

# ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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## Australia's first Emerald Master

A milestone once thought to be insurmountable was achieved in September, when Bobby Richman passed the 10,000 Masterpoint barrier, having amassed 10,002.72 Masterpoints as at September 8, 2009 (now 10,031.74).

At one stage it was thought that the late Tim Seres' huge lifetime Masterpoint tally of 8,370.48 would never be broken, but time marches on, and records tumble.

Bobby first came to bridge prominence in the 1970s in Melbourne. He became a bridge professional before that line of work was fashionable. His style, then and now, is to bid a lot, then in the card play he has the ability to visualise the only card to make or break a contract.

He recently played in the Australian Seniors' Team in the d'Orsi Cup - the world championship seniors' event - in Brazil with George Gaspar. Last year, Bobby played in the Australian Open Team with Peter Gill, and in 2008 Bobby also won the PABF Seniors' Teams with George Gaspar.

In 2005 and 2007, he played in the Australian Open Team with Zolly Nagy, winning bronze and silver medals at the Pacific Asia Championships.

His biggest success representing Australia was third in the 1979 World Championships behind the Italians and Ameri-

cans - as high as Australia has ever come. Bobby doesn't earn Masterpoints for overseas representation, however - that comes from success at home.

Most of his Masterpoints come from the ABF's major events. We believe Bobby is the only person to have won every major open event in Australia at least once.

If our research is correct, he has won most of our majors exactly four times, and some of his achievements can be found in the pane below.



### TRACK RECORD

*National Open Teams:* 1975, 1976, 1977, 1991

*Grand National Open Teams:* 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008

*Spring National Open Teams:* 1989, 1998, 2004, 2008

*Autumn National Open Teams,* 1994, 1995, 1996, 2005

*Interstate Teams:* 1976, 1978, 1979, 1985

*Other national wins include:*

*Gold Coast Teams, nine times:* 1976, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1997

*Gold Coast Pairs, seven times:* 1981, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1998

*Open Butler:* 1982

*National Individual:* 1977

*National Open Pairs, six times:* 1980, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1991, 1995

*Victor Champion Cup, six times:* 1982, 1985, 1986, 1992, 1994, 2002

*Dick Cummings Pairs,* 2004

*Australian Swiss Pairs,* Tasmania: 1995

One of Bobby's purple patches came in spring last year.

In September, he won the Pacific Asia Seniors' Teams at the Gold Coast. His team won the semi-final from New Zealand by 123 IMPs, then the Grand Final from Thailand by 88 IMPs.

In October, at the Spring National Open Teams, his team won the event after his opponents conceded the semi final when 115 IMPs behind.

In October, at the Spring Nationals Seniors' Teams: he won again, the opponents conceding the Grand Final when down 88 IMPs.

In November, at the Grand National Open Teams, he notched up yet another win, with the opponents conceding the Grand Final, down 96 IMPs. Incredible!

Summarising, in the three major events, his defeated opponents in finals matches didn't even complete the last 16 boards.

We include a hand which is typical of Bobby's style, from the 2008 NSW State Teams Finals:

Board 2

Dealer: East

Vul: NS

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

West	North	East	South
Peake	Richman	Neill	George
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This hand typifies the Richman approach to bridge. Once an opponent opens, placing the opponents' high cards should be easier, so Bobby now needs only about 23 points for a vulnerable game. Hence the decision to push with 2♦, instead of a mild 2♠ response to his partner's double.

With unappetising lead choices, Bruce Neill found the dynamic lead of ♣K, Andrew Peake playing ♣4, low encourage, then ♣10 to Peake's ♣J.

In some games, declarer might misplace ♣Q, thinking that the opening leader has it, after the ♣K opening lead. Not Bobby. If Bruce Neill had ♣KQ10x, he wouldn't make an error by squandering ♣10 needlessly at trick 2. Therefore, Bobby knew that Peake had ♣Q.

Peake switched to a diamond to the king, followed by a heart to ♥10 and West's ♥Q.

Another diamond went to the jack, and Bobby rectified the count for the impending major suit squeeze by cashing ♣A and the 13th club, then ♠Q to the ace, followed by the two top diamonds.

Neill had to resign, squeezed in hearts and spades. A neat 600 for a 10 IMP gain when Paul Gosney, North at the other table, played in 2♠ making three.

You will find another Richman hand in David Hoffman's article on the Seniors in São Paulo.

*Ed: The last page and a half covers the bridge side of the man. But those privileged enough to spend time with Bob, know and love his quirky, comedic side. Bob is a master raconteur, jokester, and has provided more one-liners than Rodney Dangerfield. I have twisted the arms and legs of the woman in Bob's life to get him to retell a story I know and love. And now it will be yours . . .*

"Bob turns up at Sydney airport with Hugh Grosvenor ready to fly to Rotorua (via Auckland) to play the next day in the New Zealand Pairs.

Everyone get through check-in, except Bob, who is told his passport is out of date. He throws himself at the mercy of the American Consulate, who break all records and give him a viable passport. Bob is now on a later plane to Auckland.

*Sans camarades*, on arrival, he is forced to hire his own little rental car, with its own little map: Down State Highway One to Hamilton, then left at Highway Five to Rotorua, the scene of New Zealand's equivalent to the ANC for many years, until it moved to Hamilton and became the Smokefree Congress.

Yes, it is getting close to nightfall, and yes, he is a little tired at this point, so to simplify things, he finds a nice big transport to follow, and the trip proceeds smoothly.

The occasional flashing red light starts appearing to the right and left, slightly ahead of his car (remember his vision is obscured a bit by the cruising transport in front).

In a demonstration of true perspective, they seem to be growing closer together in the dark night sky.

Though concerned by this, Bob follows the judgement provided by the truck. The truck accelerates. Bob does the same, and the truck nimbly crosses the railway line.

Bob, on the other hand, accompanied by whistles screaming, has had the closest quarter-inch shave of his life. He pulls up by the side of the road, vowing never to drive again, anywhere, ever; until 45 minutes later, it becomes clear that he is still miles from his tournament. It is now nearly midnight and he will have to solve the impasse by himself.

Setting off again, he hits Hamilton. Excellent! Something to eat and press on to Rotorua!

At that time of night, Kiwi restaurants are slightly limited: the first seems totally full of rival Maori gangs, splendidly decorated in tatts and leathers, awaiting the next bit of amusement for the night.

Press on: across the road; a humble hamburger shop. Walking in, and waiting for his order, he asks the fatal and unnecessary question: "Can you tell me where the turnoff to Rotorua is?" Three of the four callous youths who hang out at hamburger joints at that time of night, follow him out, get in the back seat of his little rental jalopy, in order to - what?

Bob is well-known for a number of attributes. Have you heard about how loud his voice is, when he worked on the floor of the Sydney Futures Exchange? He puts it to good use. In the bassest of voices he yells "Get the ^%&\$ out of my car!!!!"

They do, taking something of great value with them. As the first youth gets out of the car, he grabs both hamburgers and yells, "Pop, you sure as Hell don't need these!"

At 2.30am, guess who arrives in Rotorua? Hugh is there to greet our hero, and yes, there is a happy ending to the tournament."

We finish with a typical Richman quote, which originates from Alex Goldstein, circa 1971. Alex is an extremely talented rubber bridge player (typical of central Europe), who offered it in a moment of exasperation after one of his early less than ideal misdefences: (*Remember the Yiddish accent when you read it to yourself*):

"Each day you play worse und worse; but today you play like the day after tomorrow."



### Copy Deadline

for Issue No 141, January 2010, the deadline is:

**December 26, 2009**

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 142, March 2009, at the discretion of the Editor

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



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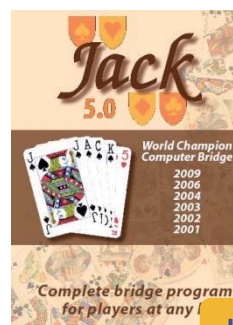


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## Vale Wally Scott

**M**uch-loved and respected Victorian identity Wally Scott passed away on Sunday, August 9, after a long illness. Wally was 68.



He represented Australia in the winning Far East team in 1968, and also in 1969. He captained our Bermuda Bowl team in 1999.

Wally won the National Open Teams in 1979 and 1980, the Interstate Open Teams in 1972 and 1986, the Victor Champion Cup in 1983 and 1991, the Gold Coast Teams in 1968, 1970, 1971, 1981, 1983, 1986, the Interstate Open Pairs in 1986 and the Gold Coast Pairs in 1975.

He represented and captained numerous Victorian Open Interstate Teams from 1970 to 2006.

Wally was always a model of etiquette at the table, He had a de-facto mentoring role for an entire generation of bridge players in Victoria.

### *Ben Thompson remembers Wally:*

“Wally was a giant of Victorian bridge. He won 14 national titles, but more impressive to me is that he is one of just eight Australians to have won the PABF (formerly known as the Far East), the tough pan-Asian qualifier for the World Championships. Even more impressive is that Wally won it at the tender age of just 26 (in 1968).

I was very fortunate as a young player, to play on teams with Wally for about five years in the late 1980s and early 1990s. At the start, I was very much the model of a modern youth player, full of the vivid imagination and energetic style that could generate -1400 as easily as +1400.

I learned a lot from Wally, but the most important thing I learnt was how to manage myself at the table. This encompassed how to manage my time, energy, thoughts, and choices. If you say it quickly, it sounds simple, but it's extremely hard and incredibly important.

In the 1991 Victor Champion Cup, Wally was in the form that took him to the top of the game in Australia. He led from the front in the Final, as we jumped to a 76 - 15 IMP lead at the half, and cruised home, holding our margin.

Here is Wally in action in the second quarter of the final, showing the clarity of thought and style that, for me, characterised his game:

*Dealer: West*

*Vul: EW*

♠ 8 6 5 2

♥ Q 9 3

♦ 10

♣ A Q 9 8 4

♠ A J 7

♥ ---

♦ A Q 9 8 7 6 4

♣ J 5 3

♠ K Q 4 3

♥ J 8 4 2

♦ K 3 2

♣ 10 7

♠ 10 9

♥ A K 10 7 6 5

♦ J 5

♣ K 6 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	<i>Hinge</i>		<i>Scott</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Dbl	All Pass

Wally patiently waited for EW to tell him about their shape and strength, and then calmly (as always) balanced into their suit.

Simon Hinge knew Wally was bidding hearts for real, and confidently raised to game. East's double, not to put too fine a point on it, was poor. West tried, reasonably enough, to give East a diamond overruff at trick two, and Wally made 12 tricks for a very solid +790.

In the other room, Wally's teammates played 3♦ in an uncontested auction and scored +150 for 14 IMPs.”

*Courtesy Ben Thompson and the VBA Bulletin*



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# 39th WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

39th Bermuda Bowl  
17th Venice Cup  
5th E. d'Orsi Senior Bowl  
7th Transnational Open Teams

São Paulo, Brazil  
29 August - 12 September 2009

The Australian Seniors' Team for the d'Orsi Senior Bowl in São Paulo was Andy Braithwaite - Bill Haughie, George Gaspar - Bobby Richman, David Hoffman - Ron Klinger, with Ishmael Del'Monte non-playing captain.

Before the event started, the general feeling was that the senior team had the best Australian chance of qualifying for the last eight. However, my own appraisal highlighted eight other obvious contenders, to which needed to be added a number of other teams which were fielding unfamiliar members.

My flight to Buenos Aires included seven Australian representatives. For those continuing direct to São Paulo, it was reassuring to be met at the airport by a welcoming desk, who organized transport to the venue. However the 90 minute taxi ride to the hotel was hard graft at the end of 24 hours of travel.

After a day settling in, followed by a tour of the city (not a tourist mecca), then a practice match, the event started with the Opening Ceremony. It included 90 minutes of Brazilian variety acts, very enjoyable except for the jokes in Portuguese.

The team started badly, with a 6-24 loss to Poland (one of my picks, and eventually the losing finalist). Over the next 11 matches, the team clawed its way back within striking distance, but continually gave away unnecessary IMPs when in a strong position. That night our captain read the riot act. The effect was that the next day, against three top-placed teams, Australia improved three places.

The first match on the penultimate day was against Indonesia, lying eighth. A 20-10 win moved us to a position where we were only 6 VPs off qualifying. However, a 3-25 loss to England (leading, and the eventual winners) in the next round extinguished our aspirations.

All that was left was to achieve a 25-3 win against New Zealand.

Now for a few hands of interest. In third seat, after two passes, Bobby Richman held ♠108752, ♥10932, ♦1064, ♣9 and opened the obvious 1♠. Two bids later, the opponents were in 3NT (cold for 11 tricks, and cold for a club slam).

George Gaspar, West, holding ♠43, ♥Q863, ♦KQ93, ♣Q103, doubled. North ran to 4♦, but South corrected to 4NT. Again George doubled. North ran to 5♦, which George doubled again for 500 to Australia.

Then came this deal:

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

Against 3NT by North, Bill Haughie led ♥10. Declarer won, cashed a second heart, then exited with ♣3. Haughie won, exiting with a spade to Andrew Braithwaite's ♠10 and North's ♠K.

North now led ♣Q, which Braithwaite ducked, losing a trick, but depriving North of an entry to dummy.

North cashed two more clubs. At this stage, North could make by exiting with ♦9. However, he cashed ♦A before exiting with ♦9, Braithwaite winning with ♦K.

Braithwaite could now defeat the contract by cashing ♠A before exiting with a diamond. His actual diamond exit gave North the opportunity to make the contract by inserting ♦J. North played low, giving Haughie the opportunity (not taken) to defeat the contract

## THE ROAD TO BRAZIL

This was the fifth time Brazil has hosted the World Championships. 2009 saw the launching of the d'Orsi Trophy for Seniors, named after the President of the South American Zone, Ernesto d'Orsi, pictured at right.

Previously:

- 1969 - Rio de Janeiro
- 1973 - Guarujá
- 1979 - Rio de Janeiro
- 1985 - São Paulo

The Championships, nowadays a big event, has 66 participating teams (22 in each of the three parallel main events: the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup and the Ernesto d'Orsi Trophy. The Transnational Open Team is played in the second week of the tournament.

Presently, the Confederación Sudamericana de Bridge, which consists of 10 member countries, organises, in odd-numbered years, the Zonal South American Championships for Open, Women, Junior, and Senior Teams, and in even-numbered years a festival with more than 40 teams and 120 pairs participating.





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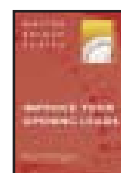
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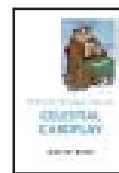
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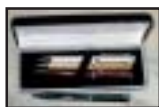


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by winning with ♦Q (sacrificing another trick), and exiting with ♦10. A case of wasted opportunities by everybody but dummy!

On a significant number of occasions our opponents bid bad slams that made.

As an example, with:

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

Ron Klinger and I bid to 4♥. After a club lead, two rounds of hearts confirmed no loser. Then ♦A,K and another brought no joy. ♣K and another produced no joy, so 11 tricks were made.

In the other room, the opponents bid to slam. Richman led a spade, reducing the chance of making to about 13%. However, ♦QJ were onside, so we lost 13 IMPs.

How did we do against my eight picks (six making the quarter finals). Three small wins, three small losses, and two big losses, just not good enough.

The only highlight was our captain, Ishmael Del' Monte, who by the fourth day was accurately picking who and where our opponents would sit, overcoming the blind seating employed in World Bridge Federation events. To him belongs the greatest disappointment, for below par performances by all three pairs.

*David Hoffman*

The headlines at the end of the championships read:

***USA Recaptures Bermuda Bowl  
Zimmermann Wins Transnational***

The team captained by Nick Nickell stormed back from a 57-1 shellacking in the second set against Italy, built a big lead then turned back every challenge by their opponents to win the most coveted prize in bridge, the Bermuda Bowl. The final score was 285.33-249.

Even after winning the penultimate set 54-26, Italy needed a big showing over the final 16 deals to take back the title they have won so many times over the years. Italy made some gains against the Americans, but the set ended virtually even, 28-24 to Italy.

The victorious USA2 squad includes two first-time winners: Zia Mahmood and Ralph Katz. Nick Nickell, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell all have multiple wins in the event, including four times as teammates.



*Bermuda Bowl champions, USAII  
Bob Hamman, Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood,  
Jeff Meckstroth, Nick Nickell, Eric Rodwell,*

The silver medallists were Italy, Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Antonio Sementa and Giorgio Duboin.

Two teams taking different routes to their respective championships became gold medal winners on Friday as China Long Zhu captured the Venice Cup and England won the d'Orsi Seniors' Bowl.



*Venice Cup champions, China Long Zhu  
Yongling Dong, Yi Qian Liu, Ming Sun, Hongli Wang,  
Wenfei Wang, Ru Yan, Chuancheng Ju (npc),  
Ya Fu Lin (coach)*



*d'Orsi Seniors Bowl champions, England  
Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg, Ross Harper, John  
Holland, David Price, Colin Simpson, Peter Baxter (npc)*



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## What do you bid?

**T**his issue we include two submissions. The best for July came from Tony Treloar:

*North deals, nil vulnerable, pairs.*

The South hand was:

♠5, ♥Q72, ♦QJ10984, ♣Q65

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	1♣	Pass	1♦
	Pass	2♠	?

**Comments:** We play Standard. Partner's pass says he doesn't like 1NT, for some reason. The bidding marks him with spade length, which might make it difficult for him to balance. Would 3♦ here suggest extras, or is it purely competitive? I think the six-card suit and spade shortage makes bidding mandatory at the vulnerability, as long as it doesn't force partner to bid again. What are your thoughts?

**Sartaj's reply:**

Hi Tony,

Nil vulnerable at pairs normally reaps a reward for being declarer. I'd opt for 3♦. This should be a non-forcing, competitive-type bid. All forcing hands should start with a double (that is the agreement I have with Tony Nunn).

**Tony continues:** In this sequence, is it sensible to play 2NT as Lebensohl? Now I can bid 3♦ non-forcing. Is a natural 2NT too much to give up when spades have been overcalled and raised? Your thoughts?

**Sartaj's reply:** It's quite reasonable to play 2NT in this situation as an artificial manoeuvre. In fact, I think Ron Klinger plays that treatment in his recent partnerships. Giving up on a natural 2NT is no big deal, as long as the partnership can make better use of the bid in other competitive domains.

**T**he best August submission came from Maura Rhodes of Western Australia.

*West deals, all vulnerable, pairs*

The West hand was:

♠75, ♥KQ432, ♦KJ953, ♣K

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♥	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

1. Jacoby

**Comments:** Partner said I shouldn't have rebid 4♦ as I wasn't strong enough, but we had been

taught that a four-level rebid after the Jacoby 2NT merely shows 5-5 in the two suits, nothing about strength.

What do you recommend, please, Sartaj?

**Sartaj's Reply:**

Hi Maura,

You are correct in stating that a bid at the four-level does not promise extra strength. It does, however, promise two good suits. AQ to five and KQ10 to five would be enough in my partnership.

Your hand does not quite make the cut, because the singleton club king may not be worth much, and your two red suits are not that strong.

As you have a number of choices as opener when rebidding after Jacoby, I would go for 3♣ on this hand, showing shortage.

**Thanks to you both, Sartaj**

*Ed: To clarify for those not used to the Jacoby 2NT over one of a major; the bid normally promises 16+ HCP, and a primary fit. Opener has a number of choices, which include a retreat to game in the major with a poor hand, a jump to four of a different suit to show a source of tricks, and rebidding a new suit at the three-level to show a shortage there.*

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## Letter to the Editor

A year or two ago, I sent a 10 point plan to the ABF, regarding getting the best of promotions for the clubs. As Publicity Officer in Western Australia, I recommended this move to all the state's clubs, 33 of them, in all. Less than half took up the suggestion.

The idea was to coordinate major publicity across Australia, so that we received major coverage in advertising. I would love to be able to advertise in our major Perth newspaper, but consider the cost - \$10,000 in black and white, \$15,000 in colour - and that price depends on the day and position of the advertisement in the newspaper.

For the life of me, I cannot see why the government isn't supporting bridge as a major mind sport and recreation. The Members of Parliament in Western Australia appear to be blind to the benefits bridge offers. It seems that you need to kick a ball, run a marathon, or win at cricket, to get any acknowledgement at all.

In Western Australia, I cannot obtain a major sponsor, as our sport isn't active enough, nor is it tax-deductible (be it government or corporate office).

Yet small victories have been won. BAWA recently had six laptops given to us. They were pre-used, but had been cleaned up by a computer techno corporation. It was a first for Western Australia, and we were very grateful to BHP Billiton for their sponsorship. The monies raised went to youth bridge in Western Australia. Our bridge shopping bag incentive has raised \$2,000 for youth bridge. Please note that we would love some assistance in selling the 1,000 bags we still have available.

In the USA, big business supports bridge. In Australia, Queensland has good rapport with the government re bridge, yet the rest of the states and territories are treated like poor relations. Major changes are needed.

My next project is to set up a petition, to send to all Western Australian clubs, asking for their firm support, to raise signatures and get their petitions presented to their Members of Parliament, so that the government *has to take note*.

I have attended several seminars, through COTA,(Council on the Ageing). The management there is more than happy to include bridge in their promotions. So at least we are getting the

message out to the retirees. Yet this does nothing towards attracting youth players.

I have sent letters to the Minister of Education and the Prime Minister, requesting support. The replies received were in the positive, yet when one approaches schools, the principals consider bridge to be gambling. The funniest incident occurred when I was networking with a Recreation Officer, and was told that she was taught to play poker - in her mathematics class, yet at the same college, bridge was considered an unsavoury pastime. Amazing!

There must be someone or some organisation out there who could allocate major funds to support our promotions. If USA has Bill Gates, why shouldn't Australia have a major sponsor? Seems times are tough at the top.

But no matter what - this does not dampen my spirits: I, like MacArthur, will return.

As a further thought for the ABF, I include the following suggestion:

I would like the ABF Management Committee to consider giving medals to 1st 2nd and 3rd placings, in the Gold Point events and PQPs.

Bridge is trying to gain recognition as A Mind Sport in the Olympics, therefore we should also give gold, silver and bronze medals for those achievers in the first three placings, as happens in Olympic competition.

*Di Brooks, Publicity Officer, BAWA*

### John Hardy

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## Grand National Pairs Final

### *Time and place*

The National Final of the 2009 GNP will be played on Saturday and Sunday, 16-17 January, 2010. It will be staged in the Exhibition Hall of the National Convention Centre, Constitution Avenue, Canberra. Participants may register at the (Summer Festival) desk in the lobby of the Convention Centre - and pick up their name tags and satchels - from 9.00 am on the Saturday.

There will be two sessions each day - at 9.30 am and 2.30 pm. Prizegiving and hospitality will be follow close of play (approximately 6.00 pm) on the Sunday.

### *Format*

The field for the 2009 GNP National Final will comprise 120 pairs from 36 regions Australia-wide. Play will comprise four 30-board sessions. Pairs will be seeded into four North-South fields and four East-West fields. Over the four sessions, pairs in the North-South fields will play one round against every pair in the East-West fields. Each round will comprise two boards.

Following the 2008 GNP National Final, the Tournament Organisers received some submissions requesting three-board instead of two-board rounds. The submissions were considered at length, but were rejected for two reasons - one technical, and the other social. Firstly, in order to obtain the most meaningful result possible, it is desirable that each pair meet as many other pairs as is feasible. (Two-board rounds allows each pair to meet 60 other pairs, whereas three-board rounds allow each pair to meet only 40 other pairs). Secondly, the Australia-wide aspect of the GNP makes it highly desirable that each player meets and competes against as many other players from around the nation as possible.

### *Travel subsidy*

Pairs who qualify for the National Final will receive a travel subsidy from the ABF. The subsidy will be sufficient to meet the cost of travel from the location of one's *home club* to Canberra and return. The subsidy will be paid by cheque on Saturday afternoon, 16 January, 2010.

### *d. Wild cards*

It is almost inevitable that some regions will not



fill their quota of pairs. In this circumstance, the GNP Tournament Organisers may fill the field by invitation to "wild-card" pairs.

The definition of a wild-card pair is one who has played in a Regional Final of the 2009 GNP, but has been unsuccessful in winning selection to represent its region. Such pairs may apply to the National Coordinators to be considered as wild cards. Wild card entrants to the National Final will only be accepted on the understanding that they will receive no travel subsidy.

The top 10 from the final in January were:

1. Michele Tredinnick - Michael Hannigan
2. Marise Allen - Mary Hiscox
3. Mike Fox - Yolanda Carter
4. Peter Kieran - Janet Kieran
5. Tammy Schwarz - Alan Schwarz
6. Patrick Neary - John Scotford
7. Richard Lawrie - Gordon Collis
8. Trish O'Keeffe - Michael Burt
9. James Simpson - Warren Easley
10. Andrew Milne - Terence Palmer

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## Australia in São Paulo

Much better authors than I have written up the bidding, play and defensive triumphs and failures of the players during the recent World Bridge Championships, so I would like to do some minor statistical analyses of Australia's performance in that tournament.

Having captained and managed teams in the international arena over a number of years, I continue to be amazed how we can send seemingly competitive teams to international events, only to come away with very ordinary results.

Don't get me wrong, I don't expect Australia to win a World Championship, but we seem to finish in the middle of the field, or worse, much more than I would expect, while other seemingly weaker countries seem to outperform us.

This article will not answer this question, merely analyse another disappointing performance.

I certainly don't have any answers, but in discussions with some of my non-Australian bridge friends, it has been suggested that our lack of success can in part be attributed to any of the following:

- *a poor bridge gene pool, suffering from many years of 'inbreeding';*
- *the aggressive style of bridge played in this part of the world;*
- *lack of focus on partnership and its importance in achieving results;*
- *lack of readily available international bridge experience;*
- *the arrogance of some of the top players as to where their abilities sit within the international scene;*
- *issues surrounding the long travel requirements involved in attending championships;*
- *lack of match fitness leading up to World Championships;*
- *inability to build up esprit-de-corps due to geographical constraints;*
- *the disruptive nature of the strong client/professional scene in Australia.*

I think most would agree that the Open Team for São Paulo, Arjuna de Livera - Ian Robinson, Ian Thomson - Richard Brightling and David Appleton - Peter Reynolds, was not the strongest team that Australia could field, but give them credit: they did win the playoffs, and members of the team have figured prominently in the latter stages and finals of most events in Australia during the past few years.

The teams qualification methods and the often inclusion of sponsors in the playoffs does not always result in our best players competing in the same team, let alone winning the playoffs.

Here is the sad tale of yet another ordinary participation in the recent World Championships held in São Paulo, Brazil:

### Where Did We Finish?

Final Rankings Open			Final Rankings Women		
PI	Team	VPs	PI	Team	VPs
1	Italy	390.25	1	China Women	411.00
2	Norway	385.25	2	France	389.00
3	Bulgaria	382.00	3	USA 1	377.50
4	USA 2	368.00	4	USA 2	354.00
5	Netherlands	361.00	5	Italy	348.00
6	Germany	360.00	6	Germany	347.75
7	Russia	359.00	7	Spain	345.00
8	China Open	358.00	8	Sweden	333.00
9	Argentina	346.00	9	Denmark	331.00
10	Japan	330.00	10	Indonesia	328.00
11	Chinese Taipei	328.00	11	Argentina	320.50
12	USA 1	301.50	12	Australia	314.00
13	Chile	298.00	13	Egypt	304.00
14	India	296.00	14	New Zealand	303.00
15	New Zealand	294.00	15	Canada Mp Press	301.00
16	Egypt	288.00	16	Japan	296.00
17	Brazil	283.00	17	Jordan	291.50
18	Australia	276.00	18	Brazil	275.50
19	Pakistan	232.50	19	Venezuela	247.75
20	Morocco	225.00	20	Pakistan	247.00
21	Mexico	183.50	21	Morocco	230.00
22	Guadeloupe	172.50	22	Barbados	165.50

Final Rankings Seniors		
PI	Team	VPs
1	England	402.00
2	Belgium	378.50
3	Poland	371.00
4	USA 1	365.00
5	USA 2	361.00
6	Egypt	352.00
7	Sweden	344.00
8	Indonesia	341.50
9	Japan	340.00
10	Italy	330.00
11	Canada	323.00
12	Turkey	313.00
13	Australia	310.00
14	India	302.50
15	Argentina	299.00
16	Pakistan	284.00
17	Brazil	277.00
18	South Africa	266.00
19	Barbados	244.00
20	New Zealand	241.50
21	Uruguay	226.00
22	Venezuela	175.00



**Australia: 18th in the Bermuda Bowl**

**12th in the Venice Cup**

**13th in the d'Orsi Cup**

This is not a pretty picture, with all three teams finishing in the lower half of their respective fields. Here is a question – should we expect better?

### Results against each third of the field

One of the statistics that I like to examine is, how the teams fare against their opponents, based on the opponents' finishing positions:

Open - Average VPs Versus		Women's - Average VPs Versus	
Top Third of the Field	12.4	Top Third of the Field	13.7
Middle Third of the Field	10.9	Middle Third of the Field	12.9
Bottom Third of the Field	16.1	Bottom Third of the Field	18.3

Senior - Average VPs Versus	
Top Third of the Field	10.0
Middle Third of the Field	14.7
Bottom Third of the Field	19.6

*We cannot maximise our results*

I think this table says a lot about my experiences with international teams. In general terms, we can perform reasonably against the better teams, but simply cannot maximise our results against the middle and lower teams. Look at both the Open and Women's, where the teams scored less against the middle third of the field than they did against the top third. Does this mean that we take the lower two thirds of the field too much for granted – as I said, no answers, just questions?

### How did each pair perform?

IMPS Per Board - Open		IMPS Per Board Women	
De Livera – Robinson	+0.08	Lusk – Tully	+0.30
Appleton – Reynolds	-0.32	Beale – Smart	-0.25
Thomson – Brightling	-0.68	Clarke – Fuller	-0.48

IMPS Per Board Seniors	
Klinger – Hoffman	+0.12
Richman – Gaspar	-0.26
Haughie – Braithwaite	-0.41

Ian Robinson



To give you some idea of what is required to qualify in the top eight; if each pair averages a datum of 4 IMPs per match, or 0.25 IMPs per board, your team would come very close to qualifying. Only one pair out of the nine competing managed this. Butler scores can be deceptive, based on who played the more difficult matches so to be fair:

Average Finishing Position of Teams Played - Open			Average Finishing Position of Teams Played - Women		
	Play	Str		Play	Str
De Livera – Robinson	14	11.4	Lusk – Tully	17	11.1
Appleton – Reynolds	14	11.2	Beale – Smart	14	11.8
Thomson – Brightling	14	10.9	Clarke – Fuller	11	11.6

Average Finishing Position of Teams Played - Seniors		
	Play	Str
Klinger – Hoffman	15	9.9
Richman – Gaspar	12	13.5
Haughie – Braithwaite	15	11.3

*a datum of 4 JMPs per match or 0.25 per board*

The captains, seemingly, could have made more use of the better performing pairs against the better finishing, and presumably more favoured, teams. In the Open, for example, the best performing pair was not played against the teams, easily predictable, finishing first, second and fifth. In the Women's and Seniors', however, the leading pair was utilised against each of the teams finishing in the first seven places.

This is certainly a winning strategy; to play your better pairs against the better teams. The Women's Captain very reasonably played Lusk - Tully a total of 17 of the 21 matches, and in each of the last eight matches which, with only 48 boards a day, was not in any way unreasonable.

This does, however, raise a wider issue, about playing in rotation, and how long is it reasonable for a pair to be benched, in an effort to achieve the objective of doing well in the tournament. My general strategy has been rotation during the first two days, and anything goes thereafter. The problem here, however, is that pairs occupying the bench for unreasonably long times suffer psychologically, and when called to duty, can perform quite poorly. I will leave this debate to others.

### Results as the tournament progressed

Results For Each 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> Tournament Open			Results For Each 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> Tournament Women's		
	VPs	Str		VPs	Str
Matches 1-7	87	10	Matches 1-7	82	10
Matches 8-14	96	15	Matches 8-14	114	12
Matches 15-21	93	7	Matches 15-21	118	11

Results For Each 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> Tournament Seniors		
	VPs	Str
Matches 1-7	102	10
Matches 8-14	106	13
Matches 15-21	102	10

*they do not recognise the need for physical fitness*

One of the criticisms levelled at Australian international teams, is that they do not recognise the need for physical fitness, arriving well before the tournament to avoid jet lag, and believing that the tournament relies solely on bridge ability. The table above examines how the team fared as the tournament progressed.

The Open Team seems to have improved as the tournament progressed, with a very tough last seven matches, playing 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> during six of the last seven matches.

The Women's Team started very poorly, and were certainly hitting top gear towards the end of the tournament, while the Seniors' Team performance seemed reasonably consistent, with a lesser performance in the middle third.

**Results morning, mid-afternoon and late afternoon matches**

VP Score By Time of Day Played Open			VP Score By Time of Day Played Women		
	Str			Str	
Morning Match	11	12.3	Morning Match	14	15.4
Mid Afternoon Match	15	17.3	Mid Afternoon Match	8	14.6
Late Afternoon Match	8	9.9	Late Afternoon Match	11	14.8

VP Score By Time of Day Played Seniors		
	Str	
Morning Match	7	12.4
Mid Afternoon Match	14	16.0
Late Afternoon Match	13	15.9

**it shows the need to focus, no matter when the matches are scheduled**

Strength indicates the average finishing position of the teams played during those sessions. So, for example, it is understandable that the Open Team may score poorly in the late afternoon matches, considering they played most of the stronger teams during these sessions. On the other hand, however, it does show the need to focus, no matter when the matches are scheduled.

**Results During Each Quarter Of The Match**

All matches started with Board 1, and played all boards in consecutive order.

IMPS Per Four Board Open		IMPS Per Four Board Women	
Boards 1-4	-1.62	Boards 1-4	-0.33
Boards 5-8	-0.48	Boards 5-8	-2.29
Boards 9-12	-1.05	Boards 9-12	3.00
Boards 13-16	-6.52	Boards 13-16	-0.86

IMPS Per Four Boards Seniors	
Boards 1-4	1.29
Boards 5-8	1.86
Boards 9-12	-0.62
Boards 13-16	-1.29

**Both suffered late match losses**

The Open and Seniors' Teams both suffered late match losses, with the last four boards being their worst, while the Women's statistic says little in this area.

For all of this statistical analysis to be more meaningful, it would be appropriate to examine the standard deviations of the results, to see how wide the swings were, away from the averages. But having very tired fingers at this point, I will allow better minds than mine to examine this aspect further.

While there may be little interest in how we perform in World Championships at a grass roots level, we cannot ignore the fact that the ABF commits between \$150,000 and \$250,000 every year to international representation, and should have some expectation of greater success *from time to time*.

Finally, why write an article of this type? Because we cannot continue to believe that we are a competitive bridge-playing country, while we continue to bring back such mediocre results. I certainly invite any meaningful discussion on this subject, in the hope that such discussion may lead to the achievement of a better outcome for our overseas participation.

*David Stern*



Nationwide Pairs, October 18. Full results on [bridgeunlimited.com](http://bridgeunlimited.com)

If your name does not appear here, why not?

Place	Players	Club	Score	Percentage
1	Mangos, Mahableshwarwalla	Kiama & District Bridge Club	4678.150	73.834
2	Davy, Haworth	Rye Beach Bridge Club	4603.172	72.651
3	Kuiper, Johnston	South Gippsland Bridge Club	4497.902	70.990
4	Banks, Lee	Bairnsdale Bridge Club Incorporated	4182.034	66.004
5	Makin, Morgan	Rye Beach Bridge Club	4156.282	65.598
6	Swarbrick, Christopher	Sale Bridge Club	4125.627	65.114
7	Turner, Fuller	Echuca Bridge Club	4115.576	64.955
8	Lochhead, Kelly	Kiama & District Bridge Club	4001.299	63.152
9	Walker, Downing	Phillip Island Bridge Club Inc	3978.090	62.786
10	Ahmet, Lonergan	Moonee Valley Bridge Club	3963.550	62.556
11	Ashby, Ditchfield	Berwick Bridge Club Inc	3943.701	62.243
12	Havlicek, Ellery	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	3935.729	62.117
13	Ramsbotham, Brown	Townsville Bridge Club	3919.199	61.856
14	Jez, Neale	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	3902.003	61.585
15	Day, Kerlin	Berwick Bridge Club Inc	3890.801	61.408
16	Stubbs, Bowden	Townsville Bridge Club	3888.771	61.376
17	Wing Lun, Peters	Townsville Bridge Club	3885.209	61.320
18	Gariepy, Frazer	Moonee Valley Bridge Club	3846.478	60.708
19	Davies, Connell	Townsville Bridge Club	3835.099	60.529
20	Saunders, Collins	Berwick Bridge Club Inc	3821.051	60.307
21	Pollock, Pawlowski	Rye Beach Bridge Club	3800.355	59.980
22	Couch, Walters	Sale Bridge Club	3796.865	59.925
23	Zarb, Zarb	Sale Bridge Club	3786.242	59.758
24	Quilty, Rutherford	Townsville Bridge Club	3742.329	59.065
25	Peirce, Stockwell	Echuca Bridge Club	3738.360	59.002
26	Kulesza, Cooper	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	3734.753	58.945
27	Holland, Miller	Rye Beach Bridge Club	3726.912	58.821
28	Potter, Coomer	Kiama & District Bridge Club	3704.344	58.465
29	Manley, Drury	Phillip Island Bridge Club Inc	3703.887	58.458
30	Baker, Herman	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	3689.793	58.235



## Australian PABF Rankings (after the 2009 Macau Championships)

Rank	Title	Name	MP	PP					
					192	BILSKI George	30	0	
25	LM	NAGY Zoltan	149	98	193	NOBLE Barry	30	0	
26	LM	RICHMAN Bobby	147	90	194	PRESCOTT Michael	30	0	
35	LM	BOURKE Margaret	121	66	204	TRAVIS Barbara	28	30	
40	LM	DEL'MONTE Ishmael	111	88	208	HINGE Simon	28	20	
50	LM	MARSTON Paul	97	80	209	LACHMAN Cathie	28	18	
51	LM	KLINGER Ron	94	62	210	MILL Cathy	28	18	
56	M	McDONALD Barbara	84	66	216	CLARK Alida	27	18	
57	M	HUGHES Michael	84	66	217	GRIFFUTHS Nye	27	15	
58		GOSNEY John Paul	84	30	218	HUNG Andy Pei-en	27	15	
59		NEILL Bruce	81	50	219	EDGTTON Nabil	27	15	
60		LAVINGS Paul	81	48	260	PEAKE Andrew	20	0	
65		GASPAR George	78	40	261	HORWIZ Helen	20	0	
66		BUCHEN Peter	78	30	262	GREEN Murray	20	0	
70		HANS Sartaj	76	50	265	BROWNE Seamus	19	28	
72		GILL Peter	74	30	266	McMANUS Matthew	19	20	
74		NUNN Tony	73	50	267	GRIFFIN Ted	19	18	
76		HOLLANDS Peter	71	38	268	WYER Paul	19	18	
81		WALSH Alan	64	48	270	DUPONT Gregory	18	24	
83		NEUMANN Dagmar	61	36	271	BRAYSHAW Paul	18	24	
96		EDGTTON Adam	57	30	272	CROFT Nicholas	18	24	
98		WARE Griffith	54	32	273	MATTHEWS Luke	18	24	
1105		TULLY Therese	49	48	311	RISZKO George	17	18	
106		BEALE Felicity	49	48	312	HASHMAT Ali	17	18	
107		BROWN Terry	49	38	329	MOIR Deboirah	15	18	
108		HAUGHIE William	48	30	330	CHADWICK Marilyn	15	18	
109		LILLEY David	48	30	343	GUE Philip	13	20	
110		MARKOVICS Andrew	48	30	344	BAGCHI Kokan	13	20	
114		CORMACK Jan	46	30	351	RAISIN Matthew	12	15	
122		KROCHMALIK Robert	45	30	352	BRAYSHAW Simon	12	15	
123		GRIFFIN Edward	45	30	353	HAVAS Elizabeth	12	12	
124		HAVAS Elizabeth	44	36	354	CUMMINGS Valerie	12	12	
132		SMART Diana	42	36	358	FEILER Gabby	12	9	
133		FEITELSON Candice	41	30	359	PORTER Matthew	12	9	
135		LAZER Warren	40	20	360	GEROMBOUX Daniel	12	9	
136		GUMBY Pauline	40	20	372	SMITH Kate	12	0	
141		SERES Tim	38	36	373	DEL PICCOLO Jill	12	0	
146		KANETKAR Avi	36	18	374	KING Linda	12	0	
1155		MATHESON Leigh	35	15	375	MARINOS Tony	12	0	
156		MING Chan Hoi	35	15	376	GRANT Peter	12	0	
166		GROSVENOR Hugh	32	20	377	LUSK David	12	0	
168		LUSK Sue	32	18	378	NEALE Kim	12	0	
180		MORRIS Alexandra Sophia	30	15	379	FULLER Leone	12	0	
181		HOWARD Justin	30	15	430	BARDON Toni	9	18	
188		CHRISTIE Henry	30	0	518	HOFFMAN Julia	5	12	
189		HOFFMAN David	30	0	519	CHURCH Nola	5	12	
190		OTVOSI Ervin	30	0	521	ROBB Kylie	5	9	
191		CHRISTIANSEN Kennet	30	0	522	GOLD Leigh	5	9	

# Anyone for Bridge?

**The State Library recently received a generous donation of material relating to the card game**

**Bridge that constitutes one of the largest**

**collections of its kind in the world.**

its focus on the development of the game during the early periods from 1894 to 1939.

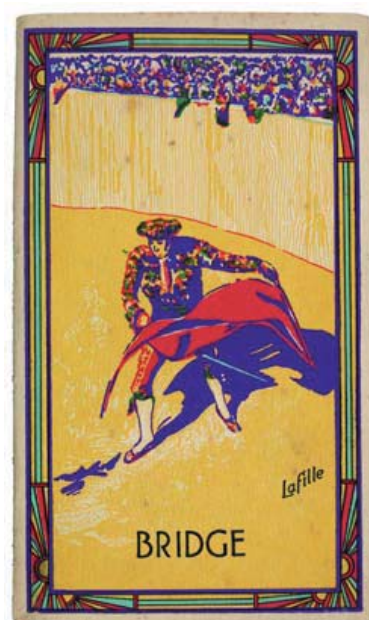
The modern form of the game known as Contract Bridge was developed in 1925 by American millionaire Harold Vanderbilt while on a Caribbean cruise. Vanderbilt's new rules led to a golden age of the game, particularly in the United States, during the 1930s and 1940s. Indeed, many of the publications produced during this era feature striking art deco designs on the dust jackets and covers.

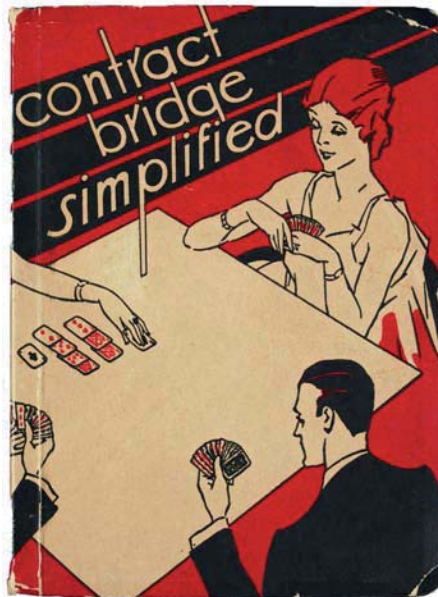
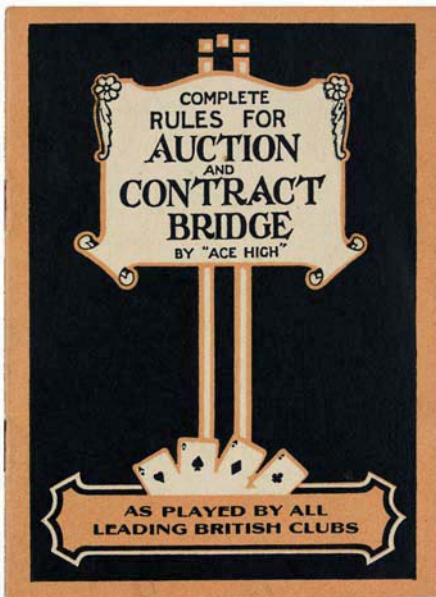
One of the most popular early figures in the game was Ely Culbertson, a rather dashing and debonair showman who published a number of bestselling books on the game, and founded the magazine *The Bridge World* in 1929. Culbertson's books are well represented in the Bourke Collection, which also includes a complete set of *The Bridge World*, and the works of other significant writers such as Vanderbilt, Charles Goren, and Milton C. Work.

Tim and Margaret Bourke have long been interested in the game. Tim has written about Bridge since the early 1970s, and is completing an extensive bibliography of published sources on the history of the game. Margaret has represented Australia at international Bridge tournaments as part of the Australian Women's team. Tim first began collecting material on the game around 1970, and in the intervening years they have assembled a collection of over 5000 items on Bridge and Contract Bridge.

Libraries have long been indebted to collectors such as Tim and Margaret Bourke, whose extraordinary knowledge and passion inspire them to assemble comprehensive collections on their chosen subject. Tim and Margaret Bourke's Bridge collection is considered to be the largest of its kind (in the English language) in the world. Their generous gesture in donating this collection to the State Library of Victoria, and ensuring its long term availability to the public, will benefit Bridge enthusiasts and players, as well as researchers into the history and development of the game.

**Des Cowley** Rare Printed Collections Manager





StepBridge.com.au

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## Tassie Swiss Pairs

**O**ctober. The first signs of spring ... time to go to Tassie for *The Mercury* Australian Swiss Pairs!

The event alternates between two superb venues. Last year it was Wrest Point in Hobart, on the water's edge, with spectacular views across the broads of the Derwent River.

This year it was at the Country Club Resort in Launceston. Get out before bridge, and hit a bucket of golf balls at the driving range, or walk around the immaculate, spectacularly green grounds and feed the ducks!

Unfortunately the crowded calendar puts the Swiss Pairs close to the New Zealand Nationals. It is hard to go to both, but I do meet one player who flies back to Sydney on Friday morning, has lunch with his wife, then flies on to Launceston that afternoon. There's a man who knows his priorities!

In fourth seat with no one vulnerable, you hold ♠AK86, ♥9, ♦J10763, ♣AJ9. Right hand opponent opens 4♥, partner bids 4♠, pass to you.

At this level, there is no way to simply ask partner if he has extras. Basically, it's your decision - you either bid slam or not. Your choice?

The long weak diamonds are a danger sign, especially since any finesse will be through the preempter. But four of the top six tables, including me, did bid six. Perhaps, in retrospect, the right action is to ask for aces, bidding six if partner has two, and signing off in five if he doesn't. (Of course, you will think this through before you bid 4NT, so you are in a position to sign off quickly, so partner is not compromised by unauthorised information! Maybe he can bid slam with a void in hearts for example).

*Round 10, Board 14*

*Dealer: East*

*Vul: Nil*

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

The diamond finesse was indeed the critical issue. Helen Snashall and Cathie Lachman showed no mercy

at our table: heart to the ace, diamond switch. Forced finesse, diamond ruff. Two down!

Warren Lazer (or perhaps his partner) suffered cruel and unusual punishment when he chose *not* to lead his partner's suit. Declarer won the diamond (!) lead cheaply, drew trumps, eliminated the clubs, and exited with a heart. The defence had only one choice - decide which of them would be endplayed!

When the music finally stopped, Jamie Ebery and Leigh Gold, fresh from representing Australia at the PABF Championships in Macau in June, were clear winners, with a six point margin.



Top Tasmanian pair, Phil Beck and David Chung, followed up their win in the Roger Penny Senior Pairs (defending their 2008 title) by finishing third in the Australian Swiss Pairs.

### *Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs*

1. Phil Beck - David Chung
2. Denise Keenan - Dawn Swabey
3. Dallas Cooper - Margaret Gibbs

### *Australian Swiss Pairs*

- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Jamie Ebery - Leigh Gold     | 194 |
| 2. Bruce Neill - Avi Kanetkar   | 188 |
| 3. Phil Beck - David Chung      | 181 |
| 4. Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer | 179 |
| 5. Sara Tishler - Bob Richman   | 178 |
| 6. Ian Afflick - George Bilski  | 177 |

Next year the Swiss Pairs is in Launceston again, since the ANC will be in Hobart. I hope to be there!

## Hans Rosendorff Results

### *Hans Rosendorff Women's Swiss Teams*

1. Joan Prince, Kate Smith, Jill del Piccolo, Paulene Collett, Joan Touyz, Shira Shilbury
2. Wendy Driscoll - Shizue Futaesaku, Toby Manford, Susan Clements
3. Patricia McNamara, Heather Williams, Jan Blight, Marie Merven

### *Hans Rosendorff Men's Swiss Pairs*

1. Dave Munro - Pim Birss
2. Richard Grenside - Russell Milburn
3. Meng Chin Tuck - Eddy Mandavy

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## Territory Gold Festival

### Strong interstate field

The 2009 Territory Gold Bridge Festival in Darwin attracted a strong field – over 75% of the field was drawn from every Australian state, New Zealand or the ACT, while over 20% of the players were Grand Masters.



*John Brockwell, Neville Francis and John Ashworth*

The following deal, against locals Judy Herring - Rex Hanson, helped the eventual Swiss Pairs winners, Magnus Moren - Neville Francis:

Match 11, Board 18

Dealer: East

Vul: NS

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

West	North	East	South
Hanson	Moren	Herring	Francis
2NT	3♦	2♦	Dbf
4♠	Dbf	3♥	Dbf
All Pass		Pass	6♥

The bidding needs some explanation: East's opening was a multi-bid, including weak two-bids in either major, and West's 2NT was an enquiry. East's 3♥ showed a maximum weak two in spades.

Over the EW barrage, Francis wasn't going to be distracted - and followed up his bold bidding with creative play.

A spade was led (a minor suit lead is fatal to the defence) – and there appears no real way to avoid two losers. However, Francis crossed to ♥A and led a low club. Should East go up with ♣K?

At the table, East did so – and now, on the run of the hearts, West cannot keep both ♦A and ♣Q.

In 2010, the Territory Gold Festival will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, from 1-5 September.

*Eric Nunn*

## Book Review

### Common Bidding Mistakes to Avoid (Guidelines For Improving Players)

by Ross Dick

QBA, 2009, soft cover, 302 pages, \$24.95 postfree

Bridge is a game of errors, and improvement comes from eliminating errors. Ross Dick's (second) book is aimed at helping the improving player achieve just this. In 10 chapters, the author uses quizzes, then discussion, to explain in detail the common errors when opening the bidding, responding, rebidding, and competitive bidding. The last two chapters focus on the misuse of conventions, and common errors and weaknesses.

Ross makes many of his decisions by counting his losers, as well as looking at the positive and negative features of the hand. What would you bid with, ♠ 1065, ♥ 763, ♦ A962, ♣ Q105, after (1♦) 1♥ (Pass) ?. The hand has three-card trump support but the 4-3-3-3 shape is a big negative. Pass is strongly recommended. What about ♠ QJ10, ♥ 964, ♦ AQ10, ♣ KJ87 on the same sequence? With such a balanced hand prefer 2NT.

Many times the full hand is shown:

All vul, South Dlr	♠ Q 6 5 3 2	
	♥ 8	
	♦ 9 6 3	
	♣ 9 7 6 4	
	♠ 4	♠ J 9
	♥ A K J 9 5 4	♥ Q 7 6
	♦ Q 7 2	♦ A J 10 4
	♣ K J 8	♣ Q 10 5 2
	♠ A K 10 8 7	
	♥ 10 3 2	
	♦ K 8 5	
	♣ A 3	

South opens 1♠ and West overcalls 2♥. North should preempt all the way to 4♠. The author's point here is to "BE LAW-ABIDING", to follow the Law of Total Tricks and bid to the level equal to your number of trumps. This will very likely silence East, and 4♠ will fail by one trick. If North passes over 2♥, or bids only 2♠ or 3♠, then East will bid 4♥.

My guess is that if the average club player studied this book they would emerge twice the player.

*Paul Lavings,*

*Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies*

[www.postfree.cc](http://www.postfree.cc)

**Next issue:** Ron Klingner's *Improve Your Declarer Play At No-Trumps* and *Improve Your Opening Leads*.

## General Information for the 2010 Open and Women's Playoffs

### **Dates:**

Commences 9.45am, Saturday, March 20.  
Concludes Wednesday, March 24.  
The anticipated finish time is 4.30pm, with results confirmed by 5.00pm, Wednesday, March 24.

### **Venue:**

Bowlers Club, York Street, Sydney

### **Target events:**

Pairs ranked first to third have the first option on all target events; pairs ranked fourth to sixth will be reserves.

### **Open:**

PABF Championships, Hamilton, NZ, May 21 - 29.  
Commonwealth Games, New Delhi, India, October 25 - 31.

### **Women:**

PABF Championship, Hamilton, NZ, May 21 - 29.  
(If two invitations) Commonwealth Games, New Delhi, India, October 25 - 31.

### **Entry:**

14 pairs from the PQP list (minimum PQP Open, 24; Women, 15) who have at least 1 PQP each in the partnership

*plus:*

two pairs from the "Last Train to the Playoff" at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra.

Pairs who believe they may not have sufficient PQPs are encouraged to nominate, and are reminded that reserves have been promoted into the field in several recent Playoffs.

### **Format:**

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to vary the format if fewer than 16 pairs enter.

There are two stages:

#### **Stage 1**

A Round Robin of 16 pairs, playing 15 rounds of 10 boards over 2½ days, with IMPs converted to VPs.

The 10 pairs ranked highest by Victory Points progress to Stage 2.

#### **Stage 2**

A Round Robin of 10 pairs, playing 9 rounds of 16 boards over 2½ days.



The head to head IMP score from Stage 1 is added to the IMP score for the corresponding match in Stage 2, to give a composite match of 26 boards. The total IMPs are converted to VPs according to the WBF scale for 20 boards.

### **Nominations:**

Web entry via interactive form - see below.

### **Changes:**

Discretion to amend minor errors is available for seven days.

### **Acceptance:**

The ranked list of nominations to be posted on the web before December 31, 2009.

### **Entry Fee:**

To be determined by the Finance Committee (see below).

### **Subsidies:**

To be determined by the Finance Committee.

### **Declaration:**

Commencement of play by a pair signifies acceptance by both players of the conditions of contest for the Playoff.

Declaration of availability forms (downloaded from the web) must be signed and returned to the ABF Secretariat before January 30, 2010.

### **Systems.**

No Yellow systems permitted.

Failure to post an Edwards standard system card on the web before March 1 risks a VP penalty.

*Eric Ramshaw, Management Committee*

### **Additional entry information:**

Playoff entries for the Open, Women's and Seniors' Playoffs for 2010 are to be received via web-based entry form.

Entries close at 7.00 pm on December 19, 2009. The successful nominees will be posted on the ABF website on December 31, 2009. The entry fee will be \$260.

The web-based entry form can be found on the ABF website, [abf.com.au](http://abf.com.au)

*ABF Secretariat*



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