

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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Autumn in Adelaide

Try these problems:

1. East deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♣ ¹	1♥
1♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Db1 ²	Pass	?

- Artificial, 15+ points
- Intended as penalties

What would you do as South with:

♠ ---, ♥ A109876, ♦ 1053, ♣ J987

2. North deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	Db1 ¹
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Db1	Pass	?	

- 4+ spades
- Intended as penalties

What would you do as East with:

♠ 943, ♥ A97432, ♦ 965, ♣ 8



Avinash Kanetkar, Paul Lavings, Robert Krochmalik, Matthew Thomson

The 2012 Autumn Nationals were held at a new venue in Adelaide, the spacious Ridley Centre at the Wayville Showgrounds. There were 56 entries in the Open Teams and 10 in a new event, the Restricted Teams. The normal format is a Swiss of 16-board matches, followed by a 56-board final. Bridge players are used to 'Blackout' after a reverse, but this year we had a blackout at the venue, which reversed the nine rounds into eight.

With one round to go the leaders were *FISCHER*, Marianne Bookalil, Stephen Fischer, David Morgan, Michael Wilkinson, the only undefeated team so far, on 143 VPs, and *KROCHMALIK*, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings, Avi Kanetkar – Matthew Thomson. *KROCHMALIK* crushed *FISCHER* in the last round by 67 IMPs, 25-1 in VPs, to relegate them to third place. *HANS*, Helena Dawson – Sartaj Hans, Barbara Travis – Andrew Peake were in third spot on 129 VPs with one match left. They won their final match 17-13 to go to 146 and second place.

Hands with slam potential and a void can be tough to judge. Witness this example:

Round 2, Board 26, West deals, all vulnerable

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

Quite a few pairs, including some internationals, reached the hopeless 6♥. This was one auction:

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♥ ^{spades}	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Db1

All Pass

Some crimed West for not passing 5♥, but perhaps East had a better option. With the spades solid, why introduce hearts? You could start 1NT : 3♠ (setting spades), 4♣ cue : 5♦ Exclusion Blackwood. Then 5♠ by West, 1 Key Card outside diamonds, allows East to pass. You could have the same result by starting 1NT : 2♥ (transfer), 2♠ : 5♦ Exclusion Blackwood.

Round 3, Board 6, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

The datum of EW +1650 meant that only about a quarter of the field found the excellent 7♠ or 7NT. Kanetkar -Thomson bid 1NT : 3♠; 4♣ cue : 4♦ cue; 4♥ cue : 4NT; 5♥ (two aces), 5NT; 6♣ (♣K), 6♦ (asking for ♦K); 7NT.

Back to the problems:

1.

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

This was Board 24 from Round 6.

Matt Mullamphy, North, could not believe his good fortune when EW bid 4♠. As a forcing defence was obvious, he doubled. As South, I could see one defensive trick at best. Would partner, having made a preemptive jump to 4♥, be able to provide three tricks? Could the opponents have only seven trumps? This all seemed too unlikely, and although North's double was for penalties, I ran to 5♥. This was doubled and I went two off, -300. Had East doubled 4♥, West would bid 5♣, which makes. Our teammates were in 5♣, +420, +3 IMPs.

2.

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

This was Board 5 of the Final.

East's hand resembles South's in Problem 1, and so does the auction. After the auction given, Sartaj Hans, East, passed West's double. He is clearly tougher than I am, but this time running to 5♥ was the winning decision. West led ♥Q, five, ace and East switched to ♣8. West won and returned ♣7, ♣9, ruffed by East. Declarer, Robert Krochmalik, had the rest for +790.

Even if East ducks the first heart, South can succeed. If West switches to ♣A and a low club, ruffed by East, South wins the diamond switch in hand and runs all the trumps to squeeze West in the minors. To beat 4♠, West has to lead a top club, followed by a low club. East ruffs, and a diamond return now, and another later will break up the squeeze. As the cards lie, 5♥ cannot be defeated.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Peake	Thomson	Travis
	1♦	2♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
6♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

West can defeat 5♠, but he took out insurance with 6♥. The defence took two diamonds and East had the rest for -100, but +12 IMPs.

After 14 boards in the final, the score was *KROCHMALIK* 43, *HANS* 10. The score was 55-20 when *HANS* bid a grand slam on a finesse. The finesse worked: 33-55. Then a slam swing went the other way:

Board 23, West deals: all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Hans	Kanetkar	Dawson	Thomson
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Lead: ♠9 – three – four – jack

Declarer drew trumps, 13 tricks, +1460.

West	North	East	South
Krochmalik	Travis	Lavings	Peake
3♦!	Pass	4♦!	Dbl
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Declarer drew trumps and also had 13 tricks, but it was -13 IMPs.

You will not find many authorities endorsing the vulnerable 3♦ opening, but I like it. West has seven losers, hence six playing tricks. If you adopt the Rule of 3 for preempts, you have a 3♦ opening. Notice how much more effective the 3♦ opening was than the pass followed by a 2♦ overcall. Note also East's excellent 4♦ bid.

At halfway in the final of the Autumn National Open Teams, *KROCHMALIK* was leading *HANS* by 90-34.

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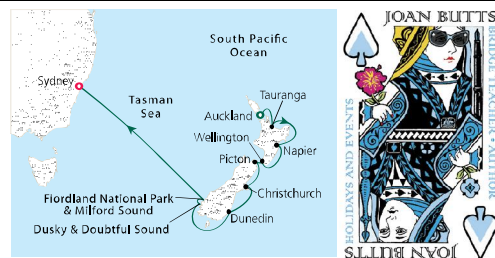
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3. West deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♦	Dbl ¹	4♦	?

1. Takeout

What would you do as South with:

♠ 9642, ♥ QJ84, ♦ K74, ♣ J8

On this deal, both sides missed their best trump fit:

Board 40, West deals: NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Dawson	Thomson	Hans
Travis	Lavings	Peake	Krochmalik
3♦	Dbl ¹	4♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl ¹	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1. Takeout

Both Wests led ♣10. Sartaj Hans finished two down, Robert Krochmalik one down for +3 IMPs. The 4-3 fit in 4♥ has no chance on normal defence. It was a pity NS missed their 4-4 spade fit, since 4♠ makes easily on normal play. Can you blame South for choosing 4♥ rather than 4♠? Of course not, but what you can blame are the North-South methods.

If the bidding starts 1♦ : Dbl : 2♦, double by fourth player is commonly played as responsive, showing both majors. Why not use the same idea at the four-level? Playing double for takeout after opponents bid and raise a suit is sensible and so South could double 4♦ to show both majors. North will choose 4♠ and there you are.

After 42 of 56 Boards *KROCHMALIK* led *HANS* by 118-51 IMPs. Down 67, with 14 boards to play, many teams would concede. This is a defeatist approach as one can sometimes reel in the difference. *HANS* played on, but in such circumstances the team a long way behind often takes desperate actions. Most of the time they do not pay off. That was the case this time. *KROCHMALIK* won the final by 143 IMPs to 86. It has been an excellent few months for the members of this team. Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings won the Spring National Open Teams and the Bobby Evans Seniors Teams. Avi Kanetkar won the Spring

National Open Teams and the Grand National Open Teams and Matthew Thomson won the National Open Teams. The ANOT is an extra notch on their belts. Congratulations to Diane Marler, the Convener. Another successful Autumn Nationals is also an extra notch on her belt.

Ron Klinger

Barrier Reef Congress

You are dealer, with nil vulnerable. What would you open with these cards, playing Standard?

♠ AJ4, ♥ K72, ♦ AKQ109, ♣ 84

The Barrier Reef Congress is held in North Queensland over the June long weekend. The Open Pairs was won by Ryan Touton – Richard Touton, with David Beauchamp – Nathan Van Jole second and Pele Rankin – Paul Hookyaas third. The winners of the Open Teams were David Beauchamp – Nathan Van Jole, Andy Braithwaite – Phil Gue, 163 VPs, with Jenny Millington, Barry Jones, Neil Stuckey, Fred Whitaker second (156) and equal third were Pele Rankin, Therese Tully, Lindy Vincent, Paul Hookyaas, Richard Ward and Annette Maluish, John Brockwell, Neville Francis, Richard Wallis (153).

The winners suffered two slam reversals in their final match:

Round 8, Board 16, West deals: EW vulnerable

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

EW would be happy to be in 6♥ or 6♣, while NS have an excellent sacrifice in spades. Nine pairs were in 6♥, none in 6♣. No one saved in 6♠, but there were three pairs in 5♠ doubled, six in 5♠ undoubled, two in 4♠ undoubled and one in 4♠ doubled.

West	North	East	South
Rankin		Beauchamp	
1♥	Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass
4NT ²	Pass	5♥ ³	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

1. Limit raise
2. Intended as penalties
3. Two Key Cards, no trump queen

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"I'd rather regret what I did - than what I didn't do"

At the other table, with NS silent, it went 1♥ : 3♣ (limit raise in hearts), 4♣ : 4♥, Pass. West meant 4♣ as a slam trial bid. If East had seen it that way, he would have bid 5♣. Perhaps West could bid 3♦ or 3♠ as a cuebid over 3♣. East would cuebid 4♣ and West could bid 4NT. Incidentally, the recommended opening for West is 1♣, the longer suit.

Round 8, Board 24, West deals: nil vulnerable

♠ Q 10 7 6 5
♥ Q J 5
♦ 6
♣ Q J 7 3

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

♠ 9 8 2
♥ 9 8 3
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ 6 5 2

At one table West opened a 15-17 1NT and ended in 3NT. That is a very conservative view. You should be adding a couple of points for the strong five-card suit, and upgrading the hand to 18-19. That is what happened at the other table:

West Rankin	North	East Beauchamp	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²	Pass
3♥	Pass	6NT	All Pass

1. 18-19, balanced
2. Enquiry

Those who use the 5-4-3-2-1 count (see 'Better Balanced Bidding') add three points for the strong diamonds, and have no trouble assessing the West hand as too strong for 1NT.

There is no trouble making 12 tricks. With 8 HCP North can tell that South has a worthless hand (it is a genuine 'Yarborough', no card above a nine). North should therefore lead ♦6. Any other suit is likely to give away the twelfth trick quickly. West wins and does best to duck a heart. When hearts turn out to be 3-3, West does not need the spade finesse or a squeeze.

Of the 48 EW pairs, 20 were in 6NT and 19 succeeded. Two were in 6♥, making. Lucky.

No matter how great a bidding system you have, in the end it is the judgment of the players which will decide whether the result is good or bad.

Ron Klinger

And then there were three

	<i>Name</i>	<i>ABF No.</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>McCutcheon</i>
1	Richman, Bob	51845	2-061	Emerald Grand	11,015.31	133.28	21
2	Gumby, Pauline	24732	2-001	Emerald Grand	10,137.07	180.51	6
3	Lavings, Paul	35092	2-001	Emerald Grand	10,067.44	219.12	1

Bob Richman was the first player to amass more than 10,000 Masterpoints, and this feat was recognised in September, 2009 by an article which appears on the ABF website.

Now we have two new members of this elite club - Pauline Gumby, well-known international representative in both the Women's and Open field, and Paul Lavings, nine times an Australian representative, and a member of our current Open Team.

Pauline's career highlight was making the quarter finals of the 2007 Bermuda Bowl in partnership with Warren Lazer. With Warren, Pauline won the 2000 NOT, the 2002 and 2006 Spring Nationals and the 2006 and 2007 Open Team Playoffs.



She has represented NSW in the Interstate Open Teams numerous times, winning with Avi Kanetkar in 1994 and in 2005, 2008 and 2010 with Warren Lazer. Other wins include the 1998 and 2012 Blue Ribbon Pairs, and the 2003 and 2004 Interstate Open Pairs.

Her earlier women's career saw a highly successful partnership with Sue Hoblely, with whom she represented Australia in the Women's Olympiad, 1980, 1984, the Venice Cup, 1981, 1985, the PABF Teams in 1979, 1981, 1985 (where the team finished first), and winning the Butler in 1979 and 1980.

Other representations include the PABF Women's Teams in 1982 with Norma Borin. She won the Interstate Women's Teams in 1974 with Barbara McDonald, in 1979 with Val Cummings and in 1990 with Anita Curtis.

Pauline is also the ABF Webmaster, responsible for maintaining our national website.

As well as a bridge writer and owner of a bridge books and supplies Paul Lavings is in the top echelon of bridge professionals. He qualified to represent Australia in 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1991 and after a 21 year gap, again in



2012, as a member of the Australian Open Team to play in the Bridge Olympics held in August in Lille, France. Paul is also a member of the 2012 NSW Seniors Team.

Paul was editor and co-editor of *Australian Bridge Magazine* from 1985-1990, and is an expert on bridge books, and bridge and whist antiques, specialising in art deco.

*Ed: As well as this brief bridge CV (supplied by Paul), I can attest that Paul has long been a household name in bridge not only in Australia but worldwide. Mention the word **Lavings** in New Zealand, and many will say that this word is part of their system (Paul is attributed with popularising the 15-17 no trump, now standard throughout much of the bridge-playing world, and **Lavings** was the gadget he devised as an enquiry after a INT opening. Paul confirms that this all happened around 1973. Paul's well-respected and popular column in the ABF Newsletter has refined many players' systems, and his ideas on bidding and theory are second to none.*

McCutcheon Leaders at 31 May, 2012

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>2012 MPs</i>
1.	Lavings, Paul	Emerald Grand	219.12
2.	Kanetkar, Avinash	Silver Grand	209.32
3.	De Livera, Arjuna	Gold Grand	198.16
4.	Krochmalik, Robert	Grand	195.90
5.	Edgton, Nabil	Grand	194.97
6.	Gumby, Pauline	Emerald Grand	180.51
7.	Lazer, Warren	Gold Grand	173.80
8.	Brown, Terry	Gold Grand	166.57
9.	Francis, Neville	Gold Grand	166.57
10.	Del'Monte, Ishmael	Gold Grand	165.07
11.	Peake, Andrew	Gold Grand	164.75
12.	Gill, Peter	Gold Grand	162.67
13.	Travis, Barbara	Silver Grand	157.56
14.	Klinger, Ron	Gold Grand	156.88
15.	Klofa, Stan	Gold Grand	152.81
16.	Courtney, Michael	Silver Grand	150.46
17.	Beauchamp, David	Gold Grand	148.38
18.	Neill, Bruce	Gold Grand	147.29
19.	Hinge, Simon	Gold Grand	141.26
20.	Brightling, Richard	Silver Grand	138.05

Victor Champion Cup

Try this problem:

1. *South deals, all vulnerable*

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Dbf	2♦	3♥	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 754, ♥ A, ♦ AK109632, ♣ J7

There were 74 teams in the 2012 Victor Champion Cup, held over the June long weekend in Melbourne. The event is run as a 10-round Swiss of 14-board matches. The winning team was *NOBLE*, Barry Noble, Ashley Bach, George Bilski, Ishmael Del'Monte and Nabil Edgton. They scored 215 VPs, a huge average of 21.5 VPs per match. That was 29 VPs ahead of second place, *HOLLANDS*, Adam Edgton, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Liam Milne on 186 VPs. Lying 37th after six rounds, the team scored 96 out of 100 in their last four matches to zip past all but the winners.

The winners outbid their opponents here:

Round 9, Board 4, South deals: all vulnerable

♠ 9 6
♥ 8 4 3
♦ J 8 7
♣ A Q 10 5 2

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

♠ 7 5 4
♥ A
♦ A K 10 9 6 3 2
♣ J 7

West	North	East	South
	<i>Bach</i>		<i>N Edgton</i>
1♠	2♦	3♥ ¹	1♦
Dbf	All Pass		5♦

1. Fit-showing, hearts and spades

Lead: ♠K – six – two – four

West cashed a second spade, but South made the rest easily, for +750.

At the other table, after the auction at the start of the column, South timidly passed 3♥. South led ♦A, ♦K. Del'Monte, East, ruffed and played a trump. South won and switched to ♣J. The defence collected three clubs for one down, +100, but 11 IMPs away.

Datum: NS +380.

Bilski – Del'Monte collected a nice penalty double on the next deal:

Round 7, Board 10, North deals: all vulnerable

♠ K Q 10 6 3
♥ J 4
♦ K J 4
♣ 8 5 4

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

♠ 2
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ A 9 8
♣ K 9 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilski</i>		<i>Del'Monte</i>	
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	Dbf	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dbf!	All Pass

Lead: ♦2 – jack – six – eight

♠K was taken by the ace, and West switched to ♥A. East ruffed the next heart and returned a diamond. South took ♦A, crossed to ♦K and led a club to the king and ace, reasonable but unlucky. Two down was –500. An inspired pass of 2♥ doubled might have netted NS 800.

At the other table, after a similar start, South's 1NT was passed out. and Nabil Edgton made eight tricks for +120, +12 IMPs.

Datum: NS 120.

Ron Klinger

Being a good partner

*From the January 2012
Canberra Summer Festival
of Bridge Celebrity Bridge
Speaker Series*

To be successful at bridge you need to establish a good partnership, and yet the care and feeding of partners is one of the least studied subjects in the game.

Encouraging and allowing your partner to play as well as they can, is one of the simplest ways to improve your results.

Being supportive

Your partner is the only person in the room who is on your side (with the possible exception of your teammates). It is surprising how often people seem to enlist the opponents' help in ganging up on their



Hugh Grosvenor

partner. Very few people play better when being criticised by anyone, least of all the person who is supposed to be part of their team. If you want partner to play as well as they can, try being pleasant and supportive.

Moving on

One of the most important tests for a partnership is how it reacts to a disaster at the table. What you need to be able to do is to get over it, and move on to the next board. You cannot fix the past - concentrate on the future. There are different approaches that suit different partnerships, so you need to work out a strategy that will work for you and your partner. Some partnerships choose to say nothing, some try to use humour; personally, I like to apologise. In general, the main problem that needs to be resolved when something has gone wrong revolves around trying to apportion or assign the blame. I have found that apologising gets over this problem quickly, and tends to end the discussion quickly. If you are prepared to say sorry, partner will have trouble arguing with you. At the end of the day is the best time to work out whose fault the disaster really was.

System simplicity

If some part of your system is causing problems for either you or partner, consider ditching it. The marginal benefit of playing any particular convention or gadget is fairly small. First, the situation has to come up, second both you and your partner need to remember the convention, and finally it needs to actually result in a good score, that you would not have got using natural bidding. If partner expresses doubt or concern about any particular part of your agreements, it is almost always best to get rid of it (even if it is your favourite toy!).

System documentation

Whatever the level of experience of your partnership, some amount of system documentation is a good idea. This does not need to be complicated or long-winded; a simple list of agreements you have made as a partnership is enough. This helps resolve a lot of the arguments that otherwise come up. If it is on the list we play it, if it is not, then we do not play it. If we talk about adding something to the system, then it needs to be added to the notes before it is part of the system. Both players should have a copy of the notes and they should be identical.

Choices in the bidding

Try to choose bids that you are confident that your partner will understand. This seems like self-evident advice, however, I sometimes get the impression that people like to set tests or traps for their partner.

If you have the choice between making what you think is the technically perfect bid, that your partner may not understand, and a more obvious bid that is slightly inferior, consider carefully. The 'best' bid in any particular situation can be judged in a number of different ways - for me, the one that is practical and less likely to cause trouble is often superior to the one that demonstrates my cleverness at the risk of making partner look stupid.

Being a good dummy

When you are dummy, your only job is to try to help partner avoid revoking. Otherwise, this is the time to relax and save your energies for things that are your business. Keeping an eagle eye on partner's declarer play is counter-productive, and will not improve their performance on this hand, or subsequent ones.

Signalling agreements

There are all sorts of different carding agreements that you could agree to play. Choose ones that you are both comfortable with. Try to come up with relatively simple rules to determine what each particular card means. It is better to know what a signal means than for the meaning to be perfect in every situation. As in many areas of bridge this is a difficult balancing act between making the agreements simple and bulletproof and maximising efficiency. I would suggest that you err in the direction of simplicity.

Choices in signalling

Make the clearest signals that you can. Avoid trying to give two messages with one signal. If you have a choice between a simple clear signal, and a subtle one, I would suggest simplicity.

Helping partner in defence

While defending, be on the lookout for any opportunity to help partner. If partner needs to keep a suit because you cannot hold it, try to discard it early so that they will know. If something goes wrong while defending, resist the temptation to blame partner; consider whether you could have helped more. There is usually plenty of blame to go around. Consider apologising even if you are not sure that it was your fault!

The comfort zone

Very few people play better while being criticised or pressured by partner. There is enough pressure inherent in the game without partner adding to it. If you can help partner stay in their comfort zone, they will make less errors, and your partnership and team results will improve. Incidentally, you will probably both have a more pleasant time also.

Hugh Grosvenor, ACT



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Only four teams contested the Australian Seniors' Team Playoff (as opposed to 11 in the Open Team Playoffs). These were ranked, in Playoff Qualifying Points order, *HOFFMAN*, David Hoffman – Richard Brightling, Peter Chan – David Lusk, Russel Harms – Roger Januszke, *PRESCOTT*, Michael Prescott, npc; Arjuna De Livera – Bruce Neill, George Gaspar – Bob Richman, Bill Haughie – Ron Klinger, *BAILEY*, Kirsten and Gavin Bailey, Sue and Richard Grenside and *FINIKIOTIS*, George Finikiotis – Gary Lane, Judy Marks – Adam Rutkowski).

The format was a triple round-robin, followed by a 96-board final.

Day 1: Try this problem (answer later):

South deals, Nil vulnerable

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

1. Artificial, forcing to game
2. Spade single-suiter or 4 clubs or 4 diamonds
3. Exactly two spades
4. Sets spades as trumps
5. Control in clubs, not in diamonds

What would you do now as North with:

♠ 76, ♥ AQ6, ♦ Q974, ♣ KQ94

The favourites for the event were *HOFFMAN* and *PRESCOTT*. They both began with 19-11 VP wins. *HOFFMAN* had another 19-11 win in Round 2, while *PRESCOTT* had a 16-14 VP win. They met in Round 3, *PRESCOTT* winning 25-5 VPs. After Day 1, the scores were *PRESCOTT* 60, *FINIOKITIS* 49, *HOFFMAN* 43, *BAILEY* 28.

This was Round 2, Board 17:

East deals, EW vulnerable

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



Mike Prescott, Bruce Neill, Bob Richman, Arjuna de Livera, Bill Haughie, Ron Klinger and George Gaspar

Doing well on the slam deals is often essential for winning long teams' matches. After the auction given, I signed off in 4♠ as North (which is what I wanted to do over 3♠). I should have bid 4♥. This would confirm club control and also that I had second- and third-round control in clubs. You cannot blame Bill Haughie, South, for passing 4♠. For all he knew, my clubs were K-x-x or similar. The other three NS pairs reached 6♠.

Day 2: Try this problem (answer later):

East deals, EW vulnerable

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

What would you do as South with:

♠ A93, ♥ K875, ♦ 4, ♣ KQ864

The favourites were both defeated in Round 4: *HOFFMAN* 12-18 VPs to *BAILEY*, and *PRESCOTT* 11-19 VPs to *FINIOKITIS*. In Round 5, *PRESCOTT* won 17-13 VPs and *HOFFMAN* 16-14 VPs. In the last round of the day, the favourites had a draw, while *FINIOKITIS* beat *BAILEY* 17-13 VPs.

That left the scores *PRESCOTT* 103, *FINIOKITIS* 99, *HOFFMAN* 86, *BAILEY* 72.

Slams are often viable with fewer than 33 points when both hands have short suits. That was the key to the deal in the next column, which produced a swing in each match.

Round 5, Board 6, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

In our match, with EW silent, after 1♣ : 1♥, South supported hearts via a splinter in diamonds and showed a minimum opening. North was able to ask for Key Cards at the 3♠ level and South bid 4♦, showing two Key Cards but no ♥Q. North then bid 5♣ to ask in clubs, and when South bid 5NT, ♣K + ♣Q, North bid 6♥.

The slam needed little more than the 3-2 break in trumps, so NS +980. At the other table it went 1♣ : 1♦, 1♥ : 4♥, Pass.

In the other match, North was the one to splinter:

West	North	East	South
Rutkowski	Hoffman	Marks	Brightliung
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦ hearts	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠ ²	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦ ³	Pass	5♠ ⁴
Pass	5NT ⁵	Pass	6♥

1. Artificial, forcing to game
2. 0 or 1 spade
3. 0 or 3 Key Cards
4. Do you have ♥Q?
5. No.

That was 980 to NS. At the other table the bidding was 1♣ : 1♥, 2♥ : 4♥, Pass.

Day 3: In Round 7 *PRESCOTT* defeated *HOFFMAN* 16-14 VPs, while *BAILEY* and *FINIKIOTIS* drew. The scores with two matches left were *PRESCOTT* 119, *FINIOKITIS* 114, *HOFFMAN* 100, *BAILEY* 87. An upset was theoretically possible, but when *HOFFMAN* won their last two matches by a maximum and *FINIOKITIS* had maximum losses, the final scores were *PRESCOTT* 155, *HOFFMAN* 150, *FINIOKITIS* 124, *BAILEY* 109

Day 4: Try this problem:

South deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3NT ³
Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass	?

1. Weak two, 9-12 points
2. Strong inquiry
3. AKQxxx in spades
4. Cuebid, first or second-round control

What would you do now as South with:

♠ AKQ862, ♥ 652, ♦ 632, ♣ Q

The final was over 96 boards, with a 5 IMP start for *PRESCOTT*. *HOFFMAN* won the first two sessions 10-6 IMPs and 35-10 IMPs. *PRESCOTT* took the third set 37-27 IMPs to make the half-time score 72-58 IMPs in favour of *HOFFMAN*.

Final Session 2, Board 27, South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ J 7 6
♥ A J 8
♦ A K Q 10 8
♣ A 5

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

At our table, after the auction given, South bid 4♠, no cuebid to make, and North bid 6♠, passed out. As you can see, 7♠ is an excellent contract, and 13 tricks are routine.

After South's 3NT, North can see 13 tricks if the diamonds produce five tricks. If South has a singleton diamond, chances for five diamond tricks are below 50%. If South has two diamonds, there are five diamond tricks about 52% of the time. Those odds do not justify a grand slam. North needed to know whether South had more than two diamonds. With three diamonds opposite, the odds for no loser rise to over 80%.

Given the known spade holding, South would not have an outside king as well, but could have a shortage. If South could produce 4♥ or 5♣ in reply to the 4♣ cuebid to show shortage in the suit bid, South was highly likely to have three or four diamonds. The idea was good, but not the outcome.

At the other table South opened 1♠, but it was still not enough to find the grand slam. With EW silent, it went:

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

1. Two Key Cards plus ♠Q
2. No Key Cards are missing
3. No king outside trumps

Day 5: Try this problem (answer later):

Suppose partner opens 1♠ and his bidding shows five spades and five hearts, with two Key Cards but no ♥Q. Would you bid the heart slam with ♠ Q107, ♥ J1093, ♦ AK985, ♣ A?

PRESCOTT regained the lead, albeit by only two IMPs, by winning the fourth session 47-31 IMPs. They also won the next set by 38-30 IMPs to lead 143-133 IMPs with one session to go.

♠ Q 10 7
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ A K 9 8 5
♣ A

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

Both Norths elicited the same information from South. At one table North gave up in 5♥, and who can blame him? Slam might easily have been worse than 50%. At our table, North took the gamble and bid 6♥. South's cards could not have been better and the slam rolled home for +11 IMPs.

10 IMPs is not much of a lead with 16 boards left, but it is still better than 10 IMPs behind. Each side scored a partscore swing in the last set, but 13 IMPs went to *PRESCOTT* after they collected 1400 from a 5♣ non-vulnerable sacrifice in the one room against -620 in the other room. The final score was 174-147 IMPs.

Ron Klinger

Olga Jacobs - living legend

At 103.5 years of age Olga is still playing bridge. Is this a world record?

Olga Beryl Benjamin was born in Perth on 22 December, 1908 and married Harold Leslie Jacobs in 1934, three months after their first meeting – clearly a whirlwind courtship!



Olga in her wedding dress

To this day, Olga plays bridge once a week at Sea Views Manor, a nursing home in Ocean Grove, and she's no "pushover," either! Fortunately, we have a stockpile of some 20 volunteers, who rotate according to a roster system. On one occasion, declarer announced, "I claim the rest" and Olga said, "Would you mind playing out the hand?" She then proceeded to take two more tricks! When asked where she took bridge lessons, she blithely replied, "Oh, I just picked it up as I went along." Olga is always well-dressed, well-groomed and is an extremely gracious lady, with a keen sense of humour. She reads three or four books

a week and doesn't need spectacles.



Her partner for many years, Doris Brushfield, whose husband was a sports commentator, took her to Geelong Bridge Club about 40 years ago, and Olga has been playing "seriously" ever since. She donated a perpetual trophy to the club, to be presented annually to the most improved novice pair. This year, it was won by Janet Fisher and Elisabeth Harvey

For her outstanding contribution to many charity organisations in Geelong, Olga was awarded the OBE. She has only one child, a son Ivan. Sadly, her husband died when she was 41 years old. Harold was awarded the Military Cross in 1918 for "superior gallantry" in France. His photograph and citation is on the wall in her room at the nursing home. He was the grandson of a well-known pioneering Geelong family, who established the Jacobs Emporium in Malop Street. The Myer-Westfield complex stands on the same site, but it is said that the ghost of Morris Jacobs, who lived on the premises, in those bygone 19th century days, still roams the floors.

Some personal glimpses of Olga: I was driving Olga back from an outing, and the number plate on the car in front of us was SIG-041. She said, "Do you think he's a reformed smoker?"

I took her to out to lunch the other day and, after waiting more than an hour, she became so incensed that she decided to leave. The waiter would not take any money for the wine we had drunk. I took her to another restaurant, and having ordered lunch, I asked her if she would like another glass of wine. "Do you think we could get it for the same price?"

*Betty Boyd,
Hampton VIC*

Letters to the Editor

21st Century Devices

Dear Sir,

Our bridge organisations need to address how to leverage 21st century devices to help keep our game vibrant. Sadly I see little evidence of this happening.

Face it: iPhones, iPads (their clones) and Google Services are the way, not of the future, but of today.

Until we gather new expertise to create software frameworks which support/integrate the use of

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these devices and Google Services with our bridge websites we are answering the wrong questions if we prematurely spend my bridge tax dollars on projects like the redesign of the ABF website.

Until I can type ‘contract bridge hampton’ into Google and see links providing a portal on page 1 to relevant Australian bridge services or use a portable device to effectively touch screen my way to calendars, results and available services, we are simply not getting the gag.

I urge the ABF to get its act together to gather new blood with the right skills and answer the questions we need to ask in the right order.

***Blaine Howe,
Hampton VIC***

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WORKING THE VULNERABILITY

Your strategy and tactics should vary, considerably according to the vulnerability. When you are not vulnerable vs. vulnerable, “green”, you can afford to be three down doubled, -500, when opponents have a game on. You can be ultra-aggressive, to the point of recklessness.



When you are vulnerable vs not vulnerable, “red”, you can only afford to be one down doubled, -200, when opponents have a game on. Two down doubled would be -500, and opponents’ game will only score -420. When “red” you should tread very carefully.

You hold this hand:

♠ 9 4
♥ A 4
♦ K Q J 10 3
♣ 9 8 6 4

If you are green it is an easy 1♦ opening. Diamonds are a great lead, you have good playing strength, and your side may have a good save in 5♣ or 5♦ against 4♥ or 4♠. But if you are red, you should pass. No longer are you interested in a save, and you may end up in a partscore, failing by two tricks. Minus 200 at pairs is the “kiss of death” since -200 will be a larger minus than all your opponents’ likely partscores.

What about this hand after a 1♣ opening on your right:

♠ A J 9 5 4
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 9
♣ 9 6 4 2

If you are green, you should venture a 1♠ overcall. The vulnerability is your protection, plus your singleton in an unbid suit is a powerful asset. As well as the nuisance value of a 1♠ overcall, you may have a good save in 4♠ against 4♥. If you and your partner have five spades each, one of you must make the first move, and you should enter the bidding while you have the chance at the one-level. And if your partner has a shapely hand with only four spades, then clearly it’s even more your responsibility to make your side’s first bid.

If you are red, you’re better to pass; it looks just too risky to bid on such a poor hand when the penalties are so high. That’s not to say a number of world class experts wouldn’t overcall 1♠ when red.

How about this hand in first seat:

♠ A K J 10 7 4
♥ 6 2
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 9 4

It looks like a standard weak 2♠ opening, and so it is if it is equal vulnerability, or you are red. But if you are green, you can afford to up the ante with a 3♠ opening. Don’t forget that when green, you can afford to be three down doubled if opponents have a game on. Opening three bids are invariably seven-card suits when vulnerable, but a reasonable six-card suit can be a very effective three-bid at green or nil vulnerable.

And if partner can raise your preempt there is an even bigger problem for opponents, 3♠ (Dbl) 4♠ or 3♠ (4♥) 4♠. Should opponents double you and risk collecting only 500, or gamble on bidding on to the five-level to try and score +650? Either way, many things can go wrong for them.

This time the bidding proceeds (1♣) Pass (1♥) ?:

♠ K J 10 8 7 4
♥ J 10
♦ 9 5
♣ 7 5 3

At green, my partner ventured 3♠, based on the vulnerability, and the fact that I had passed over 1♣. Her LHO doubled 3♠, and I bid 4♠ with:

♠ 9 3 2
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ J 8 7 4 2
♣ 6

It’s very difficult to bid 7♣ now, or even 6♣.

At red, you’re looking for trouble if you bid even 2♠. Alert opposition will be on the look-out to extract a penalty from their vulnerable opponents, and go out on a limb to double you.

Sacrifices are vastly underrated, and according to the *Deep Finesse* analysis on hand records, are the best result available on many hands. And when you are green, sacrifices abound. But you’ve got to push the envelope to find them.

*Paul Lavings
Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies*

Western Seniors Pairs Results

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Cynthia Belonogoff - Anton Pol | 179.0 |
| 2. Gill Dolling - Helen Kemp | 173.0 |
| 3. Noelene Law - Annabel Booth | 161.0 |

This event was held in Perth from 19-20 May, and provided a great weekend of bridge for players born before January 1, 1954.



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What should I bid?

I was pleased to see “*What should I bid?*” return to the ABF web-site. The feature recommenced in May, with star youth player Andy Hung at the helm. Winners receive a \$30 voucher for goods from *The Bridge Shop* or *Paul Lavings Bridge Books*.



The April submission came from Geoffrey Hart:

“Not vulnerable, playing matchpointed pairs, I was West, holding:

♠ 2, ♥ AQ8, ♦ KJ7, ♣ KQ10987

West Geoffrey	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	?

Comments: How should I continue?”

Andy’s Reply:

Hi Geoffrey,

After partner responds 1♠ to your 1♣ opening you should rebid 3♣ - it’s not wise to be thinking about rebidding 2♣, because that shows less than 15 points, and there’s nothing to be ashamed about with that hand. Your club suit is filled with good intermediaries - compare a suit of KQ10987 and KQ5432 - obviously the former is much better than the latter.

It’s true that partner’s response in our short suit is a bit of a turn-off, but it is our duty to show partner our hand, as that is what bidding is all about - a dialogue and not a monologue.

Hope that helps, Andy

Thanks, Andy. I think the “standard” reply of 3♣ is a gross underbid with this hand with the great texture in the club suit, and the attractive holdings in the red suits. Game in notrump or clubs needs very little help from partner. How does partner find out about your great red cards after a 3♣ response? I’m inclined to make a second bid of 2♦, giving partner more room to show his stuff. For example, the opportunity to bid an invitational fourth suit. Any thoughts? Geoff

G’day Geoff,

I don’t think 3♣ is an underbid at all. Yes, it’s true that the great texture, along with the good red suit holdings, make our hand good, but we must not overstate our hand to partner. Our hand fits perfectly within a 3♣ rebid range, and you should (well, I would!) trust partner to bid game if we have one. If partner passes 3♣ and we miss a game I would be very surprised if

the fault was mine, because I personally do not see any fault with 3♣ (for example, if partner has ♣A that should not be “just 4 points” but more like 6 or 7).

“How does partner find out about your great red cards after your 3♣ response?”

Partner can’t find out about our great red cards, but he knows the playing strength of my hand from the 3♣ bid. If partner has, say, Kxx, xxx, in hearts and diamonds, respectively, then assuming partner has enough playing strength to look for game, he can bid 3♥, showing values in hearts, but lacking diamond “stuff” for 3NT. It might seem a ‘disadvantage’ for you to not be able to tell partner about your great red cards, but I think this is a red herring. Imagine a constructive auction of 1♥, 1♠; 3♥. Now I can basically ask the same question: “how do you find out about the great spade+club or diamond+club or spade+diamond cards in the 3♥ bidder’s hand?” The point is that you can’t show “everything” about your hand, but you can give a good definition of the hand to partner and still work out which game to play, if there is one. Remember, bidding in bridge (probably not rubber bridge) is about “telling partner what you have”, not about “bidding what you think you can make”.

“I’m inclined to make a second bid of 2♦, giving partner more room to show his stuff. For example, the opportunity to bid an invitational 4th suit.”

I personally do not like 2♦ (sorry!), I would only make this type of distortion if...

(a) I had the same hand but my spades+hearts were reversed, as I intend to show partner my spades later to depict a hand shape of something like 3-1-4-5 or 3-1-3-6, or

(b) A hand too good to rebid 3♣ (so 18+HCP) - yes, it’s true that you can agree to rebid 3NT with this hand type, but sometimes you have 3-card major support for partner, or you have a really strong hand and a rebid of 3NT would prevent any room for bidding scientifically.

(c) I have discussed with partner that this 2♦ bid does not promise a diamond suit.

However, with the current hand, there is nothing special about it, so I will show my playing strength with a 3♣ rebid. If you choose to distort your hand by bidding 2♦ with hands like these, then you are opening another can of worms, and you will no doubt encounter other different types of problems (as is often the case when you bid a three-card suit when you intend it to show a four-card suit!).

Andy

Clever Plays in the Trump Suit

by **David Bird**

Master Point Press, Canada, 2012, soft cover, 205 pages, \$29.95



Master writer David Bird has created yet another amazing book, this time focussing on the power of the trump suit. The 11 chapters, five with testing quizzes, cover all aspects of trump play, from safety plays, timing and trump control to 4-3 trump fits, unblocking in trumps and bad trump breaks. I enjoyed this hand from the chapter on accumulating trump tricks. South opens 2♠ and plays there on the lead of ♣J:

♠ 6
♥ A K 9 5
♦ A 9 8 3
♣ Q 7 5 2

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

♠ K 10 7 4 3 2
♥ 7 3 2
♦ 4
♣ K 4 3

As is often the case after a weak two opening, opposite a singleton in dummy, the trump suit is far too weak to consider drawing trumps. You aim to score four trump tricks to go with your four top tricks in the side suits. Win ♣K, and trump three diamonds using ♦A and ♥AK as entries. With seven tricks in the bag these cards remain:

♠ 6
♥ 9 5
♦ ---
♣ Q 7 5

♠ A Q 9 5	♠ J 8
♥ ---	♥ J 10
♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ 10 9	♣ A 8

♠ K 10 7
♥ 7
♦ ---
♣ 4 3

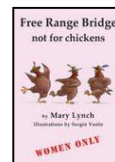
A heart would allow East to play through your spades twice, so you exit a club to ♣Q and ♣A, and cannot be prevented from making an eighth trick. "Clever Plays" is mandatory reading for intermediate to

advanced players. Not only is it an A to Z education in and around the trump suit, but beautifully written and a treat from start to finish.

Free Range Bridge

by **Mary Lynch**

Key Graphics, Victoria, 2012, soft cover, 98 pages \$19.95



The ABF membership comprises 70% women, so why are there only five women in the top 50 Masterpoint winners for 2012, posted at the end of May? Mary Lynch, a psychotherapist by profession, who spent many years playing at Grand Slam Bridge Centre in Double Bay and Trumps at Mosman, analyses the situation and sets out to supply the solutions.

In the nine chapters, the author firstly discusses the differences between men and women at the bridge table, then continues with partnership issues, trusting yourself, luck, and even whether to call the director or not, finishing with sacrificing, tactical bids, and keeping your cool.

The book is easy reading, inspiring in spots, and recommended for club players who aspire to broaden their horizons and improve their results.

*Reviews by Paul Lavings,
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New clubrooms opened in Nambucca

Nambucca Valley Bridge Club hosted the official opening of their new clubhouse on May 17, 2012.

Club Secretary and Building Project Coordinator Gayle Keenan reports that the club, which has 118 members from South West Rocks through to Coffs Harbour, had raised the \$360,000 building cost of the facility without government support.



Gayle Keenan and Phil Booth at the building site with Councillor Michael Moran OAM (centre) as he 'turns the first sod'.

The new rooms, which include a playing area with a capacity for 28 tables, kitchen, parking and easy access, will enable the club to cost congress events, attracting players from across the coast and the tablelands. This will bring a spin off to the local community, as those visitors will stay, eat and shop in the Nambucca Valley. Plans are also afoot to involve Nambucca Heads High School students.

A traditional smoking ceremony was conducted by the local aboriginal elder Reg Davis, and Auntie Rose Boston played the national anthem on a gum leaf.

At the opening ceremony Gayle's dedication to the cause was recognised with the awarding of Life Membership, while the Coffs Harbour Bridge Club donated a dealing machine to their Nambucca cousins.

President Phil Booth said the club now looked forward to a period of sustained growth.

Photographs of the new facility can be viewed on the club's website:

www.bridgewebs.com/nambucca

***Gayle Keenan, Hon. Secretary
Nambucca Valley Bridge Club***

Margaret Choate 1917 - 2012

Those of you who have visited the South Australian Bridge Association in the Adelaide suburb of Unley, would no doubt have noticed the honour boards that adorn the walls of the main playing room, not unlike many other bridge clubs around the country.

Of the myriad of names appearing on those boards, one appears more often than any other, that of Margaret Choate, who passed away last month aged 94. Most readers born after about 1965 would ask an obvious question. So who was Margaret Choate?

After joining SABA in the early 1950s, Margaret, then Margaret Lusk, made an early impact, winning the first of many state women's pairs events which were conducted on the then ladies only day, Wednesday. The next year, with husband Pax, along with Max Choate and Kevin Rook, she played in the South Australian Open Team in Melbourne, playing an important role in the first ever interstate win for her state, defeating a strong NSW team in the final. Since ANC records prior to 1956 only include initials and not titles, it is a matter of conjecture as to whether she was the first woman player to achieve this feat.

In the first half of the 1970s Margaret Choate's formidable partnership with Cecile Miles was in full flight. Many thought that these two made up the stand-out pair amongst Australian women players at that time. This view was clearly echoed by the ABF, who offered them a place in the 1971 national women's team without requiring them to qualify through the Butler. Although that offer was declined for personal reasons,

Margaret and Cecile later won the 1975 Women's Butler to take their place in the 1975 team for the Far East and the 1976 Olympiad.

Towards the end of the 1970s, Margaret retired from bridge at national level and confined herself mainly



Margaret and Cecile, 1975



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Margaret with family dog Ruby in later life

to club events. This did not stop her from winning multiple state championships, most notably the Mixed Teams, which evolved through the Wednesday playing schedule and, lastly, with second husband Max, the Mixed Pairs in 2008. In fact, she held both Mixed titles in that year, at the age of 90. Overall, Margaret won over 40 major titles in South Australia, including the Open Teams (five times), Open Pairs (twice) and Mixed Pairs (four times).

David Lusk

News from the West

The Country Grand National Open Teams qualifying competition was held in Kojonup over the long weekend, 2 - 4 June. 20 pairs vied for the right to represent Western Australia at Tweed Heads later this year.

The winners were Jean McLarty of Mandurah and Di Brooks of Bunbury. Second were Rita Leeming - Kay Thompson from Albany, 2011 winners, with Kate Boston - Murray Webber of Bunbury third.

The 14-board matches were closely fought, although going into the penultimate round, Di Brooks and Jean McLarty held a healthy lead, winning all of their 10 matches.

Congratulations to the Conveners, Director Peter Holloway and all participants, for making it a great competition, played in a friendly sporting atmosphere. Earmark the Country GNOT for 2013 in Kojonup. Hope to see you there.

Val Knott and Nils Andersson of Bunbury Bridge Club, won the May Red Point event. They scored 64%.



The unusual twist to this story; both men organised a "percentage" Lucky Dip. The pair nearest to the percentage drawn from this "Dip" were presented with a bottle of wine, donated by Nils and Val. Johanna Healey and Robin Waugh received the wine. (Their score is undisclosed ... to protect the innocent)!

Congratulations to Nils and Val. Not only are they worthy winners, they are true sporting bridge players.

Happy bridging, Di Brooks



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www.tbib.com.au

If you are interested, either apply on-line or contact senior broker Steve Weil on (07) 3252 5254 or email steveweil@tbib.com.au with a heading 'ABF Membership Benefit Query'.

Steve would also be happy to assist with any queries in regard to business, personal or professional insurance issues.



2012 Women's Team Playoffs

This year the ABF decided to run the Women's Playoffs on a "Division 1 and 2 format" similar to that of the Open, provided more than six teams entered. When only five teams entered, the format reverted to that of past years, with a double round robin followed by a final.

I was surprised that fewer teams entered than in past years (when we have had six teams) – perhaps reflecting a lack of interest in women's bridge – when in the open event, many more teams entered than has been usual.

The qualifying rounds involved 16-board matches, spread over three days, and each team had a bye in each round robin. This format suited my team admirably, given we had entered as a four-person team, and all the other teams had six members.

There were a significant number of hands that involved accurate leading, whether the opening lead or switches during the play, so this article will largely focus on this topic.

Qualifying, Match 1, Board 13

♠ K 10 9 5 2
♥ K J 8 7 5 4
♦ 6
♣ 6

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

West	North <i>Travis</i>	East	South <i>Ginsberg</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

I had no opening bid to describe the North hand, so was prepared to wait and come in later (since the majors are the 'boss' suits). 2♥ was a mild overbid, but I had plenty of distribution to offset the lack of points.

East led her singleton in partner's suit. West cogitated about her play at trick two, focused on the singleton spade in dummy (and dummy's ruffing potential) and switched to a trump. Now the contract was cold – they couldn't both draw trumps and cash ♦A. As it happened, East ducked ♥A, which must be wrong in the long term, given that dummy will now be able



The finalists: Rena Kaplan, Elizabeth Havas, Jenny Thompson, Barbara Travis, Julia Hoffman, Candice Ginsberg, Eva Caplan, Sheila Bird, Nevena Djurovic and Karen Creet

to trump spades regardless. The trump was won in dummy, ♣A and ♣K cashed to throw the diamond loser, and then I was able to trump two spade losers (one is enough, with ♠K1095 remaining).

At the other table, Elizabeth Havas and Nevena Djurovic were more accurate in their defence against the same contract. Trick one was won with ♠A, with trick two being ♦A. Now when the trump switch was won with ♥A, another trump followed. Although declarer could now discard a small spade on the second club winner, there remained only one trump to deal with ♠K109, so the contract could no longer be made.

Felicity Beale played 4♠ beautifully against me:

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

As North, she opened 1♠ and I overcalled 1NT. My partner transferred to hearts, but Felicity now rebid 4♠.

In order to have any chance of defeating the contract I would have had to lead ♦A, dropping her ♦K. Then I can switch to ♣K, and on winning ♠A, I can cash ♣Q and exit ♠10, awaiting my heart trick. (I could have led ♣K, then cashed my tricks in the other order, exiting with ♠10 later.)

These lead options eluded me. I led ♠A and another spade. Felicity now cashed the next seven spade tricks on me. Her contract was now always cold because my hand (known to be strong from the 1NT overcall) just has too many suits to guard. Eventually I threw ♦A, keeping a smaller diamond and hoping partner held ♦K

(for a heart lead through Felicity's hand). That didn't work, and I'd given Felicity an overtrick! She cashed ♦K, then led ♣A and her small club to me – leaving me to lead a heart from my king.

Two hands in the event involved careful play of 'card combinations':

Qualifying, Match 5, Board 4

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

West was declaring 3NT on the lead of ♦4. The diamond was ducked to ♦J, and a diamond was continued. As long as diamonds break 4-4, the contract looks good if clubs behave – five clubs, one heart, one diamond, and two spades. So declarer worked on establishing her extra spade tricks immediately. She led ♠K, which I won (as North) to cash my additional diamond winners (they broke 4-4). However, when I exited with ♥J which declarer had to win with ♥A, the bad club break foiled her plans. I held ♣J642 and she could no longer untangle her 5 club tricks.

Nevena Djurovic, on the other hand, perceived the possible threat to the hand if clubs broke 4-0, and clarified that position before entry positions became difficult. She led a club to the king first, to allow for Jxxx in either hand (as you can now finesse either

way). Now she was able to cross back to ♣A, then lead ♣10 and finesse North for ♣J whilst she still had communications between the hands.

(Yes, I believe that the hand might still fail on some breaks, but North held a 4-1-4-4 hand shape so there were always entries to the East hand!)

The other card combination involved playing AK97 opposite Q8432 for five tricks. This holding is totally different to the previous holding, in that this time you are missing J1065. As long as the suit breaks 3-1 or 2-2 you have five winners, but you have to allow for a 4-0 break too. In this example, you cannot make five tricks if J1065 lies 'behind' AK97. The defenders will always get one trick in the suit. However, you *can* make five tricks if you allow for J1065 'in front of' AK97. You must cash the queen first, and then you can finesse (twice) for the J106 that remains! If you carelessly play the ace or king first, you can no longer take five tricks in the suit. Naturally, J1065 were onside on this hand!

The top two teams were destined to play a 96-board final over two days. Despite a rocky final day, TRAVIS qualified first, with HOFFMAN, Julia Hoffman [ACT], Jenny Thompson [VIC], Sheila Bird [ACT], Karen Creet [ACT], Rena Kaplan [VIC], Eva Caplan [VIC] second.

Although we had played a double round robin there was no carry forward. The first 16 boards were swingy, with the scoreline being TRAVIS 75 – HOFFMAN 35. That's a lot of IMPs, so let's look at some of the action from that set.

Women's Final, Board 8

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

At one table, my team played in 3♠ EW, and at the other table my team pushed on to 4♥ by NS. Both contracts were extremely pushy, and both were destined to make on careful play. In 4♥, you can either ruff spades or set up South's diamond suit for discards winners. The key is to ensure you do not lose two heart tricks (in other words, you do not finesse, then cash ♥A – you either finesse hearts twice, or you cash ♥A).

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In 3♠, with a heart lead and diamond switch, the key to the hand is to ensure that there are only two club losers. That meant that someone has to hold a doubleton honour, and with North having shown long hearts, they were more likely to be short in clubs. So the first club lead had to be from dummy, towards ♣Q, and the next club lead involves ducking the suit around. When this materialised, we had a partscore/game swing.

Elizabeth Havas and Nevena Djurovic then bid to a very good 6♣ on the next hand, their hands being:

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

At our table, the Acol 1♥ opening bidder had a problem with her rebid after partner's 2♣ response. She chose to suppress her club support in order to show her points, rebidding 2NT. This meant the bidding died in 3NT. There are always hands that suit certain systems better than others, but I do think that denying such significant club support cannot be a winning strategy in the long run.

Over the next four sets, *HOFFMAN* wore our lead away. Board 25 of the second set was one high point for us:

Women's Final, Board 25

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

At the other table:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♥	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

At our table:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♥	2♦	Dbl
2♥	3♣	3NT	4♣
4♦	All Pass		

After Candice Ginsberg's negative double, I was very aggressive in showing my second suit (as North). However, we'd been finding we hadn't been

bidding enough on these hands, so were trying to be more active. As a result of the vulnerability (NS not vulnerable, EW vulnerable), Candice was now able to take a great sacrifice with her shapely hand.

Unfortunately for EW, 4NT was a better place to play than 4♦ (6 diamonds, one club, and three spades with the finesse). In 4♦, Candice (South) could lead her singleton heart, get a heart ruff after I played ♥Q at trick two, covered with declarer's king, and then lead to my ♣A for my ♥J winner – and one down.

In the fifth set, another lead hand raised its head on Board 26:

The auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Dbl	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

You (West) are on lead, holding: ♠ K9842, ♥ 982, ♦ 104, ♣ QJ2

Partner's double had shown the blacks, but it is vital to lead ♣Q. You have too many spades for the spade lead to be correct.

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

After Ginsberg's ♣Q lead, the contract could no longer be made. If you cover, East switches to a spade. If you duck, West can also switch to a spade.

On a spade lead, declarer must duck at trick one. The duck of East's spade honour ensures that West cannot get the lead (when the diamond finesse fails), and prevents any killing club switch.

The other table received a passive trump lead, but if you review the auction there is some indication that you need to be active – because of the diamond bid followed by heart support.

By the start of the final 16 boards, *HOFFMAN* had reduced our lead to 1 IMP. A few favourable results gave us a bit of breathing space – enough to allow me to go down in a game where I tried to allow for a 4-1 trump split (offside), only to find they were 5-0 (onside) and I'd found a way to fail in a cold contract!

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Once again, the opening lead reared its head, this time on the last hand. On an auction where South had shown a two-suiter in diamonds and spades (after we'd bid clubs and hearts), North ended in 4♠ doubled.

I had to lead from: ♠ A74, ♥ Q10964, ♦ J105, ♣ Q8. I constantly tell people that you have to lead trumps on these hands, to stop the ruffs. Being true to my principles, I led ♠A and another trump.

The NS hands were:

♠ J 6 2
 ♥ 8 7 5 3 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A J 10 2

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

The trump lead was the only lead to defeat the contract because North could now only trump one diamond, rather than many!

After five days of bridge, *TRAVIS* had qualified to

become the Australian Women's Team for 2012. I'd like to congratulate *HOFFMAN* on a challenging match played in very friendly, but competitive fashion.

Having not played in the Women's Playoffs for the past few years, I would like to make one observation. The women sure bid a lot! I noticed our team was more conservative than most of our opponents, basically just 'bidding our hands', and that paid big dividends. For example, every pair in the Women's field bid to 3NT holding:

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

My question is this: Do we really want to be in game on these 23 HCP hands, with no decent suit?

Being a four-person team, we have had to augment to six players for the World Mind Sport Games in Lille, France in August. The ABF has recently ratified Margaret Bourke and Sue Lusk as our additional pair. We hope to do Australia proud.

Barbara Travis, Adelaide

Women's BBO events

We are delighted to announce that, starting immediately, there will be a daily online individual tournament just for women on BBO ... the times will be:

- 16.10 European Time (CEST)
- 10.10 New York Time (EDT)
- 02.10 New South Wales, Australia

So, please help by giving this as much publicity as you can – all the details can be found on the website www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org. The entry fee will be BBO \$1 per tournament as normal.

Remember that this is not a world championship. Our aim is to let women players enjoy bridge with friends from all over the world and to play in a friendly atmosphere, so playing is more important than to win. After all, each tournament can only have one winner, but everyone who plays can enjoy the challenge, the camaraderie, the fun of participation!

The 5th Women's Online World Bridge Festival turned out to be a big success, with 305 tables. Our sincere congratulations go to the winners of the overall ranking:

1. *EWeber* (Elke Weber), Germany
2. *sigth* (Sigrun Thorvardardottir) Iceland
3. *Sunisav* (Sunisa Vatanasuk) Thailand

More information has been published at www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org. We would like to thank everyone who came along and played in the Festival. We do hope they will join in the new daily tournaments and look forward to "seeing" them at the next Online Women's Bridge Festival!

Victor Champion Cup results

Women's Pairs

1. Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk
- 2=. Nevena Djurovic - Elizabeth Havas
- 2=. Alida Clark - Marnie Leybourne

Open Pairs

1. Bruce Neill - David Wiltshire
2. John Bailey - Douglas Newlands

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- 3=. Cevat Emul - Serhat Ozenir
- 3=. Hugh Grosvenor - Ann Paton

Seniors' Pairs

- Martin Bloom - Nigel Rosendorff
2. Blaine Howe - Bernard Waters
3. Clive Hope - Jack Kuiper

Open Teams

1. *NOBLE*, Barry Noble, George Bilski, Ashley Bach, Ishmael Del'Monte, Nabil Edgton
2. *HOLLANDS*, Peter Hollands, Adam Edgton, Justin Howard, Liam Milne
3. *KLINGER*, Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Bill Jacobs, Ben Thompson

Restricted Pairs

1. John Yang - Victor Zhang
2. Richard Bodell - Chris Fader\
3. Inpa Inpanathan - Chula Naranong

Under 50 Masterpoint Pairs

1. Lanny Chan - Ross Waddell
2. Dell MacNeil - Libby Persson
3. Sarah Carradine - Michael Young

Restricted Teams

1. *YANG*, John Yang, David Wei, Ming Zhang, Victor Zhang
2. *SERTORI*, Kevin Sertori, Sue Brink, Chrandrade Chakravorty, Mike Walden
3. *AFFLICK*, Patricia Afflick, Richard Bodell, Chris Fader, Richard Prickett

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- ✓ **three** free lessons from the ABF National Teaching Coordinator; and
- ✓ finger foods and drinks at a special '**Welcome to Competitive Play**' event.

What events can you enter?

If you have up to 20 Masterpoints at the time of the festival you are eligible to enter:

- ✓ Novice Pairs with your partner. This is being held on 16 January.
- ✓ Novice Teams event for players with less than 20 Masterpoints. This is being held on 17-18 January. Two pairs are required to enter as a team.
- ✓ National Restricted Swiss Pairs event. This is being held 19-20 January.

Alternatively, if you have either 21- 50 or 51- 150 Masterpoints at the time of the festival you are eligible to enter:

- ✓ Novice Teams event for players with 21-50 or the event for players with 51 – 150 Masterpoints. These are being held on 17-18 January. Two pairs are required to enter as a team.
- ✓ National Restricted Swiss Pairs event. This is being held 19-20 January.

What if you don't have a partner?

If you do not have either a partner for the pairs event or another pair to make up a team, simply contact the congress organiser and they will match you up for the event. This is common practice for all classes of player at our events.

Contact details will be available on the ABF website under Events nearer the time.

A helpful article by Joan Butts on novice play appears on the next page

For novice players

When you're starting out, your teacher will stress the importance of drawing trumps. Of course this is essential, but not always right at the beginning of the hand. Roughly 40% of the time, you need to do something else with the trump suit (usually dummy's) before you draw the opponents' trumps. Trumps are good to use for crossing between your hand and dummy's, for example.

What is essential immediately is the plan. Do it as soon as you see the lead. In no trumps, count winners (start with sure tricks, not ones that need to be developed) but in suits, count both winners and losers. Once you see the definite tricks available in aces, kings and queens, (same idea with losers), check how many extra you need to make your contract (eg you have six winners, and need to make 3NT – so, three extra tricks need to be found). That shortfall will be made up (hopefully) by developing extra tricks using one of the following techniques:

Promotion, Length, Finesse (in no trumps) and an additional two in suit contracts – that's Trumping, and Discarding Losers.

Sometimes it's not made clear to new players that the technique you use will depend on what card combinations you hold.

E.g., for promotion, you need middle cards (KQJxx, or J109x), and by losing the lead to the top cards, you will "promote" your middle ones into a certain number of winners.

So you must be prepared for losing the lead, something novice players fear, for the very sensible reason that they may not know how to **get the lead back!**

With the technique of length, you need more cards than the opponents have in a suit, and the cards need to be distributed well for you. (AKxxx opp. Qxx should give you five winners, if the opponents' cards split 3-2. You would have counted three sure winners in the beginning- A,K,Q – but the length should produce another two tricks)

The other thing to remember is that you must work on the suit you're trying to develop tricks in, because they won't magically appear. So go about your job as soon as possible, don't leave it too late. Be prepared to lose the lead if necessary.

In a trump suit, say to yourself "Is there anything I

need to do before drawing trumps?"

That's what stumps many novices – knowing what they're actually supposed to do! It's not so easy to see your losers or winners on each hand. You might make a plan, but that plan might need to be changed as you play through the hand and discover that the suits didn't behave as you needed them to. So, have a bit of sympathy for yourself!

Try to look confident (even if you're not feeling that way) and don't panic as declarer because you need to remember the lead and to visualise what that hand held. You also need to (try to) keep a count on important suits. You won't be able to count out every suit, just the crucial ones.

Counting losers is harder than counting winners, but the whole process is absolutely essential. Don't think any of it comes naturally, though – it doesn't. It reminds me of the old joke "How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Answer: PRACTISE, PRACTISE PRACTISE!"

Here are some excerpts from an article in Audrey Grant's "*Better Bridge*" magazine, dealing with these very real problems.

"To be a good declarer, or defender, we must learn to count – everything! Right from the beginning, we count our 13 cards, our high-card, length and later shortage points. But the main thing we need to count is tricks!

In the next Newsletter, I will give you some practical play advice. Meanwhile, see if you can come up with the best line in 3NT on the following hand, which comes from the chapter "Counting in No Trumps".

Suppose we reach a contract of 3NT as South, and West leads ♥6:

♠ K J 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A Q J 6
♣ K 10 6 4

♠ Q 6 2
♥ A K
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ A Q J 7

What's our plan after winning the first trick with ♥K? Answer in next Newsletter.

Joan Butts

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It's the Law!

Oops – I didn't mean to do that!

Bridge is very much a game of mistakes, and the winners are usually those who commit the smallest number of errors. Consequently, the laws are not very sympathetic towards a player who misbids, mis-analyses, miscounts, misevaluates or misplays one or more of the hands. They are, however, somewhat more forgiving in situations that involve non-cognitive (i.e., mechanical) errors.



“Until his partner makes a call, a player may substitute his intended call for an unintended call but only if he does so, or attempts to do so, without pause for thought.” (Law 25A1)

‘Unintended’ is defined in the laws as “involuntary; not under control of the will; not the intention of the player at the moment of his action”.

The accidental removal of the wrong bidding card from a bidding box is an example of an unintended action. The use of the wrong denomination on the written bidding pad is another example of a possible unintended call.

In applying this law the Director must be satisfied that the player never had it in his mind to select the action he took. Opening 1♥ with only one heart and five spades clearly suggests some sort of inexplicable mental aberration and the Director would normally allow the correction to 1♠. By contrast, a player who opens 1♣ with a four-card suit before changing it to 1NT has probably just remembered that he is playing a different no trump range, hence the first call would not be considered unintentional, no matter how quick the correction. The acid test is always the player's incontrovertible intention, not the speed of the change.

The opportunity to correct an unintended call only expires when the player's partner subsequently calls. A bid may be treated as unintentional under this law, even if the player's attention is first drawn to it by the action of his partner in alerting the bid, or by an opponent's request for an explanation of the bid. Once again, the clear intention of the player is the guideline the Director uses. Cuebidding 2♠ over 1♠ with a minimum hand and a six-card club suit clearly suggests it is appropriate to allow a change. By contrast, bidding 2♥ in response to 1NT with a heart suit when playing transfers, does not qualify.

Sometimes the original bid looks ridiculous in the context of the player's hand, but that doesn't necessarily imply that it was unintended. Many strange

calls are the result of a player not seeing their partner's or an opponent's previous call. Sometimes the problem is due to the legibility of partner's handwriting. In most of these cases the original call was actually intended, it is just that it was based upon a false premise.

Sometimes a player will momentarily forget the true nature of their partner's last call. A simple example is when a player passes a splinter bid or a Blackwood response, instead of signing off in the agreed trump suit. None of these passes qualify as ‘unintended’, because the player's thought processes told him to pass at the very instance that he did. The usual scenario is that the player, having first decided not to bid on to game or slam, simply forgets that the partnership is not yet in the correct denomination.

The most common correctable situations using bidding boxes are those where the mis-pulled call is adjacent to the intended call (i.e., 2NT or 2♥ instead of 2♠, or the removal of a ‘Double’ card instead of a ‘Pass’ card). The Director will, however, be much more reluctant to allow a change (on purely mechanical grounds) if the prospective alternative call comes from a distinctly different part of the bidding box (such as the attempted replacement of a 3♣ bid with a Pass).

Unintended actions can also feature in the play of the hand:

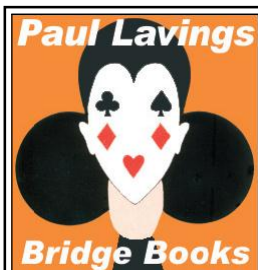
“Until his partner has played a card a player may change an unintended designation if he does so without pause for thought.” [Law 45C4(b)]

Note that this law uses the term ‘designation’. This means it usually only applies when a player verbally indicates the card he wishes to play, and it therefore relates principally to the cards that declarer nominates from the dummy. A legal card played in the normal manner by a defender or one from declarer's hand cannot be changed, irrespective of whether it was intended or not.

Typically the law covers situations where a declarer, in leading from dummy, accidentally says “small heart” instead of “small club”. Conversely, it is not applicable to a declarer who, having reconsidered the situation, now wants to change from a “small spade” to the “King of hearts”. Intent remains the key issue, so a slip of the tongue is correctable, while a change of mind is not.

The rulings in all these situations require a certain degree of judgment and hence it is always the director and not the players who determine if an action qualifies as ‘unintended’.

*Laurie Kelso,
Melbourne*



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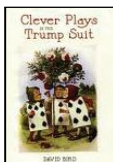
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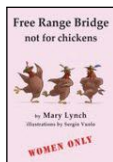
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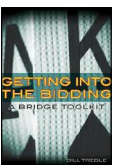
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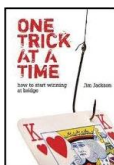
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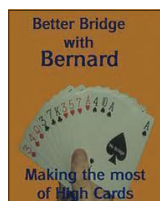
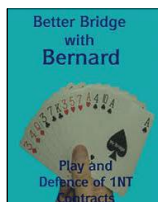
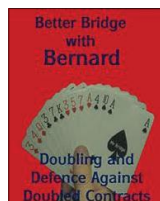
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