

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

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Approved for Print Post S65001/00163

NO. 165 JANUARY 2014

ABN 70 053 651 666

Springtime for the Underdogs



The Spring National Teams, held in the last week of October, began with the Open Teams and the Restricted Teams.

Board 13, South deals, all vulnerable

♠ A 10 5 4 3 2
♥ A 9
♦ A K 8
♣ A 6

♠ Q J
♥ K J 10 8 5 4
♦ 5
♣ Q 10 8 7

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

1. Strong enquiry
2. Maximum points, poor suit

West leads ♦Q. Plan the play.

The deal arose in Round 1:

♠ A 10 5 4 3 2
♥ A 9
♦ A K 8
♣ A 6

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

♠ Q J
♥ K J 10 8 5 4
♦ 5
♣ Q 10 8 7

After West leads ♦Q against 6♥, a reasonable line is to win and play ♥A and ♥9 to ♥10. This loses and, say, East returns ♦J. You play low in dummy, ruff in hand, draw the last trump and then run ♠Q. That also loses. One down, but you had good chances, one of two finesses.

David Hoffman of Canberra suggested a superior line, which needs no finesses. Take ♦A, ♦K, discarding a spade, ruff a spade and continue with ♥K and ♥A. On the actual deal ♥Q drops. You continue with a spade ruff, draw the last trump and discard your club losers on dummy's established spade winners.

That line produces 13 tricks. Suppose hearts are 3-2, but ♥Q does not drop. You ruff a spade and knock out ♥Q. Again your club losers go away on dummy's spades. The Hoffman line succeeds whenever spades and hearts are 3-2 and on several other layouts.

At some tables North became declarer after South opened a multi-2♦. Pity those Easts who found the 'safe' opening lead of a trump.

There were 15 pairs in 6♥, with seven successful. Datum: NS 640.

This was a tough slam to bid in Round 3:

Board 19, South deals, EW vulnerable

♠ J 9
♥ 8 7
♦ K 10 9 8 2
♣ J 8 5 3

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

♠ A K 3
♥ K J 3
♦ A 3
♣ A K Q 10

Ishmael Del'Monte – Sartaj Hans bid to the cold 6♣ this way:

West	North	East	South
	Del'Monte		Hans
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5NT ³	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1. Balanced, forcing to game
2. Stronger than already promised
3. Pick a minor slam if possible

The only other successful pair in 6♣ was Noel Bugeia – George Stockham. Five pairs bid 6NT. None made it.



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South deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	?	2♦ ¹

1. 6+ diamonds, 10-13 points

What would you do as East with ♠AJ6, ♥Q973, ♦---, ♣AQ8732

Session 4, Board 11, South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ 10 7 5 4 3
♥ 10 8
♦ Q J 2
♣ 9 6 4

♠ K 9 8
♥ A K J 5 2
♦ 8 7 5
♣ J 10

♠ A J 6
♥ Q 9 7 3
♦ ---
♣ A Q 8 7 3 2

♠ Q 2
♥ 6 4
♦ A K 10 9 6 4 3
♣ K 5

West	North	East	South
Mullamphy		Haughie	

2♥	Pass	4♦ ²	2♦ ¹
4NT	Pass	5♠ ³	Pass
6♥	All Pass		Pass

1. 6+ diamonds, 10-13 points

2. 4+ hearts, 0-1 diamond

3. Two Key Cards plus trump queen

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Declarer lost a club but made 12 tricks for +980.

West	North	East	South
	Lavings		Krochmalik
1♥	Pass	4♦ ¹	1♦
4♥	4♠	Pass	Dbl
5♥	All Pass		Pass

1. 4+ hearts, 0-1 diamond

Declarer made 12 tricks, but 11 IMPs away.

There were seven pairs who bid and made 6♥. All the others played in 4♥ or 5♥, except one NS pair who were in 5♦ undoubled, -150. The datum was EW 520.

West deals, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♥ ¹	Dbl	4♥	?

1. Weak two, 9-12 points

What would you do as South with ♠J, ♥1076, ♦Q74, ♣KJ10765

Session 4, Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

♠ 9 4 2
♥ A Q 9 8 5 2
♦ A 8 3
♣ 8

♠ A K 8 7 6 3
♥ K J 4 3
♦ 5 2
♣ 4

♠ J
♥ 10 7 6
♦ Q 7 4
♣ K J 10 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
Mullamphy		Haughie	
2♥ ¹	Dbl	4♥	All Pass

1. Weak two, 9-12 points.

South looks to be worth 5♣ here. Even after the pass, North might take further action, perhaps 4NT to show both minors. It is a pity to sell out to 4♥, which makes, while 5♣ is on for NS.

West	North	East	South
	Lavings		Krochmalik
1♥ ¹	2NT ¹	4♣ ²	5♣
5♥	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

1. Minors.

2. 4+ hearts, 0-1 club.

The result was one down, -100, but 11 IMPs in. It looks unfortunate to sacrifice in 6♣ when 5♥ is failing, but 5♥ might easily make. Swap ♠3 and ♠10 and 5♥ will make 12 tricks.



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The winners of the Two Men and a Truck Restricted Teams were Allan Pike – Kathryn Hawke – Edward Truscott – Mike Edward, with Noreen Armstrong – Carolyn Greenwich – Susan Britton – Peter Moller second and Kathy Clift – Malcolm Clift – Arthur Bragg – Fran Campbell third.

On this deal, Board 7 of the last round of the Spring National Open Teams, cover the East and South hands and consult the auction below. West leads ♠K: two – four – nine. What would you play as West at trick two?

Session 9, Board 7, West deals, all vulnerable

♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ J 9 5
♦ 9 4 2
♣ 10 8 7

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

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	4♠	5♦
Dbl	All Pass		

EW were playing count signals on partner's lead. Here that makes no sense, as East was bound to have five spades for the jump to 4♠. East's ♣4 was a suit-preference signal, of course, asking West to switch to a club. As it happens, West can continue with either black suit or ♦A, and the defence can prevail. A heart switch, or ♦7 or ♦10 switch allows declarer to succeed.

West	North	East	South
Neill		De Livera	
1♣	Pass	1♠	5♦
Pass!	Pass	6♣!	All Pass

A heart lead beats 6♣, but North led ♦9, partner's suit. Bruce Neill won with ♦A, discarding a heart from dummy, drew trumps, discarded his heart losers on the spades and crossruffed the rest for all the tricks and +1390.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
	Hinge		Morrison
1♣	Pass	1♥(♠)	2♠ ¹
Dbl	Pass!	Pass	3♠ ²
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

1. Hearts and diamonds

2. A very strong hand

West led ♠K and did not slip up at trick two. NS –200, but +15 IMPs.

In Round 9, *HANS* (159 VPs) vs *BLOOM* (148), *TRAVIS* (148) vs *REITZER* (145), *HORWITZ* (141) vs *NASH* (140), *FISCHER* (138) vs *LOWRY* (138) and *PEAKE* (137) vs *WILKINSON* (135), with four teams to qualify for the semi finals.

You would not expect a team running 10th to have much chance, but *WILKINSON* scored a 25-5 win to go to 160. *HANS* beat *BLOOM* 19-11, to go to 178 and leaving *BLOOM* on 159. *TRAVIS* won 23-7 to move to 171 and *FISCHER* won 25-5 to go to 163. With one board to go in Round 9, *WILKINSON* was leading by 55-23 IMPs, 22-8 VPs. That was not enough to qualify. They needed 16 more IMPs to score a maximum win and the cards obliged:

Session 9, Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

♠ 8 5
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A K Q J

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

♠ J 10
♥ Q 6 5 4 3 2
♦ J 6 5
♣ 9 6

At one table West opened 4♠, all pass. Pauline Gumby, North, led four rounds of clubs, NS +100. At the other table, Griff Ware opened 4♠, North doubled for takeout and South bid 5♥. This came back to Michael Wilkinson, who doubled for penalties. The defence took two spades, three diamonds and two hearts. That was six down, EW +1400 and +17 IMPs. *WILKINSON* had qualified for the semi finals with 1 IMP to spare!

In another match, Andrew Richman opened 4♠, all pass. When North led the top clubs, West followed with ♣7 and ♣10. To South it seemed as though West had started with only two clubs. When North played a third top club, South ruffed to try for a trump promotion. Nice try, but no cigar.

After the qualifying, the leaders were *HANS*, Sartaj Hans, Ishmael Del'Monte, Gabby Feiler, Michael Whibley, Justin Williams on 178 Victory Points), *TRAVIS*, Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Annette Henry – Stephen Henry, 171, *FISCHER*, Stephen Fischer – David Morgan, Michael Cartmell – Nick Fahrner, 163 and *WILKINSON*, Michael Wilkinson – Griff Ware, Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, 160.



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HANS vs FISCHER semi final, Session 1:

Board 4, East deals, all vulnerable

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

Both sides ended in 3NT by South. Both received a low club lead. Feiler, South, saw that if diamonds behaved, there was no rush to take ♣A. He ducked twice and took ♣A on the third round. He then played a diamond to the ace, returned to ♥K and led another diamond. When West showed out, he played ♦K and a third diamond. East returned the fourth club to the king, and West cashed ♠A for one down.

At the other table, South won the first club and tackled diamonds at once via ♦A, ♥K, ♦K, diamond to ♦Q. Del'Monte, East, played ♣8, which held, then ♠9, ten, queen. West cashed ♣K and played ♣10 to ♣Q. East reverted to ♠J, ducked and another spade. The defence collected four spades, three clubs and ♦Q for four down, +400, +7 IMPs. In the other semi final both NS pairs played in a diamond partscore for +130.

You open 1♠, Pass, 1NT by your partner, Pass back to you. What would you do with ♠107652, ♥KQ64, ♦AQ, ♣J10

Board 8, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

At three tables EW bid 1♠ : 1NT, 2♥ : 2♠. Del'Monte, West, received ♦6 lead, won by ♦Q. He played ♣J to the ace, ♥2 to the king, ♣10 to the king and ♥3. South took ♥A and played ♠A, ♠K. That crashed ♠Q. West was able to drive out ♠J and draw South's last trump for eight tricks, +110. After taking ♥A, South could

have defeated 2♠ via ♠A, then ♠3. In the other semi final both Wests were one off in 2♠.

One usually removes a 1NT response with a minimum opening and a 5-4 pattern when the four-card suit is lower-ranking than the suit opened. At the other table West passed 1NT, but that went one down, -50, and 4 IMPs away.

At the end of the first quarter HANS led by 75 IMPs to 12.

HANS vs FISCHER, Session 2:

Board 15, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

West Del'Monte	North Cartmell	East Williams	South Fahrer
		1NT	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The play was mundane. EW +1430

West Morgan	North Whibley	East Fischer	South Hans
		1♦	2♦
Dbl	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Lead: ♦9. 12 tricks, +680, -13 IMPs.

Playing negative free bids, West was obliged to double 2♦, as 2♥ would not have been forcing. Negative free bids are a better style for pairs than for teams, where bidding slams is more important than being able to stop in a partscore. Over 2NT West could have bid 3♥ forcing, and that should lead to 6♥. With just four losers, the West hand has huge slam potential.

If one had no methods at all, it would be a fair punt for West to bid 6♥ at once. That is precisely what Stephen Henry (NZ) did in the other semi final after East had opened 1NT and South jumped to 4♦! His +1430 was worth 2 IMPs, as EW at the other table ended in 6♣ for +1370.



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After two passes West opens 1NT, 12-14, Pass, Pass to South who holds ♠A10542, ♥87, ♦KJ83, ♣85

With only NS vulnerable, what would you do as South?

Board 19, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

♣7 went to the king and ace and North returned ♥10, won by ♥A. After ♣10 to ♣Q and ♣3 to ♣9, declarer played ♠3 to ♠K. He cashed ♣J and finished with eight tricks for +120. (In the other semi final both Wests were one down in 1NT.)

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Morgan</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Hans</i>
		Pass	Pass
1NT ¹	Pass	Pass	2♠ ²
Pass	Pass	Dbl ³	All Pass

1. 12-14
2. A braver man than I am
3. For takeout

Lead: ♣Q – two – ten – five

Declarer won ♣J continuation and ran ♦9 to ♦A. West switched to ♠K, ace, and South played ♥8 to the king and ace. East returned ♠7 to ♠Q. Declarer ruffed a club, crossed to ♥Q and ruffed another club. He then exited with ♠10 to ♠J. North could cash ♠9, but then

Ishmael Del'Monte, West opened 1NT in third seat, all pass. North led ♥Q, ducked, then ♥9, taken by ♥J.

had to lead a diamond into declarer's \heartsuit KJ. Declarer made four spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club for eight tricks, +670 and +13 IMPs.

At the halfway mark *HANS* led by 122-29. *HANS* vs *FISCHER* Session 3:

Board 32, West deals, EW vulnerable

\spadesuit K 6 4 3	
\heartsuit A J 8 7 6 4	
\diamondsuit K	
\clubsuit A 4	
\spadesuit 10 2	\spadesuit A Q 9 8 5
\heartsuit ---	\heartsuit 5
\diamondsuit A 10 5	\diamondsuit Q J 8 7 6 4
\clubsuit K Q 10 9 8 7 5 2	\clubsuit 6
\spadesuit J 7	
\heartsuit K Q 10 9 3 2	
\diamondsuit 9 3 2	
\clubsuit J 3	

Every West in the semi finals opened $5\clubsuit$. Sartaj Hans doubled, everyone passed, and he led DK. Declarer, David Morgan, made 12 tricks, +950. At the other table Gabby Feiler's $5\clubsuit$ was passed out. Nick Fahrer led \clubsuit A and switched to \heartsuit A. Declarer also made 12 tricks, scoring 620 but -8 IMPs.

Note that West has only eight playing tricks, so that every West was following the Rule of Three for pre-empts, even at unfavourable vulnerability. Quite right, too. Personally I like double of a preempt as being primarily for takeout. With that approach South should have no difficulty bidding $5\heartsuit$.

1. West deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT	?

What would you do as South with \spadesuit J85, \heartsuit AKQ98654, \diamondsuit 7, \clubsuit 9?

Another eight-card suit at unfavourable vulnerability!

Board 40, West deals, NS vulnerable

\spadesuit A 10 2	
\heartsuit J	
\diamondsuit Q J 5 4 3	
\clubsuit Q 10 7 3	
\spadesuit K Q 7 6 3	\spadesuit 9 4
\heartsuit 3	\heartsuit 10 7 2
\diamondsuit A 8	\diamondsuit K 10 9 6 2
\clubsuit A K 8 4 2	\clubsuit J 6 5
\spadesuit J 8 5	
\heartsuit A K Q 9 8 6 5 4	
\diamondsuit 7	
\clubsuit 9	

West	North	East	South
Morgan	Hans	Fischer	Whibley
1 \clubsuit	Pass	1 \diamondsuit	3 \heartsuit
3 \spadesuit	Pass	4 \spadesuit	All Pass

Lead: \heartsuit J – two – king – three

Declarer suffered several ruffs and overruffs for four down, -200. With eight playing tricks, South's $3\heartsuit$ is definitely conservative. All the other Souths bid $4\heartsuit$.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Feiler	Fahrer	Williams	Cartmell
1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT	4 \heartsuit
Dbl	All Pass		

Lead: \clubsuit A – three – six – nine

West switched to \spadesuit K, taken by the ace. South drew trumps and had 10 tricks for +790 and +11 IMPs.

West	North	East	South
S Henry	Ware	A Henry	Wilkinson
1 \spadesuit	Pass	1NT	4 \heartsuit
5 \clubsuit	Dbl	All Pass	

Lead: \heartsuit J – two – ace – three

Declarer went three down, -500, +3 IMPs.

FISCHER won the third session of the Spring National Open Teams semi final by 38-17, but still trailed by 67-139 with 14 boards to go.

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Session 4:

West deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	?

What would you do as South with ♠AKQ, ♥AKQ10742, ♦A, ♣63

Board 52, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Fahrer	Del'Monte	Cartmell	Feiler
1♦	Pass	1♠	6♥
Dbl?	All Pass		

South's 6♥ indicates a rosy view of life. It is hard to tell whether South or West is the bigger optimist. Next time South might have the same high card content, but with a 4-7-1-1 pattern. The double might gain 50 points, but stands to lose much more, particularly if South redoubles. Still, West was right this time and collected 100.

At the other table it went 1♣ (strong) : Pass : 1♦ (negative), 4♥, all pass, +450 and 11 Imps to FISCHER.

In the other semi-final, Warren Lazer opened 1♦ : Pass : Pass to Annette Henry, who also jumped to 6♥. Lazer passed, as did the others, and collected two club tricks for +50.

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Ware	Travis	Wilkinson
1♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
2♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

South made 11 tricks, +450, +11 IMPs.

2. South deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣ ¹	4♦	Pass	5♦
6♥	Pass	?	

1. Artificial, strong

What would you do as East with ♠J64, ♥K4, ♦962, ♣KJ1076

Board 55, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Fahrer	Del'Monte	Cartmell	Feiler
1♥	5♦	Dbl	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Lead: ♦A. 13 tricks, EW +1010.

At the other table Michael Whibley optimistically raised 6♥ to 7♥. No doubt he was thinking that if West can bid 6♥ missing the trump king, the East hand should be worth 7♥. Given the actual West hand, the grand slam would not always have a happy ending, but here it did when ♣Q fell singleton. That gave EW 1510 and 11 IMPs.

HANS won the semi final by 194-85.

Board 16, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

In the other semi final, with no opposition bidding both NS pairs ended in 3NT, down after a heart lead. Candice Ginsberg and Barbara Travis avoided 3NT this way:

West	North	East	South
Ware	Ginsberg	Wilkinson	Travis
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Lead: ♥J – nine – three – ace



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Declarer ruffed a heart, crossed to ♠K, ruffed the third heart and played a diamond. East won and played ♥K. South ruffed with ♦10, drew trumps and had 12 tricks, +1370.

Semi final results: *HANS* beat *FISCHER* by 194-85. *WILKINSON* beat *TRAVIS* by 156-116.

Final, Session 1:

Board 1, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Feiler</i>
			2♦ ¹
3♥ ²	4♣ ³	Pass	4♥
4NT ⁴	Dbl	5♣	5♥
All Pass			

1. Weak, both majors
2. Both minors
3. Bid your longer major, please
4. Pick a minor, please

Lead: ♣A – seven – six – three

West continued with ♣K. Declarer later lost a spade for one down, -50. I cannot tell how you feel about it, but after North doubled 4NT, indicating a desire for penalties, South had no business bidding 5♥, despite the excellent shape. Witness what happened at the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Ware</i>
			Pass
1♣	Dbl	1♠	4♥
4NT ¹	Dbl	5♣	Pass!
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

1. Pick a minor

Lead: ♥Q – eight – three – two

West ruffed the next heart. He also lost three diamonds and a spade, three down for -500 and -11 IMPs

With both sides vulnerable, partner opens 2♠, six spades, 6-10 points, pass on your right. What would you do with ♠Q53, ♥954, ♦K1094, ♣J76

Board 4, East deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Feiler</i>
		2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Lead: ♠3 – nine – king – four

Declarer made 11 tricks for +650.

West	North	East	South
<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Ware</i>
		2♠	Pass
3♠ ¹	Dbl	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dbl
All Pass			

1. Preemptive

Lead: ♠4 – three – nine – king

Declarer played ♦5: queen – king – ace. North tried ♥A, then ♥K, ruffed. Declarer eventually lost another diamond and three clubs for three down, -800 and 4 IMPs away. *WILKINSON* led by 15-14.

If you believe a preemptor does not bid twice, then East should pass 4♥, despite the good shape. If you feel that the 3♠ bid gives East an option to sacrifice, then West's 3♠ is not warranted, given the weak strength and poor shape. Indeed, even if 3♠ gives East no further rights, West's 3♠ is no thing of beauty. On another day it might cost 800 (give East the same values with a 6-2-2-3 pattern) or even 1100. A preemptive raise of a weak two is worthwhile with around 8-12 points and at least a doubleton outside trumps. That provides reasonable offence and defence.

Which is better, A-K-x or A-Q-J? Both are seven points and two sure tricks, but A-Q-J has potential for three tricks and is more valuable. Likewise, K-Q-J is better than A-Q-x, although both count 6 points. Banzai Points (A=5, K=4 . . . 10=1) recognizes this.

With both sides vulnerable, partner opens 1NT, 15-17, pass on your right. What would you do with ♠A32, ♥AJ98, ♦A32, ♣KJ8



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Board 7, South deals, all vulnerable

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

Justin Williams – Gabby Feiler bid 1NT : 6NT, Pass. This is a truly awful slam and went two down. Just how bad it is can be seen by giving South AQ2 in clubs when 6NT is still hopeless (although fortuitously 6♥ makes). At the other table Michael Wilkinson also opened 1NT as South, but Griff Ware, North, never looked for slam and 3NT made 10 tricks for +630 and +13 IMPs.

Using Banzai Points, A=5 . . . 10=1, each suit has 15

BPs and the pack has 60 BPs. To find the BP equivalent to HCP, add 50% to the HCP requirement. For 6NT on 33-34 HCP, you should have 49-51 BPs. South is worth 20 BPs (not really a strong 1NT) and North has 23 BPs. Total: 43, way below the requirement for a small slam. If you decide to adopt BPs for balanced hands (see 'Better Balanced Bidding'), add two points for a five-card suit and three for a strong five-card suit (three or more honours).

Board 9, North deals, EW vulnerable

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

Now this is a great small slam for EW, either in hearts or in spades. Gumby - Lazer duly bid to 6♠ and made 12 tricks, +1430. Whibley - Del'Monte stopped in 5♠, 13 IMPs away. After trading IMPs when one pair on each side overbid to game, the score after Set 1 was *WILKINSON 50, HANS 47*.

Final, Session 2:

♠ A 6
♥ 10 5
♦ 10 5 3
♣ A K J 8 6 4

♠ K J 7 4 3
♥ A J 7 4 3
♦ 8 7
♣ 2

With EW silent, South has arrived in 4♠. West leads ♦K, followed by ♦J. East overtakes with ♦Q and plays ♦A. South ruffs low and West follows with ♦2. How would you continue as South?

Board 22, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

On this deal one side was in 4♠ and the other in 3♠. One side went two down, the other made it, but surprise, surprise, it was the 4♠ contract that made, played as it needed to be by Michael Whibley.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Whibley</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1. Fourth-suit forcing to game

If you open the bidding with a hand like South's then you do need to be able to play well. West led ♦K, then ♦J. East took this with ♦Q and played ♦A, ruffed low. How should declarer proceed from this point?

South continued with ♠A, ♠K and a third spade. West won and switched to ♣7. Declarer played ♣J, ♣K, ♣A

and now had 10 tricks for +420. Note that if declarer plays ♠A and finesses ♠J, West wins and can defeat 4♠ by switching to a club.

At the other table South passed initially and Griff Ware, North, became declarer in 3♠ after EW had competed in diamonds. East led ♦A, followed by ♦6 to ♦K. West shifted to a club and South was in deep trouble. He took ♣A and played ♥10, queen, ace. The next heart was won by East, who played ♦Q, ruffed. ♥4 was ruffed with ♠6. East overruffed and returned a trump, leaving South two down, 11 IMPs away.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠ ¹
?			

1. 4+ diamonds, 6+ points

What would you do as West with ♠KQ43, ♥K10754, ♦107, ♣Q3

A major suit game was the focus again:

Board 25, North deals, EW vulnerable

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Whibley</i>
	1♦	Pass	3♦
Dbl ¹	4♦	Dbl ¹	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1. For takeout

Lead: ♦A. 10 tricks, EW +620.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠ ¹
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

1. 4+ diamonds, 6+ points

Lead: ♥5. 8 tricks, -50, but +11 IMPs.

In some methods 1♣: 1♠ shows 4+ diamonds or simply no major. In either case, West might have doubled 1♠ as a takeout double, showing the majors. Having missed that opportunity, West might have doubled 2♦ for the same purpose. As it was, North's 3♦ stole the pot.

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At halfway in the final of the Spring National Open Teams, *WILKINSON* was leading *HANS* by 96-72.

Final, Session 3:

East deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
2♣	?		

What would you do as North with ♠AJ108, ♥7, ♦AJ10865, ♣64

The margin was reduced on this deal:

Board 29, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wilkinson</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Whibley</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♣	Dbl	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Lead: ♦K – ace – seven – three

Declarer played a heart to the jack and ace. West returned ♦7. South won and discarded dummy's clubs on ♥K, ♥Q. He made 10 tricks, +420. West has no attractive lead. Double dummy the only defence is to lead ♥A and switch to ♠2. Now declarer cannot quickly reach his hand to cash the top hearts.

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West	North	East	South
<i>Feiler</i>	<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Gumby</i>
		Pass	1♥
2♣	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

Lead: ♣10 – seven – jack – six

West switched to ♠2, taken by the ace. A heart went to the king and ace. West played ♣A, ♣Q and North ended with 10 tricks, +130, but –7 IMPs. If you bid 2♦ over 2♣, the deal is to show the spades next. Otherwise North should double 2♣ to show the spades.

That brought *HANS* to 79 IMPs. Then two slips in defence gave *HANS* two games which could have been defeated. After Board 33 it was *HANS* 95, *WILKINSON* 96.

HANS hit the lead on the next deal, after an unlucky venture by Michael Wilkinson and Griff Ware:

Board 38, East deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Feiler</i>
		Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

With 6♥ an excellent slam, methinks both North and South might have done more. West led ♣J, two, ♥7, but South had the rest, +680.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Ware</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♦ ¹
Pass	4♠ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♠ ⁴	Pass	6♣ ⁵
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

1. A 4♥ rebid with 0-1 diamond
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. 1 or 4 key cards
4. All Key Cards held plus ♥Q
5. ♣K, no ♠K

The grand slam is acceptable without being great. In practice it fails if West has all four trumps or if a diamond is led and clubs are 4-1. West led ♦J, taken by

the ace. Declarer rattled off seven rounds of trumps, but West held on to four clubs and South was one down. That was 13 IMPs out and *HANS* led by 108-96.

Then came two opening lead decisions.

West deals, nil vulnerable

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

1. Strong club raise

What would you lead as West from ♠KQ52, ♥AK93, ♦Q64, ♣63

Board 39, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Wilkinson	Hans	Ware	Whibley
1♦	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lead: ♠2 – seven – jack – ace

Declarer played five rounds of clubs, followed by ♦K and a diamond to the jack. West won and the defence took three spades and two hearts for two down, EW +100.

West	North	East	South
Feiler	Lazer	Del'Monte	Gumby
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1. Strong club raise

Lead: ♥A – seven – two – four

West continued with ♥3, taken by ♥Q. Declarer now had nine tricks and finished with 10 for +430 and +11 IMPs. *HANS* 108, *WILKINSON* 107.

An initial lead of a low heart might have worked. Given the auction it would have been a close decision for South whether to duck or rise with ♥Q. After ♥A lead, West could gauge that South probably had five club tricks and two diamonds. If South had ♠A as well a heart continuation would mean nine tricks for South.

That indicated a spade switch was needed as the best hope to defeat 3NT.

South deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

What would you lead as West from ♠5432, ♥632, ♦6, ♣Q9862

Board 41, South deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Wilkinson	Hans	Ware	Whibley
1♦	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The bidding strongly suggested a major suit lead (see 'Winning Notrump Leads' by David Bird and Taf Anthias) and West led ♥6: eight – king – ace. Declarer made all 13 tricks for +720.

West	North	East	South
Feiler	Lazer	Del'Monte	Gumby
			1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Rather than the practical 3NT, North's 2NT was a transfer to diamonds with slam in mind. South showed diamond support, but ended in 3NT. West led ♣2 and EW soon had +100 and +13 IMPs.

At the three-quarter mark in the final of the Spring National Open Teams, *WILKINSON* led *HANS* by 122-108.

Final, Session 4: By Board 48 the score had moved to 127-119. Then:

North deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

What would you lead as West from ♠Q5, ♥A105, ♦Q654, ♣KQ54

Board 49, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Wilkinson	Del'Monte	Ware	Williams
		Pass	1♥

All Pass

Lead: ♦5. 9 tricks, NS +140

At the other table, after the auction at the bottom of page 17, Sartaj Hans led ♥5. Declarer can take nine tricks easily enough (via the diamond finesse) and a black suit lead would have handed South the tenth trick. On the bidding West knew East would have very little, so that the trump lead was likely to be the safest.

Warren Lazer, South, captured East's ♥9 and returned a top heart. West took it and exited with ♥10. South won and played two more hearts, West discarding ♣4, ♠5. Then came ♦A and ♦3 to the jack. North was left with ♠10-9, ♦K-10, ♣J-6. South had ♠A-J-8, ♣A-10-8 and West was down to ♠Q, ♦Q-6, ♣K-Q-5. South could succeed a number of ways, including ♠A and a second spade or ♠A and any club.

Obviously this is not clear single dummy. South played ♠9 and let it run to West. He returned ♣K to the ace and South played back ♣8. West won and exited with ♣5 to South, who was left with ♠A-J. He had to lose the last trick for one down, -100, and 6 IMPs away. The score was 127-125.

WILKINSON led by 135-125 with six boards to play.

Board 52, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Ware	Williams	Wilkinson	Del'Monte
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1. Transfer to spades

North probably intended 4♠ as a cue-bid. Many would take 4♠ as showing a sixth spade.

West led ♣Q, taken by the ace. Declarer played ♥A and ♥4, won by ♥10. East continued with ♥K, ruffed with ♠9. South took ♠A, crossed to ♦A and played ♠K and a third spade. He lost two spades and a heart for 10 tricks, +420.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Whibley	Lazer	Hans	Gumby
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	3NT
		All Pass	

1. Game Force Relay
2. Some two-suiter
3. Short in clubs, asking for three-card major

After a heart lead to the 10 and ace, declarer played ♠A, ♠K and a third spade. East won and the defence cashed three hearts and another spade for one down, +50, +10 IMPs. HANS led 136-135. Four boards to go.

No swing on Boards 53 or 54. HANS picked up 3 IMPs on Board 55 to lead 139-135. Last board:

Board 56, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Ware	Williams	Wilkinson	Del'Monte
		Pass	1♦
1♥ ¹	2♥	4♦ ²	5♦
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
		All Pass	

1. Strong diamond raise
2. Splinter raise of hearts

Lead: ♦Q. 11 tricks, EW +650.



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<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Gumby</i>
		1♠	Pass
4♣ ¹	Db1	4♠	5♣
Pass	Pass	Db1	All Pass

1. Splinter

Declarer lost a spade, a heart and a diamond, -200 but +10 IMPs to win the final by 145-139. *WILKINSON* won on the last board, as they had done to qualify for the semi finals. Griff Ware – Michael Wilkinson, Sartaj Hans and Michael Wibley were losing semi finalists in the 2012 Spring NOT.



sessions on Monday afternoons between 4.00 – 6.30pm at Queensland Contract Bridge Club – these are hosted by Andy Hung (Australian and Queensland

representative player); and BBO *Help with Play* sessions on Friday evenings between 7.00 – 8.30pm. Enquiries about these sessions should be directed to Paul Brake, the Queensland Youth Bridge Coordinator at paul.brake95@gmail.com

Brisbane Youth Bridge

Future stars of the sport?

The Queensland Bridge Association organised two Youth Bridge Fun Days during recent school holidays. The first was hosted by Toowong Bridge Club and the second by Queensland Contract Bridge Club.



Over 50 youth attended the two days and they ranged in age from 8 – 25 years. Some were new to bridge, some had played a little bridge and some were experienced players keen to meet up with friends and welcome others to the sport.

Many grandparents and parents joined in the fun by

supervising some of the play and assisting with the mammoth task of feeding them all. Pizzas, Subways, ice cream, lollies, chips, etc were consumed with great enthusiasm.



Paul Brake,

the Queensland Youth Bridge Coordinator, was supported by many grandparents, club committee members and also by Joan Butts, Theresa Tully, Barry O’Donohue, Andy Hung, Nick Moore – *to name but a few*. The support and promotion of the event provided by both the host clubs was fabulous and very much appreciated!



Plans are already under way for the next youth event.

Note: Queensland youth bridge players are encouraged and invited to participate in: *Help with Play*

ABF Marketing Special Projects Grant

Di Marler, the ABF National Secretary, recently presented Hugh Grosvenor from the Tasmanian Bridge Association (TBA) with a cheque for funding under the grant program.

This funding will enable the TBA to trial a new approach for attracting players to our sport and to also enhance the look and feel of their State Association’s website. The effectiveness of the new approach to attracting players will be evaluated and any findings will be shared with all ABF affiliated clubs through an issue of the Marketing Update for Club Administrators.



The Mental Game

by Kim Frazer

Years ago, I was having a particularly good season in shooting competitions winning almost every event I entered. I recall arriving at a competition venue one morning to be greeted by an opponent with the comment "oh you're here, we'll all be competing for second now." With opponents who had an attitude like that, is it any surprise I won the event?

It seems this type of attitude is alive and well in the bridge rooms too.

Recently my partner and



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I sat down to play against a pair and were greeted with a comment like "Oh no - not you! Don't beat us by too much." It is a bit of a self-fulfilling prophesy isn't it? They think they are going to get beaten by us. No surprise when they do.

Whilst there is no substitute for strong technical skills and ability, often success in competition is brought about by confidence, and the mental approach you bring to the game. A confident player with a strong mental approach to the game will be more likely to make the right decisions, and in the long run be more successful, than a player lacking confidence or expressing negative sentiments. Whether the negativity is about the opponents, the system they play, a convention they play, the signalling they use and so on, it doesn't matter whether you verbalise the sentiment, or whether you just think it, the effect will be the same on your confidence.

Clearly not all pairs sit down expecting to get beaten by the opponents or make overtly negative statements. However sometimes subconsciously we develop doubts. For example there are often pairs you play against regularly in competition who you and your partner struggle to do well against. It might be the system they play, their attitude at the table, their demeanour or a host of other factors that just niggle you. Over time the consistently less than optimal performances against a pair add up mentally to the point where you enter your match-up with them with doubt in your mind. In these cases it is important to have some positive statements to enable you to perform well against the pair. A simple thought statement like "We beat pair X, and pair X thrashed these two so we can beat them too" when you sit down to play will help build your confidence and even up the contest.

In sport, as well as in life, we often hear about people talking about the power of positive thinking. This was a critical aspect of mental management in sport, and inherent in this concept is the following: The more you think about, talk about and write about something happening the more likely it is to come true. The opponents who sit down to play thinking they are going to get beaten, or remembering the last time a pair beat them, or who are intimidated by the ranking of their opponents, or their system, etc., have entered the match with the wrong mindset. Even if their skill level is sufficient to allow them to win, it is highly unlikely they will be able to succeed if they approach the match with the wrong mental attitude. So next time you sit down to play a more highly ranked pair, or a pair who have been your nemesis in the past, adopt a positive mindset and see how much you can put the opponents to the test.

Kim Frazer is an Olympian, multiple Commonwealth Games gold medallist, and multiple Australian champion in target shooting. In this series of articles, Kim will share some insights from her experiences utilising sports psychology in competition.

"Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent card game the art of man has so far devised."



Somerset Maugham

Letters to the Editor

Visitor Table Fees

A bridge player who is not a member of a particular club will usually have to pay an extra \$2 to play in a normal duplicate session at that club. The surcharge is perhaps aimed at encouraging membership and this may be justified for locals. But what is the rationale for charging bona fide visitors the extra amount? Travellers who have a current home club and so are ABF members, do not cause a destination club any extra cost so why should they incur the substantial increase in table fees? Every visitor actually provides extra income to a club even if they paid the member rate so visitors should be encouraged to attend rather than discouraged via a surcharge.

My wife and I enjoy our travels around Australia and we make regular bridge games a part of our stay in most locations. We enjoy meeting new bridge players and generally find them keen to hear about our plans and potentially advise us of the local attractions. The variety provided by new faces at a club seems to be of interest to most members. It is also beneficial for us to see how other clubs operate and so enable us to bring home new ideas to our own club for consideration. We have been able to assist some clubs with directing or computer scoring advice. But that extra charge mounts up when there are two of us playing several times per week. Joining fees and the duration of our stay make becoming an associate member impractical.

One club had no charge for the first game for a visitor but then lapsed back to the extra \$2 for subsequent games. It is an example of the generous approach that could be made to visitors but only suits the fleeting tourist. The VBA charges the member rate to all visitors who reside over 100km from the club. We propose that all clubs should do the same. A visitor surcharge is unfriendly and discourages the exchange of ideas and so not in the interests of our wonderful game.

Mark and Lorraine Miller

Women versus men

I seem to remember someone publishing, maybe in the ABF newsletter, an article comparing the results in the open and the women's teams in an event where they played the same boards. The conclusion was that the women bid fewer games and slams.

It was brought back to my memory by Board 4 on page 11 of the September ABF Newsletter. There was a double swing in the Open when EW made 5♦ at one table and NS made 4♥ at the other. You report that in the women's there was also a double swing, EW were in 4♦ and NS in 3♥, both making 10 tricks.

Maybe this hand is atypical, but it does tend to support that a difference between men and women players is aggression in bidding. Is that your experience? Maybe you remember the article to which I referred?

Peter Wilkinson

(Irrelevant aside - I am a Victorian so I played against Norma Borin and she was a really tough opponent. I think she was the only woman to have represented Australia. I have this vague memory of her scolding women's events.)

Ed: I can't find the hand to which you refer (page 11 in the September issue is an ad), but Ron Klinger in his match reports often notes the different datums from multi-field events. I personally think it is a generalisation to state that women bid less games and slams than men - there are plenty of very aggressive women's pairs out there. I believe it depends on the field - each one, because of its vastly different makeup, will throw out different results. What do you think, readers?

2013 IBPA Awards

Master Point Press Book of the Year

Winner:

Fantunes Revealed
by **Bill Jacobs, Australia**



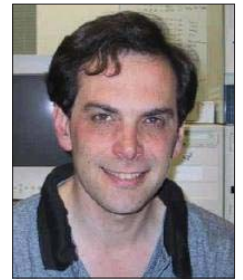
Not since the introduction of Precision has a new bidding system created such an immediate impact as *Fantunes*, the unique methods of Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, the world's number-one ranked pair. The Italians have several World Championship wins to their name, and their system has played a major role in that success.

The book delves into the system, explaining how it works and just as importantly, why it works. Two words best describe *Fantunes*: natural and fun. This is the definitive text for those who would like to try this



innovative and proven new bidding system.

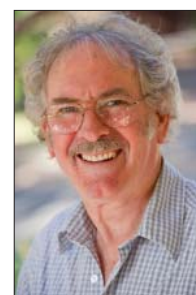
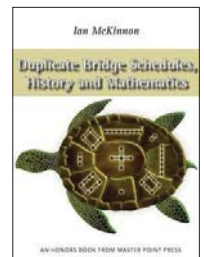
Bill Jacobs has won many Australian national championships, the most recent three playing *Fantunes*, and has twice represented his country at open level. He regularly provides astute vugraph commentary on *Bridge Base Online*. For the last 10 years, he has been editor of the monthly bulletin of the Victorian Bridge Association.



The Alan Truscott Memorial Award

Winner:

Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics
by **Ian McKinnon**



The Alan Truscott Memorial Award is presented periodically to a person who does something for bridge that the IBPA Executive believes Alan would appreciate. This year's recipient is Ian McKinnon of Australia for producing *Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics*, an essential book for tournament directors as well as players curious about the history of the game of duplicate bridge.

This comprehensive volume supplies all the movements ever thought of and many hundreds of new ones. Included for each movement are the variations, modifications, origins, authors and history of its development. Each movement is then assessed for its measure of quality, called calibre. The author presents a brand new event type, the Scissor movement, in which any event can be run and scored as a pairs game and as a teams game.

The book also delves into the lives of well-known figures such as John T. Mitchell and Edwin C. Howell. In addition, many lesser-known historical figures are examined for their contributions to the development of duplicate movements.

For the mathematically-inclined there are plenty of interesting oddities. The mathematics of balance of movements, giving the measure of quality, is thoroughly discussed. The controversial debate over movement quality, along with its history, is presented through the ideas and opinions of players and mathematicians.

Junior Awards

Parnis England Junior Sportsmanship Award

Recipients:

Justin Howard, Australiak

The Parnis England Sportsmanship Award is presented to Justin Howard for outstanding acts of sportsmanship at the World Open Youth Championships in Atlanta.

Firstly, in the semi final of the World Open Youth Teams Championship, he allowed an opponent to retract a card inadvertently dropped, even though it cost him the contract and jeopardised the match. His team won that match on the last board.

Secondly, in the final, he allowed his opponents to field a player who had not previously played in the event due to continued success in the Spingold. "We want to play against your best," was Justin's comment.



The terror of being a beginner

With Halloween approaching, I had the idea of imagining how I could make myself the scariest witch, vampire or mythical beast possible.

After brainstorming ideas with various bridge players, I came to the conclusion that being myself, an experienced bridge player, is scary enough!

Here is the story of how I came to this conclusion . . .

I imagined myself a fresh victim of the game, about to stroll into the local bridge club, intent on learning. I realise this could result in walking into a session of bridge, seeing a million pairs of eyes staring at me thinking "What on earth are you doing here?" Hopefully, the Director will come to my rescue and provide the information I am after, and maybe a cup of tea (or something stronger) to calm my nerves.

Let's say I decide to take up lessons. I'd feel a little more at home knowing my fellow students were about to take the same trek up the Everest-like mountain that is learning bridge. I'd trudge through my lessons, sometimes feeling satisfied, but often dim-witted, especially after asking for the fifth time "What are the majors again? Clubs and diamonds, or hearts and spades?" I am ever more aware that it is going to take a fair bit of time to get everything straight in my mind.

After surviving the entire course of lessons (where several of my fellow trekkers have fallen off the mountain), let's say I am fortunate enough to find a club

which offers supervised play, rather than throwing me straight into the shark pool.

I imagine the first few months will be somewhat daunting, as doubles, transfers and Blackwood are all thrown into the bridge mix. I am sure there will be questions going through my head like "Have I asked for help too many times?", "Am I taking too much time?", "What will happen if I do something wrong?", "Why am I the only one who doesn't understand?" or "What time does this end?" I will also be unsurprised if something like this happens to me:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Me</i>		
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

I proudly face dummy on the table, feeling very satisfied that I have shown my 12-15 points with support for partner's spades. My hand:

♠ 842, ♥ ---, ♦ K9653, ♣ QJ863

After partner gets over his shock, he will shake his head and give me a look, my opponents will be horrified and might even call the supervisor because I am "cheating". *Why am I getting this reaction???? I have six high card points, two length points for each of my five-card suits, and five points for my void. I opened the lower of equal length suits and I must have a fit with partner, because bidding a major shows five cards.*

Time passes. I learn a lot, and now feel it is time to venture into the duplicate game. All of a sudden, I am faced with trying to use a scoring unit, and playing against unfamiliar people who have played the game for more than three decades!!! They might tell me they play Precision - *What is that? Is everything they do always right?* I might have the Director called because I am hesitating or have bid based on information I shouldn't have - *what!?* *It sounds like they think I am cheating!! I was just trying to remember how many points partner needs to respond INT!!* And what on earth is a transfer preempt??

I am, of course the nicest person ever to walk the earth, but in a rather roundabout way this is how I came to the conclusion that I (the experienced bridge player) am a very scary person. Being able to confidently and quickly sort my cards, choose my bid, conduct an auction, make a penalty double or use a convention that my opponents have never seen before, can make me as scary as Frankenstein's Monster. Thinking about this has made me realise that, although I have good intentions, and try as hard as I can to make less experienced players feel as comfortable as possible at the table, I am still very scary and need to try even harder!

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Ravaged Diplomatically

by Eric Kokish and Michael Courtney

A sometime Canberra Times brilliancy prize entry, well almost!

NOT Round 5, Board 3, Year: 1986

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Jill Courtney	S McKew	B Kraft	Jeff Oystragh
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West, taking a break from the cocktail circuit, dallied over a table of a different ilk to work off some pent up energy. The aide to the foreign minister was killing a second bird with same pebble, partnering the Canadian ambassador to the heart of Reiner.

On the diagrammed deal, Miss Courtney exercised some of the shrewd reasoning prowess that saved her from an obscure career in the Far East, and thrust her into the limelight in her alternative posting in Geneva. She knew that dummy was going to produce four hearts and four spades, and she decided to try to give her partner an eventual heart ruff. This was the right idea, but the position was not quite the one our heroine envisioned. [are you certain of that? MC]

She led the heart ace and continued with heart six after East encouraged with the ten. East won the heart king

and continued the suit. Declarer, fearing shortness with West, ruffed with the ten of trumps. When West followed, declarer's stomach issued an unsolicited warning. When he led a trump, West grabbed her ace and led her last heart. Dummy had to follow and East ruffed with the nine of trumps to take the setting trick. "No hearts partner?" asked the aide to the foreign minister.

"No shame partner?" replied my Canadian ambassador.

Jill Courtney, 1958-2013 lived in the present to such an extent that she never reported how she got her good scores. On this occasion, her partner reported this fine



coup to Kokish. He must have been surprised it did not win the Canberra Times Brilliancy Prize.. Alas, he showed his entry to Jill, and she simply stuck it in her handbag, which is where I found it after her funeral.

Eric's comments on how specific Jill's plan was are missguided. It appears that with her hand he could only foresee

a). where partner has a doubleton heart, and since we have the trump ace, will receive a ruff.

There is also

b). where dummy has KJxx of hearts and declarer dare not finesse at trick two. As we have seen there was
c). where South loses a trump trick by ruffing the third heart high. Jill would have been hoping to prevail when partner had little or nothing. It is not hard to see a two trick profit by a common combination of a). & b).

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

It is "easy" to see, and to foresee, the play. Heart ace, then low heart c). declarer is forced to rise king for fear of West's ruff; declarer crosses to a minor suit winner, but West wins spade ace, cashes the heart queen and delivers the heart ruff for down one.

Ed: Jill Courtney passed away on Sunday November 10, aged 55. Jill represented Australia in the Far East Women's Teams in 1987 and 1992, the Venice Cup in 1987 and the Women's Olympiad Teams in 1992.

Smolen



The Smolen Convention was invented by US expert Mike Smolen (1940-1992). It is an accepted part of nearly every expert's system, and was adopted as the consensus choice in *Bridge World Standard* 2001, with 80% approving.

The starting point is that with 5-4 in the majors and game forcing values, the responder to 1NT goes via Stayman.

If opener replies 2♦, no major, then responder jumps in the *four* card major:

1NT – 2♣ ♠K9875
 2♦ – 3♥ ♥AQ75
 ♦Q2
 ♣65

The 3♥ here is Smolen, showing five spades and four hearts. Now if the partnership has a 5-3 spade fit and finishes in 4♠ the strong hand will be declarer.

A secondary advantage is that the following sequences are not required as forcing and are invitational:

1NT – 2♦* 1NT – 2♥*
 2♥ – 2♠ 2♠ – 3♥

This covers those inbetween 8 or 9 HCP hands which previously you would have to treat as either weak, 0-7 HCP, or Game Forcing, 10+ HCP. Now you don't have to choose between underbidding or overbidding.

You might also be 6-4 in the majors:

1NT – 2♣
 2♦ – 3♥
 3NT – 4♣ = 6 spades, 4 hearts, slam interest
 4♦ = 6 spades, 4 hearts, no slam interest

Smolen can also be used with 5-5 in the majors:

1NT – 2♣
 2♦ – 4♣ = 5-5 majors, slam interest
 4♦ = 5-5 majors, no slam interest

You can also play Simple Stayman and Smolen after a 2NT opening (instead of Puppet Stayman) or overcall or 2♣ : 2♦, 2NT to good effect.

The arrival of Smolen has caused many other areas of 1NT to be reviewed. Expert practice after a minor suit transfer is now quite different:

1NT – 2♠* transfer to clubs
 2NT = non super-accept
 3♣ = super-accept

The super-accept is now the opposite, the next step is

the negative, and bidding the suit is the super-accept. This way the strong hand plays the contract if the final contract is five of a minor, or slam in a minor.

No longer does responder transfer to a minor and then bid a major with five+ -minor and four-major. Now if you transfer to a minor and then bid another suit, the second suit is a shortage:

1NT – 2♠* clubs
 2NT** – 3♥*** **non super-accept ***singleton or void heart, slam interest

This is expert standard practice nowadays - but there would be a sizable community who still play it as natural. Probably 90% of partnerships are yet to upgrade.

Opener is now able to judge their holding in responder's shortage and make a sensibly informed decision.

With a four-card major and a longer minor responder now goes via Stayman:

1NT – 2♣
 2♦ – 3♣/3♦ Responder has (presumably) a four-card major and the minor

Suit bid at the three level

1NT – 2♣
 2♥ – 3♣/3♦ Responder has (presumably) four spades and the minor suit

Bid at the three-level, probably 5+ but responder could have only four of the minor:

♠KQ65
 ♥72
 ♦A43
 ♣ KQJ4

as well as:

♠KQ65
 ♥72
 ♦A4
 ♣KQJ65

How about jumps when the response to Stayman is a major:

1NT – 2♣
 2♥ – 3♠ = Unspecified splinter
 4♣ = Quantitative heart raise, gives the room for partner to bid 4♦ to say:
 "maybe", I am not minimum
 or 4♦ = Key Card, agreeing hearts

Smolen offers greater accuracy, and should be up there on your system card.

Good bridging for 2014, and have a great year.

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