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The Big Game

Australia at the World Bridge Series in Sanya by Liam Milne

At the end of August, as I was about to jump on a plane to the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships, an email came through from Sartaj Hans: "Let's do it, guys!" Nye Griffiths and I had agreed to play with Sartaj and Michael Whibley in the World Bridge Series in Sanya less than two months out from the event. Our team name was 'Little Meck', a reference to the Meckwell-based strong club system both partnerships were using.



Liam and Nye

For me, this would be my first World Series; Nye, Sartaj and Mike had all played in the 'Big Game' before. By the end of the event, we had come away with a top 16 finish in the Rosenblum Teams, Nye and I had come ninth in the World Open Pairs Final, and we had all had a ton of great memories and experiences playing against the best players in the world.

Arriving in Guangzhou to meet my teammates after 20 hours flying from Morocco, I was delighted to find out we had added an old friend, Alex Smirnov, and his partner Josef Piekarek, to our team. One of the best partnerships in the world, their plans had fallen through at the last moment and they had decided to come to us – a welcome addition!

Team *Little Meck* managed to qualify well to make it through the cuts of Day 1 and Day 2, which narrowed a field of 123 down to 32 teams to compete in knockout matches over the next four days. Smirnov - Piekarek proved very useful, playing particularly well during the second day of qualifying.

In the round of 32, we drew *McMullin*, a strong Canadian team who had beaten us by 0.5 IMP (carry-

over) in the Commonwealth Transnational event in Glasgow. Revenge was ours this time, however, as we put them away easily 160 - 66.

We would play *Ventin* in the round of 16, a tough European team consisting of Sabine Auken - Roy Welland playing with Upmark - Wrang from Sweden and *Ventin* from Spain.

Here is one big decision from the second segment, with a few IMPs on the line:

You hold ♠K53, ♥AQ3, ♦AKQJ952, ♣--- and hear partner open a vulnerable weak 2♥ in first seat. Bash or science?

Nye chose the practical 6♦ bid at the table, a bid I agree with. This got passed around to Sabine Auken, who doubled. Man or mouse?

Nye, based on several factors, sent it back. The full hand:

Board 13, North deals, all vulnerable

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

Welland, on lead with two aces, found the killer heart lead for Auken to ruff. Now Auken had to guess which black suit to return, with +1600 or -1830 on the line. She guessed ... a trump, for 11 IMPs to *Little Meck* against 6♦ by North, making in the other room.

If only the whole match could've been like this. *Ventin* won the match easily, 120 - 55 IMPs. Despite the huge disappointment of losing a match so close to glory, we had had a good run. Importantly, we had also earned the next day off (rather than playing the Pairs qualifying), and would be back to play with a vengeance for the World Pairs Semi-final.

The event was very tough. We had played most of the



"Little Meck": Liam, Nye, Michael and Sartaj

pairs we sat down against in previous tournaments or read about them in the news, and everyone was clawing for tops to make the cut into the final. Out of the various Australian and New Zealand pairs, only two managed to sneak through to the top 54: Nye and me, and Gabi Lorentz - Stephen Burgess, who we had played in the final of the NOT this year.

Once we made the final, there was everything to play for, with no carry-forward from previous rounds. Whoever managed to vacuum up the most matchpoints over the next gruelling two days would be crowned world champions. No pressure! Well, not quite. Nye felt the pressure on this next hand:

Board 6, East deals, EW vulnerable

♠ K J
♥ A 10 7
♦ K Q J 10 5
♣ Q 7 5

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

♠ 5
♥ J 6 2
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ J 10 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
Milne		Griffiths	
		1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

You and partner have made a mess of an easy hand, and now you're playing a level too high. At least if you make it, +650 is going to bring in a few matchpoints. How do you play on a diamond lead?

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Nye looked at dummy for several minutes while I sat there wondering why I had tortured him in the auction (I thought I had my reasons at the time!) After a long pause, he played quickly and accurately: win the lead, ruff a diamond (crucial), cash ♠A, club to hand, ruff a diamond, heart to the king, top club discarding a heart, ruff a club. Only now did he exit a trump to North's king, who had to lead away from his ♥A for a stunning 11 tricks. If Nye hadn't started with a diamond ruff at trick two he would have been an entry short for the elimination.

One lasting impression from the World Pairs is how every pair is out to punish you if you slip up. One moment of indecision, one misunderstanding, one slight overbid, and the axe comes out – the top players have very little hesitation in doubling the stakes, and they very rarely drop tricks in the play. My personal favourite hand of the final was managing to sneak an extra trick against a big-name player:

Board 25, North deals, EW vulnerable

♠ K J 5 3
♥ 4
♦ A 9 8 6 4
♣ 10 6 5

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

West	North	East	South
Milne		Griffiths	
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Dbl ¹	3NT	All Pass

1. Spades and diamonds or clubs and hearts

North led a diamond. After the auction, the first key inference is that North likely has four spades and 5+ diamonds on this lead. I started by playing a club to dummy and taking the heart finesse into the safe hand, which won. Now, the plan is to organise an endplay against North in the spade suit in order to give us a second diamond trick at the end.

At first, this looked like one of those hands where you could cash ♠A early and hope they don't unblock, but I'm confident that if I had tried that, North would have thrown away the king either immediately, or later on the several discards he has to make – our line is too transparent. I decided to introduce a distraction by cashing all of my clubs but one (North discarding a



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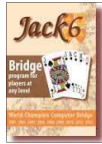
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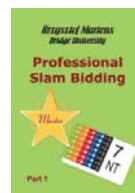
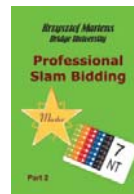
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spade), followed by a top heart and a heart to dummy (North discarding a diamond and a spade).

Now a spade to the ace gave North a problem. After long thought, he decided to play low ($\spadesuit J$). Now, it looks fine to cash the last club before throwing North in, making 10 or 11 tricks, depending on who has $\spadesuit K$. Instead, I exited a spade immediately, confident I knew the layout of the hand, and claimed 11 tricks. Why not play a club? I wasn't going to let North change his mind and discard that spade!

After some of the most demanding days of bridge we have ever played, we managed to climb a few places in the last round to sneak into the top 10. This was above our own expectations and we were very happy with the result. We'll be back next time.

The Rosenblum Teams was won by the Polish *MAZURKIEWICZ* team, who defeated *MONACO* convincingly in the final 131-80 IMPs. Particularly notable was the fact that *MAZURKIEWICZ* included Michal Klukowski, at 18 years old the youngest world champion ever. Definitely a name we will hear more from in the future.

The Open Pairs gold was taken by Ehud Friedlander - Inon Liran, a well-practised although less well-known partnership from Israel. Kalita - Nowosadski (Poland) and Bessis - Lorenzini (France) rounded out the medal list.

Same old, same old

The 2014 Linda Stern Women's Teams and the Bobby Evans Seniors Teams

by Stephen Lester



Linda Stern Women's Teams winners Candice Ginsberg, Sue Lusk, Barbara Travis, Margaret Bourke with David Stern and granddaughter.

Part 1: Qualifying Rounds

There were only 16 teams in each of the Linda Stern Women's Teams and the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams at the Spring Nationals. Perhaps the drop in numbers was due to the Melbourne Cup falling in the middle of the events.



Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams winners Robert Krochmalik, Ron Klinger, Bill Haughie, Peter Buchen and Paul Lavings with David Stern and granddaughter

The format was sensibly changed. Instead of a nine-round Swiss, the field was divided into two sections of eight teams each, playing a round-robin of seven 20-board matches. The two leaders in each field then went into the semi-finals.

With both sides vulnerable, partner opens 1NT (15-17) in second seat, pass on your right.

What do you do with $\spadesuit AQ7$, $\heartsuit J8$, $\diamondsuit J1042$, $\clubsuit AJ106$?

Round 2, East deals, all vulnerable

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

NS should be in $4\spadesuit$, where you lose two hearts and a club.

You do not want to be in 3NT, two off on a heart lead (in theory).

Women's datum: NS 630. There were 13 pairs in $4\spadesuit$ making. Two Souths were in 3NT, two off on $\heartsuit 6$ lead. One North was +630 in 3NT on $\heartsuit 3$ lead. I suspect West took $\heartsuit K$, $\heartsuit A$, and East failed to unblock.

Seniors' datum: NS 620. Every pair in Pool D was in $4\spadesuit$. In Pool C six were in $4\spadesuit$, one was -200 in 3NT on $\heartsuit 6$ lead and the remaining NS pair had an oops, down 300 in $3\heartsuit$, their 2-2 fit.

Problem answer: After 1NT by South, it is useful to be playing five-card major Stayman. It would then go 1NT : $2\clubsuit$, $2\spadesuit$ (five spades) : $4\spadesuit$, Pass. If you bid 1NT : 3NT you will suffer the -200 calamity now and again. If 3NT is the right spot, 1NT : $2\spadesuit$ will not prevent that.

Are women better at slam bidding than men? You would have to think so, based on these deals from Day 2 of the Linda Stern Women's Teams and the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams.

Round 4, Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

As you can see, 6♣ is an excellent slam. *Women's datum*: EW 750. 10 pairs played in 3NT, three were in 5♣ and three made 6♣. Here are the successful auctions:

<i>West</i> <i>Ruth Tobin</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Helene Pitt</i>
1♠	2♦
3♣	3♥ ¹
4♣	4NT
5♠ ²	6♣

1. Fourth suit forcing 2. Two Key Cards plus ♣Q

<i>West</i> <i>Yvonne Cains</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Saima King</i>
1♠	2♦
3♣	3NT
4♣	4♠ ¹
6♣	

1. Two Key Cards for clubs

<i>West</i> <i>Margaret Foster</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Sybil Horwitz</i>
1♠	2♦
3♣	3♥ ¹
4♣	4♥ ²
4♠ ²	6♣

1. Fourth suit forcing
2. Cuebids agreeing clubs

Seniors' datum: EW 700. 13 pairs were in 3NT, one was in 5♣ and one had an oops and stopped in 3♣.

Round 4, Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

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

This time 7♣ is unbeatable. On, say, a trump lead, take ♣Q and ♣A, play ♠A and ♠K. With spades 3-2, draw the last trump with ♣K, ruff a spade and claim the rest. This line also works if clubs are 3-2 and spades 4-1 if the hand with four spades is the one with three clubs. Then, after ♣Q, ♣A, ♠K, ♠A, spade ruff, ♥K, spade ruff, ♦A, diamond ruff, draw the last trump and claim.

Women's datum: EW 1090: 4♠ x 4; 5♣ x 1, 6♣ x 8. The only pair to bid and make 7♣ was Pele Rankin – Therese Tully:

<i>West</i> <i>Pele Rankin</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Therese Tully</i>
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦ ¹
2NT	3♣ ²
3♠ ³	4♣ ⁴
4NT ⁵	5♠ ⁶
7♣	

1. Fourth suit forcing 2. Sets clubs
3. Spade honour 4. RKCB on clubs
5. 2 Key Cards + trump queen 6. Grand slam interest in clubs

Seniors' datum: EW 1210. No pair in the Seniors bid to 7♣. Four were in 4♠, three in 6♠ and eight in 6♣.

With one round to go in the Linda Stern Women's Teams, *KAPLAN*, Rena Kaplan – Eva Caplan, Felicity Beale – Diana Smart was leading Section A with 76.63 VPs, from *CAINS*, Yvonne Cains – Saima King, Jenny Michael – Anne Rutter on 67.76 VPs

In Section B after Round 6, *TRAVIS*, Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk was locked into first place with 104.66 VPs. Second was *PITT*, Helene Pitt, Ruth Tobin, Pauline Evans, Greer Tucker on 73.59 VPs. Each match was out of 20 VPs.

Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams: In Section C, *KLINGER*, Peter Buchen – Henry Christie, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings, Bill Haughie – Ron Klinger was locked into first with 107.42 VPs. Second were *BLOOM*, Martin Bloom – Nigel Rosendorff, Andrew Markovics – Bob Sebesfi on 85.51 and third were *FORDHAM*, Peter Fordham – Chris Sundstrom, Richard Douglas – Ross Stuart on 80.70 VPs.

After Round 6 in Section D, *NEILL*, Bruce Neill – Arjuna De Livera, Simon Hinge – Kim Morrison led with 91.04 VPs from *BRIGHTLING*, Richard Brightling – David Hoffman, Andy Braithwaite – Rob Van Riel, Neil Ewart – Chris Quail) on 87.08 VPs.

Copy Deadline

for Issue 172, March 2015, the deadline is:

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Late submissions will be held over until Issue 173,
May 2015. Email: editor@abf.com.au

Round 7, Board 7, North deals, all vulnerable

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

This was one enterprising auction:

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

North invites game with 10 HCP and South accepts with only 5 HCP. The 4♥ game is unbeatable as the cards lie. Shape beats strength yet again.

Declarer ruffed ♣3 lead in dummy and played ♠A to discard the diamond loser. Then came spade ruff, club ruff and ♦6, ace, ruffed, Another club ruff was followed by ♦K, spade ruff and a heart, NS +620. Even ♥7 lead will not beat 4♥. Declarer can finesse ♦J and later play ♦K, ruff a diamond to set up two diamond tricks.

Women's datum: NS 160. There were four pairs making 4♥ (once doubled) and five played in 2♥, making 10 or 11 tricks. *Seniors' datum:* NS 290. Six pairs made 4♥ and seven were in heart partscores. One South was -200 in 4♥ doubled on the lead of ♦3.

South opens 1NT (15-17), Pass by West. What is your plan of bidding as North with ♠A10642, ♥J872, ♦K, ♣532?

Round 7, Board 17, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

A sequence like 1NT : 2♣, 2♦ : 2♠, 2NT : Pass looks about right, but North chose 1NT : 2♥ (spades), 2♠ : 3♥, 3NT : Pass. The defenders can prevail, but here they slipped. Lead: ♥4 – eight – queen – ace. South

played ♠7: queen – two – nine. West should continue spades, but switched to ♦A, followed by ♦J, winning, and then ♦4. This gave South two diamond tricks. After ♥5 to ♥J, club to the ten and jack, spade return taken by the ace, club to the queen, declarer had nine tricks.

Women's datum: NS 130. Five pairs were in 3NT, three successful. Five pairs stopped in 2NT. *Seniors' datum:* NS 70. Six pairs played 3NT, two making, and six pairs were in 2NT.

At the end of the qualifying the leading teams retained their positions in Sections A and B. In C, *BLOOM* lost the last round and was overhauled by *FORDHAM*. In D, *BRIGHTLING* finished first and *NEILL* second.

The semi-finals

Board 19, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

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

West leads ♣2: three – jack – queen. Declarer plays ♠5: four – king – two and ♠8: ten – jack – queen. How should West continue?

The semi-finals of the Linda Stern Women's Teams and the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams were played over 40 boards in four 10-board segments.

Board 19, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

After West comes in with ♠Q at trick three, West can defeat 4♠ by playing a second club. That is precisely what Bruce Neill did. Arjuna De Livera took ♣A and switched to a diamond to give the defence two more tricks, EW +100.

How can West tell whether to continue clubs or switch

to diamonds, in case South has \spadesuit J-x, \clubsuit A-Q-9? East's play in trumps can help. East played \spadesuit 2, then \spadesuit 10 (low-high = signal for clubs). With \spadesuit K and no \clubsuit A East should play \spadesuit 10 - then \spadesuit 2 (high-low to show preference for diamonds). Hearts are excluded because of the auction. To ensure East does not err, West should play a low club at trick four.

At the other table West also led a low club against $4\clubsuit$: three - jack - queen. Declarer played a spade to \spadesuit K and finessed \spadesuit J. West won and played \clubsuit 10: five - seven - nine. West switched to \spadesuit A, NS +620.

In the other Seniors' match, $4\spadesuit$ made, +620 on \clubsuit 2 lead and $3\spadesuit$ made 11 tricks, +200, 9 IMPs to *BRIGHTLING*. In the Women's, three pairs were in $4\spadesuit$, all -100, and one was in $4\heartsuit$, -300.

Board 20, North deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Livera</i>	<i>Christie</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Buchen</i>
	$1\heartsuit$	Pass	$1\spadesuit$
Pass	$2\diamond$	Pass	$3\clubsuit^1$
Pass	$3\heartsuit$	Pass	$3\spadesuit$
Pass	$3NT$	Pass	$4\spadesuit$
All Pass			

1. Fourth-suit forcing to game

South's sequence showed a good hand, but denied solid spades. West led \clubsuit A and a second club. South won, cashed \spadesuit K, ruffed a club and discarded a club and \heartsuit Q on \spadesuit A, \spadesuit Q. Then came \spadesuit A and another spade for +620.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Krochmalik</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Lavings</i>	<i>Hinge</i>
	$1\heartsuit$	Pass	$1\spadesuit$
Pass	$2\heartsuit$	Pass	$3\clubsuit$
Pass	$3\heartsuit$	Pass	$3\spadesuit$
Pass	$3NT$	Pass	$4\spadesuit$
All Pass			

West led \spadesuit 5 to South's \spadesuit K. South played \heartsuit Q. West took \heartsuit A and switched to \clubsuit A and another club. East later made two trump tricks, +100, +12 IMPs.

At the halfway mark *PITT* led 42-17 and *TRAVIS* led 36-23 in the Women's. In the Seniors, *BRIGHTLING* led *FORDHAM* by 42-15 and *KLINGER* led *NEILL* by 43-37.

With only EW vulnerable, South opens $1\heartsuit$ and West passes. How would you handle these cards as North?

\spadesuit Q10,	\heartsuit J98,	\diamond KJ92,	\clubsuit QJ94
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One way to handle hands worth a limit raise of opener's major is to bid one-major : three-major. This is not so attractive when holding only three-card support for opener's 5+ major. Some play $1\heartsuit$: $2\spadesuit$ and $1\spadesuit$: $3\heartsuit$ as a three-card limit raise. This propels the partnership to the three-level when opener is minimum. Sometimes this can prove too high.

There are methods which allow you to make a three-card limit raise and still stop at the two-level. One approach is to use a multi-purpose $2\clubsuit$ response (game-force with clubs or balanced or three-card limit raise). Opener rebids the major if not accepting the limit raise. That would have worked fine on the next deal from the semi-finals:

Board 23, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

After $1\heartsuit$: $2\clubsuit$, ($2\diamond$) $2\heartsuit$ (not accepting), North passes and you stop safely. Another approach is to use 1Major : $2\clubsuit$ as any game invitation. Opener's $2\diamond$ rebid, if available, is negative, a minimum opening. After $1\heartsuit$: $2\clubsuit$ (inviting), $2\diamond$ by East, Pass South (minimum) : $2\heartsuit$ by North, Pass by South and again you stop comfortably in $2\heartsuit$.

In the Women's, the results were $4\diamond$ -100 vs $2\diamond$ doubled +380 (7 IMPs) and $2\diamond$ +100 vs $4\diamond$ doubled -300 (5 IMPs).

With 10 boards to go, *PITT* led *KAPLAN* by 68 IMPs to 35 and *TRAVIS* led *CAINS* by 74 IMPs to 36. *PITT* and *TRAVIS* won the last session also and had comfortable wins.

In the Seniors, *BRIGHTLING* led *FORDHAM* by 60-34 and *KLINGER* led *NEILL* by 65-38. *BRIGHTLING* won the last set and won easily. Things were quite different in *KLINGER* vs *NEILL*. After trailing 38-65 with 10 boards to go, *NEILL* chalked up gains of 5, 5 and 6 IMPs on the first four boards to trail by 12 with six boards left.

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

What would you do as East with ♠10, ♥---, ♦J1095432, ♣Q6532

Board 35, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

Both teams made 650, in 4♥ and 5♥, but there is an excellent sacrifice in diamonds. There is a case for East bidding 6♦ since the cost in 6♦ doubled figures to be cheap. You do give up the chance of defeating their contract, but at this vulnerability, NS are bidding to make. However, you might think that West should have taken the sacrifice since West has only two sure tricks and East has not promised any defence.

West led ♠A and another spade. Good try, but no cigar when East was void in trumps. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Morrison	Lavings	Hinge	Krochmalik
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

Had EW saved in diamonds they would have picked up a swag of IMPs.

In the other semi-final:

West	North	East	South
Brightling	Stuart	Hoffman	Douglas
2♠	3♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	5♦	3♥
All Pass			Dbl

EW +550.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Fordham	Van Riel	Sundstrom	Braithwaite
1♠	2♣	5♦	Pass
6♦	All Pass		Pass

The result was one off, -50, 11 IMPs out.

East deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
4♠	Dbl ¹	Pass	1♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	4NT ²
Dbl ³	?	Pass	6♣

1. For takeout
2. Playable in two or three suits
3. Asking for a heart lead

What would you do as North with ♠K943, ♥Q43, ♦2, ♣AKQ86?

Board 37, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

It should be clear West has a heart void for the Lightner double. Still, that does not mean 6♣ will be defeated, and North should pass. Klinger thought 6♥ might be a safer spot and bid 6♥, which was doubled by West.

West led ♠A, ruffed. Declarer played a heart to the queen and the slam could no longer be made. If South plays ♦A, diamond ruff, ♠K (discarding a club), ♣A, ♣K, declarer can crossruff spades and diamonds to make 6♥. The result was two down, -300.

At the other table NS bid to 6♥ without finding the club fit and went one down, -50 and 6 IMPs to NEILL.

South deals, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	2♠	3NT	Pass
?			4♠

1. 10+ points, 4+ diamonds
 2. Artificial, minimum opening
- What would you do now as West with ♠---, ♥J10, ♦KJ1097, ♣KQ9764

The second-last board:

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

Over 4♠ Klinger took the sacrifice in 5♦. Obviously, he hoped it might have chances of success. North doubled and led ♥K for one down, NS +200. As it happens, 4♠ is also one off. At the other table EW also saved in 5♦ doubled, no swing.

In the other semi-final the contracts were 3♠, +140, and 4♠ doubled, -100.

In the Women's, three pairs were in 5♦ doubled, two were -200 on ♥K lead and one made it on ♠A lead. The other was in 6♦ doubled for -500.

West deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	?	Pass

What would you do as East with ♠A97, ♥AQ102, ♦Q94, ♣AK7

With one board to go, the margin was 0.1 of an IMP (the carry-forward) to *KLINGER*.

This was the last board:

Board 40, West deals, all vulnerable

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

As West might have only 12-13 points, Bill Haughie, East, bid 4NT to invite slam. West passed and made 10 tricks for +630. At the other table EW bid to 6NT, two down, 13 IMPs away.

KLINGER defeated *NEILL* by 78.1 - 65 IMPs.

The Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams final

The final of the Seniors' Teams was between *BRIGHTLING*, Richard Brightling - David Hoffman, Andy Braithwaite - Rob Van Riel, Neil Ewart - Chris Quail and *KLINGER*, Peter Buchen - Henry Christie, Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings, Bill Haughie - Ron Klinger.

North deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
?			

Stop Press!!

HANS finishes fifth in the Reisinger

Congratulations to Sydney players Sartaj Hans - Peter Gill, who with Tor Eivind Grude - Kristian Ellingsen from Norway and Bart Bramley - Lew Stansby from the USA finished a creditable fifth in the recently completed Reisinger B-A-M teams at the Providence North American Bridge Championships.

What would you do as West with ♠AK10954, ♥AJ92, ♦---, ♣AK10

Board 5, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

After the auction in the problem above, Van Riel passed 4♥. After 4♥, West should make a move towards slam. On the actual cards, both declarers made 13 ricks for an 11 IMP swing. Give East just ♥K-7-4-2, ♣Q-6-3-2 and no other high card values and 6♥ is still a decent contract. West could bid 5♥, asking for good trumps, or 5♣ to round out the shape. In either case East is strong enough to bid 6♥.

At the other table, Christie - Buchen bidding was - Pass : 1♠, 2♣ : 3♥, 4♥ : 6♥, Pass.

West deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♠	Pass	4♠	?

What would you do as South with ♠Q, ♥AQJ932, ♦J754, ♣A4

Board 8, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Van Riel	Klinger	Braithwaite	Haughie
3♠	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The heart slam is not so great, but with clubs 3-3, South was able to set up the clubs and discard two diamonds losers, +980. At the other table 4♠ was passed out. Declarer went two down, -100, but +13 IMPs. Should South bid 5♥ or Pass? With six losers, the South hand is not worth a 5♥ bid, so to bid 5♥ requires considerable

courage. Perhaps you think North should have doubled 3♠ for takeout. That makes life much easier for South.

At the end of the first quarter *KLINGER* led *BRIGHTLING* 49-8 IMPs.

Session 2, Board 16, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 8 3 2
♥ K Q 10 2
♦ 6
♣ A K 8 5 3

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

♠ A Q J 7 4
♥ J 9 6
♦ Q 9 2
♣ J 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Haughie</i>	<i>Hoffman</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Brightling</i>
<i>Van Riel</i>	<i>Lavings</i>	<i>Braithwaite</i>	<i>Krochmalik</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♥ (♠)
2♦	Dbl ¹	Pass/3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1. Three-card spade support

Both Wests led a top diamond and switched to a low club, taken by the ace. Brightling took the spade finesse, losing to ♠K and was now one down, with a heart, diamond and another spade to lose. At the end of proceedings, the result was two down, EW +200.

Robert Krochmalik, South, played ♥10 to ♥J at trick three. West took ♥A and returned ♣Q, king. South played a heart to the nine, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and ruffed his last diamond. He was now home with spades 3-2, and when he played a spade to the ace, he cashed ♠Q, ♠J and had 10 tricks for +13 IMPs.

North deals, NS vulnerable

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

What would you lead as West from ♠A432, ♥865, ♦K64, ♣A9?

Board 21, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ Q 6
♥ K Q J 4
♦ A Q 10 7 2
♣ K Q

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

♠ 10 9 7
♥ A 9 3
♦ J 9 8
♣ J 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffman</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Brightling</i>	<i>Haughie</i>
	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	?		

What would you do as North?

Klinger passed 3♦. That was right in theory, but wrong in practice. At the other table Braithwaite – Van Riel bid 1♦ : 1NT, 3NT : Pass. A spade lead would beat 3NT, but Lavings reasonably enough led a heart and, with ♦K onside, declarer soon had nine tricks, +600 and +10 IMPs.

West deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	2♦	?

What would you do as West with ♠QJ6, ♥J9832, ♦J3, ♣K53?

Board 28, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ K 2
♥ K Q 7 6 5 4
♦ K 10
♣ Q 9 8

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

♠ Q J 6
♥ J 9 8 3 2
♣ J 3
♣ K 5 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Lavings</i>	<i>Braithwaite</i>	<i>Krochmalik</i>	<i>Van Riel</i>
	1♦	2♦	2NT ¹
3♠	4♥	Dbl	All Pass

1. Heart raise

East cashed ♠A, ♦A, ♣A and collected ♥A later for +200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoffman</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Brightling</i>	<i>Haughie</i>
	1♦	2♦	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

The preemptive game-raise is expected to have a singleton or void plus good trump support. With ♦3, ♣K-J-5-3 South has a 4♥ bid. With the actual balanced hand and nine losers South is worth 2♥ or at most an invitational 3♥. Of course, there is always the psychological element. The opponents do not know your hand is balanced, and the vulnerability might induce a sacrifice if you jump to 4♥.

So it proved. West bid 4♠ and planned to run to 5♦ if doubled, but everyone passed. The defence came to two spades, a diamond and a club for +50 and +6 IMPs.

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After this board, the halfway point in the final, it was **KLINGER 80, BRIGHTLING 50.**

East deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		2♠ ¹	2NT
3♠	Pass	Pass	?

1. Weak two, 5+ spades

What would you do as South with ♠A8, ♥A10976, ♦K10, ♣AQ108?

Session 3, Board 30, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

Robbie Van Riel – Andy Braithwaite had no EW interference and bid to 4♥ by South for +650. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Hoffman	Klinger	Brightling	Haughie
		2♠	2NT
3♠	All Pass		

Lead: ♠A – three – two – four

South continued spades, taken by ♠Q. ♣3 went to ♣K and ♣A. South cashed ♥A and the contract eventually went two down, NS +100 but –11 IMPs. You can debate whether North should have made a takeout double over 3♠ or whether South could have taken further action. The fact remains that the weak two had done its job.

With both sides vulnerable, partner deals and opens 1H. Next player overcalls 1♠. What would you do with ♠Q109753, ♥K1093, ♦A4, ♣Q?

After 40 boards in the final of the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams, **KLINGER** was leading 95-63. On the last two deals of the third session, **BRIGHTLING** struck two blows to reduce the margin considerably.

Board 41, North deals, all vulnerable

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

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

West	North	East	South
Christie	Braithwaite	Buchen	Van Riel
	1♥	2♥ ¹	4♣ ²
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1. 5+ spades, 5+ minor 2. Strong heart raise with 0-1 club

Lead: ♠K – three – four – ♥5

Declarer made 11 tricks +650.

West	North	East	South
Hoffman	Klinger	Brightling	Haughie
	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♦	Dbl	Pass	3♦
Dbl	3♥	Pass	6♥
Dbl	All Pass		

East led ♠K, ruffed. North played ♣A, club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff, spade ruff and a club ruff with ♥10. West overruffed with ♥A and returned ♥2. North was stuck with a club loser at the end, one down, –13 IMPs. The slam was mildly unlucky. As long as there was no initial trump lead, 6♥ would succeed if clubs were 4-3.

Answer to problem: It is highly unusual to look for penalties at the one-level when you have strong support for partner. After 1♥ : (1♠) South could have bid 4♣, a splinter showing heart support and club shortage. That gets the hand off your chest with one bid and you can leave the rest to partner.

North deals, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
?	1. 2+ clubs		

What would you do as West with ♠AK95, ♥A2, ♦9, ♣AQJ1095?

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Board 46, North deals, EW vulnerable

♠ J 4 3
♥ 4 3
♦ J 10 6 5 3 2
♣ 7 3

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

Klinger passed Hoffman's 1♣ opening and so did everyone else. The defence was less than ideal and 1♣ was only three down, EW +150. West should double 1♣. If partner bids diamonds, you can try notrumps. Double and then jump to 3♣ should describe this type of hand.

At the other table Ewart - Quail reached 5♣ making, +600 and +10 IMPs.

With seven boards to go, it was *KLINGER* 105, *BRIGHTLING* 92.

North deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

What would you lead as West from ♠K, ♥754, ♦AK87, ♣Q10976?

Board 50, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 5 4
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ A K J

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

West	North	East	South
Ewart	Krochmalik	Quail	Lavings
Klinger	Brightling	Haughie	Hoffman
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

With an A-K suit to lead against a trump contract, it is hard to find anything better. Neil Ewart led ♦K, ♦A, and gave East a diamond ruff. Declarer later took the spade finesse, natural enough. One down, -100. At

the other table Klinger started with a low heart. David Hoffman took ♥A and played ♠A – good news – ♠Q, ♠J, and made 11 tricks, +650, +13 IMPs. The scores were tied, 105-105.

North deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	3♣ ¹
Pass	3NT ²	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥ ³	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦ ⁴	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

1. Enquiry
2. No five-card major, no four-card major
3. Cuebid with diamond support
4. No spade control

What would you lead as West from ♠K106, ♥QJ10984, ♦84, ♣43?

Board 52, North deals, nil vulnerable

♠ Q 4
♥ A K 2
♦ A K Q J 2
♣ Q 10 6

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

Hoffman – Brightling bid 2NT : 3♣, 3NT, all pass. East led a heart and declarer made the nine top tricks for +600. At the other table Lavings – Krochmalik had the auction given. Lavings explained the auction to his screenmate and that 5♣ denied spade control in theory and that his 5♦ bid denied spade control.

Hoping that South also lacked spade control, West led a low spade. Krochmalik won with dummy's ♠Q, drew trumps and discarded two clubs on ♥A, K♥. The rest was routine for 12 tricks, +1370 and +12 IMPs.

♥Q looks like the normal lead, and would be enough to defeat the slam. After the deal was over the director was called. West argued that South had explained 5♣ as a cuebid, which denied spade control. However, as North's 5♦ had denied spade control, how could South bid 6♦ without control in spades? The director ruled that the explanation given was accurate and that the result stood.

The final score was 124-107 in favour of Paul Lavings – Robert Krochmalik (who have now won the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams five times), Peter Buchen – Henry Christie, Bill Haughie – Ron Klinger (who have each won this event four times).

The Linda Stern Women's Teams final

The final of the Women's Teams was between *PITT*, Helene Pitt, Ruth Tobin, Pauline Evans, Greer Tucker and *TRAVIS*, Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk.

West deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
?			

1. Fourth-suit forcing

What would you do as West with ♠A64, ♥---, ♦KJ1097, ♣AKQ52

Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

After the auction given, West should make some move towards slam. West has much more than promised by the early bidding. After 3NT Lusk bid 4NT, inviting slam. East bid 5♣ and West 6♣, all pass. This is a very good slam. Declarer won the spade lead, drew trumps and had 12 tricks, +920. At the other table, after a similar start, West passed 3NT. She made 12 tricks, +490, but -10 IMPs.

At the end of the first quarter, *TRAVIS* led *PITT* 39-4

Session 2

With neither side vulnerable East opens 1NT (15-17). What is your plan of bidding as South with ♠AKJ652, ♥AQ10, ♦Q982, ♣---

Board 17, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Tucker	Travis	Evans
		1NT	Dbl
2♣ ¹	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			
?			

1. Clubs and another suit

With a four-loser hand South might have done more. There are no guarantees, of course, but 3♠ on the second round might have encouraged North to raise to game. South ruffed the club lead and played ♦8 to ♦10. ♠J won the trump return and South played ♦2. West won and returned ♠9, ten, king. Declarer made nine tricks +140.

West	North	East	South
Tobin	Lusk	Pitt	Bourke
		1NT	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠
2NT ³	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1. Single suiter

2. Pass or correct

3. Minors

West led ♥9 to ♥10. South played ♦2. West won and continued with ♥5, jack, queen. South played another diamond, won by East's ten. CK was ruffed by South who played ♠A, ♠K, ♥A. She might have made 11 tricks, but gave up a diamond, +420, +7 IMPs. South would still have made 4♠ if East had given West a heart ruff.

You are dealer, with neither side vulnerable. What would you do with ♠J, ♥AJ53, ♦Q7654, ♣A92

Board 24, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Tucker	Travis	Evans
	1♦	Pass	3♦ ¹
All Pass			

1. Preemptive

Lead: ♥K – two – six – ace

Declarer played ♣A, club ruff and made 10 tricks, NS +130. West could have doubled 3♦ with the intention of removing a heart reply to spades and thereby offering partner a choice between spades and clubs.

West	North	East	South
Tobin	Lusk	Pitt	Bourke
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass

Lead: ♠J – four – three – ace

Declarer played ♠K, ♦K, spade to the queen and ♦A to discard a heart. She made 11 tricks for +200 and +8 IMPs. Although 4♠ can be defeated, East's actions are very conservative. North's initial pass is also out of character. Even if you discount ♠J, North has 11 HCP, nine cards in the two long suits and two quick tricks, total 22, enough to open.

At the halfway mark in the Linda Stern Women's Teams, TRAVIS led PITT by 63-35.

Session 3

West deals, all vulnerable

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

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

1. Weak, both majors

North leads ♠Q: king – six - two. You play ♦2 from dummy, ♦8 from South. Do you play ♦J or ♦K?

Board 32, West deals, all vulnerable

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

Whether to play ♦J or ♦K is a guess, and in this case, West guessed wrong and was one down, -100. One guide is to play the opening leader for the ace. Without ♦A, North might lead a diamond. With ♦A, North will normally choose some other suit.

South could have competed against 2♠. With West a passed hand and East a weak opener, South might double 2♠ for takeout and land in 3♣, a respectable spot.

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Pitt	Travis	Tobin
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

It is sensible to compete against 2♠, but you do not want to push a partscore hand to the four-level. North could have tied the board by bidding 3♣ over 2♠. In 4♣ declarer lost a spade, a heart and two diamonds, -100 and -5 IMPs.

After three session in the final, TRAVIS led PITT by 91 IMPs to 89. The score remained the same for the first three boards of the last session, but then TRAVIS scored 35 IMPs over three boards.

On Board 46 Travis – Ginsberg made 3NT, +600 for +10 IMPs when Pitt – Tobin played in 3♣, +150.

The next board was the biggest swing of the match:

Board 47, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

The bidding began the same way (3♠ – 3NT – 4♠) at both tables in the Women's final, but the South players, Evans and Bourke, were more adventurous. They both jumped to 6♣, a slam that was missing two aces. Tucker, North, passed 6♣. Ginsberg led ♠A and the defence collected the trump ace later for +100. The club slam was doomed from the outset.

Lusk, North, removed 6♠ to 6♦. This was partly to protect ♠K, although partner was almost certain to be short in spades, and partly because partner probably expected a strong balanced hand for the 3NT bid. Pitt led ♣A: two – three - five and had to decide whether to play partner for ♠A or for a singleton club. She chose to play a second club and who can blame her? Lusk won, drew trumps and had 12 tricks, +1370 and +17 IMPs. The final score was TRAVIS 129, PITT 99.

Congratulations to Marcia Scudder, Convener, for another excellent Spring Nationals and her assistants, Inez Glander and John Scudder, and to the scorer-director, Matthew McManus, directors John McIlrath and Bruce Crossman and Pauline Gumby for transmitting all the details, bidding and play records to the ABF website.

Pauline has recently been awarded Life Membership of the New South Wales Bridge Association for her contribution to bridge, as has ABF President, Bruce Neill.

Auctions following a reverse

Auctions following one over one and opener's reverse

by George Cuppidge

These auctions are fairly infrequent, so the key requirement is simplicity. The basis of this method is that 2NT creates a game force, and most other continuations are not forcing. It is all but inconceivable that 2NT is the best spot; one partner has already shown shape. This bid is far too valuable to waste as a signoff or an invitational bid. It usurps no natural bid.

There are a number of other methods in circulation: they all have the same fundamental flaw - too many continuations are forcing. Being able to stop in a good partscore when both partners are minimum is vital, as it permits opener to reverse on weaker hands.

In the popular *Blackout Convention*, for example, the cheaper of 2NT or the fourth suit is *Blackout* and weak, while all other bids are strong and forcing.

This, and other conventional treatments, stands in the way of good low-level signoff bidding. Try it on the examples. It is essential that partners are free to show their actual shape at low levels, as it is hard to retract false information. The lower your minimum requirement for a reverse, the less often you will have to make an offshape rebid. The suggested minimum is 15 points including distribution, (add one point for each card over four in a suit headed by an ace or king), or any hand which contains five controls and a queen.

Some players, even today, make the requirement much higher, as high as 19 points, meaning opener's forced rebid will often grossly misdescribe the hand. To have to rebid 1NT on a 1-3-4-5, 1-4-4-4, 0-4-4-5 or even a 2-2-4-5 shape, or to rebid a five-card suit is an unpalatable obligation. To open 1♦ with 4-5 in the minors is not an option any serious bidder would even consider.

At responder's second turn he can

- Bid 2NT, game-forcing.
- Rebid his suit, showing 6+cards, non-forcing.
- Make a non-forcing return to opener's first suit.
- Raise responder's second suit, not forcing when 3♦, but better played forcing when 3♥. No one wants to dangle in three of a major. When a bid is forcing, its strength is unlimited, so treat a raise to 3♥ as a slam try.
- When responder bids 1♠, then 2♥, this shows, a weak 5+, 4+ and is not forcing. To create a game force with this shape, responder can bid 2NT, or 3♥ when 5+5+.

It is highly recommend to bid the higher-ranking of two 5+ card suits first, whether as opener or as responder. Whatever downside may be, it is more than counter-balanced by bidding-space economy, clarity and simplicity. It means a bid in a second, higher-ranking, suit will show a four-card suit. This scheme relies upon that fact for the degree of accuracy which it provides.

In some very specific situations, opener may reverse into a three-card suit. The auction beginning 1♣ - 1♠; 2♥ is an example. If responder raises hearts, he will hold 5+ spades, so it is safe to bid this way with, say, a 3-3-1-6 shape.

The 2NT bidder's aim is game at the very least, and not necessarily in notrumps. Opener's next bid should be made to assist, whatever responder's plans may be. Use the five bids available, up to 3NT, as effectively as possible.

Here is an essentially natural scheme. The focus is on length in responder's suit and the unbid suit. Responder will be able to make a well-informed choice between game in notrumps, his suit and responder's suits, not a blind guess.

- Top priority is to show three-card support for partner.
- To bid the unbid suit shows three or four cards in it, and thus 0-1 cards in responder's suit. It may lead to that bidding triumph, playing 3NT with three small opposite three small.
- To rebid opener's long suit shows two cards in partner's suit and 0-1 cards in the unbid suit. Most commonly, 2-1-4-6 but 2-0-4-7 is possible.
- To rebid opener's second suit, known not to be a long suit, shows 0-1 cards in partner's suit and 0-2 cards in the unbid suit. Most commonly 1-2-4-6 but 0-0-4-9 is possible.
- 3NT shows 2-2-4-5.

Examples

	♠ 5 4		♠ K Q 6 3 2
	♥ 7 5		♥ J 4
	♦ K Q J 6		♦ 8 4 3 2
	♣ A K Q 6 2		♣ 4 3
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	All Pass

1. What a distortion, of both shape and playing strength is any other rebid! This is the sort of hand that proponents of really strong reverses open 1♦ and rebid 2♣. Survival is the best you can hope for after that beginning. 6♦ in your 4-3 fit, or a 5-3 club played in the 4-2 diamond fit are probable outcomes. The minor suits are not just props to help you find out about your major-suit holdings.

With a clearcut bid, East should make it. Passing a forcing bid is an option which should not be exercised lightly. Opposite many hands, consistent with West's bidding, the fit may be all that is needed for an 11-trick game. Rebidding 2♠ is definitely not an option.

Why shouldn't our system allow us to play in the best spot?

	♠ Q 3		♠ A K 6 5 4
	♥ 4 2		♥ 7 6
	♦ A Q J 4		♦ K 6 5
	♣ A K 9 3 2		♣ 10 7 4
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3NT ²	Pass	4♠ ³	All Pass

1. Too strong to give simple, non-forcing, preference to clubs.
2. 2-2-4-5
3. The heart weakness is pinpointed. With such good spades, and with balanced opposite balanced, East opts for the 10-trick game ahead of 5♣.

	♠ 4		♠ K 7 6 3 2
	♥ 7 6 5		♥ Q 9 8 3 2
	♦ A Q J 4		♦ 6 5
	♣ A K Q 5 3		♣ 7
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥ ¹	All Pass

1. With game values, East bids 3♥.

	♠ 4		♠ K J 10 7 5 3
	♥ 7 6 5		♥ 8 4
	♦ A Q J 4		♦ 7 6 5
	♣ A K Q 5 3		♣ 9 2
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠ ¹	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	All Pass ²

1. Mandatory in five-card major systems, unless you play weak jump shifts.
2. Easy, knowing East holds 6+ spades.

The "Blackout" sequence would see East bid 2♥ at his second turn; then what?

	♠ A K 6		♠ Q J 8 4 3
	♥ 4		♥ Q 5 3
	♦ A K 7 3		♦ Q 5 4
	♣ K J 9 7 5		♣ A 4
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass
4NT ²	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

1. East's hand is minimum, point wise and shape wise, for 2NT but he holds two magnificent cards, ♦Q and ♣A. On this bidding he is confident of finding a 3-1-4-5 or similar opposite so he makes a below game slam try.

2. West needs no further encouragement. If East made the 5♠ reply, two key cards and ♠Q, he would bid the grand slam with some confidence.

	♠ 3		♠ A 6 4 2
	♥ 7 3		♥ K Q 9 8
	♦ A K 8 6		♦ 7
	♣ A Q J 7 4 2		♣ K 8 5 3
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	4♣ ²	Pass
4♦ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass
5♠ ⁵	Pass	6♣	All Pass

1. Two hearts, 0-1 spades. Six or seven clubs.
2. Setting clubs. Note that East can "see" the vital spade shortage.
3. Cuebid
4. Blackwood
5. Two Key Cards plus ♣Q.

	♠ K 6		♠ A J 4 3 2
	♥ K Q J 2		♥ A 6
	♦ A K J 7 4 3		♦ 6
	♣ 7		♣ K Q 8 5 4
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦ ¹	Pass	3NT ²	All Pass

1. 2 spades, 0-1 clubs.
2. With all these points but no fit, this looks best.





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The mental game

by Kim Frazer

Mental Rehearsal (Visualisation)

Athletes, business people, fighter pilots, doctors and people in all types of professions use mental rehearsal and visualisation to help them with their performances in a variety of ways.



For example, a professional basketball player may mentally picture themselves shooting the ball through the basket from the free throw line before making the throw in a match. They will think about how the shot feels based on a shot they have executed previously in practise or a match. Similarly, a guest speaker who gets nervous when presenting may use mental rehearsal to picture themselves in the auditorium giving their speech.

Athletes in Olympic and other events obtain photos of the competition arena prior to their event so that they can familiarise themselves with the field of play prior to their match. Being mentally comfortable helps the athlete relax prior to the event and contributes to a better performance. There are many ways in which mental rehearsal and visualisation can be used to assist with improving performance.

Studies have shown that the mind cannot tell the difference between a real performance and an imagined performance. It has also been shown that people will improve a skill more quickly using a combination of rehearsal and practise than simply using practise alone.

Certainly in many sports, the athlete uses a rehearsal of the shot sequence in their mind before executing the play, as a routine process. For example, a high jumper will prepare for their jump by standing at the start of their run up, and mentally rehearsing the run up and leap over the jump in their mind before they execute it. In shooting, I used mental rehearsal all the time to practice my shot sequence, and visualise shooting a perfect match. In a match I had a set routine I used before every shot.

How could mental rehearsal help a bridge player?

In my view, there are several areas where mental rehearsal could be useful:

1. Environment: Every player experiences aspects of bridge for the first time. It might be your first club competition, congress, major tournament, state trial, your first time behind screens or first time on Vugraph, or the first time you have a kibitzer. Some players will

be unaffected by the experience, whilst others might perform below their best due to the unfamiliar environment. Using visualisation prior to the event can help you be more comfortable in the environment with which you are faced.

2. Specific bridge skills: Players often have difficulty remembering a convention they have agreed to play. Using visualisation to rehearse the bidding sequence will assist in ensuring the convention will be remembered in the match environment.

3. Practise the play of *specific card combinations*.

4. Play Skills: Picturing the layout of the hands and then the mechanics of the skill you are trying to consolidate - e.g. throw-in; finesse, counting the hand, etc.

5. Common occurrences: Rehearsal can also be useful in dealing with certain environmental occurrences that inhibit performance. Different things affect different people, but if the competitor is aware of their personal negative influences (e.g. chatty opponents, noisy room, director calls, etc.), then mental rehearsal can help prepare a stronger structured response to it.

You can use visualisation to help with any aspect of your game that you struggle with and want to improve.

How to rehearse effectively

The first step is to achieve a state of relaxation in which to do the rehearsal (*see ABF Newsletter, November 2014 article on Relaxation*). Next, rehearse the aspect of your performance you want to work on. It may be picturing yourself playing on Vugraph. It might be the start of the match where you see yourself and partner at the table bidding and playing the first few hands. It might be picturing a hand and utilising a particular convention.

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Whichever aspect you choose to rehearse, try to make the rehearsal as real as possible. For example if you decide to rehearse playing the first few hands, make the rehearsal as real as possible.

- Picture yourself at the table with your partner and opponents
- Picture yourself picking your hand up, counting the cards and sorting them;
- Imagine the hand you have been dealt, count your points;
- Imagine partner opening the bidding;
- Imagine your response;
- Imagine you are declarer in the final contract;
- Imagine partner's hand coming down and the cards being exactly what you expected;
- Imagine playing the hand;
- Imagine making your contract and the feeling of satisfaction that you have got off to a good start in the tournament
- Repeat for the next hand

Rehearse one skill or aspect per rehearsal session. You can repeat a skill in several rehearsal sessions until you feel comfortable you have mastered it. Thousands of athletes have found that spending 20 minutes a day on relaxation and mental rehearsal is worth the effort. Mental rehearsal cannot replace practical training. I believe, however, that used in conjunction, it can enhance your ability as a player.

Once again, my thanks to Sartaj Hans and David Morgan for their thoughtful insights on this article.

Special Projects Grant program news

The ABF Management Committee completed its deliberations in regard to the Marketing 'Special Projects' Grant program for 2015 at its November meeting.

Funding will be made available for the following initiatives:

- Trumps Bridge Club, NSW – introduce beginners and/or encourage novice players to the game by showing them bridge can be an enjoyable social occasion;
- Ballina Bridge Club, NSW – offer a 'Friendship Day' of bridge for restricted players in their area; and
- Canberra Bridge Club, ACT – retain more novice and restricted players through an integrated and strategic approach to teaching, mentoring and transitioning new players between levels.

The ABF National Marketing Officer will highlight 'learnings' from these initiatives in issues of the Marketing Update for Club Administrators during 2015. Hopefully, all clubs can benefit from the success of these programs.



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Contr.	Ld.	Made	NS+	EW+	NS%
W 4 ♠	♦ 3	-2	200		96
W 4 ♠	♦ 3	-2	200		96
W 4 ♠	♦ 6	-1	100		71
W 4 ♠	♦ 3	-1	100		71
W 4 ♠	♠ 7	-1	100		71
W 4 ♠	♦ 3	-1	100		71
W 3 ♠	♣ T	=		140	42
W 2 ♠	♥ T	+3		200	29
W 2 ♥	♣ T	+3		200	29
W 3NT	♦ 3	=		600	17
W 4 ♠	♠ 7	+1		650	4
W 4 ♠	♠ 7	+1		650	4

Legend: ♠ A9432, ♥ A5, ♦ J5, ♣ JT96

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Learning – Relating to Our Modern World.

The way we are taught anything, (bridge included) is crucial to our enjoyment of, and later competence at, that particular pursuit. The following are excerpts from Josh Waitzkin's "*The Art of Learning*" (on chess and marital arts), and John Medina's "*Brain Rules*". They are easily applicable to modern bridge students.

"We live in an attention-deficit culture. We are bombarded with more and more information on TV, radio, mobile phones, video games and the internet. When nothing exciting is going on, we get bored and distracted. When these tendencies are translated into the learning process they have devastating effects." (Josh Waitzkin)

Impact for bridge teachers: To keep our modern students interested in a bridge lesson, we need to offer a bit of excitement and variety (JB)

"Students' attention increases from the beginning of a lecture to 10 minutes into it, then decreases. If the teacher has not made an impact before then, students will have mentally checked out". (John Medina)

Impact for bridge teachers: Have your bridge students *play* a hand before the first 10 minutes of every lesson, don't overdo the talking (JB)

"People will forget 90% of what they learn in a class within 30 days, and most of the forgetting occurs early on". (John Medina)

Impact for bridge teachers: Offer a variety of reinforcements for learning bridge, eg playing hands online. (JB)

"Repetition is the answer for this, but the timing of the repetition is a big component, needing to be at spaced intervals" (John Medina)

Impact for bridge teachers: Offer practise hands that match a lesson, maybe a week after the lesson, or in *Help with Play* sessions. (JB)

"Students must become immersed in the fundamentals in order to have any potential to reach a higher level of skill. Very strong players are not conscious of their foundations, because these have become integrated into a sense of flow. They rarely speak of the fundamentals, but these are the building blocks of their mastery. In order to teach, they need to break down their bridge knowledge incrementally". (Josh Waitzkin)

Impact for bridge teachers: Concentrate on small amounts of theory when presenting new concepts to beginners. One tiny step at a time. (JB)

"Players tend to get attracted to fancy techniques and fail to realise that refinement of fewer techniques is so much more important than the quantity of what is learned. Depth beats breadth any day of the week". (Josh Waitzkin)

Impact for bridge teachers: Having thousands of conventions on your system card, not knowing them in detail is pointless. You need to know what happens with conventions after the first round of the bidding, what different hands your partner could have, and how you cope when the opponents interfere with your convention (JB)

"What separates experienced teachers from novices is that the experienced ones present core concepts and big ideas before details. This way the student understands "why" they're doing something". (John Medina)

Impact for bridge teachers: Explain the reasoning behind the theory of any bidding concept, and then add the details. Most bridge students will appreciate that.

"Overstuffing your students by relating too much information, with not enough time spent on connecting the dots is the most common communication mistake. Lots of force-feeding, very little digestion does nothing for the nourishment of the listeners". (John Medina)

Impact for bridge teachers: Quite simply, "Less is more". Be brave enough to take material *out* of your lessons.

"Teachers should encourage students to be more disciplined without dampening their love for the game, or suppressing their natural voices. Many teachers have no feel for this balance, and try to force their students into cookie-cutter moulds." (Josh Waitzkin)

Impact for bridge teachers: Try changing your approach re answers being right or wrong in the bidding. This is a dynamic part of bridge, and things change, so be prepared to allow your students to have their point of view.

"Text and oral presentations are far less efficient than pictures, for retaining information." (John Medina).

Impact for bridge teachers: Cards are like brightly coloured pictures. It's much easier to teach when hands are played and then examined at the table, than from a whiteboard or powerpoint presentations. Videos have a big impact too.

Teachers, don't you think it's time to adjust our teaching style for the benefit of modern students?

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RESPONDER'S REBID

1♣¹ - 1♥
1♠ - ?

1. 3+ clubs

1. ♠J54, ♥K976, ♦J872, ♣54
2. ♠QJ54, ♥K8532, ♦A7, ♣J5
3. ♠76, ♥AQJ6, ♦86, ♣A10984
4. ♠6, ♥AQJ1052, ♦K642, ♣K4
5. ♠J63, ♥A765, ♦AQJ9, ♣93
6. ♠AJ765, ♥KQ9865, ♦62, ♣---
7. ♠6, ♥AQJ1052, ♦K642, ♣87
8. ♠AQ65, ♥AK87, ♦62, ♣A52
9. ♠52, ♥AJ987, ♦Q10874, ♣3
10. ♠KQJ87, ♥6, ♦AKJ103, ♣J6



1. Pass. Responder has far more control over the auction than the opener, in fact opener can never force responder to speak except with an artificial bid.

You could have passed 1♣ but there is a big danger opener has 18-19 balanced and your side could be left in 1♣ with as few as five clubs between you. You much prefer to take your chances in 2NT when and if opener rebids 2NT. On a good day partner will raise your 1♥ to 2♥ and opponents will let you play there!

At this point you have achieved your objective of getting out of 1♣. Even if the bidding were to go 1♣ - 1♥, 2♠ (natural) you should pass, as again you have achieved your objective of finding a playable contract.

And I hope your partnership bids 1♣ - 1♥, 3♥ and not 1♣ - 1♥, 4♥ with 18-19 balanced and four-card heart support. This allows the partnership to bail out in 3♥ and if slam is in the air you now have a whole extra level to exchange cuebids or other information.

2. 3♠. An old-fashioned limit raise, asking opener to carry on to 4♠ with extra values.

3. 3♣. Another old style bid - invitational jump preference. A jump by responder in a suit already bid by the partnership is invitational. Your side is close to game and you are showing your strong club support as well as your strength. If opener passes clubs is probably your best contract.

4. 2♦. Fourth Suit Game Forcing, a jump to 3♥ would be invitational only. There was a time when Fourth Suit by responder wasn't generally played as game forcing but it is much more useful to have a device to

create a game force and slow down the bidding and at the same time.

5. 3NT. There is no point in going through Fourth Suit here, since there is only one place you want to play, 3NT from your side.

6. 2♦. Fourth Suit yet again. You could have 13 tricks in spades opposite a bland 13-count so you need space to explore the possibilities of the hand. Your plan is to bid spades at the lowest level, thus establishing a game force. The bidding might proceed 1♣ - 1♥, 1♠ - 2♦, 2NT - 3♠, 4♦ (cuebid) and now you can Key Card on the way to 6♠ or 7♠.

7. 3♥. With your strong six card suit you have the perfect hand for this invitational jump.

8. 2♦. You are too strong to jump to 4♠ so you temporise with Fourth Suit Game Forcing. If opener continues with the expected 2NT, a minimum balanced hand, you should still bid 3♠ encouraging cue-bidding in search of slam.

9. 1NT. It's not pretty but you can't rebid a five-card suit here and 2♦ would be Fourth Suit Game Forcing.

10. 3♦. A jump by responder in the fourth suit can be used to show a distributional hand, at least 5-5 with strong suits.

NOVICE PLAYERS – *there is a bi-monthly online version of Australian Bridge Magazine and it's great value at just \$25 a year:*

www.australianbridge.com/novice

NATIONWIDE PAIRS – *you can play every second Saturday at your club in competition with players from other clubs across Australia -*

<http://www.nationwidepairs.com.au>

*Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies,
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paul@bridgegear.com*

Big score

I would like to let you know that my mother, Elsie Thorley and her partner Shirley Vallender notched up an 80.13% EW score on Monday 8 December at Twin Towns Bridge Club.

What makes it a bit special is that there was a Grand Master and his partner, a Gold Life Master playing EW. There were 10 tables playing four-board rounds, and the cards were shuffled at the table. I thought this would be nice to mention in the ABF Newsletter.

I think I might start to play bridge as can see how much enjoyment my mother gets from the game.

Robyn Thomas

Tasmanian Festival of Bridge

26th - 29th March 2015

Wrest Point Hobart

Australian Swiss Pairs Championship
Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs
The Island Matchpointed Swiss Pairs
Tasmanian Festival of Bridge Restricted Pairs



The yacht "Indali", reproduced with the kind permission of Angela Bellamy and Robert Gosselink.

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th March

TFoB Restricted Pairs

All players must have fewer than 300 Masterpoints as at 01/10/2014

Entry fee: \$170 per pair

Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs

All players must have been born before 01/01/1957

Entry fee: \$180 per pair

The Island Matchpointed Swiss Pairs

These events will all play 9 x 12 board matches

Entry fee: \$180 per pair

Thursday 26th March 11.00am finishing at 6.05pm (4 x 12 board matches)

Friday 27th March 9.30am finishing at 6.15pm (5 x 12 board matches)

No Night Play

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th March

Australian Swiss Pairs – a PQP event

Entry fee: \$190 per pair

11 x 10 board matches

Saturday 28th March 10.00am finishing at 6.45 (6 x 10 board matches)

Sunday 29th March 10.00am finishing at 5.20pm (5 x 10 board matches)

No Night Play

Venue for all events

Wrest Point Casino

Hobart

Tasmanian Bridge Association Inc.

ABN: 66 028 130 967

www.tasbridge.com.au

Prize - top two TFoB Restricted Pairs

The winners of this competition will receive \$300 each from the ABF towards fares to an ABF- licensed restricted pairs event of their choice.

The NSW Bridge Association will sponsor the first two pairs' entry into the Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs event.

Tournament Organiser: Dallas Cooper asp@abf.com.au

Telephone: 0427 724 266



Two Centennial "Jettison" Hands

It was in 1914 that Australian philanthropist A.E. Whitelaw coined the term "Jettison" for a discard or underplay for reasons of entry. Not to suggest that such plays were "new-in-whist", indeed, Bergholt's *Royal Auction Bridge, 1914* is largely devoted to matters of entry and includes several Jettison deals.

Which brings us to the rubber table one hundred years later in December:

West deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Calin	David	Michael	Richard
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Calin led ♠10, I overtook with the jack to clarify the rank of his remaining holding; Richard won the king and tested clubs. When we both followed to the first round he had eight top tricks, the diamond finesse would provide a ninth if it worked, but the defence would be near winner-bound should it fail. Richard ran the long suit to put the defenders under some pressure. Discarding a diamond from the West hand might lead to declarer dropping my queen; it is ambitious to hope to defeat 3NT without discarding one, however. Look what happened. Calin discarded two hearts then ♠8 and finally ♥2. I discarded first a spade to show that I began with three, then two low hearts:

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

Richard now took the diamond finesse and I won my queen. On a spade return, declarer might rise queen and take the last two tricks with dummy's ♦K-8. I

returned a heart. Calin won ♥A and played ace and another spade. Richard won ♠Q but had to lose the last two tricks to my ♥K-J. One down.

"What" you say "Where are the two jettison deals?" I said *hands*, not *deals* and you've seen them.

If Richard Jedrykowski throws ♠Q under the ace then Calin Gruia is endplayed, and must lose the last two diamond tricks to dummy.

So declarer must prevail? No - what if Calin's final discard is ♥A! Now after the diamond finesse we just finesse the spade, cash ♠A and exit with a low heart to the nine or jack.

It must also be said that the only actual gambit on the deal, my ♠J at trick one, was a huge error. Had I kept this card and discarded no spade, declarer could no longer profit by gambiting his spade queen.

Typically of rubber bridge, we had all sat in the wrong seats. Rarely at rubber is there a contract that dummy would not have made; or a grand slam the defenders would not have reached. Here I alone chose to berid myself of a picture card – that play was wrong.

In most cases, these Rank-Altering-Signals are poor play at double dummy. In *What Your Computer can't Tell You* I presented a case where Willie Whitaker's rank altering signal was clearly the only card to shoot the contract at single dummy and the only card to let it make at double dummy.

Here is a simpler example: Partner opens 1♥ playing five-card majors. Holding five small spades and king to three hearts, you pass. Fourth chairs 1NT is raised to 3NT and dummy has three small hearts. Play ♥K, a rank altering signal. Now partner will be able to continue hearts, and furthermore, he will know not to play you for a picture card elsewhere. If partner had prior knowledge of the deal, it is better to retain ♥K.

Dealing program gone mad?

In the fourth and final round of the Bridge Association of Western Australia's Daytime Swiss Teams Event this year, these two remarkable hands occurred on successive boards:

South had ♠---, ♥AKJ95, ♦---, ♣AKJ109753 on Board 19 and ♠---, ♥K8632, ♦---, ♣AKJ107632 on Board 20.

Peter Clarke, my friend and occasional partner, has advised me that the odds of five hearts and eight clubs being dealt to the same player on successive hands are 2.86 billion (10 to the power of nine) to one. In contrast, my 'guesstimate' of the total number of hands played in all Australian duplicate bridge clubs since their foundation is about 0.3 billion.

David Dale

ABF MULTI TRIP TRAVEL INSURANCE

INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS

The application for 2015-2016 year will be available from 15th January , 2015.

The application process is completely online this year. For access to the application page please go to www.tbib.com.au and follow the links to the ABF Travel Insurance Page. The online application for 2015-2016 includes the Pre-existing Medical Condition Assessment.

Payment this year is by Visa, Mastercard or American Express only.

For members without access to the internet please ring TBIB during business hours AEST on 07 32525254 for calls from within Australia (or +61 7 32525254 for calls from outside Australia) after the 15th January, 2015 for assistance with the application.

The policy will still offer the comprehensive cover and competitive premiums we have come to expect from this very popular travel insurance policy exclusively available to ABF members.

The Policy For 2014 /2015 Year Is Still Open

The policy for 2014-2015 is still open for members to cover their travel needs and cancellation risk up until the 1st March 2015.

Apply at www.tbib.com.au and follow the links the ABF Travel Insurance Page.

Remember if your travel extends beyond the 1st March 2015 you will need to apply for the 2015-2016 policy period as per the above details.

If you need assistance please contact TBIB on abf@tbib.com.au or ring us on 07 32525254 during office hours.

Charity Day at Glenbrook

On Sunday 19 October, Glenbrook Bridge Club had a Charity Day, the proceeds of which went to OZWAC - Australian Women and Children's Research Foundation, which is based in Western Sydney.

OZWAC was established to provide for medical research into the health of women and children, which draws upon community support to raise funds and also raise community awareness of important health issues. The Foundation, since its inception has supported research at Nepean and Westmead Hospitals and other research centres in New South Wales.

We had 14 tables and the day was very enjoyable, very relaxing and lots of fun with spot prizes held throughout the day. We raised \$1,779 for the Foundation by way of entry fee and a raffle.

Kerrie Fitzpatrick



Low vision initiative

Financial support needed

Bill Hunt, one of the finest bridge players in Australia, has been teaching and playing our favourite game for over 60 years. Over the past 18 months he has been running a



vital campaign to introduce low vision playing cards to Australian bridge clubs. A sufferer of low vision himself, he is acutely aware of the sight problems of older bridge players, many of whom suffer macular degeneration and other age-related vision problems.

The low vision cards, which are now on sale by Paul Lavings, have numerals and denominations 20% larger

than those on standard packs. Bill has also designed board numbers which are 20% larger, which are also easier to read for those who are colour blind, and bidding blocks with larger size print.

These enhanced cards, labels and bidding pads will be on view at Paul Lavings' stand outside the playing area at the Gold Coast Congress on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February 2015. Bill will be on hand to demonstrate their advantages to you in person.

Committee members of bridge clubs throughout Australia and overseas visitors should not miss the opportunity to view them. The packs of large index 100% plastic playing cards are \$2.95 a pack and the plastic-coated are \$2.50 a pack. These cards will be of immense benefit to your members.

Bridge keeps our brains active and challenges us to forget our problems, meet up with our friends, and have a fantastic day. What greater gift can clubs and bridge associations bestow on their members than an extra reason to jump out of bed in the morning, happy to be alive and intent on conquering 6NT?

Bridge in Schools

On Monday 17 November the 'Bridge in Schools Program' in Bairnsdale finished off the year with an Interschools Team Challenge.

The six schools represented were Gippsland Grammar, West Bairnsdale Primary, St Mary's, Eagle Point, Paynesville and Swan Reach. The children were from grades 4-6, with some in their second year while others were in their first year of bridge.

The successful team was West Bairnsdale Primary, with Gippsland Grammar as runners up.

The program was first introduced by the late Frank Power five years ago, with two schools participating to now, with six schools in the program. The program is designed as an extension to the school's maths program. Both students and teachers have agreed it has been very successful in improving team participation, socialisation, and inferential reasoning.

The program will continue in 2015, and hopefully continue to be as successful as previous years. We have a band of willing presenters and helpers, and the schools involved are all keen to continue.

From next year the schools will be playing for 'The Frank Power Memorial Shield'. A fitting tribute to a dedicated and passionate man who gave his all to the success of this program

Bev Fisher
Co-ordinator B.I.S Program



Gold Coast Update

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS: Please be aware discounts close on February 7, a week earlier than last year. Make sure you pay for your entry in full or it will cost another \$10.00 per person per event

VENUE: We will be closer to the Jupiter's end of the Gold Coast Convention Centre and will cover both upstairs and ground level. This should not be a problem for the players as there are lifts and escalators as well as stairs (plus more toilets!) It will just mean we need more staff.

NO FRILLS WALK IN: This kicks off the congress and gives an opportunity to warm up on Friday 20. 7pm start, and finish by 10pm. There is no need to prebook, and the cost is \$15.00.

UNDER 50's MPS: We have an extra event to cater for people with under 50 Masterpoints. There are now two half days, one on Wednesday 25 and the other Thursday 26 February, both commencing at 10.30 am with the cost \$40.00 per pair per event.

ACCOMMODATION: Please ensure you book your accommodation in plenty of time. There is another major event being held on the Gold Coast, and accommodation is scarce, especially over the first weekend (in particular, Saturday 21 February).

MONORAIL: The monorail between Jupiters and The Oasis Shopping Centre is back up and running regularly.

TRAM: There is now a tram that runs every 15 minutes from Surfers Paradise, with regular stops including one right outside the Gold Coast Convention Centre. The cost will be \$4.80 each way, and travel time is 10 minutes.

PARKING: Kim has a meeting with the GCCC on January 6, and we will confirm the cost of parking then. Hopefully, it will be the same as last year

BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS: Please get those entries in, as we are still after 200+ pairs. Last year we nearly made it with 198 entries. We have now increased our Masterpoints for this (and all other matchpoint pairs events with short rounds). Now all players earning more than 45% in any session will receive Gold Masterpoints (except Red still for walk-ins). Also please note that **all** sections (Seniors', Intermediate, Restricted, Novice and of course the Open) will have three-board rounds in all qualifying session

COLOURS: Just to confuse you, we have changed the colours of some of our events. Intermediate Events will all now be Yellow instead of Copper/Brown. The Novice, which were Yellow will now be Maroon. A full list of our colours will be published in the first bulletin, so please check!

THEME: *Dots & Dashes* is our theme for 2015, and we love it when you all dress up. We are finding it hard to judge, as so many of you do a wonderful job. For a change this year, we will be judging you as a team effort, during the afternoon session of the teams on Wednesday 25 February We would ask all serious contenders to register before play, by allowing us to take your photo at the venue. We may give some spot prizes to the best dressed pair, so still make an effort even if your teamies won't!

TRIVIA: Make a note in your diaries that trivia will be held on Monday 23 February commencing 6 pm at Grumpy's (next door to the old venue of Marigolds), still on the ground floor of the Oasis Shopping Centre. We will have more space so can fit up to 25 tables of 6 - 8 people. They will have a bridge players' menu for \$15.00 that I hope many of you will utilise. We are also introducing a fee of \$5.00 per person to enter – all monies received will go to Youth Bridge (not one cent will go to operating costs). We are extremely grateful to retain Jacques and Bill Rossiter-Nuttall as our hosts.

SPONSORS: A complete list of our sponsors will appear in the next update, but a few special mentions. Larry Norden (*Cosmetics Plus*) is still our major sponsor, and will be opening the Teams this year. *TBIB* have come on board, and will be sponsoring the Celebrity Speakers. A full program will be published early in the New Year. *TBIB* will have a stall at the GCC all week and will be there to encourage you to renew (or take up) their excellent Travel Insurance policy, as well as to answer any queries re any other insurance matters.

BRIDGE WIDOWS: Once again, if you have a spouse or friend who does not play bridge, but will be at the GCC, please make sure you register for the *Bridge Widows Group*. We start with afternoon tea (mind you, not much tea gets drunk!) at 1.00 pm at *Air on Broad Beach* where we introduce you all to people with interests in common (like golf). My sister-in-law Gay heads this group and will arrange trips to Tamborine Mountain, or other places of interest, according to expressions of interest. Please register with me gttully@bigpond.net.au or Gay at bmmgtully@activ8.net.au

Therese and Kim

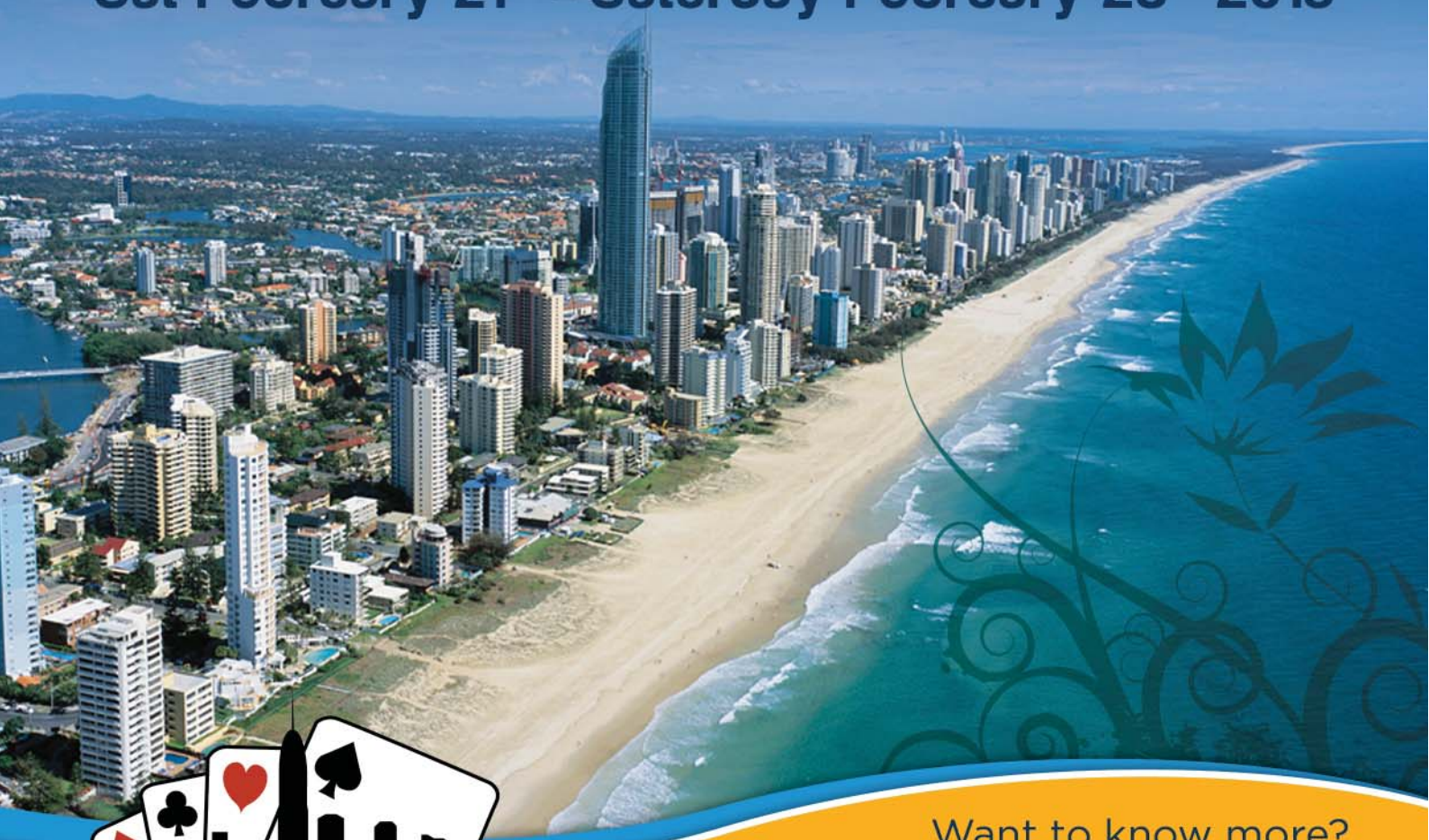
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