

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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ABF Leadership changes

At the ABF's Annual General Meeting held in Canberra on 24-25 May, the ABF Management Committee for the period 2014-2016 was announced as follows:

- Bruce Neill, New South Wales (National President)
- Allison Stralow, Western Australia (National Secretary)
- Roy Nixon, Australian Capital Territory (ABF Treasurer),
- Dallas Cooper, Tasmania (Committee member)
- Simon Hinge, Victoria (Committee member)

General Counsel for the ABF is Russel Harms.

The outgoing President Keith McDonald, Secretary Dianne Marler and General Counsel Eilis Magner were thanked for their long and valuable contributions to the ABF.

From the ABF President – Bruce Neill

I have loved bridge for more years than I want to count, and had many good experiences as a bridge player. I am pleased to have the opportunity to put back into the game as ABF President.



I know that many people working on ABF and State and Territory committees do so for the same reason. I thank them all.

I also thank Keith McDonald as outgoing ABF President for his long and valuable service. It's good that he will still be available as "President Emeritus" to remind us of ABF history and share his extensive experience.

I am a firm believer in the benefits of bridge for both social and mental health, for the fierce competitors among us and for those who enjoy a social game.

As well as supporting the top of the competitive pyramid, international teams and national championships, the ABF also importantly works with states and ter-

ritories to provide support to clubs and players – e.g. marketing, teacher training, etc. The ABF Council discussed our priorities at the May Annual General Meeting and listed them as:

1. enhancing the enjoyment/experience of players
2. increasing the number of active players; and
3. performing well at international championships.

I and the incoming Management Committee will do our utmost to deliver on all these fronts..

We also aim to improve how the ABF Management Committee works and how we work together effectively and respectfully with members of the ABF Council and State and Territory Committees for the benefit of our wonderful sport.

New General Counsel

Russel Harms was admitted to practice in 1973 and is a Barrister practising at the South Australian Bar as a member of Anthony Mason Chambers. Prior to going to the Bar in 1996 he was the managing partner of Tindall Gask Bentley. He has provided legal advice to the South Australian Bridge Association since he started playing bridge 30 years ago, and was President of that Association at a time when it was South Australia's representative body. He has represented South Australia at Open level and was a member of the successful South Australian Senior team in Melbourne in 2011. He has also been a member of successful teams at the GNOT and ANOT.



Committee of Honour

The ABF Committee of Honour consists of those individuals elected by the Council in General Meeting in recognition of their outstanding service to bridge. Professor Eilis Magner was elected to this prestigious committee at the May 2014 AGM, for her long servicing role as General Counsel.



In this role she acted as honorary legal adviser to the Federation and advised the Management Committee and the Council as to their legal position.

Addressing poor behaviour

ABF research continues to reveal that poor behaviour in our clubs and our tournaments is a major concern for members of our affiliated clubs. Many clubs and events have had the unpleasant experience of disruptive players ruining other members' enjoyment.

We all play bridge because we love it. We need to ensure that the game is fun for *everyone* by observing the few simple proprieties that make bridge fair and enjoyable.

As articulated in the ABF Strategic Plan 2013-17, our organisational values include:

- being tolerant and respectful; and
- being fair and professional in all our dealings.

Therefore, the ABF has developed a three part approach for dealing with this critical issue. This approach involves:

- Affiliated clubs promoting fair play and being a good sport. Prevention is better than cure!
- assistance for clubs which may need to establish complaint handling and disciplinary procedures for dealing with inappropriate behaviour.
- ABF tournaments having 'Please be Considerate' posters on display as a visual reminder to competitors of expected behaviour.

Help stamp out inappropriate behaviour!

St Patrick's Day at Glenbrook

by *Trish Ryan*

On Sunday, 16th March, Glenbrook Bridge Club celebrated St Patrick's Day at its monthly Sunday afternoon bridge. There were 13 tables in play, and each person got into the spirit of the day by wearing something green, either in clothing or a hat or both.

Afternoon tea was provided by the players attending. The food was delicious and included many green delicacies such as green mint leaves, savoury green muffins



and green iced cakes. Guinness, wine and soft drink were also on offer. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and the bridge.

PS: It was an ordinary 'Green Point' event to celebrate the day.

Finalist at Capel Community Awards

Bunbury Bridge Club President, Val Knott, nominated Di Brooks for the Community Award for Citizen of the Year. She is pictured at right with Alannah Slater, former artistic gymnast and Australian Sports Ambassador at the awards ceremony.

Di, Club Coordinator at Bunbury Bridge Club, ran several successful fundraising events, in aid of Margaret River



Bush Fire Appeal and the Royal Flying Doctor. Di volunteers with Capel Primary School as a mentor, serves on the P & C Committee, and the Uniting Church Op Shop. She also coaches a group of bridge students at Capel Library.

Some of her other roles are as editor of newsletters, including Bunbury Bridge Club's Bridge Unlimited, as well as her regular bridge contributions to the South West Times, BAWAs Focus and Rockingham's 7NT.

Top 10 Most Improved Players for 2014

Name	ABF No.	Club	Rank	Total MP	Total 2014	Improvement
Newman, John	759181	2-093	*National	230.31	103.34	3,129
Zhou, Watson	928968	4-620	**Local	43.87	43.87	3,049
Korenhof, Andre	904023	2-001	*State	129.30	59.62	2,600
Hoogervorst, Carola	904015	2-001	*State	126.68	56.61	2,497
Heywood, Jo-Anne	749656	3-442	National	178.22	67.34	2,420
Ashton, Sophie	711470	2-001	*National	209.15	69.28	2,241
Jenkins, Joan	836788	4-555	National	168.41	59.08	2,201
Li, Eileen	790443	4-555	Life	332.06	94.87	2,196
Wikman, Carmel	785679	4-572	*State	131.02	48.91	2,117
Cooper, Renee	726249	9-995	Life	386.73	101.54	2,086

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by Ron Klinger

With one qualifying round to go in the Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide, the leaders and the only ones with a chance of reaching the final were *BROWN*, Terry Brown – Avi Kanetkar, Matt Mullaughy – Ron Klinger on 122.46 Victory Points, from *TRAVIS*, Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Russell Harms – Jeff Travis, 118.93 VPs, *MILNE*, Liam Milne – Nye Griffiths, Ishmael Del'Monte – Peter Hollands, 113.46, *MELBOURNE*, Howard Melbourne – Paul Gosney, Adam Edgton – Nabil Edgton, 108.10 and *PELLEN*, Graham Pellen – Mark Jappe, David Parrott – Michal Rosa, 106.76.

In the last round *TRAVIS* beat *BROWN* by 3 IMPs, 10.97 - 9.03. That put *BROWN* on 131.49 and *TRAVIS* on 129.90. *MELBOURNE* lost by 20 IMPs and *MILNE*, who needed a win of 16.5 VPs or better lost heavily to *PELLEN*, who finished third. That left *BROWN* and *TRAVIS* to fight out the final.

The final was over 56 boards and *BROWN* won the first session 63 - 10 IMPs. Try this problem:

East deals, all vulnerable

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

North leads ♥Q. You play ♥K and it wins. After four rounds of diamonds, do you take the club finesse?

Board 4, East deals, all vulnerable

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

Both EW pairs bid the same, and both Norths led ♥Q, covered by the king, winning. Both declarers cashed the diamonds. At our table, South threw ♠2 and ♥3. Do you risk the club finesse?



Avi Kanetkar and Terry Brown

If it works, you make 1NT, perhaps with overtricks. If it fails you are -200. You can take ♣A and settle for -100 (or make 11 tricks if North has ♣K bare).

It was clear that NS could make 2♥ or 3♥. To go one down would gain 0 or 1 IMP if our teammates were in hearts. Making 1NT would gain at least 5 or 6 IMPs. If the other table played in 1NT and settled for six tricks, then the finesse could gain 5 IMPs or lose 3. All of that pointed to taking the club finesse, which worked for +90.

At the other table Kanetkar, South, played a devilish card. He discarded ♠2 on the third diamond and ♣4(!) on the fourth diamond. Barbara Travis felt that no one would pitch a club from K-x-x and so she played ♣A, one down, -5 IMPs.

East deals, EW vulnerable

	♠ K 6 2	♠ 7 5	
	♥ 6 5	♥ A 8 7 3	
	♦ A 8 7 5 3 2	♦ K J 10 9	
	♣ 6 2	♣ A 9 3	
West	North	East	South
		1♦	2♠ ¹
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1. Weak

North leads ♣K: three – four – two and continues with ♣5. NS play high-encouraging. Do you take ♣A or duck again? If you duck, South wins with ♣10 and switches to ♠Q. Do you play ♠K or a low spade?

Board 6, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

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At one table Jeff Travis, South, was one down in 4♠. He could not avoid losing to the three aces and ♠K.

At the other table, Candice Ginsberg was West in 3NT after the previous auction. She ducked ♣K lead and ducked ♣5 next. When South switched to ♠Q, she took her genuine chance and rose with ♠K. That led to four down, -400 and -10 IMPs. Had South had ♠A, West would have scored +600 and +11 IMPs.

West could duck the first spade and play ♠K on the next spade, but, of course, South might revert to clubs when holding ♠A. West could have taken ♣A and cashed out for one down and there was a case for that. North's failure to lead a spade suggested that North had ♠A. With ♣J-10-x or ♣J-10-x-x, South might have played ♣J encouraging at trick one, rather than the discouraging ♣4. Thus North's low club at trick two looks like a desperate move to find South's entry. That would not be sensible if ♠A was with South.

West deals, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	?

What would you do as South with ♠965, ♥A4, ♦AQ104, ♣AQJ5

TRAVIS fought back and won the second set by 40 - 13 IMPs. They took some chances and they paid off well

Witness this deal:

Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

♠ K J 10 4
♥ 6 2
♦ J 8 7 6
♣ K 7 2

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

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Travis	Brown	Ginsberg
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT!?
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

Lead: ♠3: four – queen – five

Overcalling 1NT with no stopper in opener's suit attracts applause when it works, as here, and condemnation when it does not. Still, you have to admire South's courage. East switched to ♥5, ducked. South won the next heart, played ♣Q and a club to the king, followed by ♦J, king, ace. She thus made nine tricks, +400, without needing a trick from the spades.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>J Travis</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Harms</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	All Pass

South has no good move in normal methods. If you feel you must bid, and cannot bring yourself to bid 1NT, you could try an offbeat 2♦. North will raise to 3♦ and South can then bid 3♠, stopper-ask. North will rebid 3NT. Against 1♠ South led ♥A and continued with ♥4. Declarer made one heart and three spades for three down, -300 but + 3 IMPs.

West deals, all vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
?			

What would you do as West with ♠QJ106, ♥AK93, ♦K10732, ♣--- ?

Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

♠ A 4 2
♥ 10 8 4
♦ 8 4
♣ K Q 10 9 6

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

♠ 9 5 3
♥ J 7
♦ A J 5
♣ A J 8 7 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>J Travis</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Harms</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♣ ¹	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1. Splinter, 0-1 club, 4 hearts

Even with a club void, forcing to game with 13 HCP is a big step. Again, applause when it works and here it did, with East having an ideal club holding opposite shortage. South led ♠3. North won and switched to ♦8. Declarer finished with 11 tricks, +650.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>B Travis</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ginsberg</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Lead: ♠5 – queen – ace – eight

North switched to ♥4 and declarer made 10 tricks, +170, but -10 IMPs.

At the halfway mark *BROWN* led by 76-50. *BROWN* won the third session by 43-17.

Board 34, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ A 3
♥ 8 6 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A Q J 10 8 4

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

♠ 9 5 4
♥ Q 7 5 3
♦ J 9 6
♣ K 7 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Harms</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>J Travis</i>
1♠	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♠	Dbl ¹	Rdbl ²	2♣
4♠	3♣	3♦	Pass
	All Pass		

1. 3 hearts

2. 3 spades

Lead: ♥2 – nine – queen – king

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EW do not have many high card points, but West's solid spades and East's club shortage make game a good bet. Declarer played a club at trick two and back came a spade to the king and ace, followed by another spade. Declarer played $\heartsuit A$, $\heartsuit K$, diamond ruff with $\spadesuit J$, drew the last trump and had 11 tricks for +450.

West	North	East	South
B Travis	Klinger	Ginsberg	Mullamphy
	1 \clubsuit	1 \heartsuit	Db1 ¹
1 \spadesuit	Db1 ²	2 \spadesuit	Pass
Pass	2NT ³	Pass	3 \clubsuit
Pass	Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass
3 \spadesuit	All Pass		

1. 4 hearts
2. 3 hearts
3. Puppet to 3 \clubsuit , modest opening

Lead: $\heartsuit 8$ – nine – queen – king.

East thought for a long time before passing 3 \spadesuit . It is hard to bid game when you have already stopped in 2 \spadesuit . With 4 \clubsuit a good bet, it follows that North ought to leave well enough alone and pass out 2 \spadesuit rather than compete to 3 \clubsuit .

Declarer also made 11 tricks, +200, but lost 6 IMPs.

Board 42, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Harms	Brown	J Travis
	1 \heartsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

Harms – Travis play a system where they open shapely nine-counts. On that basis, South was worth only 2NT, asking whether North had a regular opening or a sub-minimum. North was therefore worth 3NT or 4 \heartsuit .

West led $\heartsuit 2$ and declarer made 11 tricks for +210.

West	North	East	South
B Travis	Klinger	Ginsberg	Mullamphy
	1 \heartsuit	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	2 \heartsuit	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lead: $\heartsuit 4$. 10 tricks, +430, +6 IMPs.

There is a case for North removing 3NT to 4 \heartsuit , which also makes.

BROWN led by 119-67 with 14 boards to go. TRAVIS won the last session by 44-31, but it was not enough and BROWN won the title by 150-111.

On Board 45, nil vulnerable, Avi Kanetkar, North, was one down in 1NT for –50.

At the other table Matt Mullamphy, West, made an overtrick in 3NT, +430 and +9 IMPs. TRAVIS recovered the 9 IMPs when Barbara Travis found an excellent speculative double:

Board 50, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Mullamphy	Harms	Klinger	J Travis
Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass	1 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \clubsuit ²	Pass	2 \heartsuit
Pass	2 \heartsuit ³	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1. 17-19 HCP
2. Puppet to 2 \heartsuit
3. Game invitation with 4+ hearts

West led $\spadesuit Q$ and switched to $\clubsuit 2$. South played $\heartsuit Q$, ducked, and $\heartsuit A$: two – four – jack. South missed an opportunity when he continued with $\heartsuit Q$: three – seven – 10. Had he overtaken $\heartsuit Q$ with dummy's $\heartsuit K$, he would have had five heart tricks and made 3NT.

As it was, he finished two down, –100.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Kanetkar	B Travis	Brown
		Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2 \heartsuit ²	Pass	2 \spadesuit
Pass	3 \heartsuit	Pass	3NT
Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass	4 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	Db1	All Pass

1. 15-17 HCP
2. Transfer to spades

Ginsberg led $\spadesuit Q$. She cashed her two aces and East later collected three trump tricks for +500, +9 IMPs.

Four deals from hell

by Ron Klinger

The hands in the final of the Autumn National Open Teams were very shapely. There were 11 five-five hands, six six-fives, two six-sixes, 13 six-fours and one seven-four. Four came in a row at the end of the second session. To say we did not fare well is quite an understatement.

Try this problem.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	Dbl	4♠
5♦	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Dbl	6♦	All Pass

What would you lead as North with ♠AJ8432, ♥KJ3, ♦---, ♣A1074 after the auction above?

Board 25, North deals, EW vulnerable

♠ A J 8 4 3 2
♥ K J 3
♦ ---
♣ A 10 7 4

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>J Travis</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Harms</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
	1♠	Dbl	4♠
5♦	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Dbl	6♦	Pass
Pass	6♠	Dbl	All Pass

If you led ♣A against 6♦ and played a second club, then you would have done well. If not, 6♦ makes and you should take the phantom save in 6♠, as I did.

The result was one down. 6♠ doubled makes if West has ♥Q or after the play went this way: diamond lead, ruffed; ♠3 to ♠K; diamond ruff; ♣A; club ruff; diamond ruff; club ruff, ♠7 to ♠A, club ruff and a heart if West had started with ♥A singleton (not very likely).

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>B Travis</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ginsberg</i>
	1♠	Dbl	4♠
5♦	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Dbl	6♦	6♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Both declarers finished one down, no swing.

Board 26, East deals, all vulnerable

♠ 7
♥ 6 4
♦ A 10 8 7 6 4 3 2
♣ K 3

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>B Travis</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ginsberg</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
	All Pass		

♣J lead went to the ace and North won ♣2 return. After a diamond to the king, declarer played ♠A, ruffed a spade and cashed ♦A. With the friendly trump break, 6♦ was home. The slam is not great – it requires a 2-2 trump break – but it had the merit of being successful.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>J Travis</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Harms</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
		Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	5♥ ³
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

1. Very strong
2. 1 Key Card
3. Asking for the trump queen

After North denied ♦Q South called it a day. North would have been better to bid 5NT, showing the trump queen, because of the extra length in diamonds, and then we would have been in 6♦.

West led ♣A and continued with ♣2, taken by ♣K, South discarding ♥3. Declarer played five rounds of trumps, discarding diamonds from dummy and coming down to this position:

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

SLAM IN A SUIT

When to bid – how to make

Five lessons with Paul Marston at the Noosa Bridge Club Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 October 2014

TO JUDGE WHEN to bid slam in a suit, it is not enough to know your total points, you also have to know how well those points are working. The key thought is points opposite shortage are wasted. You will learn two conventions to enable you to pinpoint partner's shortage – Splinters and the Jacoby 2NT.

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When partner opens in a major, a response of 2NT is best used as a game-forcing raise of partner's suit. Then partner can give you the vital information about shortages, allowing you to use the Golden Rule of Duplication.

Thursday 9, 4:30pm - 6:30pm – Introduction to End Plays

You enjoy an advantage when an opponent leads a critical suit. This lesson shows you how to force your opponents to do this.

Friday 10, 9am - 11am – Splinter Bids

When partner opens in a major, you can show good support and a shortage with a Splinter Bid. This lesson will also reinforce the Golden Rule of Duplication.

Friday 10, 4:30pm - 6:30pm – Introduction to Squeeze Play

When an opponent has to guard two suits you can often force him to give you a trick. You will learn how to do this with ease, without forcing you to keep count of the suits.

Saturday 11, 9am - 11:30am – Putting it all together

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This image is taken on the verandah of the Noosa Bridge Club looking across to the Ivory Palms Resort, some 50 metres away. The architecturally designed clubhouse is located in a leafy nature reserve in Wallace Drive, Noosaville.

South now exited with ♥2: eight – four – nine. East can beat 5♠ by switching to a diamond, but he returned ♥5. South played ♥A, ♥K and then ♠2 squeezed West. He threw ♦J and South overtook ♦K with ♦A to reach ♦10 for his eleventh trick. That was +650, but 12 IMPs out.

Board 27, South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ 5 4
♥ 4 2
♦ K Q J 9 5 4 3
♣ A 8

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

♠ A K Q 10 9 3
♥ K J 7 6 3
♦ 8
♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	B Travis	Brown	Ginsberg
Pass	2♦	3♣	1♠
5♣	5♦	All Pass	3♥

Lead: ♣K – seven – two – ace. Declarer ruffed ♣8 and played ♠A, ♠K, ♠Q. West ruffed, and was overruffed. ♦K went to the ace and declarer lost two heart tricks eventually for one down and –50.

West	North	East	South
J Travis	Klinger	Harms	Mullamphy
Pass	2♣ ¹	5♣	1♠
Pass	6♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	6♥

1. Artificial, 10-12 HCP

Declarer won ♣4 lead and played ♥2: five – king – ace. West continued with ♥Q and ♥10, ruffed by East. South still had a diamond to lose for three down, –150 and –3 IMPs.

The fourth deal and yet another 6-5:

Board 28, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

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

♠ 9 3
♥ K 9 6 2
♦ A J 6 3
♣ 9 8 3

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	B Travis	Brown	Ginsberg
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♦	2♠	3♦	Dbl
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

East led ♥A and continued with ♥5, taken by the king. Declarer played ♠3 to the king and ace. East switched to ♦10, ace, ruffed and declarer played ♠9. West rose with ♠Q and ♥Q next promoted a trump trick for East.

That was two down, –200.

West	North	East	South
J Travis	Klinger	Harms	Mullamphy
Pass	1♣	2♦ ¹	Pass
3♦	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1. Ostensibly a weak jump-overcall

West led ♦4: ♠8 – queen – ace and South ran ♣9 to East's ♣Q. Back came ♦10: three – five – ♥4 and ♦9: six – king – ♠7. West switched to ♠4, king, ace. East could have played ♥A and a second heart. That would hold South to seven tricks and a tied board.

Hoping to endplay dummy, East cashed ♥A and exited with ♣7. South won with ♣8, discarded two spades on ♥K and ♦J and played a club to go one down but pick up 3 IMPs.

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and

Sunday 10th August at 9.30 am

at the

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Directing Team

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Tournament Organiser

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2014 Victor Champion Cup

by Justin Howard



Photo courtesy Brad Coles, Australian Bridge Magazine

The Victor Champion Cup, more commonly known as the VCC, has been one of the strangest events for Peter Hollands and me. From year to year, the very similar results can leave you feeling very different.

In 2012, the team of Adam Edgtton, Liam Milne, Peter Hollands and Justin Howard were running in the bottom half of the field after six matches, but with a 99 VP final four matches, we managed to Swiss our way into second place (this was one of the happiest times for me, and made me realise that no matter what, never give up).

In 2013, Adam and Liam were replaced by Sartaj Hans - Michael Whibley. During the event we managed to win our first eight matches quite comfortably, going into the final two matches with a 23 VP lead over second place. We proceeded to lose our second to last match to the eventual winners heavily, and then with a small win in the final match, we were overtaken, finishing second for the second time in a row (this was the worst I have ever felt in a competition, the guilt of letting down your teammates and throwing away an amazing lead was such a horrible feeling).

We decided we would follow up the second place finish in 2013 by returning in 2014 with the same team. We spent the entire event joking about how it could be third time in a row for coming second. The seeding committee obviously had a sense of humour, seeding us in second place behind our teammates of 2012.

During the event there were many good hands - some that worked and others that didn't. Sadly our teammates are much too modest to write up their triumphs so we are going to look at two of my favourite hands played during the event (one which worked quite well and the other that worked rather poorly. I am happy with both hands).

The first deal came up against Terry Brown and Avi Kanetkar, who have been having an amazing year with lots of success in just about every event they have played in (they really are the pair to beat in 2014),

Peter Hollands and I had a rather uneventful and quick auction to 4♥ after Terry opened 1♣, Peter doubled and I jumped to 4♥, ending the auction. Terry elected to lead a trump against my contract:

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

From the start I hoped Terry had ♣A, and that when I played a club towards ♣KQ Terry would make the mistake of grabbing his ace. I drew trumps (they divided 3-1, with Terry having led a singleton).

Terry was sure to have most of the missing high cards, but he was unlikely to hold ♠KQ10, as he may have elected to lead a sequence in preference to a singleton trump. Often, leading a singleton will surrender partner's trump trick, and is a lead certainly worth avoiding if it can be helped.

After this, I led a small club towards dummy and Terry didn't help me by flying ♣A. (This is a good thing to remember when defending - even if you don't get to win your ace, you are avoiding letting declarer win two tricks in the suit. In most cases, you will get your trick back in a different suit, so don't just jump up with an ace because you can score a trick.

I trumped a club back to hand to start to get rid of some cards, and maybe get a signal from the opponents.

At this point I had two choices, option number one was to play ♦K, hoping Terry would take the ace and be forced to lead something beneficial for me. The second option was to play out all my trumps and hope for a squeeze. I felt that option one was more likely to work, as option two needs me to guess the number of cards he has in each suit, and the placement of the missing honours.

The first option also gives me more timing, while leaving in place the option of playing trumps if he doesn't win ♦A.

Terry took ♦A and switched to a low spade to Avi Kanetkar's ♠Q. Whatever suit Avi switched to would set up a trick for the defence, but would put Terry in danger of being squeezed and then endplayed.

♠10 was returned. I ducked in hand and won in dummy with ♠A. When I trumped a club back to hand, I played the last trump. Terry had the choice of discarding ♣A, ♠K or his low diamond (in which case I could drop ♦J).

He elected to discard ♣A. When I exited with ♠J, he was forced to win and lead away from ♦J, allowing me to win ♦10 in dummy and ♦Q in my own hand, making the contract.

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Here's what some teachers have said about Joan's material: "We followed your outline exactly and it worked like a dream. I was very interested to observe that they all absorbed the information easily, and equally importantly; all were able to quickly move on to the next concept - whilst still retaining the previous teachings. Thank You! Wish someone had introduced me to bridge in this way." - *Miriam Officer: Teacher and Organiser. Maitland Bridge Club May 2014*

"Our beginners course was really good. From our perspective, the content and layout of your books plus the emphasis of having cards on the table really helped to get the message across. There is a big cringe factor looking back at other lessons, with pages and pages of notes and no or few cards for the students to play. Even those small exercises where just a few cards are set out to explain a point [a finesse or identifying winners/losers] greatly helps them understand." - *Ross Smith: Teacher Castle Hill Country Club, June 2014*

The full hand:

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

Endplays and squeezes are all fine, but you must be careful not to embark on them on every hand. Sometimes a simple finesse is a much better - and easier - option. Here is a hand where I elected to be a little bit of a smarty pants, and paid the price.

We were playing against our teammates from the 2013 World Youth Championships last year, where we won two silver medals, Ellena Moskovsky - Lauren Travis.

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

Lead: ♠8 (overtaken by ♠10).

I arrived in a 3NT contract that has eight top tricks.

You have two options again; option one is to run all your club winners in the hope that North has all the missing honours, and they will have to unguard their honours, or you could simply play South for ♥Q.

I could not resist the chance to play the squeeze/end-play, and on the run of the clubs North simply threw away all her hearts but the ace.

When I threw North in, after taking all my clubs and other top winners (exiting a spade) I hoped she would only have winners and ♥AQ, and be forced to lead to my ♥K in the endgame for my ninth trick.

This is a very low percentage play, as it requires declarer to count every suit perfectly and for ♥Q to be offside, but the opening bid and the lack of a response tempted me into the show off play.

The second option was much simpler; win the opening spade lead and take a heart finesse (if the finesse works I will make 10 tricks, and if it loses I will make eight tricks). Knowing lots of interesting and expert plays is well and good, but most of the time you should simply follow the normal line (only play the show off line if you are going to be *sure* it will work!).

North deals, NS vulnerable

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

As you can see, a simple finesse would have led to 10 easy tricks, whereas my line failed and I ended up going down in a contract that very few would/should go off in.

If you see a normal line to make your contract, just take it. All these fancy plays are well and good, but much of the time, the basic line is much better and will work.

During the event, we had a rather good time, winning seven of our first eight matches with one draw. This put us in the lead with two matches to go, and we were fearing the worst again (another second place!)

This looked even more likely after a medium loss in our ninth match against *HAFFER*. This meant that with one match to go, we were over 6 VPs behind first place, and about the same level ahead of third place.

However, the stars aligned this year, and *KLINGER* suffered a loss to *HAFFER* in the last round and we had a big win against *BOURKE*, meaning we had taken out the event, and the beers started flowing.

A well run event once again, and a real pleasure to play with such good teammates and to win in our home state.

The VCC this year fielded 82 teams, which was the biggest entry ever, and the strongest field we have seen for a number of years. Pairs events also featured strong fields, with a record 56 pairs in the Open Swiss Pairs.

Other Results

Wally Scott Open Pairs: Sue Crompton - Geo Tislevoll

Sara Tishler Womens Pairs: Cathie Lachman - Helen Snashall

McCance Seniors Pairs: Martin Bloom - Nigel Rosendorff

Victor Muntz Restricted Pairs: Les Kunc - Waldek Mroz

Less than 50 MP Pairs: Colleen Bourke - Maria Campbell

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams: Helen McAdam, Don Tylee, Pam Dingwall, Sandor Varga



2014 Hans Rosendorff Memorial Women's Swiss Teams Event

Sat 20th & Sun 21st September

Venue: West Australian Bridge Club
7 Odern Crescent Swanbourne, WA

GOLD POINTS

PQPs: 1st 24: 2nd 12: 3rd 6

WA based players in the highest placed winning team will be eligible for a portion of the \$1500 per team travel subsidy for an interstate PQP event

Play commences 9.30am and finishes 5.30pm (approx.)

LUNCHES MAY BE ORDERED BEFORE START OF PLAY EACH DAY

Presentation of ABF medallions at supper after play on Sunday

Entry Fee: \$320 per team

Information and online entry facility on the BAWA website www.bawa.asn.au

Tournament Organiser: Sheenagh Young 0409 381 439
hgr@abf.com.au

Tournament Unit: Bill Kemp CTD 9447 0534
diggadog@inet.net.au
Neville Walker 0418 944 077

by Kim Frazer

Comfort Zones

In sport we hear people talk about “comfort zones”. Everyone has one for pretty much everything they do. It is part of your self-image. In sporting terms, a comfort zone is created from one’s experiences, skill level and prior performances.



If we consider a golfer who always scores between 70 - 75 for a round of golf, we would say that is their comfort zone. They are happy scoring in that range. If they are having a particularly good round and are likely to score below 70, there is a high probability they will have a disaster on one hole towards the end of the round. This is due largely to the increased anxiety brought about by being outside their comfort zone. This anxiety will stop them scoring better than their “usual” result.

Similarly if they have a poor start, they will finish strongly to allow them to finish within their comfort zone.

This is often less about the individual’s skill, and more about their self-image and their comfort zone. Their self-talk (the little voice inside their head) will say something like “It’s not like me to score 40 on the opening nine holes”, and the competitor will focus properly and pull their score back in the latter half of the round to finish with 75 - right on their comfort zone.

Breaking out of your comfort zone is one of the most difficult aspects any competitor contends with, and it is a significant factor in preventing competitors from improving and achieving their goals, assuming skill and technical ability are sufficient.

Many times we see players in all kinds of competitive events falter when in a winning position. It is commonly called “choking”. Whilst there may be many factors at play, including the player’s prior performances, often this collapse is all about the player’s comfort zone. The anxiety of being outside that zone causes the athlete to fail, rather than the comparative technical ability of the players.

If we are used to running mid-field and all of a sudden we find ourselves in the lead, or playing the top team or pair, our anxiety level may increase, and this may cause errors to occur that we would not make when playing against players at our “usual” level. If we are

playing a duplicate session at our club, we are more likely to be relaxed than if we are playing in a major tournament.

How can we lift our “comfort zone” to increase the likelihood of success?

Unfortunately there is no magic fix. Lifting your comfort zone requires hard work and development over time. A number of elements are involved and each must be addressed:

1. Work on improving your technical ability in cardplay. For example, learn how to play basic card combinations, practise counting out the hand, and so on.
2. Have simple system agreements and general principles that can be easily remembered and applied in many auctions, to reduce the likelihood of errors when under pressure.
3. Increase your exposure to being outside your comfort zone. It’s fair to say that the more frequently a player reaches the finals, or plays in more difficult or competitive situations, the more likely they are to “break through” and win. However, putting oneself in pressure situations by playing against stronger players, playing in a more competitive field, moving from the “weak” side to the “strong” side at your club, playing in Open rather than Restricted events and so on can also assist.
4. Learn to maintain focus on the current hand and don’t be distracted by thoughts of winning or allow other factors to distract you from the task at hand (see May 2014 Newsletter on *Maintaining Focus*).
5. Learn to relax at the table. Whilst relaxation will be a topic for a future article, in the meantime a few deep breaths go a long way to helping you to relax at the table.
6. Imagining yourself in situations outside your comfort zone is also helpful. For example, picturing yourself playing on Vugraph or behind screens before you have to do it will help you be prepared for the real thing. This is commonly known as visualisation in the sporting world, and a future article in this series will focus on visualisation and how it can assist your performance.

The most important thing of all however, is believing you are good enough to win.

My thanks to Sartaj Hans and David Morgan for their assistance with the articles in this series.



2014 Hans Rosendorff Memorial

Restricted Swiss Pairs

Sat 20th & Sun 21st September

Venue: West Australian Bridge Club 7 Odern Crescent Swanbourne, WA

GOLD POINTS

This event is restricted to players **UNDER** 300 masterpoints as at 1st April 2014

Winning pair will receive free entry to the 2015 Autumn Nationals Restricted Swiss Pairs

Play commences 9.30am and finishes 5.30pm (approx.)

LUNCHES MAY BE ORDERED BEFORE START OF PLAY EACH DAY

Presentation of ABF medallions at supper after play on Sunday

Entry Fee: \$80 per player

Information and online entry facility on the BAWA website

www.bawa.asn.au

Tournament Organiser:

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hgr@abf.com.au

Tournament Unit:

Bill Kemp CTD 9447 0534

diggadog@iinet.net.au

Neville Walker 0418 944 077

Dave Parham 0409 111 081

The Use of Screens

by Laurie Kelso



The majority of club directors and players will never have a need to understand the mechanics of screen play. Screens do, however, engender a certain fascination in the average player; hence this contribution should hopefully satisfy both the studious and the curious.

Screens are devices used in high-level tournaments that visually separate partners at the table from each other. Their purpose is to reduce the accidental exchange of unauthorised information, and to otherwise generally limit the amount

of extra-curricular interaction within each partnership. A screen usually comprises a panel made of wood, plastic or sometimes canvas, placed diagonally across the table in such a fashion so that North/East and South/West are screenmates.

The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. There is a small aperture in the centre, and a narrow slit at the base of the barrier. Screens usually also extend under the table to the floor, forming a barrier running diagonally between the table legs.

The screen aperture is closed during the bidding, and calls are made using a bidding box. A player places his selected call on the bidding tray, which is visible only on that player's side of the screen. After the two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the barrier so that it becomes visible to the players on the other side. They in turn make their calls, and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure continues until the auction has been completed.

After the opening lead is faced, the aperture is opened sufficiently so that all the players may see the dummy, and the cards played to each trick. The size of the opening is not, however, large enough to enable anyone to see their partner's face.



An event with screens is played in virtual silence. The only verbal communication permitted across the screen is when declarer calls for a card from dummy. Otherwise, non-verbal interactions are restricted to those between opponents on the same side of the screen. This means that the normal procedures associated with alerts and explanations are replaced with a process whereby a player not only alerts and explains the meaning of his partner's calls but he also has to alert and explain his own actions to the opponent on his side of the screen.

A player may at any time during the auction, ask in writing for an explanation of an opponent's call and the screenmate must respond in writing. Any questions during the play period must also be made

with the screen aperture closed; again, both the question and the answer must be written.

Failure to observe the requirements for written questions and responses constitutes an offence subject to penalty. All communication through the screen as to the meanings and explanations of

bids is expressly forbidden until the end of the play.

One of the major complaints of players regarding screens is that they reduce the social dimension of the game, because they limit all communication to just the cards played - of course that is the very purpose of screens! Screen procedure also slows down the game. The standard rate of play using screens is 8 - 8.5 minutes per board, instead of the more usual 6.5 - 7 minutes.

Screened tables require more floor space and are more difficult to assemble. They can also be expensive to obtain in sufficient quantities to cater for medium to large entry events, and for these reasons their use is usually limited to National Team Finals and Australian Representative Teams selection events.

Most players, however, enjoy using screens, since there are fewer distractions, and many of the problems normally encountered when playing face-

to-face disappear when a screen is placed between the members of a partnership.

Many of the laws relating to bidding infractions are no longer operable in a screened environment. Calls out of rotation and insufficient bids (providing they have not been transmitted to the other side of the screen) can simply be removed from the bidding tray and replaced (without penalty) by a legal call. This is because the players on the other side of the screen ultimately receive only the corrected auction and thus have no knowledge of any prior infraction.

The problems associated with breaks in tempo are also reduced, since it is often quite difficult for a player to know in a contested auction whether it was his partner or the opponent who hesitated. Conversely, the likelihood of a player mis-explaining the meaning of a call does increase since every player now has to correctly explain not only their partner's calls, but also their own. This is where the written evidence of the questions asked, and the answers given, becomes very useful to the director. In international events when players of different nationalities compete, written documentation becomes almost essential, especially when a dispute arises between those for whom English is only a second language.

Screens have very little relevance to club play, however, for anyone who aspires to represent either their state or country, a basic working knowledge of their operation is a necessity. Screens have now been used at important bridge events for more than 40 years, but until someone invents a better method of minimising the transfer of unauthorised information at the table, they will continue to be an integral part of the fabric of higher-level competition.

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Top 60 McCutcheon Rankings - May 2014

Name	Rank	Total	2014
1 Brown, Terry	Gold Grand	8,391.48	313.86
2 Gill, Peter	Gold Grand	8,978.90	224.30
3 Del'Monte, Ishmael	Gold Grand	8,217.79	201.45
4 Kanetkar, Avinash	Gold Grand	5,021.55	201.38
5 Klinger, Ron	Emerald Grand	10,006.93	187.74
6 Hoffman, David	Gold Grand	5,820.99	185.16
7 Milne, Liam	Grand	1,093.26	181.78
8 Brightling, Richard	Silver Grand	4,371.69	176.97
9 Thomson, Matthew	Silver Grand	4,551.57	174.91
10 Watts, Marlene	Silver Grand	4,918.58	171.33
11 Prescott, Michael	Silver Grand	4,320.92	167.52
12 Bourke, Margaret	Emerald Grand	10,154.15	166.89
13 De Livera, Arjuna	Gold Grand	8,357.30	165.42
14 Bloom, Martin	Gold Grand	5,054.91	163.28
15 Hans, Sartaj	Silver Grand	4,563.11	162.88
16 Wilkinson, Michael	Silver Grand	3,342.74	158.18
17 Howard, Justin	Grand	2,273.81	157.22
18 Bilski, George	Gold Grand	5,822.69	156.15
19 Peake, Andrew	Gold Grand	5,968.69	155.68
20 Edgton, Adam	Grand	1,374.53	155.68
21 Nunn, Tony	Gold Grand	6,285.87	155.56
22 Williams, Justin	Silver Grand	3,736.06	154.54
23 Griffiths, Nye	Grand	2,254.80	154.41
24 Travis, Barbara	Silver Grand	4,948.58	147.41
25 Ewart, Neil	Silver Grand	4,107.75	147.33
26 Ware, Michael	Grand	1,931.89	142.60
27 Beauchamp, David	Gold Grand	7,583.50	137.97
28 Jacob, Nick	*National	214.22	133.80
29 Tislevoll, Geo	Bronze Life	479.51	132.22
30 Bach, Ashley	Silver Grand	2,712.15	130.04
31 Gumby, Pauline	Emerald Grand	10,927.24	129.43
32 Morrison, Kim	Gold Grand	6,846.89	129.33
33 Ginsberg, Candice	Silver Grand	3,874.91	128.37
34 Whibley, Michael	Grand	1,428.59	126.78
35 Harley, Dee	Grand	1,425.23	126.10
36 Tutty, Jodi	Grand	1,243.83	122.19
37 Lazer, Warren	Gold Grand	9,487.59	121.78
38 Gallus, Robert	Gold Grand	7,791.92	121.70
39 Courtney, Michael	Gold Grand	5,352.97	121.65
40 Francis, Neville	Gold Grand	6,026.52	121.03
41 Ingham, Sue	Silver Grand	2,580.23	117.64
42 Sharp, Toni	Silver Grand	2,777.93	116.35
43 Thompson, Ben	Gold Grand	5,066.94	116.35
44 Ichilcik, Lorna	Grand	1,197.45	115.94
45 Neill, Bruce	Gold Grand	8,234.11	113.03
46 Hollands, Peter	Grand	1,753.30	110.30
47 Markey, Philip	Silver Grand	4,448.27	110.06
48 Wyer, Paul	Silver Grand	2,567.13	109.37
49 Januszke, Roger	Gold Grand	6,359.17	108.90
50 Hung, Andy	Grand	1,470.03	105.01
51 Beale, Felicity	Gold Grand	7,841.30	104.96
52 Chan, Peter	Silver Grand	4,714.34	104.56
53 De Luca, Attilio	Silver Grand	3,394.82	104.03
54 Tully, Therese	Gold Grand	5,219.83	103.45
55 Nagy, Zolly	Gold Grand	6,957.11	103.36
56 Newman, John	*National	230.31	103.34
57 Clarke, Garry	Grand	1,915.45	102.49
58 Free, Jonathan	Silver Grand	2,796.38	102.27
59 Doecke, Mike	Grand	1,173.24	101.73
60 Gue, Phil	Gold Grand	6,500.25	101.66

Please spread the word - *playbridge*

by Ian McKinnon

In 1995 Ron Klinger and I released a game on the Windows™ PC market called *play bridge*. It was the only bridge game on the market at the time. In that version, there were a set of games included that Ron played, and the player could try to beat Ron's score. It was generally popular but had a limited life when many other more advanced games appeared for computers and on the Internet.



Since that time any bridge player should have noticed that the average age of players at their bridge club has been steadily rising. There is no way imaginable that young people would find it entertaining to attend the club and learn to play bridge amongst all those oldies.

In the last 20 years entertainment for young people has changed, and generally if you want them to play your game, it must be on their phones. Their smartphones are the only way to reach them.

With this in mind I took the old *play bridge* game and moved it to the smartphones. The game must be simple, but at the same time challenging. It is a solitaire game where the player is declarer in 2NT doubled. Therefore bidding is not considered, nor does it need to be learned.

There are unlimited games. The player just thinks of a name for a new game and they get a new set of eight random deals. At the end of the eight deals they have a

score for the game of that name. They can send (SMS or email) their score to their friends and challenge them to do better in the game of the same name on their own phone. The game can be replayed any number of times, each time attempting to improve their score.

The defence is not perfect (when is it ever perfect?) and the player can make use of the imperfections to see if they can better the result on any hand.

For an experienced player there is a challenge to achieve the contract and does offer entertainment when sitting in the train, bus or waiting for the next flight. A connection to the internet is not needed and it is always there in your pocket.

Take a look at my website for details www.asecomputing.com where you can find a free version for your PC. That Windows™ version looks and behaves exactly as the version found in your phone's app store. Search in your app store for *playbridge*.

The butterfly effect

Ed: In April, Sydney player Anne Lamport played in Marshall Lewis's team (as the only Australian) in the AX Teams in Dallas, Texas at the Spring NABC. The team was lucky enough to come second and Marshall wrote about the attached hand from the last round, which Anne thought was well written and amusing! Her partner was Tim Verbeek from the Netherlands, a charming 29-year old who is making a name for himself on the international circuit.



On the last day of the Dallas NABC there was, as always, a sizeable "A/X Swiss Teams", which typically attracts the majority of players who the night before had failed to qualify for the final day of the marquee national-rated weekend event, joined by the teams who had lost their semi final Vanderbilt confrontations.

Going into the last match of this A/X contest, one of the "drop-in" teams from the Vanderbilt round-of-four held an insurmountable lead, so the rest of the field was playing for second place -- a position that would be decided by the direct engagement between the two teams lying next in the rankings at that point.

The squad occupying second with a match to go consisted of six Chinese players -- though now variously living in the PRC, Taiwan, USA and Canada -- and was spearheaded by the superstars Zhong Fu (PRC) and Patrick Huang (Taipei), the former of whom sat West in the deal which follows. Their opponents were an even more internationally diverse group, hailing from California, Netherlands, Australia, Argentina, and Croatia.

In the featured hand, the declarer for this latter team was the former opera star Lee De Simone, who under her professional name Lee Venora had often thrilled aficionados in the part of “Madame Butterfly” among countless other roles. In the hand featured here, however, her performance as South was definitely that of a samurai rather than the broken-hearted victim of cruel deception.

North deals, nil vulnerable

♠ K 7 6 4 2
♥ 8
♦ A 5
♣ Q J 9 4 2

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

♠ Q 9 8 5 3
♥ 3 2
♦ K J 8 6 3 2
♣ ---

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

The deal above was actually the first of the decisive seven-board match, but ultimately its outcome provided the entire 11 IMP margin of victory for De Simone and her team, and thus served to secure runner-up honours.

Lee’s partner, Marshall Lewis, chose to open the North hand 1♣, and after the highly contentious auction displayed alongside the diagram, Lee finished as declarer in 5♠ doubled.

Double dummy this was a phantom save since in theory 5♥ can be defeated by two club ruffs -- however, it is usually advisable to take out insurance in these situations, and sure enough, without perfect defence 5♥ will make.

To beat the contract, first of all North must lead a club -- otherwise one of the club losers will disappear, either on a diamond or by means of a partial elimination and one-suited endplay in clubs against North.

Second, after ruffing, South must return a diamond rather than a spade, so as to get the crucial second ruff (otherwise the other club loser will be discarded on an established diamond).

It is easy to see how the defenders might deviate from this unforgivingly strait path even after a club lead -- particularly if North elects to begin with the top of his quasi-sequential honour holding, so that South lacks any clear suit-preference guidance from the lead..

Meanwhile back at the 5♠ doubled ranch, Fu, West, found the only lead to position the defence to beat the contract, his singleton diamond.

Superficially, it seems normal to accept the free finesse in the suit by playing low in dummy. The trained ear of the diva, however, was delicately attuned to the faint vibrations emanating from the adversary, and she accurately divined their sinister import. Identifying the diamond lead as a singleton, she could also practically name every card in the West hand after the revealing auction.

Rather than succumb to what she saw as inevitable doom if she were to make the pedestrian play at trick one, she attempted to muddy the waters by rising with ♦A in dummy, concealing her strength in the suit and hoping thereby to lull West into an illusory sense of non-urgency.

This subtle gambit had the desired effect: after an eternity of rumination, West, upon gaining the lead with ♠A, ultimately yielded to the temptation of cashing a high club -- or so he envisioned.

Declarer briskly ruffed, drew the last trump with dummy’s king, finessed the diamond knave, discarded the losing heart on ♦K, and ruffed the rest of the suit good to land a well-earned 12 tricks.

At the other table, North had opened 1♠ and been directly raised to game. West now bid 5♥, and when this came back around, South bid 5♠. This was shrewdly passed by West, probably to invite further competition, whereupon East duly went on to 6♥.

This got doubled by South, who was perhaps hoping -- although it is more like wishful thinking on this sequence -- for a club lead, but unsurprisingly North did not regard this as a Lightner situation and the toll was only 100.

In fact the IMP difference between -100 and -300 at this table, while it would have changed the match score, did not affect teams’ placement in the overall event.

All suitable credit accordingly goes to Cio-Cio-San, and this narrative is the bouquet of roses presented at the curtain call.



by Paul Lavings



Refining your Bergen Raises

Bridge conventions come and go, but Bergen Raises have stood the test of time and, in my mind, stand up there with Blackwood and Stayman. Now it's time to recommend some refinements.

Bergen Raises over 1♥ and 1♠ work so well it makes good sense to also use them after 1♥ (1♠) and 1♥ (1NT) and 1♠ (1NT), as well as after an opposition takeout double. So after 1♥ (1♠), Hand 1 (see below) bids 3♣, Hand 2 bids 3♦, and Hand 3 bids 2♠, as would be the case if there was no 1♠ interpose:

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1). ♠ 43 | 2). ♠ 43 | 3). ♠ 43 |
| ♥ Q852 | ♥ Q852 | ♥ Q85 |
| ♦ J103 | ♦ J103 | ♦ J1032 |
| ♣ A985 | ♣ AK105 | ♣ AK105 |

If the overcall is 1NT, the same bids apply on hands 1). and 2)., but with hand 3). you would double for penalties, leaving 2♠ as natural and non-forcing. Now you may be able to end up at the two-level if partner has a minimum.

The Jacoby 2NT, showing a game force raise with 4+ trumps, is a cornerstone of Bergen Raises. After 1♥/♠ - 2NT, opener shows a shortage, but if slam was never a possibility, your side is giving away information for no good purpose. A better idea is to use 3♣ over the Jacoby 2NT to show *any* minimum:

- 1♥ - 2NT
3♣ - 4♥

This is now a common sequence, where the opponents are given no extra information. After 3♣, showing a minimum opening, responder now asks for a singleton with 3♦. With 15+ and a singleton club opener bids 4♣ over 2NT.

The 1♠ - 3♥ and 1♥ - 2♠ sequence is commonly used to show a limit raise with three trumps. This sometimes gets the partnership too high, and allows the opponents a free double of the other major, which may prove troublesome. One solution is to play a forcing 1NT response to include the three-card limit raise, but the solution may be worse than the problem.

Another solution is to use a 2♣ response to one of a major as a three-way bid, showing either a natural club response, a balanced hand of 11+ HCP, or the three-card limit raise. This works well, but is a memory strain, and there are some weak spots in the method. You can read it up in the March 2012 ABF Newsletter: <http://www.abf.com.au/newsletter/Mar12.pdf>

The response of 3NT to 1♥ or 1♠ is frequently used to show a 4-3-3-3 shape, even with four of the suit partner opened. When partner opens 1♠, you will make as many tricks in notrumps as spades, which will give you a better score at matchpoints, so long as the defending side cannot establish a suit. So with

- ♠ QJ104, ♥ KJ6, ♦ K87, ♣ A103

your hand has no ruffing value, even though you have four-card support, and it makes good sense to bid 3NT to play, if opener is also balanced.

When the 1♥ or 1♠ opener is in third or fourth seat, Drury is a must. The opening may be shaded, so the emphasis is to stop low, and avoid the three-level.

There are a variety of Drury methods:

Pass - 1♥/1♠

- 2♣: Maximum pass with three-card support
- 2♦: Maximum pass with four-card support

This method differentiates between three and four-card support, so has an advantage over 2♣ only as Drury.

Another variation is:

Pass - 1♥/1♠

- 2♣: Maximum pass with support and better clubs than diamonds
- 2♦: Maximum pass with support and better diamonds than clubs

The first method is surely better.

When opener is in third or fourth seat you should keep your 2NT and 3♣ responses as if opener was in first seat, rather than use Drury. You might have a hand where you really do want to go to game because the opening bid improved your hand out of sight.

Let's say you hold:

- ♠ 65, ♥ 109843, ♦ AKJ543, ♣ ---

Pass (Pass) 1♥ (Pass)
?

If you can't open this hand in your system what do you bid when partner opens 1♥? With a void and five-card support, your hand has enormous potential, 7♥ is more or less laydown opposite the right 11-count, say ♠ A74, ♥ AK762, ♦ 102, ♣ 876. You want to do much more than jump limply to 4♥; you need space to explore how the hands fit together. The answer is to still bid 2NT, game forcing with 4+ trumps. You are too strong to simply splinter with 4♣.

*Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies,
for all things bridge.
paul@bridgegear.com*

International Results

2014 Asia Cup

Held in Jin Hua City, China, under the auspices of the Chinese Contract Bridge Federation, this was the target event for Australian representative teams this year. The venue was the Wu Yi Hot Spring Resort in Wu Yi County, and the event ran from June 12 - 22.

The 2nd Asia Cup included Open, Women, Senior and Youth (Junior, Youngster, Girls) teams. Australia fielded an Open Team, a Women's Team, two Seniors' Teams and a Junior Team.

Congratulations to Jamie Thompson - Stephen Williams, who won the Youth Swiss Pairs at the Asia Cup.

Other results:

Open Team: Ron Klinger - Andrew Peake, Matthew Thomson - Peter Gill, Michael Wilkinson - Griff Ware, (npc) Howard Melbourne: 4th

Women's Team: Felicity Beale - Di Smart, Therese Tully - Pele Rankin, Greer Tucker - Eileen Li, (npc) Margaret Bourke: 2nd

Seniors' Team Australia 1: Peter Buchen - Henry Christie, Richard Brightling - David Hoffman, Arjuna de Livera - Bruce Neill (captain): 2nd

Seniors' Team Australia 2: Peter Chan - David Lusk (Captain), Bill Haughie - Terry Brown, Simon Hinge - Robbie van Riel: 6th in the round robin

Junior Team: Jamie Thompson - Stephen Williams, Max Henbest - Renee Cooper, Rhys Cooper - Ella Pattison, (npc) Howard Melbourne: 6th in the round robin

Open Pairs:

Robbie Van Riel - Simon Hinge: 6th
David Lusk - Peter Chan: 20th

Youth Swiss Pairs:

Max Henbest - Renee Cooper: 6th
Ella Pattison - Rhys Cooper: 7th



Jamie Thompson,
Stephen Williams,
Max Henbest and
Renee Cooper in
China

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Table no. 1 2 S 1♥ 4 ?

Names

14 ♠ K54
6 ♠ N
14 ♥ K6432
6 ♠ W
6 ♠ E
6 ♠ S

♠ 92
♥ J7
♦ QT4
♣ KT8752

♠ AQ87
♥ AQ95
♦ 53
♣ Q43

♠ JT63
♥ T8
♦ AJ9762
♣ 9

Makable contracts

N	-	1♠	1♥	2♦	-
S	-	-	-	1♦	-
E	2NT	-	-	-	3♣
W	1NT	-	-	-	3♣

Optimum result(s)
East 2NT 2; 120

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Please help us to grow the sport in Australia

Courtesy Tip: Smile often - brighten the room

by Joan Butts

Understanding 1NT Forcing

The idea has been around for many years, but is more popular now because it fits well into the Two Over One Game Force approach.



Why? Because if you choose to play 2/1, in which the sequences of, for example 1♥ - [Pass] - 2♦; or 1♠ - [Pass] - 2♥ will show strong hands (opening points or better, 13+), there are a number of now unbiddable hands.

For example, partner opens 1♠ and you hold:

♠ K 8 7
♥ 4 2
♦ A Q 10 9 7
♣ J 10 8

In Standard, you would bid 2♦ and then raise partner's spades, but in 2/1, 2♦ is a game force, and you're not quite strong enough for that.

The answer is to bid 1NT (forcing). This becomes the bid for any hands that can't raise partner's suit directly, and which are not strong enough (in the medium range) to make the game forcing two over one bids which are the basis for the system.

So, 1NT encompasses two ranges, the minimum range of 6 – 9, and the medium 10 –12 point range.

NB: 80% of the time, you will have the normal minimum hand of 6 – 9 without a fit for partner's opening. Playing 1NT forcing does not in any way interfere with a partnership's usual one over one bidding.

Basic Requirements for 1NT Forcing

- Partner opens 1♥ or 1♠, in first or second seat
- You have less than game-going values
- You don't have four card support for opener's major
- You don't hold four spades (if opener's bid was 1♥)
- You have enough values to respond, 5+ points.

When you choose to play 1NT forcing, it's not possible to play in 1NT, but this is a plus, especially at IMPs. Because opener must make another bid, responder can show different types of hands:

- Weak long suits
- Hands with support for opener's second suit
- Three-card support for opener and 10 – 12 HCP
- Two-card support for opener's first suit
- Balanced hands

Weak hands play better with the long suit as trumps, and being left in 1NT with such a hand is losing bridge in the long run.

What does opener do after a 1♥/1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT start to the auction?

Opener makes the same rebid as after a non-forcing 1NT, i.e. shows their second suit if they have one, rebids their six-card suit, and waits for responder to show their hand type.

The hardest hand for opener to describe is a balanced minimum of 12–14, with five hearts or five spades.

(1♥/♠ - [Pass] - 1NT) Instead of passing, opener bids:

- The longer minor suit, (5-3-2-3)
- 2♣ with equal length (5-2-3-3)

Responder's rebid after a forcing 1NT response

With 6-9 points:

- Pass (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT - [Pass] - 2♦)
- Give preference to opener's first suit: (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT - [Pass] - 2♣ - [Pass] - 2♠)
- Bid a new suit (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT - [Pass] - 2♣ - [Pass] - 2♥)
- Raise to the three-level with top of the range (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT [Pass] - 2♣ - [Pass] - 3♣)

With 11-12 points:

- Bid 2NT. (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT - [Pass] - 2♦ - [Pass] - 2NT)
- Jump in a suit to the three-level (if room is available) (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT - [Pass] - 2♣ - [Pass] - 3♥)
- Make a three-card limit raise of opener's major. (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT - [Pass] - 2♣ - [Pass] - 3♠)
- Raise opener's second suit (1♠ - [Pass] - 1NT - [Pass] - 2♥ - [Pass] - 3♥)

When 1NT forcing does NOT Apply

- After an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦
- If responder's right-hand opponent overcalls or doubles
- If responder is a passed hand



Copy Deadline

for Issue 169, September 2014,
the deadline is:

August 26, 2014

Late submissions will be held over
until Issue 170, November 2014



Derrick and John Sally and Geoff

Your Bridge Travel team invite you to join them and their delightful guests at the following bridge holidays.

Separate programs will be available for improvers and for open club duplicate players. The Improvers teaching program will concentrate on developing sound basic bidding and card play technique, while the open program will feature new slam bidding and competitive methods.



Dormie House Moss Vale
July 21 - 25
6 days from \$969

Magnificent meals and delightful areas for socialising. There are only a few rooms left which will be allocated on a first-in-first served basis.



Rich River Golf Club Moama
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Apartment style accommodation, great bridge room, good food. For those not wishing to drive we suggest that you join our fly to Tullamarine and coach to Echuca on Saturday Sep 13 for \$150 extra (airfares not included).



Country Comfort Terrigal
Nov 21 - 23
3 days from \$375

All bridge clinics and duplicate sessions and breakfasts will be at the Country Comfort but we will be joining local players at the Terrigal Hotel for dinners.

Those wishing to attend any of these bridge holidays on a play only basis will be very welcome. Local bridge clubs have been contacted to ensure them that their members will not only be very welcome, but that special discount rates will be available to make it very attractive for them to join us. We believe that club players should have the opportunity to play against one another and enjoy the social ambiance as well as the excitement and challenge of our wonderful pastime.

To enter or receive more details about these and our future bridge holidays contact Bridge Travel

Phone: (02) 9888 3903 Mobile: 0412 062 957 Email: bridgetravel@bigpond.com

2014 Barrier Reef Congress



The winners at the 2014 Barrier Reef Congress in Townsville were:

Teams: Nathan Van Jole, Paul Wyer, Tony Hutton, Malcolm Carter

Open Pairs: Nathan Van Jole, Paul Wyer

Restricted Teams: Janelle Conroy, Robert Carless, Ken Seaniger, Geoffrey Patterson

Restricted Pairs: Denis Moody, Chris Stead



Dealing with unacceptable behaviour

Sample guidelines to assist clubs in dealing with unacceptable behaviour are now available.

Go to www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-policies-and-handbooks/player-behaviour. I like this poem, entitled "Nursery Rhyme for a Bridge Club" which was shared by Ron Klinger:

*If you're grouchy and you know it, don't play bridge.
If you're grouchy and you know it, don't play bridge.
If you're grouchy and you know it
And you cannot help but show it,
We don't want grouchy people playing bridge.*

2014 Territory Gold Festival



The NTBA and ABF present

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Tournament Organiser: Pam Nunn: tgbf@abf.com.au (08) 8981 7287

Kibitzing

A spectator in bridge is called a kibitzer. Kibitzing is an interesting and fun way to learn and improve your game by observing better players.

Etiquette for a kibitzer is outlined in **The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007** (Law 76). By following these few rules, you can be a good kibitzer.

1. One hand only - a spectator should not look at the cards of more than one player, except by permission.
2. Personal Reaction – a spectator must not display any reaction to the bidding or play while a hand is in progress.
3. Mannerisms or remarks – during the round, a spectator must refrain from mannerisms or remarks of any kind (*including a conversation with a player*).
4. Consideration for players – a spectator must not in any way disturb a player.

A spectator may not call attention to any irregularity or mistake, nor speak on any question of fact or law, except by request of the Director.

Any person in the playing area, other than a player or a tournament official, has the status of a spectator unless the Director specifies differently.



Being Considerate

Players should maintain at all times a courteous attitude toward **partner** and the **opponents**. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player, or that might interfere with another player's enjoyment of the game.

Commendable behaviour which will significantly contribute to an enjoyable experience for all includes:

- being a good host or guest at the table
- greeting others in a friendly manner
- praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents (when appropriate)
- having two clearly complete convention cards readily available to the opponents (*not just considerate, a regulation*)
- wearing a name tag and introducing yourself to new arrivals at your table.

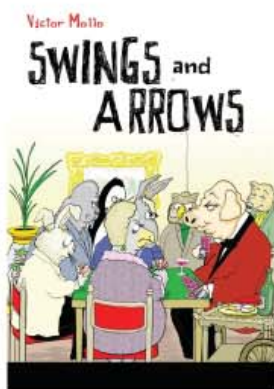


What kind of bid was that? You **MUST** be joking!

Should a player at the table behave in an unacceptable manner, the Director should be called immediately. Annoying behaviour, embarrassing remarks or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by **Law 74A**.

Law 91A gives the Director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

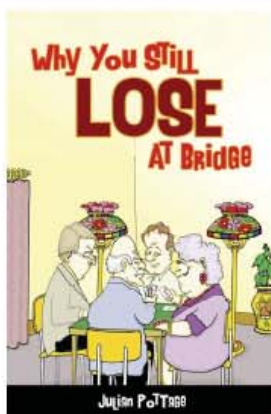
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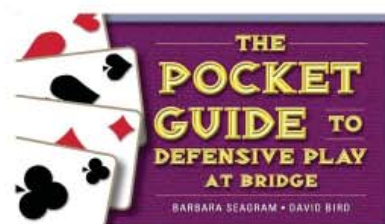
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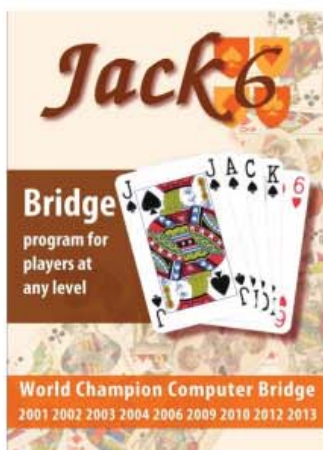
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