

# ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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## Spring National Festival



2009 Spring National Open Team winners: Andrew Peake, Bruce Neill, Sartaj Hans and Avi Kanetkar

### From the Convener

The entry numbers were better for the Open Teams and the Dick Cummings Open Pairs this year. Entries to the Manzoni Women's Teams and the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams were disappointing. Unfortunately, the Restricted Teams was cancelled due to a lack of entries.

The 2009 event was held for the final time at the Hakoah Club in Bondi. A new venue will be found for next year. The 2010 Spring Nationals are provisionally set for October 20 - 28; please mark these dates in your diary.

*Kim Neale*

### Problems

Here are some problems from the Spring National Open Teams Finals. Try them before you read the report which follows.

1. You hold ♠853, ♥KJ8653, ♦K, ♣KQ5. You are dealer, with the opponents vulnerable. The bidding starts 1♥ from you, 2♥ (spades + minor) on your left, 3♥ (weaker than 2♠) from partner, 4♠ on your left.

What do you do?

2. You hold ♠QJ754, ♥10932, ♦2, ♣A82. You are last to speak, with the opponents vulnerable. The bidding starts 1♥ on your left, double from partner, 2♦ on your right.

What do you do?

3. You hold ♠A872, ♥7, ♦QJ9872, ♣72. You are second to speak, with no one vulnerable. The bidding starts 1♥ on your right, pass (?) from you, 4♥ on your left, passed back to you.

What do you do?

4. You hold ♠542, ♥J5, ♦AQ9862, ♣62. You are last to speak, vulnerable against not. The bidding goes 2♥ on your left, 2♠ from partner, 3NT on your right, all pass.

What do you lead?

5. You hold ♠K, ♥AJ10763, ♦104, ♣K974. You are second to speak, with everyone vulnerable. The bidding starts pass, 1♥ from you, 1♠ on your left, 2♠ from partner, 4♠ on your right.

What do you do?

6. You hold ♠J4, ♥109, ♦AQ108, ♣KQJ73. You are last to speak, with everyone vulnerable. The bidding starts pass-pass-1♠ on your right, 2♣ from you, 2♠ on your left, 3♦ from partner, 4♠ on your right, back to you.

What do you do?

7. Finally, a play problem. You are in 6♠ with no opposition bidding, on a low club lead.

<i>You</i>	<i>Dummy</i>
♠ A 10 3	♠ K Q 8 7 6
♥ K 7 6 2	♥ A 3
♦ 10 4	♦ A K J 6
♣ 8 7 6 4	♣ A Q

You take the club finesse. RHO wins and returns a low trump.

What is your plan?

The Spring Nationals in Sydney fall in a busy part of the bridge calendar, and don't feature as big a field as the Summer Festival. There are 36 entries for the Open Teams, but the top tables feature plenty of Australian experts.

The qualifying is a nine-round Swiss of 20-board matches. To get into the top four, our team has to win the last match against the previously undefeated *GUMBY*. In fact, a 23-9 win takes us into second place. Phew!

The qualifiers are:

1. 169 *Gumby, Lazer, Robinson, De Livera*
- 2=. 161 *Neill, Kanetkar, Peake, Hans*
- 2=. 161 *Antoff, Simpson, Appleton, Reynolds*
4. 157 *Morrison, Hinge, Weston, Wilkinson*

Just missing out in a tight finish are:

5. 156 *Smee, Quittner, Auerbach, Kiss*
6. 155 *Lilley, Nagy, Klinger, Hoffman, Haughie, Braithwaite*
- 7=. 154 *Noble, Bilski, Brown, Prescott, Burgess, Jedrychowski*
- 7=. 154 *Giura, Hughes, Quail, Hills*
9. 153 *Rothfield, Gold, Ebery, Browne, Bagchi*
10. 150 *M. Bourke, Smith, Van Riel, Beale*

*GUMBY* chooses *MORRISON* for the 64-board semi-final, leaving *NEILL* to play *ANTOFF*. Neither match is close, and *GUMBY* faces *NEILL* in the final, also over 64 boards. *GUMBY* has an 8 IMP start, since they finished 8 VPs ahead in the qualifying.

For *GUMBY*, Ian Robinson and Arjuna deLivera have had an excellent track record over the last few years, and played at the Bermuda Bowl this year. They are playing Acol with four-card suits. Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer play a fairly standard system with five-card majors, but conventionally open 1♣ with clubs unbalanced, or 17-20 balanced, and 1♦ with diamonds, unbalanced, or 11-13, balanced.

For *NEILL*, Avi Kanetkar and Bruce Neill play simple Standard. Sartaj Hans and Andrew Peake, are playing a strong club system they call "Mini-Meck". (Sartaj has been scouting out the Meckstroth-Rodwell style from match reports, etc.) They seem to be having huge fun, but are not in danger of winning the Speedball Award.

As we wait for them after each segment, it is a delight to be able to see the running results on Matt McManus's superb web presentation. (Have a look on [abf.com.au](http://abf.com.au), and follow the links to the Spring National results.) In the final, this is supplemented by a BBO broadcast. After Avi Kanetkar and I finish the second quarter of

the final, I look at BBO to see the last board in play at the other table.

At our table, I open an 11-count and we subside in 2♠, two off for -200. Our teammates get higher, reaching a 24-point 3NT. At a quick glance, I predict that declarer will misguess ♠J and go two off. But when Sartaj is declarer, never give up hope! He guesses everything right to make nine tricks!

9 IMPs in, instead of the 9 IMPS away I was forecasting. That gives a glow to the score-up, and leaves *NEILL* leading *GUMBY* by 24 IMPs (87 to 63), after 32 of the scheduled 64 boards.

The third segment brings an avalanche (or perhaps a tsunami) of IMPs. What would you have done on these problems from the swing boards? Before you read on, you might like to try the problems on page 1, if you haven't already done so.

### **Problem 1**

Lazer and Hans, as dealer, with the opponents vulnerable, hold ♠853, ♥KJ8653, ♦K, ♣KQ5. The bidding starts 1♥ from them, 2♥ (spades and a minor) on their left, 3♥ (weaker than 2♠) from partner, 4♠ on their left.

Hans passes, and scores -650. Lazer bids 5♥, which will go for -500 (possibly -300, if the opponents don't take their club ruff). Seems like a good proposition, but he loses 5 IMPs when Gumby is not sure who's saving against whom, and doubles, holding ♠62, ♥Q742, ♦A8, ♣J9632, when the opponents press on to 5♠. The defence takes just two diamond tricks for -850. 5 IMPs to *NEILL*.

### **Problem 2**

After two quiet boards, Gumby and Peake, last to speak with the opponents vulnerable, hold ♠QJ754, ♥10932, ♦2, ♣A82. The bidding starts 1♥ on their left, double from partner, 2♦ on their right.

Gumby bids 2♠, and ends in 3♠ when the opponents compete to 3♦, which would have made. One down for -50.

Peake bids 3♠, and ends up defending 4♥, because de Livera, whose 1♥ opening could have been a four-card suit, bids 4♥ to show his fifth heart when his partner doubles 3♠ for takeout. That goes two off, -200. A pickup for the faster auction: 6 IMPs to *NEILL*.

### **Problem 3**

Neill and de Livera, second to speak, with no one vulnerable, hold ♠A872, ♥7, ♦QJ9872, ♣72.

Against Neill, the bidding starts 1♥ on his right, pass from him, 3♦ (invitational raise) on his left, pass, 3♥ on his right. He bids 4♦, 4♥ on his left, 4♠ from partner

on ♠109543, ♥A2, ♦A10, ♣K1083.

Well done by Kanetkar to realise that the reason for bidding 4♦ now, after passing earlier, was likely to be a side spade suit. Making 10 tricks, +420.

Against de Livera, the bidding starts 1♥, pass from him, 4♥ on his left, passed out. Anyone for a takeout double? 4♥ makes 10 tricks, -420. Another pickup for the faster auction: 13 IMPs to NEILL.

#### Problem 4

You hold ♠542, ♥J5, ♦AQ9862, ♣62. You are last to speak, vulnerable against not. The bidding goes 2♥ on your left, 2♠ from partner, 3NT on your right, all Pass. Gumby leads a spade, and Kanetkar claims nine tricks – seven clubs, and the two major suit aces. -400, when a diamond lead would have taken the first six tricks.

In the other room, de Livera opens 2♦ (multi) and after two rounds of bidding, ends in 4♥. That is two down after a diamond lead. -100, 11 IMPs to NEILL. (A trend is emerging.)

#### Problem 5

Second to speak, with everyone vulnerable, Robinson and Kanetkar hold ♠K, ♥AJ10763, ♦104, ♣K974. The bidding starts pass, 1♥ from them, 1♠ on their left, 2♠ from partner (good heart raise), 4♠ on their right.

Robinson doubles, and takes 4♠ two down, +500.

Kanetkar passes. Neill competes to 5♥, which is due to make 11 tricks because the opponent's club and diamond aces are both in front of the kings. (Mind



### Copy Deadline

for Issue No 142, March 2010, the deadline is:

**February 26, 2010**

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 143, May 2010, at the discretion of the Editor

Email: [editor@abf.com.au](mailto:editor@abf.com.au)

you, if they were the other way round, 4♠ might make the other way!) Lazer goes on to 5♠, duly doubled for -800. 7 IMPs to NEILL.

#### Problem 6

Last to speak, with everyone vulnerable, Lazer and Hans hold ♠J4, ♥109, ♦AQ108, ♣KQJ73.

Against Lazer, the bidding starts Pass-Pass-1♠ on his right, 2♣ from him, 2♠ - 3♦ - 4♠, back to him. He passes, as does everyone else. Any votes for 5♦? 4♠ makes an overtrick, -650.

At the other table, there is a *lot* more bidding. Peake opens 1♦ in second seat on ♠ ---, ♥A862, ♦KJ97654, ♣104. De Livera bids a conservative 4♠ with ♠AKQ109852, ♥KQ5, ♦---, ♣82. Hans bids 4NT. Peake bids 5♠, showing Key Cards, and Hans settles for 6♦.

After the Key Card auction, de Livera fails to picture that partner also has an ace! So he leads a high spade, no doubt hoping for a fast spade trick and a slow heart trick. Alas, only a heart lead can beat it, so that is -1370, 19 IMPs to NEILL.

#### Problem 7

Not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, you end in 6♠ with no opposition bidding.

<i>You</i>	<i>Dummy</i>
♠ A 10 3	♠ K Q 8 7 6
♥ K 7 6 2	♥ A 3
♦ 10 4	♦ A K J 6
♣ 8 7 6 4	♣ A Q

Lead: ♣5. What is your plan?

In the Closed Room, Neill plays 6♠ from the strong hand on a fairly normal auction.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Lazer</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6♠	All Pass

1. 5 spades.
2. Cuebid agreeing spades.

Lead: ♥J.

6♠ makes easily after declarer wins the heart lead in dummy and ruffs a diamond immediately, conveniently dropping the queen. If the queen hadn't dropped, declarer would have ruffed another diamond with ♠10, hoping that either ♠J or ♣K was favourably placed. +980 to EW.



The Open Room also reaches 6♠ on a similar auction, but the artificial 2♠ response makes Robinson, the weaker hand, declarer.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Peake</i>	<i>de Livera</i>	<i>Hans</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

1. 7-9, balanced.

Lead: ♣5.

Peake finds a club lead, best for the defence. Declarer has no reason to reject the finesse, which loses to right hand opponent. Now, Hans finds a diabolical switch - a trump.

I can see three possible lines. One approach is to win the trump switch with the ace, and try to ruff two diamonds with ♠3 and ♠10. That's not as attractive here as at the other table - the risk is that someone may ruff a diamond with ♠J in front of dummy.

Alternatively, declarer can run the trump to dummy, and try to crossruff the hand. (For example, ♠Q, ♣A, three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third, club ruff, three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third, diamond ruff with the ace, then guess whether to ruff a club or a heart at trick 12). That line is likely to succeed on most layouts where the contract is makeable, as long as declarer guesses who has the long clubs and who has the long hearts.

In practise, Robinson takes the simplest approach. He runs the trump switch to the nine and queen, returns to hand, and takes the diamond finesse, which loses. Unluckily, that is the only losing line, with ♦Q falling in three rounds. -50, and 14 IMPs to NEILL.

On those seven boards, NEILL has scored 75 IMPs to GUMBY's 0. Kit Woolsey, commentating on BBO, comments that this may be the most devastating run of results he has ever seen!

The other nine boards produce only 4 IMP - 2 to each team, giving NEILL a lead of 99. Time to pull up stumps!

It ends up as a solid win for Hans - Peake and Kanetkar - Neill, although I would say there was a fair measure of good luck mixed in with some good play, as well as hands that suited the team's style. Thanks, teammates. Bad luck for GUMBY, who had a very solid tournament until that fateful set.

*Bruce Neill*

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## Back from the Women's Jamboree

Now that we are back, we thought we would share with you how the trip to Rome went. It was very exciting, and we both enjoyed it very much. The bridge was unexceptional. But the tournament gave us a chance to play bridge in a different environment.

The women's 'jamboree' was a tournament that combined bridge with tourism, in possibly the best city in the world for tourism. We had a full day's tour of Rome with a guide, and one of the organisers led us on a 'Rome by night' tour as well. On the Wednesday morning, the Pope was in Rome, and we all went to a papal audience at the Vatican. That was quite a few hours in the October Italian sunshine, but rather than get burnt to a crisp, as could be expected, we found that the Northern Hemisphere sun is not as fearsome as the Australian sun's rays. The Pope even acknowledged the European Women's Bridge Jamboree in his address.

We played a two-session individual event, which was interesting, because we were completely unfamiliar with the people with whom we were playing, or their language (many Italian bridge players do not speak English). This involved a crash course in Italian, with special emphasis on the numbers. It was interesting to play bridge in a situation where the table talk was in a language other than English, and to have no idea what was being said. You could not always tell what was being said from the tone of voice, or the context, when Italian was the language. As for system, we were given a generic system to play, and had to take it from there.

Italian bridge seems to be characterised by a lot of noisy chatter, sometimes spilling over into voluble dispute. A few times, the bridge session started at 9.15pm, and was still going well after midnight. Around 11pm, the Italian women came into their own, and may or may not have had an advantage. On one occasion, the Director was called to some indiscretion at 12.30am, and then when the complainants were finally satisfied, they missed the explanations on the next hand, and so the Director was called again at 12.40am. When we said that in Australia, an evening session begins at 7.30pm, we were told that at 7.30pm, Italians are just starting their dinner, and 9.15pm is the usual starting time for a night's bridge.



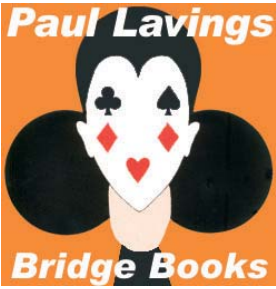
The women came from all over Europe and South America, and we were acknowledged for having come the greatest distance. There were quite a few women from Turkey, who did very well in the events, some from Jordan, and a large contingent of Greeks from Cyprus. Having had a Turkish Cypriot father, Nafi felt quite at home, and for once in her life, did not have to explain how to spell and pronounce her name. It was Kinga's name that they got wrong! A few of the women mentioned youth bridge as an issue they wanted to promote in their countries.

Unfortunately, there were no hand records, and system was not a priority. All events were match-pointed. On one hand, Nafi held ♠AKQxxxx, ♥A, ♦Jx, ♣Kxx, and heard Kinga open 1NT. Nafi bid 2♣ and Kinga bid 3♣ with ♠Jxx, ♥KJx, ♦KQx, ♣AQJxx. Nafi restrained herself from bidding 7NT, and took it slowly with 4NT. Kinga bid 5♦, and as an ace was missing, 6NT was bid. Nafi always prefers to (pleasantly) surprise partner with dummy. It was hard, on this bidding, for the opening leader to find a diamond lead, and so we made 13 tricks for +1020, which was a good board against the eventual (Italian) winners of what was a three-session pairs event.

We both had a great experience, meeting some interesting players who in many respects were different to bridge players in Australia. Certainly, the organisation of events in Italy is different to that in Australia. We tend to take smooth and efficient administration for granted in Australia!

We thank the ABF for promoting women's bridge with the subsidy to the Jamboree.

*Nafi Bashir*



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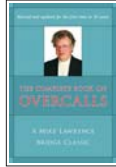
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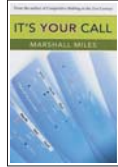
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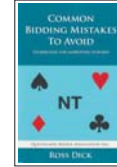
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## What do you bid?

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The best submission for October 2009 came from Arie Meydan of Melbourne:



South deals, EW vulnerable, IMPs.

The EW hands:

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

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

**Comments:** NS were playing Precision, the short diamond version. EW were playing two-suited overcalls, so East could not hold a 5-5 shape. Could you please comment on the relative merits or otherwise, not only of the actual sequence, but also on other possible East and West bids?

1. Instead of 1♠, East could have bid 1NT or doubled.
2. At the second opportunity, East could have also passed, or doubled for takeout.
3. After 2♣ by East, West could have corrected to 2♠ (false preference, in case East is 6/4), 2♦ (natural, as logically this could not have been a cuebid) or 2♥.
4. The rationale of passing 2♣ is “no double, no trouble”. How would you rate it in comparison to the other three West alternatives?

The full deal:

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

The defence allowed East to ruff hearts twice and make (mercifully) six tricks.

### Sartaj's Reply:

Hi Arie,  
This is a difficult hand.

One thing I have noticed is that the Precision-style 1♦, and sometimes the 2+ short 1♣, often end up stealing the opponents' best fit. I am planning to raise this matter with my partner, to try and think of an improvement, instead of the standard “cuebid opponent's suit” strategy, which is not working very well.

Onto your questions

1. 1♠ seems quite clear.
2. While I take the point about two-suited overcalls, I don't like 2♣ on the second round. In general, bidding poor suits in competition is something worth avoiding (unless we hold compensating length in the same suit, say Jxxxx+) I'd prefer a value-showing double.
3. West's choices are all rather ugly, although 2♠ catering for a 6-4 East hand has appeal.

Not sure about 2♦ being natural. In my partnership, 2♦ would sound like a good club raise. But, again, as I said earlier, this possibly needs to be reassessed.

All the choices are equally yucky, although 2♥ might be the way to go, on the grounds that partner will probably expect a weak hand with a five-card suit (as we did not bid over 1NT).

4. I cannot really crime passing 2♣. However, when partner takes two bids vulnerable, West should realize that the partnership have a fair number of points. The risks of being doubled are not that great. So, looking for a better spot has something going for it.

All in all, a very difficult hand.

*Sartaj*

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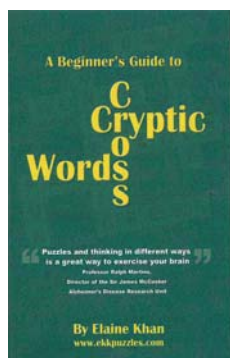


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Professor Ralph Martins, Director of the Sir James McCusker Alzheimer's Disease Research Unit, Foundation Professor in Ageing and Alzheimer's Disease at Edith Cowan University and Director of the Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease Research and Care says:

*"Cryptic crosswords are particularly beneficial, because you have to approach and inspect clues in different ways; therefore you're constantly challenging your brain. It's not as simple as looking at a thesaurus or dictionary for the solution; you have to crack the code through mental work and concentration. These crosswords are never boring!"*

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## Bridge into the 21st Century

### Close Decisions

**W**hat do you call in first seat, nil vulnerable, with the following hands?



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

**1. 1♣.** There are many possibilities, 1♣, 3♣, 3NT, 4♣, 5♣. You have a quality hand, and may miss a slam if you preempt.

Partner held, ♠10, ♥AK7432, ♦AKJ10, ♣J5, so slam is excellent, with 11 top tricks. If you opened a Gambling 3NT, you would also reach slam, in two bids, 3NT - 6♣ (pass or correct).

*The deals above (except deal 4) were reported in the Bulletins from the American Fall Nationals, held in San Diego in November, 2009.*

**2. 2♣.** The danger with opening 1♠ is that you may end up playing in 1♠. Also, if you don't open 2♣, how can you express the power and quality of your hand? The popular style is to stretch to respond to 1♣ or 1♦, but pass 1♥ or 1♠ with 4 or 5 HCP much of the time.

For some reason, our opponent opened 1♠, and responder, with ♠9, ♥QJ86, ♦96, ♣K109532, could only just keep the bidding alive, with 1NT.

Opener could now force with 3♥, and over 4♥ jumped to 6♥. 7♥ may have been a spread, but at this point there was no way he could bid seven with any confidence.

**3. 1♠.** Despite holding only 8 HCP, everyone will open 1♠. The hand even conforms to the Rule of 20. With such wild shape you need to start describing your hand at your first opportunity.

Partner held ♠J7, ♥K63, ♦KQJ83, ♣AQJ9.

**4. 1♠.** Now not everyone would open the bidding, but how do you get your hand across otherwise?

I am a great believer that intermediates, tens, nines and eights, make all the difference, and on this hand the

long suits have good fillers.

Check out how the hand compares without good spot cards:

- ♠ K 9 8 6 5 3, ♥ K 10 9 8 7 4, ♦ --, ♣ 9  
 ♠ K 7 6 5 4 2, ♥ K 8 6 5 4 2, ♦ --, ♣ 9

The good pips in the first hand translate into extra tricks. If partner provides a poor fit, or the suit breaks badly, you are still in good shape.

On that theme this recent low hand from the NSWBA deserves a mention:

- ♠ 7 5 3 2, ♥ A 5, ♦ K 7 2, ♣ A J 3 2

Partner opened 1♦, I responded 1♠, and partner rebid 1NT. My first thought was to pass, but that seemed an over-reaction, so I settled for a raise to 2NT.

Partner passed, holding ♠A86, ♥K984, ♦Q1054, ♣K6. The diamonds broke, but ♦J was wrong, and ♣Q was also offside, so partner could only muster seven tricks. Those pips really do matter.

**5. 4♥.** It's a close call between 1♥ and 4♥, but passing is not an option. The great Tim Seres considered preempts with off-shape hands like this one to be far more effective than preempts with 7-2-2-2, or 7-3-2-1 shapes. That's good enough for me.

The hand is originally from the 1971 Challenge Match between the Dallas Aces and the Italian Blue Team:

*East deals, all vul*

♠	6 4 2
♥	K
♦	A K Q 10 7 2
♣	Q 10 4

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

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Avarelli</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Belladonna</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Jacoby</i>	<i>Forquet</i>	<i>Wolff</i>
		Pass	4♥
All Pass			



Belladonna chose to open 1♥, but never got to show his spades. Fair enough, 4♥ has better chances.

The reason the deal was reported was the similarity in the problem East had after West led ♠K and continued with ♠Q. Bob Hamman ducked, and Belladonna was able to discard his remaining three spades on dummy's diamonds.

In the other room Forquet overtook ♠Q and gave Garozzo a spade ruff for one down. The Americans, forever suspicious of the Italians, asked Forquet how he knew to overtake ♠Q. The answer was simple. With ♠KQx, his partner would have played a low spade at trick two, so he knew the king followed by the queen must be from king-queen doubleton.

6. 1♣. More hand evaluation. The temptation is to open 1NT, but without a few quick tricks, aces and kings, don't imagine you are going to steal nine fast tricks. With this slow hand open 1♣ and rebid 2♣.

Partner held: ♠ 107, ♥ A94, ♦ A9876, ♣ Q106.

*Paul Lavings*

*Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies*

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest David Stern's comprehensive article in the November issue, in which he attempts to use statistics to analyse the relative lack of success of Australian representatives. Statistical data are useful analytical tools, but used in isolation, they are not effective in giving answers to the "why" types of questions.

I would like to suggest a methodology, which might give more insight into the "why?"

Some years ago, my partner and I were playing Blue Club. For several years, although not being a top drawer pair, we had plenty of successes in IMP-scored events, but in match-pointed events we were only "also rans".

Reluctant to blame the system, I decided to look for specific reasons for our relatively poor results at pairs events. Blue Club is a great system, but a choice of a system is rarely, if ever, the reason for indifferent results, anyway. Using the following method, I started to analyse all the boards which produced poor scores:

After each session, we marked on the printout of the hand records all the poor boards. Then, when the bidding and the play were still fresh in our minds, we analysed what happened, and put each poor board in one of the following five categories, with sometimes a short comment next to it.

- B bidding
- CB competitive bidding
- D defence
- DP declarer's play
- BL bad luck

After analysing hand records of about half a dozen sessions, we reached two clear conclusions:

**B:** We bid a lot of skinny games, which is the correct attitude at IMPs, but a losing strategy at matchpoints.

**CB:** We tended to double our opponents instead of playing in our fit. This often happened after the opponents competed over our 1C (17+) or 1NT (a two-way bid, a balanced 13-15 or 16-17).

In particular, after an overcall of our 1NT, when the opener was strong (16 -17) and had systemi-

cally to double, the responder tended to regard it as a penalty rather than a takeout bid.

There was not much we could do about our ability (D and DP) or Bad Luck, but adjusting our B and CB, quickly paid dividends. Within a month we won our first pairs congress, and since then our results at matchpoints were fairly similar to those at IMPs.

Subsequently, I included an additional category (No 6), LL, which stands for Lousy Leads. Initially, such bad boards were included in D (Defence), but later I decided that a separate category was warranted.

This led to me purchasing Robert Ewen's book on opening leads. The subsequent attention to opening leads improved the results (albeit slowly) in both IMPs and matchpoint scoring.

It should not be too time-consuming for a non-playing captain of a team to try my method. Naturally, one could make up other or additional categories, and use the methodology to assess also the good boards. I think that the approach given above could be of value not only for improving the results of national and state representatives, but also to many ordinary regular partnerships.

*Arie Meydan*

### John Hardy

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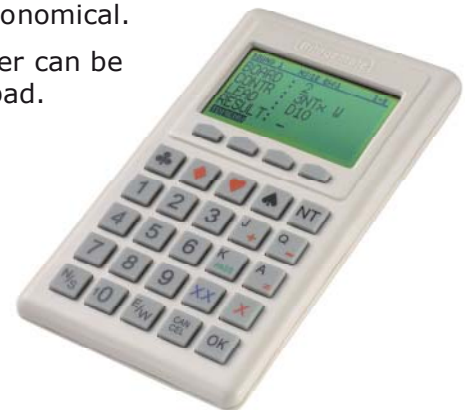
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### GREEK GIFTS

*Esteemed Uncle,*

I would appreciate your comments on a couple of hands that I appear to have misplayed (again). There is probably a theme, that's why I put them together.

#### North

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

#### South

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

After 1♠: 1NT, we got to 3NT. West led a small heart. I played low from dummy and took the first trick with the jack. When I played diamonds, they didn't take the ace until the second round and, in the end, they turned their attention to clubs and I couldn't get back to hand so it got a bit grisly and I went down.

#### North

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

#### South

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

East opened 1♠, I overcalled 2♥, and we got to 4♥ without further opposition bidding. West led ♠2. I played dummy's ♠10 and trumped East's king. After drawing trumps, I tried running ♦J, but East let that win. When I led a low diamond, East took my King and played back a diamond to West's Queen. Both club honours were offside, so I lost two diamonds and two clubs. I thought that it was a bit unlucky in the end, but you will no doubt have other ideas.

*Your Niece, Cathy*

*Hi Cathy,*

Yes, there is a similarity here because in each case your opponents have offered you an apparent gift. The divergence exists in that in your first example you should not have accepted and in the second, the gift was real but you may have failed to take full advantage.

In example 1, you have nine tricks as long as you can access four diamond tricks, two heart tricks, two spades and a club. You have received a favourable lead but not for the reason that you think. It is the most natural play to let this come to the AJ9 in your hand, but you later found that you were short of a vital entry when you needed it most. If you take ♥K at trick one, you preserve the ace for its primary role – an entry to your established diamonds. The Ace-Jack combination gave you a cheap trick but it cost you a lot more later.

The second example is more problematical. It depends on where you think the minor suit aces are, and whether East has any hearts. It is possible that East has opened on something like ♠Kxxxxx, ♥x, ♦AQx, ♣Qxx, but he would be likely to have more, including both minor aces, certainly likely in view of West's pass. If you told me that you considered discarding a club at trick one, at least you get marks for thinking. If you ruffed without seriously considering your options to reach dummy later, you may have made an error. After taking your club discard at trick one, what can East play if indeed he holds the two aces and no trumps? He will either give you a free trick or access to the two spades, or both. On the bidding, it looks as though West has a flattish hand well short of six points.

You can most likely make the contract after ruffing at trick one. Draw trumps and play diamonds as you did. If East holds up, as he must, run ♣J. Once West has ♦Q, it is evident that East has both honours in clubs and will be endplayed along the same lines as above. You might have worked out that West did you a favour by not covering with ♦Q.

*Cheers, David*

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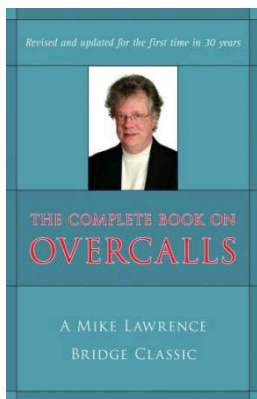
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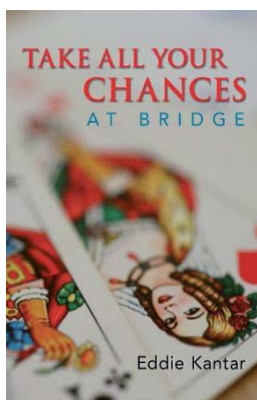
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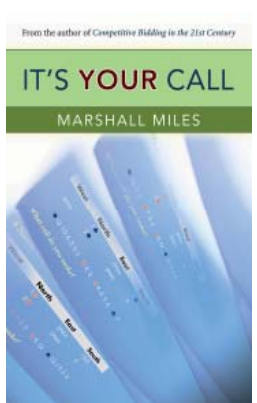
### Take All Your Chances at Bridge

Due late Jan

by Eddie Kantar

Selecting the best line of play as declarer on a bridge hand is not easy. Most players know something about basic odds and percentages, and can usually come up with a line that offers a reasonable chance of success. However, the expert player will skilfully combine options, so as to take advantage of more than one possibility. Rather than putting all his eggs in one basket, the expert will take every extra chance. In this book, Kantar shows the reader how it's done - there is always a line of play that will allow you take all your chances, and to make your contract.

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### It's Your Call by Marshall Miles

Due late Jan

For about 25 years, Marshall Miles was the moderator of a monthly all-star bidding panel for a leading bridge publication. This is a compilation of his favourite problems from those years, together with the panel's views and Miles' own trenchant comments. Miles' style is reminiscent of Australia's Keith McNeill who moderated the Bidding Forum in Australian Bridge for so many years. A bonus section includes Miles' latest thoughts and recommendations on a number of cutting-edge bidding ideas.

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## Letter to the Editor

This letter is concerned with the area of bridge promotion, and how this can be achieved.



Firstly, I would like to commend Di Brooks (WA) for her attempts to promote bridge across the country. I am not surprised that the Western Australian government gave no support. Unless several bridge players are voted into Government, there may be a chance, although I doubt it.

And now for something controversial. In the November ABF Newsletter David Stern gives a detailed account of Australia's performance on the world scale. He outlines the reasons why Australia has not performed well, so there is no need to repeat these. The important point David makes is that *"the ABF commits between \$150,000 and \$250,000 every year to international representation."*

In saying this, I do not wish to cast any aspersions on those who represent our country. They do their best under difficult circumstances. But there is an inequity here in that \$150,000 to \$250,000 is spent on a select few, whilst the other 31,000 don't have equal participation. The mandate of the ABF must be to promote bridge and spend money accordingly.

If we are not receiving any subsidy for bridge, then some of this money should be directed towards assisting those who want to improve their game as well as bringing more new players into the fold. In America, the ACBL pays 75% of the advertising for any club which advertises in their local player press. The ABF should do likewise, paying a subsidy of 50% to any club which advertises in their local paper. Di mentions the figure of \$10, 000 or \$15,000 (colour). I am referring to ads between \$150 and \$300, which are sufficiently eye-catching.

By the way, did you know that bridge is part of the curriculum in schools in Third World countries.

There are other areas where bridge promotion can be improved. This is where seasoned bridge players who derive a lot of enjoyment from the game can give something back. Most do not play at their local club because of the standard of the game, and that is perfectly understandable.

How about arranging to give a short talk before a session once every three months and/or staying on to play in the session with one of the members. Imagine the thrill this would give the members of this club.

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The image of bridge being a "we and they" game would hopefully disappear.

In this era of modern technology would it not be possible for the ABF Newsletter to be emailed to all clubs? Each club could then email a copy to each member and print out a few copies for the few members who are not on the internet. The money saved could be used for the advertising mentioned above or to subsidise heavily teaching tours to the country areas.

In conclusion, I would love to see members of all clubs signing a petition which outlines some of the ideas expressed above, and sending it to the ABF Management Committee. It's a big ask, but it needs to happen.

**Greg Quittner**

[gregquittner@hotmail.com](mailto:gregquittner@hotmail.com)

### The ABF replies

**A**s the operator of Gordon Bridge Centre on Sydney's North Shore, Greg Quittner has been teaching and promoting bridge for a considerable time.



He had a thought-provoking article on teaching in the November 2008 Newsletter. Greg attended the May 2009 Management Meeting, for a general discussion on bridge teaching and marketing.



Di Brooks is doing a wonderful "job" of promoting bridge in Western Australia. The other states have people doing similar work.

As to Government support, the Queensland Government funds \$21,000 (over three years) to bridge administration, and approves grants from the Events Development Program for the Gold Coast Congress. Bridge in Queensland receives approximately \$100,000 annually, from the Community Benefit Fund. Many local councils, both in Queensland and elsewhere, give support to local bridge clubs.

The fundamental rationale for the ABF is to administer international representation. It must be remembered that the members of the ABF are the states and territories. To this end, the ABF paid \$60,400 to its members in 2008 in the way of marketing grants. Each member receives a masterpoint rebate, which costs another \$60,000. This \$120,000 is used by the states and territories to market bridge.

The Grand National Teams and the Grand National Pairs will have a cost in 2009 of \$100,000. The Public Liability Insurance for all clubs is \$65,000. The Youth budget is \$70,000 annually.

The Youth Committee and all state bodies work hard to promote bridge in schools.

This Newsletter costs \$79,002 annually, but is money well spent. Each issue is available on the ABF website in advance of reaching the clubs. It can be downloaded by anyone accessing the site. The distribution number for each club is reviewed with the Editor and adjustments are made within the limit of the print-run. If more players downloaded a copy, and the print run was reduced, there would be only a very small saving. An extra thousand copies has only the paper cost involved.

The Management Committee is appreciative of all suggestions. The Council reviews expenditure at the Annual General Meeting each year. We would not survive without the efforts from a large number of volunteers in club land, people like Di Brooks and entrepreneurs like Greg Quittner.

**Keith Mc Donald. President ABF**

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### **New website feature**

A new interactive feature of the ABF website is 'Media News', which links directly to other websites.

Here I learned of the death of Su Cruickshank (right) a well-known and much-loved Novocastrian, a staunch supporter of Hunter theatre and a jazz diva.



My memory of Su was as a member of Trumps Bridge Centre in Mosman in the 1990s.

Recently, Su was a member of Merewether's South Leagues Club, where she regularly played bridge and dined.

*The Editor*

**2009 Open  
Playoff Qualifying  
Point Awards  
December 4, 2009**

The number of PQP points needed to join the Open Panel is 24

<i>Player</i>	<i>Total</i>
Arjuna De Livera	280.0
Ian Robinson	248.0
Peter Gill	150.0
Sartaj Hans	141.0
Murray Green	133.5
Ishmael Del'Monte	130.5
Bill Haughie	130.0
Bruce Neill	121.3
Richard Brightling	117.0
Andrew Peake	111.0
Avinash Kanetkar	109.0
Ron Klinger	102.5
Matthew Mullamphy	102.5
Pauline Gumby	99.0
Warren Lazer	99.0
Ian Thomson	99.0
Tony Nunn	97.5
Andrew Braithwaite	94.0
Paul Gosney	91.5
David Lilley	90.0
Paul Lavings	84.5
Tony Leibowitz	84.5
Jamie Ebery	71.0
Leigh Gold	71.0
Martin Bloom	60.0
Stephen Burgess	59.3
David Appleton	57.0
Peter Reynolds	57.0
Michael Wilkinson	57.0
Theo Antoff	54.0
Zolly Nagy	54.0
Albert Simpson	54.0
Helen Horwitz	49.5
Mike Hughes	47.0
Nye Griffiths	45.0
Justin Williams	45.0
Richard Jedrychowski	38.3
38 Michael Prescott	38.3
Terry Brown	37.0
Nick Hughes	37.0
David Anderson	36.0
Khokan Bagchi	36.0
Attilio De Luca	36.0
Judy Hocking	36.0



The Northern Territory Bridge Association  
presents

**Territory Gold Bridge Festival**

When: 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Where: Alice Springs Convention Centre  
What: Three events: Swiss Pairs (with player qualifying points)  
Swiss Teams & Matchpoint Pairs

**ALL WITH GOLD MASTERPOINTS, CASH PRIZES  
& MOST EVENINGS FREE!**

- Make it part of a great "Red Centre" holiday? Alice Springs and the surrounding area offers so much to see in this unique part of Australia.
- Lasseters Hotel Casino and Convention Centre is an excellent venue, and offers a great accommodation package including breakfast: \$150 superior/deluxe room/ night, or a suite \$230.00. email [reservations.lhc@lasseters.com.au](mailto:reservations.lhc@lasseters.com.au) or ph: (08) 89507777. Mention the Bridge Festival when making the booking because rooms are limited. **BOOK EARLY TO ENSURE A GOOD PRICE!**

Entry form and detailed information at [www.ntba.com.au](http://www.ntba.com.au)  
Enquiries to the convenor: Eileen Boocock (08) 89524061 [tgbf@abf.com.au](mailto:tgbf@abf.com.au) or  
Chief Tournament Director Phil Gue [adelaidebridge@ozemail.com.au](mailto:adelaidebridge@ozemail.com.au)

Kevin Lange	36.0
David Lusk	36.0
Barbara McDonald	36.0
Barry Noble	36.0
George Smolanko	36.0
Alan Walsh	36.0
David Wiltshire	36.0
Simon Hinge	35.0
Bob Richman	33.0
Robert Van Der Hoek	33.0
Niek Van Vucht	33.0
Henry Christie	32.0
Nigel Rosendorff	32.0
Bill Jacobs	29.3
Ben Thompson	29.3
Sara Tishler	29.0
David Hoffman	28.3
Nicoleta Giura	28.0
Mark Abraham	25.5
Kim Morrison	24.0
Anton Pol	24.0
Andrew Swider	24.0



**Employment offered**

**Administrator / director**

Grand Slam Bridge Centre in Double Bay, Sydney is seeking someone to help in the office. Experience with computers and the web is essential.

The ideal candidate would also have some experience working with new bridge players in a supervising role.

Remuneration and hours can be negotiated.

Contact Paul Marston

[pm@grandslam.com.au](mailto:pm@grandslam.com.au)

Phone: (02) 9327-4599  
All replies will be treated in confidence

**Top 15  
McCutcheon Trophy  
December 2, 2009**

<i>Player</i>	<i>Total this year</i>
Arjuna deLivera	488.16
Ian Robinson	426.05
Paul Gosney	396.25
Bruce Neill	377.23
Michael Wilkinson	369.18
Peter Gill	368.44
Ted Chadwick	366.63
Pauline Gumbly	350.18
Bob Richman	350.12
Warren Lazer	347.87
Paul Lavings	343.89
Neville Francis	330.87
David Hoffman	320.26
Sartaj Hans	318.67
Jamie Ebery	308.01

**2009 Women's  
Playoff Qualifying  
Point Awards  
November 10, 2009**

The number of PQP points needed to join the Women's Panel is 15. Open Points not shown in this table.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Total</i>
Therese Tully	158.5
Sheila Bird	124.0
Karen Creet	124.0
Margaret Bourke	120.0
Rena Kaplan	85.0
Alida Clark	96.0
Leone Fuller	96.0
Sue Lusk	86.5
Rosemary Green	82.0
Maureen Jakes	82.0
Paula Schroor	79.0
Pele Rankin	78.0
Elizabeth Havas	75.0
Julia Hoffman	75.0

Nazife Bashar	71.0
Kinga Moses	71.0
Jenny Thompson	69.0
Candice Berman	66.0
Tania Lloyd	60.0
Nicoleta Giura	30.0
Inez Glanger	51.0
Marcia Scudder	51.0
Catherine Lachman	48.0
Helen Snashall	48.0
Sara Tishler	18.0
Eva Caplan	30.0
Rosa Lachman	42.0
Paula McLeish	36.0
Joan Touyz	42.0
Linda King	39.0
Kim Neale	39.0
Felicity Beale	36.0
Pauline Collett	36.0
Jill Del Piccolo	36.0
Joan Prince	36.0
Shira Shilbury	36.0
Di Smart	36.0
Kate Smith	36.0
Beverley Stacey	36.0
Berenice Folkard	35.0
Helen Lowry	35.0
Margaret Millar	32.5
Greer Tucker	32.5
Lynn Kalmin	30.0
Maggie Callander	24.0
Shirley Collins	24.0
Jodi Tutty	23.0
Cathy Warthold	23.0
Judy Snow	21.0
Therese Demarco	18.0
Wendy Driscoll	12.0
Pauline Evans	18.0
Shizue Futaesaku	12.0
Catheryn Herden	18.0
Alison Maynard	18.0
Rosemary Mooney	18.0
Pam Nunn	18.0
Di Jagelman	15.0
Avril Zets	15.0

**Bridge Base  
Operators  
required**

The ABF is committed to showcasing the final stages of major Australian bridge events over Bridge Base Online.

The National VuGraph Unit requires BBO operators to assist during events such as the Australian Team Playoffs, the GCC, the ANOT, the VCC, the ANC, the GNOT and the SNOT. See below for a list of events and dates in your state. Working as a BBO operator is now a paid position and full training will be provided prior to the event.

If you are interested and able to help out at any time during these championships, please contact Nick at [nick@fahrer.com.au](mailto:nick@fahrer.com.au)

*Summer Festival, Canberra,*  
January 11 - 25, 2010

*Gold Coast Congress,*  
February 27 - March 6, 2010

*Open and Women's Playoffs,*  
Sydney March 20 - 24, 2010

*Seniors Playoffs, Sydney,*  
April 7 - 11, 2010

*Autumn Nationals, Adelaide,*  
April. 29 - May 3, 2010

*Victor Champion Cup,*  
Melbourne, June 11 - 14, 2010

*ANC, Hobart, July 17 - 29,*  
2010

*Spring Nationals Sydney,*  
October 21 - 28, 2010

*Grand National Open Teams,*  
Tweed Heads, November 26  
- 29, 2010



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the Australian  
internet bridge club

**Happy StepBridging in 2010**



## 2010 Open & Women's Playoff Fields

The 14 pairs listed are accepted into the field for the 2010 Playoff.

Two pairs qualify from the Last Train to the Playoff at the SFOB.

Any withdrawals are replaced by reserve pairs in the order shown.

The combined PQP rankings of all pairs can be found at <http://abf.com.au/events/playoffs/index.html#fields>

### Open Playoff

Arjuna De Livera, Ian Robinson  
Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn  
Richard Brightling, Ian Thomson  
Bill Haughie, Andrew Braithwaite  
Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer  
Bruce Neill, Avinash Kanetkar  
Helen Horwitz, Murray Green  
Tony Leibowitz, Paul Lavings  
Paul Gosney, Peter Gill  
Jamie Ebery, Leigh Gold  
David Lilley, Zolly Nagy  
David Appleton, Peter Reynolds  
Andrew Peake, Bob Richman  
Nye Griffiths, Justin Williams

### Open Reserves

Michael Prescott, Barry Noble  
Kevin Lange, Judy Hocking  
Robert Van Der Hoek, Nick Van Vucht  
Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson

### Women's Playoff

Sheila Bird, Karen Creet  
Sue Lusk, Therese Tully  
Alida Clark, Leone Fuller  
Maureen Jakes, Rosemary Green  
Nazife Bashar, Kinga Moses  
Julia Hoffman, Jenny Thompson  
Margaret Bourke, Paula McLeish  
Pele Rankin, Rosa Lachman  
Marcia Scudder, Inez Glanger  
Catherine Lachman, Helen Snashall  
Nicoleta Giura, Candice Berman  
Eva Caplan, Rena Kaplan  
Kim Neale, Linda King  
Joan Touyz, Shira Shilbury

### Reserves

Felicity Beale, Di Smart  
Jill Del Piccolo, Kate Smith  
Berenice Folkard, Helen Lowry  
Shirley Collins, Maggie Callander

### Subsidies

#### Nearest capital city Subsidy, 2010

Melbourne	440
Canberra	220
Brisbane	440
Adelaide	520
Perth	840
Hobart	520
Darwin	800

### Seniors' Playoff

The Seniors' Playoff will be held in Sydney, from April 7-11, 2010.

Location: NSW Bowlers' Club, 99 York Street, Sydney

Convener : David Stern

Email: [Seniorsplayoff@abf.com.au](mailto:Seniorsplayoff@abf.com.au)

## Commonwealth Games Update

### December 21, 2009

An invitation has been extended to Australia to send a women's bridge team to the 3rd Commonwealth Nations Cup, which takes place after the XIX Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, from October 4 - 14, 2010. The ABF Management Committee has confirmed that it will field a women's team in New Delhi.



The 3rd Commonwealth Nations Cup will be held in New Delhi, India, from October 24 - 29, 2010, and with the PABF Champi-

onships in Hamilton, New Zealand from 21 - 29 May, 2010, is one of the two international target events for Australian Open and Women's Bridge Teams in 2010.

By the time of the Commonwealth Nations Cup, the large cosmopolitan city of 9.8 million people



should be able to accommodate the visiting bridge players. More as news comes to hand.

**The ABF Management Committee is seeking applications from suitably qualified candidates to be considered for the position of**

## **NATIONAL TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR.**



It is envisaged that the National Tournament Coordinator (NTC) will maintain the corporate memory for ABF and licensed events, offer advice on policy ideas to both the Tournament and Management Committees and carry out any other duties as requested of him/her from time to time.

The list below aims to itemize those activities which will fall under the responsibility of the NTC:

- ◆ Coordinate with Tournament Organisers of National Events to ensure that he/she has sighted (and endorsed) the tournament regulations for their respective event.
- ◆ Coordinate with the Tournament Organisers of those national events under license to the states from the ABF to ensure that the obligations of each state under said agreement are met in a timely manner.
- ◆ Appoint (identify) in consultation with the Chairman of the ABF Tournament Committee, a person to act as the ABF on site representative responsible for adjudicating on all matters pertaining to the ABF at any ABF or Licensed Event.
- ◆ Maintain an event record which can be used for comparison on an event by event, year by year basis. Items for inclusion in this data base will be number of entries, player origin, entry fees paid, balance sheets for each event and the final results.
- ◆ Offer advice and develop policies in consultation with the ABF Management and Tournament Committees.
- ◆ Maintain the Appeal Handbook.
- ◆ Maintain the ANC Handbook.
- ◆ Provide a written report for consideration at all ABF Management Committee Meetings detailing the activities carried out during the period leading up to the meeting.
- ◆ Coordinate, in conjunction with the National Viewgraph Coordinator, liaison for all BBO activities.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of bridge activities at national level. He/she will have good computer and administrative skills, as well as being able to respond to written and verbal queries in a timely manner. The successful candidate will be a self-starter with excellent communication skills and the ability to work within tight deadlines.

The successful candidate will be awarded a contract to the value of \$10,000 per annum.

Interested parties should send their applications to the Secretary at [secretary@abf.com.au](mailto:secretary@abf.com.au) to arrive no later than close of business Western Standard Time 29th January 2010.



## Recent events

### *Grand National Open Teams*

This event was held at Club Banora, Tweed Heads from November 27 - 30.

Congratulations to *SYDNEY 2*, Mike Hughes, Barbara McDonald, Bruce Neill, Alan Walsh, David Wiltshire, who defeated *PERTH 3*, Shizue Futaesaku, Tony Lusk, Eddy Mandavy, Thilak Ranasinghe by 79 - 23 IMPs then went on to take out the Grand Final.



The other repechage result:

*MELBOURNE 2*, Simon Hinge, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Andrew Mill defeated *SYDNEY 5*, Nevena Djurovic, Jamie Ebery, Pauline Evans, Berenice Folkard by 50 - 45 IMPs.

In one semi final match, *SYDNEY 2* narrowly defeated *SYDNEY 1*, David Beauchamp, Edward Chadwick, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer by 105 - 102 IMPs, while *CANBERRA 1*, Khokan Bagchi, Richard Brightling, Arjuna De Livera, David Lilley, Ian Robinson, Ian Thomson defeated *MELBOURNE 2* by 161 - 85 IMPs.

In the Grand Final, *SYDNEY 2* defeated *CANBERRA 1*, 142 - 44 IMPs.

### *Golden West Swiss Pairs*

This event was held at Mandurah, Western Australia on November 20 -21.

#### *Open:*

- 1st: Clive and Inga Hunt  
2nd: John Beddow, Melton Egmont  
3rd: John Ashworth, Warren Fiske

*Seniors:* Pauline Hammond, David Schokman

*Veterans:* John and Ruth Hansen

*Men:* Leon Randolph, Tony Stevens

*Women:* Allison Stralow, Noelene Law

*Country:* Jean McLarty, Ann Bate

*Mixed:* Martin and Carol Cleeves

*Best performing youth player:* Rhys Cooper.

## Congresses and ABF events

### *Bathurst and District Congress*

Friday April 30 - Sunday May 2.

Contact: Diane Kajons, [bridgeclubbathurst@bigpond.com](mailto:bridgeclubbathurst@bigpond.com)

### *2010 Open and Women's Playoffs*

This event will be held in Sydney, from March 20-24, 2010 at the NSW Bowlers' Club, 99 York Street, Sydney.

Convener: Eric Ramshaw, [playoffconvener@abf.com.au](mailto:playoffconvener@abf.com.au)

### *Seniors' Playoffs*

This event will be held in Sydney, April 7-11, 2010 at the NSW Bowlers' Club.

Convener: David Stern, [Seniorsplayoff@abf.com.au](mailto:Seniorsplayoff@abf.com.au)

### *Autumn Nationals*

This event will be held at a venue to be advised, from April 29 - May 3, 2010

Convener: Dianne Marler, [anot@abf.com.au](mailto:anot@abf.com.au)

### *Western Senior Pairs, Perth*

This event will be held from 15-16 May, 2010

Convener: Jane Reynolds, [wsp@abf.com.au](mailto:wsp@abf.com.au)



## Seize your opportunity

You may not win the Gold Coast Congress, but your club can be a winner if you take advantage of our special deals from 27 February to 6 March:

- All Duplimate machines reduced by 10%
- All boards reduced by 20%
- Piatnik top quality cards: \$440 for 200
- Favourable trade-in valuations
- Duplimates serviced free of (labour) charge
- Free software upgrades
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Contact Doug Meyers for details and offers.

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It seems like yesterday that Christmas was six months away – and once again I am totally disorganized with lots to arrange and little time to do it. Don't let this happen to you with the Gold Coast Congress! You should have already pulled your finger out, found your partners and teammates, booked your accommodation and flights and don't forget to put your entry in! (Please check online to ensure it is all correct even if someone else was taking care of it – it is amazing how many people rock up for the pairs assuming their teammates had entered them!). I love to see those numbers grow.

### **DATES**

**Saturday 27 February to Saturday 6 March**

Please remember we start a day earlier – the pairs commences on Saturday 1pm (2pm EST) *NOT* on Sunday as in previous years. The teams commence on Tuesday at 1pm, *NOT* Tuesday night. Everyone has a night off on Monday night.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

If you haven't already booked, check out our website as we now have several outlets giving us a discounted rate.

### **ENTRIES**

Our running rate is up compared to this time last year for the teams (84 teams entered as opposed to 73) and pairs slightly up – 100 v. 99 as at 7.12.2009 v. 2008.

### **INTERMEDIATE TEAMS**

We have created a new category for players with less than 500 Masterpoints as at 30/09/09. This will create a buffer for those players who no

longer qualify as restricted, but are not yet ready to play in the Open field. This appears to be a success, with 12 teams already entered. I assure you we will have an Intermediate section for the pairs as well as the teams next year.

### **SENIORS' TEAMS**

The seniors this year play fewer boards than the Open, hence the cheaper entry fee for the teams. They will play 10 matches (same as last year) and follow the same programme as the Open, except there will be no play for them Wednesday night. This means if they play for the full week they will have Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights off.

### **INTERMEDIATE/RESTRICTED/NOVICE TEAMS**

These will also play 10 rounds, but will play the same timetable as the Open except they will not play the last two rounds. This means they will finish around 2pm Thursday. This enables the finals for the Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Sections to be played that afternoon.



THE QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION PRESENTS THE...

# 2010 GOLD COAST CONGRESS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 - SATURDAY MARCH 06

GOLD COAST CONVENTION CENTRE | GOLD COAST HIGHWAY | BROADBEACH



Gold Coast Congress has early start to accommodate 12 rounds in the Teams Championship

**Pairs start Saturday 27/2/10 1pm  
Teams start Tuesday 2/3/10 1pm**

	SATURDAY 27	SUNDAY 28	MONDAY 01	TUESDAY 02	WEDNESDAY 03	THURSDAY 04
GC PAIRS	Pairs Championship					
GC TEAMS				Teams Championship		

A full program of events can be found at [www.qldbridge.com/gcc](http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc)



**GOLD COAST**  
congress

For further enquiries or to register, contact

KIM ELLAWAY

Tel: +61 7 3351 8602

Fax: +61 7 3103 4799

Mobile: +61 4 1206 4903

email: [manager@qldbridge.com](mailto:manager@qldbridge.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [www.qldbridge.com/gcc](http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc)