



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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

No. 219 February 2023

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The winning team in the Open Division, MOONEE VALLEY:
George Lovrecz, Leo Saoud, TP Ranasinghe, Gordon McRobert



2022 Australia Wide Teams Club Knockout

December 2022 saw the inaugural Australia Wide Teams Club knockout final! The winners were happy, of course (Open Moonee Valley, under-750 Canberra, under-100 Brisbane, and under-50 Wagga Wagga) but so were the runners-up (Open Nedlands, under-750 Mollmook, under-100 South Canberra and under-50 Waverley). They all competed fiercely in the true spirit of bridge.

This gold point event is new to the calendar and can be likened to the GNOT, with some difference. It is online, played on RealBridge, and has five divisions available for larger clubs, smaller clubs and Open through to players on the way up.

Marg Ferguson from the Waverley Bridge Club under-50 team said, "Thank you for running this event. I had a great time and learnt so much. Looking forward to next year." South Canberra took advantage of the unlimited substitute provisions in the regulations and ended up as a competitive runner-up to Brisbane.

There are some other features of the event that are club-focussed. Team members must be either home

club members or alternate club members. Dave Munro from the South Perth Bridge Club said, "The one round per month format avoided disruption to existing club programs".

Clubs can enter up to four teams with one in each division (the under-100 division has subdivisions for larger and smaller clubs). Prize money is paid to the club, but the clubs and players can negotiate arrangements on cost and prizemoney sharing.

Tournament organiser Rob Ward said, "I am delighted how 2022 kicked off, and with Matt McManus continuing as Tournament Director and TBIB coming on Board as the major sponsor, 2023 will be bigger and better than ever."

The 2023 event starts on the second Tuesday in June with the final in December 2023. Enter via myABF. Entry fee will cover six rounds of play for all teams (three rounds qualifying, three knockout rounds, and three consolation rounds for teams that don't make the knockout rounds).

Rob Ward (rob@robward.com.au)



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Front cover image: winners of the Open division of the Australia Wide Teams Club Knockout final, Moonee Valley.

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**IMPROVE
YOUR
DEFENCE**

with
Ron Klinger

Solution on page 26

N/Nil

♠ A K J 4

♥ K 3

♦ A 4

♣ Q J 10 9 8



♠ 8

♥ A Q J 10 7 2

♦ K 8 5

♣ A K 5

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

1♥

1♣

1♥

1♠

2♥

4♠

5♥

5♠

pass

pass

dbl

all pass

West leads the ♥5, thirds and fifths: king - ace - six.
How should East continue?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

president@abf.com.au



A Happy New Year to you all from the ABF Board. Whether you have just learnt bridge, or are an experienced player, I hope your New Year's Resolution is to play more bridge in 2023.

2023 will see our Australian Open, Women's and Seniors' and Mixed teams competing at the Asia Pacific Bridge Championships in Hong Kong in June and the 46th WBF World Teams Championships in Marrakech, Morocco in August-September. The Youth Committee is currently considering the composition of teams to compete at the 18th World Youth Championships in the Netherlands in July-August. I wish all the teams every success as they compete as our Australian Teams at International Bridge Tournaments in 2023.

Congratulations to Ian Thomson, Jane Reynolds, Lizzie Thomson and their team for another successful Summer Festival of Bridge. It was wonderful to be in Canberra and play face-to-face bridge, chat about hands in the bar and speak to novice players who were competing in their first bridge competition. Congratulations to the Ashton team (Sophie Ashton, Peter Gill, Andy Hung, Sartaj Hans, Nabil Edgton and Michael Whibley) who defeated the Ziggy team (Seigfried Konig, Liam Milne, James Coutts, Justin Mill and Rodrigo Garcia De Rosa) in an epic final.

Next stop, the Gold Coast Congress. I am pleased to announce the WBF has approved the GCC Open Pairs

and the Open Teams for inclusion in the 2023 dry run of the World Bridge Tour. It will also 'kick off' the tour in the Southern Hemisphere. World Bridge Federation President Jan Kamras will be warmly welcomed during his first visit to Australia since his election.

The ABF has set up the Online Bridge Committee to investigate all aspects of online bridge in Australia. Although it is acknowledged that both face-to-face and online bridge are important for the future of our game, it is important to get the right balance.

The Online Committee is very interested in hearing from all stakeholders in our bridge community and held a discussion session in Canberra at the SFOB. Another session is scheduled at the Gold Coast on Sunday 19 February after play. If you are playing, please come along as your opinion is valued. An online survey is also being prepared and will soon be on the ABF Website and emailed out.

Rob Ward and Ian Thomson are changing roles on the ABF Board. As Ian will be spending many months in Italy this year, he has resigned as ABF Treasurer and the Board has appointed Rob to fill the vacancy. Section 14(7) of the Constitution authorises the Board to fill a vacancy in any office until the next Annual General Meeting. Ian has been appointed as an ordinary member of the Board of Directors. I thank him for his years of work as the ABF Treasurer.

Bridge is a mindsport for all ages and has a role to play in reconnecting people after the isolation thrust upon us by Covid. Our game fosters communication and a sense of belonging in our bridge community. I look forward to connecting with many of you at the bridge table in 2023.

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

president@abf.com.au

Online Bridge Committee

The ABF has set up an Online Bridge Committee to investigate all aspects of on-line bridge in Australia. It is acknowledged that both in-person and online bridge are important for the future of our game.

The Committee is very interested in hearing from all stakeholders in our bridge community. An online survey is being prepared which will be sent out shortly. Recently in Canberra the Committee organised a face-to-face discussion session on the topic. This discussion can be viewed on the following link:

<https://www.bridgetv.com.au/uncategorized/abf-online-discussions/>

There will be another face-to-face discussion session at the Gold Coast Congress after play on 19 February.

The Committee is also calling for people to join a task force to work with them to prepare a draft strategic plan to be presented to the ABF Board in April. If you have an interest in assisting, please email Jenny Thompson, Chair of the Online Bridge Committee, on jtbt@optusnet.com.au.



MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox
marketing@abf.com.au



“To be or not to be, that is the question”

In the December edition we emphasised that February-March is the most important time of the year to advertise for new players and the running of your beginners courses. In particular I laid out a Ten-Point Plan For Bridge Growth.

This time we are going to give an example of an actual club being run by one of the most aggressive and successful bridge club marketers in Australia with many lessons as a template for clubs.

The North Shore Bridge Club started in 2007 as an amalgamation of three clubs being Lindfield, Cove Bridge and Bridge at Club Willoughby, the latter two being owned by John McIlrath. He was appointed manager with a five year term that continued for a number of years after that as the NSBC became the largest bridge club in Australia with about 1,500 members.

In 2022 John decided to go bush, or a seachange, where he became President of a local regional club with only 140 members.

In John McIlrath's words here are the steps he has taken so far to grow the club for the future.

“Tomaree Bridge Club began in 2016, being an amalgamation of Port Stephens and Nelson Bay Bridge Clubs. Like all bridge clubs, we have seen a decline in membership, lack of intakes and of course, all hit by THAT Pandemic. Annual membership and table numbers are down some 25-30% but we are in there for the long haul.

So, what are we doing about it? How are you going about putting YOUR Club “OUT THERE”.

Nelson Bay is a significant township of the Port Stephens local government area in the Hunter Region of New South Wales. It is located on a bay of the same name on the southern shore of Port Stephens. It is some 200 kms North of Sydney, a 2¼ hour drive. It is serviced by Williamtown (Newcastle) Airport.

Our activities this last year included:

1. Joining the local business group – Business Port Stephens
 - a. Meeting people and businesses to SUPPORT each other. For our October Congress, a general note

to their members seeking support, provided some \$1000 total for our Lucky Door prizes. What did we give them, purely recognition.

2. Running a State Championship – Veterans both Pairs and Teams at the Horizons Golf Resort.

3. Annual Weekend Congress – should be great support from your fellow regional Clubs. We need to HELP each other.

4. Production of Videos - Three produced, one each for The Veterans, The Congress and our Christmas Party.

5. Our latest “marketing” idea was at Salamander Bay Shopping Centre.



Marketing in a shopping centre for next month's beginners' lessons

6. About to do Improvers lessons at the local library in conjunctions with the Port Stephens U3A.

Whatever activities you do, we need “bums on seats”. Without them, guess what... bridge will not survive.

The aim must be to do what you can to make your bridge experience so very, very pleasant. We now schedule several social events on our calendar – give them a glass of bubbles and it will keep them happy. We need to all pull together, come up with ideas and share our experiences.

I do have a belief that we need **sponsors** for all regional areas. The over 55 retirement village complexes should provide a great avenue of bridge players.”

Back in 2008 John was responsible for gaining the first sponsor at the NSBC for a retirement village developer called Watermark Castle Cove, now the Residences. Recently the NSBC has had three separate retirement village sponsors for the club. – Ed

NEUROSEXISM AND BRIDGE

A war of words has broken out on the latest research by Professor Samantha Punch, from the University of Stirling in Scotland, which argues "that gender stereotypes and neurosexism can actively reproduce inequality within the game to the detriment of women players".

Samantha Punch provides an Abstract, Summary and infographic poster. The paper has created over 500 comments on [Bridge Winners](#), of which some were highly sexist.

BRIDGETV NEWS

We have had an incredibly exciting end to 2022 with the Open and Mixed Team playoffs and a challenging start to 2023 with the Women's and Seniors Teams playoffs plus the most prestigious event the National Open Teams in Canberra at the SFOB. See the [video](#) of the final day.

We have well over 30 leading players who contribute to BridgeTV commentary on major competitions but of course many of them are actually playing. As Ron Klinger, a highly authoritative, cool and perceptive commentator says, he does not want to see me as that will mean he has been knocked out of the event. In the NOT we lost Sartaj Hans and Sophie Ashton who won the event with Peter Gill, Andy Hung, Nabil



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

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

Edgtton and Michael Whibley. Our commentator Barbara Travis ran deep in both the Women's Teams and the NOT.

Phil Markey, Bridge TV's highly entertaining and expert commentator, won the Mixed Teams Playoffs playing with Lauren Travis, but was able to broadcast the NOT.

Together with Maurits van der Vlugt, David Beauchamp, Matt Mullamphy from Harbourview BC and Brad Coles, editor extraordinaire, all made a great team.

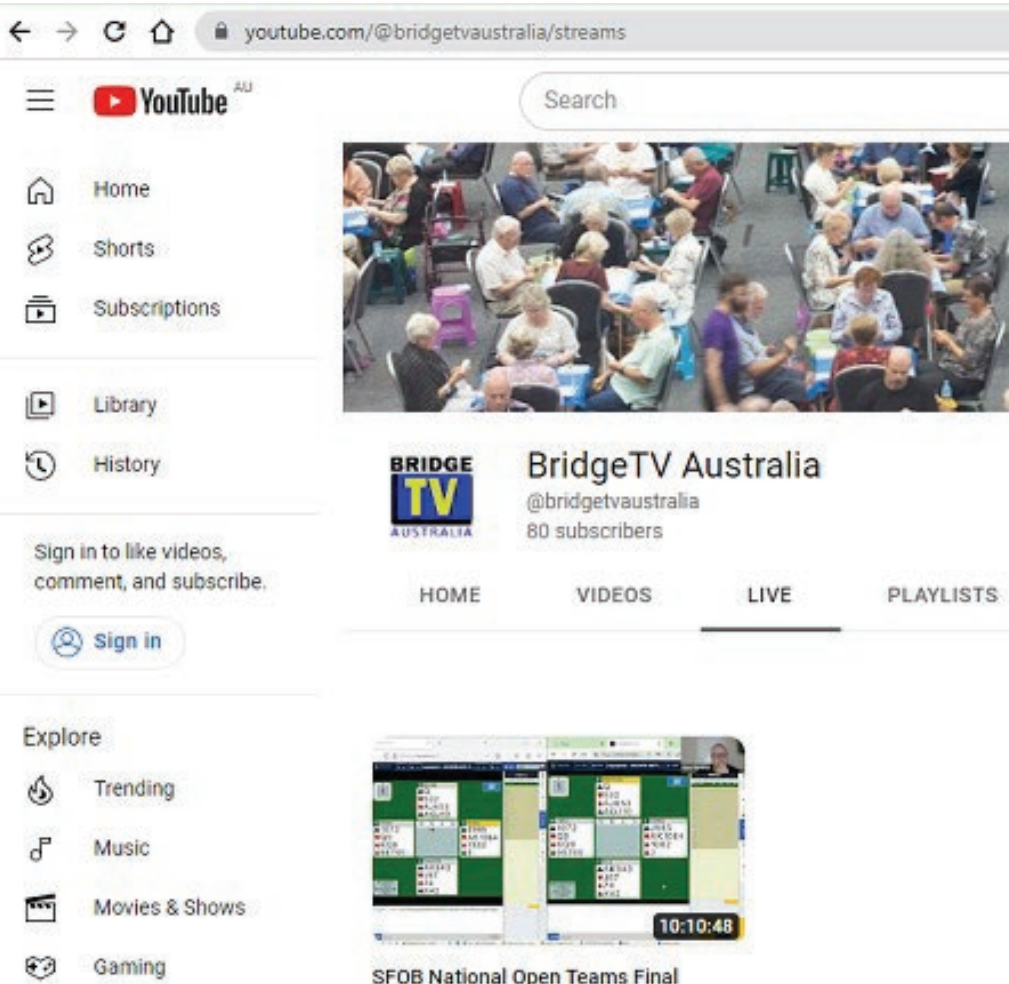
BRIDGETV ON YOUTUBE

BridgeTV broadcasting of commentary on International and Australian events will now be streamed on the BridgeTV Australia YouTube channel. This may be easier for some kibitzers who have problems with Zoom and if you have the internet connected to your smart TV you should be able to stream BridgeTV on the full size screen.

ONLINE BRIDGE DISCUSSION ON BRIDGETV

The ABF has set up the Online Bridge Committee to investigate all aspects of online bridge in Australia.

[Here](#) is a video recording of the first discussion at the SFOB and another discussion will be held after play on Sunday 19 February at the Gold Coast Congress.



MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

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

Lots of new stuff!

After a lot of work behind the scenes, we are now starting to release the results.

1. NEW CONGRESS LISTING

The new congress listing page is much faster which makes it easier to find and enter the congresses you want. There are still some more bits to be added but we put this version out because the speed of the old page was the most important problem to deal with.

2. CLUB ADMIN

The club admin release is now available. Clubs already in the system are steadily being rolled over so they can use it. New clubs can be easily added.

Club admin allows clubs to:

- Maintain their basic information and build a short profile page
- Upload and manage a list of their members
- Communicate with their members, or tagged groups of them, using custom email templates
- View and manage their "bridge credits" balance with the ABF
- Set up new congresses (instead of having to ask me to do it) and manage them
- Upload duplicate pairs results so their members can view them in myABF
- Control who has administration access to these areas (instead of having to ask me)

Here's the video overview:

<https://youtu.be/b9sPVLOzSok>

If your club is interested, please contact me.

3. CASHLESS BRIDGE: PILOT SCHEME UNDERWAY

On 3 January at the City of Melville bridge club in Perth, the first four players in Australia paid their club session table money using bridge credits. They are part of the pilot scheme running before a wider rollout becomes available. A couple of weeks later, all Melville club sessions are offering payment this way and about half the players are using it. Our other pilot club Northern Suburbs Bridge Club in Brisbane are also going strongly with more sessions being added and almost all players now using bridge credits. They have begun publishing results



through myABF as well, the first club to do so (the video above shows what this looks like for players). Many thanks to the staff and members of both clubs for the time and effort they have put in to assist us.

Cashless bridge gives clubs the option to accept, and players the option to use, bridge credits to pay table money for regular sessions (and extra items if desired) – beyond just using them for congress entries.

It makes life much easier for players who no longer need to pay by cash, card or vouchers at the table but can simply have their table fees taken from their myABF account (which is fully visible to them at all times – see notes below). The money gets settled up between the ABF and the club.

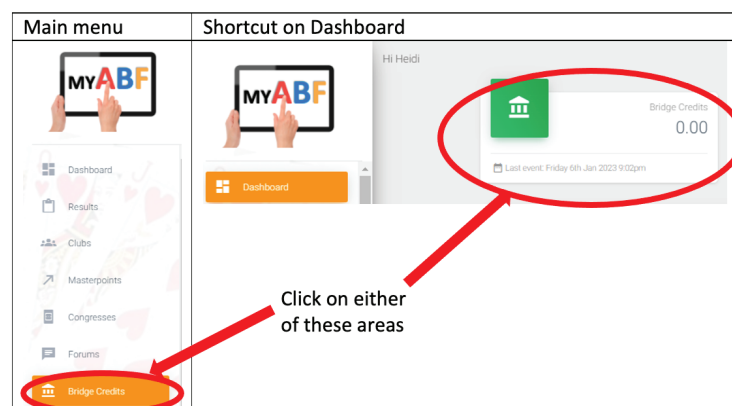
It's also easier for clubs who can dramatically reduce the cash or individual card receipts they have to handle which all take time to count, reconcile and bank. Even if your club has volunteers doing that, think of all the other things those volunteers could spend that time doing for your club and for bridge in general (promoting your club, encouraging new players, etc)?

Here's the video overview:

https://youtu.be/_lw2Zbe2xA

Viewing your account

It has surprised me how many people don't realise they can view their bridge credits statement (which is just an account we all have with the ABF) at any time in myABF and see all payments & entries they have made. There are two ways:



That brings up your statement (this is for a test user):

Bridge Credits - Heidi Hempstead



Inactive - Used to play at Unknown

Balance: 0 credits

Auto Top Up ☐ OFF

\$ TOP UP BALANCE

TRANSFER

DOWNLOAD AS CSV

	Date	Counterparty	Type	Description	Credits In	Credits Out	Balance
1	06-Jan-2023	Fantasy Bridge Club	Entry to an event	Welcome Pairs - Julian Foster (ABF: 518931)		20.00	0.00
2	06-Jan-2023	Fantasy Bridge Club	Entry to an event	Welcome Pairs - Heidi Hempstead (ABF: 107)		20.00	20.00
3	06-Jan-2023		CC Payment	Payment from VISA ending 4242	40.00		40.00

This gives you a line by line listing of every payment and every entry you've made and, if applicable, who you have paid for.

At this point let me once again try to dispel a myth. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BUY BRIDGE CREDITS BEFORE MAKING AN ENTRY.** You can if you want to, but you do not have to. In the example above, the player had nothing in their account before making an entry.

When you select Bridge Credits as a payment method in an entry you are just saying you want to pay online. If there's credit in your account already that will be used, if not you'll just be taken to the card payment screen like any other online trans-

action. The statement displays a card payment and the entry – but both happen in a single transaction from the entry screen.

What next for myABF?

Our next immediate priorities are supporting the cashless bridge pilot so that we can make that available to everyone as soon as possible; and addressing a series of enhancement requests and some bug fixes for congresses. Later in 2023 we will be moving onto masterpoints.

As usual, please contact me with any questions.

julian.foster@abf.com.au

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A contrast of techniques

by Bruce Neill

On this deal from the quarter-finals of the National Open Teams, six pairs out of eight reached 7♠ on this layout:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	2♠ ¹	3♥ ²
pass	4♠	pass	4NT
pass	5♠	pass	5NT
pass	6♦ ³	pass	7♠
all pass			

1. Hearts and a minor.
2. Cue raise.
3. King of diamonds.

Plan your play after the lead of the ♣K.

A trap that bosses need to be aware of is the tendency to praise the person who, when a problem occurs, puts in a heroic effort to resolve it, but to fail to recognise the other person who by diligence and foresight, prevents such problems arising at all.

Problem avoidance: Sophie Ashton, a member of the Australian Mixed Team for the 2023 World Championships in Marrakech, made the hand look easy.

She won the ♣A, cashed the ♥A (in case spades were 3-0), played a spade to the ace (yes, 3-0!), ruffed a low heart (not allowing West to discard a club), ruffed a club (take the risky ruff as soon as possible), ruffed another heart, crossed to the ♦A, ruffed dummy's last heart loser, cashed the ♠Q and ♦K,

ruffed a diamond, drew the last trump, and claimed. A triumph of planning!

Heroic problem solving: Justin Mill, another top Australian player, faced a different auction.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	4♣	4NT
pass	5♠	pass	5NT
pass	6♦ ¹	pass	6♥
pass	7♠	all pass	

1. King of diamonds.

With no information about the heart layout and with the risk that clubs were 7-1, he won the ♣K lead with the ace and played a spade to the king at trick two. When East showed out, he played a heart to his ace, a diamond to dummy's ace, cashed the ♥K and led a third heart.

When West pitched a club, he knew the full layout and was able to show great technique. He ruffed the heart, cashed the ♦K, ruffed a diamond, and (key play) finessed the ♠10, producing this four-card ending:

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

When Justin led the ♠Q, East was squeezed. If he threw a heart, declarer would overtake with the ♠K and ruff a heart. If he threw a club, declarer would stay in hand with the ♠Q and ruff a club. In fact, East conceded! Heroic effort.



PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

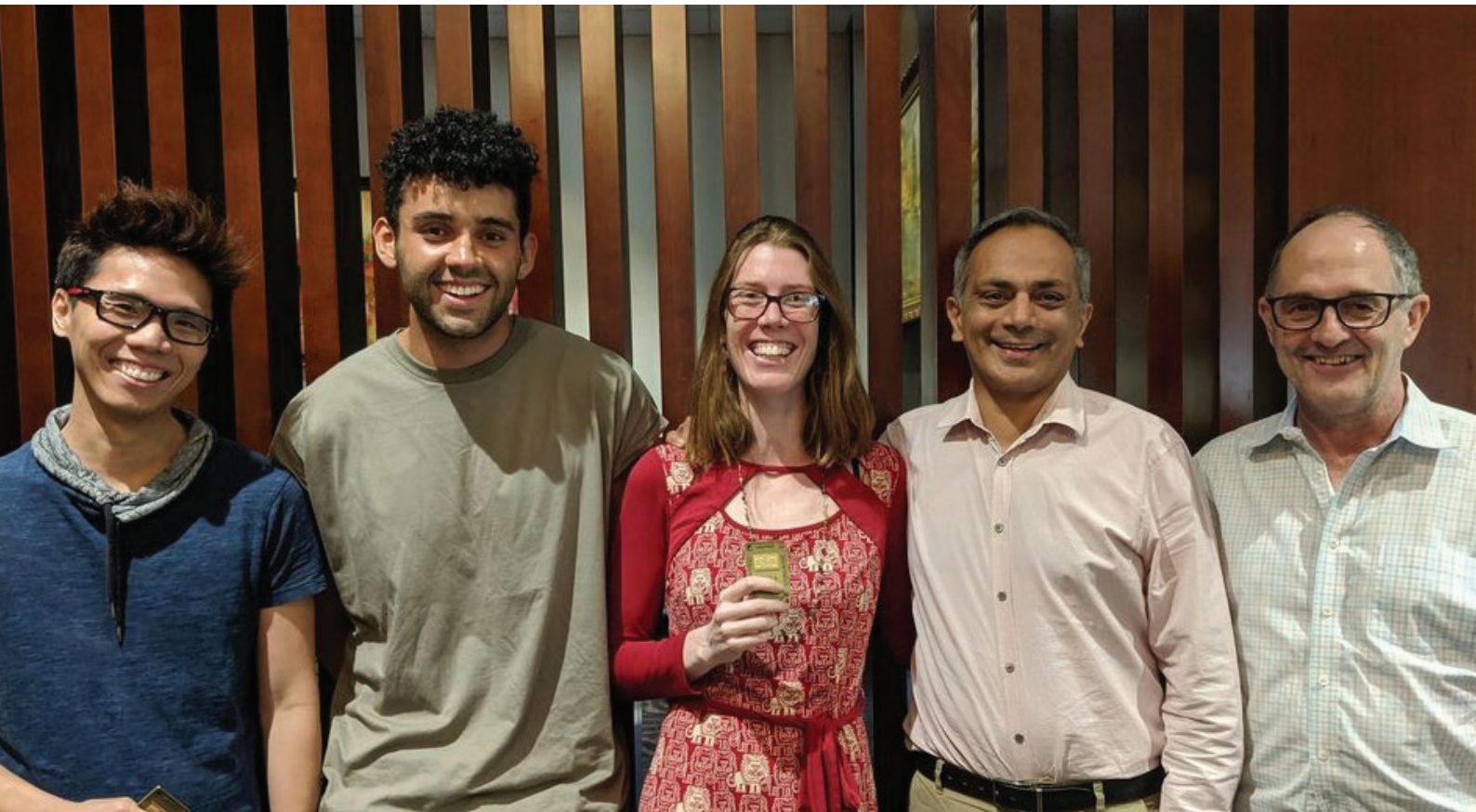
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Check out their web site at www.tbib.com.au

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2023 National Open Teams

Brad Coles reports on the three-peat win for Andy Hung, Nabil Edgton, Sophie Ashton, Sartaj Hans and Peter Gill (with Michael Whibley, not pictured)



The 2020 NOT champions Ashton (pictured above) turned up to chase a third title this year, appending Nabil's World Pairs silver-medallist partner Michael Whibley to the team. After a decisive quarter-final win against an experienced international team, they faced the Leibowitz team in the semi-final. Tony Leibowitz himself was also a defending champion this year, having been part of the Ashton team in 2022.

Ashton won the first semi-final set 65-11, but Leibowitz turned the tide with the following two boards:

Board 18	♠ 9 8 7	
E/NS	♥ A 7	
	♦ K Q 7 2	
	♣ K Q 10 4	
♠ A		♠ K 10 6 5 4 3 2
♥ J 6 5 3 2		♥ Q
♦ 6		♦ J 8 5 4
♣ A J 9 5 3 2		♣ 7
	♠ Q J	
	♥ K 10 9 8 4	
	♦ A 10 9 3	
	♣ 8 6	

In the February issue of Australian Bridge Magazine I reported a hand from the Open Playoffs where Paul Dalley bid 3NT with Jxx in his opponent's preempt suit. It worked out poorly on that occasion, but that didn't stop him from continuing to back his judgement:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Whibley	Dalley	Edgton	Nunn
		3♠	
pass	3NT	all pass	pass

Banking on the non-vul 3♠ bidder (a) not having a cashable suit, or (b) not knowing it was cashable, Dalley went for the vulnerable game, and 3NT made nine tricks for 600 and 11 imps to Leibowitz. At every other table East opened 4♠, so NS had no easy way into the auction. In the other semi-final Renee Cooper reopened with a double of 4♠ on the North cards, but South took it out and went minus.

How do you feel about rebidding 1NT with a singleton in partner's suit? Whibley did so on this deal, but a well-judged auction managed to keep control of the situation:

SF 20
W/All
♠ 3
♥ Q 8 7 6 3
♦ J 5 3
♣ 10 9 4 2

♠ 2
♥ A 5 4 2
♦ A 10 6 4 2
♣ Q J 8

♠ A Q 9 7 6 5
♥ K J 9
♦ K Q
♣ 6 3

♠ K J 10 8 4
♥ 10
♦ 9 8 7
♣ A K 7 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Whibley	Dalley	Edgton	Nunn
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
1NT	pass	2♦ ¹	pass
2♥	pass	2♠	pass
3♦	pass	3♥	pass
3NT	all pass		

1. Artificial game force.

In this mostly-natural auction, West had four opportunities to support the spades. On the fourth round, Nabil's 3♥ bid gave West the chance to support with as little as a singleton jack (or maybe even a ten).

3NT turned out to be a much better spot than 4♠, especially with the five-one spade break.

At the other table, Tony Leibowitz chose to pass the West hand, presumably not wanting to face the decision of whether to rebid 1NT. This happened to lead to a very different auction and an even better result:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Leibowitz	Hung	Gosney	Hans
pass	pass	1♠	pass
2♦	pass	3♠	dbl
pass	pass	3NT	dbl
all pass			

After Sartaj's doubles, declarer had a good idea of the layout. South led ace and another club. Gosney won the ♣J, played a heart to the jack, and unblocked the top diamonds. After running five more red-suit tricks (♥K, ♥A and three diamonds), South was forced to make a damaging discard in the three-card ending. He came down to the bare ♣K, and Gosney

threw him in with that card for a lead into the spade ace-queen. This was a second doubled overtrick, for 1150 and 11 moreimps to Leibowitz.

The Leibowitz comeback climaxed with a 48-0 start in the last set that included this suprising result:

SF 51	S/EW	♠ 6 2	♥ A 9 6 4	♦ 6 5	♣ A Q 10 8 5
♠ Q 10 7 5	♥ 10 8 7 5	♦ A 8 7	♣ K 6	♠ J 4 3	♥ K Q J 3 2
				♦ Q 10 9	♣ 7 3
		♠ A K 9 8	♥ —	♦ K J 4 3 2	♣ J 9 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Whibley	Nunn	Edgton	Dalley
pass	1♥	pass	1♦
pass	1NT	pass	1♠
pass	4♣	pass	2♣
pass	6♣	all pass	5♣

Still with a lot of imps to catch up at this stage, Nunn's bidding was a bit excitable, reaching a slam that required a trump finesse and a diamond guess (to start with). Whibley solved declarer's first problem by leading the ♦A, followed by a small trump won by dummy's eight. Declarer ruffed two hearts in hand while drawing trumps, and a long diamond took care of dummy's last heart loser.

At every other table in the semi-final, this deal did not get past the three-level, and only one other table found the club fit (James Coutts rebid 2♣, natural, and passed North's raise to 3♣). Playing 2♣ as fourth-suit forcing, Sartaj Hans rebid 2♦ instead of 2♣, and was raised to 3♦. At the remaining table clubs were also not mentioned, as Matthew Thomson opened his homegrown Aspro Two convention, a 2♦ opening showing 9-13 with four spades and a longer minor – North bid 3♣ pass-or-correct, and they also played in 3♦.

With the gap narrowed to 7 imps with eight boards remaining, Ashton finally managed to turn the tide, ending with a 36-imp win to take their now-familiar spot in the final against Ziggy (Siegfried Konig - Justin Mill - Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa and Liam Milne - James Coutts).

An early board from the final once again saw one table in slam while the other stayed very low:



NOT finalists James Coutts, Justin Mill, Ziggy Konig, Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa, Liam Milne

Board 8
W/Nil

♠ K Q 8 7 2
♥ A K Q 7 5 4
♦ —
♣ 7 5

♠ A J 10 6
♥ J 10 8
♦ 10
♣ K J 8 4 2

♠ 5 3
♥ 6 2
♦ K Q 9 8 6 5 2
♣ Q 9

♠ 9 4
♥ 9 3
♦ A J 7 4 3
♣ A 10 6 3

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

On the natural diamond lead, declarer can lead a spade to the king, cross back to the club ace, and lead another spade towards the queen. Along with a spade ruff in dummy, this will hold the defenders to one trick in the suit, for a making slam.

However, Hung found the killing lead of the ♣Q. This removed dummy's only entry, and declarer had to lead the second round of spades out of hand, eventually losing two tricks in the suit to go down.

At the other table, the Ashton pair stopped lower:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Mill	Ashton	Konig	Gill
pass	1♥	1♠ ¹	dbl
pass	pass	2♦ ²	dbl
all pass			

1. 10-15 with spades or 6-10 with any 5+ suit.
2. 6-10 with 5+♦.

The timing of East-West's artificial auction worked out poorly for North-South. After a natural 2♦ overcall (and a pass from South), it's unlikely that North

Michael Whibley and Nabil Edgtton led up to their NOT win by reaching the top 16 in three international Teams events, and winning a silver medal in the World Pairs.



would have chosen a takeout double as her re-opening move. On the actual auction, having seen a proactive penalty double from South, she opted to defend. 2♦ was just one off, but +100 was still a pickup with teammates having beaten the slam.

In a close final where the score was tied for most of the day, the two teams sat at 63-63 after 45 boards. However, once again Ashton took control of the last quarter, with Sartaj showing good suit management on this deal:

Board 59
S/Nil

♠ 4
♥ A Q 2
♦ A 9 7 6
♣ A 10 7 6 2

♠ A 10 9 8 7
♥ 10 7
♦ K J 3 2
♣ Q J

♠ Q J
♥ J 9 6
♦ 5 4
♣ K 9 8 5 4 3

♠ K 6 5 3 2
♥ K 8 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 8
♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
1♠	dbl	1NT *	4♥
all pass			

Both tables played in 4♥ after a 1♠ opening from West and a 1NT transfer (showing clubs) from East.

Sartaj won the ♣Q lead in dummy, ducked a spade, and won the trump return with the ♥Q. He then made the key play of a small diamond to the ten. West won the jack and tried another trump, but declarer was in control. He won the trump ace, ruffed a club to hand, took the necessary spade ruff, and came back to hand with another club ruff (thankfully finding West unable to overruff). He drew the last trump, and picked up West's ♦K to run three diamond tricks for the contract.

At the other table, declarer started diamonds by leading the queen from hand at trick two, covered by the king and ace. Having given up control of the diamond suit, he found himself with some losing options. He played a second diamond; West won the jack and gave partner a diamond ruff, killing one of declarer's tricks and ruining his communications.

This board was one of five large swings to Ashton in the last set, for a final score of 133-76.

This is the fourth consecutive NOT win for Peter Gill, and third consecutive win for most of the other team members. With this win, Peter breaks free of the seven-win record that he previously shared with Tim Seres and Stephen Burgess.

2023 Mixed Playoff

Lauren Travis



Often, the hands we read about in match reports are those on which huge numbers of imps change hands or where a declarer executes a snazzy play. Although our team (Sophie Ashton - Dave Wiltshire, Renee Cooper - Ben Thompson, Lauren Travis - Phil Markey, Mike Doecke npc) had plenty of those, I took joy in the small wins: the marginal calls that worked out for us.

Those who read about my adventures playing with Phil in Canberra in Bloom in the December edition of this Newsletter would recall his aggressive approach to bidding. It paid off in spades on this hand from our semi-final against the Courtney team in an unexpected way:

Board 87 ♠ A Q 6
S/Nil ♥ A K 9
 ♦ J 9 4 3
 ♣ K 5 3

♠ 10 9 5
♥ 10 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 5
♣ 6

♠ K J 8 2
♥ —
♦ A K 6
♣ A J 10 8 4 2

♠ 7 4 3
♥ Q J
♦ Q 10 8 7 2
♣ Q 9 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Travis		Markey
3♥	all pass		pass

Most players in this situation would take action on the North hand. However, Phil's initial pass provided me with a huge amount of information – in our system, he should hold fewer than 9 HCP and would be very unlikely to have 4+ spades (only in a 4-3-3-3 or a balanced hand with five). I made the decision to

pass 3♥, as I couldn't see us making a game... and was incredibly relieved when I saw dummy!

At the other table, Michael Courtney overcalled 3NT after the same start to the auction, was doubled and went down two.

Only a 4-imp gain for our team, but it sure felt great!

Ben Thompson and Renee Cooper made their own gain through another choice not to bid – this one worth significantly more.

Board 25 ♠ 9 5 4 2
N/EW ♥ 3
 ♦ 10 4 3
 ♣ J 8 7 5 3

♠ K J 8 7
♥ A 6 5 4
♦ A Q 8 6
♣ K

♠ A 10
♥ 9 8 2
♦ K J 7
♣ A Q 10 9 4

♠ Q 6 3
♥ K Q J 10 7
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 6 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Cooper		Thompson
	pass	1NT	pass
2♣	pass	2♦	pass
6NT	all pass		

By opting to pass over 1NT rather than show his hearts, Ben provided the declarer with no information about the distribution of the suits or high cards. This made the play in 6NT a lot trickier, and rather than attempting a double squeeze, his opponent tried to capitalise on the possibility of North holding ♠Qxx. This resulted in the contract going three down when Ben won ♠Q and could cash his remaining hearts.

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

1. Four or more spades.
2. 14-17 balanced.
3. Quantitative.
4. Two keycards (hedging his bets).

After the 1♥ overcall at our table, Phil had a road-map to the hand and could safely win the ace of hearts and play four rounds of clubs, losing to North. South was put under a lot of pressure as Phil ran his minor-suit tricks and was unable to hold onto their hearts and spades in a classic show-up squeeze.

Admittedly, it's a lot easier to pass over a strong 1NT opening than 1♣, but the measured approach won us 17 valuableimps.

Dave Wiltshire executed a very thoughtful defence to this 3NT contract:

Board 63 ♠ A Q 4 3
S/EW ♥ A 8 6 4

♦ 4 2
♣ 9 8 4

♠ J 10 7 6 2
♥ Q 9 3

♦ —

♣ A J 10 6 5

♠ 9 8

♥ J 7

♦ K J 10 9 8 5

♣ Q 7 3

♠ K 5

♥ K 10 5 2

♦ A Q 7 6 3

♣ K 2

WEST
Wiltshire

NORTH
Beauchamp

EAST
Ashton

SOUTH
Tutty

2♠¹

pass

2NT²

3NT

pass

all pass

3♣

1. Spades and a minor.
2. Lebensohl.

Dave led the jack of clubs, won by Tutty with the king. Her contract wasn't looking fantastic, but she made a great attempt by playing a heart to the ace, diamond to the queen, and exiting a club to Dave.

If he cashed his three club tricks, he would rectify the count for declarer to squeeze him. The end position would look something like:

♠ A Q 4 3

♥ 8

♦ 4

♣ —

♠ J 10 6 2

♥ Q 9

♦ —

♣ —

♠ 9 8

♥ J

♦ K 10 9

♣ —

♠ K 5

♥ K 10 5

♦ A

♣ —

Once declarer regained the lead, she would be able to cash the ace of diamonds, forcing Dave to discard either a heart or a spade and enabling her to cash whichever suit he pitched.

Dave, however, foresaw Tutty's plan and switched to the jack of spades instead of playing any more clubs. This left Tutty with no hope of making and she tumbled one off.

My final offering is a little flashy and extremely impressive; arguably my favourite play of the tournament, and all for a flat board!

Board 30 ♠ K 10 9 8 3

E/Nil

♥ A 7 6

♦ 7 6 2

♣ A 7

♠ 6 5 2

♥ J 3

♦ Q 10 5 4

♣ J 9 4 2

♠ A J

♥ Q 9 5 4 2

♦ A K 8 3

♣ K 3

♠ Q 7 4

♥ K 10 8

♦ J 9

♣ Q 10 8 6 5

WEST
Travis

NORTH

EAST
Markey

SOUTH

pass

all pass

1♠

1♥

1NT

pass

2♠

At first glance, this contract is absolutely cold – but not if Phil has anything to do with it.

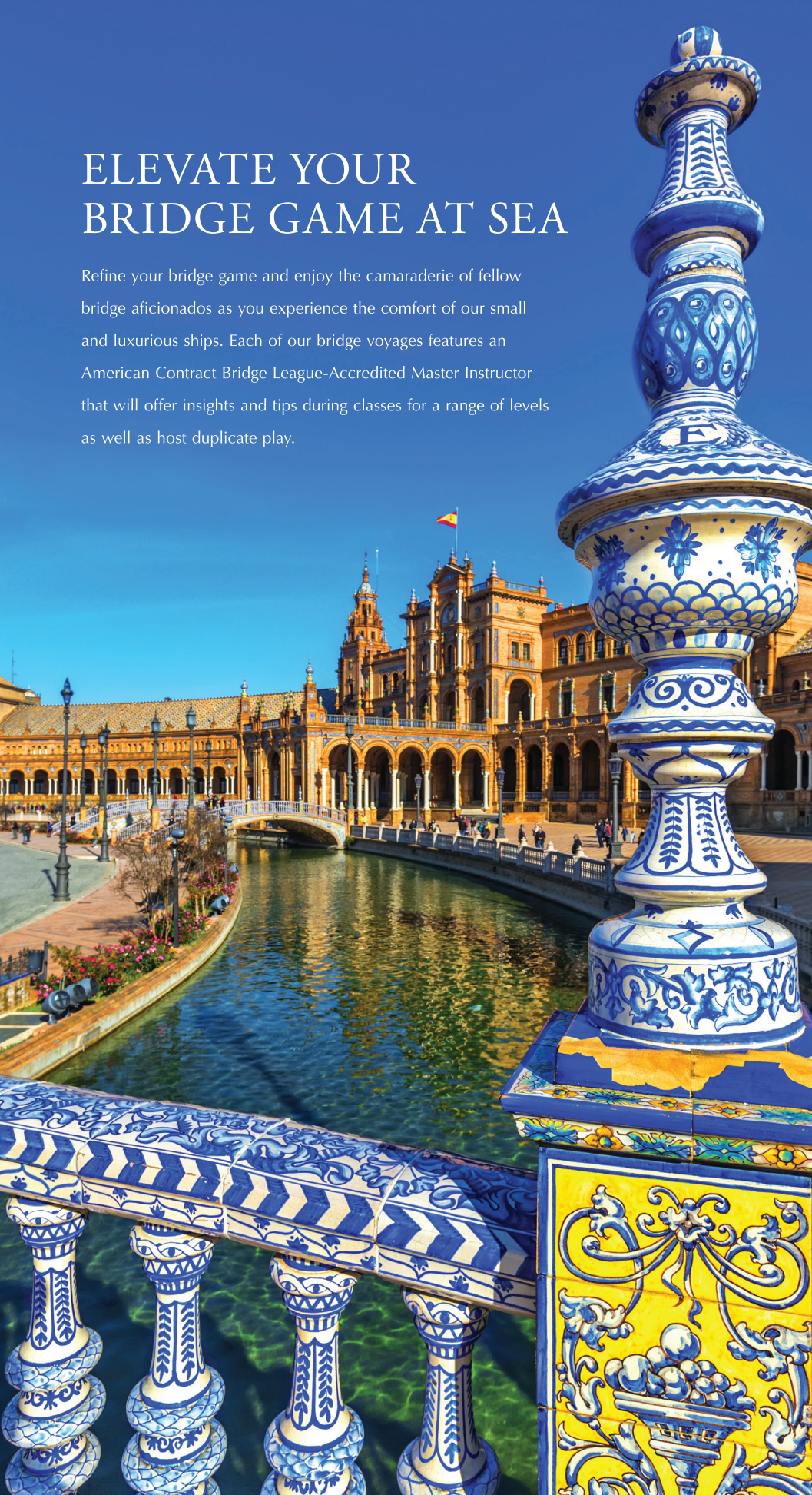
Phil led the king of diamonds and I showed an even number. He could see at least four defensive tricks (one spade, two diamonds and one club) so needed two more tricks to defeat 2♠.

Very smoothly, Phil set his trap by making the perfect switch: the queen of hearts. Suspecting nothing untoward, and grateful to Phil for 'opening up the hearts', declarer won in hand and played ace of clubs and another club. This was won by Phil whose cunning plan was about to come to fruition when he played a second heart. Declarer, of course, played him for the ♥QJxxx based on his switch and inserted the ten. This allowed me to win my jack of hearts (extra trick #1), cross to Phil's ace of diamonds, and receive a heart ruff (extra trick #2). What a genius! (Subsequent note: I have since regained my wits and changed my mind about Phil being a genius.)

With everyone in our team in form, we were able to defeat the incumbent Mixed team representatives in the playoff final and earn our berth as the 2023 Australian Mixed Team. Both our semi-final and final matches were played in a good spirit and friendly manner, which made the event thoroughly enjoyable. Our team will be honoured to represent Australia in international Mixed competitions in 2023, chief of which will be the Mixed World Championship in Marrakech in August. It will be Sophie Ashton's first international cap, and my first non-junior international experience. We hope to make Australia proud.

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Beginner Boo-Boos

Emma Barnes



I was a TERRIBLE teacher of beginners for the first ten years I tried it. I had retention rates around 60% for far too long. Here's why.

The beginner's mind is hidden from advanced players. It's been so long since we learned, we've entirely forgotten what the real challenges were. Here are six mistakes I made that took me a long time to correct. You might notice a theme.

Mechanics

Imagine sitting South on your third hand of bridge looking at:

♠ K 3 2 ♥ Q 4 3 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ A 10 5

You've barely had time to figure out that it's your turn to bid, let alone that you only have 12 cards. The teacher asks all the South players what their longest suit is, and several confident Souths blurt "diamonds!" The teacher says "Great, let's bid one diamond!" You feel like there's something wrong but, judging by everyone else's confidence, that something is you. You lean forward and write "1 diamond" and a fierce creature to your left says, "Not like that! You write a 'D'". If you were panicky when you arrived, you're crumpled now. This is the frozen shame you last experienced in the third grade when Mrs McCracken would smack her ruler on your desk and broadcast your mistakes to the whole class.

A few minutes later, with your body still in flight-fright-freeze, you're the declarer for the first time in your life. Everyone is watching you and you have no idea what you're doing. Soon you've revoked and the fierce creature calls the sheriff. The teacher is kind with the rules but it's too late for you. You hate bridge.

For years I had retention rates (percentage of beginners who went on to play duplicate) around 60%. When I identified this problem and fixed it, that shot up to 80%. Beginners who can't see all thirteen of their cards are disabled by that.

SOLUTION

During the first hand, before a bid is made, I stalk the room with a stack of card holders. I slip one in front of every player who is even slightly struggling to fan their cards. Nothing more required.

Smarty pants

Jeff has been to a beginners' class before. He has been privy to bridge conversations between his wife and her friends for years. He's even sat in as dummy with them on a few occasions. He knows what "second player plays low" means, and he thinks "five-card majors" is the key to the universe. He doesn't belong at a beginners' course. Nevertheless, he's here, and he's going to show his tablemates how much he knows.

Each time he offers his wisdom, his tablemates learn that someone is watching and evaluating them. They look not with curiosity towards the game, but with deference towards him. That's a ruinous shame, because you have crafted hands and instruction that leads each player to learn by mistakes. They're now invested in not making them. It's your job to stop him in his tracks.

I used to let Jeff do his thing. I didn't realise the effect it had on others.

SOLUTION

Now I address these student-didacts directly. I say, "I can see you've played some bridge before. That's great. You're going to find the first couple of lessons very easy. I'm going to ask you to take a vow of silence until Week Three. Let everyone make lots of mistakes. Is that ok with you?"

That does 50% of the job. I complete the other 50% by hovering by their table and giving him Mrs McCracken's ruler when he pipes up. I don't love doing it, but his tablemates love that I do.

Talking instead of playing

It's natural for learners to vocalise their thoughts. They can use this practice as a way of checking whether they're about to make a mistake, so they don't have to suffer the 'indignity' of making one. Players who

do this can spread a 'no mistakes' culture to their entire table. A dummy who inserts themselves into the action can make it worse. "Shouldn't you play a big one there?" Shoosh dummy. What you want is empowered bridge players – people who know when it's their turn to bid or play that it's their time, their space, and their choice.

After the card-holders and shooshing the didacts, nipping this culture in the bud is atop my Lesson 1 list. First I make a show of dummy's irrelevance.

"Dummy says nothing, chooses nothing, and if they're a good dummy, they even breathe quietly." If I hear a dummy speak, or I see them suggesting a card to play, I say, "Shoosh dummy," and give them a wink. Then I scout for players who vocalise their intentions. When they do so, I usher them to doing the thing they're talking about: "We don't want to hear. We want to see. Do it!"

After a couple of actions with no bad consequences, they've taken back their agency.

It's not in the details, it's the framework

New teachers get lost in the details and miss the framework. I sure did. For YEARS. It won't affect a player catastrophically if they choose the wrong card or make the wrong call because they miscounted or miscalculated. What WILL inspire shame – the kind that makes them unable to ask the clarifying question they need answered – is when they miss a piece of the framework. Here's an example:

When you let them know they need twelve points to open, and six to respond, and then they pass as responder with ten points, it's not often because they miscounted and if it is for that reason, it doesn't matter much. It's more likely because they didn't know they were responding. They might have thought, "I'm bidding a new suit so I'm the opener". Or it might be because they thought they needed six points in one suit. These are the misunderstandings that can send beginners into a confusing spiral. In these cases, you need to hear from them about what they're thinking. Their answers will often surprise you. That means you will be asking them more questions than they will be asking you. You are the learner.

SOLUTION

When I see someone make a doozy of an error, I ask them gently, "Can you tell me why you passed?" I won't offer them any advice at all until I'm confident that I understand what happened for them. They'll often be nervous at that time – the teacher is looming! So I tell them why I'm speaking with them: "I'm curious to see this through your eyes".

Their answer tells me what's gone awry.

Spread good practice

Often we find that one table institutes your recommendation but another table skips it. For example, none of the four players at Table 3 caught on when you mentioned that the trumps go on dummy's right. At some point during the course, you'll have to reissue that instruction for that table. That's no hefty chore but when you multiply that by all the missed instructions across many tables, you'll find it's not the best use of your time.

Nothing opens our eyes to good ideas like landing in a new culture. So it is for learners at bridge. When four players spend six weeks together, there is only one culture in play. They need to travel.

SOLUTION

I get East-West to move to the next table, just like a duplicate.

They also meet more people this way, and they're an extra step closer to playing duplicate. My workload shrunk vastly when I started this practice and so I had more time to notice hidden problems elsewhere.

Slow down

Two or three enthusiastic teacher's pets can give you the impression you're doing a great job. They'll smile vigorously when you introduce a new idea which has gone over the heads of some of the other players. If you look to these players for signs of comprehension, you'll speed ahead of the crowd. I did this for years and thereby helped a bunch of people who didn't need it. The way around this is pretty obvious when you think about it:

SOLUTION

When speaking, I only look at the faces of the people who are having the greatest difficulty. I don't move on until they show me that they've understood.

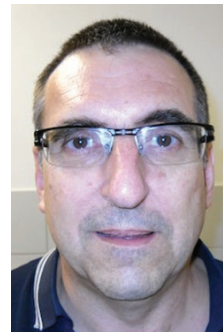
Summary

These six steps mean that the 40% of students I used to abandon now learn and love bridge. It's a rare thing when someone slips through the net these days.

Have you noticed the theme? Each of these steps involve seeing through beginners' eyes – taking cues from the players. There's simply no way to find that viewpoint from our own memories. We've learned too much. Instead, we can pay attention to their vocalisations, their confusions, their errors and their explanations. Those are the signposts to what we're doing wrong.

Play Well, But Not TOO Well

by Chris Depasquale



You are on lead in the West seat with this hand against 3NT doubled, vulnerable against not, after the following bidding:

♠ Q 4 3 2 ♥ K 5 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ Q J 10 7

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

1. Goren, four-card openings.
2. Typically three-card support.

Our brethren in the world of chess had a difficult year in 2022, with much of the narrative centring on the dispute between world champion Magnus Carlsen and American teen Hans Niemann. This led to forfeits, withdrawals, arguments, recriminations and, in the best American tradition, a \$100 million law suit.

It all began when Niemann had the temerity to play well enough to defeat Carlsen in their tournament game, and questions arose because Niemann had previously confessed to cheating on more than one occasion, but only in "minor online events."

But that is all their problem; yours is to find the right opening lead. Because it is presented in puzzle format you will have hit upon the correct card already, the only one you would not consider leading at the table: ♥K. That is sufficient for us to present dummy:

♠ J 5
♥ 6 4 3
♦ K 2
♣ A K 9 6 4 2

♠ Q 4 3 2
♥ K 5
♦ A 6 3
♣ Q J 10 7



Partner greets your heart lead with the two (encouraging) and declarer contributes the eight. Now what?

Any diamond, but only a diamond, will do now. The idea is to eliminate the side-suit entry to dummy before the clubs can be established. With the club suit limited to contributing just two tricks, declarer will have no hope in this contract.

Continuing hearts at Trick 2 may seem attractive, until you see the full layout:

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

Declarer can win the second heart and lead a club, forcing you to split honours. Declarer wins that in dummy and plays a small club to his eight. You can win that one and knock out the king of diamonds, but declarer will cross to hand with a spade and take the club finesse.

That way declarer ends up with five club tricks, two spades, a diamond, and a heart, making 3NT doubled.

West did find the ♥K lead when this hand was played recently. Would you put that down to genius or cheating? Would you change your mind if I told you it was played in a "minor online event"? Would you change your mind again if I told you the player sitting West was none other than the redoubtable Michael Courtney? Michael has a history of finding ingenious plays at the bridge table, both face-to-face and online, and this one is certainly within his wheelhouse.

The deal cropped up in the final round of the North Shore Bridge Club Online Festive Season Swiss Teams played on RealBridge. Twenty teams partic-



ipated, featuring many of the leading players and pairs in the nation today, including Liam Milne, Peter Gill, Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer, to name just a few in the star-studded field.

I must reassure you, dear reader, that there were no allegations of cheating after this deal was played. One reason is that the actual deal was a little different to the layout I gave above. This was the actual layout:

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

Declarer won the heart lead (East contributing the ten – reverse attitude) and played three rounds of clubs, East discarding the ♦2 and the ♠8, while declarer pitched a heart. Michael persevered with hearts and was promptly on lead again with another club. This time East pitched a heart and declarer a spade. Only now did Michael lead diamonds; the ace

and a small one to East’s king. By now declarer could claim nine tricks: one spade, three hearts, a diamond and four clubs.

It is apparent that any other lead would be superior, and declarer will manage just six tricks on any reasonable defence. After getting in on the third round of clubs the diamond switch will defeat the contract, and even after the second misfire in hearts, a spade switch after winning the second club will take it one down. The 20-imp swing on that hand (-550 for 3NT doubled making vs +500 for three down) effectively decided the tournament. Team Courtney (Michael Courtney - Chris Depasquale, William Zhang - Michael Wu) took an 8 VP lead into the final round but slipped to third after they lost that match to Fleischer (Shane Harrison - Mathew Vadas, Martin Bloom - George Fleischer) who grabbed second spot, while Davies (Elli Urbach - George Finokiotis, Leo Goorevich - Kevin Davies) snatched first place with a 36-imp final round win.

North Shore Bridge Club is to be congratulated for running such events available to all and sundry, which included an all-Darwin team (Ken Moffitt - Sue Moffitt, Tony Abbott - Neil Williams). If you didn’t participate this time because it is only a “minor online event,” you are cheating yourself of a great day’s bridge.

Gold Coast Bridge Club

A little club with a big heart

In the lead up to the Christmas season members of the club home-prepared and donated seasonal preserves, cakes and decorations for sale to other club members. Proceeds of the sales to be donated to Orange Sky, a charity continuously providing mobile laundry facilities to the homeless. This sale raised \$10,000, which has all been given to the charity.

A second fund raiser was held at our annual Christmas party. Again all prizes were donated by members, another success in aid of “Rosies” the well-known volunteer charity, feeding the homeless.

The proceeds of this fund raiser were \$4,180, all given to the charity. The two images below show the goods on display for the sale and the raffle.



The Aces on Bridge

by Bobby Wolff



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

W/NS	♠ 10 4 3 2		
	♥ 6 4		
	♦ A K J 3		
	♣ A 9 8		
♠ —		♠ K 8 7 5	
♥ A Q 7 3		♥ J 10 9 2	
♦ Q 8 7 6 5		♦ 10 4	
♣ K Q J 7		♣ 6 4 2	
	♠ A Q J 9 6		
	♥ K 8 5		
	♦ 9 2		
	♣ 10 5 3		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	pass	1♥	1♠
3♠	4♦	pass	4♠
all pass			

Opening lead: ♣K.

West's wild 3♠ splinter actually encouraged North-South to reach their spade game. Had West only raised to 3♥, North might have contented himself with a mere 3♠.

It looks as though declarer can make the hand by throwing a club on the third diamond then ruffing a heart on table, but the 4-0 spade split prevents

declarer from drawing trumps first, and East can ruff the third diamond. Still, Margaret Bourke found a way home.

She ducked the ♣K lead and won the second round as East followed upwards, denoting an odd number. A spade to the queen saw West show out, whereupon Bourke re-entered dummy with the diamond ace to run the ♠10. A further spade finesse was followed by the ♠A, West pitching two hearts and a card in each minor.

It looked as though West had begun life with a 0-4-5-4 shape on the bidding and play to trick one. Reading the ending perfectly, Bourke finessed the ♦J, cashed the ♦A for a heart pitch, then ruffed a diamond. A club exit endplayed West to lead around to the ♥K, for declarer's game-going trick.

Had West discarded a third heart instead, Bourke would no doubt have ducked out the ace.

Had declarer played her last trump in the six-card ending, West would be squeezed in three suits, forced to let go a heart to avoid setting up a minor-suit winner. But then declarer could lead a low heart from hand to establish her tenth winner.

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YOUTH BRIDGE NEWS

with
Rebecca O'Reilly

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH WEEK

The highly-anticipated 2023 Australian Youth Bridge Championships were recently held face-to-face in Canberra after a three-year hiatus. A welcome return for Australian Youth Bridge, the event attracted a range of participants from all over the country aged 14-30.

The sound of shuffling cards and the murmur of strategy filled the room as we commenced Day 1 with the Pairs qualifying giving many players a chance to refine their skill for the rest of the week.

The top 10 pairs from the qualifying played off in the Pairs Final with the remaining six pairs battling it out in the Pairs Consolation. Experience proved key with Jamie Thompson and Andrew Spooner coming out victorious in the Final. After narrowly missing out on a spot in the final Damon Flicker and Seb Wright remained focused to top the Pairs Consolation comfortably with 65%.

Day 3 and 4 of the Teams Championships had Team Stoneham (Jamie Thompson, Andrew Spooner, Mitch



Jasmine Skeate, Brendan McDonald,
Seb Wright, Jeremy Reid

Dowling, Alan Stoneham) finishing first with ten wins, four draws and no losses. Until of course they met their match in the Cliff Wake with our expert players (Renee Cooper, Liam Milne, Jess Brake and Susan Humphries) who won the four-board BAM (Board-A-Match).

Following the Teams was the major event of the week for some, and a reminder of how old you are getting for others: The Australian Youth Squad Selection!

The six pairs who qualified for the Youth Squad this year in order of placing are:

- 1st Joshua Tomlin - David Gue
- 2nd George Bartley - Jack Luke-Paredi
- 3rd Sebastian Langdon MacMillan - Tomer Libman
- 4th Damon Flicker - Seb Wright
- 5th Jasmine Skeate - Paddy Taylor
- 6th Alex Goss - Bertie Morgan

Keep your eye out for the selected junior team representing Australia in the Netherlands, to be announced soon!



Tom Langdon Macmillan, Jade Wilkinson,
Molly Langdon Macmillan, Alexis Wilsmore

IN MEMORIAM

David Morgan

1959-2023



David Morgan passed away on 13 January 2023 following a long battle with cancer.

I came to know David when I joined the VBA Council early last decade, and my life is richer for having known him. Occasionally I would give David a ride home from bridge at the VBA on a Wednesday night. We would talk about various hands that had occurred that

night, and life in general. It was on one of these journeys that David and I spoke about the mental side of the game, and he suggested to me I write a book on applying sports psychology to bridge.

In his early career he called Canberra home, residing there between 1984 and 2004, although some of that time was spent in overseas postings as he pursued his career in the diplomatic service. During this time, he was a member of the ACT Open Team for ANC 1990 and won two state and two club titles. He was a fine bridge player who won the Victorian Pennant in 2009 and played on the Victorian Open Team in 2009, 2010 and 2018.

On his bridge winner's profile, he comments, "I was ensnared by bidding theory as a young player and still haven't escaped its clutches." I think this is a sentiment we can all relate to.

In addition to being an accomplished player, David was very active in bridge administration. He served on the VBA council from 2012 until 2022 and held the position of Vice President from 2019 to 2022. He served as a member of the ABF Match & Tournament Committee from June 2014, and became its Chairman in June 2015 to late 2018 when he stepped down due to ill health. He was captain of the 2013 Australian Open Team to the APBF Championships.

David devoured bridge books and held an extensive library. Internationally David is best known for his role on the International Bridge Press Association's jury panel which selects the IBPA Book of the Year, and he was a book reviewer for The Bridge World and Australian Bridge Magazine. He was also a regular contributor to various magazines and wrote a number of articles including: "The Balanced Hand Principle" and "The Unnecessary Information Test".

David will be remembered by those who knew him as an insightful and considerate man, and a gentleman of the game. He will be greatly missed by those who played with him and those who served alongside him.

Kim Frazer

Ian McCance

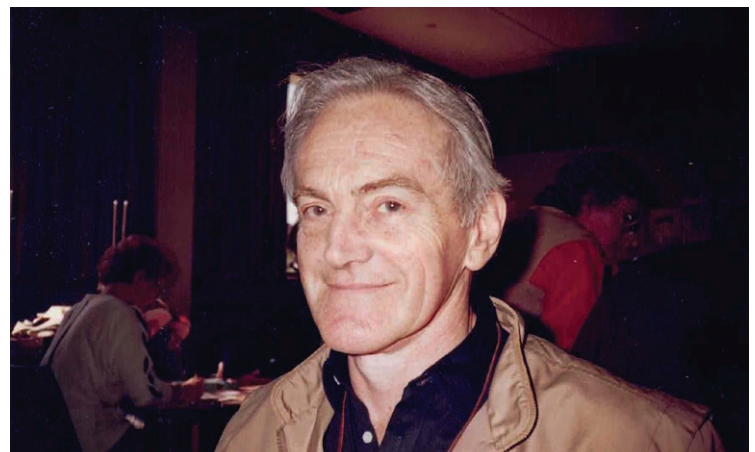
1927-2023

The Australian bridge community lost a giant with the passing of Dr Ian McCance on 5 January, aged 95.

Ian first represented Victoria in the Open Teams as a 29-year-old and would be a constant in the team for many decades. By his mid 30s he was also captaining the state team. He has the unique claim to having won the Australian National Championship Open Teams as a player, a player/captain and a captain in a period spanning 1966-2011.

Ian won the Victorian Open Teams (Pennant) more than ten times, the Victorian Mixed Pairs with Felicity Beale on seven occasions, and the Victorian Open Pairs five times – with five separate partners.

Ian's leadership was apparent in that he was called upon to captain many teams. In addition to captaining



the Victorian Open Team, he also captained the Youth team and the Women's team. The 1984 Youth team captained by Ian, included Bill Jacobs, Simon Henbest, Andrew Mill and Ian Thomson. It won't surprise anyone that they won the national championships.

In addition to leading many Victorian teams to national success, Ian also won the Australian Open Butler Pairs and the Australian Open Individual. Ian

played for Australia in the World Championships, debuting in the 1968 Olympiad in partnership with Fred Altman. They defeated the mighty Italian Blue team 18-2, but narrowly missed the semi-finals after Dick Cummings collapsed and had to be taken to hospital late in the tournament.

Ian captained the Australian team in the 1980 Olympiad, a team which included some of the greatest Australian players of all time – Tim Seres, Dick Cummings, Seamus Browne, Roelof Smilde, Ron Klinger and Paul Lavings.

Bridge was in Ian's DNA. His father Norman was a champion player and one of the founding members of the VBA. He wrote a bridge column for the Argus newspaper for many years. Ian's sister, Ailsa Tandy, and their mother Dot, qualified together to play on the

Victorian Open Team in 1961. Ailsa won her first Interstate Women's Teams in 1958 and her last in 1991.

Ian is the author of *The Setting Trick* (2008) which was short-listed for the IPBA Book-of-the-Year prize. He was elected a life member of the Victorian Bridge Association in 1985 and is remembered as a man of great integrity.

Ian was a leading physiologist who lectured and undertook research at Monash University, producing many peer-reviewed papers. He was the editor of the leading Australasian physiology journal. He once commented that he could have progressed further in his career if he hadn't spent so much time on bridge, but he was quite comfortable with his choices.

From the Victorian Bridge Association



1968 Open Team: Ian McCance, Fred Altman, Dick Cummings, Frank Cayley npc, Denis Howard, Tim Seres, Roelof Smilde

Denis Howard

1932-2023

Denis Howard died peacefully surrounded by his family on 15 January, aged 90.

Denis was a long-term Australian representative player, bridge administrator and President of the ABF. He was an incisive bridge columnist and founding editor of Australian Bridge Magazine. He was a member of the Executive Council of the World Bridge Federation from 1982 to 1986 and President from 1986 to 1991.

Denis coupled his university studies and early legal career with involvement in bridge, of which he was a world-class player. He had won his first national title in 1957, and represented Australia at the Olympiads of 1964, 1968, and 1976. A six-time winner of the Australian Pairs Championship, and a 12-time winner of the Interstate Teams, Howard retired from active competition in 1976.

He nonetheless retained an involvement in bridge for years thereafter, as a president of the NSW Bridge Association, the ABF, and the World Bridge Federation. He was elected WBF President for the 1986 to 1990 term of office. After being re-elected for a second term, he resigned in January 1991 following a crisis within the world of bridge.

Denis was a bridge journalist for the National Times, the Sydney Morning Herald, and Australian Bridge Magazine, of which he was founding editor. He was highly regarded for his integrity, intellectual rigour, and legal skill, and known for his modesty, fondness of Shakespeare, and sly humour. He was also a great force in the lives of close friends. His friendship with superstar of the past, Tim Seres, meant that on Sunday mornings there was a ritual in the Howard household. Tim would ring at precisely 10am and for the next hour or so Denis and Tim would review events, in the bridge world and beyond.

Stephen Lester, photo and article from the NOT Bulletin



A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

In this session, there were a couple of hands that were all about the auction:

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

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

South leads the ♥J. You could think, "North must have the ♥A-Q," but think about the bidding. South has made a takeout double but your side has 26 HCP. There's no way that North holds those heart honours. Just try the ♥K. When it wins, I would try the diamond finesse, establishing the diamond winners, when the finesse fails. In addition, I would cash the ♠A and ♠K, expecting South to have most of the outstanding honours. On this hand, you drop the trump queen, making 11 tricks.

Here's the 'twin' hand:

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

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

Firstly, as South, I would pass partner's 1♠ bid. They are already a passed hand, so we aren't missing game with my balanced minimum hand.

In the play, declarer was obviously aware of allowing for bad breaks. However, she led to the ♠A, then

finessed dummy's ♠K-9 on the way back. Whilst the principle was good, the application was wrong, given that West had made the takeout double. Cash the ♠K first, then finesse on the next round. On the hand you will, indeed, catch West with the ♠Q-J-6-5, making your contract.

Sitting East, vulnerable against not, you hold:

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

Whilst there is nothing wrong with bidding 2♦, which partner raises to 3♦, you are much better served to reopen with a double. Your partner may be sitting with a penalty double, since their double would be asking you to bid. On the other hand, if they are weak, they will bid after your double (which is takeout). It's a win-win situation.

Your partner's hand was:

♠ 7 6 5 2	♥ 7	♦ Q 9 7 2	♣ A 8 7 5
-----------	-----	-----------	-----------

Whilst the hand could make a negative double, it is somewhat weak for the action. I held this hand, and had decided that, opposite a reopening double, given the singleton heart, I would pass 2♣ doubled.

The outcome, according to Deep Finesse, could have been down two, for 300, against a likely partscore. I'll leave you to think about which score is superior.

Players struggled with two slam hands. On the first, partner, West, opens 2♥ (weak two) and you hold:

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

On this hand, North overcalled 2♠. Your concern is the diamond suit. Then again, what is North bidding on, and what has partner got for their preemptive opening bid? Partner should hold the ♥A and likely the jack, but you can't expect spade values or club values from them. Perhaps just bashing 6♥ is right?

You could try 6NT, so that South is on lead and may not lead a diamond?

Without the intervention, the hand is about using some sort of enquiry bid. In the past, 2NT was used as Ogust, an enquiry about both partner's trump quality and hand strength. The current preference for the 2NT bid is to use it as a 'feature ask'. With a minimum, opener rebids their suit; with a non-minimum partner shows an ace or king (at the three-level) or a splinter bid (at the four-level).

On this hand, partner rebids 3♦, showing the ♦A or ♦K, so then you can bid 4NT, RKCB, settling in 6♥ once you determine partner has one key card. They held:

♠ 7 ♥ A J 9 7 6 2 ♦ K J 4 ♣ J 6 3

By the way, once the opener shows a feature, you are in a game forcing auction, so responder's bids

below game then allow you to show your shortage. If you are currently using Ogust, consider changing to the 'feature ask'; it is far more useful.

The other hand was:

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

West opens 2NT and it's East turn to call. I would always start with Stayman (whatever version you use). If opener shows four hearts, you simply head to slam. If opener shows four spades, you can bid 4♦, showing four hearts and longer diamonds, with slam interest. If opener denies a major, you should head to 6♦, perhaps via 4♦ (long diamonds with a four-card major). It's not as challenging as it seems, but you have to remain level-headed with such a hand.



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Liam Milne

Proceeds from Fund Raisers support the ABF Foundation which was established in 2020 to assist participants of all skill levels to enjoy and promote our fascinating game. The Foundation hopes to provide scholarships, promote regional bridge and bridge for youth right through to the retirement community; indeed, it will support any activity that is considered positive for the future of bridge.

Visit the website at <https://abffoundation.org.au/fundraiser/index.asp> to make a bid.

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



TO BE CONTINUED?

North dealer, neither side vulnerable.

♠ A K J 4
♥ K 3
♦ A 4
♣ Q J 10 9 8



♠ 8
♥ A Q J 10 7 2
♦ K 8 5
♣ A K 5

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

West leads the ♥5, thirds and fifths, against 5♠ doubled. Declarer plays the ♥K from dummy and East wins with the ace. How should East continue?

About the first thing you notice as East is that North has 18 HCP. As you have 17, that leaves 5 HCP shared between South and West, both of whom have bid. Since South bid five-over-five, you can expect South to have a very shapely hand.

N/Nil

♠ A K J 4
♥ K 3
♦ A 4
♣ Q J 10 9 8

♠ 6
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ Q 9 7 3
♣ 7 6 4 3

♠ 8
♥ A Q J 10 7 2
♦ K 8 5
♣ A K 5

♠ Q 10 9 7 5 3 2
♥ 6
♦ J 10 6 2
♣ 2

In practice East continued with a second heart. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps in one round and led a club. East won and shifted to a diamond. Too late. Declarer took the ♦A and continued with clubs, ruffing East's remaining honour. Dummy had three club winners on which declarer's diamond losers vanished.

East cannot afford to continue hearts or play a top club at Trick 2. A switch to a diamond is needed. This would cost only if declarer had a 6-1-5-1 / 6-2-5-0 shape and the diamonds were headed by the queen. If declarer is 7-1-4-1 or 7-2-4-0 including Q-x-x-x in diamonds, there is no defence.

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2022 MCCUTCHEON RESULTS

OVERALL

1 Tony Nunn	557.04
2 James Coutts	556.77
3 Paul Dalley	541.08
4 Liam Milne	450.26
5 Michael Courtney	400.13
6 Peter Gill	399.73
7 Philip Markey	378.35
8 Sophie Ashton	363.55
9 George Kozakos	342.30
10 Charlie Lu	330.22

SILVER GRAND & OVER

1 Tony Nunn	557.04
2 James Coutts	556.77
3 Liam Milne	450.26
4 Michael Courtney	400.13
5 Peter Gill	399.73
6 Philip Markey	378.35
7 George Kozakos	342.30
8 Justin Mill	323.82
9 Pauline Gumby	322.70
10 Warren Lazer	307.52

GRAND MASTER

1 Paul Dalley	541.08
2 Sophie Ashton	363.55
3 Jamie Thompson	329.92
4 Gwyneira Brahma	311.15
5 Shane Harrison	310.95
6 Dave Munro	285.73
7 Deana Wilson	237.87
8 Kim Frazer	228.24
9 Pam Morgan-King	222.66
10 Ella Jacob	207.97

GOLD LIFE MASTER

1 Charlie Lu	330.22
2 Liz Sylvester	238.65
3 Annette Hyland	197.19
4 Mimi Packer	192.37
5 Hans Van Weeren	188.72
6 Rez Karim	167.14
7 Jane Beeby	164.49
8 Robyn Pearce	146.41
9 Bill Bishop	127.18
10 Lori Smith	125.70

SILVER LIFE MASTER

1 Watson Zhou	265.41
2 Kimberley Zhao	178.39
3 Vinod Nasta	175.36
4 Abby Wanigaratne	173.37
5 Jessica Chew	163.27
6 Andrew Spooner	162.71
7 Ingrid Cooke	149.51
8 Bill Bradshaw	144.16
9 Rachel Langdon	137.64
10 Janelle Conroy	130.71

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

1 Alan Cransberg	126.13
2 Julie Rhodes	114.83
3 Phil Bapty	114.00
4 Rob Ward	106.71
5 Mark Doust	102.44
6 Mick Koziol	98.93
7 Joanne Bakas	98.32
8 Lyn Tracey	87.57
9 Jody Swaine	86.73
10 Lakshmi Sunderasan	83.77

LIFE MASTER

1 Cassandra Mitchell	128.22
2 Daria Williams	110.29
3 Sue Martin	103.90
4 Colin Clifford	103.59
5 Sue Beckman	94.60
6 Belinda Taranto	92.12
7 Charlie Georgees	88.19
8 Alan Bustany	77.12
9 Lisa Yoffa	75.17
10 Rob Holgate	73.30

SILVER NATIONAL

1 Dianne Dwyer	183.40
2 Leo Saoud	133.20
3 Megan Grant	114.53
4 Stephen Miller	98.55
5 Barbara Williams	94.97
6 Clare Filmer Ramsay	92.66
7 Frank Milford	73.86
8 Deborah Anglim	70.61
9 Marieta Borthwick	68.71
10 Jacky Gruszka	64.65

BRONZE NATIONAL

1 Mardi Grosvenor	246.68
2 Eugene Pereira	168.18
3 Heath Henn	116.58
4 Tony White	115.80
5 Clive Klugman	101.16
6 Christine Newbery	90.03
7 John Grosvenor	88.33
8 Ming Shu Yang	87.75
9 Alan Race	87.69
10 Catherine Ellice-Flint	84.98

NATIONAL MASTER

1 Jake Andrew	178.38
2 Frank Hardiman	125.04
3 Patrick Jiang	108.25
4 Tomoko Nakamatsu	98.54
5 Mary Poynten	87.38
6 Sandy Spencer	77.28
7 Pauline Moore	76.95
8 Raelene Clark	76.57
9 Voyko Markovic	71.90
10 Vesna Markovic	71.30

BRONZE STATE

1 Colin Speller	118.04
2 Sandy Carter	86.05
3 Bertie Morgan	81.05
4 Jamie Simpson	80.11
5 Nerida Gillies	75.84
6 Paul Letts	73.80
7 Gideon Azar	72.12
8 Chris Cullen	66.13
9 Elizabeth Van Vugt	65.55
10 Maria Christensen	63.41

STATE MASTER

1 Martin Wu	118.36
2 David De Bellis	105.20
3 Joshua Tomlin	97.47
4 Wendy Harris	91.85
5 Ken Hubbell	89.27
6 Wendy Cuthbert	84.30
7 Rosemary Porter	83.53
8 Hui Li	80.74
9 Robert Fulcher	74.07
10 Eugene McClorey	70.70

BRONZE REGIONAL

1 Sandi Pirozzo	113.02
2 Matthew Geeve	87.48
3 Ann Sauer	80.19
4 Libby Heyward	69.13
5 Tammy Hubbard	63.28
6 Joscelyn Charters	56.49
7 Trish Berry	53.92
8 Lesley Johnstone	45.65
9 Jay Kent	38.13
10 Micaela Vincent	37.72

REGIONAL MASTER

1 Don Saunders	88.27
2 Alex Glikin	70.67
3 Michael Huddart	62.29
4 Penny Cory	56.74
5 Greg Dobson	52.74
6 Denise McTaggart	51.02
7 Linda Lee	49.93
8 Joyanne Gissing	48.97
9 Phil Douglas	44.48
10 Patrick Smith	43.96

SILVER LOCAL

1 Lilly Jia	122.88
2 Vanessa Brewis	78.12
3 David Cumming	71.78
4 Mike Morrissey	52.87
5 David Hancock	47.13
6 Steven Kemp	46.98
7 Ruitian Lang	44.59
8 Robyn Wells	44.39
9 Carmel Dwan	40.15
10 Helen Manzau	39.82

BRONZE LOCAL

1 Sachiko Cathcart	68.95
2 Jenny McGowan	67.00
3 Alan Puckey	43.95
4 Kim Model	40.35
5 John Rivers	40.07
6 Mark Harnack	39.24
7 James Grapsas	37.56
8 Carmel Gammal	36.95
9 Alexandra Wilson	33.81
10 Ada Krawczyk	33.47

LOCAL MASTER

1 Simon Tissera	81.24
2 Jan Kinross	47.16
3 Michelle George	35.86
4 Jacqui Dudurovic	35.82
5 Megan Edwards	35.73
6 Julia Caldwell	34.15
7 Henry McMahon	32.51
8 Manuela Steinbrecher	29.79
9 Andrew Mollison	29.77
10 Siobhan Davies	28.52

CLUB MASTER

1 Jian Williams	43.51
2 Jinghao Gu	42.32
3 Andrea Dayman	34.11
4 Pauline Curin	32.59
5 Anne Davey	30.22
6 Chris Hamam	28.20
7 Elizabeth Ward	27.72
8 Kate Macdonald	27.55
9 John Reid	25.85
10 Rhonda Khong	25.33

GRADUATE MASTER

1 Ted Robson	31.31
2 Kerry Gibson	24.84
3 Adrian Morton	24.36
4 Marie Gin	23.34
5 John Currier	20.20
6 Anne Portess	19.84
7 Kerri Grant	19.57
8 Geoff Cowan	19.27
9 Erik Moller	17.55
10 Kaye Frankland	17.44

NIL MASTER

1 Bene Su	46.57
2 Duncan Welsh	24.16
3 Marie O'Sullivan	23.90
4 Toni Arnott	23.60
5 Alex Wu	22.74
6 Heather Lindsay	19.83
7 Yip San Pui	18.60
8 Xavier Fruewirth	18.05
9 Glen Chick	17.88
10 Julie Kirby	15.84



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