

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

Editor: Stephen Lester editor@abf.com.au

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Summer Festival action

by Stephen Lester

The final of the National Women's Teams was between *Travis*, Barbara Travis – Lauren Travis, Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk and *Mott*, Judy Mott – Rita Nailand, Avril Zets – Giselle Mundell. In the Seniors', the finalists were the first and second seeds, *Brown*, Terry Brown – Avi Kanetkar, Peter Buchen – Henry Christie, Bill Haughie – Ron Klinger and *Neill*, Bruce Neill – Arjuna De Livera, Simon Hinge – Kim Morrison, David Lilley – Zoli Nagy.

Session 1

Partner opens a weak 2♠, 9-12 points. The opponents do not bid. How would you plan the bidding with ♠J, ♥A7642, ♦AKJ1097, ♣2?

Board 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

At three tables East opened 1♠. Two pairs played in 3NT and one in 4♥. Hearts were 3-2 and both contracts made. At the remaining table, East opened a strong weak two. West should first bid 3♦ and then 4♥ to show the 5-6 pattern. Klinger did bid 3♦, but when Haughie bid 3NT, Klinger bid 4♠, not a good idea. The result was four down and 12 IMPs out.

East deals, EW vulnerable

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

What would you do as West with ♠Q3, ♥AKQ1073, ♦952, ♣J9?

Board 6, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

If the hearts behave, you need East to have three tricks to make 3NT, but four tricks to make 4♥. West should therefore rebid 3NT.

Both EW pairs in the Seniors did that for +630 and

+660. Travis – Travis did that, too, for +660. At the other table West ended in 4♥. North led the singleton ♣A and switched to a spade to South's ace. North ruffed the club return and cashed ♦A for one down, NS +13 IMPs.

Board 10, North deals, all vulnerable

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

The only attractive auction came from Mott – Nailand. With the opponents silent, the auction went Pass : 2♣, 2♦ : 2♠, 2NT : 3♠, 4♠ : Pass. At the other table it went Pass : 2♣, 2♦ : 2♠, 3♣ (second negative), 4♠ : Pass. The outcome was fine, but what if East had 5-6 weak hearts and a void in spades?

In the Seniors, one sequence went Pass : 2♣, 2♥ (negative), 2♠ : 3♣, 3NT : Pass. Luckily, the opponents could take only four club tricks. At the other table it went Pass : 2♣, 2♦ : 3♠, 4♠ : Pass. Again, how would it go if East were void in spades and had 5+ hearts?

At favourable vulnerability, what would you open with ♠J3, ♥AQJ108642, ♦4, ♣K2?

One West in each match opened 4♥. The other Wests opened 1♥. With eight playing tricks and potential for nine, West is too strong for a preemptive opening at favourable vulnerability. Partner had ♠AKQ4, ♥9, ♦J96, ♣AJ974.



Sue Lusk, Margaret Bourke, Barbara Travis and Candice Ginsberg

No damage done, as slam was not on, but would East have made a move for slam after a 4♥ opening with ♠A654, ♥K, ♦J962, ♣AQ83

After 16 boards, Travis led Mott by 45-8 and Neill led Brown by 34-22

Session 2

South deals, NS vulnerable

♠ J 9 8 3
♥ Q 8 2
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ 7 5

♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ K 9 5
♦ A 10 5
♣ K 10 4

South has shown a 21-22 balanced hand with no major. West leads ♥4, ♥2 from dummy. East's play?

Board 22, South deals, NS vulnerable

♠ J 9 8 3
♥ Q 8 2
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ 7 5

♠ 10 5
♥ J 10 6 4 3
♦ Q 9 7
♣ J 8 6

♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ K 9 5
♦ A 10 5
♣ K 10 4

♠ A K Q
♥ A 7
♦ K 6 4
♣ A Q 9 3 2

At each table South opened 2NT or showed the equivalent. North checked for majors and South denied. North bid 3NT, all pass. Every West led ♥4 and every declarer played ♥2 from dummy. Three Easts played ♥9, partly to keep the king to capture the queen, or prevent the queen becoming an entry to dummy, and partly to minimise declarer's tricks (in case South began with ♥AJ). At those tables declarer went two or three off.

At the remaining table East played ♥K at trick one, not a good idea. South won, cashed ♠A, ♠K, ♠Q and played ♣3: eight – five – four. West reverted to ♥J and declarer ducked in dummy. This was not a good idea, but as the cards lay, she would have survived this pécadillo (a felony had the duck been fatal).

West played another heart to the queen. Declarer cashed ♠J, discarding a diamond, finessed ♣Q and had nine tricks, +600, +14 IMPs.

North deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with ♠652, ♥A9642, ♦QJ3, ♣K7?

Board 24, North deals, nil vulnerable

♠ J 10 9 3
♥ Q 10 7 5
♦ 4 2
♣ 10 6 4

♠ K Q 8 7 4
♥ J 8
♦ 7 5
♣ J 5 3 2

♠ 6 5 2
♥ A 9 6 4 2
♦ Q J 3
♣ K 7

♠ A
♥ K 3
♦ A K 10 9 8 6
♣ A Q 9 8

Every table began with the auction in the previous column. At three tables East balanced with 1♥. In the Women's, both Souths doubled and ended up with +130, one in 2♣, the other in 2♦. In the Seniors, Terry Brown, South, bid 2♥ over East's 1♥ to seek a heart stopper. Avi Kanetkar, North, bid 2NT and South raised to 3NT.

♠2 lead went to the ace and declarer played ♦A, ♦K and a third diamond. East won and continued spades. West took ♠Q, ♠K and played ♠8, won by North with ♠9. North played a heart and had nine tricks, +600

At the remaining table, East elected to pass out 1♦. If West could not take action over 1♦, it was unlikely that the hand belonged to EW. South made 10 tricks, +130, but –7 IMPs.

West deals, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
?			

What would you rebid now as West with ♠AJ104, ♥A83, ♦QJ954, ♣J?

Board 32, West deals, EW vulnerable

♠ 6 5 3
♥ Q 9 7 2
♦ 10 8
♣ A 5 3 2

♠ A J 10 4
♥ A 8 3
♦ Q J 9 5 4
♣ J

♠ K Q 8 7
♥ 10 6 5 4 2
♦ K 6
♣ K 8 6

♠ 9 2
♥ K J
♦ A 7 3 2
♣ Q 10 9 7 4

Women's Final

West	North	East	South
Zets	Bourke	Mundell	Lusk
L Travis	Mott	B Travis	Nailand
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		



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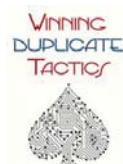


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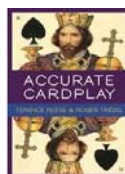


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One North led a trump. Declarer won and played ♣J, taken by the ace. The other North led ♣A. ♣K gave declarer a heart discard in each case and with trumps 3-2 and diamonds friendly, both Wests made 10 tricks.

In the Seniors final, both Wests raised 1♥ to 2♥. The theory is that with a minimum opening and a singleton, the three-card raise is preferable to other actions. Then if you bid, say, 1♠ and later show three-card support for hearts, you are showing a strong opening. So much for theory. One East passed 2♥, the other competed to 3♥. With a seven-loser hand, East is worth a game-invitation.

At the halfway point, *Travis* led *Mott* by 77-9 and *Neill* led *Brown* by 50-42.

Session 3

With all vulnerable, West opens 1♣ : Pass : Pass. What should South do with ♠QJ95, ♥KJ6, ♦A, ♣K10653?

Board 36, West deals, all vulnerable

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

The basic options are to pass and collect what you can from 1♣, to bid 1NT if the hand fits your balancing 1NT range or to double and rebid 1NT if that would show this range unless partner bids spades. As it happens, the double works out best. North would jump to 2♠ and South 4♠. That contract should make easily for +620 or +650.

Rita Nailand and Bruce Neill passed 1♣ out. They collected 400 in defence. Sue Lusk, South, bid 1NT, an okay idea, but 1NT was passed out. West led ♥4 and South made 11 tricks, +210, but a loss of 5 IMPs.

At the remaining table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hinge</i>	<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Brown</i>
1♣	1♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lead: ♥4 – three – nine – jack

♠Q went to the ace and ♥7 was taken by the ace. Declarer played ♣Q, which held. ♣4 to ♣10 would have been successful, but South took a different view and went one off, -11 IMPs. After North bid 1♦, how can

NS find 4♠? Maybe South could bid 1♠?

North deals, all vulnerable

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

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

West leads ♠10: jack – queen – six. What would you play next as East?

Board 42, North deals, all vulnerable

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

The auctions in the Seniors were identical: 1♣ : (1♠) : Double : (Pass), 2NT by North, 4♥ by South, all pass. The demise was swift. Both Wests led ♠10, jack, queen. East cashed ♠A and played ♠4 for West to ruff. West returned a club, as requested by ♠4. East took ♣A, one down, EW +100, no swing.

In the Women's, West also led ♠10, jack, queen. East should now play ♠A. The defence is then easy. Even if West and South had a doubleton spade, a third spade from East will create a trump trick for the defence if West began with ♥10-x. East switched to ♦Q at trick two, almost certainly a futile play, and South made 11 tricks, +650.

The best auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Mott</i>	<i>B Travis</i>	<i>Nailand</i>	<i>L Travis</i>
	1♣	1♠	DI
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦ ¹
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1. Transfer!! Excellent.

Played by North, 4♥ is unbeatable.



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5	Muuga (Tallinn), Estonia	10:00	17:00	Docked
6	St. Petersburg, Russia	07:00		Docked
7	St. Petersburg, Russia		18:00	Docked
8	Helsinki, Finland	08:00	17:00	Docked
9	Stockholm, Sweden	09:00	16:00	Docked
10	At Sea			
11	Copenhagen, Denmark	10:00	18:00	Docked
12	At Sea			
13	Amsterdam, Holland	06:00		Debarck

At the three-quarter mark, the final of the National Women's Teams was effectively over. *Travis* led *Mott* 101-46. By contrast the Seniors was close. *Neill* led *Brown* by 69-61.

Session 4

This deal showed a contrast in methods:

Board 49, North deals, nil vulnerable

<p>♠ 7 5 4 ♥ K 10 4 3 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ K 8</p> <p>♠ A Q 2 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ A 10 9 7 ♣ A Q 9</p>	<p>♠ J 10 9 8 ♥ A 9 8 6 ♦ 4 ♣ J 10 5 3</p> <p>♠ K 6 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K Q 8 3 ♣ 7 6 4 2</p>
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Kanetkar – Brown bid 2NT : 3♣, 3NT : Pass. Lilley – Nagy bid 1♦ : 1♥, 2NT : 3♠, 3NT : Pass. Note that if 4♥ or 4♠ is reached, the weaker hand is declarer. Zets – Mundell bid 1♣ : 1♦ (hearts), 2NT : 3♥ (spades), 3NT : Pass. Here if a major suit game is reached, the stronger hand will be declarer. Travis - Travis bid 1♣ : 1♥, 2NT : 3♥ (spades). Here responder would be declarer in hearts, but opener would play spades.

South deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	?

What would you do as South with ♠K9, ♥J843, ♦KQ875, ♣32?

After five boards in the final session *Neill* led 79-68.

Board 54, South deals, NS vulnerable

<p>♠ J 7 6 5 3 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 9 6 ♣ Q 10 9 7</p> <p>♠ A 4 2 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ A J 10 3 2 ♣ 8 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 8 ♥ A K Q 5 ♦ 4 ♣ A K J 6 4</p> <p>♠ K 9 ♥ J 8 4 3 ♦ K Q 8 7 5 ♣ 3 2</p>
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At every table it began:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦

It is time a new annual award was instituted, namely, for the 'Worst Bid of the Year'. South's 1♦ is currently the leading contender, with four potential recipients. You are vulnerable against not, partner could not rake up a third-seat opening and South thinks it is a good idea to enter the auction with a modest suit and a nine-count??

South should pass. If you find that difficult, do your morning bridge aerobics and say, 'No bid! No bid! No bid!' until you can reproduce it at the table.

In the Women's, South was let off the hook. One West bid 1NT, East bid 3NT, all pass and West made nine tricks, +400.

At the other table East ended in 3NT and made 12 tricks, +490.

In the Seniors either side could have won the match if South had simply passed 1♣. At both tables, West and North passed 1♦. East re-opened with a double. South passed and West passed for penalties. North initiated rescue operations. One South ended in 1NT doubled and one North played in 1♠ doubled. I'll spare you the gory details, but the result was -1100 in both cases, a totally unnecessary loss. Oh, well, just another flat board.

Board 55, East deals, all vulnerable

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

In the Seniors, Avi Kanetkar, South, played in 1NT for +180. The interesting action was at the other table:

West <i>Buchen</i>	North <i>Nagy</i>	East <i>Chrisie</i>	South <i>Lilley</i>
1♦	Dbf	3♣	3NT
All Pass			

Without the double East's 3♣ would be a diamond raise, 6-9 points. After the double, 3♣ was a fit-showing jump and so West led ♣K. That was fatal. South won and returned ♣J to East's queen. East shifted to ♦Q, king, ace. West returned ♦8 to East's ♦J. South won the third diamond, cashed three clubs and played ♠Q, king, ace. He finished with 10 tricks, +630, +10 IMPs. *Neill* was leading by 89-68.

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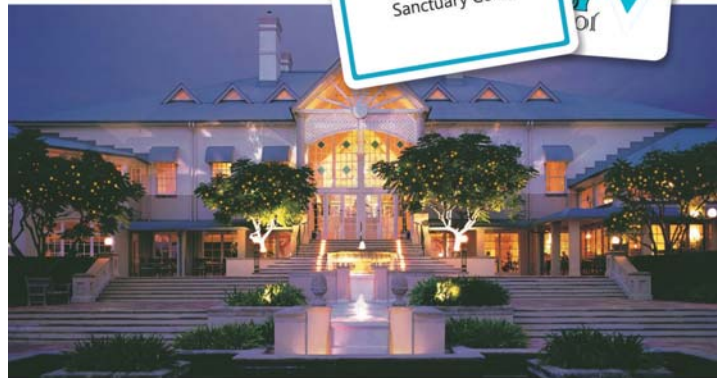
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Dinner - own arrangements.	Morning Tea.	Morning Tea.
7.00 pm	11.15am - 12.15 pm	11.15am - 12.15pm
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11.00am - 12.00pm	1.30pm - 4.30pm	1.30pm - 4.30pm
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12.30 - 3.30	7.30pm	
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All lessons will be multi-level, meaning that the material will be suitable for all regular players - Intermediate to Advanced

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7.00 pm	11.15am - 12.15 pm	11.15am - 12.15pm
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Bridge. Au Revoir Pairs.	Casual bridge game if desired.	

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If East had shown a diamond raise and West led ♦4: five – jack, South would have to decide whether to play for diamonds 4-4 or whether to play for East ♦Q-J or ♦A-J-x-x-x. If South takes ♦J, 3NT fails. If South finds the excellent play of ducking ♦J, that would be outstanding.

After Board 57, Neill led Brown by 94-68.

Brown narrowed the margin on Board 58:

East deals, all vulnerable

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

In the Women's final, Sue Lusk, South, played in 4♥, +680. Judy Mott, South, made 12 tricks in 3NT, +690

In the Seniors, both NS pairs began 1♦ : 1♥, 3♦ : 3♥ and ended in 4♥. Henry Christie received ♠5 lead: two – queen – four. ♣4 went to the king and South played ♥3 to the king and ace. West exited with a spade to the ace. South played ♦A, ♦K, ♦J. East ruffed and South over-ruffed. After ♥J and a heart to the queen, South claimed 11 tricks, +650.

At the other table, Arjuna De Livera also received ♣5 lead. He took ♠A, cashed ♣K, ♦A and ruffed a low diamond. He discarded dummy's ♠2 on ♣A and ruffed ♠4 in dummy. Next came ♦K. East ruffed with ♥9 and South over-ruffed. After ruffing ♠10 in dummy, declarer played ♦J: ♥4 from East, ♥7 from South, over-ruffed by ♥8. West cashed ♥A, removing dummy's last trump, and South was stuck with two club losers, –100 and –13 IMPs. Neill 94, Brown 81.

East deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	?

1. Strong, forcing to game.

What would you do as South with ♠A1086, ♥K9874, ♦KQ2, ♣5?

Over the next three boards, Brown picked up 1 IMP.

Then came:

Board 62, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

In the Women's Rita Nailand – Judy Mott bid 1♥ : 2♣, 2NT : 6♥, Pass. The play was routine for 12 tricks, +980 and +11 IMPs, as Sue Lusk – Margaret Bourke ended in 5♥, +480.

In the Seniors:

West	North	East	South
Lilley	Buchen	Nagy	Christie
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥ ¹
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

1. Two key cards, no ♥Q.

Lead: ♦4. 12 tricks. NS +980.

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Neill	Brown	DeLivera
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	4♥
		All Pass	

1. Strong, forcing to game.

With control in every suit, it was conservative for South to bid 4♥. Despite the minimum point count, South should cuebid 3♠. That would be enough to send North into slam mode. After 3♠, some play that 3NT by North would be a minimum slam try and a cuebid by North would be a serious slam try. After 3NT, South would sign off in 4♥, but after 3♠ from South, North would simply ask for Key Cards with 4NT.

South made 12 tricks, +480, but 11 IMPs to BROWN, trailing 93-94 with only two boards to play.

You are at favourable vulnerability. Your right-hand opponent passes. What would you do with ♠J43, ♥K109432, ♦J85, ♣4?

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Board 63, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

In the Women's final, one South opened 2♥, all pass, two down, -100. The other South opened a multi 2♦, North bid 2♥, pass or correct, all pass, one down, -50. In the Seniors, Kanetkar opened 2♥ as South, all pass. Neill, West, led ♠K: two -♦3 -♠3 and switched to ♦7. The result was two down, EW +100.

At the other table Christie, East, passed and so did Lilley, South. Buchen, West, opened a multi 2♦ and ended in 2♠. ♣5 lead was ducked to the jack. West played ♠K, ace. Then came club ruff, ♦A, ♥A, club ruff, heart overruff, EW -100, -5 IMPs.

Make up your own mind whether South has a weak two opening or not. At this vulnerability the majority of top players would choose 2♥ or a 2♦ multi.

South deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl	4♥	Pass
			?

What would you do as South with ♠J862, ♥8, ♦AJ10952, ♣A3?

The last board:

Board 63, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

In the Women's final:

West	North	East	South
Bourke	Mundell	Lusk	Zets
Mott	B Travis	Nailand	L Travis
1♥	2♥ ¹	4♥	1♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	Pass

1. Good diamond raise

Both declarers made 12 tricks, +620. Travis won the final by 142-75. At age 21, Lauren Travis became the

youngest player to win the National Women's Teams

In the Seniors' final:

West	North	East	South
Neill	Brown	De Livera	Kanetkar
1♥	2♥ ¹	4♥	1♦
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	Pass

1. Good diamond raise

Declarer lost a diamond, two clubs, a heart and a spade for two down, -300.

West	North	East	South
Buchen	Nagy	Christie	Lilley
1♥	Dbl	4♥	Pass
All Pass			4s

Declarer did well to hold the loss to three down, -300, 12 IMPs out and the title to BROWN. There were a number of ways NS could have overcome this difficulty. South might have opened 1♦. The hand fits the Rule of 22. North might have chosen 1NT rather than double with only two spades. South might have doubled 4♥ for takeout, to cater for North having only three spades (or fewer).

Warming up

by Warren Lazer

With the memories of how badly we played in the 2014 SWPT still vivid, we decided to change from last year's resting approach and warm up in the TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs Championships.

We met the eventual runners up, Joan Butts - GeO Tislevoll in Round 3. It was a pretty flat match. GeO picked up 6 IMPs by bidding the 4♥ game with ♠9, ♥J10832, ♦AKQ1087, ♣9. Joan's only useful cards were ♥A94, and with trumps behaving well, 10 tricks were easy. We countered by picking up 7 IMPs on the last board of the match.

Board 27, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

GeO was playing 3NT from the East seat on ♦4 lead. He won the ace immediately, as he can't really stand a spade switch. He played a heart to the king, a club back to hand and led another heart. When I played low he tried ♥J. All experts in the North seat holding



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♥A would routinely duck ♥K on the previous round, so it's really a complete guess. When he got it wrong, the contract went one down to give us a match win by 1 IMP.

Our first loss came in Round 4 when we played Mike Cornell - Ashley Bach. We bid a vulnerable game on a combined 17 HCP that was worth 5 IMPs (West did have a 5-6-1-1 shape), and they bid a vulnerable game on a combined 20 HCP which was worth 10 IMPs to them. The other boards were small swings shared equally and the final margin was 5 IMPs (7.82 - 12.18 VPs). After this match Cornell - Bach became firmly entrenched at table 1 NS. We were spending most of our time EW at table 2, with the occasional excursion down to table 3, 4 or 5.

Our only significant loss was in round 8 when we played the youth pair of Michael Gearing - Tim Munro. Our one big out was when wimpiness got the better of both of us:

♠ K J 10 8 4 ♥ Q J 6 5 3 ♦ K 8 ♣ 5 <i>Wimp 1</i> <i>aka Pauline</i>	♠ A Q 7 2 ♥ K 7 ♦ J 7 3 2 ♣ J 8 2 <i>Wimp 2</i> <i>aka Warren</i>
--	--

Pauline passed her 10 HCP 5-5 in the majors hand in second seat, and I ignored the rule of 15 in fourth seat - add your HCP (11) to your number of spades (4); if it comes to 15, open the bidding. So we managed to pass in a hand that most of the field bid to the making vulnerable 4♠. That was a deserved 10 IMPs out.

With a pledge of 'no more wimping', we settled in to play Round 9, the antepenultimate round, against another young pair - John Newman - Sebastien Yuen. The new policy explains Pauline's enthusiastic bidding on the following deal.

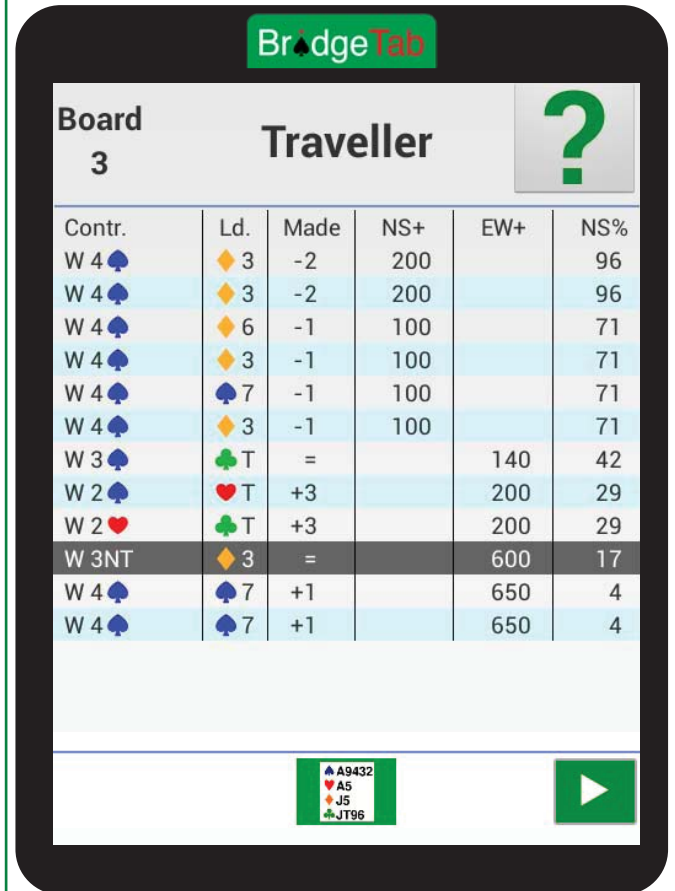
Board 7, South deals, all vulnerable

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

West Warren	North	East Pauline	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♥	All Pass

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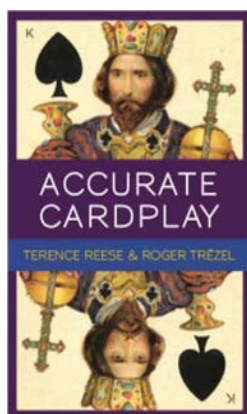
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The auction requires some explanation. 1♦ was natural or a weak NT (11-13 balanced with 2+ diamonds) and the 1NT rebid showed the latter hand (sort of). Pauline's 2♦ was an artificial game force and 2♥ showed four hearts. 3♥ was a slam try and 4♣ showed a maximum slam suitable hand with 0 Key Cards. 4♦ was a further ask and 4♠ showed the trump queen.

It's usually right to attack on the opening lead when defending against a small slam - Garozzo's BOLS bridge tip from 1976. [If competent opponents bid to the six-level, they usually have (or can develop) 12 tricks, so you have to get your two before they get their 12.] Here, leading your better "unbid" suit will result in a quick defeat - South scores ♣A at trick one and waits patiently for ♠K. North, however, led a passive trump (don't do that unless you know it's best). Three rounds

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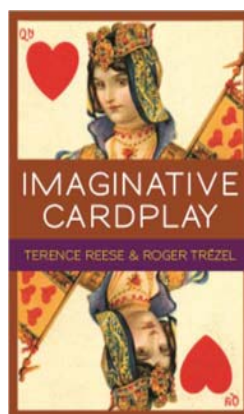
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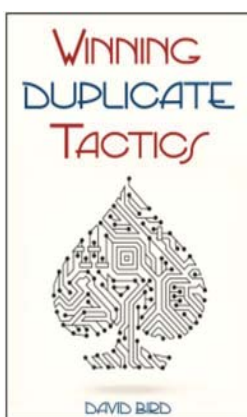
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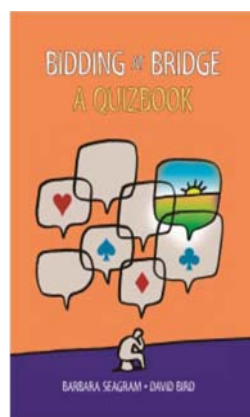
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of trumps were followed by running the diamond suit to pitch dummy's clubs away. I then ran ♠Q to South's king. The position now was:

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

South is endplayed and declarer will make the rest of the tricks whether South returns his spade or one of his clubs.

The good win in Round 9 saw us return to second place on a score of 129 VPs. Cornell - Bach were still comfortably in first place, almost 10 VPs ahead. Things then tightened considerably in Round 10. We struggled to a 3 IMP win against the Khandelwals, a couple visiting Australia from Mumbai. Meanwhile Cornell - Bach suffered their first loss when they were beaten by 9 IMPs by Butts - Tislevoll. One round to go and their lead had been cut to under 5 VPs. Butts - Tislevoll were about 2.5 VPs further behind us.

There were lots of potential swing hands in the final round - two possible grand slams for NS, a small slam for EW and a few tight games. Cornell - Bach were NS at Table 1 playing Peter Gill - Paul Dalley, we were NS at Table 2 playing Roger Januske - John Zollo, Butts - Tislevoll were EW at Table 3 playing the Khandelwals.

Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

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

Board 20 was 6 IMPs to Cornell - Bach when they led a heart to hold declarer to eight tricks in 3NT.

Similarly, we picked up 6 IMPs by holding 5♣ to 10 tricks on a heart lead. *Deep Finesse* makes this contract by running ♠J and subsequently pinning ♠9.

Quite a few declarers in 5♣ got home, almost all on misdefence I guess. GeO was one who made it, so that was 10 IMPs for them.

Board 21, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

No NS pair managed to find the excellent 7♣ contract on the board above, and many of those who got to 6♣ had the opponents sacrifice in 6♠ doubled, which generally went for 800.



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In our auction, after Pauline opened 1NT and I bid 2♣, West bid 2♠, Pauline passed, East raised to 3♠ and I doubled for takeout. This was designed to keep both 4♥ and 3NT in the picture. When Pauline retreated to 4♣ rather than passing or bidding 3NT, it seemed there were no wasted values in spades, and I took a guess at 6♣. Dummy was so perfect that I was actually a bit disappointed when I saw it, but +1390 was 12 IMPs in.

Gill-Dalley found the 6♠ sacrifice so Cornell - Bach won 2 IMPs and Butts - Tislevoll wisely allowed the opponents to play 5♣ so picked up 3 IMPs.

Board 26, East deals, all vulnerable

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

The hand most critical to determining the final placings is shown above.

Gill - Dalley bid efficiently to the best spot of 6♣. There are a number of different successful lines and when it made Cornell - Bach lost 8 IMPs - the datum score was +1040.

Butts - Tislevoll had an unrevealing auction to the second best spot of 6♥, which made on ♦K lead, declarer playing trumps in a sensible fashion - +9 IMPs.

Against us, Januske - Zollo had a revealing auction to 6♥.

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

1. Fourth suit forcing to game

Often the extra information divulged would make no difference, but on this occasion it was fatal. Knowing the opponents had a club fit, I was able to deduce partner had at most a singleton club. I led a club, won the first round of trumps when declarer finessed and give partner a club ruff. +100 was worth 15 IMPs.

The VP scores in the final round were Gumby - Lazer 20.00, Butts - Tislevoll 17.82, Cornell - Bach 7.06, mirroring the order in which the three top pairs finished.

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The mental game

by Kim Frazer

Stopping Negative Thinking

"I hate playing in notrumps. I don't play well against Pair X". I have heard comments like this from many players. Whether you verbalise this or simply think it, the same effect on your mind will apply. A key issue for many sports people is the little voice inside the head that prevents a competitor from winning. In this article I'd like to focus on that little voice and the negative thinking that usually accompanies it.

The negative voice creates doubt in many different circumstances for competitors in all sport. In high jumping it might be: "I've missed this height in the past": in shooting: "I always miss my last shot" or "I always miss my first shot": in running it might be "I'd better not miss this start". The 'not' word, or its various facsimilies create nothing positive in the mind, which just focusses on the 'miss the shot' part and ignores the 'not' word. The common 'little voice' phrase goes "I hate playing in 1NT", and after you have gone one off saying to yourself (or aloud) "I always mess up 1NT".

When you fail, the little voice says "yep, that is just like me". This type of reflective comment simply reinforces in your mind the negative thinking, and increases the likelihood of failing the next time. A negative mindset does nothing to help you make your contract. Overcoming these negative thoughts is critical to successful performance, and approaching the competition with optimism is not always enough. A life-time of the 'little voice' is sometimes hard to overcome, and for those players who may enter a match with an initial positive focus, the experience of one or two perceived 'bad' boards cause the 'little voice' to reappear. These players often find themselves in a mid-match slump from which recovery is impossible. So a solution for the negative voice might be worth considering.

In addition to using positive commentary like "I can make 1NT", or "I can beat this pair", competitors sometimes like to have a procedure to help stop these negative thoughts.

One option widely used is known as "the rubber band" method which is outlined at the end of the article.

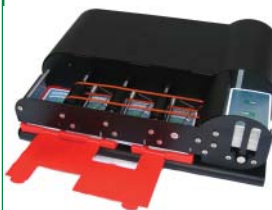
1. List at least five types of negative thoughts that commonly occur for you in bridge.

2. Put a rubber band (or wrist band) around your wrist that fits snugly, and which can snap, and wear it all day every day. Choose something that you feel comfortable wearing around. (Note: if you feel uncomfortable wearing something like this all the time, you could choose to wear it during play and score-up sessions).

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3. Whenever you are aware of negative thoughts, the band should be pulled and released so that it stings your wrist. This means you are punishing or distracting yourself for a negative thought. It is a 'thought-stopping' procedure.

4. After each time you have flicked the rubber band, execute a positive thought relating to the same situation. So if the thought that occurred was "I always mess up ...", change the thought to "I usually make ...".

This concept of thought-stopping for negative thoughts (I always go off in 1NT) followed by a positive thought (I can make 1NT) should mean that over time your negative thoughts lessen, and after a period of time you will find you have no negative thoughts and you can stop wearing the rubber band.

Stopping negative thinking will be instrumental in improving your overall performance, and assisting in your success at the bridge table.

Source: www.scatt.com. SCATT (Shooter Computer Assisted Training Tool) was a Russian developed training system that I used extensively in shooting. The Russian shooting team was a highly successful outfit, winning many world championships and Olympic Games. Unfortunately the range of articles which were available on their website are no longer available.

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by Andrew Robson

As appeared in *The Times*, January 2015

Why are fewer and fewer playing in many duplicate bridge clubs – whilst the game is growing in popularity at a social level?

Online bridge is undoubtedly taking people away, but the fact that friendly, welcoming duplicate clubs are all thriving points to a different reason. I fear a few regular duplicate players put newer players off by their rude, officious, critical even intimidating behaviour. The chasm of difference between the encouraging classroom is too much for many. They quickly back off and play with friends. Lost to duplicate bridge. Forever. I'm far from alone in thinking this. Fellow Bridge teacher Harold Schogger asked me to tackle this subject and so I am doing my bit to help educate and reform. Experienced duplicate players should be welcoming new players to the club, not frightening them away. At my club I operate a zero tolerance rule: no bad behaviour of any sort is allowed. Ever. You should greet new opponents with a cheery hello, smile a lot and thank them as you finish the round. I know I'm largely preaching to the converted. But it only takes one bad experience to put a new player off for life.

Continuing our look at Ethics and Behaviour, here's a quiz. Which of these is allowed and which not allowed:

A. To open 1NT (ostensibly 15-17) when holding 14 points?

B. To bid after your partner has hesitated?

C. To hesitate when you have a singleton?

A. Perfectly legitimate. If you decide that your 14 looks like 15, open 1NT. If your opponents tell you that you're cheating, they are completely wrong, and totally missing the point. High-card points are only a guide to bidding, no more.

B. Allowed, but only if you were going to bid anyway. If the opponents believe you have bid based on partner's pause rather than your hand, they are entitled to call the Director. However, (a) they should give new players lots of leeway here and (b) if they do feel the Director should be called, they should do so politely and gently.

Don't shout "DIRECTOR". Say to the opponents, "would you mind awfully if I asked the Director to come over?" before putting up your hand and saying calmly "Director, please". He will then decide whether the bid was acceptable.

C. Not allowed. Cheating. You can never pause with the deliberate intention of misleading; only pause when

you genuinely have something to think about. If you find that you've paused inadvertently (easily done in a distracted moment), say "sorry, I had nothing to think about".

"DIRECTOR". If you've played at a "scary" duplicate club, you'll know that cry.

There's no "please". There's no consultation with the other players before the shout. No wonder new players look to play elsewhere; no wonder the club has a falling membership.

Harold Schogger thinks that it is the new player who should be calling the director, not the die-hard: to complain about his high-handed, rude and intimidating behaviour. Harold's correct.

Harold reports incidents of the die-hard trying to claim back two tricks on a revoke at trick 12 (you can't revoke after trick 11). Or claiming you've cheated if you've downgraded an 18-point hand and opened a 15-17 1NT. You haven't.

I'm pretty hopeless at the Laws. Penalties for leading out of turn, revoking etc. can all get quite technical. So get the Director over – in a nice way. That's what he's there for (as well as moving the boards).

I will say one thing though: if a player inadvertently drops two cards on the table (or a similar unintended minor infraction), think twice before you shout "EXPOSED CARD – DIRECTOR". You're perfectly within your rights to say "Oh dear, I'm so sorry, perhaps we should get the Director over". But I know what I (and a few other top players eg Zia Mahmood) do in such a situation. "Oh, pick it up".

I go back to my primary message. Behave to your partner and opponents as though you're hosting a tea party. Then duplicate bridge will start to thrive again – it's such a fabulous game.



Andrew Robson is widely regarded as one of the finest player/teacher/writers in the world today. His club, ARBC, is at 31 Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 4HH - website <http://www.andrewrobson.co.uk/>

Andrew won the world Junior Championships in 1989, the European Championships in 1991, and the Silver Medal in the 2004 World Individual

Andrew is famous, for his daily column in *The Times* as well as his numerous bridge books, including *Bridge Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them*, featuring deals from Andrew's Friday column in *The Times*.

EXPLOSION IN SUPER NOVICE NUMBERS !!

The Summer Festival of Bridge was held in Canberra in January. It was wonderful to see the growth in the super novice events (*competitions for players with 0-20 masterpoints*) – these events were introduced for the first time in 2013.

There were 34 pairs competing in the super novice pairs event and 15 tables for the teams event. We hope to see this ‘segment’ continue to flourish in coming years.

Happy faces at the Novice Cocktail Party



Winners of the Super Novice Pairs event – Michael and Louise Brassil from Bateman’s Bay Bridge Club



What participants particularly liked were:

- plenty of bubbles and wine at the cocktail party – and a chance to meet opponents in a friendly environment
- Joan Butts’ free workshops – helpful, interesting and set at the right level
- The free courtesy bus (*and the friendly driver*).



Winners of the Super Novice Teams event – Thi Hong H Pham and William Brazier from Springwood Bridge Club and Kerry and Christine Bartlett from Glenbrook Bridge Club.



The gang from Illawarra Bridge Club – Judy Cowling (*on the right*) loved the event so much in 2014 she brought a whole group with her to this year’s event !



One of the **free** novice workshops – with Joan Butts

See you all next year!

Gold Coast Bridge Club turns 50

The first official bridge club in Queensland was established in 1934, and the first ever bridge club on the Gold Coast was founded in 1964

At the instigation of Mrs. Beryl Fry, 51 bridge enthusiasts gathered at the old Southport Hotel on 20 October, 1964 and held the inaugural meeting of the new club, to be known as the Gold Coast Bridge Club. The first bridge session took place on 22 October at Surfers Paradise Bowls Club, with an attendance of 22.

The Gold Coast Bridge Club was officially opened on 26 November, 1964 by the President of the Queensland Bridge Federation, Dr. Neill. There were then 70 members. In 1965, the Articles of Association were approved and the club became a Company Limited by Guarantee.

A bridge column was published in the Gold Coast Bulletin in 1966. This, at first, was full of news about the club and activities of its members, and later purely of interesting bridge hands. This practice continued until the 1980s.

In 1970, the possibility of the club obtaining its own premises was discussed. A search began for suitable land, and in March 1972 the Board approved the purchase of two blocks on the Gold Coast Highway where the club now stands. The purchase price was \$35,000 and money was raised for the land and building through debentures, guarantors and a \$20,000 loan. Some members mortgaged their homes to assist! In 1973 the new clubrooms were officially opened by the President of the Queensland Bridge Association, James O'Sullivan.

Over the years, the club has gone from strength to strength. Continuous renovations to the clubrooms took place, including solar panels on the roof, reverse cycle air conditioning, new carpets and furniture. A new entrance ramp with automatic doors provides easy access to people with disabilities. A stunning new foyer displays club memorabilia and framed montages of members' photos throughout the years.

The Gold Coast Bridge Club has always been one of the first to introduce innovations to the game. *Bridgemates* (electronic scoring devices), *Compscore* (a computerised scoring program) and automated dealing machines with the latest technology are all part of the equipment at GCBC, streamlining the operation of the club.

The club has also been active in fundraising activities, some of the important events being the Brisbane flood appeal (1974), the Charleville floods (1990) the Indonesian Tsunami appeal (2000), the Victoria



Past Presidents at the Birthday Party

Bushfire appeal (2009) and many other deserving occasions over the years.

Today, the club numbers some 365 members and is open Monday to Saturday and Monday and Thursday evenings. A team of dedicated volunteers – all bridge lovers - keep the club running efficiently.

The club is committed to promoting the game. Experienced teachers conduct classes at all levels, from beginners to refresher courses for players who wish to improve their play. Many social occasions at the club bring together people from all walks of life, who enjoy the challenge of bridge and making new friendships.

The club celebrated its 50th birthday on 12 October, 2014, with a gala occasion including invited guests from the community, long-time players and current members. The day started at 9.30am with play followed at 11.00am with announcements and introductions to special guests. Flowers were presented to a long-time member of 40 years, Elizabeth Hartnell, who still plays a mean game. A champagne lunch was served, including of course, a big, big birthday cake. Bridge play commenced again at 1.00pm and continued until 3.30pm, followed by a cocktail party.

New accredited teachers



Newly accredited teachers Sandra Mulcahy and Trish Thatcher with Joan Butts during the Summer Festival, January 17

Top 100 McCutcheon Earners for 2014 - report generated 31.12.2014

	<i>Name</i>	<i>ABF No.</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Total MPs</i>	<i>2014 MPs</i>	<i>Rank</i>
1	Brown, Terry	7226	2-001	Gold Grand	8,593.25	515.63	1
2	Beauchamp, David	3727	2-001	Gold Grand	7,862.30	416.77	2
3	Wilkinson, Michael	497746	2-001	Silver Grand	3,630.98	390.53	3
4	Francis, Neville	101109	4-555	Gold Grand	6,294.79	389.30	4
5	Gill, Peter	22381	2-001	Gold Grand	9,209.26	384.79	5
6	Newman, John	759181	2-093	Silver Life	510.11	383.14	6
7	Morrison, Kim	44318	2-001	Gold Grand	7,099.34	381.78	7
8	Kanetkar, Avinash	232637	2-093	Gold Grand	5,201.33	381.16	8
9	Watts, Marlene	270350	2-001	Gold Grand	5,121.75	374.50	9
10	Hans, Sartaj	561789	2-001	Silver Grand	4,768.34	368.11	10
11	Howard, Justin	476668	3-372	Grand	2,477.98	361.39	11
12	Prescott, Michael	386464	2-112	Silver Grand	4,508.68	355.28	12
13	Bloom, Martin	5266	2-001	Gold Grand	5,306.88	345.38	13
14	De Livera, Arjuna	196134	1-851	Gold Grand	8,530.52	338.64	14
15	Bourke, Margaret	131792	1-851	Emerald Grand	10,314.53	327.27	15
16	Brightling, Richard	6718	1-851	Silver Grand	4,514.69	319.97	16
17	Ewart, Neil	63541	1-851	Silver Grand	4,280.28	319.86	17
18	Wood, Viv	324043	6-795	Grand	1,609.73	317.06	18
19	Hoffman, David	157627	1-851	Gold Grand	5,945.67	309.84	19
20	Harley, Dee	889237	3-368	Grand	1,601.29	302.16	20
21	Peake, Andrew	291269	2-001	Gold Grand	6,113.27	300.26	21
22	Gumby, Pauline	24732	2-001	Emerald Grand	11,097.86	300.05	22
23	Williams, Justin	445002	5-701	Silver Grand	3,880.40	298.88	23
24	Lavings, Paul	35092	2-001	Emerald Grand	10,821.83	297.04	24
25	Whibley, Michael	685747	2-112	Grand	1,592.83	291.02	25
26	Milne, Liam	774596	2-112	Grand	1,199.03	287.55	26
27	Klinger, Ron	33642	2-001	Emerald Grand	10,105.86	286.67	27
28	Lazer, Warren	35238	2-001	Gold Grand	9,651.35	285.54	28
29	Buchen, Peter	7765	2-001	Silver Grand	4,162.32	282.73	29
30	Hollands, Peter	656658	3-301	Grand	1,922.39	279.39	30
31	Thomson, Matthew	61107	2-001	Silver Grand	4,655.71	279.05	31
32	Bilski, George	242683	2-120	Gold Grand	5,938.62	272.08	32
33	Hutton, Tony	29750	4-555	Silver Grand	4,627.96	271.93	33
34	Doecke, Mike	607630	5-701	Grand	1,327.77	256.26	34
35	De Luca, Attilio	172057	5-701	Silver Grand	3,544.40	253.61	35
36	Bock, Steven	5355	2-001	Silver Grand	4,755.81	253.39	36
37	Travis, Barbara	199567	5-701	Gold Grand	5,053.89	252.72	37
38	Del'monte, Ishmael	386431	2-112	Gold Grand	8,268.33	251.99	38
39	Rosendorff, Nigel	121541	2-001	Gold Grand	5,409.87	251.40	39
40	Nunn, Tony	330167	2-001	Gold Grand	6,434.34	249.45	40
41	Sharp, Toni	273600	2-112	Silver Grand	2,908.46	246.88	41
42	Griffiths, Nye	325041	3-340	Grand	2,346.14	245.75	42
43	Mundell, Giselle	164844	2-001	Grand	1,702.55	244.94	43
44	Courtney, Michael	75469	2-061	Gold Grand	5,527.36	240.46	44
45	Markey, Philip	332471	5-701	Silver Grand	4,578.61	240.40	45
46	Jacob, Nick	762571	9-952	Life	315.15	234.73	0
47	Gallus, Robert	136298	3-301	Gold Grand	7,903.97	233.75	46
48	Thompson, Ben	239224	3-301	Gold Grand	5,184.22	233.63	47
49	Crompton, Susan	532691	2-120	Grand	1,036.20	227.79	48
50	Tully, Therese	100153	4-632	Gold Grand	5,341.41	224.95	49

Bridge into the 21st Century

Whether to play 1♣=2+

OR 1♣=3+ (better minor)

1♣ showing 2+ clubs has always had a good following, but it fails to stand up under close analysis.



Consider this hand, and focus on the shape 4-4-3-2:

♠A864, ♥A765, ♦J54, ♣K6

This exact shape, four spades, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs is the only hand where you open 1♦ with three diamonds, playing better minor.

Now look at these sequences when you open 1♦ in better minor:

1♦ - 1♥	1♦ - 1♥	1♦ - 1♠
1NT	1♠	1NT

When you open 1♦ you will have only three diamonds if you are 4-4 in the majors (exactly 4-4-3-2). In these sequences you cannot be 4-4 in the majors or you would raise partner's major to 2♥ or 2♠ at once.

Thus the partnership knows after opener's rebid how many diamonds opener holds, whether it be 3 or 4+. And it can only be three exactly if the bidding proceeds

1♦ - 1♥	1♦ - 1♠
2♥	2♠

In which case it doesn't really matter, since you've found your major suit fit.

So opening 1♦ with 3+ is not so damaging. It is nice to know opener has 4+ diamonds at the point when they open 1♦, but you can still make a preemptive raise (1♦ - 3♦) or raise diamonds in competition with five-card support.

Strangely this exact shape, four spades, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs is also the only hand where you open 1♣ with two, playing 1♣ = 2+.

However, if you open 1♣ with 2+, you create all sorts of problems for yourself around the club suit.

In many cases, you tie your own hands behind your back; for instance it becomes a risk to raise preemptively to 3♣ with only five-card support and to bid 3♣ in this sequence with only five-card support may find you in a seven-card fit:

♠K2, ♥86, ♦8764, ♣AQ874

1♣: (2♥); 3♣

It could also be wrong to respond 2♣ over a 1♥ overcall!

1♣ is a much more frequent opening bid than 1♦, and you will have many problems in competitive auctions if you open the bidding in your shortest suit. Often you need to find your minor suit fit quickly in order to compete at the three-level and push opponents one level higher.

I asked Ron Klinger why he preferred better minor and he kindly replied,

“The incidence of 1♦ as exactly three is so small (below 2%) that one need not worry about it when supporting diamonds.

I am not in favour of using 1♣ as 2+ just to preserve transfers after 1♣. Those who open 1♣ with 4-3-4-2, 3-4-4-2, 3-3-4-3, 3-3-5-2 patterns, etc. lose the diamond suit too often in competition, and for the opening lead when the opponents buy the contract.”

There is a method of playing both 1♣ = 2+ and 1♦ = 2+ that is enjoying great success that focusses more on point count than shape.

This system is played by Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, and a similar method is also played by Griff Ware - Michael Wilkinson, who have made the Australian Open Team in both 2014 and 2015:

Gumby Lazer style

- 1♣ = 2+ and is either 17-20 balanced (even 5-3-3-2 with five diamonds)
- OR natural with long clubs. Rebid 1NT with 17-18 and 2NT with 19-20.
- 1♦ = 2+ all 11-13 balanced if you rebid 1NT including 5-3-3-2 with five clubs
- OR unbalanced with 4+ diamonds
- 1NT = 14-16 balanced

The notrump ranges are much tighter and more accurate, which is a great advantage, but you lose your minor suits. The trade-off seems to be paying dividends - watch this space.

Novice players – there is a bi-monthly online version of Australian Bridge Magazine and it's great value at just \$25 a year: www.australianbridge.com/novice

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Wed 12 th Aug	10am	Butler Swiss Pairs
	2.30pm	Butler Swiss Pairs
Thu 13 th Aug	10am	Butler Swiss Pairs
	2.30pm	Butler Swiss Pairs
Fri 14 th Aug	2.30pm	Swiss Teams
Sat 15 th Aug	10am	Swiss Teams
	2.30pm	Swiss Teams
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