

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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2014 National Open Teams

by Andy Hung

The *MILNE* team, Liam Milne, Nye Griffiths, Andy Hung, Adam Edgton, with Peter Hollands and Ishmael Del'Monte (*Milne* team newcomers) finally achieved their goal – claiming victory over *LORENTZ*, Gabby Lorentz, Stephen Burgess, Pablo Lambardi, Matthew Thomson, Ashley Bach, and Paul Marston in the 2014 NOT Final, by 161 to 139 IMPs. In addition, *MILNE* have accepted the offer and will participate in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship held in Glasgow, Scotland, in September.

Surprisingly, this team almost did not happen – there was a series of chat log events between Liam and Andy about the constant accumulation and dissipation of the team's formation.

Here are some of the interesting hands from the Final:

Board 1, North deals, nil vulnerable

♠ Q 10
♥ A 3 2
♦ K 8 7 3
♣ Q 10 7 4

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

♠ A K 9 8 7 3 2
♥ 8 7
♦ 10
♣ 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Bach	Hung	Marston
Pass	Pass	1♦	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lorentz	Hollands	Burgess	Del'Monte
Pass	1♣	1♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
	Dbl	All Pass	

In the Open Room, I had a choice between bidding 4♣ or doubling 3♠. The benefit of doubling no



doubt is to either penalise the opponents in 3♠, or to play in 3NT. The downside, of course, is that partner might remove the double to 4♥ and there will be a guess between passing out 4♥ or bidding 5♣. Not being one to opt out of a penalty, I chose to double – and of course, partner bid 4♥. Rightly or wrongly, I passed and was glad to see Adam Edgton wrap up 10 tricks.

In hindsight, the decision to double or bid 4♣ probably depends on your opponents' preempting style. If they are aggressive preemptors, then it would be more attractive to double. But if they are solid citizens, then holding the singleton ♠J makes it unlikely that partner will have a penalty pass. A 4♣ bid would have fared much better here: Edgton would then bid 4♥ and I would feel a lot happier passing that.

In the other room, Peter Hollands opened 1♣ and Ishmael jumped to 4♠ over Burgess's 1♦ overcall. 4♠ was a great bid, as it applied maximum pressure on the opponents – and they guessed 'incorrectly' and ended in 5♦ doubled one down.

Bach made a great lead on Board 12. Holding ♠K72, ♥9864, ♦Q72, ♣1096, you hear 1♣ on your right, 1♦ (showing hearts) on your left, 2NT (18-19) on your right, raised to 3NT. What do you lead?

Bach probably thought that when partner didn't make a 1♠ overcall, a spade lead isn't as attractive, so it was down to diamonds or clubs. It was also possible for the 1♣ opener to have longer diamonds (i.e. he was told that a 4-3-4-2 shape would tend to be opened 1♣) so he chose to lead ♣10. This was the killing lead, as partner's hand was ♠9865, ♥A7, ♦43, ♣KQJ85. Must be nice!

After a set of swingy boards, the score was 69-32 IMPs to *MILNE*. In the second set, *MILNE* added 38 more IMPs to their tally, to 3 IMPs for *LORENTZ*. Del'Monte made a very nice discovery play on Board 28, which turned out to be the biggest swing from the second set:

Board 28, West deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 10 3
♥ A 10 7 4
♦ Q 7 5 4
♣ A 8 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Hollands	Lambardi	Del'Monte
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♣	2NT	3♠	4♦
4♠	5♣	Pass	5♥

All Pass

West	North	East	South
Milne	Bach	Griffiths	Marston
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	All Pass

In the Open Room, Hollands 2NT showed a four-card limit raise. Del'Monte's 4♦ bid over 3♠ was in preparation of a potential 4♠ bid by the opponents, so he could let partner judge whether it was best to defend or declare. Whether 4♦ was a slam try or not, Peter cuebid 5♣ and the contract rested in 5♥.

Matthew Thomson led ♠Q, which held the trick, and so did ♠J. He then switched to ♣6, on which Del'Monte rose ace, discarding a spade. At this point, Del'Monte had to assume ♦K was onside (for the contract to have any chance), and immediately placed East's hand shape as 4-2-2-5 or 4-1-3-5. Before committing himself to the heart suit, he decided to make a neat discovery play.

He took a diamond finesse by leading dummy's ♦4 to the jack. (When Lambardi did not follow with ♦K, Del'Monte could discount his RHO having a 4-3-1-5 shape.) He now ruffed a spade in dummy and continued with another diamond finesse, leading dummy's ♦5 to his ten. When both opponents followed low to both diamonds, he could now claim his contract. East was now marked with 4-1-3-5 shape, so he could simply lay down ♥K and take the heart finesse.

You might say that East could have played ♦K on the second round of diamonds to mask his shape, intending

to show his shape as 4-2-2-5, but Del'Monte had this countered. On the first round of diamonds, he specifically finessed ♦J, thereby disguising the location of ♦10. If West had ♦106, then on the second round of diamonds East could not afford to rise ♦K, as that would sacrifice the natural diamond trick for the defence!

At the other table, Milne and Griffiths were playing MiniMeck, and the 1♦ opening was nebulous. Surprisingly, they had the auction to themselves, and played 2♣ making 10 tricks for 13 IMPs.

LORENTZ made a comeback in the third set, which was partially fuelled by a defensive misunderstanding by Edgton and myself:

Final 2, Board 28, West deals, NS vulnerable

♠ K
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ Q 8 6 4

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

♠ 9
♥ A K 9 6 4
♦ A 9 5
♣ J 10 9 5

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Edgton	Lambardi	Hung
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Del'Monte	Burgess	Hollands	Lorentz
1♦	Pass	4♠	Dbl

All Pass

In the Closed Room, the deal was over in a matter of seconds. Lorentz led ♥A, which fetched ♥8 from Burgess, and then switched to ♦A and ♦9, after which Burgess followed with a third round of diamonds.

At our table, I led the (unsystemic) ♥K, hoping to induce a reverse count card from partner. On this, Edgton played an unusual ♥10. Thinking he had an odd number of hearts, or that declarer had ♥J (if ♥10 happened to be reverse attitude), I thought there was no harm in cashing ♥K before continuing with ace and another diamond.

Of course it's true that I could have continued with ace and another diamond at tricks two and three, but what if Edgton's hand had been ♠K, ♥J105, ♦KJ843, ♣Q864 and declarer's was ♠AQJ107652, ♥87, ♦Q6, ♣3 – how would Edgton know whether to continue another round of diamonds (playing me for 1-6-2-4 shape) or to continue hearts?



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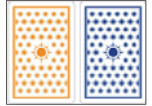
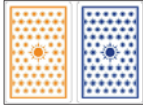
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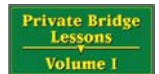
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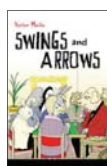
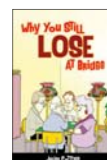
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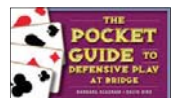


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It was clear to both sides that we needed to cash our red suits in the right order (since dummy's visible hand makes it clear that declarer has 10 tricks on top with eight spades and two clubs), and even if Edgtton had played ♥J (discouraging) on the actual hand, would I still have continued with ♥A or switched to ♦A?

Regardless of who was at fault, we have now made the extra agreement that when we are defending a five-level (or higher) contract, or a four-level contract with an opponent showing a seven-card+ suit, we will play Ace for Attitude, and King for Count. Cash out situations like these emphasise the importance of knowing the count (distribution) of the hands to cash out correctly.

What would happen if Edgtton had played ♥5, reverse count? Not knowing whether he has two or four hearts, I would probably switch to diamonds, and he would be able to know what to do (i.e., if he had four hearts he could deduce that I had five as I was in fear of continuing hearts).

We lost the third set by 26 IMPs, so the total was down to 129-83 IMPs.

In the fourth and final set, *LORENTZ* had come close to our score after a series of boards where *Hollands* and *Del'Monte* reached not so optimal four of a major contracts, instead of the 3NT contracts that *Bach* and *Marston* had bid to. At the half way point, *MILNE's* lead had been reduced to 14 IMPs.

Hollands then made a great bid on Board 26 from the final set. He held ♠9, ♥AKJ963, ♦10764, ♣103 and heard partner open 1♠. He responded 1NT, *LHO* overcalled 2♣ and partner jumped to 3♠. Appreciating the ♥AK top tricks, as well as ♠9 (it could prove to be a useful intermediate card), he raised to 4♠ (even a 4♥ bid was possible).

This made 10 tricks when partner held ♠KQ108764, ♥Q, ♦A8, ♣A92.

The next board was wild:

Final 4, Board 28, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Griffiths</i>	<i>Marston</i>
Pass	1NT	2♣	6♣
6♠	Dbl	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
5♦	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	6♦	7♣
Pass	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	7♥	Dbl	All Pass

In the Open Room, *Milne* and *Griffiths* saved in 6♠ against the making 6♣. Saving in 6♦ would have been better, as it would be two off, but as it is, 6♠ doubled was three off when the defence tapped dummy with hearts and eventually ♠10 was promoted to a trick.

The action was even hotter in the Closed Room. *Lambardi* reasonably chose to overcall in his better five-card diamond suit and *Thomson* was then able to jump to 5♦. *Del'Monte* competed to 6♣ and this was passed around to *Lambardi*, who saved in 6♦. *Del'Monte* was still determined, and continued with 7♣, and *Lambardi* continued the save with 7♦.

Still not wanting to give up, *Del'Monte* made a forcing pass, and *Hollands* was more than happy to accept with 7♥, holding such important cards (i.e. ♠K, ♥AJ, and ♣AQ). *Lambardi* made a Lightner Double, suggesting he was void in a suit that his partner should lead.

Thomson must have thought *Lambardi* had doubled with ♠A (i.e., the opponents have bid a grand slam missing a vital ace) and led ♠Q. *Del'Monte* won the lead, played a heart to the ace (noting ♥10 on his left), cashed ♠K, and led dummy's ♥6 to his ...

Now, this was *Del'Monte's* thinking. His first instinct was to play ♥4, finessing the queen, but he gave the deal a little more thought (as you would, considering you are in a grand slam). If *Lambardi* had three hearts, that would give him a 5-3-5-0 or 4-3-6-0 shape. If *Lambardi* had a doubleton heart, that would give him a 5-2-6-0 or 4-2-7-0 shape, but that would give *Thomson* five spades and four diamonds, unlikely for the 5♦ bid).

- If *Lambardi* had 5-3-5-0, that would give *Thomson* 4=1=6=2.
- If *Lambardi* had 4-3-6-0, that would give *Thomson* 5-1-5-2.
- If *Lambardi* had 5-2-6-0, that would give *Thomson* 4-2-5-2.

Del'Monte thought that if *Thomson* held either of the first two shapes (4-1-6-2 or 5-1-5-2) he would likely have saved with either 6♦ or 7♦ (since he had the chance to bid before partner). Therefore, *Del'Monte* decided that *Thomson* must have the third case, with

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Point count may be the first yard stick for slams but it is not the only one. The other one is how your honours mesh. The key thought is...**Honours opposite a shortage are wasted.** *The golden rule of duplication* allows you to factor this in.

Lesson 1 – The Jacoby 2NT

The key to slam in a suit is locating partner's short suit. Learn the golden rule of duplication.

Lesson 2 – End plays for intermediates

Learn how to gain a trick by forcing an opponent to lead around to your high cards.

Lesson 3 – Splinter bids

Another way to locate partner's short suit with more about the golden rule of duplication.

Lesson 4 – Simple squeezes

Simple squeeze play. Learn how to gain one or more tricks when one opponent has to guard two suits.

Lesson 5 – Putting it all together

Play 12 deals based on the lessons followed by a detailed discussion about them.

Timetable

Saturday 11	2pm on, Check in
Sunday 12	9am - 11:15am, Lesson 1 2:30pm - 5:30pm, Sun Pairs 1 5:30pm Sausage sizzle
Monday 13	9am - 11:15am, Lesson 2 4:30pm - 7:30pm, Sun Pairs 2
Tuesday 14	1:30pm - 3:45pm, Lesson 3 7:30pm - 10:30pm, Sun Pairs final
Wednesday 15	9am - 11:15am, Lesson 4 2pm - 5pm, Ivory Pairs 1 5:15pm - 6pm Talking point 1 – Key Card
Thursday 16	9am - 12pm, Ivory Pairs 2 1pm lunch at Noosa Yacht Club 4pm - 4:45pm Talking point 2 – Cue bidding
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a 4-2-5-2 shape. Jumping to 5♦ with that shape may be quite aggressive, but it might be fair enough given the favourable vulnerability. Del'Monte thus played ♥K, and the roof fell in! That's certainly what it felt like when Edgton and I were sitting out on the last set!

After that board, there were four deals remaining and we were only up by 15 IMPs. We gained 9 IMPs on one of those boards, and there was no turning back. The victory was ours.

I would like to say thank you to Liam Milne for rounding up the team, despite the team falling in and out at various times of last year. It is now time for us to work hard to bring the bacon home in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships.

On an entertaining note, I would like to leave this article with a +2200 score that Milne and Griffiths brought back during the SWPT Qualifying rounds:

North deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Griffiths		Milne	
	Pass	1NT	2♣
	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
	All Pass		

1NT was 9-12 (Mini NT) and 2♣ showed both majors. Double by Griffiths showed penalty interest, and South redoubled to say "you choose a suit, partner" but unfortunately there was a misunderstanding and 2♣ redoubled became the final contract.

Griffiths kicked off with ♦J lead, and declarer won the ace. Declarer now played ♥K, which won the trick, and continued with ♥Q, won by Griffiths.

A diamond was continued to Milne's ♦Q, after which he exited a low club to the queen and king. A heart was played for Milne to ruff, ♦K was cashed, a spade played to Griffith's ace, a heart ruffed with dummy's ♣10, on which Milne discarded his last spade. then ♣9 was played to Milne's ace.

Here was the end position:

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

With seven tricks in the bag, Milne now played a diamond for Griffiths to ruff with ♣J, and a spade through promoted Milne's ♣7. +2200, get 'em!

SWPT category winners:

Mixed: Nigel Dutton, Marie-France Merven, Paul Hooykaas, Pele Rankin

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Three deals from the Vanderbilt

by Ron Klinger

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The Vanderbilt was contested annually in New York - as a separate championship - until 1958 when it became part of the spring North American Bridge Championships, and is a Knock-Out teams event. In 2014 it was held in Dallas, Texas, where there were 9,891 tables.

Try these problems:

1. East deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Dbl	1♠	4♥	4♠
5♦	5♠	Pass	6♠
7♦	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South, holding ♠AQ953, ♥---, ♦65, ♣AQJ954

2. West deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	2♥	2♠
Dbl ¹	3♥ ²	5♣	5♦ ³
5♥	5♠	5NT	Dbl
6♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

1. Takeout 2. Good spade support 3. Cuebid, spades agreed

What should South lead from ♠KJ10872, ♥AK64, ♦5, ♣95

3. East deals, NS vulnerable

♠ A Q 6
♥ 10 4
♦ A K 10 7 5
♣ K J 8

♠ K 9 8
♥ A K Q 3
♦ 8 2
♣ 7 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads ♠3. You win with ♠K and play ♦2: six – seven – nine. East returns ♠5 to ♠Q. When you play a diamond, West shows out.

What now?

In 2014, top seeds *MONACO*, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness and *NICKELL*, Nick Nickell, Ralph Katz, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein, Jeff Meckstroth Eric Rodwell met in the 64-board Vanderbilt Final.

MONACO led 102-83 with 16 boards to play, but the match was not decided until late in the final quarter, *NICKELL* winning by 127-125.

The decisions on three deals were critical to the outcome.

58. East deals, all vulnerable

♠ K J 8 6 4 2
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ 9
♣ 10 6

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

♠ A Q 9 5 3
♥ ---
♦ 6 5
♣ A Q J 9 5 4

West Rodwell	North Fantoni	East Meckstroth	South Nunes
		2♥	4♣ ¹
4♦	4♥ ²	Pass	4♠
5♦	5♠	All Pass	

1. Spades and clubs
2. Good hand for spades

Lead: ♥A

Declarer made all 13 tricks, +710.

At the other table, after the auction in Problem 1, Bobby Levin, South bid 7♠, and all passed.

A diamond lead would defeat the grand slam, but East chose a heart. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps, finessed in clubs and made all the tricks for +2210 and +17 IMPs.

Why did East lead a heart and not a diamond? For the same reason that South bid 7♠. North's pass over 7♦ invited South to bid the grand slam. That indicated diamond control, presumably a void.

With a diamond loser, North would be expected to double 7♦ to prevent South from bidding further. On that basis, you can understand why East chose the heart lead.

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2. West deals, NS vulnerable

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

After the auction in Problem 2, South began with ♦5. East won and led a trump.

At the end of the day declarer lost two hearts and a diamond for -300. There is a good maxim, 'Trump length, lead length'. EW were likely to be in a 6-2 or 6-3 fit. With four trumps, a spade lead appeals to try to force declarer to ruff. A spade lead, in fact, will take 6♥ doubled three down for +500. That would have been enough to win the match.

At the other table EW were in 6♣ doubled. South led ♦5. East won and led a heart, taken by the king. East ruffed the spade shift and led another heart. South played ♥A, but North ruffed (!) and cashed ♦K, ♦Q for +500 and + 5 IMPs.

The last chance for Monaco came on Board 63:

3. East deals, EW vulnerable

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

West Fantoni	North Meckstroth	East Nunes	South Rodwell
1♥	2♦ ^{Forcing}	Pass	1♦ ^{Strong club}
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
		All Pass	

West led ♥2 and dummy's ♥10 won. South had nine tricks and eventually made an overtrick, +430.

At the other table, Helgemo was South in 3NT after the auction in Problem 3. After ♠3 to sK, ♦2 ducked to ♦9, East returned ♠5 to ♠Q. With eight top tricks you need one more. What next?

Play ♦A and, if all follow, ♦K and concede a diamond if need be. When West shows out on ♦A, you need a club trick. Cross to hand with a heart and lead a club. As the cards lie, bingo! Declarer seemed to have a blind spot. After ♠Q took trick three, he crossed to ♥A (why?) and played a diamond to the ace. Then came ♥K, ♥Q, spade to the ace, ♦K and he was one down, -10 IMPs.

2014 Gold Coast Congress

This year was the 53rd staging of the historic event, which began in 1962.

The Gold Coast Open Pairs which kicks off the congress, was won by Ishmael Del'Monte - Justin Howard.



The 2014 Gold Coast Open Teams was won by *McGANN*, Hugh McGann (from Ireland, but lives in Harrogate, England) - Matthew Thomson, GeO Tislevoll - Michael Ware (both New Zealanders, although GeO is an ex-pat Norwegian) and ex-pat Australian Fiona Brown (who lives in Harrogate and plays for England) paired with TonyNunn.

Almost the same *McGANN* team played in the GCC final in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (Hugh, Fiona, Michael, Tony and GeO played three finals) and lost both in 2012 and 2013, after having done superbly in the qualifying.

This year the team struggled much more, and qualified on the nose. In contrast, *CHINA NANGANG*, Zhang Bankxiang, Shen Jiaying, Gan Xinli, Wang Ru, and Li Xin were comfortable winners in all matches except the last.

McGANN never dominated in the knockouts. In the final the team was behind at halfway (55.1 - 34), but got a very nice float in the last two sets to beat the top Chinese team relatively comfortably (104 - 67.1 IMPs).

This hand from the third set was the turning point:

Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	Li	Thomson	Gan
2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

1. Multi

2. Pass or correct



West	North	East	South
Shen	Tislevoll	Zhang	Ware
2♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Pass	5NT ¹	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

1. Two places to play

A curiosity of the game is that although no one actually bid spades, the other three players knew what West's long suit was. In that context, perhaps North's 5♥ was meant to ask South about controls in that suit. With a void in spades, going on to slam seems automatic. On the other hand, that might have induced EW to take their excellent save in 6♠, which would probably have been two down for minus 300, less than the opponents' game. It would have been a 15 IMP loss instead of 13 IMPs.

Shen and Zhang missed a chance for an 8 IMP gain, and *McGANN* was in the lead 74-64 with 12 boards to play.

The last set of a pulsating final would see all the momentum with *McGANN*, as they scored a 30 - 3 IMP scoreline.

From the Conveners

Gold Coast Congress Update 2014

A big thank you to all who attended – we love you and invite you all back for next year's 54th Congress, commencing with the No Frill Walk-ins on Friday night, 20 February and finishing with the Victory Dinner on Saturday, February 28. Another big thank you to my team, spearheaded by Kim Ellaway, Laurie Kelso and Matt McManus. It would not happen without you.

This year had a lovely feel to it, and I am sure the weather had a lot to do with it. We would like to share with you a short photo slide show (thanks to Anne Russell) that captures the spirit of the Gold Coast Congress. You can look at it from this link but be warned that the file is 75 megabytes - <http://www.qldbridge.com/documents/GCC2014.mp4>

There are many other photos available from the Gold Coast Congress website picture gallery, so make sure

you look at these too! The final bulletin was posted a few days after the GCC, and is also available from our website.

Gold Coast Congress 2015

Next year we will be moving to the end closest to Jupiter's. This will cause a few problems for the organisers during the pairs, but will be a blessing for the players. We will have to provide two coffee stations, split the staff, and the scoring team will have to solve a

few wi-fi issues. The players, however, will have more toilets, more facilities, both lift and escalator access to upstairs, and be closer to the main exits. The space will be a bit tight for the pairs, especially if we get over 10% growth, but unlimited for the teams. There is some rumour going around that we will be crammed in and we were dreading it – *not true!!* Normally the end closest to Jupiter's is more expensive, so we are lucky to get it for the same price.

See you all next year!!!!



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Beware when you walk in Probability Park

by Peter Grant

The assessment of probabilities is an important part of the game of bridge. We are constantly required to judge whether one line of the cards is more likely than another, or whether one line of play stands a better chance than another. In making these judgements we use knowledge, experience and intuition, in various mixes. Most would argue that knowledge and experience should trump intuition, and no doubt this is true in many cases. But *Probability Park* is full of potential hazards, for expert and amateur alike.

In a recent Butler pairs event I held the following hand as North:

♠ 8
♥ 8 4
♦ A K J 9 6 4
♣ A Q 9 7

My partner opened 1NT (12-14, balanced) and the auction proceeded:

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

1. Game Force shape enquiry
2. Four clubs and a higher four-card suit
3. RKCB
4. 0 or 3 Key Cards

I pondered my next step. At this point, there were two probabilities I needed to assess: first, the probability that partner had three Key Cards rather than zero; and second, the probability that, if he had three Key Cards, a club slam would be a decent prospect. I had little doubt on the second score: 6♣ should be an excellent slam, failing only on a very bad split in clubs or a side suit; indeed, there must be reasonable prospects of 7♣ if partner held ♦Q or a doubleton diamond, in addition to his three assumed Key Cards.

But what of the first probability? How likely was it that partner held three Key Cards rather than none? If I'd been very quick, or the opponents very patient, I might have worked out that the number of combinations of honour cards which could produce the required number of HCP (12-14) was the same in both cases (21). As it happens, for reasons that would become clear later, that information would have misled me rather than helped me: a classic case of the dangers of "a little knowledge".

At the table, instead of working along those lines, I asked myself the practical question: "How likely is it

that partner has ♣K?" After all, if he has ♣K he has the other two Key Cards as well, and slam will likely be a very good proposition. Judging by a series of subsequent conversations, the bridge world appears to divide into two broad camps in answering this question. The *pessimists* (a sizeable majority, it seems) argue broadly along these lines: "Partner has about half (12-14) of the outstanding 26 HCP, and only four of the nine outstanding clubs. That makes it somewhat less than 50 per cent likely that he has any specific club, and in particular the King. So slam looks a poor bet."

The *optimists*, on the other hand, persuade themselves as follows: "I know that partner has four clubs, with neither the Ace nor the Queen. He also has little or nothing in diamonds (at most the Queen), and he has still 12-14 HCP to be accounted for. *Surely* he has ♣K, in which case he has the other two Key Cards as well, so slam is a very good bet."

Which view do you find the more convincing? Pause here and consider the camp you would join.

Being of optimistic bent myself, I quickly took the view at the table that partner was likely to hold ♣K, and pondered whether I should investigate grand slam. Tempted as I was, I finally judged that 6♣ would fare well enough in a Butler field – after all, I'd taken one optimistic view already – but remarked to partner as I put down dummy: "Sorry if we've missed the grand, pard".

That comment sounded like a sick joke as RHO led ♠A, followed by a heart to his partner's ace; then, when partner got in at trick three he took the club finesse, which lost. So much for my judgement, I thought – even 5♣ was failing! Partner's hand was:

♠ K Q 9 5
♥ K Q 9
♦ Q 3
♣ J 8 3 2

In the post-mortem at the end of the session I was tackled by one of our local experts (E1), on two main grounds. First, and quite rightly, she asked why I had not bid 5♣ after 4♥, leaving partner to raise to 6♣ if he had 3 Key Cards. Lamely, I conceded the point, explaining that my focus had been on choosing between 6♣ and 7♣, not between 5♣ and 6♣. Her second criticism, though, I found much less convincing. She argued that, as the number of combinations of honour cards which could deliver 12-14 HCP was equal between the two cases (0 and 3 Key Cards), and slam was not certain even if partner held 3 Key Cards, any slam was a poor proposition. I did not debate the point at the time, but instinctively felt that there was a flaw in this argument.

Spying another expert (E2) as I was leaving the club that night, I told him that I would send him a probability question by email the next day. A few days later, in response to my email, E2 kindly described our auction as “ambitious”, and independently echoed the sentiments of E1 (whose views he had not heard).

Starting to doubt myself, but still unconvinced, I emailed my friend Roger Curnow, to ask for his assistance in conducting a simulation exercise. Obligingly, Roger generated 1,000 random deals which satisfied the relevant constraints: that is, that North’s hand should be fixed (as above) and that South’s hand should be a balanced 12-14, with four clubs and another four-card suit.

No constraints were imposed on the East or West hands. The results of this simulation were revealing:

<i>No. Key Cards held by South</i>	<i>Incidence (ex 1,000 cases)</i>	<i>Percentage Distribution</i>
0	4	0.4%
1 or 2	87.1	87.1%
3	125	12.5%

In other words, of the 129 randomly generated boards containing either 0 or 3 Key Cards, well over 90% (96.9%, in this simulation) contained 3 Key Cards rather than none. I pondered the possibilities: either the random generation process was seriously flawed (surely not?), or the results were accurate and my intuition had been well-founded after all. But how could this be, if there were equal numbers of honour card combinations which could deliver the required number of HCPs in each case? I looked again at the deals in the simulation printout, and suddenly the explanation hit me: the various combinations which could deliver 12-14 HCP were not all equally likely to occur.

A key consideration here, it struck me, was that a significantly larger number of honour cards were required to make up 12-14 HCP in the 0 Key Cards case (♠A, ♥A and ♣A having been removed) than in the case of three Key Cards; in turn, this implied that more spot cards would be needed in combinations which included 3 Key Cards, with consequently more ways of allocating these cards.

Armed with these insights, and the results of Roger’s simulation, I went back to my expert advisers. One of these experts was sufficiently intrigued to refer the question to yet another expert colleague (E3), but without offering the simulation results. “It’s close to 50-50”, E3 replied, citing again the equivalence in the number of possible honour card combinations. So back to Roger I went, with yet another request: how hard would it be, I asked him, to work through all the possible combinations and their relative likeli-

hoods, to produce some statistically robust probability estimates?

“For all possible hand shapes for South?”, he asked. “Yes please, if possible”, I replied hopefully.

Within a remarkably short space of time Roger had completed this assignment.

For each of South’s six possible hand shapes, he found, the probability of 3 Key Cards exceeded 90% (with minor variations only between the results for the different shapes).

Citing the 4-3-2-4 shape as his example, he explained that there were some 4.4 million ways in which a South hand containing 3 Key Cards could be produced, as against only 354,000 ways of generating a South hand with 0 Key Cards. That represented a probability of 92.6% that the South hand would contain 3 Key Cards. Roger pointed out also that there were huge variations between the relative probabilities of individual “cases” (particular honour card combinations): for example, a hand of the shape AJxx, Axx, xx, Kxxx could occur in 308,700 different ways, and was about 184 times more likely to occur than a hand of the shape KQJx, KQJ, Qx, xxxx, which could occur in only 1,680 ways.

In general, the lower the number of honour cards required to make up the HCP requirement, the larger the number of ways in which the given hand could occur.

So three genuine experts – all Australian representatives with significant international experience – had got this one badly wrong (two subsequently, and graciously, conceded the merit of Roger’s analysis and acknowledged that their initial views had been flawed). The probability gods would be smiling, I thought, but it was all their fault, really: if they hadn’t played games a few weeks earlier by giving my partner the one hand in every 14 which contained not a single Key Card, none of this would have been an issue.

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Maintaining Focus

When I competed in my first Commonwealth Games in 1994, I walked into the shooting range on the practice day, and right behind my shooting bay was a TV camera.



Well, some sports people experience TV cameras all the time, but in shooting this was an anomaly. In fact, it would be fair to say that I had never competed anywhere previously that there had been TV coverage. It was fortunate that I had anticipated this type of scenario during my pre-event preparations, and was able to maintain my focus during the match the next day, rather than being distracted by the idea of being on TV.

At bridge, players know that there are going to be all kinds of distractions such as:

- noisy playing areas;
- other players talking about hands;
- bad play;
- bad defence;
- director calls;
- and so on.

Players often allow these distractions or incidents to interfere with their play. Many players will dwell on an incident from their round such as a director ruling, play of a hand, a bidding sequence or poor defence, instead of focussing on the current hand.

In fact, some players become so upset by these distractions, that they misplay or misbid hands because they don't have a means of focussing on the task at hand and blotting out the other stuff. Being able to re-focus on the task at hand is a key mental tool that will enhance your overall performance, and having a plan for what you will do when distractions occur is an integral part of this plan.

Whilst some players are fortunate and could maintain focus during an earthquake, many are not so lucky. Let's consider these distractions as two types.

Type 1 distractions are external to you and are predictable events which happen in nearly every tournament. They include things like:

- director calls to tables nearby;
- someone falling ill;
- loud noises, things being dropped, etc.

Type 1 distractions are those you can and should plan for and work out what you are going to do when they occur.

For example, the players at the next table spill a drink all over the cards, and start creating a ruckus which is distracting for your table.

You may wish to plan to stop play until the activity at the next table calms down, rather than trying to continue, lose concentration, and going off in a game you should make because you cannot concentrate with all the peripheral noise.

I recommend you make a list of all these types of distractions, and have a plan for how you are going to manage them.

So, where something has happened at an adjacent table, planning to say something to the other players at your table like "I'm sorry, but I just can't concentrate with all this going on at the next table. Would you mind if we just wait a moment until things calm down?" is a nice way of letting the opponents know you want to have a short pause in play.

After you make your list of distractions, rehearse in your mind what you will do if each of them occur. Get your partner on side with your strategy too. The idea here is to be prepared so when something does happen you know how to deal with it and it doesn't throw you off your game.

Type 2 distractions are internal to you and include those areas where:

- you have made an error, or perceive you have made an error; or
- your partner has made an error which is on your mind; or
- the opponents have made a contract you "think" you should have defeated; etc.

It is very hard for some players to make their mind let go of these issues, but it is important to be able to do this to play at your optimal level. Some players deal with Type 2 distractions by making a note about the issue, so that they can consider it later. Making a note can have the effect of "giving yourself permission" to let the incident go, and act as a reminder to discuss it later. If this doesn't work for you, and you cannot let an incident go, consider excusing yourself for a bathroom break, to get a drink or some other time-out, so you have a short pause to get over the incident. Each match has ample time for each round, especially at major events, so unless you are exceptionally slow players, there is plenty of time to have a little break to get over a stuff up.

In shooting I had a list of stuff that I had prepared identifying what could go wrong or happen during the event and I mentally rehearsed what I was going to do if such and such happened in competition for



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each item on it.

In my opinion, when considering your pre-match preparation in bridge, there are five key questions to ask yourself:

- What can go wrong before I leave home?
- What can go wrong at the event?
- What can go wrong during play?
- How will I react?
- What can I do to limit the potential damage?

Developing strategies to properly manage the answers to these questions will help you to play at your optimal level, and ensure you don't give awayimps inadvertently. Working on proper match preparation is a critical part of ensuring your success in competition bridge.

Coaching Cathy at Contract

by David Lusk

Jobs for the Boys (and Girls)

Hi Uncle,

I submit two hands that I have failed on in recent weeks. I seem to be better at working out the dangers on a hand, but some of the details go missing.

Detail #1

♠ Q 10 7 3
♥ K 8 4
♦ J 7
♣ A 9 7 6

♠ K J 8 6 5
♥ A 9 6
♦ K Q 5
♣ 10 8

West doubled my 1♠ opening, but we got to 4♠ anyway. West led ♥2 and I took East's Jack with my Ace. Then I led trumps. West took the Ace and played another heart. Eventually, I lost a trick in each suit. How often do I go one down?

Detail #2

♠ 6 5
♥ K 8 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A J 9 6 2

♠ Q 10
♥ A Q J 10 7 3
♦ A 5 2
♣ K 10

This time I was in 4♥, with the other side silent. West led ♦Q, and I won and drew trumps. West showed out

on the second round, so I had to play trumps three times to draw them. Then I played ♣K and ♣10, overtaking with ♣J for a finesse. That lost to ♣Q and the opponents took two diamonds and two spades – two off.

Since you won't accept these as hard luck stories, can you point my feet in the right direction?

Ever Disillusioned, Cathy

Dear Disillusioned,

Sometimes it helps to understand what tasks your winning cards will achieve for you in the play of a hand. High cards are obviously potential tricks, but they can also be playing a stopper role, protecting a danger suit, and they may be required as entries when you need them most.

I hope you counted your winners and losers on the first hand, because you would have done better to address the issue of four potential losers before the first trick, on which you made your first error (sorry).

You will have enough winners on this hand once you establish diamonds but you must address the problem of your four losers first. West has found the best lead for his side, so the problem of a heart loser must be addressed as a matter of priority. Having won the first trick, leading diamonds in time will no doubt solve the problem of a heart loser, as long as nobody trumps the third round. So the plan should have been to win the first trick and lead a diamond. Before we get to that, what are your two heart honours doing for you?

They are obviously stopping hearts for the time being but one of them may be a crucial entry. Let's say you took the first heart in hand (as you did) and then started on diamonds. If you held the first diamond trick and lost the second, you would have been defeated by the opposition's smart play and your own error at trick one. So let's go back to that.

♥A is the only quick entry to your hand and the future winning diamond, so winning the first trick in dummy is required to preserve this function. Now ♦J at trick two, and the defender can hold up if he wishes, but you can continue diamonds and set up your winner. Now when hearts are continued, you can win in hand and play your diamond winner, throwing a heart.

Only after the completion of this mission should you lead trumps. Not only have you averted the heart loser but you have your 10th trick when you trump your third heart in dummy.

On the second hand, the club finesse could have turned out better, but you may have done better to try to ruff out ♣Q.

This is a slightly better chance (♣Qxx or ♣Q doubleton will do) and a much better chance if ♥9 falls early or the hearts are 2-2. Unfortunately, your description of

the play did not confirm the fall of ♥9 but it did confirm that the trumps did not break 2-2.

My preferred line on the diamond lead would be to lay down ♥A at trick two. If someone shows out at trick two, reverting to your line would become the best hope because ruffing out the club suit will no longer yield success. If hearts are not 4-0, commit to ♣K, ♣A of clubs and ruff one high. If ♣Q falls in the process, play ♥Q and ♥K in that order, and cash your clubs for an overtrick. If ♣Q has not fallen, you are cooked unless ♥9 fell on the first round or a heart to the king revealed a 2-2 break.

In either instance, you can ruff the fourth round of clubs (high again) and cross back to dummy's ♥8 to collect the eighth trick. On this line, you make if ♣Q is guarded once or twice, but also on any 4-2 club break whenever ♥9 falls in one or two rounds. The other advantage is that you collect a handy overtrick (useful at pairs) on a good day, and most likely go down one only on a bad day.

Yours, David (Bridge Pathologist?)

ABF FACEBOOK

Tip

Want to join the growing number of followers of the ABF's Facebook site? This is another way for you to keep informed about what's happening within the Australian bridge community.



Simply go to the ABF website at www.abf.com.au and click on the Facebook icon at the top of the page (right side). This will 'take' you to the ABF Facebook page where you should click on **Like**.

Congratulations! You are now an ABF Facebook friend and will receive regular updates and news about our exciting sport.

MARKETING NEWS

For the past couple of years I have been issuing a regular Marketing Update to State Secretaries for them to distribute to all their affiliated clubs. This document contains marketing tips, information and updates to assist club administrators interested in 'growing' their membership base and increasing the numbers at their sessions and/or events.



MARKETING UPDATE



From March 2014 this communication 'product' has issued via an E-Newsletter format and copies placed on the ABF website – look under **Marketing**. There is also a link on the website should you wish to subscribe.

Sandra Mulcahy
ABF National Marketing Officer
Email: marketing@abf.com.au

by Paul Lavings



The Partscore Battle

What do you call, nil vulnerable, in the following auctions:

- 1♥ Pass 2♥ (2♠)
?
- 1. ♠ 98, ♥ AJ8762, ♦ K87, ♣ K8
- 2. ♠ 32, ♥ AKQ74, ♦ 972, ♣ QJ3
- 3. ♠ 2, ♥ AQJ98, ♦ A876, ♣ KQ9
- 4. ♠ AKJ8, ♥ Q10742, ♦ A75, ♣ 2
- 1♥ Pass 2♥ (3♦)
?
- 5. ♠ AJ93, ♥ KQJ32, ♦ 2, ♣ A84
- 6. ♠ J87, ♥ KJ863, ♦ J105, ♣ AQ
- 1♥ Pass 2♥ (Dbl)
?
- 7. ♠ AQJ8, ♥ K9842, ♦ AJ10, ♣ 2
- 8. ♠ J9, ♥ AQJ863, ♦ KJ3, ♣ 84
- 9. ♠ 102, ♥ AKJ104, ♦ QJ82, ♣ 6

1. **3♥**. With a six-card suit, you should always bid 3♥ in this auction. Do not be concerned with pushing opponents to game; if they go to game they could well fail, everyone is guessing at this stage. You are simply following the *Law of Total Tricks* by bidding to the three-level when your side has nine trumps.

If you pass over 2♠ you allow the overcaller's partner two ways of raising spades; 3♠, a mild raise, and 3♥, a maximum raise. By consuming space you make the exchange of accurate information more difficult for the opposition.

2. **3♥**. Your hand is very concentrated, with strong trumps and honours working in unison. Sure, it could be wrong to bid 3♥, but you have many ways to gain. At pairs you give opponents the last guess as to whether to pass 3♥, bid 3♠ or 4♠, or double 3♥.

At IMPs you gain 2 IMPs when 2♠ makes +110 and 3♥ fails, and 3 IMPs when 2♠ makes +140 and 3♥ fails. On this hand from the last round of the recent Australian Seniors Team Playoffs, 3♥ makes for +140, and 2♠ also makes for -110, so you are 6 IMPs better off by bidding 3♥.

3. **3♦**. A normal long suit game try, at least a three-card suit. You want responder to bid 4♥ with values in diamonds, or to sign off in 3♥ with an unsuitable hand.

4. **Dbl**. A penalty double, with strength in spades. You can probably take five tricks against spades, and partner has 6-10 HCP. Your partner doesn't have to pass, but your double will serve as a strong warning not to bid 3♥. If you choose to play this double as shortage in

spades that will also work: you simply pass, and pass again when partner doubles with a spade shortage.

5. **Dbl**. You would like to make a game try bid in spades, but you have no space to do so. Double here is a "Maximal Double", a general game try where there is no space to make a natural game try. It would be a mistake to simply bid 3♥, as this is competitive only, and in no way invitational. Note that if the overcall were 3♣, then 3♦ would be the only game try available, and that would also be a general game try, not relating to diamonds.

6. **Pass**. Your hand is a minimum and all defence, with honours in short suits and three cards in their suit. Those stray jacks are unlikely to help your side, but may take tricks in defence.

7. **Rdbl**. Redouble says "Partner, double them if you can". You can double spades or diamonds, so alert your partner to double clubs. Low level penalties can be a source of grief and frustration, but when you start to get the defences right they become a source of riches and joy.

Here you could easily pick up +500 by doubling them, with 4♥ not making. Plus you want your opponents to know you are prepared to double them if they step over the line, so they will be less eager in competitive auctions.

8. **3♥**. Automatic, your best chance to interfere with the opponent's lines of communication is to bid now. You can then be secure in the fact that you have made life as difficult as possible for them.

9. **3♥**. You don't have a six-card suit, but you are low on defence, and want to make life as difficult for the opposition as possible. If you pass, your LHO has a jump to 3♠ available as a strong invitation, but when you bid 3♥ the 3♠ bid is now competitive.

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE MAGAZINE has just changed hands, and Brad Coles is the new owner-editor. The magazine began in 1970 and has always been one of the best in the world.

As well as reports on top events there are regular features from David Bird, Tim Bourke, Boye Brogeland, Larry Cohen, Ron Klinger, Andrew Robson and Danny Roth. Plus there is a regular Bidding Challenge and Bidding Forum. Great value and a great read and it is a real magazine that you receive in your mailbox.

Subscription is \$59 for six issues, one year, or \$112 for two years.

Telephone 0431-118-443 or go to the *Australian Bridge* website: www.australianbridge.com

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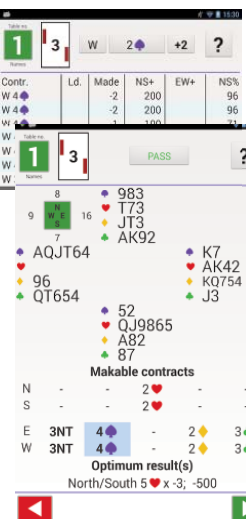
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The NTBA and ABF present

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Wednesday August 27 - Sunday 31 2014

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**ALL WITH GOLD MASTERPOINTS, CASH PRIZES
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As Darwin is very popular at this time of year - and very busy - players should be booking flights and accommodation now.

For more information visit the NTBA website www.ntba.com.au

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



For you ANOTHER GREAT MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT !

The ABF Management Committee has entered into a sponsorship agreement with **Escapes Direct**, a company which procures high-quality hotel and travel tours at unbeatable value by sourcing directly at below-market online rates.

Escapes Direct offers '**limited time only**' deals that are not only the best price available on the market at the time, but sometimes with selected add-ons (eg wi-fi, breakfast, dinners, spa treatments etc) that normally incur additional costs.

You should regularly check out the Escapes Direct website at www.escapesdirect.com.au/ to view their latest deals. Their offers cover both domestic and international destinations.

This membership benefit is in addition to the other great offers available through our National sponsorship partners, Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB), **Get Wines Direct** and **Toga Hospitality**.

The ABF is pleased to offer this program of membership benefits to members of our affiliated clubs. **Check out all the great offers under Membership Benefits** on the ABF homepage at www.abf.com.au .

Please support those who support our sport!

Happy travels !

Sandra Mulcahy
ABF National Marketing Officer



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Any enquiries about sponsorship opportunities with the ABF should be directed to Sandra Mulcahy at marketing@abf.com.au or phone **0417 920 816** .

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AUSTRALIAN TRAVEL AGENT LICENCE NUMBER TA0033134

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Why has the ABF squandered large sums of their members' money in running an Australian Team Playoff in 2014, when there is no country-representative event for the resulting team to attend?

Instead the winners will be subsidised to play in the 2nd Asia Cup in China, an event that few have heard of and even fewer are interested in.

It's an important part of the ABF's role to send bridge teams to represent our country internationally. But one year in four, no such opportunity exists. Let's instead spend that money on the rest of the membership. As for the Playoff Qualifying Points accrued in the previous 12 months, they can be accumulated for the following year's playoff.

Bill Jacobs, Melbourne

The ABF replies:

This letter gives me the opportunity to place the 2nd Asia Cup Bridge Championships in context with the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation (APBF). The forerunner of the APBF was the Far East Bridge Federation, an organisation founded in 1957 to administer bridge activities in the respective geographical area. The name was changed to Pacific Asia Bridge Federation in 1995, and further changed to APBF in 2010 when Zone 4 NBOs were admitted as associate members. The APBF has 26 member NBOs, including Australia, China and Indonesia. The Asia Cup is regarded by the APBF as a major event. The Chinese Contract Bridge Federation has confirmed the dates and venue. The venue is Jin Hua, Zhe Jiang province. Most NBOs will have representative teams, including Open, Women, Senior and Youth. Australia is proud to be a member of the APBF and is deeply appreciative of China agreeing to host the Asia Cup in 2014.

Keith Mc Donald, ABF President

Guest Table Fees

With regards to Mark and Lorraine Miller's views on guest table fees in a previous letter, an extra \$2 table fee as a guest is such a small amount when one considers the work going into the running of any bridge club. Mark and Lorraine may be travelling around Australia, but their contribution to the running of any club is zero, and yet they expect the same benefits as members. I cannot speak for other clubs, but our club is run by volunteers. Our directors are not paid and neither are any of the officers of our club, and we have over 400 members. Would Mark and Lorraine like to spend some of their travelling time helping to do some of the work needed, when they visit a bridge

club, maybe dealing boards, cleaning the windows, sweeping the lobby, checking that the bidding boxes are in order - the list is endless. If I was able to travel around Australia I would be more than happy to pay extra just for the opportunity to be able to play. Bridge is such a cheap hobby compared to many other sports - try guesting at a golf club!

David Cowell

Women in bridge

I am pleased to announce that the ABF has made a grant to the Women's Committee Fund to honour the contribution of Norma Borin to bridge in Australia. An allocation of \$10,000 will give the Fund a boost that will hopefully be added to by donations from members. Norma Borin was chosen from a very impressive list of women who have made significant contributions to Australian bridge - Brenda Jones, Mary Mc Mahon, Ivy Dahler, Lidia Beech, Cecile Miles, Margaret Choate, to name a few. I will ask the ABF Historian, Keith Ogborn, to prioritise a biography on Norma for publication on our website. Keith would be delighted to receive any material on the life and career of Norma Borin.

The three important objectives of the Federation's Women's Committee are to:

1. Help women who wish to compete in national and international championships, giving them the opportunity to train.
2. Provide a social atmosphere at bridge events.
3. Promote in general "Women's Bridge".

Donations can be sent to the Secretariat, PO Box 397, Fyshwick ACT 2609. If the Committee is to be effective, it needs donations. Please assist.

Keith Mc Donald, ABF President.

ABF Marketing 'Special Projects' Grant

Allison Stralow presented a cheque for funding under the grant program to Brian Morgan of the Victorian Bridge Association.



The VBA will be focussing on building the skills of bridge teachers throughout the state and on an innovative 'crash course' beginners and intermediate program around the state, particularly in regional areas where player and session numbers make it difficult to support traditional teaching and supervised programs.

All activities associated with the grant funding will be evaluated, and lessons will be shared with all ABF affiliated clubs via an issue of the ABF Marketing Update to club administrators.



Check out the ABF website at www.abf.com.au – look under **Teaching & Learning**. There you will find a wealth of information and material to assist players, teachers, Clubs and congress organisers.



1. **What is Bridge?**
 - History
 - Getting started (**4 videos**)
 - Ethics and Etiquette



2. **Improve your Bridge**
 - Bidding/play/defence
 - Tactics



3. **For teachers**
 - Teachers' Tips
 - Teacher Training Programs
 - Teacher Resources
 - Club Resources
 - ABF Teachers' Accreditation Program
 - Gallery



4. **For congress organisers**
 - Celebrity Speaker Notes
 - Celebrity Speaker Panel

If you click on the **New to Bridge?** Section on the home page you will find **4** compelling video lessons to get people started on their journey into the world's greatest card game. **Joan Butts**, the ABF National Teaching Coordinator, gives 4 in-depth **Introduction to Bridge** lessons.

These four videos constitute a short beginner's course and can be used during or after each of the first four lessons. Address any queries about **Teaching & Learning** to Joan Butts at teaching@abf.com.au .

COFFS COAST GOLD CONGRESS 2014

Hosted by the Coffs Harbour Bridge Club in conjunction with the ABF




12-17 August 2014 - Venue Opal Cove

To register on line for this congress or book accommodation please visit:

www.coffsbridge.com.au and follow congress link.

Entries: Ian Doland ph 02 6654 1104 email: ian@australiawideconferences.com.au

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club: ph 02 6652 3951  coffsbridge@gmail.com

Programme of Events

Tues 12 th Aug	6pm 7pm	Welcome pairs Cocktail Party Welcome Walk in Pairs
Wed 13 th Aug	10am 2.30pm	Butler Swiss Pairs Butler Swiss Pairs
Thu 14 th Aug	10am 2.30pm	Butler Swiss Pairs Butler Swiss Pairs
Fri 15 th Aug	2.30pm	Swiss Teams
Sat 16 th Aug	10am 2.30pm	Swiss Teams Swiss Teams
Sun 17 th Aug	10am	Swiss Teams

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