

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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New ABF website

Exciting news!

Our new website will be launched soon. The new site will, amongst other things, provide users with improved content placement and navigation. This will make the website more intuitive, and easier for users to find the information relevant to them, with minimal clicks from the homepage.



Thanks go to everyone who provided suggestions and ideas for the new site.

ABF Management Committee



Avi Kanetkar, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, George Bilski, Terry Brown and Matthew Thomson

to play *WILKINSON*, and defeated them by 26 IMPs, 172-146. *KLINGER* was left to play *BROWN*, Terry Brown - George Bilski, Avi Kanetkar - Matthew Thomson, Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings, losing by 45 IMPs, 154-109.

In the 96-board final, *BEAUCHAMP* began strongly against *BROWN*, taking the first 16-board set 46-18. By the time the fifth set arrived, *BEAUCHAMP* had increased their lead to 42 IMPs. The tide turned on this board:

Board 74, East deals, all vulnerable

♠ A 10 9 2
♥ K Q J 10 9 8 3
♦ 9 2
♣ ---

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilski</i>	<i>Beauchamp</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
		1♠	3♦
4♠	5♥	Pass	6♥
Dbl	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Lavings</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Krochmalik</i>
		2♠	3♦
4♦	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dbl	All Pass

Playoffs for the 2013 Australian Open Team

by Paul Lavings, Sydney

For 2013 the Open and Women's Playoffs were moved back to December 2012, and at a new venue, Sydney's Coogee Bay Hotel. In the Open, the four teams with the most Playoff Points made up Division 1, with six teams in Division 2. After a two-day round robin, third in Division 1 chose between first and second in Division 2 to play a 64-board match. Fourth in Division 1 would play the other qualifier from Division 2.

Third placed in Division 1, *KLINGER*, Ron Klinger - Matt Mullamphy, Hugh Grosvenor - Bob Richman, Stephen Burgess - Justin Howard surprisingly chose *HARPER*, Ross Harper - Michael Courtney, Ishmael Del'Monte - Nabil Edgtton, Sartaj Hans - Tony Nunn. It looked like they got it badly wrong, since at halfway, with Del'Monte - Edgtton, Hans - Nunn to finish the match for *HARPER*, *KLINGER* was down 47 IMPs. To their great credit *KLINGER* pulled back 96-17 IMPs in the last 32 boards to win by 32 IMPs.

In the other match, to decide the fourth semi final spot, *WILKINSON*, Michael Wilkinson - Griff Ware, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, Liam Milne - Michael Whibley led from the start to defeat a fast-finishing *VAN JOLE*, Nathan van Jole - Paul Gosney, Kieran Dyke - Peter Gill by 15 IMPs, 144-129.

In the 64-board semi finals *BEAUCHAMP*, David Beauchamp - Ian Thomson, Bill Jacobs - Ben Thompson, Andy Braithwaite - Ian Robinson chose

In the Closed Room, Lavings had it easy.

He ruffed ♠K lead, and played a low club off dummy. West rose ♣A, and declarer ruffed, ruffed another spade, cashed ♣K, pitching a spade, ruffed a club back to hand, and played ♥Q. The diamond finesse meant 12 tricks and +1050.

In the Open Room, a club was led, West rising ♣A, and declarer crossruffed spades and clubs, but when he exited with ♥K, dummy had only diamonds remaining. Bilski returned a diamond, pinning declarer in dummy, to score a diamond ruff. 15 IMPs to *BROWN*, who picked up 30 IMPs on the set, and went into the last 16 boards only 12 IMPs in arrears.

There was also action on Board 81, the first hand of the last set:

Board 81, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Kanetkar</i>
	2♥	Pass	3♥

All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilski</i>	<i>Beauchamp</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room, Avi Kanetkar's raise to 3♥ shut the opponents out of the auction, and 3♥ went down three, for -150.

In the Open Room, ♥J was led to 3NT, ♥Q, ♥K, ♥2, and North continued with a heart to East's nine. Brown then led ♦J, in case the suit broke 5-0, then played a club to the jack. North got out a spade rather than a heart, so after taking all his outside winners, Brown could hook the club in the three-card ending for +660. To quote Terry Brown: "If North had held ♣K, the spade return would have been one of the greatest defensive plays ever seen." The two overtricks meant 7 IMPs instead of 6, one extra invaluable IMP.

Then *BROWN* gained the lead:

Board 82, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Kanetkar</i>
	4♠	3♥	Dbl
4♦	All Pass	5♦	6♠

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilski</i>	<i>Beauchamp</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
	2♠	2♦	Dbl
Pass	5♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	All Pass	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, a diamond was led to ♦K and West switched to a trump. Matthew Thomson won the trump switch with ♠9, ruffed a diamond, cashed ♥A, and crossruffed hearts and diamonds to reach this position:

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

Declarer now crossed to hand with a trump, and his last trump squeezed East in hearts and clubs, for +1430.

In the Open Room Terry Brown led ♣Q. Declarer won and played a diamond. George Bilski won ♦K, and returned ♣10, breaking up the squeeze for +100, and a huge 17 IMP pick-up.

Matthew Thomson was on a roll: *Continued p.4*

Country congresses

Taree Bridge Club Swiss Pairs: Sunday, April 14

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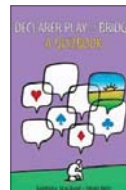
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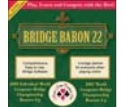
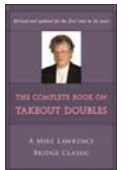
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Board 85, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ A K 9 7 6 2
♥ A J 7
♦ 8
♣ K 10 7

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

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

In the Open Room, Beauchamp - Thomson stopped in 3♠ for +140, but Kanetkar - Thomson stretched to 4♠. Declarer won ♠J lead, drew a second trump, and played a heart towards dummy's Q1083. When East ducked, Matthew Thomson was able to set up his fourth club in dummy to throw the heart loser. Plus 10 IMPs, and *BROWN* was now ahead by 22 IMPs.

With four boards to play *BEAUCHAMP* came back strongly, picking up 28 IMPs in three boards, to lead by 5 IMPs, with one board to play:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilski</i>	<i>Beauchamp</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Kanetkar</i>
1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

In the Open Room, Terry Brown underbid a little with his 0-6 3♥ raise, but +140.

In the Closed Room, Ben Thompson pushed a touch. In the Fantunes System, 1♥ is 14+, except if both majors, which may be just a normal opening. One down, -100, was 6 IMPs to *BROWN*, winners by 1 IMP.

But that's not how events transpired. There was a mis-score on a board, so at the score-up *BEAUCHAMP* had won by 2 IMPs, which was also the official final score. Congratulations with handshakes were given, and all retired to the courtyard below for drinks. In the meantime, *BROWN* players had texts and messages on their mobiles about the mis-score, but all phones were, of course, turned off.

With 10 minutes to go before score corrections were allowed, Avi Kanetkar said, thinking aloud, "I'd better check the scores, just in case". Suddenly his head shot

up, "On this board I only went down one, not two, in 2NT", "We didn't lose 3 IMPs, We won by 1 IMP!!"

Patron officially opens Summer Festival

Senator the Honourable Kate Lundy, Minister for Sport, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister Assisting for Innovation and Industry and Senator for the ACT, officially opened the Summer Festival of Bridge at Rydges Hotel on 16 January 2013.



In opening the event, Senator Lundy:

- welcomed non-Canberra residents to the ACT and encouraged them to take the opportunity to visit some Canberra's wonderful sites, including the Australian War Memorial, 'new' Parliament House and the National Gallery
- was delighted to learn that the ABF will soon be launching a new, more intuitive and interactive website for the benefit of members of affiliated clubs
- particularly welcomed people to the novice events, and encouraged them to participate in future Gold Point events; and
- mentioned that, as Minister for Sport, she will be taking a lot more notice of bridge in the future as she was extremely impressed with what she witnessed of the event

Confessions of a bridge congress virgin

by Greta Davis

The 2013 Canberra Festival of Bridge was my first bridge congress. It came about one Saturday, playing at the (Sydney) Inner West Bridge Club, when someone asked my partner, Archie Fraser, if he was going. Archie said that he didn't have anyone to play with. On a whim, I asked if he would be interested in playing with me. For this impulsive outburst, I claim the "Streaker's Defence" – it seemed like a good idea at the time!

Archie, brave man that he is said "yes" despite my meagre stock of MPs (less than eight at the time). As Archie had other commitments in the first week, we registered to play in the Flighted Swiss Pairs, and asked for another pair to make up a team in the South West Pacific Teams. Both open competitions. Then, on another whim, I thought that I might investigate playing in the new Super Novice Pairs (less than 20 MPs) so I asked the organisers if they could find me a partner for this event.



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Two days before the Super Novice Pairs, I got a call from Wendy Boxall telling me she had found me a partner, and that there were welcome drinks for the Super Novices on Tuesday evening, before the competition started. After a relaxed drive from Sydney, when I turned up at the reception, I was immediately made welcome, and chatted pleasantly to a number of people – both organisers and players. In due course, my partner, Connie Morrisroe, and I found each other, and discovered that, thankfully, we played similar systems and agreed on what to play the next day.

There were 12 pairs in the event and, over two sessions, we played 40 boards. After the morning round, we were placed second in our section of the draw. In the afternoon, we came third in our section which was enough to give us second place overall. This was particularly pleasing, as the first and third placed pairs were established partnerships. Best of all, Connie and I had a lot of fun.

On a high, I headed home the next day, returning on Sunday. The South West Pacific Teams event ran from Monday to Thursday, and the Flighted Swiss Pairs was on Saturday and Sunday. Archie and I arrived at Rydges Lakeside, the venue for the Festival, in good time on Monday morning. We went to the hotel ballroom, where the majority of teams had their home tables. This vast space was packed with bridge tables so the first task was to find our team number (148) and then our table. Having started on one side of the room, we finally found our table on the other side of the room in the last row. It turned out that the tables were in team rank order which meant that we were ranked 148 out of the 152 teams competing. Our teammates were Greg Nicholson and Frank Vearing, both experienced players, who were good fun and always cheerful and encouraging. Our first match was against the much more highly ranked team 72, so it was always going to be hard for us, and, sure enough, we lost 9-21. Having lost the first match, our second was against team number 111 – much better, we thought. Wrong. This was a bigger loss, at 7-23. But then we got to play team 131, and we narrowly won 16-14. That felt better!!

By this time, it was about 6:30pm. Time to have dinner and relax. After my first day of playing 60 boards, I was ready to stop.

Tuesday was a good day for us, with two wins and a loss, taking us up to 89th place. And Wednesday also started well, with another win moving us to 79th place. We were on a high. But then reality hit, and we were summoned downstairs to play in the elite room where we were thumped 6-24. But the women we played were pleasant so it was, all-in-all, a good experience. The final match of day three was another loss. But we had

decided that, if we won a match a day, we could be pleased with ourselves, and we were ahead of that goal.

On Thursday, the final day of this event, we were greeted by a sick pair of teammates. They had been out relaxing with some friends the previous night, and both reported strange experiences. Greg told of lying in the gutter, being unable to get up, and Frank's story was that he found himself on the median strip of a busy road, and had been brought back to the hotel by a friendly pair of ACT wallopers. Nothing to do with the booze, they assured us. Right, guys!!

So off Archie and I trotted to play the next team. The match did not start well. We play Bergen Raises; Archie (West) opened 1♠ and I bid 3♣, four-card spade support and 6-9 points.

Imagine my surprise when he passed, and I was left to play a 3♣ contract with just five trumps between the two hands. It turned out that North had bid 2♦, which I hadn't seen, and Archie took me for a long club suit.

From there, it was all downhill. Another boo boo that I perpetrated, was to pull out the wrong card, a small club, which then cost us a trick as declarer rightly picked me for ♣K. I was obliged to play my small club on her queen, and my king then fell to her ace.

In the meantime, Greg and Frank had done a good job at the other table. But we still chalked up a 4-26 loss. I figured out that my problem was that Thursday had been an AFD (alcohol free day).

The next match was as bad as it could be, with a 0-30 loss, and we also lost the final match, ending up being placed 148 – exactly the same as our seeding. We finished the four days with a very pleasant dinner with the still good-humoured Greg and Frank.

The next day, Friday, Archie and I had off, so we went to see the War Memorial. This had no connection to the carnage we'd experienced in the last day and a half at the bridge table. So, on Saturday, we fronted up for another two 60-board days of bridge in the Flighted Swiss Pairs. Once again, we were often outclassed, but we won a few rounds, and our bridge partnership (and my game) improved from the experience.

Before I retired three and a half years ago, I had been to a lot of conferences, as I made my living from writing and speaking about Information Technology. For this reason, I tend to be somewhat critical of event organisation. However, the Summer Festival of Bridge was most impressive. Results were out quickly. Ample and good quality food and drink were available to be purchased with minimal waiting time. The directors, in my experience, were well informed and fair. And, as a new player, the organisers went out of their way to be welcoming and helpful.

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At the end of the Congress, I estimate that I doubled my Masterpoints, learned a lot and had an enormous amount of fun. Before Canberra, I wondered whether I would have had enough bridge for a while but I found myself asking Archie when he was free to play next and planning for my next Congress. Thank you, Archie for playing with me in Canberra, and enduring my mistakes with unfailing good humour and tolerance!!

Diamonds are a girl's best friend

A 2011 VCC blast from the past

by Laura Ginnan

A couple of years after moving to Melbourne, I was feeling a little homesick for bridge life in Canberra, my home town. Then I thought, what better way to change that, than getting a youth team of Canberrans together to take on the VCC in Melbourne?



The process had the usual youth dramas: one player booked their flight within a week of the event, even though they had intended playing for months.

We also had the grand idea of combining the trip down with a wine trip to the Mornington Peninsula. This ended up with us drinking a couple of Tucks Ridge chardonnays with dinner, rather than actually venturing south.

Despite all this, the 2011 VCC turned into one of my most successful performances in a national event, and was a lot of fun!

We started the first day with three good wins, to be in the lead. We then ran into the likes of *NOBLE*, consisting of Barry Noble, Ishmael Del'Monte, Michael Prescott, Ashley Bach and George Bilski. I was quite nervous heading into this match, but very excited that we were getting to play them in Round 4. It would have been quite nice to get a win over these guys, but I think it's fair to say that the team was quite happy with the 6 IMP loss we suffered.

The event continued, and we ended up having to face *TISLEVOLL*, Geo Tislevoll, Jane Dawson, Louise Leibowitz and Kieran Dyke in Round 7. Stephen and I sat down against Lousie and Kieran, who was our captain at the under 21's World Championships in Philadelphia the previous year so it was time to show how we had come along since the previous year.

This juicy hand arose:

♠ A K Q 8
♥ A J 6 5
♦ A K Q 9 7
♣ ---

I was in first seat unfavourable and elected to open the hand 1♦. For starters, I am not really a fan of game force openings. I also thought I may not be fully able to describe my hand if I took up room by opening 2♣, and I also know my partner will stretch to respond. I didn't think this hand would be passed out in 1♦.

Of course I was expecting a one of a major or 1NT response. Over one of a major I was hoping to make a mini/mega splinter, and work my way along nicely from there, but the response that actually came back was 3♦, which we played as 0-6 with five diamonds, and denying a four-card major. Over this I was happy I had found my fit, and nearly bid 5♦, knowing partner's range. After a second thought, I realised I could be making a small slam opposite a zero count. Then after a third thought, I realised that a grand slam might be possible on a zero count!

The next question was: "*how can I find out?*" I decided bidding 4♦ would be my best option. We play this as suit-setting, and a slam try, obliging partner to cuebid if they have anything to show. Partner responded 4♠, which had to be a shortage, seeing I was looking at those lovely honours. This bid allowed me to put together partner's hand, and solved the rest of my problems. Stephen had shown 0-1 spades, and had denied a four-card major. This meant that he must have at most four cards in the majors. Knowing this, I realised I would be able to trump any major suit losers in his hand, as my major honours would take care of his major losers. It seemed the only issue would be if someone could overruff while I was getting my work done.

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I decided this was relatively unlikely, and also that partner may have high trumps. After much fidgeting and moving around in my chair I elected to bid 7♦ over his 4♠ cuebid.

Here is the full hand:

Board 5, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ A K Q 8
♥ A J 6 5
♦ A K Q 9 7
♣ ---

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

I can't remember exactly how the play went, but I am pretty sure that Kieran led ♦3, which I won in hand, be-

fore cashing my top spades and ♥A and then crossruffing, choosing to ruff the last heart with ♦J for +2140.

We ended up winning the match 17-13 against our old captain - I guess he taught us well.

There were two other tables in the event that made it to the grand slam, including Andrew Mill and Andy Hegedus. I know at their table Andrew also opened this hand 1♦ - maybe we should all reconsider how much we overuse the 2♣ opening?

Club congresses

Hawkesbury Congress

Venue: Panthers North
Richmond
Saturday Pairs 13th April
Sunday Teams 14th April
Director: Sean Mullamphy
Congress Convener:

Elaine Pugh: Email Windale99@hotmail.com or telephone (02) 9627 4756



Partnership discussion

by David Hoffman

Many partnerships, when discussing the system to be played, use the ABF System Card as the base for determining agreements. Unfortunately, sometimes the discussion is insufficient, leading to logical misunderstandings. Take, for instance, the box labelled RKCB, which most partnerships tick.

Having ticked the box, players know that they have to agree which version to play, either 3041 or 1430. This relates to how many controls the 5♣ response shows.

While there is little between the two versions, 1430 is preferred, since it is generally the strong hand which is asking, and 5♣ to show one Key Card leaves more room for investigation. In particular, after a 5♣ or 5♦ response, the next suit, ignoring the trump suit, is used to ask for the trump queen. However, in many instances the response structure is often omitted from discussion, leading to the following disaster.

Summer Festival Senior Teams, Match 4, Board 4, Dealer West, all vulnerable.

West, my left hand opponent, held:

♠ A 8 6
♥ A 7
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ A K 2

He opened 2♣, and heard his partner bid 2♠, showing a positive with a 5+ spade suit. Sensibly, he simplified the bidding by asking for controls. Partner bid 5♣, showing one Key Card, obviously ♠K. He now bid 5♦, asking about ♠Q. Partner bid 5♠, denying that card. West then bid 6NT, completing a sensible sequence. Unfortunately, responder thought 5♥, the first step, denied ♠Q, so a grand slam with 14 solid tricks was missed. What was interesting was that this disaster was replicated at a number of tables.

There are a number of structures for responding to an ask for the trump queen. One in vogue is:

1 step: no queen

2 steps: trump queen, no unshown kings

Suit, higher than two steps: trump queen, king in bid suit

5NT (or six of agreed suit): trump queen, king in suit higher than agreed suit

Thus, if hearts is the agreed trump suit, and the strong hand asks for the trump queen by bidding 5♦, then:

5♥: No queen

5♠: queen, no outside king

5NT: queen, and spade king

10

6♣/♦: queen, and bid king

However, if diamonds is the agreed trump suit, and the strong hand asks for the trump queen by bidding 5♥, then:

6♣: queen, and club king

6♦: queen, and spade king or heart king

This last problem, and even a problem with asking with 4NT, can be solved by employing Minorwood, where a bid of four in the agreed minor is RKCB.

However if you agree to play Minorwood, you need to have a partnership discussion as to exactly when it is applicable, but that is for another article.

Player profile

Fran Priol celebrated her 80th birthday amongst friends at Glenbrook Bridge Club recently, with a cake and a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday. She is one of the most popular members of the club, and also belongs to Springwood Bridge Club.

Fran is often accompanied by her trusted companion, Suzy, a seeing eye dog. Last year, Suzy won a "Slammy"



- the bridge equivalent of the Oscars or Emmys. She won the award for "best supporting bridge player".

Fran began playing bridge in her native Canada many years ago, and has amassed 534 masterpoints, including over 100 Gold Points. She is currently a Silver Life Master. Despite deteriorating vision, Fran remains an extremely competent bridge player, who is regularly in the winner's circle. Her son David is also an accomplished bridge player, but Fran likes to tell people that 'she taught him everything he knows'. We wish Fran many more years of Happy Bridging!

Summer Festival results

The main event, the National Open Teams was won by THOMSON, Matthew Thomson - Peter Newman, Ishmael Del'Monte - Howard Melbourne. They defeated BROWN,



Terry Brown - Avi Kanetkar, Paul Lavings - Robert Krochmalik, Bruce Neill - Kim Morrison by 178-133 IMPs.

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The South West Pacific Teams (the round robin preceding the NOT) was won by *OTVOSI*, Ervin Otvosi - Jeremi Stepinski, Michal Nowosadzki, Piotr Wiankowski and Wojciech Gawel. They scored a massive 250 VPs, with *THOMSON* second on 233 VPs.

The National Seniors' Teams was won by *DELIVERA*, Arjuna DeLivera - Bruce Neill, Simon Hinge - Kim Morrison.

The National TBIB Swiss Pairs Championship was won by Ishmael Del'Monte - Howard Melbourne.

For a full list of titleholders go to <http://www.abf.com.au/events/not/2013/2013SummerFestivalTitleHolders.pdf>

Seniors' Playoffs

The Seniors Playoff to select the 2013 Australian Seniors' Team has been won by *LAVINGS*, George Bilski, Robert Krochmalik,



Terry Brown, Paul Lavings, Avi Kanetkar and Chris Hughes. They defeated *KLINGER*, Ron Klinger - Bill Haughie, David Lilley - Zolly Nagy, Bob Richman - George Gaspar by 208-188 IMPs.

by John Aquino

The Bridge Association in Western Australia recently ran a unique bridge tournament — an event where all competitors were required to be over 80 years of age! It is believed that this is the first time such a tournament has been run in Australia (and possibly in the world). The event was sanctioned by the Australian Bridge Federation and given ‘Gold Point’ status.

The ‘SuperVets’ Tournament was designed to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary contribution that older bridge players have made to the game over a number of years. The event appropriately took place on 11 November — Remembrance Day.

A perpetual trophy has been donated for the best overall pair. In addition, commemorative certificates of achievement were awarded to the best performer over 90 years of age, and the best performer over 100 years of age. Yes, there are active bridge players over 100 years of age who had entered in the event!

Defying initial predictions that there would be a modest turnout for the competition, the tournament organisers were overwhelmed with the response. 114 players over the age of 80 entered, to pit their bridge skills against other players in their age group. It is estimated that the combined age of all the competitors entered was over 10,000 years!

The event was hosted at the wonderful club rooms of the WA Bridge Club — a purpose-built venue for bridge. As competitors assembled for the match, the excitement in the venue was palpable. By any estimate no one in the room could be regarded as a ‘pushover’. The field boasted at least seven Grand Masters and many players who had reached Gold and Silver Life Master Status.



2012 Trophy winners Joan Carter & Bobbie Mitchell with Nigel Dutton (BAWA President) and John Aquino (BAWA Executive Officer)

Though perhaps less keen than they were 30 years ago, their bridge playing skills were still formidable. It was truly awe-inspiring to see a room full of older bridge players, horns locked in silent competition, cards held close to their chests, all vying for recognition of their bridge playing prowess.



Sprightly centenarian player, Rudy Woss (102) plays a mean hand and he'll happily tell you it's bridge that keeps him "sharp". Nothing excites him more than outwitting his opponents.

The winning pair were Bobbie Michell (87) and her partner Joan Carter (94). The best performer over 100 was Rudy Woss (102).

Bridge is recognised as a sport by the International Olympic Committee. It is a game that engenders the following attributes and values common with other competitive sports — technique, competitive attitude, strategy, fair play, discipline, stamina, quick reflexes, rapport with your partner, and concentration.

Contract bridge is an excellent gymnastic of the mind for men and women of all ages. Medical research in the United States has concluded that playing the game significantly lowers the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and is even said to boost the immune system



SuperVets Perpetual Trophy donated by John Aquino

After the tournament The Bridge Association of WA made a donation towards ‘Bridge for Brains’ research being undertaken by the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute in NSW. This will help support their continued research into Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. The initiative has been lauded by the ABF who have encouraged other States to follow the lead taken in

WA by offering a bridge competition which specifically addresses an older demographic of bridge players. Because of the extraordinary success of the 2012 SuperVets tournament in WA, the BAWA has decided to make this an annual event as part of the State's annual bridge playing calendar. In 2013 the event will be held on November 10. We hope to attract interstate players to this tournament which celebrates the contribution that older players have made to our game.



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**2013 VICTOR CHAMPION CUP
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WOMENS, SENIORS, OPEN, RESTRICTED, AND <50 MP**

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OPEN & RESTRICTED**

Venue: Bayview Eden
6 Queens Road, South Melbourne Victoria

Details and enter via the website: www.vba.asn.au/vcc

Summer Festival Events

by Barbara Travis

Australian Women's Playoffs

The ABF held the Open and Women's Playoffs for 2013 in December 2012. Six teams entered the Women's, so we played a double round robin, involving 10 16-board matches over three days. The leading two teams would then play a 96-board final over two days.



*Candice Ginsberg, Elizabeth Havas,
Barbara Travis and Nevena Djurovic*

To start, here are a few interesting hands from the qualifying rounds:

I have spent some time teaching splinters and still hear people saying they never come up. I will continue to reassure those players that splinters do occur but that they are often missed. Witness this hand:

<i>Travis</i>	<i>Ginsberg</i>
♠ A 7 6 5	♠ 3
♥ A K J 7 2	♥ 10 8 5 4 3
♦ K 7 4	♦ A 8 3
♣ J	♣ A 6 4 2
	Pass
1♥	3♠ ¹
4♣ ²	4♦ ²
4NT ³	5♠ ⁴
6♥	

1. Spade splinter – 4+ hearts, singleton/void in spades. It's a light splinter in values, but a passed hand
2. Cuebid – 1st or 2nd round control in the suit bid (A, K, singleton or void)
3. Roman Keycard Blackwood
4. 2 Key Cards + the trump queen – a permissible "lie" when you know there is a 10-card fit (what's more, if partner has the trump queen, she will know you have extra length)

This is a typical 'gain' to be derived from playing splinters; we bid the slam with 8 HCP opposite a working 15 HCP. In fact, we had the tools to bid to 7♥ if partner had held ♦Q (or a doubleton), but I forgot to use the bid! Over 5♠ I should bid 6♦... A new suit at the six-level asks partner to bid the grand slam if they have third-round control of the suit (♦Q or doubleton). Sue Lusk played this hand very nicely, using the bidding to assist with her critical decision.

♠ 10 6
♥ K 10 7 5
♦ Q 7 5 3 2
♣ 9 5

♠ 7 5 3
♥ Q 8
♦ K J 8 6
♣ A J 8 3

♠ A J
♥ J 9 3 2
♦ A 9 4
♣ K Q 10 6

♠ K Q 9 8 4 2
♥ A 6 4
♦ 10
♣ 7 4 2

<i>West</i> <i>Bourke</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Lusk</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	2♠
Db1 ¹	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1. Negative – asking for more information about the East hand
2. 15+ HCP, balanced with a spade stopper

At several tables South led a fourth-highest spade, which allowed the contract home in comfort. Sue Lusk's South led ♠K, threatening the contract. She had seven top tricks, and needed to develop two more. Given South's bidding had marked her with six spades and a weak hand, Sue decided to play North for ♦Q and hoped that South had ♦10.

She crossed to dummy with a club and led ♦J – known as a reverse finesse. Her initial intention was to finesse North for ♦Q and then South for ♦10. However, ♦J dropped South's ♦10 on the first lead, so now Sue could finesse towards ♦A9 to make her ninth trick and +600.

At the other table, Candice Ginsberg had not made a weak jump overcall, instead making a simple 1♠ bid. This gave our declarer less useful information. In 3NT on ♠K lead, she cashed four clubs and then played ♦A and found out the bad news on the next round, so cashed her seven tricks, for -200.

Next, a hand that is an exercise in counting:

♠ A 10 8 6 4
♥ 5 3
♦ J
♣ Q 9 6 5 2

♠ K J 7
♥ A 4
♦ Q 10 5
♣ A K 10 4 3

♠ 9 5 2
♥ K Q 7 6 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ J 7

♠ Q 3
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ K 9 8 7 6 2
♣ 8

As West, you are playing 3NT. North leads ♠6, which runs to ♠Q and your ♠K. You have to ensure that you do not let South obtain the lead; if they do get the lead,



WESTERN SENIORS PAIRS

25th & 26th May 2013

10 am start each day

For ABF Seniors Events players must be born before 1 January 1955

This is a Gold Point and PQP Selection Event

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

Entries: Via the BAWA Website www.bawa.asn.au

Entry Fee: \$80 Per Player

(Collected at the table or Payable on Line: BAWA BSB 016464 Acc No 255674541

Description: Your name + WSP)

Tournament Unit: Bill Kemp & Dave Parham

Tournament Organiser: Kitty George kitty.george@bigpond.com 0408097881

Cocktail Party and Presentations on Sunday at 5pm after play

they will continue a spade through your ♠J7, and North will now have three or four winners.

Meanwhile, you have seven tricks, and, hopefully, finessing clubs to North (the safe hand) will garner two more.

You should lead ♥A and another to ♥K in dummy. (This is necessary to ensure you have unblocked hearts should there be a diamond switch.) Now you lead ♣J and North wins ♣Q. North cannot lead spades without giving declarer an extra spade winner (ninth trick). North can lead ♣9 (to pin East's ♣7) but it is just as safe for North to exit with ♦J. Declarer wins ♦A in dummy – again, you cannot afford to duck a diamond to South. Then ♥Q is cashed (North shows out), and clubs are continued. Once South discards, you know North held two hearts and five clubs, and, presumably, spade length.

At this stage you have eight tricks (including ♣10) and need to find a way to a ninth. You cannot make the contract if North can get to South's hand, so you have to hope North has five spades, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs. If that is the case, you need to put North on lead. If you cash your club winners and exit with the last club, North will only have spades left, and will have to lead one, giving you a trick with your ♠J. This 3NT contract was made by all the declarers in the Open field (although only one received a spade lead!) but failed half the time in the Women's field. I hate to say it, but it was a flat board in our match – going down both times!

The finalists were *MELBOURNE*, Howard Melbourne, npc, Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk, Nevena Djurovic - Elizabeth Havas, Candice Ginsberg - Barbara Travis and *KALMIN*, Lorna Ichilcik - Lynn Kalmin, Giselle Mundell - Avril Zets.

KALMIN suffered through some agonizing moments awaiting the result of the *BELOGONOFF* match, knowing that they had incurred a 3 VP mobile phone fine in the last qualifying match, which could have cost them second place. They survived – by 1 (nail-biting) VP.

The ABF has abolished carry-forwards in finals of national events, with the higher qualifier being declared the winner in the case of a draw (in my experience in the 2011 Autumn National Open Teams – yes, we finished second on tie-break!). As such, both teams began the final on equal footing (although this regulation seems to vary depending on the event). I believe that in events when it is a round-robin format and all-play-all, there should be carry-forwards; equally, I believe that in Swiss events, when teams may not have played each other, there should not be a carry-forward. “My”

regulation would be easy to understand and operate. Board 2 of the first session was a classic ‘safety play’.

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

1. Forcing

South led ♥2 to her partner's ♥A. The only issue on the hand was the trump suit. If the suit broke 4-1 I had to ensure I only lost two tricks. Given North had bid (vulnerable) at the two-level, the main concern was if North held a singleton ♠A. In that case, it was necessary to cross to dummy to lead a small spade from ♠Q towards my hand. Then ♠A would not be winning any honours.

I had this all planned and, as it happened, spades were indeed 4-1, with North holding ♠A and South holding ♠J974. So if I had led towards ♠Q I would have gone down. At the table, North actually cashed ♠A at trick two, so the play was easy. However, we did gain 10 IMPs when the opposing declarer did not execute the safety play.

During the third set, Nevena Djurovic picked up ♠KQ J984, ♥---, ♦AKQJ93, ♣5 and solved her bidding dilemma by using a bid I have yet to use myself (and yes, I am jealous). She opened 4NT. An opening 4NT bid is called a ‘specific ace ask’, with partner bidding 5♣ to say they have no aces, and otherwise they bid the ace they hold. With two aces they respond 5NT (and I guess with three aces you can bid 7NT!!).

If her partner had responded 5♣, she could sign-off in 5S. When Elizabeth Havas bid 5♠ (showing ♠A), she found herself playing in 6♠. As you can see, ♠A is all the South hand needs for slam.

MELBOURNE held a 36 IMP buffer with one set remaining, with some of the lead coming on this interesting hand from the penultimate set:

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

You are on lead to that auction holding ♠10653, ♥Q82, ♦1063, ♣1098.

In my experience, when opponents jump to 3NT like that, they have a good stopper in the unbid suit, so I

decided to lead ♣10 – with remarkable results!

♠ 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ Q 9 8 4
♣ A K Q J 2

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

Declarer was very happy to cash her otherwise potentially-unreachable clubs. She won with ♣J and led the other top honours, discarding one diamond and 3 hearts from dummy. Now she had eight tricks and tried the spade finesse for her ninth. Candice Ginsberg won ♠Q and cashed her ♦A, ♦K and ♣7.

Dummy had now been reduced to ♠AK9, ♥AK, ♦---, ♣---. Candice could now exit with a heart to endplay dummy – given I still held ♠1065 – and we had beaten the contract. Our teammates made 11 tricks in 3NT on the more ‘normal’ diamond lead.

KALMIN won the last set by 31-30 IMPs, leaving the total 179-144 in favour of MELBOURNE. KALMIN played very well throughout the event, were worthy finalists and were generous in defeat. Their efforts were commendable, given they were a four-person team, so played five days of bridge without a break.

MELBOURNE will now represent Australia at the Asia-Pacific Bridge Federation Championships in Hong Kong in June, and then at the World Championships in Bali in September.

National Women's Teams

Two of our partnerships formed a team of four for the 2013 National Women's Teams, held in Canberra in January: Nevena Djurovic - Elizabeth Havas, Candice Ginsberg - Barbara Travis (pictured on page 14).

The NWT format remains a three-day qualifying with nine 20-board matches, leading to a 64-board semi-final on the Saturday and 64-board final on the Sunday.

From the qualifying:

Since I have already mentioned a 3NT contract which was makeable via an endplay, I think it appropriate to reveal that this sort of play occurs more frequently than people realise:

♠ 7 4 3
♥ J 10 8 4 3
♦ J 8 5
♣ 8 2

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

♠ K Q J 5
♥ 9
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ J 10 5 4

Club Manager



Australia's largest bridge club seeks the services of a Club Manager to replace the retiring incumbent. North Shore Bridge Club leads the way in bridge technology, and we will expect the successful applicant to continue with innovative ideas to maintain the level of bridge enjoyment for all our members.

The Club Manager will be required to oversee and manage 250+ tables per week, currently comprising 17 sessions at two venues. We have over 1200 members and we like to do everything possible to ensure that their bridge is conducted in an atmosphere of total satisfaction.

To assist in achieving our goals, the Club Manager is supported by four administrative staff and eight session directors. The successful applicant will report directly to the President of the committee, and will work closely with the Treasurer on all financial matters, including budgeting and actual results.

In summary, the successful applicant must have extensive bridge experience and be a good “people person” with a hands-on approach. He or she will have sound computer skills and will be likeable, personable and entrepreneurial.

If interested, please contact the club president, John Brownie, either by email to browniej@bigpond.net.au, or by phone on (02) 9904 1990.

East played 3NT on ♠K lead. Having ducked till the third round of spades, declarer knows the suit is dividing 4-3. You have eight top tricks, with several options for a ninth. If clubs or hearts break 3-3 you have your extra trick and, if necessary, you can try the diamond finesse.

Imagine you try hearts first, and discover the 5-1 break. First of all, South has to find two discards, which have to be diamonds. If South errs by encouraging diamonds, East might work out what is happening in the suit. (This happened at the other table, and East dropped the doubleton ♦K offside, but that was not really necessary, as you will see in due course.)

You then test the club suit, and discover South has four clubs. In fact, at this stage you can count South for a 4-1-4-4 shape. However, the diamond finesse is no longer a risk you need to take. Instead, you simply exit to South with dummy's last club. South is now on lead, and can cash the defence's fourth trick (the long spade) but will have to lead from ♦Kx into declarer's ♦AQ at trick 12.

The four semi-finalists were TRAVIS, Nevena Djurovic – Elizabeth Havas, Candice Ginsberg – Barbara Travis on 178 VPs, KALMIN, Lorna Ichilcik – Lynn Kalmin, Rena Kaplan – Paula McLeish on 174 VPs, BOURKE, Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk, Felicity Beale – Diana Smart, Rosa Lachman – Greer Tucker on 150 VPs and MOTT, Judy Mott – Avril Zets, Cynthia Belonogoff – Viv Wood on 147 VPs.

TRAVIS played MOTT, and KALMIN played BOURKE over 64 boards.

The most interesting board in the semi-final appeared in the first set:

	♠ Q 4		
	♥ K 10 2		
	♦ Q J 8 6 5 4 3		
	♣ A		
	♠ 2	♠ A K 8 7 6 3	
	♥ A Q 8 7 5	♥ 9	
	♦ A 9	♦ K 10 2	
	♣ J 10 9 5 2	♣ K Q 8	
West	North	East	South
	Travis		Ginsberg
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
3♠ (weak)	4♦	4♠	5♦
All Pass			

♠A was led, then East switched to ♣K. She could see a trump trick, so was hopeful that ♣Q would be the setting trick. As it happened, nothing could stop 5♦.

After winning ♣A, I trumped my spade loser then cashed ♦A. Having negotiated a safe crossing back to hand, I led ♦Q and was able to draw trumps.

What makes the hand interesting? *Deep Finesse* informed us we could only make 4♦ (or 4♥), so I had spent a few minutes analysing how to defeat the contract. When East asked me how to beat 5♦ (per *Deep Finesse*) I had the response ready – “You have to make an opening lead of a low trump from your K102”. Then North cannot get the spade ruff in time. Of course, a trump lead is highly unlikely on the East hand; in fact, every other suit appeals ahead of the trump lead on the hand! Sometimes *Deep Finesse* is very frustrating. KALMIN defeated BOURKE 186 – 135 VPs and TRAVIS defeated MOTT 145-106 VPs.

So once again we would meet KALMIN, who seem to be regulars in finals over the past few months!!

In the first set, this deal was interesting:

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

You are playing 4♠ from the West seat, and receive ♦2 lead (third highest from even, lowest from odd number). You play low, and RHO plays ♦10, so you win ♦A. Trumps are 3-2 so you draw three rounds. That ♣A is proving awkward to reach, and if the hearts break badly, you could go down if you lead hearts yourself. On the other hand, it seems as if RHO holds a doubleton king or queen of diamonds (with the 10) given the opening lead.

Teams is about finding the safest line of play for your contract, so it can't hurt to exit with a diamond and let RHO win. In fact, RHO did hold a doubleton diamond, so now had to either lead a club to dummy's ace (allowing you a diamond discard) or a heart – ensuring an entry to dummy via ♥Q.

That is the play I found at the table, feeling reasonably pleased I'd found a line that seemed almost 100% if diamonds were 5-2. Unfortunately I merely lost our team 1 IMP when the safety play wasn't found at the other table.

The following hand has an element of interest, which is about *which* player needs to do the asking in a slam auction:

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

At our table, our opposition West took control of the slam asking, but could not ascertain that partner held

♣Q (or doubleton) for the grand slam, so they stopped in 6♥. I was impressed that our teammates bid to 7♥, given that Nevena Djurovic was playing with Diana Smart (a substitute was approved for the first set, when Elizabeth Havas had a migraine).

As it happens, it is an easy slam to bid if *East* does the asking, and knows that West has a diamond shortage. All West's controls are 'findable'. (It is also biddable if you use the 'tool' I mentioned in the playoffs – that a bid at the six-level after RKCB asks for third round control of the suit – so here 6♣ by West asks East to bid the grand slam if she holds ♣Q or a doubleton.)

TRAVIS led by 20 IMPs with 16 boards remaining. It seemed likely that we had lost 13 IMPs on the final board, so I felt very nervous waiting for the others to finish. However, I still like our auction, and suspect that, in the long-term, we were in the superior contract:

<i>Ginsberg</i>	<i>Travis</i>
♠ K	♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 6	♥ K Q J 9 3
♦ A J 9 6 5 2	♦ K
♣ A 7 5 2	♣ K 8 6

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

1. FSF
2. Usually 6+ diamonds
3. Either 6+ hearts or a really good five-card suit (being dubious about the spade stopper.
4. A good hand, suited to hearts
5. An offer to play, showing a tenuous spade stopper

Unfortunately South had listened to the auction enough to know to lead a heart, which meant that there was no longer any prospect of trumping spades. Instead I would have to create some diamond winners.

I won the heart in hand, unblocked ♦K, then crossed to dummy with ♥A. If diamonds were 3-3, or there was a doubleton ♦Q, then I could establish the suit, draw trumps and get back to the diamond winners with ♣A. Sad to say, diamonds broke 5-1 and I went down, in fact -200.

The other table had a much simpler auction: 1♦ - 1♥; 2♣ - 3NT, and found spades 4-4, so there were nine top tricks.

As with the Playoffs, *KALMIN* won the last set by 1 IMP, and *TRAVIS* won the Final 131-112.

\It was a very enjoyable final, evidenced by the fact that all the finalists posed together for a photo at the finish. I would like to acknowledge and thank my team-

mates, Diana Smart for her willingness to help us out by being a substitute, our opponents and the directors, especially Simon Edler, who looked after us so capably during the NWT finals stages.

I realize that the running of other Summer Festival events means that these finals have to be played on the 15th floor of Rydges, but there is a real contrast between the conditions for the National Women's and Seniors' Teams semi-finals and finals, and the conditions under which the National Open Teams are played. The playing area and the screens utilised for the NOT are so far superior, that it would be nice to think that something could be done (perhaps the screens would be a good start?)



Paula McLeish, Rena Kaplan, Lorna Ichilcik, Lynn Kalmin

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TRANSFERS AND MORE

TRANSFERS



Experts are discovering that transfer bids can be used to great advantage in many and varied situations. If you wish to get started on transfers may I recommend three situations where they work brilliantly. Don't be shy, transfers are fun and will improve your results.

TRANSFER RESPONSES TO 1♣

There are three transfer responses:

- 1♣ - 1♦ Transfer showing 4+ hearts
- 1♣ - 1♥ Transfer showing 4+ spades
- 1♣ - 1♠ Transfer showing no major

Opener accepts the transfer to a major with three-card support.

- 1♣ - 1♦
- 1♥ Three hearts
- 1♣ - 1♥
- 1♠ Three spades

and makes the normal raise with four card support

- 1♣ - 1♦
- 2♥ Four hearts
- 1♣ - 1♥
- 2♠ Four spades

Otherwise opener bids as normal:

- 1♣ - 1♦
- 1NT Denies both 3 or 4 hearts and 4 spades

If RHO doubles, their bid is ignored. If they overcall, double says you would have bid that suit as a transfer. If you bid over their overcall it is a normal transfer:

- 1♣ (1♦) Dbl Transfer showing 4+ hearts
- 1♣ (1♦) 1♥ Transfer showing 4+ spades
- 1♣ (1♦) 1♠ Transfer showing no major
- 1♣ (1♥) Dbl Transfer showing 4+ spades
- 1♣ (1♥) 1♠ Transfer showing no major
- 1♣ (1♠) Dbl 4 + hearts (as normal)

Not only can the partnership knowingly play in their 5-3 major fit, but the opening bidder, most often the stronger hand, will be the declarer. The 1NT response to 1♣ is 11-12 balanced, no major. This allows the partnership to stop in 1NT with 23-24 bad points between them, and frees 1♣ - 2NT for something more useful and hazardous than 11-12 balanced.

TRANSFER RESPONSES TO OPENER'S 2NT REBID

Often responder will make a weak response to 1♣ for tactical reasons. Let's say partner opens 1♣ and you hold either of these hands:

1. ♠K9865, ♥J76, ♦653, ♣32
2. ♠6, ♥98742, ♦765, ♣K964

On the first hand you don't want to be stranded in 1♣, when opener might only have a three card suit. So you transfer with 1♥. Who knows what might happen, but its better value than passing 1♣. On the second hand you have a good club fit, and a singleton spade. You are afraid if you pass you'll give the game away, and opponents will have too easy a time finding their spade fit. So you transfer with 1♦.

Partner's frequent response to your transfer will be 2NT, 18-19 balanced. And opener will rebid 2NT rather than show three-card heart support, or a four card spade suit. Now responder would like to sign off in 3♠ on hand 1, and 3♥ on hand 2. Many systems can't manage this, but for transfers it's easy:

- 1♣ - 1♥ (4+ spades)
- 2NT - 3♥ (transfer to 3♠)
- 3♠ - Pass

In this situation opener has no choice but to accept the transfer. And note, the strong hand is still declarer. In other situations, opener is expected to give preference:

- 1♣ - 1♥ (4+ spades)
- 2NT - 3♦ (5+ spades, 4+ hearts)
- 3♥ = 4 hearts
- 3♠ = preference to spades
- 3NT = less than 4 hearts and less than three spades

Another twist:

- 1♣ - 1♦ (4+ hearts)
- 2NT - 3♦ (5+ hearts)
- 3♥ - 3♠ (3♥ is forced, now 3♠=5+♥ and 4♠)
- 1♣ - 1♦ (4+ hearts)
- 2NT - 3♥ (4 hearts and 4 spades)

This last sequence is available if responder wants to check back whether opener has four spades. Responder can transfer to minors, to invite slam. Lots of options, and lots of flexibility.

TRANSFER RESPONSES TO A 2♣ OPENING

At the moment, I favour this scheme over a strong 2♣ opening:

- 2♣ - 2♦ (0-4 any)
- 2♣ - 2♥ (any positive, normally 9+ HCP)
- 2♣ - 2♠ (semi-positive 5-8 HCP, no good suit)
- 2♣ - 2NT (transfer semi-positive in clubs 5-8 HCP with 2 of the top 3 honours)
- 2♣ - 3♣ (transfer semi-positive in diamonds 5-8 HCP with 2 of the top 3 honours)
- 2♣ - 3♦ (transfer semi-positive in hearts 5-8 HCP with 2 of the top 3 honours)

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2♣ - 3♥ (transfer semi-positive in spades 5-8 HCP with 2 of the top 3 honours)

The transfer semi-positives show a five or six card suit with two of the top three honors, obviously with little outside, since they are all 5-8 HCP. Opener accepts the transfer with 3+ support, otherwise bids naturally. This way the strong hand declares the contract most of the time.

Good luck, and be brave enough to brush aside initial misunderstandings. And remember, transfers rule!

Paul Lavings
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2012 McCutcheon Rankings

Congratulations to David Beauchamp, the 2012 winner of the McCutcheon Race

Top 10 overall

Silver Grand and Above	David Beauchamp	484.06
Silver Grand and Above	Warren Lazer	435.16
Silver Grand and Above	Pauline Gumby	428.33
Silver Grand and Above	Paul Lavings	420.2
Silver Grand and Above	Kim Morrison	411.29
Silver Grand and Above	Terry Brown	394.41
Silver Grand and Above	Avinash Kanetkar	383
Grand	Nathan Van Jole	380.89
Silver Grand and Above	Andrew Peake	368.28
Silver Grand and Above	Bob Richman	362.35

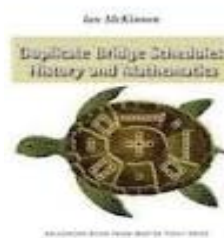
Top in each rank outside top 10

Grand	Robert Krochmalik	315.67
Gold Life	Viv Wood	306.2
Silver Life	Dave Munro	211.41
Bronze Life	Fraser Rew	202.26
Life	Liam Milne	313.05
**National	Jenny Michael	117.2
*National	Rhys Cooper	158.13
National	Frank Vearing	148.75
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*Regional	Vivienne McDonald	41.99
Regional	Manda Labuschagne	66.71
**Local	Margaret Copland	59.17
*Local	Jody Swaine	47.88
Local	Pam Nearhos	42.94
Club	Merwyn Menezes	72.91
Graduate	Adil Alkhoury	54.13
Nil	Trevor Burr	46.26

Book review

by Jeff Rubens

Jan McKinnon has a strong sense of history, and it's a very good thing for the bridge world that he does. His outstanding 1979 book, *Bridge Directing Complete* (see review in the August 1980 issue of *The Bridge World*), presented not only the mechanics of tournament movements but also the motivations behind them. The author both updates the earlier work and considerably expands the scope of the inquiry in the spectacular "*Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics*" (an Honors book from Master Point Press; 427 oversize pages).



McKinnon introduces the challenges of tournament logistics against the lengthy historical background of attempts to meet them; this includes the conflicts over which solutions are "better" and why—for example, he reviews contrasting viewpoints of and weighs in on the thorny matter of how to compare the match-point impacts of a pair as a table opponent, a pair sitting in the same direction, and a pair sitting in the opposite direction at another table. If you also happen to enjoy historical anecdotes and tidbits, so much the better; there are plenty.

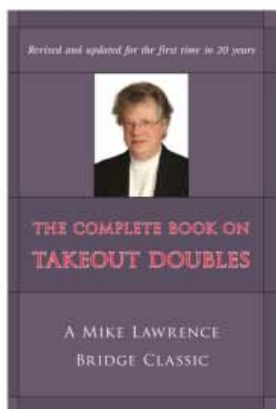
In presenting the sometimes-subtle mathematics involved, the text introduces important ideas but does not elaborate details. Thus, it should be possible for a civilian to understand, say, the fundamentals of balanced, incomplete block designs, but the author leaves it to each individual reader how far to pursue the subject privately.

(Warning! Pursuers must anticipate frustration—not every arrangement that one would like is attainable.) The heavy dose of theory is supplemented by an equal portion of practical information and advice for directors and tournament organizers, covering both normal and emergency situations over a vast array of game forms and entry sizes. There are Internet references to other capabilities, such as having useful materials spew out of your home printer.

McKinnon has basically spent a lifetime collecting, analyzing and organising the material in this remarkable volume. Need I mention that a full appreciation and understanding will require a considerable effort from the reader?—J.R. TBW#1877

This review originally appeared in The Bridge World magazine. For more information on The Bridge World, visit: www.bridgeworld.com

NEW BOOKS

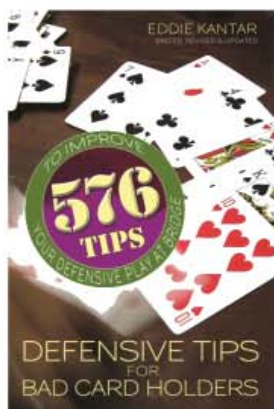


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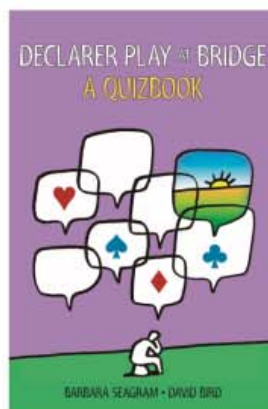


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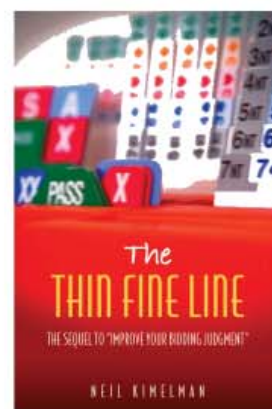


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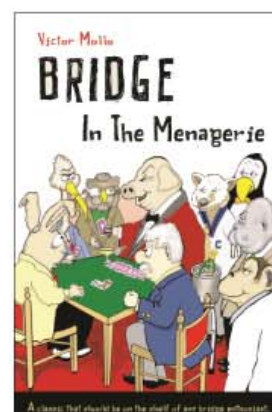
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