

# ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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## ABF Charity Partnership Arrangement



Australia

## Supporter Event 2012

I am delighted to announce that the ABF has entered into a 'charity partnership' with *Make-A-Wish*® Australia. *Make-A-Wish* Australia's mission is to grant wishes to children across Australia with life-threatening medical conditions to give them hope, strength and joy at a time when they need them most.

This 'charity partnership arrangement' (from April 2012) is a sign of our like-minded commitment to inclusion and compassion and to an organisation who, like us, cares about the health and wellbeing of people across the nation.

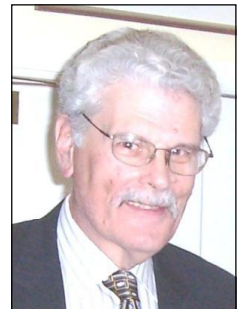
A recent independent study found that *Make-A-Wish*® wishes can have a significantly positive impact on the physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing of children with life-threatening illnesses. The study found that:

- 97% of families said there was improvement in their child's mental and emotional health following a wish experience
- 75% of children experienced improved physical health
- 95% of parents agreed that the wish experience provided their child with an opportunity for a 'normal life' experience
- 100% agreed the wish gave them happy memories that would last forever
- 92% of parents affirmed a reduction in anxiety and fear among the wish child's siblings; and
- 93% of parents felt an increased sense of empowerment and improved ability to cope with the illness and situation.

Each ABF club and major event organiser has been asked to consider how they could work with a representative from *Make-A-Wish* Australia to raise funds for this worthy cause. I would encourage all members to give generously to any fundraising activities undertaken to benefit *Make-A-Wish* at your club or at an ABF event.

As *Make-A-Wish* has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a deductible gift recipient, all donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Together, we can promote a more supportive community spirit.



*Keith McDonald, ABF President*

## Major winners at Gold Coast Congress

### Open Pairs Winners

#### Final A

- 1st Ashley Bach - Nabil Edgtton
- 2nd Michal Kopecky - Milan Macura

### Seniors' Pairs Winners

#### Final A

- 1st Andrew Creet - Stephen Mendick
- 2nd Arthur Robbins - Gary Ridgway

### Intermediate Pairs Winners

#### Final A

- 1st David Yarwood - Derek Richards
- 2nd Patrick Bugler - John Kelly

### Restricted Pairs Winners

#### Final A

- 1st Garry Khemka - John Yoon
- 2nd Stephen Hughes - Drew Dunlop

### Novice Pairs Winners

#### Final A

- 1st Mike Edwards - Allan Pike
- 2nd Anne Gunst - Alison Feiner

### Open Teams Winners

Liam Milne - Andy Hung - Alex Smirnov - Michael Whibley - Nye Griffiths - Nabil Edgtton

## Making the big time in Memphis

Australia should be immensely proud of Sydney/Melbourne bridge entrepreneur and player Ishmael Del'Monte. Ishmael teamed with French youth star Thomas Bessis to take out the prestigious Vanderbilt Knockout Teams at the Spring NABC in Memphis, Tennessee in March, as well as the trophy described below.

### Bessis, Del'Monte win Mott - Smith Trophy

The pair, members of the winning squad in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams and runners-up in the Kay Platinum Pairs (behind Bob Hamman - Justin Lall), won the 2012 Mott-Smith Trophy for accumulating the most masterpoints at the Spring NABC. The Vanderbilt win was worth 250 points, the Platinum Pairs second 150.

Teams captained by John Diamond and Les Amoils competed in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams Final. *AMOILS*, Les Amoils, Darren Wolpert, Joe Grue, Curtis Cheek, Ishmael Del'Monte and Thomas Bessis, had little trouble with the four-man Allan Falk squad in the semi final, winning 192-130 IMPs.

*DIAMOND*, on the other hand, had to fight off a late challenge by *BERTHEAU*, who had fought from behind to close to within 14 IMPs late in the match. The final score was 141-106 IMPs. John Diamond partnered Brian Platnick, with teammates Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco, Fred Gitelman and Brad Moss.

Visitors to this year's Summer Festival of Bridge will recognise two of the names in this article so far - rising US stars Justin Lall, 25 and Joe Grue, 30 were members of *NOBLE* (with Ishmael and Ashley Bach and Barry Noble - George Bilski), who won the South West Pacific Teams.

This deal from the first quarter of the semifinal round of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams produced four different results.

*West deals, EW vulnerable*

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



*ACBL President Sharon Anderson presents the Vanderbilt trophy to AMOILS, Joe Grue, Les Amoils, Darren Wolpert, Curtis Cheek, Ishmael Del'Monte and Thomas Bessis*

In the *DIAMOND - BERTHEAU* match, Bertheau scored a 12 IMP gain, that probably felt like more for Kevin Bathurst and Daniel Zagorin:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Zagorin</i>
Pass	2♥	3♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Zagorin started with ♥A, ruffed by Brad Moss. At trick two, Moss led a low club from hand, apparently aiming for a club ruff for his 12th trick. Zagorin took ♣Q and played another club, ruffed by Bathurst. Down one. If the same contract, or even 7♠ was made at the other table, this was going to be a 17 or 19 IMP loss. Not to worry. Fredrik Nystrom and Johan Upmark seemed not to consider slam:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Greco</i>
Pass	3♥	4♠	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Geoff Hampson started the interference one level higher, and it worked out well for them when Eric Greco furthered the preempt. Hampson lost five tricks for -500, and could be forgiven for thinking they had gained at least 14 IMPs (the difference between -500 and +1430 at the other table).

In the *AMOILS - FALK* match, the swing was 13 IMPs, earned a different way:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Falk</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Lusky</i>	<i>Amoils</i>
Pass	2♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Les Amoils led ♥A, ruffed by John Lusky. Lusky cashed ♠A, then ♦A, and played a diamond to dummy's ♦J. Darren Wolpert won ♦Q, but that was it for the defence. +1430.

At the other table, Joe Grue went for the gusto and used an inference from the bidding to find the right line of play:



# Internationally acclaimed bridge teacher Joan Butts hosts her winter bridge holiday

**20 – 25 July 2012 Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove, Qld**

Joan Butts, National Teaching Coordinator and one of Australia's most popular and respected bridge teachers, invites you to join her at Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove. Featuring the very best in modern bridge lessons, the holiday will include tournaments and games for all levels of player – beginner to advanced. No need to bring a partner, Joan will arrange one for you.



**•Five Night Package:  
\$1,400 per person**

Comprises two daily bridge lessons with Joan and games each afternoon and evening.

**Includes:** 5 nights accommodation (twin share\*), with breakfast, welcome cocktail party and victory dinner.

\*Single room supplement \$95 per night.

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Comprises two daily bridge lessons with Joan and games each afternoon and evening.

**Includes:** 2 nights accommodation (twin share\*) with breakfast and welcome cocktail party.

\*Single room supplement \$95 per night.

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\$55 per person**

Comprises two daily bridge lessons with Joan and games each afternoon and evening.

**Includes:** all coffee and tea during bridge games.

Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove is a luxury resort on the northern end of the Gold Coast. Set in beautiful grounds, the hotel is surrounded by two championship golf courses and a village precinct with waterfront restaurants, cafés, boutiques and speciality stores.

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West	North	East	South
Cheek	Friedland	Grue	Dahl
Pass	2♥	4♦	4♥
4NT	Pass	5NT	7♣
Pass	Pass	7♠	All Pass

Grue's 4♦ looks like Namyats, a strong hand with a long spade suit (4♣ would show hearts). 5NT no doubt indicated a void, not difficult to identify. Mark Dahl had reason to regret his 7♣ bid.



Dahl led ♣Q (Rusinow underlead), taken by Grue with the ace. At trick two, Grue cashed ♠A, then played ♦A and a diamond to the king. The play record does not indicate whether Peter Friedland covered when Grue played ♦J from dummy, but Grue claimed +2210 shortly thereafter.

It seems strange to play the weak two-bidder for length in diamonds, but Grue had clues from the auction to direct him to the right line of play.

Dahl had already raised hearts in the competitive auction and his bid of 7♣ had to have been based on a long suit. Even if it was only six cards in length, once Dahl followed to ♠A, Grue could be pretty certain he knew 10 of Dahl's cards, most likely three hearts, at least six clubs and one spade. He would not have room for more than two diamonds, so Grue played the percentages in attacking diamonds as he did. The result was a 13 IMP swing on a swinging kind of board.

The final, presented on BBO, was a great match to watch, featuring fine bridge from *AMOILS*, in front for much of the final.



The theme for the 41st Summer Festival of Bridge event will be '*encouraging emerging talent*'.

The proportion of ABF members with up to 100 masterpoints (MPs) as at end July 2011, was 70.2%. Members who possess less than 5 MPs make up 24.1% of our total membership.

If you fall within either of these 'groupings', we *would love to see you competing* at the next Summer Festival of Bridge.

The novice category this year attracted less than 200 players. We are keen to see numbers grow, so undertook research to see how this can be achieved.

### What you told us

1. Explain better what is available for you to compete in.
2. Encourage clubs to send novice teams.
3. Treat you separately while you become familiar with competitions.
4. Ensure players are welcome.
5. Let you know it is not scary. It is fun!

### What we will do differently in 2013

- ✓  We will inform you about what events are available for novice players through clubs, the ABF website, your teacher, this Newsletter, etc.
- ✓  We will increase the number of events for novices to cater for a wider range of points within the novice category.
- ✓  We will implement a '*Welcome to Competitive Play*' event, the evening prior to commencement of play, which will include:
  - an official welcome from a member of the ABF Management Committee and the Congress Organiser, Sean Mullamphy.
  - an information session on how to use bidding boxes (bidding slips are not used at the festival) and Bridgemate (the scoring mechanism).
  - an information session on the role of the Directors. This will include behavioural standards and bridge etiquette.
  - finger food and drinks.
- ✓  We will appoint a full-time *Novice Liaison Officer* who will be available throughout the event to answer any queries you may have about the event and/or its processes.
- ✓  We will provide you with three free teaching sessions by the ABF National Teaching Coordinator, Joan Butts.

### Tell us what you want

If you are a novice player and would be interested in competing at the next Summer Festival of Bridge, tell us what you would like by emailing the ABF National Marketing Officer at [marketing@abf.com.au](mailto:marketing@abf.com.au).

### Mark your diary now

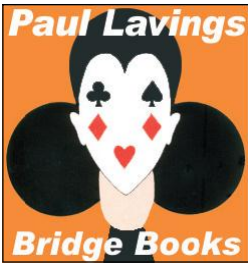
Wednesday, 16 January

- Novice Pairs (0-20 MPs)

Thursday - Friday, 17 - 18 January

- Novice Teams (0-20 MPs)
- Novice Teams (21-50 MPs)
- Novice Teams (51-150 MPs)

*Come along, aim for some Gold Points and have a lot of fun!*



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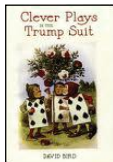
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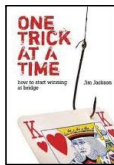
### GETTING INTO THE BIDDING

by Bill Treble  
Intermediate-level book discusses competitive bidding with ideas, suggestions and quizzes  
\$34.95 postfree



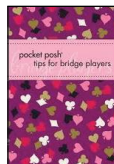
### ONE TRICK AT A TIME

by Jim Jackson  
For those who rarely place, a book on how to win.  
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### POCKET POSH TIPS FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS

by Marty Bergen  
Pocket book of tips for tops  
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**How to Play a Bridge Hand** by Bill Root. Classic on declarer play 309 pages \$39.95

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## Tips for novice players

This is the first in a series of tips to encourage *emerging players*. The series is designed to assist you in developing expertise in your bidding, play of the cards and defence.



Over coming issues of the newsletter, I will be providing tips on topics such as:

- The play of the cards
- The defence
- Winning at Pairs (Matchpoints)
- Winning at Teams (IMPs)
- The rules (Bridge Etiquette)
- Your (Beloved) Partner
- Finally ..... YOU.

But first, the bidding. Make it as simple as possible. Don't play a complicated system that puts too much strain on you or your partner.

Understand what's forcing and what's not. In general, a new suit by unpassed hands is forcing, but once an 'old' suit (i.e., one that has been bid before) has been mentioned, (and the points have been limited) it's no longer forcing. E.g., 1♣ (Pass) 1♥ (Pass) 1♠ (all forcing – new suits – still looking for a fit), but 1♣ (Pass) 1♥ (Pass) 2♥ (not forcing, 'old' suit). Still, if either player has more than a minimum, they are welcome to continue. Once the strength of either hand has been limited, the auction is no longer forcing. Most no trump bids define the points within a narrow range. E.g., 1♣ (Pass) 1♥ (Pass) 2NT (18-20, balanced, no heart fit).

Deciding whether to bid to game or not is the nitty gritty of bidding, and having information about how the hands fit rather than simply assessing high card points will produce more successful game contracts. This means using game tries, and splinter bids to evaluate *where* the 'good stuff' is, rather than *what* it is. Knowing that your shortages are matching partner's small cards rather than having the high cards wasted is good. (E.g., a singleton opposite KJ10x is bad; you'd prefer the singleton to be opposite Axxx, and to hold something like Qxx opposite KJ10x).

Good judgement is developed slowly by being brave enough not to venture too far on hands with poor features, e.g. 4-3-3-3 shape, aceless hands, too many queens and jacks, not enough tens and nines in your suits, poor long suit holdings, honours squashed in your short suits. Trust this sort of judgement. It works. Don't bid slim slams just because you're feeling a bit wild, as the field is not usually in them. They will play safely (or boringly, as you may feel) in game. Failing

in one of these will give you a terrible result – all your other good work wiped out on one lousy board!

Bid more with a fit, and bid less without a fit. Be prepared to defend, without a fit. In competitive situations the shape of your hand and partner's are vital – holding almost no cards in the opponents' suits is the green light. The bigger the fit, the more you should bid.

*Joan Butts*

*ABF National Teaching Coordinator*

## Teacher training workshops



Pictured above are the Tasmanian teachers who completed Joan Butts' course. We have reproduced the photo (originally in the November 2011 Newsletter), to include the two attendees whose names were missing from the original report.

### *Tasmania*

Dallas Cooper (back)	Margaret Glasson
Dave Shears	Barbara Briggs
Ian Callahan	Sandra Filler
Kay Decker	Klaus Decker
Jeanette Harland	Pamela Lidl (front)
Pat Beattie	Joan Butts
Doreen Girvan	Janice Tongs
Jan Anderson	

## Reinvigorated Youth Bulletin

Congratulations to Laura Ginnan and Andy Hung, who have reintroduced the new look Australian Youth Bridge Bulletin. The March - April 2012 edition is now available for viewing online via the ABF website.

The 19 page document is well produced and contains invaluable and entertaining reading, of particular interest to the youth players of Australia.

If you want to know more about scoring your beer cards, use the following link:

<http://abf.com.au/youth/bulletins/MarApr12.pdf>

The editors would love to hear from youth players via [youthbridge.au@gmail.com](mailto:youthbridge.au@gmail.com)



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## American Bridge Teachers Association

### WINNER - 2012 Book of the Year

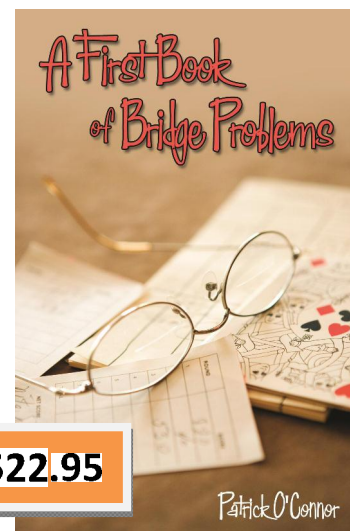
#### A First Book of Bridge Problems by Pat O'Connor

Sydney bridge teacher Pat O'Connor's **A First Book of Bridge Problems** is a collection of fifty problems in declarer play and defense for the beginning player, presented in an approximate order of difficulty, with an emphasis on planning the play at trick one.

The hands are presented as the reader would encounter them in real life [single dummy]. But unlike in a textbook, where topics are introduced systematically, there is no clue as to what type of play is required.

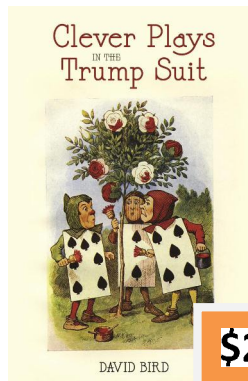
Experienced players recognise certain standard situations without having to work them out. This does not apply to beginners and this book will help those new players develop their recognition of these situations.

Also available as a digital download for \$16.99



**\$22.95**

## OTHER NEW TITLES

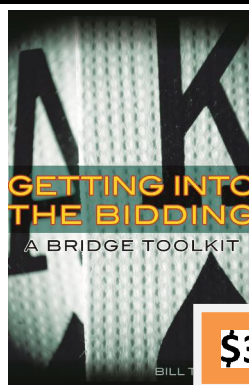


**\$29.95**

#### Clever Plays in the Trump Suit

An intermediate-level discussion of declarer play, this book focuses on the power of the trump suit. Another great book from David Bird.

Also available as a digital download \$20.99

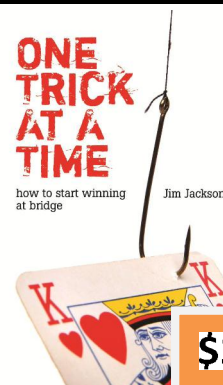


**\$34.95**

#### Getting into the Bidding

In the modern game, the majority of auctions are competitive, and every improving player needs to acquire the tools to handle this kind of bidding.

Also available as a digital download \$24.99



**\$32.95**

#### One Trick at a Time

Written not for players who win regularly at their local bridge club - it is for those who don't, but would like to. Become a better bidder, player and partner.

Also available as a digital download \$22.99

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## Kids just wanna have fun

### (SO WHY NOT PLAY BRIDGE)

Bridge is a game enjoyed by people of all ages, and so it is surprising that to date Australian schools have not been noted for promoting bridge for their students. Perhaps they associate bridge with a “mere” card game of no particular educational benefit, or consider other worthy non-academic curricular based activities somehow need to be fitted into a crowded schedule. Some more enlightened schools are, however, taking up the challenge, appreciating the wider benefits to students who take up bridge.

On the Gold Coast, the Headmaster of All Saints Anglican School, Patrick Wallas (an avid fan of the game) has teamed up with local bridge player Paul Brake, to set up a school-based bridge club. The club is open to all students, but particularly targeted to middle school students - about 12 to 15 year olds. This is an age group that seems to lie in the happy medium between being sufficiently mature to handle the intellectual demands of bridge, yet still being sufficiently away from the demands of senior school so as to allow a reasonable amount of free time. The 10 or so students who regularly give up their lunch breaks or after school free time are enthusiastically learning the joys (and occasional disappointments!) of concentration, partnership teamwork, judgement making and, it must be said, luck that help make the world’s greatest card game such a fascinating mental sport.

Even in today’s technologically driven world, teenagers can discover the joys of bridge if given the opportunity. The reasons may not be what you expect (or hope for). You might think you could entice your child/grandchild (or whoever) to take up bridge by reasoned arguments or by lofty ideals. You’ve got Buckley’s chance. Here’s what some of the All Saints Anglican School students said when some “worthy” reasons were suggested as to why they or their friends might like to take up bridge.

*“Bridge will increase your thinking skills and maths ability”* [Response: *So will an extra hour of homework* – Kelsey Burke (aged 12)



12-15 year old students at the table

*“It’s great for keeping you mentally agile. My grandma swears that it has helped her avoid Alzheimer’s disease”* [Response: *By the time I’m 80, who cares? It certainly won’t be me* – Nitin Niranjana (aged 14)

No, No, No – whether bridge is taken up by teenagers will inevitably be for other reasons, just as valid, but far more relevant and attractive.

Bridge will never be for every teenager, or pre-teen. But with a willingness to get out and get promoting the game, we can realistically work towards a significant increase in the number of younger Australians taking up bridge - not because its good for them (even though it is), but rather because kids discover:

1. It’s fun!
2. It’s competitive!

Patrick Wallas notes *“Our job as teachers is to allow students to see how much fun and enjoyment you can get out of bridge. When you’re a teenager, there are so many competing demands on your time. But school students have found that playing bridge is a great way for them to meet and interact in a different way with people of both their own age and others. Bridge is a social sport - it involves hanging out with your bridge friends, but it is a sport nevertheless, and like any other sport the competitive element is an important part of the game. One good thing is that even when just starting out, you can get great satisfaction in competing in a local tournament (either physical or on-line). You don’t need to be the greatest player to make the bridge team, just enthusiastic.”*



the Australian  
internet bridge club

**Pamper you and your partner with an extra session**



The role of parents is so important, as many could recognize the value of this game to develop thinking skills. Then again, maybe parents will just appreciate their children having quality after-school care that provides an opportunity for them to meet new friends and play a “mind sports” game in a safe, controlled environment.

Challenges remain. Getting the foot in the door at a school is often difficult, and often it’s only because a teacher at the school is a bridge player that the opportunity is given to hold classes. At All Saints Anglican School, a mixture of lunchtime and after school lessons are held, and the 40 minutes or so available during the shorter sessions (at lunchtime) means finding the time to carry out both some teaching and playing a hand or two is never an easy task. Perhaps most testing is that currently teenage bridge players in Australia find it difficult to find numerous fellow competitors of similar ages in the local community. This is an important feature in any teenager’s social networking. However, there are other Australian schools with bridge clubs, and the internet provides excellent opportunities. For instance, the All Saints Anglican School bridge club is in discussions with the Rockhampton State High Youth Bridge Group about holding an on-line competition in June. And of course, the ABF financially sponsors youth players for local, interstate and international competitions.

Teaching bridge is not a one-way process – the bridge teachers themselves are getting a lot out of it. As Paul Brake says: *“I’m not a professional teacher, and often find that the students are, in effect, teaching me. When I’m discussing a new convention with my regular bridge partner, we can really get intrigued (but bogged down) by how the bids can be constructed in alternative ways and developed. Teaching kids is different. They enjoy playing cards, but want smaller bite size pieces of bridge theory (preferably as little theory as possible!). If you are still talking after five or six minutes, you have lost them. Eyes wander all over the place, and everyone starts talking amongst themselves. Whether or not you ask for it, teenage bridge students will give you brutally honest and prompt feedback on how useful your lesson is that day.”*

Given the opportunity, students can take up a game that they may not have heard of before (or thought was more appropriate for their grandparents). But we as bridge players must do more to encourage our youth to adopt the game we love. Our younger members bring vitality and innovation to our bridge, not to mention being worthy opponents for perhaps decades to come. Move over computer video games – bring on bridge.

**Paul Brake and Patrick Wallas**

### **1). Play cards with your children or grandchildren**

ABF research indicates that the overwhelming majority of our members played cards in their youth. This is not the case for most children today given the enormous demands on their time.

If you can find the time, try to develop a love of cardplay in your children and/or grand-children. If they choose to go on and learn bridge, you will have introduced them to a sport that will develop expertise in:

- mathematical applications
- data analysis and probability
- algebra
- problem solving
- reasoning and proof
- communication, and
- interpersonal skills

Bridge will also provide them with lots of enjoyment and the likelihood of making lifelong friends.

### **2). Introduce bridge in a High School**

If you are interested in introducing bridge into a school near you, contact the ABF National Youth Coordinator (David Thompson) for assistance and support.

ABF research undertaken with some of our youth members revealed that they:

- do not like up-front lessons - they prefer experiential learning
- would like to have a mentor (competent and preferably young)
- do not like learning from books - they want an interactive approach - and
- whilst the majority were introduced to bridge by an immediate relative, very few sought ongoing training from this person.

Their motivation to play bridge (in order of preference) was:

1. Mental challenge
2. Social interaction
3. Competition
4. Travel opportunities
5. Ongoing learning, and
6. It is inexpensive

**Sandra Mulcahy,  
ABF National Marketing Officer**



## In praise of natural bidding

*We continue the article by George Cuppaidge which appeared in the March Newsletter.*

*The major suit obsession has spread to Precision players too.*

Because 1♦, in Precision, must carry most of the weight carried, in Standard systems, by both 1♣ and 1♦, it would seem logical that the 1♦ opener's rebid be directed to untangling the mess. But no, consider this sequence.

1♦      2♣

Popularly now, 2♣ here is played as Stayman! So, for example, the 1♦ opener, who has been obliged by the system to open 1♦ holding:

♠ A65, ♥ K32, ♦ 43, ♣ KJ1065

or

♠ Q62, ♥ ---, ♦ 87654, ♣ AKQ43

must now rebid 2♦ in reply to responder's Stayman bid. Natural bidding?

On a bad day, opposite the second hand, the Stayman bidder holds.

♠ AKJ3, ♥ 764, ♦ A2, ♣ J1052

Using natural methods and a Standard system, with 2NT forcing, we may actually find this great slam, but we certainly get to 5♣. The auction begins

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1♦	1♠
2♣	2NT(Forcing)
3♣	

Best of luck to the Precision pair who invoke a "Stayman" bid.

### Visualisation

Visualising the hand opposite and, where possible, all the hands, is the only way to bid well. A few simple principles make it easy.

- In general, the lower the (natural) bid you make, the easier it is for your partner to describe his hand accurately.
- If you bypass a bid, you don't have that bid. Do not bypass any four-card suit in order to respond 1NT, or one of a four-card major, to 1♣. This simple philosophy makes it more likely that when you open 1♣ and hear 1♠, partner holds five or more.
- Responding with four-card suits, show the lowest ranking first, bid the higher ranking or two 5+card suits first.

- To bid one suit then another, promises 5+, 4+ in the suits bid. The 4-4-4-1 shape is best treated as 5+, 4. To bid two suits promises shape.
- To rebid any suit shows six or more cards.
- To respond in a four-card major denies 5+ cards in an unbid minor. This requires responding 1NT, and not one of the major, when the minor is of lower rank than the suit opened. This is one of many reasons why 1♣ is the superior vehicle for opening balanced hands. Responder can show length in any suit.
- The 1NT response to 1♦ may conceal a very long club suit. If you show a four-card major you cannot later introduce your longer minor without suggesting that the major is longer. It requires no more than an awareness to accommodate this treatment in your methods. With extra values, opener must introduce a four-card major over 1NT, forcing, but not to game.
- Jump bids, whenever used, should be very clearly defined.

Here is an example:

♠ A 8 7 3 ♥ 3 ♦ K Q 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 8 <i>West</i> 1♦ 1♠ <sup>1</sup> 3NT <sup>3</sup>	♠ K 5 ♥ K J 4 2 ♦ A 10 7 ♣ 7 6 3 2 <i>East</i> 1♥ 3♦ <sup>2</sup>
--	---

1. If this bid shows, as it does with many players, 4+spades and 3+diamonds, it gives East an impossible second bid.
2. Knowing he is facing shape, the rebid is easy, 3♦ shows, 10-12 points and good diamonds. A pushy East might even consider it with ♦Ax. It is not forcing.
3. Looking at seven and a half tricks, only a mouse would pass.

Another one:

♠ A K 5 4 ♥ A K 3 ♦ 4 ♣ K 7 5 4 3 <i>West</i> 1♣ 1♠	♠ J 8 6 2 ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ J 9 7 6 5 ♣ 8 <i>East</i> 1♦ <sup>1</sup> Pass <sup>2</sup>
---	---

1. The 3-5 point hand with 0-2 clubs is a problem in all five-card major systems. Opposite, say, a balanced 18-19 you might be left to play in a really bad 1♣ contract with eight tricks available in no trump.
2. The dream spot, but we would have been happy to pass 1♥. What do you do if 1♦ and 1♥ are transfers?

And another:

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♠ 5  
♥ K Q 8 7 5  
♦ A 6 4 2  
♣ Q 3 2  
West  
1♥  
2♦<sup>2</sup>  
3♣<sup>4</sup>

♠ K J 9 4  
♥ 4  
♦ 5 3  
♣ K J 9 7 6 4  
East  
1NT<sup>1</sup>  
2♠<sup>3</sup>

1. To bid 1♠ here, effectively loses the club suit altogether. Responder would be obliged to pass a 1NT rebid.
2. If anyone plays this bid as forcing, and I am sure someone does, a simple hand has become very complicated.
3. Showing 4, 5+ in the black suits.
4. With his black suits reversed, opener passes.

It follows that if East's 1NT is passed by West (with a different hand) and North balances with 2♠, as many toilers do, East can make a penalty double, describing his hand to perfection. Holding two, three or even four spades, West will be delighted to pass.

### Higher levels

The problems arising from playing some two over one sequences as forcing and others not creates such complexity that focus is taken away from where it matters, bidding the good hands well. Keep your game and partscore bidding simple, save your science for slams. Play two over one as game-forcing, full stop. There is no need for the gadgetry espoused by players of "Two over One" the system, far from it. This simple understanding permits a leisurely exploration for the ultimate spot. Bidding after a 1NT response to 1♦, 1♥ or 1♠ must be treated as a system within a system. These hands may contain a wide variety of shapes, opener must be able to uncover them. Using 2NT as a forcing continuation is the answer. Surely it is more powerful to be able to locate a long suit in partner's hand than to ask if he holds a random spare queen or jack.

These follow up understandings fit in naturally and simply.

- After any two over one, opener's rebids show shape, not values.
- To rebid in the other major shows exactly four cards in that suit, but does not deny primary support.
- A 2NT rebid is, generally, balanced, but this is the rebid to make with four cards in a suit lower ranking than responder's. It denies primary support. 3♣ can be used as a range-ask. Show 10-12, 13-14, 15-17, 18-19 in steps.
- Opener's jump to 3NT shows a good six-card suit, no primary fit, and no extra values.
- A suit rebid promises 6+, denies a second suit or support.

- A jump suit rebid promises 6+ and three-card support.
- A high-level reverse, 1♠ - 2♦; 3♣, for example, shows 5+, 5+
- A jump to 3♥ after a 1♠ opening promises 5+, 5+.
- A raise shows 3+ card support, and denies four cards in an unbid major.

It is outside the scope of this article, but 2♣ over 1♦/♥/♠ is very effectively used with two hand types, natural game-going hands with five or more clubs and artificial, in order to show such hands as the 10-12 point three-card raise and game-going hands with no five-card suit. Opener rebids 2♦ with all minimum, 10-14 point hands, and describes with stronger ones. It follows that 2♦ over a 1♥ or 1♠ opening will show five or more cards.

### Keep it simple, if you wish

You already know far more about each other's hands than most players. Stop there if you want to, but the next step brings it all together.

To establish opener's point range and residual shape, is relatively simple. Break up your range for an opening one bid into two, 10-14 points and 15-19 points. These five-step replies to cheapest bid, in the three separate cases, give very powerful information indeed. Over intervention, pass is the first step and double or redouble the second.

### When opener has rebid his suit

Single-suiters with two singletons, 8-3-1-1 and more extreme, are rare enough to ignore and treat as a more common shape.

- All minimums, 10-14 points.
- Low shortage. Singleton or void in the lower unbid suit.
- No unbid suit shortage. 2, 1 or 0 cards in partner's suit.
- High singleton. Most likely shape 7-1-3-2, with doubleton in partner's suit.
- High void. Most likely shape 8-0-3-2.

### When opener has shown 9+ cards, 5+, 4 or 6+, 3

When opener raises responder directly, his shape is not so clearly defined, but it is workable to treat it as 5+, 3+ and use these replies, the third step includes 3-2 and 2-3.

- All minimums.
- Low shortage.
- 2-2, so 5-4-2-2 or 6-3-2-2.
- High singleton.
- High void.

**When opener has shown 10+ cards, 5+5+ in two suits**

- Low shortage
- 1-1 so 6-5-1-1 or 5-6-1-1
- High singleton so 5-5-1-2
- High void, most commonly 5-5-0-3

Once length of the shortest suit is known, the next relay is a control ask. The first step is 0-3, except when 10-14 with a shortage, then it is 0-2.

Here it is shown in practice:

♠ A K 8 6 4	♠ 3 2
♥ A 7 6 5 2	♥ K Q 8 3
♦ K 7	♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ J	♣ A 6
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1♠	2♦
3♥1	3♠2
4♣3	4♦2
4♥4	5♠2
5♥5	5♠2
5NT <sup>6</sup>	6♣2
6♠ <sup>7</sup>	7♥

1. 5+, 5+ majors.
2. Relay. The last relay is 6♦.
3. 15-19 points, low shortage.
4. Singleton, so 5-5-2-1.
5. 6 controls. If the missing king is in spades or diamonds we should settle for 6♥.
6. 0 or 2 controls cards in spades, must be two.
7. All controls shown: ♥A, ♦K, no ♠Q. 6NT shows ♠Q also.

**George Cuppaidge, Queensland**

Feedback welcome to [jorj41@hotmail.com](mailto:jorj41@hotmail.com)

**Women in bridge - women's bridge fund**

For a number of years the ABF has held funds for the "Friends of Youth Bridge". These funds are under the control of the Chairman of the Youth Committee, David Stern. The monies have been used to augment funding for youth activities outside the normal youth budget. The Fund has been very successful both in raising money and in assisting youth players.

The Women's Committee have from time to time had a project outside our budget process. They have not had any "special" funds to fall back on in terms of the Friends of Youth Bridge. I propose that this should be rectified by the establishment of a separate Fund called "Women in Bridge". To this end I pledge \$250.00 personally to start the Fund. The expenditure would be under the control of the ABF Women's Committee and administered by the ABF.

I commend the Fund to you all. Donations can be sent to the Secretariat, PO Box 397, Fyshwick, ACT 2609.

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Sir,

I notice the ABF website has announced "A new fund

will be set up to support Women in Bridge. Donations are called for by the ABF President." Great news!

Yet I understand the ABF has declined to pay the entry fee for the Australian Girls' team at the World Youth Bridge Championships later this year.

Surely these things can't both be true, can they?

**Ed Barnes, NSW**

**The President replies:**

The establishment of a Fund to support the Womens' Committee has been a long term ambition of mine. The purpose of the fund is to allow discretionary expenditure to augment activities aimed at promotion of 'Women in Bridge'. It would function in a similiar manner to the Friends Of Youth Bridge. The fund's establishment is seen by some as a response to the alleged decision not to pay the entry fee for the Girls team at the World Youth Bridge Championships. There has not been a meeting of the Management Committee since the request for the Girls team was received. If the Youth Committee could find the money from the ABF Youth Budget there would be no issue. The Youth Committee needed to determine priorities within their annual allocation of \$70,000.00.

This correspondence gives me the opportunity to thank Peter Gill for the great work he has done in arranging the Girls Team (from New Zealand and Australia) and for his committment to pay his own expenses to captain the team. The ABF wishes the team success. It also enables me to raise the profile of the new Fund and seek contributions from interested members.

At the end of the day decision making is consensus management.

**Keith McDonald  
President ABF**

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## 2011 Youth Awards

### **Andrew Reiner Trophy: Daniel Braun & Shane Harrison**

This newly established award is granted to the best performed pair in the primary target international event taking account of performance in the event itself, commitment to preparation and contribution to team success.



Daniel Braun and Shane Harrison anchored the Australian Under-21 team to its victory in the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2011. Playing 22 of 25 matches their contribution was clear, based on a commendable +0.36imps per board against datums.

Away from the table they strongly supported their teammates, with unwavering positive energy in the face of adversity in the first round-robin and were well prepared having practiced extensively on BBO under the mentorship of Nabil Edgton in the months leading up to the event.

A special mention is made for Michael Whibley and Liam Milne, who similarly anchored the Under-26 team to finish just 1 VP outside of the medals and went on to win the Open Pairs at the same event.

Andrew Reiner was a pioneer in establishing Australia's international youth representative programme in 1989. In addition to captaining the bronze medal winning Under-26 team in 1991 (which to this day remains Australia's best ever performance in a World Youth Team Championship) Andrew has made significant financial contributions to the youth programme over many years.

### **Helman-Klinger Achievement Award: Laura Ginnan**

This annual award is presented to the Australian youth player whose ability, achievements, sportsmanship, attitude, contribution and commitment during the calendar year are most deserving.



The 2011 award was won by Laura Ginnan, who has been active in teaching in schools, establishing and operating a primary school Gateway programme, establishing and maintaining the Victorian Youth Facebook page, setting-up a weekly under-16 youth session in Melbourne, assisting with the regular

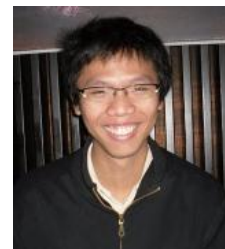
Melbourne youth session, running a university bridge crash course, and convening the ABF Youth Triathlon.

At the table Laura's 2011 results included 2nd in the National Youth Teams, 2nd in the ANC Interstate Youth Teams, 6th in the VCC, 3rd in the Victorian Open Pennant and 1st in the GNOT Swiss Pairs.

Special mentions are made for Andy Hung (refer below) and Stephen Williams, who has been running a successful weekly programme at Sydney Girls High School for much of 2011.

### **Helman-Klinger Masterpoint Award: Andy Hung**

This award, which players may only win once, is granted to the Australian youth player who earns the most masterpoints in the calendar year in question. This year Andy Hung won with 248.61 masterpoints which included 2nd in the National Open Teams and a string of victories and strong finishes in congresses and state events in Queensland (most notably winning the four major pairs championships).



Other notable McCutcheon performances in 2011 included Liam Milne (159.50) and Max Henbest (154.66), 1st and 2nd respectively in the National Master category, and Jamie Thompson (149.02), who was 1st in the Local Master category and 2nd in the overall "Improvers" competition.

Both Helman-Klinger Awards exist due to the generosity of Rabbi Leonard Helman, an American lawyer, prominent bridge enthusiast and philanthropist, who made a substantial donation to establish the prizes to honour Ron and Suzie Klinger's outstanding contribution to bridge in Australia.

### **Hills-Hurley Trophy: James Higgins & Sebastian Yuen**

This trophy, donated by Richard Hills and Steve Hurley, is intended to encourage talented young bridge players in forming long-standing partnerships and reward successful pairs which have developed a well-organised partnership to harness their full potential. In 2011 Sebastian Yuen and James Higgins have continued their partnership of several years contesting various national youth and open events together with a number of strong performances on their local Canberra scene.



Highlights in 2011 included 1st in the World University Online Championships, 2nd in the National



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Youth Teams, top youth team in the SWPT, 6th in the VCC, 2nd in the ANC Interstate Youth Teams and qualifying to represent Canberra in the GNOT. Whilst not the most successful youth partnership in 2011, they clearly fulfil the intent of the award based on the enduring nature of the partnership and the significant amount of ongoing work on system and practice.

Special mention is also made in this category for Michael Whibley and Liam Milne, who had a successful year, including 1st in the National Youth Teams, 2nd in the NOT, 1st in the ANC Interstate Youth Teams and 1st in the APBF Open Pairs.

***Friends of Youth Bridge Fund: Andy Hung***

For the second year running, Andy has been a close second in the voting for the Helman-Klinger Achievement Award, and in light of Andy's outstanding contribution to youth bridge over many years a decision was taken to grant a Special Recognition Award.

Andy is extremely generous with his time in mentoring and supporting up and coming youth players through BBO practice and speaking with young pairs at tournaments. In 2009, Andy spent many hours with Sam Schultz and Shane Harrison, taking them from a relatively unknown pair to top Under 21 pair in 2010.

More recently, Andy was the assigned mentor for Stephen Williams and Lauren Travis, with whom he spent countless hours on BBO preparing that pair for their successful APBF campaign.

Andy has been a regular fixture on Australian representative teams since 2006 when Australia had its best performance in a World Championship at any level in 15 years: the semi-finals in the Under-21s at the World Youth Team Championships in Bangkok. Andy's Under-26 international successes include quarter-finals in the 2008 and 2010 World Youth Team Championships and victories in the 2007 and 2010 Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships.

Andy has forged close ties with youth players in Europe, invaluable in bringing new ideas and techniques to Australia's youth programme. Andy's connection to the European youth scene has attracted Alex Smirnov to the last two Australian Youth Weeks and Summer Festivals and helped secure Alex's services as Australian youth coach for 2012. Andy also set up a youth bridge website on which he posted regularly and which contributed to a more friendly, fun and unified youth scene in Australia.

***David Stern, for ABF Youth Committee***

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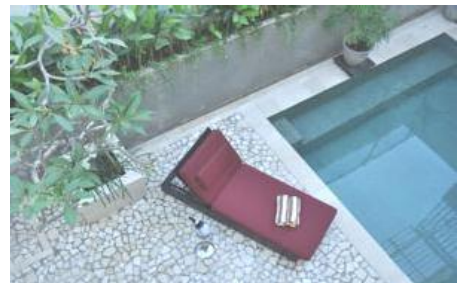


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## 2012 Australian Playoffs

The 2012 Australian Teams Playoffs were in a teams format. The Open and Women's Playoffs were held from March 31 - April 5, and the Seniors from April 18-22.

Teams were entered based on PQPs earned in a number of ABF events. The Open and Women's Playoffs followed the two Division model used successfully for the Open in 2011 with the proviso that all players in Division 1 must have earned at least 1 PQP in that category (Open or Women's).

The Seniors' Playoff was limited to a maximum of six teams, and followed the format used in 2011 except that there was no wildcard team.

No Yellow systems or Brown Sticker conventions were permitted in the Playoffs this year, mirroring WBF Regulations.

Target events for the 2012 playoffs are the World Bridge Games, to be held in August 9-23 in Lille, France.

### Open Playoffs

The winner of the Australian Open Team Playoff was *BROWN*, Terry Brown, Avi Kanetkar, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, David Lilley and Zolly Nagy. They defeated *HARPER*, Ross Harper, Michael Courtney, Kieran Dyke, Peter Gill, Ishmael Del'Monte and Stephen Burgess 182-181 IMPs in the final. *HARPER* were 75 IMPs behind, going into the last stanza, where they made up all but 1 IMP of their deficit, in a riveting set of tricky boards.

In the end, it all came down to decisions made on the last board:

*Board 32, West deals, EW vulnerable*

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

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

West	North	East	South
Dyke	Lavings	Gill	Krochmalik
3NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

The simple, logical and effective Open Room auction is

recommended. Krochmalik had no room to manoeuvre, and with a little defence, passed. There was no defence to 6♣, so *HARPER* scored +1370 after a top spade lead.

Nagy's 'walking the dog' actions backfired in the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Lilley	Del'Monte	Nagy	Burgess
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♦	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♣	6♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	6♠	Dbl	All Pass

In my opinion, Nagy's revealing auction made it easy for NS to make the decision to sacrifice, from the four-level right through to the six-level. 6♠ doubled was three down, when Lilley was able to score a diamond ruff, -500, but 13 IMPs to *HARPER*.

Here's a little more 'what could have been' about this deal:

If Gill had bid 6♥ over Lilley's 3NT bid and made, *HARPER* would have scored 14 IMPs instead of 13, making the final a draw. A club ruff after the opening top spade lead will put paid to that, however.

Del'Monte, with only four diamonds, chose to pull the double of 6♦ to 6♠, thus incurring an extra trick in penalties. If he had passed 6♦ doubled, the score would have been -300 to EW, again 14 IMPs and a draw.

For an outright win, therefore, Del'Monte needed to pass 6♦ doubled, and Gill needed to bid 6♥ and make it, for a 15 IMP win on the deal, and a finals win!



The winner of the Women's Playoff was *TRAVIS*, Elizabeth Havas, Nevena Djurovic, Candice Ginsberg and Barbara Travis, who defeated *HOFFMAN*, Julia Hoffman, Jenny Thompson, Rena Kaplan, Eva Caplan, Sheila Bird and Karen Creet 241-214 IMPs. Barbara Travis' report on the Women's Playoffs will be featured in the July issue.

The Senior's Playoffs saw four teams, *FINIKIOTIS*, *HOFFMAN*, *PRESCOTT* and *BAILEY* play a nine round qualifying.



# Barrier Reef Congress

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As a spectator on BBO, I thought some of the bridge left a little to be desired. Take this deal from the qualifying rounds:

Board 3, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass
All Pass			Dbl

I question East's decision to overcall 1NT, at IMPs and unfavourable vulnerability, with no positive upside for the action. Surely a 1♦ overcall would be a safer way to enter the auction.

1NT doubled was -1100, a swing of 14 IMPs to NS; at the other table NS played 1NT for +120.

After the qualifying, the two favourites, *PRESCOTT*, on 155 VPs and *HOFFMAN*, on 150 VPs led, to face each other in the final. At the end of the 96-board final, in a match that was tight for much of the way, *PRESCOTT*, Arjuna De Livera, Bruce Neill, George Gaspar, Bob Richman, Bill Haughie and Ron Klinger defeated *HOFFMAN* 174-147 IMPs.

Congratulations to the BBO operators who brought Playoff action to the attention of the bridge playing public. It was much appreciated.

*The Editor*



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**THIRD & FOURTH SEAT OPENINGS**

Most partnerships haven't defined their strategy for third and fourth seat openings.



Sort yourselves out with this quiz on third seat openings, nil vulnerable:

Pass (Pass) ?

- 1). ♠ 762, ♥ KQ1087, ♦ A98, ♣ 92
- 2). ♠ AQ6, ♥ KJ92, ♦ 64, ♣ J976
- 3). ♠ 832, ♥ KJ2, ♦ J764, ♣ AQ4
- 4). ♠ A106, ♥ 765, ♦ KJ84, ♣ 873

In first seat speculate

Second seat play it straight

Third seat bid for the lead

Fourth seat bid from need

1). **1♥**. You have one chance to tell partner what to lead, so jump in there and open 1♥. But then pass whatever partner bids, you have achieved your objective, so don't try for any more. Keep partner informed of what is going on. If you open with weaker hands than this you are entering the realm of psychic openings, a whole new ball game.

2). **1♣**. Only 11 HCP but quite a decent hand, and one you feel will ably compete for the partscore. Note you are opening this hand, not for the lead, but because you believe you can win the auction and make your contract. You are opening the bidding in an attempt to get what is yours.

3) Pass. This hand is neither worth opening in third seat for the lead, or to compete for the partscore. It's pretty obvious that diamonds may or may not be a good lead, but you have a scatty 11 HCP, with little playing strength. Your hand is much better on defence than offense.

Something people who routinely open this sort of hand in third seat miss is that the player in fourth seat may have a tough decision whether to open or not. Many players wrongly believe that in fourth seat you need a very good hand to open, or that you should add your points and your spades together before opening.

Many times when you open this hand the player in fourth seat would have passed if you had passed, and zero would have been a good score for your side. If you open poor hands like this in third seat you are habitually backing a loser. Pass can be such a good call.

4) **Pass**. For some this hand is the third reason to open light in third seat – to confuse the opponents.

Tony Nunn thought it worth a run in the recent Australian Teams Playoffs, and opened 1♦ in third seat. He found his partner with ♠542, ♥AKJ104, ♦10973, ♣5 (a hand most partnerships would be keen to open in first seat nil vulnerable) and edged his opponents into 4♣, for a 4 IMP pickup.

Indeed, a 1♦ opening has destructive merit, but will often create problems when the third-seat opener has a real opening bid. Not my cup of tea, but I may have opened 1♦ when I was Tony's age.

Now a quiz on Fourth Seat Openings, nil vulnerable:

(Pass) Pass (Pass) ?

- 1). ♠ QJ2, ♥ Q96, ♦ K85, ♣ A832
- 2). ♠ AQ6, ♥ KJ92, ♦ 64, ♣ J976
- 3). ♠ 2, ♥ K102, ♦ A10974, ♣ KJ74
- 4). ♠ 832, ♥ KJ2, ♦ J764, ♣ AQ4

1). **1♣**. After three passes the waters are very placid. No one has a hand worth opening, so you expect your side to have the balance of power when you hold a 12-count. The player who held this hand in the final of the recent Vanderbilt KO Teams, one of the three major US events, decided to protect his team's lead by passing. His partner held ♠ AK1086, ♥ 107, ♦ Q1043, ♣ 97, and the opponents racked up +140 in 1♠ for a 4 IMP loss.

2). **1♣**. A popular method for evaluating hands in fourth seat is the "Pearson Count". You add your spades to your number of points, and open if your hand adds to fifteen. This is a silly method, because you it means you would throw in hands like ♠ ---, ♥ AK6432, ♦ AJ974, ♣ 43. You should open any hand that is "sound". If worse comes to worst and partner has only 7 or 8 HCP, then you will lose on the hand. But the odds are that you will win in the long run, and the worst that can happen is that you go minus 50 or 100. If you open and go minus remember that you are "going with odds", so sometimes you lose.

3). **1♦**. Only 12 Points in the Pearson Count, but a sound hand. And if you would open this hand in first or second seat, then you should certainly open it in fourth seat. In a BBO match the player in fourth seat would have passed this hand, except third seat opened "light". Now it was easy to enter the auction, and when partner had a nice fitting hand, ♠ 875, ♥ AJ65, ♦ K863, ♣ Q10, their side ended in 4♦, making 11 tricks.

4) **1♦**. In fourth seat the odds are in your favour, with none of the other three players able to rake up an opening bid. Most likely you have the best hand at the table.

*Paul Lavings*

*Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies*

# Noosa Bridge Week 2012

With Paul Marston & Nigel Rosendorff

October, Saturday 13 to Saturday 20



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All bridge is at the leafy *Noosa Bridge Club*, Noosaville.

## Timetable

<b>Saturday 13</b>	2pm on, Check in
<b>Sunday 14</b>	9:30am - 11:45am, Lesson 1 2:30pm - 5:30pm, Sun Pairs 1 5:30pm - 6:15pm, Drinks and treats
<b>Monday 15</b>	9:30am - 11:45am, Lesson 2 4:30pm - 7:30pm, Sun Pairs 2
<b>Tuesday 16</b>	1:30pm - 3:45pm, Lesson 3 7:30pm - 10:30pm, Sun Pairs final
<b>Wednesday 17</b>	1:30pm - 4pm, New partner fun 6pm. Dinner at <i>Trios on the River</i>
<b>Thursday 18</b>	9:30am - 11:45am, Lesson 4 4:30pm - 7:30pm, Ivory Pairs 1
<b>Friday 19</b>	9am - 11:15am, Play 12 set deals related to the lessons followed by a discussion with Nigel and Paul. 4:30pm - 7:30pm, Ivory Pairs 2
<b>Saturday 20</b>	9am - 12pm, Ivory Pairs final 12:15pm, Prize giving lunch



Dinner on the Wednesday night is at *Trios on the River*, one of Noosa's finest restaurants. It is a 10 minute stroll from Ivory Palms.

## Lesson program

### Sunday 14, 9:30am - 11:45am with Paul Marston

How to find a 5-3 fit – the expert way. Learn exactly when to raise partner's major with just 3-card support.

### Monday 15, 9:30pm - 11:45am with Nigel Rosendorff

Learn how to make extra tricks from trumps as declarer. Learn about trumping losers in the short hand and the cross ruff.

### Tuesday 16, 1:30pm - 3:45pm with Paul Marston

Learn when to come in over the opponents' 2 & 3 openings. You will also learn the golden rule of responding.

### Thursday 18, 9:30am - 11:45am with Nigel Rosendorff

The most important moment in defence is the opening lead. Learn exactly when to lead a trump – and when not to.

### Friday 19, 9am - 11:15am with Paul and Nigel

Play 12 set deals related to the lessons followed by a fun and informative discussion as each deal is reviewed.

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## Charges without accommodation

\$290. This covers the five lessons and both bridge events, including Wednesday afternoon, as well as Sunday night drinks. Note that it does not include accommodation, the Trios dinner or the Prize Giving lunch.

Alternatively, it is \$34 per lesson and \$75 per event.

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## Coaching Cathy at Contract

### DEFENSIVE TIMING – HIGHS AND LOWS

*Hi there (Personal Bridge Guru),*

I was playing in Canberra in January (as you know), and, after looking at some of our results, I realised that we lost 12 IMPs on this board. You may remember it. Here is what happened.

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

South opened 2NT, vulnerable, and North bid on. Partner led ♥5 against 3NT. South asked for ♥J, and it took the first trick. Next thing, declarer led a club. I played low of course, and partner won with the king. Partner was smart enough to not play another heart, but she tried a spade without success, and declarer led another club for me to win with my ♣10. Next, I returned a heart, and declarer's queen lost to ♥K. The third round of hearts set up the suit, but West never got on lead again, as I had to win the third club with the ace, and couldn't play a heart. We got one heart trick, and three club tricks only. I know we could have done better. I think I know how, but I would like you to comment.

*Yours, Cathy*

*Greetings Cathy,*

Yes, you could have done better, but you needed to analyze the situation instead of just following a rule. It's easy to beat the contract if you rise with ♣A and play another heart. Partner's suit sets up, and she still has ♣K as an entry.

Did you notice declarer's ♥10 at trick one? This strongly suggests that West has led from five cards headed by an honour. It could of course be Qxxxx, but it might just be Kxxxx, in which case partner needs you in to play another heart before her entry is removed, regardless of what it is. You may occasionally give up the contract by playing ♣A so early, but looking at it this way exposes a more likely scenario. And yes, West could have beaten 3NT if she had shifted to a diamond, but she had something of a blind pick.

Here is a tougher example for you:

<i>North</i>	
♠ 8 4	
♥ A 7 4 3 2	
♦ J 5 4	
♣ A 8 7	
<i>East</i>	
♠ 9 7 5	
♥ Q J 6 5	
♦ K 6	
♣ 9 5 3	

Playing Acol, South opens 1♦, and West, your partner, overcalls 1♠. South rebids 1NT (15-16 HCP) and North uses Checkback to discover that South has no secondary heart support before bidding 3NT.

Partner leads ♠K, and you do whatever you normally do to discourage. ♠K holds the trick, and partner thinks before trying a small club. South wins in dummy and calls for a low diamond.

Obviously you now know what to do, because the question has been asked, but it turns out that South holds Q10xxx in diamonds. Your partner holds not much for the overcall, but the *one* important card is ♦A. If East plays low, the hand is all over, because the clubs are established before West's spades can be set up.

Rules are useful, but the parrot on the shoulder has never learned to think.

*Warm regards, David*

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## Digital bridge books have arrived



**D**o you own an iPad or Kindle, or one of the many other digital book readers now available (and coming down in price all the time)? More and more people these days seem to be embracing the digital revolution in book publishing, and have taken to reading books, magazines and newspapers on these

devices. In fact, Australians have always been early adopters of new technologies, and research has shown that the penetration of ebook readers and tablets here places us among the top few countries in the world. You can even buy a Kindle in *Big W* or *Dick Smith* these days.

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Australia's own *The Bridge Shop* has become the first bridge re-seller in the world to offer a digital book download facility. The complete list of digital titles *The Bridge Shop* offers can be found here: [bridgeshop.com.au/digital.html](http://bridgeshop.com.au/digital.html).

### Digital Book Review

**A First Book of Bridge Problems** by Pat O'Connor  
Pat O'Connor runs beginners classes in Sydney, but found there weren't any good play problem books for his students, who by any sensible measure were still real novices. So he wrote his own book!

## BREAKING NEWS

### A First Book of Bridge Problems

has been awarded the 2012 Book of the Year Award by the American Bridge Teachers Association.

The problems in this book are straightforward: there's only ever one underlying theme, and planning the play at trick one (as an aid to identifying any problem, should it exist), is emphasised. The problems follow a gradual order of difficulty, but are not grouped by theme or topic, so that the reader cannot get into a comfort zone knowing what may lurk on the next hand.

Try this problem:

♠ 10 7 2  
♥ J 8 5  
♦ A 10 8 7  
♣ 8 3 2

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

You are dealt the monster South hand above and end up in 3NT on the lead of ♣K. What now?

### Analysis

Counting your tricks you have three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and one club – that's only eight tricks and you need one more. You might make two more in diamonds, and one more for sure if you play safely and the cards are friendly.

The real danger is the club suit, where you only have one stopper – so don't rush to take ♣A. If you hold up your ace until the third round, East will discard a spade: this is very good news for you, but what next?

West, with two more club winners has now become the *danger hand*. You can finesse for ♦Q in either the West or the East hand, but if you finesse East for ♦Q you will lose two more clubs tricks and go down in your contract. Instead, play West for ♦Q by first playing ♦K from your own hand, then a small diamond to dummy's ten. Phew! Your good play on this hand will be rewarded with an overtrick, as West indeed had the diamond queen all along. This position is called a *two way finesse*, and while you won't always have the luxury of this option in the play of the hand, this time you were able to take the two way finesse the safe way as it was imperative to keep West off lead.

♠ 10 7 2  
♥ J 8 5  
♦ A 10 8 7  
♣ 8 3 2

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

### Key Point

Lose tricks to the safe hand if possible.

*A First Book of Bridge Problems* is available as a digital download from *The Bridge Shop* for \$16.99 or you can buy the paperback edition for \$22.95.

## Inter Tasman Team wins NEC Cup

**D**own Under, Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Martin Reid and Peter Newell, a team comprised of a pair of Aussies and a pair of Kiwis, overcame a 15-IMP first-quarter deficit to take the lead at the half by 3 IMPs in the NEC Cup Final. They picked up 21 more IMPs in the third quarter and added 1 more IMP in the fourth for good measure to win. Runners up, *Bulgarian All Stars*, Valio Kovachev, Vladi Isporski, Manol Iliev, Hristo Hristov), kept the match close and highly competitive until the last few boards. Indeed, with just four boards remaining the All Stars were within 7 IMPs of the lead but suffered two adverse swings, one of 6 IMPs and the other of 11 IMPs, on the next two boards to put the match out of reach.

Board 62, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Reid	Isporski	Newell	Kovachev
		Pass	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♦ <sup>2</sup>	Dbl
4♥	All Pass		

- 1. Strong
- 2. Weak

West	North	East	South
Iliev	Hans	Hristov	Nunn
		Pass	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	1♠	Dbl	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

- 1. Strong

Bulletin editors Barry Rigal and Richard Colker remarked that “the *All Stars*’ worst results had come when Kovachev - Isporski did not bid enough. This had not happened often this match, but here maybe it should have. Hans’ flier scored a goal when Nunn could save in 4♠ and drive his opponents to the five-level. The play in 5♥ was not of great interest. Declarer needed clubs not to be unusually hostile, so he cashed ♣AK early, and was more hurt than surprised when South ruffed. Now there were two more tricks to lose, whatever declarer did.



Peter Newell, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans & Martin Reid

That was good news in a sense, since Reid now might have trouble making 10 tricks in hearts. On the spade lead, declarer won in dummy, then led a heart to his hand, and a diamond to the jack. When South shifted to a club, Reid won his ace and ducked a club, and now, whether North took his ♣Q or South ruffed, he could arrange another club ruff in dummy, and hold his losers to one more trump trick.

Well done; 11 IMPs, making the lead 24 IMPs, and the match almost safe for *Down Under*.”

The 17th NEC Festival was held from February 7 - 12. It is staged annually in Yokohama by the Japan Contract Bridge League, and sports an impressive international field, with many of the world’s top players. Last year’s winners, David Bakhshi, David Gold, Louk Verhees and Ricco van Prooijje were defending their title this year.

Other notable teams included the Anglo-Irish *Hackett*, Paul and Justin Hackett, Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann, while representing women’s bridge was the top Chinese Women’s Team and a strong English Women’s Team. Also present were Ron Klinger - Matt Mullamphy, with 2011 ANC Open Teams champions, Bill Jacobs and Ben Thompson (who were second in the final event, the Asuka Cup).

For the instructive Daily Bulletins go to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/home/English/nec/17th//tab-id/669/Default.aspx>

### Copy Deadline

for Issue 156, July 2012,

the deadline is:

**June 26, 2012**

Late submissions will be held over  
until Issue 157, September 2012

Email: [editor@abf.com.au](mailto:editor@abf.com.au)



## You'd be barmy not to come

It has been brought to my attention that, despite my offerings in these pages in January there are *still* some people reading the Newsletter, who have not yet booked in for the ANC/Territory Gold/Butler Pairs in Darwin in July (see the ABF website for full details). Darwin in July is Paradise found. The weather is balmy, and so are the people! Fears about insufficient accommodation being available are totally unfounded. In fact, if there are a couple of young ladies who know how to achieve a double squeeze, your technique is welcome at my place. But I digress.



I have been told that everybody knows about the fantastic weather, and quality affordable accommodation, but that bridge players will travel to play bridge *only* for bridge reasons. Well, let me give you some. In Darwin, all your finesses work. Your partner never loses his or her smile at the table, and you will rack up Masterpoints beyond your wildest dreams. I should know: I took up bridge less than a year ago, and am already a Graduate Master, and on the Northern Territory Open Team. In chess, it took me 13 years to get the Master title, and make the Open Team, but that was in Melbourne. Darwin is different.

And even on the hands you don't need to finesse, there will be a way to get home. This hand came up at the recent Arafura Mixed Pairs, one of the biggest events on the calendar, except for the Territory Gold, of course. Sitting South, with neither side vulnerable, you pick up this hand:

♠ AKJ6, ♥ 1054, ♦ Q4, ♣ 10865

Now, in any other part of the world, balanced 10-counts are sneered at. But in Darwin, where every card sits right, and nothing ever goes wrong, this is a monster hand. After three passes, you could simply open 3NT here, confident of getting nine tricks with your combined 20-count. But, in fact, East dealt and opened 2♠, the regular weak two variety. This goes around to partner, who doubles, and East passes. Unsure what rewards a pass might bring, with no particularly attractive opening lead, you close the auction with a direct bid of 3NT. After all, the automatic spade lead will give you an important tempo to set up that ninth trick.

The opening lead, however, is the heart queen, and dummy puts down:

♠ 4, ♥ J986, ♦ AK62, ♣ A732

You have seven tricks on top, including the spade finesse (guaranteed to work in Darwin), so you have a bit of work to do this time. You follow low from both hands and East plays ♥7. Now West switches to ♠9, obviously with no wish to set up a heart winner in dummy. This brings ♠Q from East, and you win ♠A and lead a heart. West steps up with an honour (East playing ♥2) and leads ♠5 to ♠10 and your ♠K, as you discard a club from dummy. A third heart lead is taken by West, and East discards a spade. After pausing for thought, West leads ♣4, you play low from dummy, East wins ♣K and plays another spade, which you win with ♠J. On this trick, West discards a heart and dummy a club.

Well, you have them now! East started with six spades and two hearts, and at least one club. If he was 6-2-4-1, he will be squeezed in the pointy suits on ♥J after you cross to ♣A. As it happens, he follows when you cross to ♣A, so it is West who is squeezed on ♥J, having to give up the diamond stopper to keep ♣J.

This was the full hand:

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

Anywhere else in the nation, you wouldn't contemplate playing 3NT with a combined 22-count and no suits longer than four card. When I triumphantly showed this hand to one of the "Mexicans" on the Victorian Team he said, "What if East started with three clubs and West had five diamonds?" My reply? "This is *Darwin*, my friend; such distributions just do *not* happen!"

So, now that you are convinced, jump online and book your flights and accommodation. I will wait for you here. [Twiddles thumbs while waiting.] You're back? Good. Now, it would be unfair not to warn you that because every contract plays so well in Darwin you will need to be a little bit careful in defence. Here is an example from the Darwin Bridge Club Butler Pairs. How do you like your chances of beating 3NT doubled on lead with this hand?

♠ A6, ♥ AQ1092, ♦ Q763, ♣ AK

The bidding, with both sides vulnerable, had gone like this:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		3NT!!!

Your partner's 3♥ bid was a transfer to spades, so you start with ♠A. At this point, declarer (who shall be known only as the Rueful Rabbit) pipes up with: "Lead out of turn; we should call the Director". It transpired that the Rabbit had thought it was his partner who had opened 2NT!!! So your lead stands, and dummy puts down:

♠ KQ73, ♥ 5, ♦ K982, ♣ J1097

♠3 is played from dummy, East contributes ♠J and declarer ♠4. Now West had some serious calculating to do. If East is as weak as ♠ J1098xx, ♥xxx, ♦xx, ♣xx, then West needs to attack hearts right away, and settle for +200, which will compare favourably with 3♠ making +140 (losing two spades and two diamonds). But East could have, say, ♦AJ, (instead of xx) in which case 4♠ will make, and you need +800 to score above par. Attacking hearts might simply give away tricks, and if East has a singleton heart, West will never manage more than two tricks in the suit. So West played a second spade for now, won in dummy, with declarer discarding ♦4.

♣J runs around to ♣K, and now West tried ♦3. East's card is a disappointment: East's ♦10 is won by declarer's ♦J. In again, after another club lead, on which East played ♣4, having followed with ♣5 on the first

round, West has only one hope left: finding East with ♥K. His low heart lead is won by declarer's ♥J, and ♦A follows, on which East discards a spade. Declarer takes the marked diamond finesse, cashes his last diamond and the top spade in dummy, and then wins three more clubs for a total of 10 tricks!

This was the full hand:

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

To add insult to injury, all the others playing your direction were making 4♥, just by ruffing diamonds in dummy. Even against trump leads, this line succeeds (don't forget, in Darwin the finesses always work) as NS cannot manage more than two diamonds and a spade in defence.

The moral to the story is: come to Darwin and bid 3NT at every opportunity. See you here!

*Chris Depasquale, Darwin*

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Program    Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2012    -    Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2012			
	Price/Player	Number	Total
Tuesday Night Welcome Function & Pairs <small>(pre registration essential)</small>	\$20		
Open/Restricted Pairs (Wed/Thurs)	\$145		
Friday Workshop – Directors Forum	Free		
Open/Restricted Teams (Fri 2pm/Sat/Sun)	\$135		
(or \$520/Team)		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Please forward entries to: Ian Doland, 61A Safety Beach Dr. Safety Beach NSW 2456</b> Ph 02 6654 1104 Fax 02 6654 9111 Email: <a href="mailto:ian@australiawideconferences.com.au">ian@australiawideconferences.com.au</a> Online entries <a href="http://www.coffsbridge.com.au/congress.html">http://www.coffsbridge.com.au/congress.html</a> <i>Entries close on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2012. All entries must be accompanied by entry fee.</i> <i>Table numbers will be capped at around 106.</i> <i>Coffs Harbour Bridge Club may also accept late entries at its discretion.</i>			

Event	ABF No	Full Name	Indicate events being entered (Y/N)		
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Pair 2					
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Programme, Application form and Booking Accommodation form are now on line or fill in the entry form on the inside back cover of March & May Newsletter. For more information visit:

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(take the congress link) or contact Ian: 02 66 54 1104

**Pairs start Wed 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am & finish Thurs  
afternoon**

**Teams start Fri 2.30 & finish Sun early  
afternoon**