

Gold Coast Congress

his year's championship had several features worthy of comment.

Firstly, the sad absence of Wally Scott. Scott, a Surfers perennial, and frequent finalist, once told me that only death would keep him away from the event. He was right.

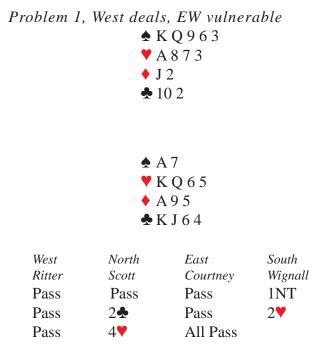
Secondly, thanks to the sponsorship of *Consus Oil*, two strong Polish teams were playing. Among them, Krzysztof Martens – pre-eminent Polish expert, and one of the world's great players. It is no surprise that Martens - Filipowicz won both main events.



Martens

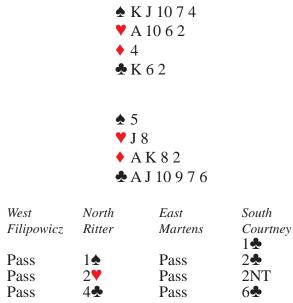
Unlucky experts

For much of the pairs, Martens - Filipowicz were threatened by Kiwis Bob Scott - John Wignall. Wignall is an extraordinary card-player, and suffered the cruel fate of the educated expert here:



After a low diamond lead to East's A, declarer, South won A and cashed V and Q, both defenders following. How would you continue? Here is another crucial "unlucky expert" cardplay problem:

Problem 2, South deals, all vulnerable



After a low club lead, you win East's ♣Q with the ace, and play a low spade, West following with ♠3. True, West might have led ♠A or won it at trick two, if he had it. That argues for playing dummy's ♠J. How will you guess spades for two winners and your contract?

All Pass



Open Teams winners: Dominik Filipowicz, Krzysztof Martens, Janusz Makaruk and Pawel Niedzielski



Seniors' Teams winners: Alan Walsh, Barbara McDonald, Gordon Schmidt and Elizabeth Havas

Problem 1

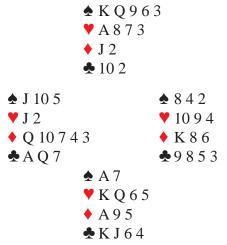
It took Wignall just seconds to realise that drawing the third trump would cost him his club trick anytime spades were 4-2. After ruffing spades good, declarer would have to ruff a diamond to reach dummy. With no trumps remaining, declarer would be unable to guess clubs – the defence would keep ♣A and a diamond.



John Wignall

So Wignall correctly played $\bigstar A$, $\bigstar K$ and a spade ruff before drawing the last trump.

The full hand:



As you can see, spades were 3-3 *and* clubs were unguessable, so this great play resulted in +420, while at most other tables, less far-sighted dummy play or weaker opening leads led to +450.

Problem 2:

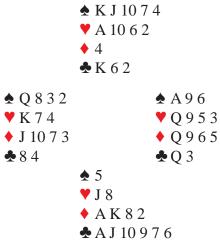
I decided that West would duck with \bigstar A and took my best mathematical chance by rising \bigstar K. It is better to guess spades thus because, should the king hold, now I will get two diamond ruffs for



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the contract. If, however, I guess to play $\bigstar J$, and East wins his doubleton ace to return a trump, I am still a trick short of my contract.

The full hand:



So, sometimes the best line doesn't get the best score, that's bridge. But most of the time, as here, the best pair and the best team emerge victorious. That's also bridge.

Michael Courtney



Seniors' Pairs winners Les Grewcock - Robert Milward

Copy Deadline

for Issue No 144, July 2010, the deadline is: June 26, 2010 Late submissions will be held over until Issue 145, September 2010, at the discretion of the Editor Email: editor@abf.com.au

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NOT Final

We conclude Richard Brightling's article on the final of the 2010 National Open Teams.

First Set:

O n Board 8, Mathew McManus 'saved' in 5♣ doubled after partner made a weak jump overcall. His dummy turned out to be perfect, so the result was +550.

In the other room, De Livera pressed on to 5^{\clubsuit} over 5^{\clubsuit} , and his dummy turned out to be entirely unsuitable: -100 but a pickup of 10 IMPs.

Two boards later you hold:

	1	0	7		
V	9	7	6	4	3
•	J	7	6	5	4
2	8				

All vulnerable, partner opens a weak notrump in second seat. They double, and it's your bid. McManus, obviously without a two-suited gadget like Swine¹ available, chose 2♦, which was doubled and went down -800 when partner's red cards were ♥Q1082, ♦K3. Had he chosen 2♥, they would have doubled that too (one defender had ♥AKJ5 under the notrump opening), likely going down

200, but with an outside chance of making if the defence slips.

The really bad news is that $4\clubsuit$, reached by your teammates in the other room, is unlucky, going down on club ruffs, when declarer has no entry to dummy. There were no other significant swings, and *MILNE* emerged with a small lead; 32 to 28 IMPs.

Second Set:

In this set, there were three 3NT swings in five boards.

On Board 22, Michael Ware made 3NT, defeated by Brightling - Thomson in the other room, 12 IMPs to *De LIVERA*.



Pass

Runners-up MILNE, Adam Edgtton, Liam Milne, Michael Whibley, Andy Hung, Alex Smirnov, Nabil Edgtton

▲ A 9 7 4 **V** A Q 6 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ K 10 2 **▲** K 10 5 3 **▲** J 8 2 **V** K 9 5 **V** J 10 2 • Q 3 **9**7 ♣A743 ♣QJ865 **♦** Q 6 ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ A K 10 8 5 4 •9 West North East South Hung A Edgtton 2♦

Board 23, South deals, all vulnerable

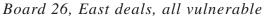
3NT All Pass

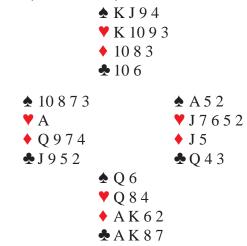
On this board, Brightling - Thomson stopped conservatively in 2♦ with 23 combined HCP and a good 6-3 diamond fit.

Andy Hung and Adam Edgtton bid swiftly to 3NT. East led his lowest club; West rose A and continued 3, confirming four in the suit. Hung held up till the third round before playing a diamond to the king. A heart to the ace and another

diamond, finessing, meant two down when West produced $\blacklozenge Q$, 8 IMPs to *De LIVERA*, when it could have been 10 IMPs to *MILNE*.

On Board 25, Brightling - Thomson bid to 6^{\heartsuit} , which required careful play and reasonable breaks in two key suits, +980 and a swing of 11 IMPs against game in the other room.





^{1.} The term Swine is an acronym for Sebesfi-Woods-1-Notrump-Escape. This method of defending against an overcall, either a direct overcall or a balancing action, was developed in Australia, and is mainly used in the Acol system. To show diamonds and hearts, responder would pass, forcing opener to redouble. The retreat to 2◆ would show touching suits.

On Board 26, Hung - Edgtton stopped in 2 with 25 HCP, when Brightling - Thomson pushed on to 3NT, which made with an overtrick. 10 IMPs to *De LIVERA*.

Ed: Perhaps here we should take time to examine the auctions at the two tables:

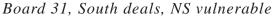
West	North	East	South
Ware	Hung	McManus	A Edgtton
		1♥	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	1♠	Dbl
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

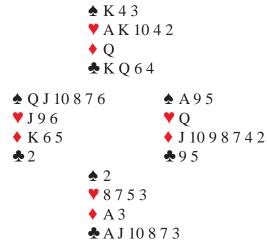
Bridge, maybe, but not as we know it! Mc-Manus' 1♥ showed 7-10 HCP, any suit (a medium fertiliser bid), and Ware's redouble showed spades and a minor, hence McManus' retreat to 1♠. Adam Edgtton's first double nominally showed less than 16 HCP, but after the second double, maybe Hung could have converted the takeout double to penalty. Best play and defence (a spade opening lead) can see 1♠ doubled escape for -500, but normal play after the obvious spade lead will result in -800 or -1100.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Smirnov	Brightling	N Edgtton	Thomson
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2 桊	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Much easier for Thomson - Brightling, playing a 15-18 notrump to use Forcing Stayman to arrive in 3NT without hindrance.





Then on Board 31, *MILNE* struck back. At favourable vulnerability, Smirnov opened $3 \bigstar$ in second seat, with a six-card suit. NS were never able to diagnose their double fit, and finished up doubling $4 \bigstar$ for down one.

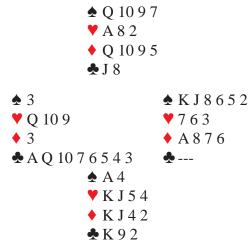
McManus - Ware, EW in the other room, did diagnose their double fit: West opened $2\clubsuit$, North bid $3\clubsuit$ and East bid $4\clubsuit$. They eventually pushed NS to $5\clubsuit$, but did not want to push NS any further, as $6\clubsuit$ can be made via a Restricted Choice decision in hearts.

A difference of 550 meant 11 IMPs to *MILNE*, but *De LIVERA* had won the set 52 to 17 IMPs. At the half-way point *De LIVERA* led *MILNE* 80 to 49 IMPs.

Third Set

Each side picked up two large swings. First:

Board 34, East deals, NS vulnerable



In the Open Room De Livera, East, opened $2\diamondsuit$, Multi. South doubled and West bid $3\clubsuit$. North doubled, and South bid $3\heartsuit$, the final contract. No contract plays well, and $3\heartsuit$ finished up -300.

In the Closed Room, East passed, and South opened a strong 1NT. West, with the natural fearless exuberance of youth, preempted all the way with $5\clubsuit$. North doubled, and the result was 500 for a 13 IMP gain to *De LIVERA*.

Board 45 required judgment at a high level. You hold:

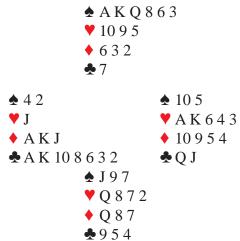


Right hand opponent opens $2\diamondsuit$ (multi, weak major, no other possibilty), you pass, right-hand opponent bids $2\bigstar$, showing preference for hearts over spades, and partner doubles. RHO passes, confirming a weak two in spades, you jump to $4\heartsuit$ and partner corrects to $5\bigstar$. Partner obviously has a good hand, and your QJ of trumps and side ace-king must be golden. On the other hand, you have two losing spades and you did jump in response to the double. Your bid? In the Open Room the bidding took a slightly different course. This time RHO opened $2 \triangleq$ (weak), you pass, LHO raises to $3 \triangleq$ and partner doubles. You happily bid $4 \heartsuit$, and now partner bids $5 \clubsuit$. It would seem that if partner has second round spade control you should raise to six....

In the Open Room, De Livera raised partner to 6. In the Closed Room, Nabil Edgtton shrugged and passed. Correct! 12 IMPs to *MILNE*.

The full hand:

Board 45, North deals, all vulnerable

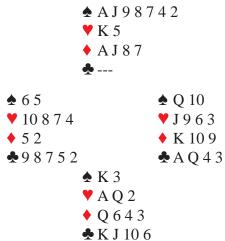


On board 47 the Brighting - Thomson partnership propelled themselves to 6^{\bullet} , which had almost no chance of success. A bad trump break made it -300 versus 630 in the other room, another 14 IMPs to *MILNE*. Milne won the third quarter 36 to 30 IMPs, but overall *De LIVERA* were ahead 110 to 85 IMPs. Not a huge lead, but time was running out for *MILNE*.

Fourth Set

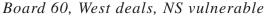
MILNE picked up the most swings but the bigger ones went to *De LIVERA*. *MILNE* was unlucky on the first:

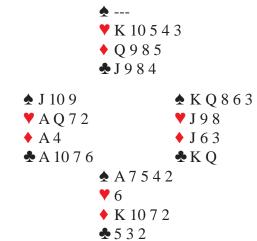
Board 55, South deals, all vulnerable



Partner opened the South hand 1NT (15-18) and I bid $3\clubsuit$, a slam try. Partner's 3NT rebid rejected the idea of a slam – any bid other than 3NT would have been a Key Card response. I could have made a further try by cuebidding in clubs, but cueing a void can be dangerous here, as partner may take a rosy view of \clubsuit KQ. I rebid a tame $4\clubsuit$, and when trumps and diamonds behaved, 12 tricks were easy.

Liam Milne took a different path. Over INT he bid 4, transfer (and a memory test!). Then over partners forced 4, he was able to bid 5 as Exclusion Blackwood. Partner's response of 5showed two Key Cards outside of clubs - here clearly \forall A and \bigstar K. With only 10 boards to go, North took a punt and bid 6. Perhaps believing that 6 would be bid in the other room, or perhaps influenced by \bigstar 10 dropping on the first round, declarer finessed in trumps for one down and a somewhat lucky 13 IMPs to *De LIVERA*.





Both declarers in 4♠ had to cope with the 5-0 trump break, but McManus got a friendlier defence. In the Open Room McManus, East, won the club lead and went about trumps. South won the third spade and continued clubs. This allowed declarer to draw all the trumps and play on hearts before diamonds were ever led. Declarer made 11 tricks for +450.

In the Closed Room, after a transfer sequence, West received a diamond lead to the ten and ace. Declarer tested one round of trumps, ducked by South, and led a club to dummy for a heart finesse. North won and two rounds of diamond forced declarer to ruff. West led his last trump and South won. A fourth round of diamonds had to be ruffed with the long trumps and South was now assured a second trump trick for one off and 11 IMPs to *De LIVERA*. The deal highlights the importance of leading a long suit when you have trump length.

De LIVERA won the set 31 to 16 to win overall by 40 IMPs, 141 to 101 IMPs.

De LIVERA, Arjuna De Livera, Ian Robinson, Richard Brightling, Ian Thomson, Matthew McManus and Michael Ware had a good tournament.

Matthew McManus directs most of the year, the NOT is about the only tournament he plays.

Michael Ware represents New Zealand, but still finds time to play in a number of Aussie tournaments and this year won the Last Train playing with Cathy Chua.

Arjuna De Livera's win in the NOT added to a very successful bridge year in which he won the McCutcheon Trophy, several major tornaments and represented Australia with Ian Robinson at the recent World Championships in Sao Paulo.



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angham is lauded among luxury	Lunch	Your choice
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atural sense of sophistication.	Dinner	Your choices or join the group at a nearby Bistro
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Ian placed second to Arjuna in the McCutcheon, and together they

have the most Playoff Points of any pair for this year's Playoff.

Richard Brightling and Ian Thomson have been on the Australian Open Team in 2008 (Beijing) and 2009.

The four Canberra players (with teammates Justin Williams and Joe Haffer) avenged their loss in the 2008 NOT Final.

MILNE, Liam Milne, Michael Whibley, Nabil Edgtton, Andy Hung, Adam Edgtton and Alex Smirnov) acquitted themselves extremely well over the week. Not only did they win the SWPT, but they beat De LIVERA 53 to 42 in the round of 12, and were still playing good, tight bridge right through to the end.

They are gaining a lot of experience while still very young (in bridge terms) and that augurs well for the future of youth bridge in Australia. Four members of the team have scored an invitation to the prestigious White House Junior International Teams in Amsterdam in late March and we wish them well. **Richard Brightling**

What should I bid?

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Welcome to our Sydney expert Kieran Dyke, new moderator for this feature. Kieran has had a wealth of experience despite his youthful appearance, most recently finishing second in the Gold Coast



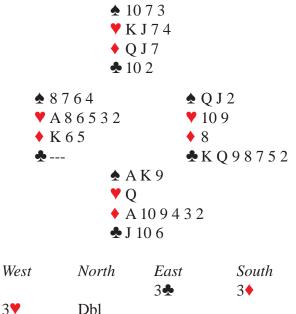
Pairs in partnership with Jeanette Reitzer.

Sincere thanks to outgoing moderator Sartaj Hans, for his sterling service over the past few years. His contribution to the website and the Newsletter will be missed.

Over to you, Kieran:

The best submission for February 2010 came from Maura Rhodes from Western Australia:

East deals, EW vulnerable



Comments: What is North's double? Takeout or penalty? I was North: partner took my double as takeout, but I meant it as penalty, and we are not sure how best to play it. He thinks it should be takeout, showing spades - do you agree?

Kieran's Reply:

Maura,

In the old days, everybody played this double as penalty, and nobody thought anything of it. It's not clear that they were wrong, either.

However, as with an awful lot of early doubles in the modern bidding canon, I'd regard this one as more like takeout, or cards, or "Hey, I'm here!" I'd be loathe to describe it as simply showing spades (a 3 \bigstar bid would do a better job still of showing spades), and the bid might be necessary with all sorts of balanced/flexible hands which can't bid 3NT (for lack of stoppers in the opponents' suits), but mostly the hand would contain some spades.

With double as some kind of takeout action, North has two choices. The first is to bid 3NT, but at the vulnerability this does feel like trading +800 for an uncertain +400. The other is to pass (preferably without stopping to think). This might get a bigger penalty than a penalty double, since East might keep bidding, or even raise hearts. (Many players would regard West's 3♥ as forcing... I certainly wouldn't ask any questions, lest East be tipped off that I want him to keep bidding).

Even if East passes, partner is still there - the South hand on this diagram has an easy takeout double when $3 \forall$ gets passed around, and you can get your +1100 after all. Or $3 \forall$ might be passed out, down three or four, for a score not much worse than making 3NT.

By the way, words fail to describe West's 3♥ bid - you'd think most people, vulnerable with a seven-count and a void in partner's suit, would just be overjoyed that 3♣ wasn't doubled. I think the 3♥ bid looks somewhat less safe than crossing the freeway blindfolded.

Kieran Dyke

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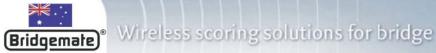
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Left-to-right: Justin Howard, Nabil Edgtton, Michael Whibley, Adam Edgtton and Andy Hung



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Bridge into the 21st Century

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2.	1 ♣ Dbl?	Pass	1♥	1NT
3.	Dbl Dbl?	1♠	Pass	1 ☆ 2 ☆
4.	Dbl Dbl?	Pass	1♥	1 ☆ 2 ☆
5.	Dbl?	1 ♣	1♥	1♠
6.	Dbl?	1♣	Dbl	1♥
7.	Dbl?	1♣	Dbl	3♣
8.	Dbl?		1 ♣ * = ma	2 ♣ * jors, 5+, 5+
9.	Dbl?		1♣	1♥
10.	Rdbl?	1♦	2 🛧	Dbl

Study the auctions below. What does West's final Double or Redouble Mean?

1. Support double, showing three hearts. East's double unreservedly shows 4+ hearts, and South's $2\clubsuit$ shows a good raise to $2\bigstar$ with three trumps. The key factor for the partnership to compete further is the measure of their heart fit, and West's double is best used as a support double, to show exactly three hearts.

2. Support double, showing three hearts. You could use the double to show 18-19 HCP, but you might be waiting for a while. Using the double as a Support Double is the way to penalise opponents in 1NT more often, when partner passes with 8+ HCP, or to compete further when 1NT is a good spot.

3. Penalty of spades. It's a good idea to have firm agreements. One such is that when your side makes a takeout double, primarily shows the other three suits, later doubles of one of those suits are penalty.

Your takeout double of 1♣ showed support for diamonds, hearts and spades, so later doubles of these suits are for penalties. What would you bid now, for instance, if you held: ♠AKQ10, ♥AK2, ♠K642, ♣54? Double for penalty makes good sense.



4. A good hand with only three hearts. This is a common situation - you want to compete, but only have three of the suit in which partner responded, maybe something like AQJ2, AK2, K642, 54.

5. Raise to 2 with a top honour in the suit. This is traditionally a "Snapdragon Double", showing five cards in the unbid suit, and doubleton support for the overcall - here five diamonds and two hearts. A better use of the double is to show a raise to 2, but with a high heart honour - ace, king or queen. The raise to 2 thus denies a high heart honour.

Now partner is better informed as when to lead the partnership's suit, and more to the point, when not to. You will probably be outbid on the hand, so sorting out the right lead is of paramount importance.

6. Penalty of hearts - (see question 3). Double for penaltys when opponents bid one of "your" suits may not be the best method, but at least you know where you stand. The double shows 4+ hearts, so your side can still play in hearts, or lead a heart against notrumps, even when one of the opponents bids that suit.

7. Takeout, or responsive, showing precisely 4-4 in the majors. The big problem after this sort of preemption is to finish in your 4-4 fit, rather than your 4-3 fit. This can only be achieved by using double as specifically 4-4 in the majors.

8. I can double one or both of their suits. Of course, you may have a better hand that you wish to develop by starting with double, but the primary meaning is that you can double one of their suits for penalty. Perhaps 43, 710975, 4643, 87.

9. Denies four spades. If you are still using this bid to show four spades, and 1♠ to show 5+ spades, then you are using two bids to say the same thing. When you use 1♠ to show 4+ spades, you will have little problem determining the extent of your spade fit, because of support doubles. The real problem occurs when you hold something like ♠J84, ♥1097, ♦A1054, ♣AQ9, or ♠84, ♥1097, ♦AQ1054, ♣J92. You don't really want to bid 2♦ on either of these hands, and double, basically showing the other minor, fills the bill perfectly.

10. Shows an honour in clubs, and little else. The key to these auctions is to sort out whether or not clubs is a good lead, and redouble shows a high club honour, and not enough to raise or cuebid the opponent's suit. On this deal, redoubler held &KQ and nothing else, and overcaller held &S5, \checkmark A3, \diamond A10, &AJ98654. Anyone for 3NT?

Paul Lavings, Postfree Bridge Books

Coaching Cathy at Contract

KEEPING ACCOUNT

Me Again,

I have two hands for your considered analysis. Both involved defensive mistakes, or at least missed opportunities. I would be grateful if you commented on these hands.

Missed Defence #1

🔶 K J								
	♥ A J 3							
	♦ Q	J76						
	♣ K	Q 5 4						
▲ 1	097							
V 1	03							
🔶 K	53							
🐥 A	J 6 3 2							
West	North	East	South					
Me	Dummy							
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥					
Pass	2	Pass	4♥					
All Pass								

1NT was strong (obviously), and $2 \forall$ was alerted as a transfer

I led \clubsuit A and, fortunately, it didn't get ruffed. After that I didn't want to lead away from \blacklozenge K, so I switched to a spade. Declarer won, and discarded two small diamonds on the top clubs and made 5 \heartsuit !

Declarer's hand was \bigstar AQ865, \forall K8654, \bigstar 103, \bigstar 9. Obviously, I should have shifted to a diamond, but I thought it was too dangerous.

Missed Defence #2

	♠ 9	8						
	Y Q	J 8 3						
	♦ K 10 7							
	📥 A	J 8 5						
♥ 9 ♦ (X Q J 4 9 7 Q J 9 9 7 6 3							
West	North	East	South					
Me	Dummy							
	Pass	Pass	2NT					
Pass	3 📤	Pass	3♥					
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦					
Pass	6♥	All Pass						

The opponents were playing Acol, and South showed 1 or 4 Key Cards. I led $\bigstar K$.

South won that and played three rounds of hearts, to which East (Glenda) followedm and I discarded a club. Next South played four rounds of clubs, with Glenda showing out on the second round. I think she threw two spades and one diamond.

I had to throw away on the fourth club so I discarded s4. Then I was stuck on lead when declarer gave me a spade trick. I led another spade and declarer threw a diamond from dummy and ruffed in hand.

He then took the rest of the tricks. How could I have known that South only had two spades?

Lost in Wonderland, Cathy.

Dear Lost,

So many players underestimate the value of counting cards and tricks in defence. Accurate counting as a defender may well bring greater rewards than applying the same skills as declarer, but it can be easier because at least you are guaranteed of hearing some bidding from your opponents.

In the first example, you may have overlooked the information provided by the bidding. South's bidding strongly suggests a 5-5 pattern and a 5-4 at worst. This means that surrendering a diamond trick by leading away from K is giving away a trick that declarer can't really use. Given that South is certain to discard any small diamond or diamonds on the top clubs, you are destined not to get your K unless you lead one now.

In the second example, you are the victim of good declarer play and you own failure to look into the future.

South's hand is exposed as 4-4 in clubs and hearts. The only distribution which now gives any chance of defeating this slam is a 2-4-3-4. If not, declarer has five trump tricks, four clubs and two top diamonds, plus A. With your more than useful diamond holding, you must avoid being put on lead in the endgame. If partner does not have 10, you are cooked anyway, so you must throw a higher spade on the fourth club and low on any small spade lead from declarer, thereby allowing partner on lead, to switch to diamonds safely from her side of the table.

After getting a basic count on obvious suits, the inferential count on other suits must be based on the premise that you can still defeat the contract, unless there is incontrovertible evidence to suggest otherwise.

Cheers, David

The ABF History Project

In Search of Victor Champion

t is not usual for events to be named after players who are still competing at a top level. The Victor Champion Cup (which began in 1953 as a round robin of all teams eliminated before the finals of the Open



and Women's Interstate Teams) was an exception. Victor Champion (1905?-1974) would be the playing captain of a Victorian team at the Interstate several times more, the last occasion being in 1961.

The recognition given to "Champ" reflected his dominance in Victorian and Australian bridge from the mid-1930s to the early 1950s, which saw the rise of NSW teams and pairs. Between 1934 and 1961, he was the captain of 16 Victorian teams, which won seven Australian championships. He was winning captain three times in a row, from 1934 to 1936

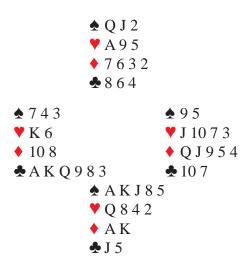
an achievement surpassed only by
Bill Schaufelberger in the years 1947
1950.

Several tributes make his status clear. In 1954, Mick Sullivan wrote in the European Bridge Review of "the one and only Victor Champion, captain and ideal colleague. Flawless technique, temperament par excellence, impeccable table manners and commendable modesty have made him the idol of Australian bridge and justly so."

Charles Hickman, another doyen of Victorian bridge, 20 years later wrote "to me, Victor Champion ranks number one among the greats of Australian bridge – not only on account of his technical ability, but for his faultless table manners and his regard for the ethics of the game. He was almost

entirely free of mannerisms, the only exception being a habit of partly withdrawing and replacing a card quite irrelevant to the problem being considered."

As a player, he was gifted with making any hand look easy. Tim Bourke, in the 1974 ANC Bulletin, following Champ's death, supplied the following example:



"Champ (South) played in 4♠ after West overcalled in clubs. He ruffed the third round of clubs, drew trumps then led a heart to ♥9 and ♥10, and won East's diamond return. A heart to the ace felled West's ♥K, and a finesse against East's ♥J brought the contract home. This was not brilliant. He took the percentage line. However, the style in which "Champ" played this hand was one of a well-oiled machine going through its paces, and this was the hallmark of his superb game."

His contribution to the game was only partly related to his own play. Well before the Four Aces, Champ pioneered the practice of intense rehearsal and training for his teams, with an emphasis on an exhaustive

understanding of one's system. A NSW representative commented in 1934 that:

"The excellence of Mr Champion's team lay in the fact that their rate of error is much smaller than ours. Each player has confidence in the other; with the slightest encouragement they are hardly ever guilty of underbidding; alternatively, they did not overbid.

In Messrs. Champion and Moss, Victoria has the best two players yet seen in action. They nearly always finish in the correct contract, and if there is any chance of playing it home, will do so."

Champ attended the first meeting of the Australian Bridge Council in 1935, but was not generally an administrator, or a person who could steer issues

successfully through organisations. He did, though, get involved in any debate that was going, about selection processes, and preparations for interstate events. Even in an era when state rivalries were more real than they are now, there was nobody who cared as much about the Interstate, and Victoria's prospects than Champ.

The Project

ABF historian Keith Ogborn has been following the brief of researching and providing biographies of the main pioneers and developers of bridge in Australia. To make comments or contact Keith email historian@abf. com.au



This did not always produce positive outcomes. The *History* of Australian Bridge covers his role in the split in Victorian bridge in 1955. A major factor in this was Champ's wish to have sole selection rights – driven by his concerns



that existing methods were not producing the best Victorian teams, and to revive the pre-war glory days of Victorian bridge.

This did not discourage him from continuing to raise the issue during the remainder of the 1950s and early 1960s, but administration and managing organisational politics and consensus building was not his forte.

Champ was also an important bidding theorist. In the early to late 1930s, when Culbertson was totally dominant, he favoured Sims in a somewhat adapted form. He flirted with Pachabo in the mid- to late 1930s, but during the 1940s, developed the Champion System, used by Victorian teams over a number of years. This essentially combined elements of the Sims System, particularly finding game values early, with Culbertson honour trick counts. The Champion System also included 2NT as a game force and pivot bid, and Victorian Blackwood, which used 3NT in different situations as an ace ask.

The bridge columns authored by Champ that are known to us show a very skilled writer, focussed on the overall strategy, psychology and ethics of the game. His output, though, was not great. He wrote for the short-lived *Australian Bridge Player* during 1934-35 and briefly contributed a bridge column to the newly-founded *Australian Women's Weekly* in 1937.

He also wrote a *Bridge Notes* column for the Melbourne *Argus* in 1941, but fell victim to wartime space restrictions.

While Champ's achievements in bridge are well documented, his personal life is a very different story. He kept his bridge and personal life very separate, even know, from electoral rolls, that he lived mainly in the Melbourne city centre, and between 1934 and 1941, gave his occupation as a bridge instructor. We do not know how, or how well he made his living as an instructor. His were never among the numerous advertisements gor instructors in The Argus.

from those

who knew him

We do know

a few things.

recalled that

he trained as

an accountant

Between 1927

and 1932, he

seems to have

of his time in

spent most

England.

We also

Charles

Hickman

(but not

where).

well.

From the 1940s, he gave his profession as 'secretary',' and was last employed by the stockbroking firm William Noall & Son (not the bridge William Noall, although related). Much else seems to be blank (unless a reader can help). He never married, although was said to have been engaged a couple of times. From 1949, he shared accommodation with his stepmother, until her death in the early 1960s.

Intriguingly, his origins are something of a mystery. There seems to be no record of his birth in Australia or his mother, whose name was Drummond. On the one hand, that is surprising, because both his father and uncle were part of show business royalty of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But on the other, it is consistent with a family tradition of accompanying high achievement in the public eye with intense privacy.

Victor's grandparents on his father's side were journeyman actors following the theatre circuits in the UK until his grandfather settled in Liverpool to be stage manager of the main theatre in the city. The next generation, though, operated at a much higher level – and at very early ages.

The oldest son, his father's brother was EJ "Teddy" Lonnen (1864-1901). He was regarded from his teenage years in the 1880s as one of the best, and in some respects the best of all, comedian/singers on the

English stage. He performed throughout the Englishspeaking world, including Australia in 1882, where he generated a sheet music hit for a song he performed about a member of a Sydney street gang or "push" and again in 1892. Teddy's daughter, Jessie Lonnen, Victor's cousin, also became a major star in the UK and in Australia.

One of Teddy Lonnen's well-known songs

- 'Hush, hush, here comes the Bogey Man'- provided the inspiration for the use of the term bogey in golf.

Champ's father, also known as Victor Champion, born in 1866, studied music rather than acting. He began as a pianist, but turned to conducting, and by the time he was 19, established himself as a leading conductor of both musical theatre and opera in the London and major provincial theatre scene.

In 1886 he had become famous for more than his music by marrying Maude Branscombe, an

English model who was the late nineteenth century's equivalent of Marilyn Monroe. It was estimated that around 42,000 copies of her photograph were sold when she first came on the scene in 1878, and the photos were still in considerable demand in the mid-1890s. The relationship, though, did not last long and Maude's life went into a downward spiral in the 1890s.

He came to Australia in 1908, when he was 42, initially on a temporary basis with a touring production, but stayed on to do further productions for the theatre group, breaking prior commitments to perform in France in the process. When the English firm was absorbed by J.C. Williamsons, he became their Director of Music.

We do not know why Victor Senior abandoned his European career. He was certainly well paid and looked after by J.C. Williamson, but that is not likely to be the whole situation. Victor Senior generally was something of a man of mystery. Although a major public figure in both Melbourne and Sydney for his productions, he zealously guarded his privacy. In the one press interview he is known to have given, in 1927, the interviewer commented that he was 'one of the least assertive generals - self-sought obscurity - in country 20 years but few would recognise him.' He went on to say that:

Victor Champion is the most remarkable product of our civilization - a cultivated Englishman. The air of being politely resigned to blatancies observable in other people; the gentle deprecatory tone; the inability to say anything tinged with the common hates, are all property to the picture of quiet reserve which he presents to the stranger. His refinement is the gardenia which he wears on the lapel of his soul ...'

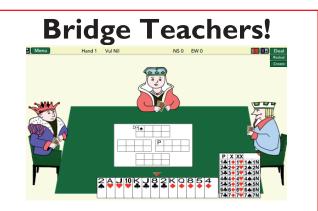
In this interview, Victor Senior revealed publicly for the first time that 'Champion' was a stage name. His real name was Victor Lonnen. He said he had adopted the name to distinguish himself from his famous older brother. Champ would have been aware of this,

> but never seems to have used the Lonnen surname. The full name he gave when asked -'Victor Melbourne Champion' - was even more intriguing. His birth is not to be found in the genealogy records or passengers to Australia under either Champion or Lonnen, and his own accounts varied – but various statements and records indicate he was born in 1905 or earlier – well before Victor Senior came to Melbourne.

> Does the mystery matter – particularly in a bridge biography? Probably not. But by-ways can be as interesting as highways and who

knows what future historians, looking for context, will find relevant when they look at this with fresh eyes and see mysteries that we now do not.

Keith Ogborn



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Letters to the Editor

Why are no bridge events - weekends away or conventions - run for beginners and intermediate players? A number of friends and I have been playing for about two years, so are not very experienced. We would love a weekend or a few days away, playing and attending workshops, but no one seems to be running any. Could you put me in touch with any one who does?

Jacquie Collins, Illawarra

Thanks for your letter.

The states include novice events as part of their calendars. Dates for these can be accessed via the ABF website, abf.com.au. On looking at the NSWBA calendar, there do not appear to be many novice events coming up in your own state. Try Queensland, which provides a regular scattering of novice events. Bridge there is relaxed and friendly - and it's a good place to visit!

In addition, there are a number of teachers who conduct weekends of bridge and holidays around Australia. Some teachers also visit interstate clubs to provide seminars. Perhaps the most prolific provider is **Holiday Bridge**, run by Ron and Suzie Klinger, whose holidays are legendary. See next column. Ed.

Bridge Base Operators required

The ABF is committed to showcasing the final stages of major Australian bridge events over Bridge Base Online.

The National VuGraph Unit requires BBO operators to assist during major events.. Working as a BBO operator is now a paid position and full training will be provided.

If you are interested in assisting with the events below, please contact Nick at nick@fahrer.com.au

Victor Champion Cup, Melbourne, June 11 - 14, 2010

ANC, Hobart, July 17 - 29, 2010

Spring Nationals Sydney, October 21 - 28, 2010

Grand National Open Teams, Tweed Heads, November 26 - 29, 2010

Want to improve your bridge? Go to

www.ronklingerbridge.com for new material each day

Bridge Holidays with Ron and Suzie Klinger in 2010

Lord Howe Island June 19 - 26 Barrier Reef Cruise August 7 - 13



Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort August 29 - September 5



Norfolk Island November 6 - 13





Details for any of the above from:

Holiday Bridge, PO Box 140, Northbridge NSW 1560

Tel: (02) 9958-5589 email: suzie@ron-klinger.com.au

NZ Representative Teams 2010

Open

Peter Newell - Martin Reid Alan Grant - Anthony Ker Graeme Stout - Jeff Miller

Women

Kris Wooles (NPC) Shirley Newton - Jenny Wilkinson Jenna Gibbons - Christine Gibbons Linda Cartner - Glenis Palmer

Seniors

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Youth - Under 26

David Skipper - Daniel Skipper Pieter Vanderpoel - Cameron Benson James Coutts - Liam Milne

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Auckland - Rotorua - Napier - Wellington - Picton - Christchurch - Dunedin - Hobart - Sydney

These ships will fill rapidly and we only have a limited allocation of cabins at these prices! Avoid disappointment. Reserve your cabin now.

Other Bridge Holidays



Dormie House **June 20 - 25** from \$869

Already sold out!. A few suites for those still wishing to participate are available at Berida Manor.



The Country **Comfort Terrigal** August 10 - 13 4 days and 3 nights 95 twin share

\$645 sinale

This bridge break is filling rapidly. Bridge only fees are available so that local Central Coast players will be welcome to join us. This price includes accommodation, bridge fees, breakfasts and dinners each day and coffee and biscuits at play sessions.

Contact us for details of our full program of clinics and play sessions. Red points and prizes awarded.

In the Pipeline

s and final itineraries for these holidays will be available soon



Echuca Bridge Week Oct 2010

We are negotiating for a better price. This may entail having to change the venue and the date.



January 2011 Our 26th visit to the Alps will again take place in early January.

Thredbo



Bali 2011

We enjoved the beauty of the island, the people, the food and the shopping on our previous visits. We are negotiating with the secure 5 star Pan Pacific Nirwana Resort.

We would welcome your expressions of interest.

It's the Law!

General Behaviour and Etiquette

often receive enquiries from players, who begin by describing a situation or a series of events, and then conclude with the question:



"Was this 'ethical'?"

The word 'ethical' itself can be quite emotive in a bridge environment, and in many cases there can be a blurring of the boundary between what is a personal belief, and what is a legal requirement of the game. The Laws actually have a great deal to say about how players should conduct themselves, both at the table, and in respect to other contestants.

There is a requirement that all tournaments be played in strict accordance with the laws. The chief objective of the game is to obtain a higher score than other contestants, whilst complying with the procedures and ethical standards set out in the Laws.

Consequently, it is appropriate for an innocent side to select the most advantageous option given under law, and for the offending side, after rectification of an infraction, to make whatever call or play that best profits their side.

Players must never accept scores they are not entitled to. Neither may they waive penalties (they may, however, ask the Director to do so), nor should they ever try to act as the Director, and make their own table rulings.

Players are, of course, expressly forbidden to deliberately contravene the Laws. However, when a player unintentionally commits an infraction, there is no requirement for him to draw attention to it. Nevertheless, the Laws do prohibit that player from actively concealing the irregularity, i.e., he may not attempt to hide a revoke by mixing up his cards, or by deliberately revoking a second time, in an effort to avoid discovery.

A friend of mine often asserts that Law 74A is amongst the most important in the book:

"A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game."

Some players unfortunately also find this the hardest law to consistently obey, because it requires one to be pleasant and courteous to, not only the opponents, but also to partner! Examples of other specific breaches of law include:

- Deliberately playing either very fast or overly slowly, in order to disconcert an opponent
- Showing disapproval of partner's bidding or play
- Showing a total lack of interest in one's hand
- Trying to observe from where in the hand an opponent withdraws a card
- Making gratuitous comments during the auction or play
- Prematurely detaching a card before it is one's turn to play
- Leaving the table unnecessarily during the play

Generally players are required to avoid contentious situations or any suggestion of gamesmanship. They are not however expected to obey unwritten laws or regulations.

"A contestant may be penalized only for a lapse of ethics where a player is in breach of the provisions of the laws in respect of conduct. A player who has conformed to the laws and regulations is not subject to criticism." (WBF Code of Practice)

We all know of players who try to police their opponents instead of themselves but social sanctions upon players who break non-existent laws are equally unacceptable. It is only the Director who has the authority to penalise or, in extreme cases, even suspend players who misbehave during the session.

Laurie Kelso

Book Review

Advanced Bridge: Uncontested Auctions

by Derrick Browne (Trumps Publishing, 2010, soft cover, 168 pages, \$16.95)

Following the success of *Improvers' Bridge* and *Intermediate Bridge*, Derrick Browne has directed his attention to more advanced players. The eight chapters in his latest book are Advancing Standard, Roman Keycard, Control Bidding, Jacoby 2NT, Splinters, Fourth Suit Forcing, Checkback, Responding to 1NT, plus a chapter of play tips. Each chapter contains a good amount of text, clear and concise, a review of key points, a page of quizzes, hands for the partnership to bid, and four hands to play in lesson format.

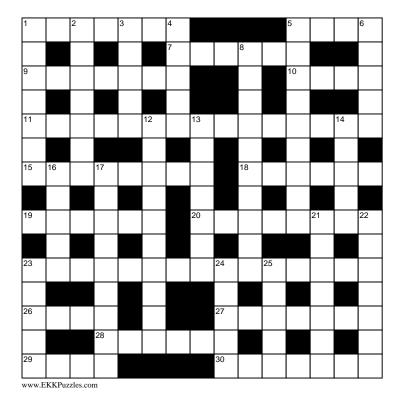
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Puzzle 1092



ACROSS

- 1 Taking food as model east of Jordan.(3, 4)
- **5** Kent University, Durham University specialise in antelope species.(4)
- 7 Derive no second thanks in particular.(6)
- 9 Run lead off and clean clothes.(7)
- 10 Leave returned, the Parisian way to stare unashamedly.(4)
- 11 Board game needs a face part & some direction with the auditors.(7, 8)
- 15 Odd to ban molar rearrangement.(8)
- 18 However, endless thought made it even so.(6)
- **19** Finish organ for delight.(6)
- 20 Italian sauce makes artist follow a collection of boat pens.(8)
- **23** Filmmaker movie theater to relative diagram and some hesitation, for a special camera buff.(15)
- 26 One to leave string in open-mouthed surprised.(4)
- 27 Sounds like a girl, who is claiming to be us.(7)
- 28 Former model worker is still alive.(6)
- 29 Dreamer is South East with the Queen.(4)
- 30 Strive at urge to commit sin.(7)

DOWN

- 1 Narrow ship makes Luc face arrangement.(7)
- 2 Get together about marriage.(7)
- 3 Confuse sum student note.(5)
- 4 Negligence in law with bridge player when making a cake (5)
- 5 Deck and rap feathers.(5, 4)
- 6 Drug takers are abusers at least in part.(5)
- 8 Journeyer to project with Elizabeth.(10)
- 12 Gymnastics move brought about when last mouser crashed.(10)
- 13 Architypal TV footpad, pass order and smell.(7)
- **14** Radio word for ramjet.(5)
- 16 Dog is sung about when big clock is just inside to start.(5)
- 17 Zealous bowl for each note of hesitation.(9)
- 21 Belief that there is no God gets two articles together, then I seem empty.(7)
- **22** Bat's ear changes when up to date.(7)
- 23 Tyrants of 100 with last artist returning to bend.(5)
- 24 George with one short thanks is a type of personna.(5)
- 25 Concerning article Specialist.(5)

Open Playoffs

 Paul Gosney, Peter Gill
 Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn
 Arjuna De Livera, Ian Robinson



Women's Playoffs



 Sue Lusk, Therese Tully
 Alida Clark, Leonie Fuller
 Pele Rankin, Rosa Lachman

Seniors' Playoffs

 Terry Brown - Avi Kanetkar
 George Smolanko -David Anderson
 Gavin Bailey - Kirsten Bailey



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ABF News

The 2011 Summer Festival of Bridge and the Grand National Pairs National Final will be held at Rydges Lakeside Hotel, Canberra, from January 17-31. Thus the event has come a full circle.

23 April, 2010

John Hardy

Books

Try these excellent books for beginners/improvers

Common Bidding Mistakes to Avoid				
Ross Dick	\$26.95			
Planning the Play of a Hand Seagram & Bird	\$31.90			

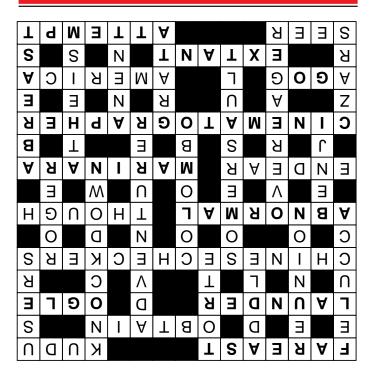
Software

Ungrado from look / ¢/	9.50
Upgrade from Jack 4 \$4	
Bridge Baron 20 \$9	3.50
Upgrade to BB 20 (old CD required) \$4	9.50
Bridge Master 2000	
Great for improving declarer play \$7	7.00

John Hardy (ABN 63 813 139 759) 63 Tristan St., Carindale QLD 4152 Ph: 07-3398 8898 or 0409 786 050

Email J.Hardy@uq.net.au Website www.uq.net.au/~zzjhardy

Solution to Cryptic Puzzle 1092





who submitted entries.



ANC Update

• The 2010 ANC will be held from Friday, July 17 to Thursday, July 29, 2010 at Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart.

• A warm up Swiss Teams event will be held on Saturday July 17th open to all.

• The ANC Teams will start on Sunday July 18 and run to Thursday July 22, with the Final starting on Thursday evening and finishing on Friday afternoon, July 23. The Victory Dinner will be held that evening.

• The Open & Women's Butler, Stage 1, will be held on Saturday and Sunday 24 - 25 July, with Stage 2 run between Monday and Thursday, finishing on the afternoon of Thursday 29 July.

In the competition for the ANC • The Open and Women's Butler has been reduced to two stages over Logo, above, winners were Jan six days, in response to requests from the players. Should the numbers Colville and Mark Stansall. Con- for the Women's Butler be less than 23 pairs, it will only be a one stage gratulations, and thanks to all those event, similar to the Seniors', and we will advertise it with that proviso. The women can then elect to play in the Open Butler, or the organisers may decide to run another Swiss Pairs event over the weekend specifically aimed at the women.

• The ABF is offering a prize of \$4000 per pair to the winners of the Open, Women's, and Seniors Butler to attend the World Bridge Series Championships in Philadelphia, from October 1 - 16 2010.

• For those who like to plan their bridge in advance, the rotation for ANCs is as follows:

2010	Tasmania	2011	Victoria	2012	Northern Territory
2013	New South Wales	2014	South Australia	2015	Western Australia
2016	Queensland	2017	ACT		

Contact: Dallas Cooper: anc2010@abf.com.au

Further information about the 2010 ANC can be found on the TBA website: www.tasbridge.com.au



Gold Coast Congress Results

Pairs Championship:

1. Krzysztof Martens - Dominik Filipowicz

- 2. Kieran Dyke Jeamette Reitzer
- 3. Bob Scott John Wignall

Pairs Plate:

Avinash Kanetkar - Terry Brown

Senior Pairs Championship: Robert Milward - Les Grewcock

Restricted Pairs Championship: Nikolas Moore - Geoffrey Martin

Novice Pairs Championship: Bryan Murray - Elizabeth Rolfe

Teams Championship:

 Pawel Niedzielski, Janusz Makaruk, Krzysztof Martens, Dominik Filipowicz
 Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Michael Ware, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon

Intermediate Teams Championship:

Val Holbrook, Emlyn Williams, Robin Erskine, Peter Waight

Restricted Teams Championship:

Geoffrey Martin, Nikolas Moore, Patrick Bugler, John Kelly

Novice Teams Championship: Barbara Wippell, Brian Wippell Michael Doherty, Kim Nicoll

Senior Teams Championship:

Elizabeth Havas, Gordon Schmidt, Alan Walsh, Barbara Mcdonald

Seres - McMahon Mixed Teams: Margaret Bourke, Robert Gallus, Felicity Beale, Robbie van Riel

Graded Pairs (Open) Peter Kahler - Hashmat Alis

Graded Pairs (Novice) Leslie Treasure - Yvonne Perkins

White House Junior Teams

- 1. Israel 433
- 2. France 412
- 3. Italy 410
- 4. France 410
- 5. Australia 403

The Australian Youth Team, Adam Edgtton, Nabil Edgtton, Justin Howard, Andy Hung, Michael Whibley were fifth out of 24, in a tournament held in Amsterdam from March 21 - 26.

Congresses and events

Western Senior Pairs, Perth

May 15 - 16 Senior PQP and Gold Points. A great weekend of bridge for players born before January 1, 1951. Email Jane Reynolds at wsp@abf.com.au

Victor Champion Cup, Melbourne

June 10 - 14 New Melbourne Convention Centre Email Sue Smith on vcc2010@optusnet.com.au or telephone 0429 056 445 Festival Website: www.vba.asn.au/vcc2010

Barrier Reef Congress, Mackay

June 11 - 14 Contact : Kim Ellaway, tel: (07) 3351 8602

Australian National Championships (ANC) July 17 - 29

Wrest Point, Sandy Bay, Hobart Contact: Dallas Cooper Email: anc2010@abf.com.au

Orange Congress

July 24 - 25 Contact Convenor Margaret Robinson on 02 6362 8241 or email: marob@netwit.net.au

Taree Teams Congress

July 24 - 25 Email Convener: judithscott@bigpond.com

Coffs Coast Gold Congress

August 17 - 22 Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour www.coffsbridge.com.au/2009_congress_links.html

Swan River Open Swiss Pairs

August 21 -22 Convener: Hilary Yovich Consult BAWA website: www.bawa.asn.au

Territory Gold Bridge Festival

September 1 - 5 Venue: Alice Springs Convention Centre Convener: Eileen Boocock Email: tgbf@abf.com.au . Telephone: (08) 8952 4061

Hans Rosendorff Memorial Congress, Perth

September 11 - 12 Convener: Sheenagh Young. Email: hgr@abf.com.au

Roger Penny Senior and Australian Swiss Pairs

September 30 - October 3 Convener: Catherine Elliott, Tel: (03) 6344 9303 Email : asp@abf.com.au

Coffs Coast Gold Congress 2010

Contact Details (*mandatory)		ABF No:						
Name:								
Address:								
Ph:	Fax:	Mobile						
Email:								
Payment Methods Director		Account Name: Coffs Harbour Bridge Club BSB No: 082 551 Account No: 573 093 822 Customer Reference: your ABF number						
Cheque/Money Order enclose	ed for \$							
Please charge my credit card f	or \$	We accept only Visa or Mastercard						
Card Number:		Expiry Date						
Name on Card								
Signature of Card Hold	er							

Program Tuesday 17 th August 2010 -	Sunday 22nd August 2010						
	Price/Player	Number	Total				
Tuesday Night Welcome Function & Pairs (pre registration essential)	\$20						
Open/Restricted Pairs (Wed/Thurs)	\$135						
Friday Workshop – Directors Forum	Free						
Saturday Night Dinner - Live Entertainment	\$60						
Open/Restricted Teams (Fri Night/Sat/Sun)	\$125						
(0	Total						
Please forward entries to: Jon Doland, 61A Safety Beach Dr. Safety Beach NSW 2456							
Ph 02 6654 1104 Fax 02 6654 9111 Email: jon@australiawideconferences.com.au							
Online entries www.coffsbridge.com.au/congress.html							
Entries close on 1 st Aug 2010. All entries must be accompanied by entry fee.							
Table numbers will be capped at around 106.							

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club may also accept late entries at its discretion.

			Indicate events being entered (Y/N)			
Event	ABF No	Full Name	Open Pairs	Restricted	Welcome Pairs	
Pair 1						
	ABF No	Full Name				
Pair 2						
			Open Teams (Y/N)		Restricted teams (Y/N)	
Teams	ABF No	Full Name				
1 Capt						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						



Programme, Application form and Booking Accommodation form are now on line or fill in entry form on the inside of the back cover of this Newsletter. For more information visit:

www.coffsbridge.com.au

(take the congress link) or contact Ian/Jon on: 02 6654 1104

Pairs start Wed 18th at 10am & finish Thurs afternoon Teams start Fri 20th at 7.30 pm & finish Sunday early afternoon *A full program of events can be found on the web site*

Complimentary workshop on Friday morning