

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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Australian Women at the World Champs

The World Mind Sport Games were held in Lille, France in August, 2012. Australia sent representative teams for all three sections, Open, Women's and Seniors'. The Australian Women's Team, Candice Ginsberg – Barbara Travis, Nevena Djurovic – Elizabeth Havas, Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk, Peter Reynolds (npc) qualified for the second stage of the competition.

Each field was divided into sections, in order that we played a round robin in the timeframe allocated to the qualifying, which was between five to six days long. The Women's field was divided into three sections, with the top five teams in each section qualifying, plus the best placed sixth (scores having to allow for different numbers of qualifying matches).

Our team started with a bang; at the end of Day 1 we were lying second behind Russia, who had started with a perfect 75. All the teams had spent many weeks practising on BBO, and thanks must go to Mike Prescott for organising the many sessions arranged for all nine partnerships. It felt like all our work was justified when we trounced England 24-6 – the ultimate World Champions! The team remained in the top four throughout the qualifying rounds, until we had our only bad result in the last match, losing 4-25 to Scotland. We were now in sixth place, but we would have to wait for two more matches to find out whether we held onto the 'best sixth' spot. Thankfully, Israel (in another section) did not accumulate the VPs it required, so we qualified for the Knockout Stages in a world championship for the first time ever.

Sweden chose to play against us in the Round of 16 and, unfortunately, our form slumped enough to allow them a comfortable win.

On the next page is my favourite hand. It comes from the qualifying rounds, and was played by Elizabeth Havas (*hands rotated for convenience*):



Nevena and Elizabeth

♠ 7 6 3
♥ A Q
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 8 7 6 3 2

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

♠ A Q J 10 5
♥ 8 4
♦ K Q 9
♣ K Q 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Blagov</i>	<i>Djurovic</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Havas</i>
2♥	Pass	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

After ♥J lead, Elizabeth, South, won ♥Q in dummy, and finessed in spades. She returned to dummy with ♥A to finesse spades again, finding out about the bad break. At this stage, she had no more entries to dummy, so was in some trouble.

Her solution was very pretty. She exited with ♣K to West. On ♣K, East should play ♣J to help partner find a club exit. Without this minor assistance, West instead assisted declarer by leading a diamond, which East won with ♦A. Now Elizabeth was home – watch:

She won the diamond return with ♦Q and cashed ♦K. Next she cashed ♣Q in order to exit with a club to East. East was endplayed in this position:

♠ 7
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ 8 7

♠ ---	♠ K 9
♥ K 10	♥ 9
♦ J	♦ ---
♣ ---	♣ ---

♠ A Q 5
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ ---

A spade exit allows declarer to finesse again, making. On the other hand, ♥9 exit meant that Elizabeth could trump with ♠5 and overtrump in dummy with ♠7. Now she could lead a club, completing a very tidy trump coup!

Two other spectacular hands were written up in the Daily Bulletins. The first is from an article by Phillip Alder, entitled ‘*Strong Finish*’.

♠ 9 7 5
♥ K Q 10 9 3
♦ 3 2
♣ 8 4 3

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

♠ Q J 10 6
♥ 6 4
♦ K
♣ K J 10 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
Lev		Landen	
		1♦	2♣
Dbl	2♥	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

“In the Open Room, Steve Landen suddenly thought his partner had five or six spades, and passed 4♠! But if Lev had had that hand, he would have bid 3♠ over 3♦...

So Lev was playing 4♠ on a 3-3 fit.

Double dummy, any lead except a high heart defeats the contract. But Philippe Poizat selected ♥K. Now Lev played double dummy. He cashed ♦A at trick two and continued with another diamond. When South discarded, declarer took the trick, ruffed a heart to strip the South hand of that suit, and called for a trump.

If South had played low, declarer would have won and played two more rounds of the suit. But when South went in with ♠J, West ducked.

South could do no better than to lead another trump, but declarer took his two trump winners and played on diamonds. When South ruffed, he was endplayed in clubs. Lev had made an overtrick!!”

The active bidding by NS had basically placed all the high cards for declarer, so that once ♥K was led, he could place South with ♦K – hence cashing ♦A and dropping the singleton king.

However, I think the hand is remarkable for reinforcing the fact that, no matter how bad the contract is, you should try to find a line that will allow it to make. With the other table playing 5♦, making, the USA Seniors team actually gained 2 IMPs on the deal!

Many of the players departed the minute their team was eliminated from the tournament, but World Championships give players the opportunity to watch amazing card play skills.

Watch Polish star Cezary Balicki in action in: “*How to Handle a 6-0 trump split*”

♠ K Q 10 9 6 3
♥ Q
♦ 4
♣ A Q 10 3 2

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

♠ 8
♥ A 8 7 6 5
♦ A Q 9 7 3
♣ 9 8

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

East doubled, but was not clever enough to find the trump lead which would probably beat the contract. (Specifically, East must lead ♠A and then switch to a red suit.) East led ♥K. Balicki played as if with open cards. He took the first trick with ♥A, finessed ♣Q and cashed ♣A. Now he finessed in diamonds, discarded a club on ♦A, ruffed a diamond and played a club.

This was the position:

♠ K Q 10 9 6
♥ ---
♦ ---
♣ 10 3

Irrelevant

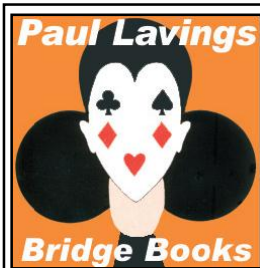
♠ A J 7 5 4 2
♥ ---
♦ K
♣ ---

♠ 8
♥ 8 7 6 5
♦ 9 7
♣ ---

East did the best he could – he discarded his diamond – but declarer ruffed in dummy and could lose only three more trump tricks, making the contract.”

Who would miss the opportunity to witness such card play as it happens!!

In terms of the Women’s event, first place went to England – a team which included Fiona Brown, a 27-year-old from Ballina in NSW, who has been living in England for the past seven or eight years. Some referred to her as Australia’s first bridge world champion. Second place went to the Russian women, and Poland took third place. As it happened, all three medalist teams came from our qualifying section, which I think makes our efforts during the qualifying even more impressive. We defeated England 24-6 on Day 1, and



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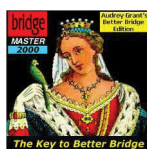
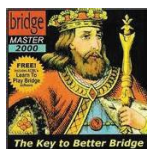
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had 14-16 losses to both Russia and Poland.

For eliminated teams, the consolation event was the Transnational Mixed Teams. From Australia:

BROWN: Terry Brown – Nevena Djurovic, Elizabeth Havas – Mike Prescott

REYNOLDS: Peter and Jane Reynolds, Margaret Bourke – Tony Nunn

SYDNEY: Candice Ginsberg – Michael Wilkinson, Howard Melbourne – Barbara Travis

For the first two days of qualifying (out of three), team *SYDNEY* was in the top group of teams, having the opportunity to play many top players. We didn't always understand their bidding – at least three times my female counterpart rebid a three-card minor ahead of a six-card major, making defence somewhat tricky, but:

♠ Q J 10
♥ Q 7 6 5
♦ A J 6 5
♣ 7 2

♠ 2
♥ J 10 8 3
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ A J 9 4

♠ A K 9 7 6 3
♥ A 9
♦ K Q 7
♣ 8 5

♠ 8 5 4
♥ K 4 2
♦ 9 3
♣ K Q 10 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	<i>Melbourne</i>		<i>Travis</i>
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

These auctions demand a trump lead, on the basis that dummy will be short in declarer's first-bid suit. I chose to lead ♦9 in case partner had relevant honours... Howard won ♦A and returned a trump. Declarer did not excel on this hand, leading another trump. Now she led ♠A and ruffed a spade. She led a heart to ♥9 and my ♥K. Concerned about dummy's hearts becoming winners, I exited with ♣K, to remove ♣A. Clearly, declarer does better to duck, but she won ♣A and led a heart to her ace. She now led ♠K (throwing a club) and another spade winner, which Howard was able to ruff. However, dummy had been reduced to ♥J10 and ♣J9, and this spade now squeezed dummy. If dummy threw a heart, Howard would win ♥Q and ♥7, then I had ♣Q; if dummy threw a club, Howard would win ♥Q and then I would win ♣Q and ♣10.

It's always fun when you get to squeeze dummy (although this hand declarer squeezed her own dummy for us!).

When we played against team *BROWN* (Australia), Ter-

ry insisted we were playing for bragging rights. We won 20-10, although (after our poor last day, trying to qualify) they finished ahead of us, so then he tried claiming bragging rights that were no longer available!!



Candice and Barbara

This hand was interesting and ended up in the Bulletin:

♠ K Q 7
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 10 6
♣ K Q J 4 3

♠ A J 3 2
♥ A K 8 4
♦ A 4
♣ 7 6 2

♠ 8 6 5 4
♥ J 9 6 3
♦ K J
♣ A 10 6

♠ 10 9
♥ Q 10 7
♦ 9 8 7 5 3 2
♣ 9 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Djurovic</i>	<i>Travis</i>
1NT	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥ ³	All Pass		

1. Range and five-card major enquiry
2. Minimum (a bit of a distortion when 1NT was 14-17 HCP)
3. 4-5 hearts, invitational

Brown and Djurovic had done well to stop out of a doomed game, but their mirrored hand shapes were a problem. I decided to lead one of my black doubletons, but, unfortunately, chose ♠10. Nevena won ♠A in case I had led a singleton, and cashed ♥A and ♥K. She now eliminated the diamond suit by cashing ♦A then ♦K, and exited with a spade to North. Howard was in some trouble. He cashed his other spade winner, but now he knew that if he led a high club, Nevena could duck one round, win ♣A and lead a heart to me, endplaying me. Instead he played for his only real chance, which was for me to hold ♣10; the secondary chance being that I held ♣9 and Nevena would not insert ♣10 (a small additional chance for her). So he led a small club, which ran to my ♣9. I could cash ♥Q to ensure that I did not gain the lead again, before exiting with my second club. All that hard work led to one off.

I said that I 'unfortunately' chose a spade rather than a club lead... If I lead a club, Howard can get two club tricks, and Nevena can try the same endplay. However,

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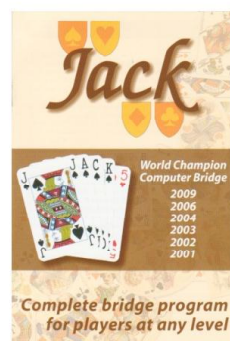
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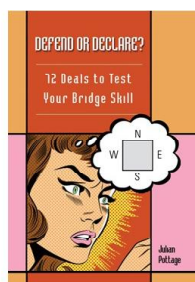
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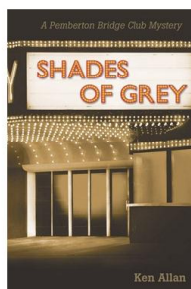
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because the spades are 4-4 in their hands, a ruff and discard successfully gets us off lead, without costing any of our winners!

Not many pairs bid to this slam:

♠ A Q J
♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ A 7 6
♣ K 10 9

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

♠ 9 7 6
♥ A
♦ K Q 10 9 3
♣ A Q 8 5

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥ ³
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

1. Partner didn't want to bid his heart suit so made a 'creative' bid (two over one game-forcing)
2. Cuebid – trying for a slam in clubs
3. Still looking – now partner is puzzled as to why I did not splinter!!

This slam required either the spade finesse or the clubs to behave, and on the layout, 13 tricks were easy! However, it was the misconception that we had a double fit in clubs and diamonds that encouraged me so much. Mind you, once partner had denied values in hearts with his 3♠ bid (looking for 3NT) my hand improved even more. My 5♥ bid was a bit of a puzzle for Howard, who wondered why I had not splintered, but he soon realised I had a singleton ace (not suitable for a splinter bid).

My final offering was played against Austria. You have to make 3NT from the South seat, after ♣2 lead:

♠ 9 4
♥ Q 4 3 2
♦ A 8 6 4 3 2
♣ A

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

♠ A K 8 6
♥ A 7 5
♦ K 10
♣ Q 9 6 5

The lead was 'thirds and fifths', meaning West held five clubs. Recognising this sort of information is vital to the play of many hands. (East contributed ♣8 to the first trick, encouraging.)



Sue & Margaret

I didn't want East to be able to lead clubs through my holding, so I led a diamond to ♦10 and West's ♦J.

With no sure entry to dummy, I needed diamonds to break and ♥K to be with West. West exited a small heart, which I had to win with ♥A in hand to preserve the entry to dummy. Next I cashed ♦K and led a small heart towards ♥Q. When West played low smoothly, I had to play ♥Q and hope.

The hand provoked much discussion as to how you can make the contract if West continues clubs at trick three. If West leads ♣K and another, an endplay is required; if West leads a small club to partner's ♣10 and my ♣Q, the same endplay arises – although it is, perhaps, double dummy. Win ♣Q, cash ♦K, cash ♠A and ♠K, hoping you have stripped West of diamonds and spades – knowing he has five clubs – and exit with another club. Since you need West to hold ♥K, this is the only way to reach dummy without conceding five tricks. Instead, West has to lead hearts for you, allowing ♥Q to be the entry to all your diamonds.

Only eight teams qualified for the World Transnational Mixed Teams knockout stages, so we then had the opportunity to watch some magnificent bridge. The finish of the quarter final stages of the Open, Seniors and Women's was incredibly exciting, with three teams coming from behind on the last board to win, and one team missing out by 1 IMP on the last hand. In addition, the Seniors USA versus Denmark match had a scoring error on the final board, showing a win for the Danes, when in fact USA had won by 3 IMPs.

In the Open event, Sweden won its first ever World Championship, defeating Poland comfortably. Monaco defeated Ireland in the playoff for third. In the Seniors event, the surprise winner was Hungary (bear in mind, the Hungarian Open Team withdrew at the last minute due to lack of funds), who defeated USA. It is the first medal ever for Hungary in a World Championship. France won the bronze medal.

Barbara Travis, Adelaide



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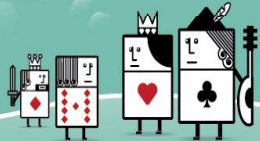
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U20 at the World Youth Championships

by *Ellena Moskovsky*

This year, the World Youth Team Championships were held in Taicang, China. I was on the Youngsters team (U20), playing with Lauren Travis. The rest of the team consisted of Daniel Braun - Rhys Cooper and Jamie Thompson - Renee Cooper. We were captained by Nye Griffiths, who did an amazing job throughout the entire event. The Youngsters section had 17 teams, and involved six days of qualifying, in which we played a single round robin. The real contenders in our field were Poland (who had won the Transnationals in Croatia the previous year, and the World Championships in Philadelphia the year before), Italy, France, Sweden, Israel and USA1.

We started off with a bang, defeating Sweden, Israel and China on the first day, 23-7, 23-7 and 22-8 respectively, and by the end of the day we were leading the event! Throughout the rest of the tournament, we played consistently well against both the good and the average teams. Playing almost two weeks of stressful bridge, it is very hard to remain completely focussed throughout the entire event, but doing so really is the key to success. Most teams will get tired and sloppy toward the end. However, we managed to mostly maintain our concentration, and I am sure it was one of the biggest reasons we were able to exceed expectations and reach the quarter final stage.

Throughout the tournament there were a variety of interesting hands, the first of which was a slam where Lauren and I finally had the chance to use the system over 2NT that we had been working on. I picked up ♠K9, ♥A4, ♦A63, ♣AKQJ107.

I may not have upgraded this hand enough – I opened 2♣, intending to show a 22-23 HCP hand, balanced.

This was the whole deal:

Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

The auction is shown on the next column:

U20 Team: Renee Cooper, Rhys Cooper, Daniel Braun, Jamie Thompson, Nye Griffiths (npc), Ellena Moskovsky and Lauren Travis



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦ ¹	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣ ²	Pass	3♥ ³	Pass
3♠ ⁴	Pass	3NT ⁵	Pass
4♠ ⁶	Pass	5♣ ⁷	Pass
5♦ ⁸	Pass	?	

1. Weak/waiting
2. Puppet Stayman
3. No four or five-card major
4. Puppet to 3NT
5. Forced
6. 5+ diamonds, slam try
7. RKCB in diamonds
8. 1 or 4 Key Cards

Now at this point, I needed to do some thinking. Over 2NT: 3♣, Lauren and I play a number of inversions, and as such, we get to show a number of major-orientated hands, and also hands with slam tries and four- or five+-card minors. After 3♣: 3♥, bidding directly at the four-level now would show a number of different major-orientated hands, and going via 3♠: 3NT (as happened on this deal) four-level bids would now be showing minor suit hands.

In this case Lauren's 4♠ bid showed a slam try with 5+ diamonds. Lauren's response to the Key Card ask showed 1 or 4, but obviously she could only be holding one Key Card – either ♦K or ♠A. It occurred to me that if we played in diamonds, my ♠K9 could be exposed to the opening lead, and consequently I decided we must play in 6NT, in which case the contract would be right-sided. However, to make 12 tricks in notrumps, I knew I needed more than just a source of tricks in diamonds . . .

After hearing a positive response to my ask for ♦Q, I now knew I had six club tricks, at least three diamonds and a heart, or 10 tricks. I was confident Lauren wouldn't make a slam try with ♠xxx, ♥xxxx, ♦KQxxx, ♣x, so I knew she was going to have values elsewhere. I bid 6NT, making 12 tricks and +1440 for a flat board. The next few hands are all interesting play problems.

Planning Workshop

The ABF Management Committee is committed to leading the organisation effectively in order to ensure the 'health' of our sport for future generations.

For this reason, members of the ABF Management Committee participated in a planning workshop in Brisbane, on 13 - 14 October. Their objective was to develop an ABF Strategic Statement for the period 2013 - 2017. This document provides unifying messages, designed to help the leadership of the ABF keep a hand on the tiller, as they meet the many challenges ahead.

Included in the ABF Strategic Statement is the organisation's mission, vision, core values and key challenges. A separate document, the ABF Strategic Plan 2013 - 2017, will outline mitigation strategies for each of our key challenges, responsibilities, timelines, costing estimates, measures, etc. Once finalised, this document will be available on the ABF website



Bruce Neill, Simon Hinge, Di Marler, Allison Stralow and President Keith McDonald

for interested parties to view. (This is expected to be around January, 2013.)

The ABF Strategic Statement 2013 - 2017 is currently undergoing a feedback process with key internal stakeholders. Once this process has been completed, it will be 'released' for the information of interested bridge players via the ABF website, the National ABF Newsletter and through your State /Territory Association. Stay tuned

*Sandra Mulcahy
Workshop Facilitator*

About the ABF

Pianola

Pianola creator tries to help clubs and players

Bridge players may know the term 'pianola' refers to a hand so easy that it plays itself. A UK-based company is giving the term a twist, however, with the launch of a new, web-based service for clubs and players that is so simple it requires no technical skill to use.

After playing at his local club in Leeds for several years, Pianola creator James Ward came up with an idea to help club managers arrange partnerships for club members online. The concept grew over time to provide clubs with a way to automate common tasks.



"Pianola is designed to make life easier for club managers," James said. "For example, with just a couple of clicks, TDs can upload results to the site. Pianola then takes over and publishes the in-depth results online, sends an email to everyone who played and updates each player's personal statistics."

Clubs are even able to send emails to specific 'groups', subsets of the membership that can be targeted for certain messages. If a club wants to send an invitation to new players for a special game, for example, Pianola easily allows the club to send emails to just those players and not the entire membership list.

Players can also enjoy Pianola's features which include

the ability to track results, discuss interesting boards and see how others performed. Privacy settings allow players to opt in or out of the service.

The service is scheduled to be released to Australian clubs during this summer.

"Pianola will be a subscription service. It will be priced fairly, according to the size of the club. Small clubs will pay a small amount; large ones will pay more. It's online software, which means there's never anything to install or update, and we backup data multiple times a day."

For a demonstration, sign-up to the mailing list at www.pianola.net.

New event in Tassie

We have added a new event to run alongside the Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs. It is called the Tasmanian National Restricted Pairs, and we are hoping to attract players with less than 300 masterpoints to come and play in it.

The event has moved from October, where it so often clashed with the New Zealand National Congress to March, which is a great time weatherwise to visit Tasmania. Apart from the usual tourist places to visit, March heralds the Forth Valley Blues Festival, and the Bothwell Spin In. These are just two of the attractions that bring people to the state.

See the ad on page 14 of this issue.

On the first example I played in 4♠ doubled as South.

Board 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
4♥	4♠	1♥	1♠
Dbl	All Pass	Pass	Pass

The lead was a heart to the ace, a diamond to West's ♦A and a small diamond returned. How do you play? Having been doubled, I assumed that spades were 3-1 or worse. When the opponents tap dummy, I no longer have the entries to set up clubs, then draw trumps ending in dummy to enjoy them.

At this point, I started to think about the different lines I could take and their possible outcomes.

Since West doubled, I was inclined to think he would likely have the spade length. Therefore, I ruffed West's diamond continuation and played a club to the king (a welcome sight) and ace. I played a spade to dummy's king, (West following with ♠J as East played ♠3), played a top club and saw RHO ruff in with a low spade. I overruffed, ruffed my third diamond in dummy to play another top club. It now looked like East had the trump length. Whether East ruffs with ♠Q or discards, I will lose one diamond and no trumps, or no diamonds and one trump. East discarded, so I lost one final trump in the endgame (dummy was left with clubs only, so West's ♠Q was promoted), making 10 tricks for +790.

With spades 2-2, I could have just cashed ♣A, ♠A, and ♠K to dummy and played clubs for 11 tricks and +990

On the next hand (*see next column*) I played in 3NT from East, after a constructive auction with no interference.

LHO led a fourth best ♣5, which went to North's ♣J. I ducked, and won the club continuation with ♣A.

I don't quite seem to have enough tricks: four off the top, potential for probably one, maybe two more in spades, at least one, maybe two more in hearts, and one or maybe even two more in diamonds. This analysis brings me to anywhere between 6 and 10 tricks.

10

However, I can't afford to let RHO in more than once.

Board 1, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

At trick two, my main problem is to decide which suit to tackle first. None seem to give me any concrete line for the required number of tricks. My diamond pips aren't good enough to be optimistic for more than two tricks. If I take a finesse (either in hearts or diamonds) into RHO at trick two, and he doesn't have any more clubs, then he must lead one of my suits, which looks promising. I'm pretty happy for him to return a spade or a heart, but maybe not so much a diamond, because of my spot cards.

In the end, I opt to lead ♦J, trying to create the impression I am looking to establish diamonds, hoping that if RHO wins, he will choose to return one of the major suits. The real danger is if ♦J gets covered all around. RHO can now return a diamond, and I might be in dire straits. Luckily, ♦J gets ducked all round. Phew.

I now have five definite tricks. If I play a heart to the ace and another, I can probably establish an extra two tricks in hearts, bringing me up to seven, and a spade is now easy to establish, taking me to eight. It looks like ♦Q is on my left and ♦A on my right. If I play hearts first, then I can endplay RHO to either give me a diamond or a spade trick, so nine seems likely from here.

I play a heart to the ace and a heart back, winning with ♥Q, as both opponents follow and North drops ♥10 on the second round.

I now play ♠J to the king and ace, and exit with a heart. North wins this (hearts are 3-3) and has to play either a spade or a diamond. Oops. He opts for ♦A and another diamond. +430 and 10 IMPs in.

On the next deal I have a tough bidding problem. I am holding ♠KJ94, ♥A874, ♦A82, ♣Q7.

The auction has been:

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



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After partner bids 5♣, I need to decide what to do, considering I haven't fully shown my hand. I took the time to consider what kind of hand partner would have to rebid 3♣, and then sign off in 5♣. It sounds like Lauren almost certainly has a singleton diamond, so my ♦A is a good card. I can assume she has at least ♣AK to six clubs and rule out her having four hearts (as I've shown at least 4-4 in the majors). Almost all hands holding long clubs and ♠A are good.

After a long time, I decide it is worth the risk, given about 70% of the hands I think Lauren might hold allow slam, and bid 6♣. This is the full hand:

Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

There is nothing to the play, +1370. At the other table, our teammates make a good sacrifice in 6♦ doubled for -800 and 11 IMPs to our team.

The last hand is a very intriguing play problem, which I will leave with you:

Board 14, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

Lauren and I had quite an interesting auction to 6♥. I opened 1♣, and Laura responded 1♦. After my 1♥ re-bid, she bid 4♣. The bidding continued 4♦: 4♥, 6♣: 6♥. At the table, I thought 4♣ set clubs, thereafter 4♦ was Key Card for clubs, Lauren showed me 1 or 4 Key Cards, so 6♣ looked pretty good. Obviously Lauren meant it as a splinter. Considering she can fourth suit game force with 2♠, then bid clubs to set clubs, her assuming 4♣ was a splinter is not unreasonable. I did

realise all of this at the table, but I also thought we had an agreement that we never splinter in partner's suit. These things happen, so we ended in 6♥, which was a perfectly reasonable contract, with many pairs in the field ending up there.

LHO led ♠J. I decided to play for clubs 4-3 and hearts 3-2 (I'm not sure if there is a technically better line). Winning the lead in hand, I ruffed a club, played a heart to the king, ruffed a club, played ♥A, then found the bad news, and proceeded to go two off.

However, 6♥ is always cold. I leave the problem to you.

At the end of the round robin, we were in sixth place, with the top eight qualifying for the quarter finals. Poland, as expected, finished first. The rest of the placings were, in order: France, USA I, Sweden, Israel, Australia, England and Italy. The format was such that first through fourth were allowed to choose their opponents for the quarter final. At this stage, they also chose the semi final lineups. In addition, if they won, they were allowed to choose from which quarter final match they would play the winner!

Thus we were left to play USA I in the quarter final. We had beaten them narrowly in the round robin, and we felt we definitely had the potential to defeat them again. However, luck was not on our side. We played four matches of 14-board segments, and after the first set we were down by 26 IMPs. The second round wasn't any better and we lost another 32 IMPs. Things weren't looking too good from here. We did make up most of the gap in the third and fourth segments. However, it wasn't enough, and we lost by 25 IMPs. USA I had some luck; they bid quite a few 50% slams on finesses. We could not deny that they played well, however, and we just didn't make the most of many of our opportunities. It was very unfortunate that here ended the journey for the Australian Youngster team.

In the final, Poland defeated USA I by a large margin, to once again become the World Youth Champions in the Youngster division.

This was my first World Youth Championship and it was an amazing experience. I met a lot of great new people, who were friendly and nice, both at the table and away from it. And I learnt a great deal during the entire event from my captain and newly formed friends, not just about bridge, but also about properly representing Australia. The vibe throughout the tournament, especially during play, was fantastic; all of our opponents were great to play against. It was an experience I'll never forget.

Ellena Moskovsky



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Sydney Spring Nationals

At the time of going to press, the Sydney Spring National Festival is in full swing at Canterbury Racecourse.

The Restricted Teams was won by Carol Sheldrake - Kathie De Palo - Michael Bush - Philip Moroney.

The Open Teams semi finals, held on the weekend features *KLINGER*, Ron Klinger - Matt Mullamphy, Bob Richman and Hugh Grosvenor versus *HINGE*, Simon Hinge - Kim Morrison, Griff Ware - Michael Wilkinson.

In the other semi final, *HOFFMAN*, David Hoffman - Margaret Bourke, Robbie van Riel - Felicity Beale, Tim Bourke - David Smith take on *HANS*, Sartaj Hans - Andrew Peake, Nye Griffiths - Michael Whibley.



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CUEBIDDING



To score up a small slam you need to make 12 tricks before the opponents take two. Your bridge judgement will decide whether you can make 12 tricks or not, but along the way you will want to check you are not missing two aces, or two top losers in one suit.

Cuebidding first and second round controls - aces, kings, voids, and singletons - will tell you whether you have two top losers in one suit. And then Key Card Blackwood will tell you about the five Key Cards and the queen of trumps.

<p>♠ A Q 6 5 2 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ K J 10 ♣ A 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>West</i></p> <p>1♠ 3♠ 4♦²</p>	<p>♠ K J 10 4 ♥ 6 5 4 2 ♦ A Q ♣ K Q J</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>East</i></p> <p>2NT¹ 4♣² 4♠</p>
--	---

1. Game forcing raise
2. First or second round controls

You have 33 HCPs, plus all the tens, yet you are in grave danger at the five-level. Gerber and Minorwood asks for Key Cards before the control situation is known, so are unsound. Experts do not favour Gerber, and Minorwood seems to be falling out of favour.

Look at this sequence:

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	2♦ ¹
2♥ ²	4♣

1. Transfer

Most experts play 4♣ as a splinter, but that is not best. It should be a cuebid.

Otherwise, what do you bid with, ♠QJx, ♥AKQxxx, ♦xx, ♣Ax? These same experts would not play 1NT - 3♥ as natural, but probably a good hand with a heart shortage, so how are you supposed to bid this hand except by transferring to hearts, and then cuebidding. Now it is logical that 4NT in these sequences is quantitative, invitational with a balanced hand:

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	2♦ ¹
2♥ ²	4NT

1. Transfer

♠A54, ♥AKQ54, ♦1083, ♣K7

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	2♣
2♠	4NT

♠K3, ♥A1065, ♦KQ3, ♣A1096

Otherwise your second move would be a jump cuebid:

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	2♦ ¹
2♥	3♠ ²

1. Transfer
2. Cuebid

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	2♣
2♠	4♦ ¹

1. Cuebid

It is worthwhile to work on your slam bidding technique, and judgement. When you bid a slam, you are almost sure to get a good result, especially in a large field. We lost the full 13 IMPs when opponents bid the cold 7♣ on this deal from the recent Senior Swiss Pairs at Launceston:

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

At 35 tables, the grand slam was bid only twice, and yet bidding to 7♣ and not 7NT was an error. Not only does 7♣ concede 2 IMPs to 7NT, but on a bad day an opening spade or heart lead might be ruffed, with 13 tricks available in notrumps.

The opponent's bidding was on track to this point:

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	2♥ ¹
2♠	3♣
4♣ ²	4♦ ²
4NT	5♦ ³

1. Transfer
2. First or second round controls
3. 0 or 3 Key Cards

The bidding should continue:

5NT	6♦
7NT	

5NT confirms the partnership has all the Key Cards plus the queen of trumps. In this case, having 10 trumps makes missing the queen of trumps irrelevant. Responder's 4♦ cuebid could have been a shortage, and now 5NT asks for specific kings, with 6♦ showing ♦K. The Key Card asker can now count 13 tricks in notrumps.

Once you become familiar with the strengths and

weaknesses of cuebidding, you can develop and refine your technique.

This deal is from a recent daytime game at one of the large clubs in Sydney's eastern suburbs:

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

1. Any 0-4
2. Good support, but no first or second round control
3. Third round control

Responder has denied any outside first or second round control, so shows third round diamond control, which is all the strong hand needs to hear, to bid the cold 6♠. Like shelling peas.

*Paul Lavings,
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Target events for 2013 are the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup - Bali, September 16-29, 2013 and the APBF - Hong Kong, June 7-16, 2013. Entries open on November 5, 2012.



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Vale Valerie Cummings

June 14, 1942 -
October 13, 2012



Valerie Cummings, a top class player in open and women's bridge, passed away on Saturday, October 13. In recent years Valerie had cut out most of her serious bridge and focussed her life on her children, James, Catherine and Michael, and her grandchildren. Valerie had many friends in bridge circles and outside. She will be sorely missed.

A feminist, Valerie was a staunch believer in complete equality for women and men in all aspects of life. I would from time to time tease her by holding a door open for her, or pulling a chair out for her. She hated that.

Valerie thrived on teams events or IMP-scored events, where she had an outstanding record over four decades. In Women's events, she came second in the Butler Trials in 1970, 1990, 2002, third in 1975 and won in 1982, 2001 and 2003. She won the Women's Individual in 1980, the Spring National Women's Teams in 2002 and the National Women's Teams in 2003. Valerie also won the Interstate Women's Teams, in 1974, 1979, 1990 and 1999. She was the non-playing captain of the victorious New South Wales Women's Team in 2000.

Valerie also tasted success internationally. In the Far East Women's Teams, she won in 1975, came third in 1983, fourth in 2002 and third in 2003. She also represented Australia in the 1976 World Women's Teams Olympiad. At various times in her life, Valerie would have been rated the #1 woman player in Australia. She would have hated that, too.

Valerie's bridge and successes were by no means limited to women's bridge. Her aggressive approach to bidding, and her accuracy in declarer play and defence stood her in good stead in open company. Valerie won the Gold Coast Congress Teams, one of the toughest events on the calendar, in 1981, 1983 and 1986. She also won the Grand National Open Teams three years in succession, 1999, 2000, 2001, and repeated the success in 2004.

Aside from her national and international achievements, Valerie won frequently at state level. She was a member of the NSW Women's Team in 1974, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1990 and 1999 and was non-playing captain in 1997 and 2000. Valerie captained the NSW Open Team in 1993. She won the Women's Pairs in

1990, the Mixed Pairs in 1973 and 1977 and the State Open Teams in 2001.

Valerie also gave her time at an administrative level, convening the NSW State Events for many years.

Ron Klinger

Ed: On a personal note, I remember Val as much for her bridge stature, as her indomitable spirit and strength of character. She was truly unique, and I treasure the many memories I have of times spent with her and her wonderful family since we met in the 1980s.

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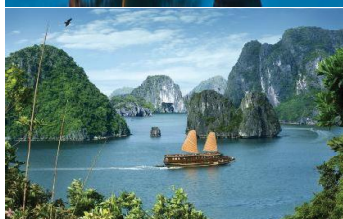
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What should I bid?

This issue's problem was submitted by Barbara Travis of Adelaide, from a deal she played with daughter Lauren Travis.



North deals, EW vulnerable
The East hand is:

♠ A 8
♥ Q 10 9 3 2
♦ A 8 5 2
♣ A 10

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

Comments: Given West's 3♠ bid is a decent raise to 4♥, what should East do?

- (a). Pass
- (b). Double
- (c). Bid 5♥

There is more to this question though.

At the table, East chose to pass, which is clearly a forcing pass situation. This seems a reasonable option to me. Now the auction continues: Pass, Pass, to West, who holds:

♠ 7
♥ K J 8 6
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ K 9 8 6

So the next question is, what should West bid if East has passed 4♠?

- (a). 5♥
- (b). 4NT

(I do not consider *double* to be an option.)

At the table I was West, and Lauren was East - applying 'Andy Hung' principles about the 3♠ bid...

So East's pass of 4♠ was encouraging - and I wasn't sure just how good the West hand was. I was always bidding 5♥, but is it good enough to bid 4NT on the way through to 5♥.

I had determined that if Lauren bid 5♥ herself, I was raising to 6♥ - because she must have aces galore. 6♥ relies on the diamond fit - invert either hand's minors and 6♥ is a poor contract.

We played in the 5♥ contract that I bid (as West) over 4, but were wondering whether 6 is biddable with all the interference bidding?

Thanks, Barbara

Margaret Smith

MEMORIAL TEAMS 2012

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OR email/phone David Farmer with names & ABF numbers

Andy's Reply:

Hey Barbara,

As East, after 4♠ I would consider two options - double or pass. The form of scoring matters, too. In IMPs, getting a penalty of 500 versus you making 650 is not a big deal (in fact, it is highly encouraged, because you might not even be sure if 5♥ is making), but at matchpoints (MP) it is a disaster. As a result, if this was MPs I would definitely pass to get partner's opinion.

At IMPs, it is not as clearcut, as I am assuming 3♠ can contain hands with three-card support. Having only three-card support would be quite undesirable to play at the five-level, because, for example, you might run into a bad trump break, or maybe you have a deep diamond loser, etc., which are all entirely possible given the opponents' preemption. Given I have ♠A (trump control), I can envision the defence getting A, 1-2 heart tricks, both minor aces, a minor suit king, and quite possibly a club ruff, too. As a result, I would again pass over 4♠ with East's hand to elicit partner's opinion, and I am confident if partner only has three-card support, she would most likely double.

Your next question: "What should West bid if East has passed 4♠?"

This is a toughie - partner has made a forcing pass, so will have either an unbalanced hand with no extras, or semi-balanced with three aces, so slam is definitely

in the picture. I think 4NT, 5♣ (5♦), and 5♥ are all reasonable bids. I will outline the pros and cons for each bid, and you can decide which one you like best.

5♥: Middle of the road. This conveys that we prefer to declare rather than defend, so essentially shows a spade shortage. Given we only have 1 Key Card, 5♥ is a “value bid”, showing what we have (note we don’t really have a great hand - obviously a five-card minor is preferable to the two four-card suits, as four-card suits require partner to have more stuff for the suit to be helpful).

5♣: This expresses slam interest, and gives partner a chance to ‘last train’ with 5♦. This is the more scientific bid, if you like accuracy. You should be able to stop in 5♥ when partner has only 2 Key Cards (they can last train and we sign off). However, I think that if we cuebid, instead of bidding 4NT, we shouldn’t have two or more Key Cards, as this is just putting pressure on our slam bidding. Thus if we cuebid, we only have 1 Key Card. It is the times when partner has 3 Key Cards that we might be able to stop in 5♥, but usually we will end up bidding slam anyway. The downside to a 5♣ bid here is that it might allow LHO to double for a club lead on the occasions when a club lead is necessary to defeat slam. You might think a 5♦ cuebid is better, where we hold KQxx, but this can also direct a potential clublead. Maybe 5♦ is actually better, because you might prefer to stay in 5♥ when partner has xx in clubs.

4NT: The practical bid. Partner has made a forcing pass, so it seems like any time partner has three controls, slam should have good play. If partner has 2 Key Cards, then we want to play in 5♥. It’s true that partner might have an unsuitable hand like ♠Ax, ♥AQ10xxx, ♦Ax, ♣xxx, but sometimes you can win the slam if you have an extra jack with a non-club lead, or if the minor suits are instead ♦xx, ♣Axx, you have the chance of ♦A onside, or a minor suit squeeze. We can be here making up hands for ever, but at the end of the day, you need to compare if a five of a minor or a 5♥ bid will get you to stop at 5♥ or 6♥ when it’s right opposite 3 Key Cards, when bidding 4NT will always get you to 6♥, **against** the times that your cuebid might get doubled.

One side note: I would like to add that in competitive auctions, slams are (and should be) a low priority. Once in a while, you might miss a good slam, but more often than not, it is much more important to diagnose whether you should be defending, or competing five over four, or even five over five.

These decisions are crucial to get right, so you shouldn’t be worried or disappointed if you happen to miss a slam, after your bidding space has been hindered by

competitive bidding. I’m not saying you shouldn’t bid 4NT with responder’s hand - actually, my point is based on your comment below:

You mentioned: “I had determined that if Lauren bid 5♥ herself, I was raising to 6♥ - because she must have aces galore.”

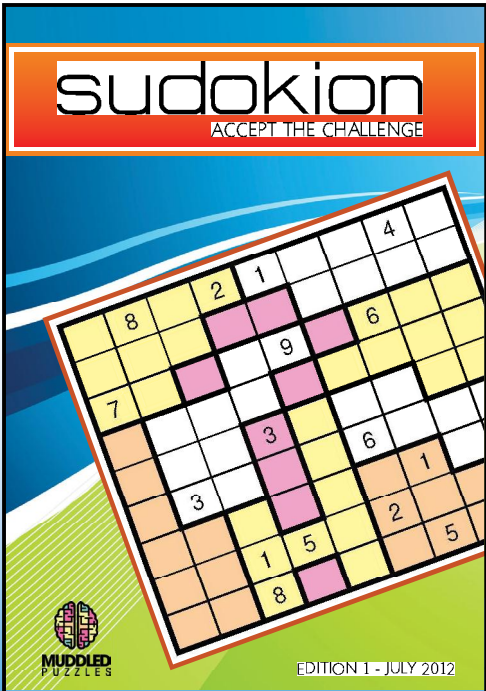
Based on my note above, I’m not even sure if it’s right to ‘hang partner’ and bid slam. She certainly doesn’t promise three aces, because with enough shape, such as 6-4 or 7-4, (e.g. ♠x, ♥AQxxxx, ♦xx, ♣AQJx,) she could certainly have bid 5♥ with those hands. Additionally, if partner has three aces, then it is more than likely partner will make a forcing pass than bid 5♥.

One last thing. Over 1♥ (1♠) or 1♥ (2♠) I think it is very important to have bids to distinguish three- or four+-card support, because when you’re faced with a five-level decision, knowing the minimum number of trumps is vital information. You could use 2NT or the cue raise to distinguish them, for example.

Anyway good problem: don’t we all hate high level bidding decisions!

Cheers, Andy

What are smart Bridge players doing when they aren’t playing Bridge?
They are accepting the challenge.



The image shows the cover of a puzzle book titled 'sudokion' with the tagline 'ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE'. The cover features a 9x9 grid with some numbers and a central 3x3 grid. The background is blue and green. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'MUDDLED PUZZLES' and at the bottom right, it says 'EDITION 1 - JULY 2012'.

Visit www.sudokion.com
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The three urgent rules

Another good deal for attitude signals (of a different kind)...

by Michael Courtney

Many long years ago I learnt the axioms of bidding – immutable laws that must be obeyed – from two extraordinary bidders – Paul Lavings and Stephen Burgess. At least, I think I did, but sometimes I wonder. I was too busy arguing to listen, and all I got out of many hours of torture for all, was three simple but urgent rules:

- Bid your hand (as early as possible) (both - but SB stronger on the early-even-if-inaccurate idea)
- Never bid your hand *twice* (both)
- Always raise partner as high as possible immediately (PL)

You see, *In My 60 Memorable Games*, Bobby Fischer makes a remarkable point, of greater value to bridge than chess players. His opponent missed a clearly winning move... Fischer said – “it seems natural to defend against (that winning move) now, but there is no need, we already know that is the one move he can not see... Let me add that any physical betrayal of his difficulties herein would also prove fatal.”

However, when I mention the passage to Chris DePasquale, closely acquainted with the text, he says Bobby says no such thing. I find the book, I find the page, the idea is somewhere there, but Bobby never *quite* said it.

So, in general, one must wonder whether someone *told* you something – or merely led you to *think it* without necessarily even considering the idea themselves. I still think Paul taught me the third rule, and by way of evidence, I offer only Terence Reese’s anthology of bidding forums.

You hold:

♠ 9 5
♥ 8 5 2
♦ 9 7 5 4 3 2
♣ 7 3

Old Scoring, favourable vulnerability:

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Them</i>	<i>You</i>	<i>Them</i>
3♦	Dbl	?	

Well, its a rare problem, you can bid anything you like. Reese disregarded those who did, but heaped fullsome praise on two answers:

COURTNEY: Pass: (second choice 7♦)

LAVINGS: 7♦: (second choice Pass)



Michael and Jill Courtney

Having tarred Paul with the “As-I-Teach-not-As-I-do” brush, it is only fair to make protest about the difference between what Stephen taught me, and what he now does. He is true to “bid your hand” for the-first-to-speak, but should that vividly aggressive seat pass, Burgess requires vast extra values for the remaining player to bid his hand.

Presumably because “it is their hand”. The third thing Burgess taught me about bidding was “the minute you decide who the hand belongs to, you’re in crazy land. Just bid your hand and listen.”

Herewith two deals to prove they were both right in the first place; who cares what they play now.

Recently in the ABF Newsletter I reported a truly “Seres” deal. A triumph of attitude signals and the defensive ruff-and-discard. It irked me somewhat that on that deal I had little to do except obey partner’s signals...

Here is another “new in bridge” defence to shoot a game that elsewhere made. Again we had the benefit of an intelligent and thoughtful declarer.

Board 2, Match 5, Coffs Congress
(directions trickily swapped, I think):

♠ 7 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ 5 3 2
♣ A 10 9 5 3

We are vulnerable, they are not; IMP scoring, partner passes, and RHO opens 1♥. What now?

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
MC	Francis L	L Raymond	H Cusworth
		Pass	1♥
2♣(!)	2♥	3♣	4♥

I overcalled 2♣ on that hand, exactly because Linden, my partner, had passed, and I wished to solve my certain lead problem. Both hearts and clubs were raised, and the opener finished the auction with 4♥. I led (second best - any lower club is better, as you will

see) ♣A, then ♣10:

♠ Q 10 5
♥ Q J 5 4
♦ J 7
♣ Q 8 6 2

♠ 7 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ 5 3 2
♣ A 10 9 5 3

Declarer guessed well in playing low from dummy. Heather Cusworth, declarer, ruffed in hand and made a tiny error... She led a low heart to dummy's queen. Then she naturally played a heart to the king, as Linden discarded an (odds & evens) ♦4, I ducked....

You see that ♦4 – discouraging diamonds, and calling for a club – gives a clear message.

It says “Listen, Trotsky, you have already assassinated one of my kings, leave the other two alone.” Now usually we don't bare the top trump, but conditions of entry are paramount at bridge, and here it is easy to see that South has little desire for the lead. His job is to take finesses from dummy. Right now he (short for Heather, as is well known) is in the wrong hand. If he plays a trump, I win and obey partner's signal – I play a club, and whatever happens thereafter, they'll know they've been in a fight... All you need, in order

to find this key play, is the knowledge that it is always a decision whether or not to release the top trump.

What I mean is - if you simply consider ducking the second trump, the rest is easy.

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

What should declarer do now? If trumps are continued, a club continuation will require declarer to guess clubs or fail. Consider the ending. South must play from hand.

Declarer played a low spade toward dummy – a simple finesse, sure to make, if I hold ♠K. Alas, Linden won ♠K and returned ♦8, having earlier discarded a discouraging ♦4.

Naturally, declarer took the one chance she apparently had, and rose ♦A to cash spades. I ruffed with my



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- mark you - carefully preserved – ♥A, and played a diamond for a unique one down. Everybody else “carefully preserves” their deuces. Me, I carefully preserve my ace of trumps.

And again, playing odds and evens, my partner could have played an odd one, to tell declarer which king was onside; discourage diamond, then play diamond is the *only* way for the defence to prevail.

Please note that this defence began during the auction – that it would have been a perfect defence - every move good, necessary and sufficient, had I led ♣10. Lastly, had we hours for every deal, ♥K on the first round of trumps avoids these difficulties.

Megan and Desmond McGlashan also shot 4♥ after the lead of ♣A.

Mr Burgess is a fierce opponent of auction entry opposite a passed partner, exactly because he is a lifelong advocate of highly aggressive actions in second chair. Even he, however, might not have found Marlene Watts’ remarkable winning call here.

East deals, EW vulnerable

♠ 10 8 3
♥ K 8
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A 5 4 3 2

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

♠ Q 9 6 5
♥ 9 4
♦ Q 10 8 5 2
♣ Q 6

West	North	East	South
Smith	Beauchamp	Burgess	Watts
		2♥	Dbl!

EW reached 6♥, and declarer had to guess clubs to make. He didn’t, of course, after the light auction entry effort by Marlene. Smith - Burgess were the only pair to reach 6♥, and the only pair not to take 12 tricks with hearts as trumps. The paperweight double won 26 IMPs.

Consider these two winning auctions. The decisions to enter each auction look bizarre by traditional standards. Of course at total-point-scoring, both actions would be unconsidered. IMPs and duplicate are scored differently, and there is much to be said for locating your assets.

This is not the time or place to observe that if those three rules are the sole axioms of good bidding, it

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is travesty that popular law forbids opening 1♠ on ♠A10932 and a king. Today, because of foolish laws on the sanctity of the discredited point-count, many open these at the two-level. All would overcall.

Does it matter to anyone that the right bid on this hand is exactly 1♠? How can it be forbidden to do that?

I have to waste my deal (how oft does a bridge player hold an ideal hand – once in four) because some guy in 1914 read the pinochle score-book. Trust me on this, when bridge ends, all of the opening bids will be natural, and my little hand with two black aces will be opened 1♣ at every table. That will promises 4+ clubs at every table.

You might say is that enough to open. I must ask “What is the difference between bridge and poker?” At poker, four jacks will beat an ace. My opinion of jacks is such that I will play total-points fixed against any pair, and before the otherwise normal deal, their partnership will be given all four valuable jacks – admittedly, these must be exposed, to preclude encrypted signalling, bidding by the beneficiaries.

These jacks will be found wanting. I’d rather have a space in my hand, as the wager suggests. If, having done your money on those almost regal infants, you would care to recoup your loses by giving my partnership a feeble ace, I believe I could almost give you a shade of odds

Bridge will end with quick-tricks and plastic evaluation, value raises and splinters. Trump leads to partscores will be universal. Culbertson had all the right ideas – gadgetry like two-suited overcalls, controlled psyches, negative doubles, etc. did not appear till the late 1950s when Roth - Stone changed the leaderboards in the USA. Certainly, those listed above will survive when bridge thought comes full circle and realises that

(gadgetry discounted) the methods tens of millions played from the 1930s to the 1950s were basically correct, and that the notorious point count was an ironic publishers' trick to enslave the numerate to irrelevant tasks, thus disabling the most able learners.

Which brings me to a terrible legend from a distant nation who refused to be called American (although it was clearly the continent they lived on). These primitive folk suffered long cold seasons in an environment they could not control. To stay awake at nights, and avoid death by freezing, they played a lot of tricks and trumps.

Among this erudite crew were two who found they could be American, if it meant winning the Bermuda Bowl. Later, though, this primitive card-playing people had one primary deity – the Prophet – the ever-smiling Kokish. And they believed that only Kokish's shadow roamed the tournament halls, that the great Kokish had died after a perfect deal long years ago.

Kokish, with his undented smile, was directly being ferried upward by two angels. "How does heaven work, then?" he asked nervously. "Great" said LHA "everything you ever dreamt of – at the whim, except of course, no orgasms" "What? Why?" said Kokish, "What – is it Catholic?"

"No its not that," said RHA "Just the creation took a lot out of him... You know, Caesar can't ride an elephant, no one in Rome can ride an elephant..." "I see" said Kokish "Sounds like fun, anyway!"

So Kokish reached heaven, and reality lay at his wish. He made his bridge game - he of course partnered himself, and he chose to face Belladonna and Belladonna. He was dealt ♠ J9754, ♥108632, ♦73, ♣5 and his partner opened 2♣. Beaming with delight, the Prophet bid 2♦, and now his hopes fulfilled, his convention came into play:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 2♣ | 2♦ <i>Forced</i> |
| 2♥ <i>Kokish – a point count sorter</i> | 2♠ <i>Forced</i> |
| 2NT 25+ <i>flat</i> | 3♣ <i>Forced</i> |
| 4♣ 28 <i>balanced</i> | |

Pity now – if we knew he had 16+, and told him we were 5-5 in the majors, he could bid a slam where one makes. He's got 20+ HCP, the issue is going to be how many aces.

But Kokish didn't care; he had found the perfect partner, and he had conducted the perfect auction – he alone knew that partner had exactly 28 points. The excitement overcame him. So much so that he was forthwith banished back to this mortal sphere.

Michael Courtney

Are we harbouring the world's oldest competitive bridge player? It is with the greatest of pride that we tell you our eldest playing member, Jean Lilleyman, turned 104 on October 7.



Jean is a regular at one of our sessions, and also has the distinction of being the founder, in 1981 of Maylands Bridge Club. In the early days, Jean was a tireless committee member and worker, and she was subsequently awarded Life Membership to the club.

For over 30 years she played with her best friend, Edna Walsh, who died at the age of 98. This gave Jean the opportunity to break in a new partner, aged a mere 84. When Edna passed away, the average age of their partnership was exactly 100. Wow!

Born Jean Flint, in Perth, 1908, she started her working life as a hairdresser. She married Cyril in 1927, and they had two sons, Cyril and Gary. Sadly, she lost her husband, in 1980, and then eldest son, Cyril, early this year.

Jean lives in her own home with her cat and a shared Pomeranian/Jack Russell with son Gary, who is housed behind her in a separate home on the same block. It's hard to tell who keeps an eye on whom...!

For many years Jean was a keen ballroom dancer, sharing this passion with competitive bridge. In keeping with her role of matriarch, Jean is always impeccably dressed and groomed, and maintains a wholehearted interest in the club's activities.

Jean's recipe for longevity is simple:

- Do half an hour on an exercise bike each day;
- Don't smoke;
- And drink a glass of good sherry every night before dinner (this is of course a minimum dose).

*Alan Baldock,
Maylands Bridge Club*

Upwey Bridge Club in Melbourne is also extremely proud of their member, Marcia Kent, who turned 100 in September. She attends a weekly duplicate at the club.



Bridge Etiquette - a Spoof

by *Ernie Newman*

Seven hundred years ago William Chaucer created a character he called, "The smiler with the knife". This fellow was charming, refined and dangerous. Today his type is found in politics, second hand car yards and bridge clubs. Bridge is aggression tempered by formality, combat confined by rules. Bridge players like to disguise their intentions and lure their opponents into dead-end alleys. And cut them.

We like bridge because we like to hack and smite with impunity. We don't want to get beaten up or arrested so we need the rules of the game to protect us from the consequences of our nastiness. Our weapons are logic, deception and coded communication. Our opponents are guarded by their own armoury of strategy and deceit and by rules of disclosure which require us to reveal our bidding and playing secrets. Hah!

Bridge federations are run by dreamers who want us warriors to not only obey the laws of bridge, but to comply with high standards of etiquette as well; to make kissy, kissy, nice, nice with our opponents at the table, "Thank you, opponents." This is asking just a tad too much but they don't stop there. They want us to pander to our passenger partners, "Thank you, partner." Enforcing compliance in these matters is harder than getting an octopus into a bucket. However, an attempt has to be made, hence the following guidelines.

Bridge Etiquette Guidelines

Eye narrowing, lip curling, nose flaring and other intimidation tactics are not acceptable.

Gnashing of teeth and wailing are off-limits at the table, though permissible in the car park.

Apologies should contain at least a thin veneer of regret.

Humming a funeral march is never appropriate during bidding.

Do not chant to opponents, "Can't bid, can't defend, can't play, no way".

When your grand master opponent asks, "So, what does your 2♣ mean?" do not sneer, "You're the expert, you should know!"

When an opponent fails to note that you have already ruffed and attempts to ruff with a lower card, it is not fitting to ask her partner, "I don't see this on your system card, do you always under-ruff?"

Audible prayer is barred during play. However, when trying to finesse, a silent plea such as the following is unlikely to be discovered or penalised: Hail Mary Full

of Grace, put the King in its place.

It is better to clench buttocks than to sneer, snigger, snort, pucker or sniff suggestively.

Always repress, never express.

Breast your cards.

Dummy should remain mute, insensate and apparently dead - no matter how grandiose partner's bidding, or dunce-like partner's play.

Dummy should never undo buttons or remove apparel during play.

Dummy is not to warn partner, "You are about to enter a world of pain".

Do not offer a written critique of partner's decision to elevate your weak and vulnerable 2♦ overcall into 5♦ with 2 diamonds, 4 high card points and a doubleton.

It is not permissible to enact high-low charades when partner is choosing a card but suit-directing vibes may be sent at any time.

When partner discovers, too late, yet again, an ace hidden behind another card, resist the temptation to suggest that since he has perfected this technique he should be immortalised, along with Gerber, Blackwood and Stayman.

Do not feign a cardiac moment or simulate a psychotic baboon when partner recklessly leads opponent's long suit in no trumps.

When partner makes a contract with an overtrick do not say, "The cards played themselves".

Pretend to at least a smidgin of respect for partner even if he bids to a ridiculous, gambling slam and is instantly doubled. It is acceptable to make an educational re-double to help partner gain insight – but not more than once per session.

Do not glare, glower, groan or speed dial your therapist when partner doubles your opponents into game.

Refrain from observing that you would rather meet the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse than play with partner next week.

Never mollycoddle milksop partners, after all, you carry them every time you play. However, if you have the perfect partner, a better player than you who lacks insight and thinks that you are the stronger player, then you must hang on to her at all costs. If you offend her, do whatever it takes to keep her – flowers, chocolates, humble pie. If all else fails, hire a sky writer to emblazon your remorse across the heavens. It would be very sad to lose the love of your life but to lose the perfect bridge partner would be catastrophic.

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When attending a bridge club for the first time

You may be apprehensive about complying with unfamiliar protocols and getting out of step with local culture. Don't be perturbed. Just follow these three simple tips and you will be readily accepted anywhere.

1. Always keep your attitude anal.
2. Always keep your demeanour catatonic.
3. Always keep your words insincere.

These tips will help you blend in to any bridge club on the planet.

Further reading

Ridicule and Scorn at the Bridge Table by Samantha Sneer-Sycophant.

Psych Bidding by Carl [The Knife] Jung.

Piety, Propriety and False Discards by Zen Biddist.

Bridge, Psychosis and Assault by Sigmund Kibitzer Freud.

Bridge Ethics – an Oxymoron by Mata Hari and Mother Teresa.

Dummy's Role - Strategic Grins, Smirks and Giggles by Groucho, Harpo and Karl Marx.

Ethics and Etiquette by WC Fields.

Taking Blood – Doubling for Penalty and Pleasure by Vlad The Impaler and Drac the Smack.

Revoke, Sneeze and Scatter by Houdini and Sleight.

The Tactical Revoke by Margaret Thatcher and Marilyn Munroe.

Full Disclosure by Richard Nixon – Foreword by Mae West.

Theism and Ethics in Bridge by Friedrich Nietzsche.

To Bid Out Of Turn or Not To Bid Out Of Turn by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Steroids, Viagra and Bridge by Doctor Strangelove.

Advanced Bidding - Suggestive and Forcing Hesitation by Niccolo Machiavelli.

Across the Tasman

by Ron Klinger

It was a bit silly that the Swiss Pairs events in Tasmania clashed with the NZ Championships. That will not happen in the future, as the Tasmanian events have been moved to March.

Quite a few Australians compete in New Zealand. Liam Milne – Michael Whibley, took out the New Zealand Open Pairs. They won by 1.1 matchpoints from Ashley Bach (NZ) – Nathan Van Jole (Australia), with Geo Tislevoll – Michael Ware (NZ) third.

In the New Zealand Open Teams, *WILKINSON*, Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, Michael Wilkinson – Martin Lofgren lost in the quarter finals to *TISLEVOLL*, Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell, Peter Newell – Martin Reid, Geo Tislevoll – Michael Ware), all from New Zealand.

In the semi finals *GRANT*, Liam Milne – Michael Whibley, Alan Grant - Anthony Ker defeated *GILL*, Nicole Strasser, Martin Bloom, Peter Gill, Paul Gosney. In the final, *TISLEVOLL* defeated *GRANT*.

Warren Lazer had a triumph in the quarter finals of the New Zealand Open Teams:

East deals, EW vulnerable

```

♠ ---
♥ 6 5
♦ A 10 8 7 6 3
♣ 10 6 5 4 3

♠ K 9
♥ 10 7 2
♦ 9 4
♣ K Q J 8 7 2

♠ 8 4 3 2
♥ A J 9 8 3
♦ Q 5 2
♣ A

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

West	North	East	South
Reid	Gumby	Newell	Lazer
Pass	Pass	1♦ ¹	Dbf
1NT ²	2♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1. 4+ hearts
2. Shows clubs

East won ♣K lead and returned a spade, queen, king. West played ♣Q. South ruffed and drew trumps. West has turned up with six clubs to the K-Q-J and ♠K-9. The rest of the high cards would be with East for the opening bid. To deal with ace-fifth in hearts and ♦Qxx, South continued with another trump to leave this position:

```

♠ ---
♥ 6 5
♦ A 10 8
♣ 10

♠ ---
♥ 10 7 2
♦ ---
♣ J 8 7

♠ ---2
♥ A J 9
♦ Q 5 2
♣ ---

♠ 5
♥ K Q 4
♦ K J
♣ ---
    
```

On the last spade, East had to throw a heart, else South could make three diamond tricks. Now came ♦J to the ace and a low heart. East rose with ♥A, but had he played low, South could win and exit with a low heart to the ace, which is now bare.

The winning defence is too tough to find. East or West must attack diamonds in the first three tricks and East has to withhold the queen.



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Additional activities on offer for attendees

Date	Departure	Destination	Comments
From 16 – 27 January Except for: 20/1 and 25/1	10.00 am Noon 2.00 pm 4.00 pm	SFOB shuttle bus will do a circuit from Rydges Lakeside Hotel to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian War Memorial • The National Gallery of Australia • Old Parliament House • New Parliament House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick-ups and drop-offs at each stop (depending on capacity) • National Gallery of Australia – Toulouse-Lautrec : Paris and the Moulin Rouge (<i>over 120 works</i>)
15 / 16 January	6.30 pm	<i>Welcome to Competitive Play function – for novice players</i>	At Rydges – by invitation only
Daily from 17-24 January	6.30 am	Guided walk around part of Lake Burley-Griffin	Meet at Rydges foyer at 6.15 am
20 January *	9.30 am	SFOB shuttle bus to convey passengers to Bungendore. This historic village is a pleasant 30 minute drive. You can visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antique stores • Galleries and craft shops • The world famous woodworks gallery • Cafes and restaurants 	Bus will depart from Rydges Lakeside Hotel at 10.00 am and will return from Bungendore at approximately 2.30 pm. <u>Cost:</u> \$30 per person
25 January *	10.00 am	SFOB shuttle bus to convey passengers to Gold Creek Village . This heritage village provides art galleries/ gift shops/specialty stores and leatherworks. Relax at your choice of restaurants, cafes or the lively George Harcourt Inn.	Bus will depart from Rydges Lakeside Hotel at 10.00 am and will return from Gold Creek Village at 3.00 pm. <u>Cost:</u> \$15 per person
26 January	Lunch break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia day - BBQ lunch at Rydges Lakeside Hotel • Green and gold dress theme for the day 	Prize for the best dressed person
During event		Celebrity Speakers - details still being confirmed	

* **Bookings** required for the trips to Bungendore and Gold Creek Village – email marketing@abf.com.au to book a seat by **12 January 2013**. Payment not required beforehand.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event!

THE QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN
BRIDGE FEDERATION PRESENTS THE...

GOLD COAST

CONGRESS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23RD
TO SATURDAY MARCH 2ND

2013



For further enquiries or to register, contact: KIM ELLAWAY

Call: +61 7 3351 8602 or +61 4 1206 4903

Fax: +61 7 3103 4799

Email: manager@qldbriidge.com

Want to know more?

www.qldbriidge.com/gcc