weak, they will give up on 3NT and just rebid their minor at the three-level. Opener will respect this, and pass.

TIPS: WHAT OPENER NEEDS TO SUPER-ACCEPT AFTER PARTNER’S MINOR SUIT TRANSFER

- Axx or Kxx are classic super accepts in partner’s minor suit.
- Qxx or xxxx are ok if maximum notrump points (17, not 15).
- Ax or Kx are not enough. Don’t super-accept. You might not be able to reach partner’s long minor.
- AK doubleton? Responder will need an external entry to make 3NT (eg. QJ10xxx plus ace or king of another suit).
- With a small doubleton or three small, do not super-accept.
- If responder had AKQxxx of their minor, they don’t need to transfer to it at all. Instead they would just bid 3NT.
- If you do super-accept and partner simply bids their minor again, they are showing a very weak unbalanced hand and they do not want to play game.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The newest Continuing Professional Development Day (CPD 6: *A Structured Approach to Help with Play*) is proving a popular choice for teachers and clubs. This four-hour session for teachers (ABF-funded, therefore free for participants) is a new take on an old idea.

I’ve called it “20 in 20 in 2020”, and what that means is that for the first time in 2020, we’re offering teachers twenty short lessons each to be given in twenty minutes at the start of Help with Play sessions. Cath Whiddon and I have always believed that well-organised supervised sessions after beginners lessons make or break new players – if they finish their beginners lessons and are then pushed into a session that is unsuitable for them, they simply won’t continue with bridge.

Very rarely is material given to students at Help with Play sessions. This new approach offers a fun handout each time showing the hand they will have played in each class, an analysis of the hand, some tips for the topic presented, an etiquette tip, and a fun saying which will make them smile about the game.

I believe that Help with Play needs more structure at the beginning of each class, and that no new bidding should be attempted at all. The twenty short lessons offered in our Structured Approach to Help with Play consist of ten declarer play considerations when making their plan, then ten for defenders. Such things as counting winners and losers, considering entries, when to lead long suits, when to lead short suits are included. There are twenty in all, and one hand per day to be discussed. To check out where Cath and I will be delivering these days in 2020, see the ABF Education website. There’s a lot of information for you there.

Joan Butts, ABF National Teaching Coordinator

All upcoming ABF Accreditation workshops may be viewed at <https://www.abf.com.au/education/>

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A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

What does this auction mean to you?

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

What does the 3♠ bid mean? At the table, partner described it as a cue raise, showing heart support, but this was incorrect. If I had wanted to show a limit raise or better for hearts, I would have made the cue raise on the first round of the bidding (where I bid 2♦). The 'delayed' cue raise (being on a later round of the bidding) is, instead, a game forcing bid – somewhat like fourth suit forcing. So this 3♠ bid was simply intended to create a game forcing auction, asking partner to clarify her hand further.

Here is the hand:

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

After the 3♠ cuebid, it would probably be best for North to bid 4♣, trying to show their shape. Note that if West had raised partner's 1♠ overcall to 3♠ preemptively, that would have made the auction far more challenging for South. I imagine I would have doubled and left partner to solve the problem of what to do next – this double, knowing there is a big spade fit (9+ cards) is not penalty but value-showing, asking partner to do something intelligent. Passing 3♠ doubled works quite well, although reaching game – and playing it carefully to make is even better.

We played in 4♥ and East led the ♣Q. To digress: I don't really approve of the singleton club lead. You already have four good trumps, so why do you want to trump with them? On such hands, it is usually better to lead your long suit, trying to gain trump control. On this hand, however, the ♥A-J in dummy over your honours is an ugly situation.

Back to Trick 1 though. Declarer should eye that club lead as though it is a shortage. After all, East would probably lead their spade suit otherwise. Declarer should also try to place some of the missing honours, realising that East would likely lead a spade with a sequence of honours. This means that West has at least one of the spade honours. Therefore, for three reasons you want to win Trick 1 in hand with your ♣A. Firstly, you want to lead a heart towards dummy, in case East has both heart honours (as in this case). Secondly, if you do finesse hearts and West wins, you don't want a club lead through your ace, ruffing it away. Winning with the ace leaves the king safe from this potential disaster. Finally, you want to retain dummy's ♣K as a later entry to the long diamonds in dummy.

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Some hands are simply challenging to bid, depending on your bidding system. The following hand was perfect for Two Over One (game forcing):

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

This was the auction our opponents had, playing Standard:

	1♠
2♣	2♦
3NT somewhat ugly	pass

This was the auction that you could start with, not playing Two Over One:

	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥ 4th suit forcing	3♦ 5-5
?	

West now has to decide whether to settle in 3NT, or investigate for the diamond slam, via 4♦.

Playing Two Over One, the bidding will be something like:

	1♠
2♣ game forcing	2♦
2NT 12-14 or 18+	3♦ 5-5
4♦	4♠
6♦	pass

Finally:

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

As North, I was on lead against 4♥ by West. I led the ♦3, partner winning the queen and cashing the ace. She led the ♦7 for me to trump, and I exited with the ♠K to the ace (promising the ♠Q). Declarer now started on trumps, misguessing by cashing the ace and king, so now partner had the setting trick in the ♥Q. Declarer crossed to dummy with the ♦K, and led the ♣J. This time South should cover. If you cover the ♣J, then declarer has to cross back to dummy's ten, but has no re-entry card to her ♣Q. On the other hand, if you play low on the ♣J, it wins, then declarer can finesse again, using the ♣A to discard the spade loser. It was only a matter of down one versus down two, but at a Pairs session that can be a massive difference in your score on the deal.

Keep in mind whether you need to cover or duck, thinking about declarer's entry position and what you know about the hand.

On the same theme, I remember reading that if you are leading from your own hand as declarer, holding touching honours you lead the top honour if you want it covered and the lower honour if you hope for the card to be ducked. (That relates to the 'power of the hidden hand'.)

Barbara Travis

HELPING PARTNER

Teams	♠ K
E/W	♥ 3
	♦ J 10 9 7
	♣ K 10 9 8 6 4 3



♠ 10 9 4
♥ K Q 8 6 4
♦ K 6 5
♣ 7 5



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

1. Weak two in hearts or in spades.
2. To play opposite spades, interested in going higher opposite hearts.

You, West, lead the ♠10: king - two -six. The ♦7 is led from dummy: four, two, king. What do you play now?

SOLUTION

From a National Teams event:

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

Dummy's king holds Trick 1 and declarer plays the ♦7, ducked to West's king. What should West do now?

At the table West continued with the ♠4, won by South with the ♠J. The next diamond went to East's ace and East shifted to the ♥9: jack, queen, and West returned the ♥4. Declarer now knocked out the ♣A and had nine tricks for +400, worth 11 imps with the +100 from the other table. Datum: 0.

East took West's ♠10-then-♠4 to be a doubleton. That would give South A-J-9-6 and to play another spade when in with the ♦A would give South a fourth trick. West should play the ♠9 on the second round of spades. Now East has no problem continuing spades.

West had another chance after the first round of hearts. East's switch to the ♥9 denied interest in hearts (East was hoping West's hearts might be headed by the A-Q or A-J-10). On winning with the ♥Q a third spade from West then would have been enough to sink 3NT.

Ron Klinger

YOU HAVE A FIT AND RHO OVERCALLS

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

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

1. Double. What should the double of 2♠ be? Seeing you have agreed on a heart fit there seems no need for a takeout double so double should be penalties. Assuming the overcaller has ♠KJ you have four spade tricks and two aces in your own hand. You should well expect a penalty of 300 or 500 with quite possibly no game available for your side.

2. 3♥. Automatic with six hearts and in no way, shape or form, invitational. You can't outbid the side with spades but you can certainly make it harder for them to know what level to stop at. Plus you want to compete for the partscore with your sixth heart.

3. 3♥. Game looks out of the question but I would rather play 3♥ than defend 2♠ with a singleton in the opponent's suit and such strong hearts. Even if you go one down with 2♠ making you will show a profit.

4. 3♦. Long suit trial bid – at least three and asking for help in the suit. Perhaps a little ambitious but with nine hearts between you hearts may break 2-2 with queen and jack missing.

5. 3♣. Long suit trial bid – at least three but here you have five. Even though you have only 12 HCP you don't need much for game. You have five losers, if partner can cover two of them, maybe ♥K and an ace, you have excellent chances in 4♥.

6. 3♣. Long suit trial bid. You have great shape but lots of losers and you need help in clubs to make game.

7. 3NT. The 2♠ overcall has made your hand look very notrumpy with two spade stoppers. 4♥ may have four losers but 3NT may have nine tricks. However that is not the end of the bidding and partner can correct to 4♥ with an unsuitable hand for notrump.

8. 3♠. A splinter in spades to set up a force and help partner judge the auction. If partner has only one or two spades giving the opponents a 10- or 11-card spade fit they could even make 4♠ if their shortages mesh.

You want to make sure that your side either bids to game or doubles the opponents so don't bid 4♥, make a strong bid and set up a game force auction. Now both you and your partner can make a forcing pass and your side won't let them play in 4♠ undoubled. If your LHO bids 4♠ your partner

paul@bridgegear.com



should double with spade values or bid on to 5♥ with a good supporting hand.

9. 4♣. Similar to Hand 8 you want to make sure that your side either declares the hand or doubles the opponents in their sacrifice. Plus of course you might have a slam on.

You might think 4♣ is better played as a splinter but you need to be prepared if opponents bid 4♠. Partner might bid 5♣ over your LHO's 4♠ with

♠ x x x ♥ Q x x ♦ x x ♣ K J x x x

and you could then bid to the excellent 6♣ contract.

10. 4♠. Exclusion Keycard Blackwood asking for the number of keycards excluding spades. Because you have a 10-card heart fit you most likely have no heart loser – a 2/1 break is 78%. If partner has ♣A or ♦A you are a great chance to make a slam so make sure you use Exclusion Blackwood while you have the chance. It would not be so surprising to find partner with ♣A and ♦A and now you can bid 7♥.

Paul Lavings

Paul Lavings
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IMPROVED SIMPLE STAYMAN

At the end of last year, I ran a workshop that summarised all the things that we had covered throughout the year. One topic that everyone finds informative and useful is the following hand, although it is not much to look at. How would you respond to partner's 1NT opening (15-17, or whatever you play)?

♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ 10 9 5 4 3 ♦ 7 ♣ 10 9 2

Passing springs to mind, and lots of less experienced players do. "What can I do? I only have 3 points. Good luck partner." More experienced players recognise that you can transfer with any number of points, and that a transfer is an excellent rescue from 1NT (bad) into 2♥ (hopefully less bad).

If you play Simple Stayman, and I recommend that you do, then there is an even better choice, which is to bid Stayman. If your partner bids 2♥ or 2♠, then you are a hero, and should now pass. Note that getting to play in 2♠ in a known eight-card fit could easily be better than playing in a potential 5-2 heart fit.

If your partner bids 2♦, showing no four-card major, then you should bid 2♥, with the agreement that this specifically shows a weak rescue hand, and that partner must pass. When you play Simple Stayman, the only responses are 2♥ or 2♠ (you pass) or 2♦, and you correct to 2♥. Partner is not allowed to bid 2NT or anything higher over Stayman.

Here is another hand that I like to use, again after partner opens 1NT is the same hand, with the suits rearranged:



♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ 10 9 5 4 3 ♣ 7

Even if you play transfers to minors, hopefully you know that you should have a six-card suit, since you end up playing at the three-level. I recommend bidding 2♣, Simple Stayman. If partner responds 2♠, then you are a hero! Just pass and wish her luck. If she bids 2♥, the 4-3 fit is not ideal, however it is probably better than 1NT would have been – you do have a singleton. The only other response that partner can make is 2♦, and although that doesn't show diamonds, I recommend that you pass. Any of those three contracts rate to be better than 1NT with such a poor hand.

This usage of Simple Stayman is called Garbage Stayman, and there are two circumstances that you can use Stayman, even with less than 8 HCP:

- A three-suited hand, short in clubs. Bid Stayman and pass whatever your partner bids.
- A hand with 5-4 in the majors. Bid Stayman, and pass a major response, or correct 2♦ to your long major, as above.

There are lots of versions of Stayman, but I think that Simple Stayman is the best. If you want to find out if partner is minimum, or maximum, or has both majors or a five-card suit, you can start Simple and continue bidding. Garbage Stayman (less than 8 points) only works with Simple Stayman, because all the responses are manageable at the two-level. This is a very simple addition to your system, and quite useful when it comes up. I also recommend using Stayman on strong hands with 5-4 in the majors, and if you don't find a fit immediately, continue bidding at the three-level to find your best contract.

Will Jenner-O'Shea

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FINDING YOUR FIT QUICKLY

When you are evaluating a hand for play in a suit contract, you routinely add your high cards and your distribution. Then you make some adjustments. You deduct something if you have a balanced hand. You adjust your estimate for high cards in the suits the opponents are bidding. And, you adjust your estimate for high cards in the suit or suits your partner is bidding.



A basic rule of bidding is that you do not look for a seven-card fit. You may end up in one, but you do not try to do so. With that in mind, you should be conscious not to raise with three trumps when you know your partner has just four. How can you tell when partner has four has not five? Or for that matter, three? On many sequences, you just cannot tell. When you can't tell how many partner has, it is okay to raise with three in the hope that he has five. But, on sequences where partner's bidding shows exactly a four-card suit, your raise must show four. Here are some auctions. How many cards does North have in his suit and how many can South have for the raise?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	1♥	2♣

North might have only three clubs. But he might have four or five or six clubs. South is entitled to raise clubs with just three-card support. It is unlikely that you will raise a minor suit with three trumps, but it can happen:

♠ A 6 ♥ 7 6 5 2 ♦ 10 8 4 2 ♣ K J 8

This hand, for example, might bid 2♣ over the 1♥ overcall. It has eight nice points and no other decent bid. I know if I held the South hand, I would feel more guilty passing than I would feel guilty raising.

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

North can have four hearts, but he can also have five or six or seven. When your partner's length is unknown, it is okay for South to raise with just three cards. For example:

♠ 7 3 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ A J 10 8 6

The important goal of bidding is to find a fit. Raising hearts with the ♥AQ9 gives partner better information than rebidding 2♣. 1NT is poor since you have a terrible spade holding.

♠ 6 5 2 ♥ K J 3 ♦ 6 3 2 ♣ A K Q 8

With two unstopped suits, raising makes more sense than 1NT. If notrump is right, partner will get another chance to bid it.

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

Here, you know for a 99% certainty that North has only four spades. Since you know he has four and not five, you don't raise without four trumps. (See the discussion at the end of the example hands). For example, South would not raise with:

♠ A 10 5 ♥ J 8 7 6 3 ♦ K 6 3 ♣ 7 4

With this, rebid 1NT. Raising opener's second suit shows four-card support.

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

A two-over-one response usually shows five or more cards. Partner will be happy to hear about three-card support.

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

This raise shows four card support. North is expected to have only four diamonds. If he has five of them, he will rebid them and you can then raise with three if you wish.

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

Another example of the raise promising four trumps. Partner bid diamonds first and then spades. This implies four of them.

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

North has four spades and five or more clubs. A spade raise here guarantees four. With just three, do something else:

♠ K J 7 ♥ A K J 8 6 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ Q 9

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

Bid 3♣. Raising spades would show four. If partner bids 3♦ or 3♥ over 3♣, you can show your spade support then.

Here is a special case:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	dbl
pass	1♥	pass	2♥

This raise is an exception. A very important exception. North can have four or five hearts, but South's raise still promises four. The reason is that South has already promised heart support by the double. When South raises, he is putting the final nail in his description, confirming that he has four trumps and not three.

Why is this stuff important? It is important because you need to know as soon as possible that the fit is adequate. If the auction becomes competitive, you may wish to compete if you know you have eight trumps, but not otherwise.

It may also help you with your game bidding. For instance:

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

As long as you can count on partner having four trumps, you can jump to game without wasting time doing other things.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	2♣	3♥

Can South do this with three trumps? In my opinion, the answer is NO. More on this next time. ♦♦

Previously published in Australian Bridge Novice Edition.

IN THE SAME BREATH

How can I get a ruling on the following problem?

The contract is 4♠ by East. After several rounds declarer led a small card and asked for the ace, then noticed that West had played a trump and then asked for "small please".

At the end of the game I asked the director (who was dummy) if it was acceptable to change your mind like that. The reply was: "Yes, if it's all said in the one breath". Really? I wasn't watching declarer's breathing to be able to tell!

Ann

There is nothing in the Laws about anyone's breath, or about how fast the change was made. The actual rule is that you can change it if it was a slip of the tongue – that is, you genuinely intended to play small but the wrong word came out.

45C4b: A change of designation may be allowed after a slip of the tongue, but not after a loss of concentration or a reconsideration of action.

Declarer is not permitted to change his card in your situation. There was no slip of the tongue here; declarer called for the ace because he intended to play the ace (having not seen that the opponent had ruffed). He didn't say, "I want to play the ace if West doesn't ruff, but if West does ruff I want to play small." The decision to play small, reacting to the ruff, came after he had already played the ace; only a millisecond after, but definitely after. His failure to notice West's ruff before calling for the ace is what we would call "failure to pay attention", which is the technique that most of us use to lose at bridge. Once he has called for the card that he intended to play, the fact that he changed his mind

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in the same breath is not relevant; the only time he is allowed to change his mind is before he calls for the card.

A genuine slip of the tongue won't cross your path very often, but here is an example: South leads from his small doubleton in hand towards KJ2 in dummy, and West follows with the three. South thinks for about a minute, and then says "Small, I mean jack". It is obvious that declarer was trying to decide whether to play the king (high) or the jack (low). He will have no trouble convincing the director that he was referring to the smaller honour; in his mind, the king was high, the jack was small, and the two was never under consideration. In this case, I would allow declarer to play the jack – the card he had actually intended to call for.

Editor



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January is the biggest month on the junior calendar with Youth week being held soon after the New Year. This year it was held in Eaglehawk, which sits on the border of ACT and NSW. Greeted by rabbits and kangaroos, 40 players from Australia and NZ, ranging from 7 to 30 years old, contested to win the three major events on offer, and more importantly, to make the Australian Youth Squad for 2020.



The Australian youth squad will go on to represent Australia in the APBF in Perth, the World Championships in Italy, and the Australia-NZ test match in Hamilton. We wish the six pairs good luck in the coming year. In addition to this, as the APBF is being held in Australia, the decision was made to also send an Under-21 and an Under-16 team to contest the APBF. The teams selected are:

Under-21: Tomer Libman, Lara Topper, George Bartley, Jack Luke-Paredi.

Under-16: Jade Wilkinson, Lincoln Davey, Fletcher Davey, Dev Shah, Diya Shah, Taydon Gold.

Australian Junior Squad: Andrew Spooner - Renee Cooper, Jamie Thompson - David Gue, Bertie Morgan - George Bartley, Alex Phillips - James Palmer, Joshua Tomlin - Paddy Taylor, John Mai - Seb Wright.

In the Australia vs NZ test match, Australia won 107 to 79, with Andrew Spooner - Renee Cooper, Jamie Thompson - David Gue, Alex Phillips - James Palmer defeating Andi Boughey - Matthew Brown, Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin - Jack James, and Ryan Song - Brad Johnston.

At the end of youth week, it is customary to give out the Junior awards for 2019:

Andrew Reiner Trophy

for Best International Performance

JAMIE THOMPSON AND MATT SMITH

This award is granted to the best performed pair in the primary target international event, taking account of performance in the event itself, commitment to preparation, and contribution to team success.

Matt and Jamie finished 2nd in the Pairs in Croatia, with Jamie ranked 3rd overall this year. Over the year, the pair was the standout pair on the Australian Youth Team. Competing in the Netherlands, Thailand, Sweden and Croatia they consistently brought back positive results and catapulted Australia into open and youth final series over the year.



Helman-Klinger award

for top Masterpoint earner

JOHN MCMAHON, 155.14 MP

This award, worth \$200 annually and supplemented with a further \$100 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is awarded to the Australian Youth Player who earns the most master points in the calendar year in question.

John had good successes in Youth Week 2019, and the Summer Festival immediately after. He had great finishes in the Gold Coast, VCC and the GNOT. His major victory was the Youth ANC, where he captained the team, almost undefeated into the finals and won convincingly.

Hills-Hurley Trophy

for Best Partnership

RENEE COOPER AND ANDREW SPOONER

This trophy, donated by Richard Hills and Steve Hurley, is intended to encourage talented young bridge players to form long-standing partnerships and reward a successful pair who has developed a well-organized partnership to harness their full potential.

This partnership formed at the start of the year. Both players put in a lot of work in building their partnership. They were part of the Australian contingent at Sweden and Croatia and performed exceptionally.

Helman-Klinger Achievement

for overall most deserving player

NICO RANSON

This award, worth \$400 annually and supplemented with a further \$200 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is presented each year to the Australian Youth Bridge Player whose ability, achievements, sportsmanship, attitude, contribution and commitment during the calendar year are most deserving.

Nico started this year with winning the Youth Teams and finishing 4th in the Australian Junior Teams Selection. Nico played in all four junior internationals in 2019 and worked hard with John McMahon to develop a top-notch system that would work well against the world's best. Between world events, Nico went on to win the Youth teams at the ANC and came 4th in the VCC. Nico was always keen to take advice from top players to better his game. He also help with other youth players by giving advice and organising events throughout the year.

YOUTH BRIDGE PLAYERS

Subsidised (or FREE) entry fees and accommodation

The Gold Coast Congress is the biggest bridge competition in Australia – a smorgasbord of events over 9 days (Friday 21 February to Saturday 29 February 2020) to suit players of all ages and standards.

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All players born in 2000 or later get free entry.
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Accommodation

The Gold Coast Congress offers heavily subsidised accommodation in high rise holiday units to youth(ish) players. The cost is only

- \$17 a night for those born in 1995 or later.
- \$27 a night for older youths (up to 32 years or so).

The Capricornia apartments are only 350 metres from the competition venue, and even less to the beach. They have free Wi-Fi, a fully equipped kitchen, and air-conditioning in the living area. The complex has a full sized tennis court, heated pool & spa, sauna, BBQ area and underground car parking. Youth players who stayed there in the past had an awesome time!

For details or to book accommodation, contact Jessica Brake on 0414 134 888 or jessicabrake@hotmail.com. Accommodation places are limited. Preference is given to those born in 1995 or later, or "older" youth players not in full time employment.

Free Side event

The Gold Coast Bridge Club puts on a FREE fun night for youth(ish) players during the Congress. Some (half) serious bridge with special fun rules to mix things up. Prize-money and free food!

Other financial help

Your state based bridge association or local bridge club may also offer a subsidy – it doesn't hurt to ask!

USING ALL OF THE INFORMATION

This month's hand, from a State competition, is about trying to use all the information available to you, which I failed to do when I played the hand (sitting South, as dealer).

♠ A 10 9 5 4 2 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ 8 3 ♣ Q 5

We have an 11-count, so we open 1♠. West overcalls with 2♥, and partner raises us to 4♠. This is passed back to West, who doubles (a takeout double), and the double is passed out.

At the table, prior to this hand, there had been a bit of light-hearted chatter about how East-West had beaten us by three tricks on a few hands, but had not doubled any of them. In the midst of this banter, which continued during the auction, East looked visibly surprised when West did double this time. East thought for a decent amount of time about what to do over the double before eventually passing. This means he wasn't totally comfortable passing this for penalties, and was considering pulling the double, but he eventually decided to defend.

West leads the ♣A and dummy comes down:

♠ Q 7 3
♥ 7 6
♦ A K Q 6 2
♣ 8 4 2

♠ A 10 9 5 4 2
♥ K Q 8
♦ 8 3
♣ Q 5

It looks like we have two clubs to lose, as well as a heart loser, and we still have spades to deal with. One way to avoid a spade loser, given West's takeout double, is to play West for the singleton ♠J – lead the ♠Q from dummy and let it run, picking up East's king while dropping West's jack.

That's the best play if you need to avoid a spade loser, but in practice the play goes in a different direction. East follows to the ♣A with the ♣J, and West switches to the ♥A, followed by the ♥J. They've failed to find their club winner, so now we have another winning line: play three rounds of diamonds, pitching our club loser, and then tackle the spades.

First, we should try to work out more about the hand, based on the tempo of the auction. I think if East has all four spades, he should be passing out 4♠ very comfortably. Even with just three to the king, he still should pass easily, because that ♠K is not the card West wants to see in dummy in 5♥. In fact, I think East's pause suggests that he does not have the ♠K at all. If West has that card (and a takeout double), it might be a singleton.

At the table, I cashed the diamonds, just hoping that they were 3-3. West ruffed the third diamond with his singleton king, and when West played a third heart I was in trouble.

If I ruffed low (or didn't ruff at all) East would overruff with the ♠6 or ♠8. If I ruffed with the queen, East would discard a loser, and would be left with a certain trump trick:

♠ Q 7 3
♥ —
♦ 6 2
♣ 8 4

♠ —
♥ 10 5 4 2
♦ 10 7
♣ K 6 3

♠ J 8 6
♥ —
♦ J
♣ 10 9 7

♠ A 10 9 5 4 2
♥ Q
♦ —
♣ —



West plays a heart and there is no way to pick up the ♠J86. East can overruff the ♠3 or ♠7, and if I ruff with the ♠Q I won't have enough entries to finesse out East's jack. If I had held the ♠8 my line of play would have been fine, because I could ruff with the ♠Q and then run the seven, collecting the jack, but here East's eight prevents that and I'm one down.

I actually tried ruffing with the seven, just in case, but East overruffed and that was down one.

If I had laid down the ♠A first, dropping the singleton king, then I could have run three diamond tricks safely.

Here is the full layout:

♠ Q 7 3
♥ 7 6
♦ A K Q 6 2
♣ 8 4 2

♠ K
♥ A J 10 5 4 2
♦ 10 7
♣ A K 6 3

♠ J 8 6
♥ 9 3
♦ J 9 5 4
♣ J 10 9 7

♠ A 10 9 5 4 2
♥ K Q 8
♦ 8 3
♣ Q 5

I could have pieced this together from the tempo of the auction. East would have passed a lot quicker if he had the ♠K, so once I place West with that card there's no harm in laying down the ♠A, and then I would have actually made this contract.

Peter Hollands

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Hoffman 396 def Pitt (Helene Pitt, Ruth Tobin, Viv Wood, Sue Lusk, Cynthia Belonogoff, Val Biltoft) 179

Travis 284 def Cooper (Renee Cooper, Deana Wilson, Leone Fuller, Marnie Leybourne, Pele Rankin, Kirstyn Fuller) 262

FINAL

Hoffman (Sophie Ashton, Lauren Travis, Jessica Brake, Susan Humphries, Marianne Bookallil, Jodi Tutty) 301 def Travis (Barbara Travis, Candice Ginsberg, Elizabeth Havas, Di Smart, Rena Kaplan, Giselle Mundell) 268

Australian Senior Playoff

SEMI-FINALS

Braithwaite 272 def Reynolds (Jonathan Free, Michael Smart, Margaret Bourke, Peter Reynolds, David Hoffman, Richard Brightling) 180

Lorentz 242 def Thomson (Ian Thomson, Ron Klinger, Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, David Beauchamp, Mike Hughes) 221

FINAL

Lorentz (Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, George Kozakos, George Smolanko) 319 def Braithwaite (Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna de Livera, Avi Kanetkar, Nigel Rosendorff) 269

Australian Mixed Playoff

SEMI-FINALS

Foster 183 def Wilkinson (Michael Wilkinson, Jane Beeby, Les Grewcock, Liz Sylvester) 81

Fuller 233 def Ware (Peter Hollands, Laura Ginnan, Nye Griffiths, Ella Jacob) 135

FINAL

Fuller (Leone Fuller, Trevor Fuller, Pele Rankin, Stephen Fischer) 89 def Foster (Julian Foster, Giselle Mundell, David Fryda, Rena Kaplan, Sebastian Yuen, Christy Geromboux) 64



Grand National Open Teams

SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Kevin Steffensen - Carolyn Miller
- 2 Jan Clarke - Di Coats
- 3 Andrew & Karen Creet
- 4 Charles & John McMahon
- 5 Kim Frazer - Jamie Ebery
- 6 Paul Dalley - Fraser Rew
- 7 Julian Foster - Bernard Waters
- 8 Leigh Gold - Kitty Muntz
- 9 Nimal Weerasinghe - John Masters
- 10 Ian Price - Bruce Tier



TEAMS SEMI-FINALS

Sydney 2 82 def Sydney 1 (Avi Kanetkar, Bruce Neill, Peter Buchen, Terry Brown) 61

Canberra 2 122 def Sydney 7 (Les Grewcock, Mark Kolodziejczyk, Witold Chylewski, Warren Dobes) 74

TEAMS FINAL

Sydney 2 (Sophie Ashton, David Wiltshire, Sartaj Hans, David Beauchamp) 142 def Canberra 2 (Stephen Fischer, Jodi Tutty, Bill Tutty, Tony Marker) 44

Summer Festival

YOUTH PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 Andi Boughey - Matt Brown
- 2 Andrew Spooner - Renee Cooper
- 3 Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin - Jack James

YOUTH TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Andrew Spooner, Renee Cooper, Jamie Thompson, David Gue

PENLINE ONE-DAY SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Greg Nicholson - Frank Vearing
- 2 Gayle Webb - Colin Webb
- 3 Jeanette Grahame - Denis Grahame
- 4 Geoff Chettle - Greg Lewin
- 5 Peter Bach - Setsuko Lichtnecker
- 6 Liz Sylvester - Alison Dawson
- 7 Paul Weaver - Terry Bodycote
- 8 John Brockwell - Chris Stead
- 9 Alasdair Beck - Tom Kiss
- 10 Alexander Cook - Robin Ho

ONE DAY WARM UP NOVICE TEAMS

Colin Speller, Jodie Gudaitis, Jane Stephens, Colin Kleinig

RED PLUM LIFE / NON-LIFE MASTERS TEAMS

Bill Fotheringham, Martin Bunder, Renate la Marra, Stuart Cutsforth

PIANOLA PLUS NON-LIFE MASTERS TEAMS

Julie Alliston, Sue Beckman, Judith Anderson, Dorothy Bennett

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TWO-DAY NOVICE MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Sue Evershed - John Simmonds
- 2 Mardi Grosvenor - John Grosvenor
- 3 Jodie Gudaitis - Colin Speller
- 4 Colin Kleinig - Jane Stephens
- 5 Ming Ting - David Ting

CHRIS DIMENT MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Kim Frazer - John Dagnall
- 2 Daniel Geromboux - Matthew Raisin
- 3 Jane Beeby - Michael Wilkinson
- 4 John Friesen - Zyg Roberts
- 5 Barbara Holland - Maruta Boyd

TBIB NATIONAL OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Tony Nunn - Ben Thompson
- 2 Peter Buchen - Terry Brown
- 3 Will Jenner-O'Shea - Mike Doecke
- 4 Jack James - Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin
- 5 Hugh Grosvenor - Tania Lloyd
- 6 Peter Strasser - Shane Harrison
- 7 Andy Hung - Liam Milne
- 8 Brad Johnston - Sam Coutts
- 9 Peter Fordham - Alan Watson

PENLINE 500 SWISS PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 Barbara Holland - Maruta Boyd
- 2 Martin Broome - Valerie Broome
- 3 Kerry Rymer - Kit Meyers
- 4 Andrew Gosney - Abigail Wanigaratne
- 5 Henry Tan - Patrick Jiang

NOVICE SWISS PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1 Mary Poynten - Tony White
- 2 Jenni Cover - Myles Cover
- 3 Mardi Grosvenor - John Grosvenor
- 4 Peter Hume - Elaine Hume
- 5 Val Hodsdon - Kay Snowden

NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS SEMI-FINAL

- B Travis 177 def Smyth (Sheila Bird, Karen Creet, Felicity Smyth, Judith Tobin, Eva Caplan, Jenny Thompson) 79
- L Travis 149 def Havas (Elizabeth Havas, Di Smart, Giselle Mundell, Rena Kaplan, Paula McLeish, Lorna Ichilcik) 90

NATIONAL SENIORS' TEAMS SEMI-FINAL

- Lilley 150 def Cullen (Michael Cullen, David Hoffman, Tony Marinos, Peter Grant) 51 concession
- Burgess 110 def Buchen (Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna de Livera, Ron Klinger, Ian Thomson) 96

NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS FINAL

- L Travis (Lauren Travis, Sophie Ashton, Jessica Brake, Susan Humphries) 204 def B Travis (Barbara Travis, Candice Ginsberg, Kate McCallum, Vanessa Brown, Margaret Bourke) 143

NATIONAL SENIORS' TEAMS FINAL

- Lilley (David Lilley, Zolly Nagy, Ron Cooper, George Smolanko) 174 def Burgess (Stephen Burgess, George Kozakos, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, Simon Hinge, Stephen Lester) 53 concession

CANBERRA REX U750/300 CATEGORY FINALS

- Bailey (Ian Bailey, Peter Robinson, John Rogers, Hans van Weeren) 75 def Williams (Neil Williams, Kevin Murray, Margaret Stevens, Jane Biscoe) 55
- Feyder (Barry Feyder, Robbie Feyder, Martin Brown, Gail McKenzie) 54 def Meyers (Kit Meyers, Kerry Rymer, Fiona Fawcett, Jenny Barnes) 43

NEURA SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Barbara Rydon - Geoff Rydon
- 2 Christine Houghton - Wayne Houghton
- 3 Lindsay Scandrett - Donna Crossan-Peacock
- 4 David Gallagher - Brian Gallagher
- 5 Beverley Brady - John Brady

NEARLY TIME TO PACK UP AND GO HOME PAIRS

- 1 Stephen Fischer - Therese Demarco
- 2 Tony Leibowitz - Espen Erichsen
- 3 James Wallis - Bill Nash
- 4 Christy Geromboux - Sebastian Yuen
- 5 Janeen Solomon - Chris Stead

NOT QUARTER FINALS

- Hans 196 def Giura (Nicoleta Giura, Nick Hughes, John Newman, Joshua Wyner) 71 concession
- Travis 150 def Buchen (Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, George Smolanko, George Kozakos, Ben Thompson, Matthew Thomson) 140
- Don 181 def Peake (Andrew Peake, Martin Bloom, Tony Nunn, Liz Adams) 137
- Jacob 158 def Markey (Philip Markey, Justin Williams, Mike Doecke, Will Jenner-O'Shea) 141

NOT SEMI-FINALS

- Hans 150 def Travis (Barbara Travis, Candice Ginsberg, Alan Watson, Rick Roeder, Kate McCallum, Axel Johannsson) 60 concession
- Don 135 def Jacob (Nick Jacob, Geo Tislevoll, Ella Jacob, Simon Hinge, Jamie Thompson, Matt Smith) 134

NOT FINALS

- Hans (Sartaj Hans, Sophie Ashton, Peter Gill, Andy Hung, Nabil Edgtton) 202 def Don (Rose Don, Michael Courtney, Tania Lloyd, Hugh Grosvenor) 98

Fall NABC, San Francisco

REISINGER B-A-M TEAMS

- 1 Norberto Bocchi, Dennis Bilde, Philippe Cronier, Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa
- 2 Josef Blass, Jacek Pszczola, Michal Nowosadzki, Sjoert Brink, Sebastiaan Drijver, Jacek Kalita
- 3 Howard Weinstein, Michael Becker, Bob Hamman, Peter Weichsel, Liam Milne, Andy Hung

MITCHELL B-A-M TEAMS

- 1 Howard Weinstein, Michael Becker, Bob Hamman, Peter Weichsel, Liam Milne, Andy Hung
- =4 Peter Gill, Owen Lien, Eric Leong, Ulf Nilsson

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY? – SOLUTIONS by Barbara Travis

HAND 1

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

West starts with the top three spades, and you ruff the third spade. What is your plan?

In isolation, the correct play of the heart suit is to lead the ace (or king), then cross to dummy's queen, allowing for East to hold four hearts (J-x-x-x). In this case, you can pick up the J-x-x-x by finessing on the third round. However, you must consider the hand as a whole.

When this hand was played, those who led hearts like this found themselves going down once West showed up with the four hearts. They couldn't get rid of the last trump because West had winning spades and they had no trumps. West could trump the third club and exit with another spade, leaving South with no entry to North's clubs and therefore with a diamond loser.

On this hand, you should start drawing trumps by cashing your Ace and King. If trumps break 3-2, you can go to dummy with the top trump, then cash clubs. If trumps break 4-1 (either side), you stop drawing trumps and start on the club suit. When West trumps in (or East if they have the four hearts), you still have the ♥Q as an entry to dummy's long clubs.

It is important to realise that the correct play of a suit in isolation is not necessarily the correct play on any given deal!

HAND 2

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

West leads the ♥Q. Knowing that West is at least 5-5 in the majors, what is your plan?

You can count seven top tricks, so need to garner your extra tricks from diamonds. The key to the hand is to appreciate that you cannot allow East to get the lead, for fear of a spade lead through your king. You also need to consider the auction, and realise that West is marked with short diamonds, given his 5-5 holding in the majors.

You should cross to dummy with a club, then lead the ♦J, planning to keep finessing East with diamonds. The ♦J is covered by the king and ace, so you should return to dummy with another high club to lead the ♦9, confidently finessing East's ten. After all, once West follows to the second club and has followed to the first diamond, you know their hand shape is a 5-5-1-2.

You now have three diamonds, four clubs and two hearts, so should take your winners before East gains the lead and leads through your ♠K.

HAND 3

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

West leads the ♠K. What is your plan?

With a 3-2 heart break, there are 10 tricks available. Therefore, you need to think about how to make 10 tricks should trumps break 4-1.

There are two options should trumps break 4-1: firstly, a 3-3 club break, and secondly making all declarer's low trumps by ruffing spades in hand.

With limited entries to dummy, the first thing you should do is win the ♠A then ruff a spade in hand. Then cash the ♥A followed by the ♥K. When you discover the 4-1 heart break, you can trump another spade in hand. After cashing the ♥Q, you should cash your outside winners before eloping with your last trump. Thus, you cash the ♦A, then the ♣K and ♣A, ending in dummy to lead dummy's last spade. If East trumps high, your ♥7 becomes a winner, and if East discards, you can ruff with your final trump, having made the first 10 tricks.

If hearts had broken 3-2, you would have trumped a spade to hand after the ♥K won, then drawn the last trump, and tried for clubs to be 3-3 for an overtrick.



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INCREASING THE ODDS by Dennis Zines

As the dealer you open 1♠ and partner bids 3♣ (Bergen) showing four spades and 6-9 points. East doubles (to show clubs you later find) and you bid 4♠.

This is what you see:

♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ 10 7 3 2
♦ A J 5
♣ Q 4

♠ A Q J 9 7 4
♥ A 5
♦ 10 9 6
♣ K 9



The full deal:

♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ 10 7 3 2
♦ A J 5
♣ Q 4

♠ 6 3
♥ K J 9 8 4
♦ 8 4
♣ J 8 5 3

♠ K
♥ Q 6
♦ K Q 7 3 2
♣ A 10 7 6 2

♠ A Q J 9 7 4
♥ A 5
♦ 10 9 6
♣ K 9

West leads the ♣3, which you duck in dummy and unblock the ♣K when East plays the ♣A. East switches to the ♥6 which you win with the ♥A, West encouraging.

You cross to dummy via the ♣Q and lead the ♠10, covered by the ♠K and ♠A, West following. You draw one more round of trumps and consider the situation. You have lost two tricks and can only afford one more loser.

You note that the diamond situation is such that you can finesse twice winning two tricks when West has one of the honours. This is a 75% chance. But is that all there is?

You have a heart loser, so why not lose it now. This doesn't give up on the double diamond finesse, since you can always re-enter your hand with two heart ruffs if necessary, but gives you an extra chance as you will see. Play ♥5 and the ♥3 and look at the dilemma for the defence.

If West ducks, then East is forced to win and is endplayed: a diamond lead restricts the diamond losers to one, or else a club lead gives a ruff and discard. If West applies the Crocodile Coup by rising with the ♥K, then the ♥10 in dummy now poses a threat to West. A low heart will see the ♥10 win and the ♥J will be ruffed and will set up the ♥10.

If West plays a diamond instead of a heart, it will be ducked to East who will again be endplayed. Contract made.

The heart play wouldn't have worked if hearts were 4-3 or 6-1, but it was worth increasing the odds of success in the actual situation. Something you should always think about.

As an aside, if East hadn't doubled 3♣, West might have led the doubleton diamond allowing a successful defence. Curious.

Dennis Zines

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BUSHFIRE APPEAL

On 23 January the Dendy Park Bridge Club ran a session to raise funds for the bushfire appeal. Supported by the VBA, our club was the only one in Victoria to do so.

The fees from the 16-table session, along with generous donations from members who could not attend on the day, raised a total of \$3,320 – a tidy sum.



When the amount raised was announced, one member stood up and said, "Let's round it out to \$3,500," and promptly chipped in another \$180.

Such generosity needs to be applauded so on behalf of the appeal, we wish to pass on our thanks to the Victorian bridge community and in particular to our members.

Well done to all!

Boris Tencer, Dendy Park Bridge Club

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THE WORLD'S OLDEST NEW GRANDMOTHER

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club members are privileged to have Helen Ann Thompson as a playing member at our club.

Ann celebrated her 100th birthday on 12 January at home with family and friends.

The bridge club celebrated with Ann on the following day. Ann was escorted into the club with a bagpiper playing, with all members seated to greet her. Some of the players who are choir singers then sang Scottish songs. This was followed with a presentation and the cutting of the cake.



Ann was born in Auchperless, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She joined the Women's Royal English Navy in 1940, and came out to Australia in 1946 on an English Navy ship called "Dominion Monarch". She married Tom in 1947. After leaving Sydney in 1983, they settled in the Nambucca Valley.

Ann began playing bridge and directing at Nambucca Valley Bridge Club and is one of the longest surviving members still playing bridge at that club.

Ann became a grandmother for the first time at the age of 97 years and 8 months, some 2 years 5 months older than the present official World Record of first-time grandmother.

Despite her Scottish heritage, Ann is proud to call Australia home.

Nerellyn Mitchell, Publicity Officer CHBC

As the long-time convenor of the Australia-Wide Pairs events, I spend a lot of time talking to players about Matchpoint scoring. The results booklets from those events are designed to encourage people to think about how their scores are calculated, which often leads to a lot of emails and phone calls. This article is the second in a series of short articles addressing some of the common questions and misconceptions that have crossed my path. Today's article will discuss...

PLAYING AGAINST THE ODDS

"I had to play against the odds, because all the other pairs will have bid to slam".

Many years ago I read a fictional hand (possibly played by the Hideous Hog, if I recall correctly) where declarer takes a wild line in a 6NT contract, playing for all the suits to break 4-1. When the other players question his play, he points out that since all the other pairs will be in 7NT, he has to play for a layout where 7NT will go down.

Of course, in fiction everything always works out well, and the anti-percentage line was successful. The suits broke 4-1, and he was the only one to make 6NT. But declarer missed the point on that hand – if the suits had broken evenly, he would have lost to not only the 7NT pairs, but also to any other pairs who stopped in 6NT. If he had played the normal line in 6NT, he still would have had a decent score (going one fewer off than the pairs in 7NT).

Terence Reese discusses a similar situation in his classic book *Play These Hands With Me*:

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

At the table, the expert player in 4♠ played to drop the doubleton queen of diamonds, instead of taking the normal diamond finesse. He reasoned, wrongly, that since all the other pairs would be in slam, he had to play against the odds.

Reese responds simply: "If the diamond finesse is right, you won't catch the declarers in 6♠. If it is wrong, you will beat them anyway. The most likely result of playing for the drop of the ♦Q is that you will fall behind other declarers who stop short of a slam."

That's not to say that there is never a time for anti-percentage plays. If you subscribe to the Novice Edition of *Australian Bridge Magazine*, you will recall that Andrew Robson gave a good example of such a play in last month's issue (January 2020, page 13). In that example, declarer had taken an unusually aggressive 4♠ sacrifice against a 4♥ contract that was probably failing. He was now facing a decision where a good guess would lead to -300, and a bad guess would lead to -500.

Taking control of his fate, he imagined a layout where the opponents could make 4♥ for 420 – that is, a layout where his opponents had no spade losers. He proceeded to play as if that were the actual layout, playing for an unusually bad spade break. He knew that most of the time he would fail, but in that case it wouldn't matter whether he scored -300 or -500. On the rare occasion that he was right, his -300 would have a chance of scoring some matchpoints against 420.

However, situations like this are uncommon, and guessing what the other tables are going to do is always tricky. In most cases an inferior play will lead to an inferior score, and it is best to just choose the line that is most likely to work at your table.

Brad Coles

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METRO TRAVEL

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S PLAYOFF by Lauren Travis

"I'll only play if it's with my old partner or Sophie Ashton." Famous last words. During the 2019 Summer Festival, someone was trying to talk me into playing women's bridge, and I thought that statement was a great way out. Little did I know it would lead me to playing in, and winning, the 2020 Women's Team Playoff. A few months after I said it, Sophie asked me to play. Our team quickly formed, with our only immediate concern being my complete lack of playoff points. After finishing agonisingly short of the points in the next three tournaments I played, Sartaj Hans volunteered himself to be my partner in the ANC Butler, we came 3rd, and the team's worries were over (for now).

Our team, Hoffman (Sophie Ashton - Lauren Travis, Jessica Brake - Susan Humphries, Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty, Julia Hoffman npc) were able to choose our opponents throughout the event, although it seems we didn't always choose wisely. The Coles team (Erin Tewes - Adrienne Stephens, Alison Dawson - Elizabeth Zeller, Jeanette Abrams - Margaret Foster, Brad Coles npc) presented a huge challenge in the quarter-finals. While the final margin was swung on many different boards, this was the most controversial – you may have seen it debated on Bridge Winners:

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

At our table, the board seemed normal – an uncontested auction to 6♥ with West having shown all-important length in both majors and no values in diamonds. However, at the other table, Susan and Jess opted for a far more aggressive route. Susan opened 2♦ as South. Jess, with impeccable timing, chose to psyche for the first time in her life and responded 2♥, natural and forcing. This clearly proved quite a problem for East, who passed; and Susan also passed, thinking there was minimal chance of making a game and quite a good chance of this auction getting too high. While only taking two tricks in 2♥, -300, Jess and Susan's actions on this board won our team 15 imps in the last segment to help us to a 10-imp victory. It is worth noting that, even without the psyche, it would be very difficult for East-West to reach 6♥ after the 2♦ opening, so perhaps the damage inflicted by Jess was not as substantial as it first appeared.

We moved on to the semi-final against Pitt (Helene Pitt - Ruth Tobin, Viv Wood - Sue Lusk, Cynthia Belonogoff - Val Biltoft), and got off to a great start in the first set:

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

WEST	EAST
Lauren	Sophie
2♣ 10-15 6+♣	3♦ Forcing, 6+♦
3NT	4♣
4♥ cue (1st or 2nd)	4NT RKCB
5♠ two + ♣Q	5NT grand slam try
6♥ king of hearts	7♣

Sophie's 5NT bid was a little risky, because if I had the same hand with a doubleton diamond I would've bid the same way up to that point. Luckily, we were on the same page – we both thought that with ♦AKxxx she would have just bid 7♣, so she needed me to have diamond control to go past 6♣. The play was much simpler than the auction – North led the ♣9 and I ruffed two spades and one heart in dummy, with plenty of entries to my hand using my now-solid trumps.

The semi was far less close than the quarter final, and we proceeded to the final against the (very confusingly named) Travis team (Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg, Elizabeth Havas - Di Smart, Rena Kaplan - Giselle Mundell). During this match I lost count of the number of times I tried to put my phone in the wrong bag or sit at the wrong table due to my surname being plastered all over it! I was happy to be playing Travis – we had played two-thirds of the team in the Spring National Women's Teams a few months earlier, I know one pair's game well, and I could be sure that a Travis would win the Playoff. I'm not convinced my teammates were quite as excited as me, as we all knew their team was strong and had all represented Australia multiple times over the last 40 or so years.

Sophie and I tend to bid very aggressively, especially at favourable vulnerability, and this hand demonstrated how well that can work:

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

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Board 19 ♠ K 6 3 2
S/EW ♥ 10
♦ 9 4 3
♣ A K 10 9 8

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

♠ Q 10 9 8 5
♥ 9 7 4
♦ K J
♣ Q 4 2

In my opinion, West has a 4♥ bid over 2♠. Sophie would still have bid 4♠, but East may now be more energised and compete to 5♥.

Against 4♠, West led the ♥A followed by ♥J, ruffed in dummy. I could see that I had at least one spade, one heart and one diamond (probably two) to lose, and needed to pick spades and avoid a potential club ruff to maximise my tricks. At trick three, I played a diamond to the ♦K, hoping to either win the trick or cut the opponents off from each other's hands so they couldn't organise a club ruff. The latter option succeeded when West now cashed her ♦Q before exiting a club to the ♣8, jack and queen, meaning East could never reach her partner's hand again.

From her defence, I got the feeling that West (who was my screenmate) had just been trying to cash out, suggesting that she didn't have any more vital cards such as the ♠J. For that reason, I led my final heart, trumping in dummy, then played a low spade to my ♠10, finessing East's ♠J to go one off for -100, compared to my teammates' +650 in 5♥.

Our Vugraph commentator said he would make a mental note to look at the play of this hand later to work out how I picked the layout – Sartaj, there's my reasoning (although it's probably not technical enough).

My final offering was a tricky defensive hand where we didn't realise our potential due to a penalty card – we had already dumped one possible trick prior to the penalty card, but declarer would have had to play perfectly to take advantage of that.

Board 8 ♠ A Q 6 4
W/Nil ♥ A 7 3
♦ J 9 5 4
♣ Q 3

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

♠ 10 8
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ K 10 6
♣ A K J 7

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

- 6-10, either major.
- 13-15 balanced, or strong hand.
- Pass or correct.
- Takeout.

There are rare times when it's automatic to lead a trump, and against a doubled partscore is one. I led the ♠10, to the jack, queen and nine. Sophie switched to ♣Q and another club, and I cashed my last two clubs, with her pitching a discouraging diamond and a heart (mistake #1). I could see that switching to a diamond would be a bad option, so I switched to a heart (mistake #2). Sophie, unfortunately, was anticipating a trump switch, so banged down her ♠A on the ♥K (mistake #3). This meant that upon winning with the ♥A, she was forced to cash the spade, allowing the opponents to take the rest of the tricks and only go down two.

If I had switched to the ♠8 rather than a heart, declarer can duck it, leaving me in the same difficult position – except we would have taken one more spade trick.

The perfect defence would actually be for me to lead ♠8 after only THREE rounds of clubs; if it's ducked (correctly) I can then lead my fourth club for Sophie to ruff and send a diamond through. I don't think either of us was finding that!

In the end, our team triumphed over Travis by 33.1 imps, becoming the 2020 Australian Women's Team – the first Australian Women's cap for four team members, and Sophie's first time representing Australia. We are all excited to contest the APBF Congress in Perth in April and the World Bridge Games in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy in August.

Plenty of people have asked how my relationship with my mother is now, having played against each other in the final. Answer: she's a proud mum. She taught me how to play bridge, suffered through partnering me through the first few years, and has always supported my bridge endeavours. My success is a reflection of her as a teacher, partner and mother.

PS. Apologies to my teammates for mostly writing about my own table – I have a policy of not asking them about their results at the tournament, which makes writing about them almost impossible. They certainly had their share of successes too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNFAILINGLY POLITE AND COURTEOUS

I wish to firstly congratulate everyone who was involved in running the 2019 ABF GNOT and subsequent Swiss Pairs events.

Everything seemed to go very smoothly (perhaps ducks on water; calm on top and peddling frantically below).

But mostly I wish to bring to your attention the behavior and attitude of Jarrad Dunbar and David Gue. I have been playing bridge at a lot of different levels for over 20 years, and I have rarely come across opposition who were not only unfailingly polite and courteous to one another, but also to us, their opposition. No matter that they inflicted a 7-imp defeat on us, it was truly a pleasure to have them at the table. Furthermore, on Board 32 on Round 4, they had a huge bidding misunderstanding and got into 6NT on a flat holding with a combined 27 HCP and made it. About five minutes after the datums were released, Jarrad came up to me and apologized for that particular contract. If everyone adopted the same attitude and demeanor at the table as these two young men, the number of payers quitting bridge would sharply decrease.

John Beddow

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the December newsletter. I particularly liked the inclusion of columns by several great teachers and players such as Will Jenner-O'Shea, Mike Lawrence, Peter Hollands, Paul Lavings and of course Barbara Travis. It has become a newsletter that the ABF should be very pleased to circulate!

Susan Wade

A FAMILY AFFAIR by Barbara Travis

The format for the National Women's Teams was altered this year due to the limited number of entries – only 14 teams. With nine matches to be played, the Swiss ran as usual for five rounds, but then it basically started again, and teams could meet each other a second time. B. TRAVIS managed not to meet L. TRAVIS until Round 9, quite an achievement.

The four teams that qualified for the semi-finals were:

B. TRAVIS: Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg - Margaret Bourke, Vanessa Brown - Kate McCallum

L. TRAVIS: Lauren Travis - Sophie Ashton, Susan Humphries - Jessica Brake

HAVAS: Elizabeth Havas - Diana Smart, Giselle Mundell - Rena Kaplan, Paula McLeish - Lorna Ichilcik

SMYTH: Felicity Smyth - Judith Tobin, Sheila Bird - Karen Creet, Eva Caplan - Jenny Thompson

In what I imagine to be a world first, each semi-final team captain had a connection to Lauren Travis: Barbara Travis being her mother, Elizabeth Havas being her cousin, and Felicity Smyth being her stepmother.

In the semi-finals, B. TRAVIS defeated SMYTH and L. TRAVIS defeated HAVAS. Therefore, the finals were B. TRAVIS versus L. TRAVIS, with the L. TRAVIS team emerging victorious.

Lauren and I both sat in the same seat (or same direction) for all the event, so this article compares our actions on the same hands.

♠ A 10 4
♥ Q 5
♦ A K 2
♣ 9 6 4 3 2

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

♠ K 9 2
♥ A J 10 8 6 4 3
♦ 9 6
♣ 5

WEST	NORTH B Travis	EAST	SOUTH Ginsberg
1NT ¹⁵⁻¹⁷	pass	2♥ spades	dbl hearts
pass	pass	2♠	pass
pass	3♥	all pass	

We discussed this afterwards, from two perspectives. Firstly, with seven hearts, it is better to overcall 3♥, and North will raise to 4♥. Secondly, would an immediate 3♥ by me have been stronger than the route I took, waiting then bidding? We decided that an immediate 3♥ shows a stronger hand; what inhibited me from bidding was the doubleton heart, given that partner may only have five hearts for the double. That's why the 3♥ overcall by South is better.

WEST	NORTH L Travis	EAST	SOUTH Ashton
1NT ¹⁵⁻¹⁷	pass	2♥	3♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

This is the exact auction that we had discussed, given that the 3♥ bid guarantees long hearts.

There are always ten tricks on the hand: six hearts, two spades and two diamonds. Watch Sophie Ashton make 11 tricks.

The ♣A was followed by a low club to the queen, ruffed. Knowing that the ♥K was offside, the ♥A should be cashed next, followed by a low heart won with the king. A diamond exit was won with the King in dummy, then another club was ruffed. The last trump was drawn, with the ♠10 being discarded from dummy. Sophie led another diamond to dummy's ace, then ruffed the fourth club. The position now was:

♠ A 4
♥ —
♦ 2
♣ 9

♠ Q 7 ♥ — ♦ Q ♣ K	♠ J 8 6 ♥ — ♦ J ♣ —
----------------------------	------------------------------

♠ K 9 2
♥ 10
♦ —
♣ —

Sophie now led her last trump, the ♥10, and West is squeezed. If they discard the ♣K, then dummy's last club becomes a winner. If they discard a spade, then a small spade to the ace draws their queen, and the Jack can be finessed on the way back (due to her excellent early discard of the ♠10). If they discard the ♦Q, then their partner gets squeezed – the club is discarded from dummy, but now East needs to keep three spades and also needs to keep the ♦J, which is impossible. A very nicely executed double squeeze for the overtrick.

The next hand comes from the semi-final:

♠ A K 10 9 7 6
♥ K 5
♦ Q 8
♣ K Q 8

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

♠ 3 2
♥ A Q J 9 8 2
♦ 4
♣ A J 9 4

WEST	NORTH B Travis	EAST	SOUTH Bourke
pass	1♠	pass	2♥ game forcing
pass	2♠	pass	3♥
pass	4♥*	all pass	

Candice Ginsberg arrived in Canberra with bronchitis, and Margaret Bourke had kindly agreed to substitute. Our team decided it would be preferable to add Margaret as a team member, given that bronchitis, Canberra's poor air quality and the venue's struggling air conditioning were a poor combination. Therefore Margaret Bourke and I were having our inaugural outing as a bridge partnership.

After Margaret's rebid of 3♥, I felt that I should bid 4♣ as a cue bid, given I had in no way shown the strength of my hand. However, I convinced myself that we had two diamond losers, so wimped out – incorrectly. Agreeing hearts was the right thing to do, but the cue bid couldn't have hurt, because Margaret could either cue bid diamonds or sign off in 4♥.

WEST	NORTH Ashton	EAST	SOUTH L Travis
	1♣ ¹	pass	1♠ ²
pass	1NT ³	pass	2♣ ⁴
pass	2♦ ⁵	pass	2♥ ⁶
pass	3♥ ⁷	pass	4♣ ⁸
pass	4♠ ⁹	pass	4NT ¹⁰
pass	5♥ ¹¹	pass	6♥
all pass			

Lauren and Sophie play a strong club system, so here's the translation of this successful auction:

1. 16+ HCP, any hand.
2. 8+ HCP, 5+ hearts, game forcing.
3. Enquiry.
4. 12+ HCP.
5. Enquiry.
6. 6+ hearts.
7. Setting hearts.
8. 1st or 2nd round cue bid in clubs, denying spade control.
9. 1st or 2nd round cue bid in spades, denying diamond control.
10. Roman Key Card Blackwood.
11. Two key cards, no ♥Q.

This hand certainly suited their methods, with spades never being bid naturally. Their team gained a slam swing, with the others stopping in 5♠ on finding that they were missing a key card plus the ♠Q. In our match, we gained 1 imp against 4♠ at the other table. Interestingly, two teams in the Seniors' semi-finals reached the extremely poor 6♠ contract, both failing.

What would you do as dealer with this hand?

♠ A Q 9 7 6 4 ♥ Q J 4 3 ♦ 3 ♣ 9 8

Margaret Bourke chose to open 2♠, which is often right, regardless of the 6-4 shape in the majors. Playing a strong club system, with limited opening bids, it was relatively safe to open this hand 1♠. Sophie and Lauren had the following auction:

WEST	NORTH Ashton	EAST	SOUTH L Travis
			1♠
pass	1NT	pass	2♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

The hands were:

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

Even with the trump lead being found, 4♥ could not be defeated.

And finally:

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

WEST	NORTH B Travis	EAST	SOUTH Bourke
pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
pass	1♠	pass	3NT
all pass			

West led the ♣J, taken by her partner's ace, and we made nine tricks.

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

1. 10-15 HCP, 2+ diamonds.
2. Natural, game forcing unless 3♦ rebid.
3. 11-13 HCP, balanced.
4. Asks opener to rebid 2NT (aiming to right-side 3NT, given the club singleton).
5. Natural.
6. 4 spades (and not happy with the club suit).

The auction revealed club weakness, so the partnership opted to play in 4♠. 3NT is always making, but 4♠ was an excellent contract, making one diamond, two hearts and seven trump tricks (via ruffs).

"My" team has now lost the finals of both the Women's Playoffs and National Women's Teams to "Lauren's" team. So when we were one of the eight teams that qualified from the South-West Pacific Teams to the knockout stage – the National Open Teams – I was delighted not to be encountering a team containing Lauren. In fact, I responded to one friend's well wishes for the quarter-final with, "It's ok, we aren't playing against Lauren." Suffice to say, we won the quarter-final, only to encounter my brother's team, HANS, in the semi-final. Sure enough, we lost – again. At least each time we lost, my family still won the event! (And Sophie won each time too!)

Lastly, congratulations to Jane Reynolds and her organising team. The events in Canberra ran smoothly and with minimal fuss, despite the difficulties encountered with the devastating bushfires.

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL EDITION
ADVERTISING: 15 MARCH 2020
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NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS by Liam Milne

I played with Andy Hung during the 10 days of the 2019 Fall Nationals in San Francisco. The headline events were the inaugural Soloway Knockout Teams, the Blue Ribbon Pairs and the Reisinger B-A-M Teams. Events at the start of the week that had previously been top-tier such as the Life Master Pairs and the Mitchell B-A-M Teams were still worth winning, but took on lesser stature as they ran concurrently with the qualification stages of the Soloway (the LM Pairs) and the R32/R16 of the Soloway (the Mitchell B-A-M).

Our team for the week was me and Andy, Howard Weinstein - Mike Becker and Bob Hamman - Peter Weichsel. After narrowly missing the cut in the Soloway, we played in the Mitchell B-A-M scoring 14/26 and 17.5/26 in the two qualification sessions to make it to the second day in equal twelfth place.

In the 56-team final we stormed up to third with a huge 19.5/26 (75%) first session. 14.5/26 in the second final session was enough to win the event by almost three boards.

A couple of hands from the Mitchell:

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

North opened 4♥ and played there. After the diamond lead was ruffed, declarer crossed to dummy and played a spade around to Andy. When Andy switched to the ♥8, declarer had already seen quite a few points and decided to rise ace. Brave play from Andy and a big reward when we won the board (our teammates made an overtrick).

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

WEST Milne	NORTH	EAST Hung	SOUTH
1♣	dbl	1♠	pass
3♥ ¹	4♥	4♠	5♥
pass	pass	5♠	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

My 3♥ mini-splinter was all Andy needed to hear. He bid the dreaded five-over-five in about five seconds and luckily no one bid 6♥! We went down one for a cheap save.

Board 14 ♠ A 8 7 6 E/Nil ♥ Q J 6 ♦ J 10 ♣ 9 7 6 4 ♠ Q 10 9 5 2 ♠ J ♥ K 4 ♥ A 10 9 7 2 ♦ K 7 6 3 ♦ A Q 8 5 4 ♣ K 3 ♣ A 2 ♠ K 4 3 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ 9 2 ♣ Q J 10 8 5	
---	--

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

This was special. After we made a few non-forcing bids at the two- and three-level, suddenly we were looking for slam! Andy's 4♣ bid convinced me that my kings were what he was looking for, and I decided to move over 5♦ to get to our reasonable slam. His hand looked about what I expected it to, and he brought it home to win the board.

THE 2019 REISINGER

Our team had a good first day of the 2019 Reisinger, qualifying in equal eighth place to the second day of play. ROSENTHAL (Andrew Rosenthal, Aaron Silverstein, Chris Willenken, Jan Jansma, Boye Brogeland, Christian Bakke) had qualified first and had a good first session to continue to top the leaderboard in the semi-final. In the first session on day two our teammates scored up 16.5/30, not amazing but above average is always good.

In the second semi-final session we scored a disappointing 12/27 and it looked like we would just miss out, needing some luck with the other teams near us. Eventually word filtered through that we had qualified – just! We finished in tenth for the day with 40.93 to snag the last spot in the final, just edging ahead of ROSENTHAL who had had a bad session to score 40.86 and miss the cut.

Starting the final with zero carry-forward (almost five boards behind the leaders) we needed to get moving. Our teammates scored a decent 14.5/27 in the first session (minus 0.17 for a slow play penalty) which saw us rise up to fifth. The last session of the event started shakily but we had a powerful finish, scoring 12.5/15 in the last five rounds and 17.5/27 for the session to finish third overall. Our total for the day was 31.83/54 (58.9%).

The winners LAVAZZA scored 12/27 in the morning but 19.5/27 in the evening to win by 3.5 boards over BLASS, who were 0.99 boards ahead of us (WEINSTEIN).

Here are some highlights from the second final session, which Andy and I played.

Board 17 ♠ 3
N/Nil ♥ Q 4 2
♦ Q 8 6 5
♣ J 10 9 5 4

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

♠ A Q 7 5 2
♥ 9 6
♦ A K 9 2
♣ K 8

WEST Milne	NORTH Drijver	EAST Hung	SOUTH Brink
	pass	pass	1♠
1NT	pass	2♦	dbl
2♥	2NT	pass	3♣
all pass			

Brink - Drijver wound their way to 3♣ on this hand, seemingly cold. Andy's ♥8 at trick one convinced me he had nothing to contribute to the defence, so I tried to paint a false picture in declarer's mind. I switched to a diamond which declarer won on the dummy to play a club to the ♣8, ducked, and the ♣K to the ace. Now the only defence to beat the contract was to cash the ♥K to extract declarer's heart exit, followed by a diamond. Declarer's only way to get to the dummy was to ruff a spade, but this left dummy's trumps vulnerable to another force when the trumps did not break 3-3. If West doesn't cash the heart, then declarer has a winning option of playing a heart towards the queen instead of ruffing a spade.

On the layout, declarer had to unblock the ♦9 (not sure if he did this at the table), then play for clubs 4-2 and the hand with short clubs to have short diamonds later in the hand by crossing to dummy in diamonds rather than ruffing a spade. Our teammates Weichsel - Hamman had defended 3♥ down one at their table, so beating 3♣ was worth the full board against BLASS.

Board 21 ♠ Q 9 8 4
N/NS ♥ J 9 5
♦ A 3 2
♣ K 10 4

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

♠ 5
♥ A K 6 4
♦ K 5 4
♣ A Q 5 3 2

WEST Milne	NORTH Elahmady	EAST Hung	SOUTH Sadek
	pass	pass	1♣
1♦	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	pass	dbl	rdbl
2♠	dbl	all pass	

Tarek Sadek made a "B-A-M" choice by rebidding a very heavy 1NT (ostensibly showing 12-14). This 'worked' to

some effect when Andy, taken in by the opponents bidding and thinking I had the missing values, tried doubling 1NT for a spade lead. When Sadek redoubled, I almost panicked and ran to 2♦, but after running through what had happened I realised that Andy had values and therefore couldn't have hearts or diamonds (otherwise he would have bid on the previous round). So I gulped and ran to 2♠, the opponent's suit.

I was never going more than one down on this layout, and our teammates had already won the board by making 3NTx with an overtrick, but it was very satisfying to notch up a sure win by making this one. When South got in with diamonds at trick five and switched to a low heart, the hand was an open book: North had already shown up with the ♦A, ♣K and ♠Q so could not have either top heart honour. When the ♥Q won I was home by running diamonds through North.

Board 24 ♠ 9 6 4
W/Nil ♥ A 4
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ Q 8 7 2

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

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 10 8
♦ J 10 8 7
♣ A K 10 3

WEST Milne	NORTH Sime	EAST Hung	SOUTH Felmy
1♥	dbl	2♥	dbl
rdbl	3♣	pass	pass
3♦	pass	3♥	all pass

I gave Andy a lot of leeway here. My first instinct was to bid the obvious game over 2♥, but with both opponents bidding I decided to let Andy off the hook if he was very weak. I began by redoubling and then made a further try for game with 3♦ "last train". When Andy could not bid past 3♥ it looked like he was very weak so I let it go. They gave me a trick in the play, but it didn't matter as East had not raised at the other table and our teammates were allowed to play in 3♣ making.

Overall results are here:

live.acbl.org/event/NABC193/REIS/6/results

1st in the Mitchell and 3rd in the Reisinger: Andy Hung, Liam Milne, Michael Becker, Howard Weinstein, Peter Weichsel, Bob Hamman



AUSTRALIAN SENIOR PLAYOFF by Paul Lavings

The 2019 Playoffs for the 2020 Australian Senior Team were held at the Canberra Rex Hotel, concurrent with the Women's Playoffs, from December 7-12. Both fields were restricted to eight tables, the Women's attracted ten entries while the Seniors was undersubscribed with six entries.

In the first match of 128 boards over two days (8x16) our team of LORENTZ (Stephen Burgess - Gabi Lorentz, George Kozakos - George Smolanko, Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings) faced WATERS (Bernard Waters - Stephen Mendick, Peter Grant - Tony Marinos, Malcolm Carter - Tony Hutton). We trailed by 40 imps overnight but came back to win 306.1 to 274.

Slams played a major role throughout the six days:

Board 96	♠ J 10 9 5 4		
W/EW	♥ 3		
	♦ A 8		
	♣ A K 10 7 3		
♠ Q 7 2		♠ 8	
♥ A J 10 4 2		♥ Q 9 8 7 5	
♦ 9 4 3		♦ 10 7 2	
♣ 8 5		♣ 9 6 4 2	
	♠ A K 6 3		
	♥ K 6		
	♦ K Q J 6 5		
	♣ Q J		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Mendick	Burgess	Waters	Lorentz
pass	1♠	pass	2♦
2♥	3♣	pass	3♥
double	pass	pass	3♠
pass	4♣	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	pass	6NT
all pass			

With 6NT always likely to be a better contract than 6♠, Lorentz was the only player at the 12 tables in the Seniors and Womens Playoffs not to set spades with Jacoby 2NT. When Burgess encouraged with 4♣ Lorentz asked for Keycards and bid 6NT for +11 imps when opponents stopped in 4♠ in the other room.

In the four matches in the Women's, 6♠ was successful five times, when East failed to lead a heart, and failed twice on a heart lead. One table stopped in 5♠ for +450.

In the other Seniors match 5♠ scored +480 and 6♠ failed on the heart lead from East.

Our next match, the semi-final, was against THOMSON (Ron Klinger - Ian Thomson, Terry Brown - Peter Buchen, David Beauchamp - Mike Hughes). After day one we were 78.1 imps in arrears but won the four sets the following day 33-25, 39-25, 63-17 and 33-2 to win by 20.9 imps, 242-221.1.

BRAITHWAITE (Andrew Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, Avinash Kanetkar - Nigel Rosendorff) won their semifinal 272.1 to 180, with a concession after seven sets, so we faced them in the final.

This was another slam swing. Nil vulnerable your partner passes and your RHO opens 3♣, what do you bid holding

♠ A 8 ♥ A K J 10 7 6 2 ♦ A K 9 5 ♣ — .

Lavings bid 6♥ to gain 11 imps when his counterpart in the other room bid 4♥. In the Women's Final Jessica Brake also bid 6♥, while only 4♥ was bid at the other table.

The full hand:

Board 11	♠ A 8		
S/Nil	♥ A K J 10 7 6 2		
	♦ A K 9 5		
	♣ —		
♠ 9 5		♠ Q J 4 3 2	
♥ 8		♥ Q 5 4	
♦ Q J 7		♦ 10 8 6 4	
♣ K Q J 8 6 4 3		♣ 5	
	♠ K 10 7 6		
	♥ 9 3		
	♦ 3 2		
	♣ A 10 9 7 2		

♣5 was led, and after pitching one diamond on ♣A it was a simple matter to ruff a diamond high and lose one trick to ♥Q. Note that even if dummy does not have ♣A, declarer ruffs two diamonds in dummy and can with careful play and still make 12 tricks.

I have it on good authority that simulations are the next big thing in bridge. I asked Matt Smith to run the hand through Dealmaster Pro 10,000 times and 6♥ made 73% of the time, 4♥ makes virtually every time and 7♥ makes 35% of the time.

At the end of day one we held a slim lead, 122-112.1, but won the next three sets 63-46, 58-32 and 50-26 to lead by 76.9 imps, 293-216.1 with one set to play. This deal helped:

Board 72	♠ J 9		
W/Nil	♥ 7 6 4 2		
	♦ A Q 6 5		
	♣ Q J 5		
♠ Q 10 7 6 5		♠ A 4 2	
♥ K Q 8		♥ 9	
♦ —		♦ J 10 8 7 4 3 2	
♣ A 10 9 7 2		♣ 6 3	
	♠ K 8 3		
	♥ A J 10 5 3		
	♦ K 9		
	♣ K 8 4		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kozakos	Gumby	Smolanko	Lazer
1♠	pass	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	all pass

A heart was led to ♥A and South switched to a trump won by ♠A. Next came ♣A and ♥K discarding dummy's club, a club ruff and a spade. Had South led from the jack or the king? After brief thought Kozakos called for ♠Q dropping ♠J. He then gave up a club to score ten tricks and win 7 imps when opponents stopped in 2♠ making nine tricks in the other room. BRAITHWAITE won the last set 53-26 to lose by 49.9 imps, 319-269.1.

The LORENTZ team will represent Australia at the APBF Championships in Perth in April, and at The World Bridge Games (formerly the Olympiad) in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy in August- September. Peter Buchen will be the non-playing captain.

Paul Lavings

2019 MCCUTCHEON TOTALS

OVERALL

1 Sartaj Hans	561.96
2 Sophie Ashton	489.03
3 Pauline Gumby	451.57
4 Peter Gill	442.00
5 Warren Lazer	441.14
6 George Kozakos	417.42
7 Nigel Rosendorff	393.63
8 Jodi Tutty	387.18
9 Liam Milne	386.87
10 George Smolanko	382.44

SILVER GRAND & OVER

1 Sartaj Hans	561.96
2 Pauline Gumby	451.57
3 Peter Gill	442.00
4 Warren Lazer	441.14
5 George Kozakos	417.42
6 Nigel Rosendorff	393.63
7 Liam Milne	386.87
8 George Smolanko	382.44
9 David Weston	378.61
10 Tony Nunn	377.95

GRAND MASTER

1 Sophie Ashton	489.03
2 Jodi Tutty	387.18
3 James Coutts	306.97
4 Shane Harrison	295.89
5 Stephen Fischer	291.26
6 Andy Hung	257.90
7 Frank Vearing	241.40
8 Kim Frazer	238.26
9 Therese Demarco	231.01
10 Anna St Clair	227.90

GOLD LIFE MASTER

1 Lauren Travis	236.77
2 Chris Stead	224.57
3 Terrence Sheedy	199.31
4 Yumin Li	181.18
5 Catherine Zhang	155.52
6 Annette Hyland	139.96
7 John Yang	135.18
8 Peter Nilsson	134.11
9 Greg Nicholson	126.58
10 Geoff Olsen	118.21

SILVER LIFE MASTER

1 Paul Dalley	315.72
2 Jessica Brake	270.16
3 Susan Humphries	248.10
4 Axel Johannsson	195.61
5 Charlie Lu	170.33
6 Mimi Packer	158.74
7 Hugh McAlister	136.79
8 Christopher Leach	129.04
9 Graham Carson	116.14
10 Warren Dobes	115.90

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

1 Liz Sylvester	193.27
2 Gwyneira Brahma	187.69
3 John McMahon	155.14
4 Marina Darling	129.27
5 Hans Van Weeren	118.76
6 Nico Ranson	113.72
7 Bill Bradshaw	101.48
8 Sandor Varga	98.45
9 Rose Moore	95.27
10 Margie Knox	93.49

LIFE MASTER

1 Jane Beeby	189.90
2 Lori Smith	183.00
3 Andrew Spooner	135.03
4 Martin Qin	132.78
5 Kirstyn Fuller	123.60
6 Abigail Wanigaratne	121.21
7 Don Cameron	110.43
8 Freddie Zulfikar	95.50
9 Max Holewa	91.30
10 Lou McKenna	91.29

**NATIONAL MASTER

1 Janet Price	84.99
2 Ian Michelson	72.29
3 John Robinson	67.68
4 Kate Balmano	67.47
5 Anne Riley	64.94
6 Margaret Robertson	63.83
7 Winny Chan	62.03
8 Ray Wood	61.90
9 Chris Barnwell	61.78
10 Dennis Sullivan	57.89

*NATIONAL MASTER

1 Neil Williams	172.68
2 Elliott Kaplan	140.57
3 Ingrid Cooke	135.90
4 Kimberley Zhao	134.38
5 David Gue	129.49
6 Sylvia Gluck	112.01
7 Ken McMahon	94.15
8 Keith Blinco	90.69
9 Richard Spelman	86.38
10 Bevin Brooks	84.01

NATIONAL MASTER

1 John Rogers	98.05
2 Arianna Yusof	97.30
3 Nick Walsh	94.67
4 Louise Brassil	89.42
5 Michael Brassil	88.49
6 Alastair Lowe	86.40
7 Beryl Manuel	82.43
8 Susan McMahon	80.55
9 Rob Holgate	79.08
10 Barry Koster	72.65

*STATE MASTER

1 Alan Cransberg	109.75
2 Ismail Gulec	98.37
3 Yixiang Zhang	95.89
4 Wei Zhang	86.79
5 Herb Neumeister	86.58
6 Kit Meyers	84.56
7 Marg Neumeister	78.65
8 Rohan Bandarage	76.85
9 Sue Martin	76.18
10 Ched Twyman	71.63

STATE MASTER

1 Sue Beckman	97.13
2 George Wagner	91.05
3 Arlene Dalley	90.99
4 Eugene Pereira	89.17
5 Bei Tang	88.12
6 Christine Newbery	76.71
7 Steve Colling	76.00
8 Mary Colling	76.00
9 Fiona Lavery	73.02
10 Sally Foster	72.71

*REGIONAL MASTER

1 Susan Feeney	48.63
2 Dan Maher	47.51
3 Len Bell	44.04
4 Deb Fogarty	43.74
5 Sue Douglas	43.02
6 David Roberts	36.64
7 Paul Matthews	34.87
8 Peter McConnell	31.57
9 Fiona Russell	31.28
10 Christina Bell	31.01

REGIONAL MASTER

1 Charlie Georgees	106.23
2 Rex Meadowcroft	71.52
3 Richard Zimmerman	62.12
4 Ian Argent	50.00
5 Gary Petterson	49.02
6 Stephen Calcroft	45.85
7 Derek Morris	44.89
8 Joan Mladen	44.46
9 Ahmad Geybi	40.35
10 Maria Christensen	40.32

**LOCAL MASTER

1 Alan Race	106.82
2 Michael Sullivan	76.48
3 Maeve Doyle	60.98
4 Raelene Clark	57.74
5 Darren Brake	57.30
6 Voyko Markovic	55.07
7 Vesna Markovic	55.07
8 David Ting	54.91
9 Geoff Hooper	50.55
10 Christine Roberts	44.61

*LOCAL MASTER

1 Colin Clifford	105.79
2 Graham Forbes	39.80
3 Caprice Davey	38.80
4 Nerida Gillies	35.18
5 Kerry Dean	34.58
6 Charles Young	31.22
7 Sa Smith	30.57
8 Jan Harris	29.66
9 Zhihong Miao	28.45
10 Robyn Rogers	27.96

LOCAL MASTER

1 Pamela Steele	72.32
2 Tony White	42.64
3 Lilia Male	35.70
4 Ken Jones	34.74
5 Heath Henn	31.96
6 Rick Morris	30.98
7 Sau-Yem Lo	28.34
8 Nola Arnold	27.56
9 Frances Hammond	26.69
10 Deborah Cramer	26.30

CLUB MASTER

1 Mavis Koay	63.60
2 Dennis Lincoln	59.37
3 Colin Speller	49.77
4 Robert Fulcher	44.59
5 Jodie Gudaitis	42.80
6 Peter Wood	40.52
7 Bertie Morgan	39.41
8 Tomoko Nakamatsu	37.73
9 John Grosvenor	36.82
10 Tony Ni	36.58

GRADUATE MASTER

1 Seb Wright	55.59
2 Mardi Grosvenor	36.70
3 Ron Byrne	31.84
4 Robin Archer	25.60
5 Joanna Stewart	21.27
6 Nick Hullah	20.84
7 Carmel Gammal	20.30
8 Barbara James	20.18
9 Denyse Stephens	17.29
10 Russell Summerhayes	17.28

NIL MASTER

1 Patrick Jiang	39.84
2 Lara Topper	35.96
3 Jacob Rose	32.46
4 Oliver McCarthy	27.78
5 David Ranson	26.66
6 Lincoln Davey	23.73
7 Hamish McCracken	23.60
8 Wes Assaad	22.24
9 Daniel Mao	20.70
10 Mohamed Ghatwari	20.54

The SA Bridge Federation (in conjunction with the ABF)
proudly presents the

2020 Australian National Bridge Championships - Adelaide



When: Saturday 11th to Thursday 23rd July 2020

Where: Derby Pavilion, Lower Level,
Morphettville Racecourse, Anzac Highway, Morphettville

Tournament Organiser:

Adel Abdelhamid – 0402 433 674

Chief Tournament Director:

Laurie Kelso – 0412 559 171



Territory Gold Bridge Festival 2020

Director: Matthew McManus

Wednesday August 26th to Sunday August 30th
DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin, Reflection Room

Match Point Pairs: Aug. 26th 9.30am and 2.15pm
Aug. 27th 9.30am
Swiss Teams: Aug. 27th 2.15pm
Aug. 28th 9.30am and 2.15pm
Swiss Pairs: Aug. 29th 9.30am and 2.15pm
Aug. 30th 9.30am and 2.15pm

All with Gold Masterpoints and prizes.
Limited places for all events, book early



Make it a Holiday in the Top End and enjoy its varied
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For information on accommodation options at the
Double Tree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin and entry
forms see www.tgbf.ntba.com.au.



Tournament Organizer:
Neil Williams Phone 0487 730 277
Email: tgbf@abf.com.au.

Tasmanian Festival of Bridge

Thur 26th - Sun 29th March 2020



Hotel
Grand Chancellor
Cameron St, Launceston

Thursday/Friday:

TFoB Restricted Pairs
The Island Matchpointed Pairs
Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs

Saturday/Sunday:

TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs

Tournament Organiser Catherine Elliott
c.elliott@westnet.com.au
Phone 0407 535 197

Entries Secretary Andrew Richman
andrew1richman@gmail.com
Phone 0418 725 402

