

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



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ABF Leadership – Setting the Direction for 2017 onward

In the September Newsletter I announced we recently formed a committee to investigate ways to improve the performance of our international teams. The committee has worked hard to develop plans over the last couple of months and will be ready to provide support to our 2017 Australian teams who will be chosen soon. Team announcements in the January newsletter will kick off a regular column on player performance initiatives.

There is also some exciting news in relation to the acceptance of bridge as an Olympic sport with the recent announcement that bridge has been accepted as one of the sports for the 2018 Asia Games, which will be held in Indonesia.



At the 2017 Summer Festival of Bridge we will be conducting Australia's first bridge lottery with a prize of \$50,000. Free entry will apply to all competitors in the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs Championship being held on 14-15 January. See page 14 for details.

I am delighted to announce that in addition to her role as National Teaching Co-ordinator, Joan Butts has agreed to take on the role of ABF Media Spokesperson. Joan will work closely with David Wawn, our Government Relations Officer, and Sandra Mulcahy, our National Marketing Officer, to ensure that the ABF speaks with one voice. Joan is intending to take a pro-active view of this role and hopes to use it to raise the profile of bridge in the community.

Our teaching program is going from strength to strength. There are currently nearly 20 accredited teachers around Australia and in 2017 we will have in place more teacher trainers offering courses throughout wider regions of Australia.

In addition, we have just launched an exciting new program for novice players. This is a free scheme providing online training for newer players to help them compete in novice sections of national events. This initiative will start with the Summer Festival of Bridge, and may be extended further to other events in 2017. It aims to boost newer players' confidence and skill level, and will concentrate on the fundamentals.

Called the ABF Summer School, and running from 2 November 2016 for 10 weeks, participants will receive lesson notes, videos, hands to play, exercises and access to forums, directly into their email inboxes. Teachers will be offered lesson plans and tips in addition to the material provided to students.

There has been an overwhelming response to this initiative, and in the first week of registrations, more than 600 novices and teachers have signed up for the program.

Please email teaching@abf.com.au if you require more information on any of our teaching programs.

In the next issue:

More about the way forward in 2017.

Bruce Neill
ABF President



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Editor pro tem: Kim Frazer

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From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the November ABF newsletter. First and foremost thanks to Stephen Lester for his tireless efforts in editing the newsletter for so many years. I would also like to express my appreciation to all our regular contributors for their stories—without you such an informative newsletter would not be possible.

New features in this edition include the first of what will become a regular Teacher's Corner column and wonderful tips on Basic Bridge from 'The Bridge Professor'. Also new are two columns designed for reader contributions - a regular feature on Bridge Etiquette, and, a new take on 'what should I bid', entitled 'What the heck do I do now?' which is your chance to hear what the experts would do when hesitations, bids out of turn, and the like occur. Our brains trust will also help you understand your options under the rules which can be overwhelming for less experienced players!

Major event promotions for the Summer Festival of Bridge Lottery, Summer School, the Gold Coast, the Australian National Championships, as well as stories from the World Championships, New Zealand National Congress, and Spring Nationals round out a bumper edition. Enjoy!

CORRECTION

In the September 2016 Newsletter (No 181), the "Yeh" mixed teams article was attributed to Simon Hinge. The author was actually Richard Wallis—our sincere apologies to Richard for the error.

Congratulations to "The Jedi".



Bruce Neill and Richard Jedrychowski

We are delighted to report that Richard Jedrychowski recently was awarded the Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year Award at the 2016 International Bridge Press Association. The play was featured in an article by Ron Klinger in the: IBPA Bulletin 616, May, 2016, p. 2.

'Jedi' was presented with his award by ABF President Bruce Neill at the recent Spring Nationals in Sydney.

Full details of the play can be found at:

<http://www.abf.com.au/2016-ibpa-awards/>

Nunn & Hollands Victorious in NZ Pairs



Tony Nunn (left) and Peter Hollands recently defeated a class field at the NZ National Congress to win the prestigious Open Pairs event from 164 entrants. Included in the field were World Champion duo, Mike Cornell & Ashley Bach, so this is a super effort from our boys.

The NZ pairs event is a multi-day event featuring qualifying, semi-final and final days so playing well right from the start is critical in this type of format. The 56 board final saw Nunn & Hollands emerge the clear winners on 897.7MP - over 27 points ahead of second.



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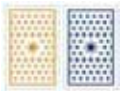
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Joan Butts

ABF National Teaching Coordinator



Defence is high on the list of popular workshop topics. We all know that defending is hard to get right, but teaching it can be tough too.

At first, a student's attitude towards defending is one of utter confusion. Their instinct is to take all their winners. They're terrified of losing the lead, and can't imagine how they will regain it. Even if they succeed in defeating a contract, they don't know why they did. They have no idea of working together as partners.

You can't blame them. Teachers need to demonstrate (via the Cards on the Table method) exactly how the trick taking process works. Use one suit only to show students **how** leading the top of a sequence will actually promote winners, **how** leading fourth highest will develop tricks through length etc.

A course of lessons on Defence should cover at least these areas:

1. Opening Leads against No Trumps and Suits;
2. Signals – Attitude, Count, Suit Preference; and,
3. Keeping Defensive Communications.

Defensive signals are not really a topic for beginners; instead, more for players who are experienced in card play. Deciding when an attitude or a count or a suit preference signal is the right one, requires thought. People sometimes try to make one card mean too many things, and the result is worse than not signalling at all.

"CPD Days on Defence are proving to be very popular with teachers around the country"

Signalling simple attitude

Most trick one defensive situations require an opinion from partner about whether to continue the suit led. So, with few exceptions, an attitude signal is made to partner's lead, or when discarding.

You don't like my lead?

When partner has **discouraged** your lead, how often do you have no idea what to do next? You try to work out what declarer may have, pick the most probable suit, and shift to it. But this can be exhausting work, and not foolproof by any means.

Pamela & Matthew Granovetter, in their book, "A Switch in Time", have suggested an answer to these difficulties. It's

called **The Obvious Shift**, and is based on the attitude signal most people have been playing for years, but spices it up a bit.

When partner leads, and you get to play an attitude signal, the questions to ask are:

- "Does continuing this suit help us?"
- "Do I want partner to shift to another suit?"

The attitude signal at trick one shouldn't be about partner's suit in isolation; it's an indication of whether a continuation, or a switch to an obvious or weaker side suit is called for.

What is the Obvious Shift Suit?

What it's not:

- Not the suit led
- Not trumps
- Not a suit headed by AKQ or four of the top five honours
- Never dummy's singleton or void (trumps)
- Never a suit bid naturally by declarer

What it is, or could be:

- Opening leader's bid suit
- Leader's partner's bid suit
- A three-card suit headed by at most one of the top five honours (trumps)
- Dummy's shortest suit, even if strong, eg AK doubleton. (if no trumps)
- If no weak three card suit, then the shortest suit, but not a singleton or void (suits).
- When two equal length suits, either of which might be the obvious shift, pick the suit with fewer honours. If still tied, pick the lower ranking suit.

Sometimes the obvious shift suit is not clear—in this case, rules are needed to define the obvious suit. If you want a switch to a non-obvious suit, play an unusual card if possible. Sometimes you don't particularly like partner's suit but you have weak holdings in the other suits. Now, encourage partner's lead, because the alternative, a shift, is worse.

I've been offering Defence as the second Professional Development Day in the ABF Accreditation Programme, and it is proving to be popular.

Location	Date	No of Attendees
Kiama, NSW	February	~25
Geelong, Vic	March	25
Orange, NSW	May	26
Redlands, Qld	June	16
Maitland, NSW	July	~16
Melbourne, Vic	July	21
Adelaide, SA	September	11

(nb: The third Professional Day, to start in 2017, will be an Introduction to 2/1 Game Force for teachers and students).

Joan Butts

Teachers from Adelaide, Kadina, Gawler, Glenelg, and the Barossa gathered for the ABF Continuing Professional Day in September, held at SABA, Unley, Adelaide. The topic was Defence, and the day contained tips for how to present defensive courses to students, and also ideas for teachers' own games.



Opening Leads occupied the morning, and there was discussion on such things as leading a trump, and whether to make an aggressive or a passive lead. We also looked at default leads, and when to deviate from these. Deciding first which suit to lead, and second, the correct card of that suit, gives students a plan to follow.

The delicate topic of Signalling occupied the afternoon. Using attitude as the primary, bread and butter method of signaling was advocated, with certain times for count and suit preference. The group was very keen to offer suggestions, and one of the group, John Smith, suggested a book by Matt & Pamela Granovetter called "A Switch in Time". The book advocates an idea called "The Obvious Switch", which adds a bit of spice to attitude signals.

The book quotes real examples from world championships where "the obvious switch" principle would have averted disaster. (See Teachers Corner for more details). The other material used was the classic ACBL Heart Series, Defence, with matching coded cards, and also Audrey Grant's "The Impact of Opening Leads against No Trumps".

CPD Days for 2017

In 2017, teachers' choices of CPD topics after completion of a Teacher Training Programme will be:

1. Modern Bidding Methods
2. Defence
3. Introduction to 2/1 Game Force

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Could this be a Record?

Rosemary Hare

Melton Bridge Club



Di Johnson played bridge in South Australia in her younger years and attained the status of Local Master. As it happens, life takes over and she had not played since 1988. When she approached to join the Melton Bridge Club this year we were agreeably surprised to find out that not only could she retain her old number, but she could be re-

instated with her local Master points. Di was delighted that her prior ranking was reinstated. Thanks to our Masterpoint archivists! It just shows that Bridge is a game that one can come back to, even after 28 years.

by Ben Thompson

Bill Jacobs and I together with our teammates Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn, Peter Gill – Andrew Peake, and NPC George Bilski travelled to Wroclaw (pronounced something like Vrots-waav) in September to represent Australia in the Open Teams at the World Bridge Games. I've wanted to play that event for my whole bridge career, so I was pretty enthused when we won the playoff in February.

We were near the qualifying mark for most of the round robin stage but ended up missing out. After a day off, Bill and I and about 300 other pairs turned our attention to the six and a half day odyssey through the world pairs championships.

The qualifying was 13 sessions, each 5 rounds of 2 boards. A full day was 5 sessions but even though that sounds light at 50 boards, each round was allocated 17 minutes (yes, 8.5 minutes per board). A lot of people couldn't finish even in that amount of time so each day was long.

We were a bit scratchy over the 3 sets on day 1 but then we hit our straps in the 6th and 7th sessions, placing 3rd and 2nd across the field respectively. Then we racked up 76.6% to win the 10th session and climb to 4th overall. Taking a session of the world pairs felt pretty good – here are a few hands from that one.

Qual 10 / Board 4. Dealer West, Vulnerability All

♠ AK
♥ 72
♦ A93
♣ KQJ432

♠ 1064
♥ AK98
♦ KQ2
♣ A106

♠ 872
♥ QJ10654
♦ 1084
♣ 5

♠ QJ953
♥ 3
♦ J765
♣ 987

	<i>Bill</i>		<i>Ben</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1NT	X ¹	2♥ ²	P
3♥	P	P	3♠
All Pass			
1 - Penalty			
2 - Transfer to Hearts			

We like being able to cube people up in their strong 1NT. Surprisingly often, strong NTers have not-quite-strong 1NT's. Even when it's full value, playing 1NTx opposite nothing in dummy tends to be difficult. 3♥ put me in an awkward spot at pairs but since they rated to make, I decided to try 3♠ hoping for support from Bill.

Dummy was ... disappointing ... and with trouble getting to my hand and a potential open ♦ suit, an ugly -200 was quite likely after the ♥K, ♥A

start. Tim Seres told me once that you don't win pairs events by scoring lots of tops; you win by finding a way to salvage something from your bottoms. I decided my only real hope of any sort of score was to knock out ♣A while tempting the nice oppos into trying to shorten my trumps again (and then catching a lucky 3-3 ♠ break). So, I cashed ♠AK and played ♣K. They did indeed try to tap me again, ♠ did indeed break 3-3 and I scored a surprising 11 tricks and the magic +200 for 86.6% when some were making ♥'s EW, and some were over-board but only -100.

Qual 10 / Board 5. Dealer North, Vulnerability NS

♠ 108764
♥ 62
♦ 765
♣ Q53

♠ J52
♥ A105
♦ A832
♣ AJ9

♠ A9
♥ J87
♦ KQJ4
♣ K864

♠ KQ3
♥ KQ943
♦ 109
♣ 1072

	<i>Bill</i>		<i>Ben</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	P	1♣	1♥
2♥ ¹	P	3♣	P
3NT	All Pass		
1 - Game force			

A ♠ lead is best double dummy but Bill dutifully led my suit – 6 7 Q A. Declarer crossed to the ♦K and tried a ♣ to the curious 9. As a long-standing partnership, Bill and I have a solid understanding of our defensive signals. Here, I was able to play ♦10 Reverse Smith at trick 2, which for us is means roughly "I have a better idea". Bill smoothly switched to a ♠ and we'd set up our 4th defensive trick for an 84% score when the field was making 10 (or more) tricks.



Open Team (L-R): George Bilski (NPC), Andrew Peake, Peter Gill, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Ben Thompson, Bill Jacobs.

We cruised through the next 3 sets and qualified for the “A” semifinal in 7th place with a handy half-board carry forward. A lot of pairs who had been knocked out of the teams at the round of 16 or quarter-final stage took advantage of their right to join semi-final A (46 pairs would qualify for the final from semi A; just 6 from the “everybody else” semi B).

We were comfortably placed throughout the semi and even managed to sneak – briefly - into the lead. The next board helped our cause.

Semi 5 / Board 26 Dealer East, Vulnerability All

♠ Q962
♥ 84
♦ K1087
♣ J53

♠ 5
♥ 9652
♦ 652
♣ KQ974

♠ AJ873
♥ KJ
♦ AQJ
♣ A106

♠ K104
♥ AQ1073
♦ 943
♣ 82

	<i>Bill</i>		<i>Ben</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣ ¹	1♥
P	P	1♠	P
2♣	P	2♠	All Pass

1 - Polish Club

1♣ was Polish and (we played against a LOT of that). They weren't entirely clear on the nature of 1♣ but they were both very sure that 2♠ was strong and natural.

I slung ♣8, combining attack and defence, which was taken with dummy's K. Declarer played a ♠ to his 8 and my 10. He would have been much better off trying the ♦ finesse, but perhaps he was worried that I led a singleton ♣ and rated me to have ♦K for my overcall.

I pushed out my last ♣ to declarer's A (Bill showing his ♣ count). Declarer tried ♠A and another ♠ to endplay me. Except I didn't like that idea, so I dumped my ♠K under the A (the 1st round of trumps is weird unless Bill has at least one trump trick). Now declarer hated all of his options and tried another ♣ hoping (!) that I'd started with ♠K10 bare. No luck – I ruffed and exited a high ♦ around to his Q. He exited a trumps but we were a tempo ahead and had to score ♥AQ and ♦Q for 2 off and 99.98%.

Throughout both the teams and the pairs, people had a lot of trouble handling our weak 1NT – not overcalling, overcalling when they shouldn't, missing penalties, misjudging their own level. On the next hand (shown top of right hand column), an Italian pair who had dropped in from the teams judged well but to no avail.

3♣ is an easy beat by playing a couple of trumps before declarer can ruff a ♣. North led a nifty low ♥ to the K and a disappointing ruff, but that killed the defences trump holding and 3♣ came home easily for an 87.5% score.

Semi 7 / Board 12. Dealer West, Vulnerability NS

♠ 109
♥ J108764
♦ J106
♣ Q9

♠ A7
♥ A952
♦ Q43
♣ 10864

♠ 865
♥ KQ3
♦ A75
♣ AJ75

♠ KQJ432
♥ -
♦ K982
♣ K32

<i>Bill</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Ben</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>2♠</i>
P	P	1NT ¹	
X ²	P	2NT ²	P
3♣	All Pass		
1 - 1NT was 11-14			
2 - Takeout			

After 2 days, 10 sets and 100 boards, we were through to the final in 3rd place. Six years ago in Philadelphia, we were 1st reserve for the final of the World Pairs and were very relieved to get a spot. This felt a lot better!

The first board of the final didn't feel so good during the auction. Our opponents bid two flat hands with a combined 33 count to 7♣. Declarer claimed on the opening lead and they started calmly discussing where they went wrong – in missing the higher scoring 7♠ in a 5-2 fit and 7NT. Sure enough, this was a 70% score for us and a handy reminder that the final of the World Open Pairs is a tough game.

The other part of our system that was consistently effective was our opening 2's, which show 10-13 points and 5+ cards in that suit (and not very balanced).

Final 2 / Board 20. Dealer West, Vulnerability All

♠ K8
♥ J954
♦ KQ76
♣ K92

♠ QJ65
♥ KQ7
♦ J
♣ J10743

♠ 732
♥ A8
♦ A982
♣ AQ65

♠ A1094
♥ 10632
♦ 10543
♣ 8

<i>Bill</i>		<i>Ben</i>	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♣	P	2♦ ¹	P
2♠	P	2NT	P
3♥	P	3NT	All Pass
1- Ask			

I just asked; when Bill rounded out his shape with 3♥ I signed off in 3NT. On the ♥6 lead, I had time to fiddle round for an overtrick after establishing the ♣'s. Our German opponents weren't falling for any of that but +600 was still worth 96%, beaten only by a pair that was allowed to make 4♠. Almost all of the field passed Bill's mangy 10 count, and North got to open something (possibly even a weak 1NT). That caught EW on the horns of awkward ranges and the field played various partscores.

If winning a session of the qualifying was fun, winning session 5 of the final was ... a big surprise. I walked out irritated with myself over misguessing a 2-way position, but here's a hand where Bill nailed it.

Final 5 / Board 15. Dealer South, Vulnerability NS

<p>♠ AKQ5 ♥ 87 ♦ A7 ♣ AJ1096</p> <p>♠ J9874 ♥ 1063 ♦ 8432 ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 102 ♥ KJ52 ♦ QJ105 ♣ 843</p>	<p>♠ 63 ♥ AQ94 ♦ K96 ♣ Q752</p>
---	---

<i>Bill</i>		<i>Ben</i>	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			P
P	1♣	1♥	1NT
P	3NT	All Pass	

Bill led ♥3 (our system lead) to my A and, lacking anything better to do, I returned ♥4. Declarer wasn't quite sure what to make of that, and didn't know what was going on in the minors so after a moderate tank, he tried playing low and Bill found himself back on lead with the 10. Bill knew I'd overcalled a 4-bagger from the pips, and from declarer's tank judged correctly that I'd started with AQ94.

Now he started thinking about the layouts and decided he could beat 3NT if I did my duty and turned up with ♦K, ♣Q and a tad more help in ♣'s. Bill duly plonked the ♣K on the table and declarer was skewered, with his ♥ trick stranded in the unreachable South hand (technically Bill needs to play a ♦ but the ♣K made it easy for me to deny South a ♣ entry to hand while confusing declarer some more). That was 98% (one other declarer went astray on a ♠ lead into the strong hand).

In the end we were very happy to finish 8th overall.

Unfortunately a huge controversy over scoring erupted the next day. Both the Open and Women's pairs events were decided by "impossible" scoring errors – the declarer was entered incorrectly and in favour of the listed winners on a (different) board in those events. All serious scoring programs pick that sort of error up automatically, and the WBF should have picked these up both automatically and with manual checking. Even worse, the listed winners in the

Women's pairs and their opponents found the error at the end of day one and notified the directors the next morning. The technical but morally unsound ruling was that the correction was out of time so a manifestly incorrect score stood. It is a serious indictment of the WBF that the gold medals awarded at the closing ceremony in 2 of the 4 pairs events didn't reflect the bridge played at the table. Thankfully, on review the WBF did what is probably the fairest thing on balance and elevated the two wronged pairs to joint 1st, together with everything that goes with it (except the joy of hearing your national anthem played due to your efforts).

Enormous congratulations to Kiwis Mike Cornell and Ash Bach who smashed the field on the last day and racked up what would normally be a winning score, and what would have been the winning score without the key scoring error. Now that they're officially the joint gold medallists, we'll obviously have to claim them as Aussies ☺



Women's Team relaxing at score-up with a win at the end of the day.

(L-R clockwise): Helene Pitt, Renee Cooper, Pele Rankin, Paula McLeish, David McLeish (Coach); Jenny Thompson (NPC); Jane Reynolds, Ruth Tobin

The Mixed Teams at the 2016 World's

by David Hoffman

For the first time, the World Bridge Federation added a mixed team championship to the World Championships. Unfortunately this decision came too late for the ABF to run trials to select the team. Rather the ABF called for mixed pairs interested in making the team to nominate. Then based on combined playoff points earned in the last year, the top three pairs would constitute the Australian mixed team.

Thus Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, Cathryn Herden – Matthew Thomson, and Margaret Bourke – David Hoffman became the team, containing considerable experience at international level. The team then augmented Paul Hookyaas as captain.

Possibly because of the late decision by the WBF, only 23 nations nominated for the event (although the Seniors event, which had been played for a number of World Championships only attracted 24 nations). The event was played as a complete round robin, with the top 16 teams proceeding to the knockout stage.

On day 1 we started with a 20-0 win against BRAZIL, a good confidence boost. This was followed by a 15.37 win against

CHINESE TAIPEI, an 18.28 win against JAPAN, and a 12.01 win against HUNGARY, to have us leading at the end of the day by 1.66vps over host POLAND. Day 2 started with an 8.62 loss to USA. Then a draw again IRELAND, a 13.97 win against ENGLAND, and a 15.99 win against INDIA, extending our lead over POLAND to 5.28vps.

Day 3 started with a 17.08 win against the UAE, a bye for which we receive 12vp, then two small losses, 9.29 against SWEDEN, and 8.62 against the NETHERLANDS. Thus half way through the round robin the top 5 places were

Netherlands	163.91
Australia	161.23
Russia	152.32
Bulgaria	151.55
Israel	148.96

Running second at this stage is possibly the best an Australian team has ever done at the World Championships. However second can be deceptive since of the 22 teams, we had only played 2 of the top placed teams, while playing 9 of the bottom placed teams. The only good things were that we had avoided the common Australian performances of losing to weak teams, and we had all but guaranteed being in the knockout stage.

Day 4 started with a disappointing 5.07 loss to TURKEY who were in 15th place. This was followed by our first serious loss 1.46 to FRANCE. However we rebounded winning 16.73 against Israel, to be closed out by an 8.95 loss to POLAND, dropping us to 6th. Day 5 started with a 7.39 loss to CHINA, followed by an 8.95 loss to Denmark, and a 12.31 win against BULGARIA. The final

match was the Australasian bout. Unfortunately NEW ZEALAND gave us a 7.99 loss. However we had maintained our 6th place.

The final day of the round robin started with our worst result, a 0.26 loss to ITALY. It was followed by a 6.82 loss to RUSSIA, and a 6.55 loss to GERMANY, leaving us in 9th place. The qualifiers were

Netherlands	309.43
France	304.51
Russia	293.29
Bulgaria	275.71
Germany	265.07
Denmark	258.82
Japan	254.30
Italy	253.05
Australia	243.71
China	242.17
Turkey	238.39
Poland	236.96
Israel	225.85
USA	225.66
Hungary	214.54
England	208.54

Getting it right on the slam hands could have seen the Mixed Team make it through to the Quarter Finals

NEW ZEALAND were 0.01 behind ENGLAND, having incurred a 0.5vp fine during the round robin.

Lineups for the round of 16 were determined by the top teams progressively choosing an opponent from the bottom eight. This resulted in GERMANY choosing us in preference to CHINA, the USA or POLAND.

The round of 16 consisted of six 16 board sessions. We lost the first 31-41, the second 15-33, the third 29-37, and the fourth 6-70 to have us trailing by 100imps, and all but eliminated. So what went wrong? Firstly, our opponents played well, but secondly, over the four sessions we lost imps on slam hands. For this report I will discuss all slam hands in these four sets, including what happened in all 64 tables:

Set 1, Board 2

♠ Q86	♠ AK953
♥ KT74	♥ AJ2
♦ A42	♦ --
♣ Q98	♣ AT543

6♣ bid 24 times, made 15 times. Germany bid it, making. Herden/Thomson didn't bid it, losing 11imps.

Set 1, Board 5

♠ KJ85	♠ T2
♥ AJT9	♥ K
--	♦ A98742
♣ AQ863	♣ KJT4

6♣ bid 24 times, made 22 times. Germany did not bid it, Bourke/Hoffman did, winning 12imps.

Set 2, Board 17

♠ 5	♠ AQ98742
♥ KQJ8	♥ --
♦ AQ986	♦ KJ53
♣ 986	♣ QT

The bidding started 1♦ (2♥) 2♠, after which Bourke/Hoffman bid the stupid 6♦, doubled by the hand holding ♠KJT6, ♥A3, ♦T4, ♣KJ742 over the spades. On the ♠3 lead, Hoffman could have made, but didn't. This cost 12imps, while making would have won 12imps.

Set 2, Board 18

♠ A3	♠ K86
♥ QT	♥ AJ2
♦ KJ98432	♦ A5
♣ K3	♣ AJT94

Slam bid 52 times, all making. GERMANY bid 6NT, making. Bourke/Hoffman bid the better 6♦, but lost 2imps.

Set 3, Board 2

♠ AQJ54	♠ K93
♥ 54	♥ KT3
♦ A	♦ K74
♣ JT952	♣ AQ63

5 pairs bid slam, 3 making. GERMANY bid 6♠. Herden/Thomson lead ♥Q, scoring, but failed to cash the second heart, since they had bid and supported hearts. This cost 13imps, rather than winning 13imps for beating the slam.

Continued on page: 25

by Ron Klinger

The format for the World Seniors' Teams was unattractive, with four 12-board matches per day. The Open and the Women's Teams played three 16-board matches, hence the Seniors had no BBO, no Daily Bulletin coverage and no basis for comparison with the Open/Women for the first week. The World Bridge Federation should be able to do better.

Australia's Seniors' Team, pictured right, started slowly in the 23-match round robin. After Day 3 we were lying 16th, but pulled up to ninth at the end of the qualifying stage.

Sixteen teams qualified and the top seven had their choice from the bottom eight. None of those picked Australia and so we were left to play Poland in the Round of 16.

In the 96-board match, Poland won the first session by 41-25, while Australia won set 2 by 37-18 to lead 62-59. Session 3 was dreadful. We lost it 15-76 and the less said about it the better. Session 4 was 40-40 and we trailed by 58 Imps, 117-175 with 32 boards to go. Session 5 went our way by 55-7 and suddenly we were only 10 Imps behind, 172-182, with 16 boards left.

On Board 82, Poland went further ahead, picking up ten Imps when they made 620 in 4♥, while Australia played in 2♠ +140. Australia picked up 5 Imps on a part-score deal and an overtrick Imp to trail by 178-192. Then:

Bd. 90: West dealer: Both vulnerable

	♠ K764		
	♥ Q96		
	♦ Q		
	♣ QJ432		
♠ QJ85		♠ 102	
♥ J72		♥ 83	
♦ AJ962		♦ K108754	
♣ A		♣ K86	
	♠ A93		
	♥ AK1054		
	♦ 3		
	♣ 10975		

West	North K'malik	East	South Lavings
1♦	Pass	3♦ ¹	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1 - Pre-emptive

West led the ♦A and another diamond. Declarer ruffed in dummy and pitched a spade from hand. When he played a low club from dummy East rose with the ♣K, colliding with West's ♣A. South made eleven tricks for +200.

West Burgess	North	East Lorentz	South
1♦	Pass	3♦ ¹	3♥
4♦	4♥	All pass	

1 - Pre-emptive

West led the ♣A, followed by the ♦2 to the ♦K. East cashed the ♣K and gave West a club ruff. One off, 7 Imps to Australia, now trailing by 185-192, six boards to go.

Australia picked up 5 Imps on a part-score deal on Board 91. Board 92 was flat and Poland collected 3 Imps on Board 93 to lead 195-190, three boards left.



Seniors Team (L-R): David Stern (NPC), Paul Lavings, Robert Krochmalik, Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, Ron Klinger, Bill Haughe

On Board 94, Australia hit the front! At one table, Stephen Burgess (West) passed and North opened 2♠ (weak, spades and a minor), all pass. Declarer made eight tricks for +110.

West dealer: Nil vulnerable

	♠ A5432		
	♥ J7		
	♦ 6		
	♣ A10752		
♠ J987		♠ Q10	
♥ A105		♥ 84	
♦ Q109		♦ KJ87432	
♣ Q98		♣ J4	
	♠ K6		
	♥ KQ9632		
	♦ A5		
	♣ K63		

West	North K'malik	East	South Lavings
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All pass	

South won the ♦10 lead, ruffed the ♦5 and led the ♥J. West took the ace and switched to the ♠7: two – queen – king. South ran the hearts. When West let a spade go, South played ♠A and ruffed a spade for 12 tricks, +480 and +9 Imps. Australia 199, Poland 195.

Bd. 95: East dealer : E-W vulnerable

♠ J ♥ J7 ♦ QJ10543 ♣ A1062 ♠ KQ7632 ♥ 1053 ♦ K7 ♣ 83 ♠ 104 ♥ KQ2 ♦ A986 ♣ KQJ4	♠ A985 ♥ A9864 ♦ 2 ♣ 975 ♠ A98 ♥ J42 ♦ 97543 ♣ A5
---	--

On Board 95 above, both tables began:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦
Pass . . .			

1 - Transfer to diamonds

Playing a 13-15 1NT, Gabi Lorentz (N) passed and South made 10 tricks, +130. With 1NT 15-18, Poland's North bid 3NT, all pass. The defence took six spades and the ♥A, three down, +150, +7 Imps. Poland won 3 Imps on Board 96, but Australia won the match by 206-198.

The quarter-final match was against USA, who had won the qualifying stage easily. We won Session 1 by 30-15, lost the next by 12-48, then won the next two 32-21 and 29-22 to trail by 3 Imps, 103-106, with 32 boards to go.

East dealer : Both vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

1 - 15-17 points;

2 - Transfer to spades

What would you do as South with:

♠ K106 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQ ♣ J10763

When choosing between 3NT and 4-major, usually choose the major with a 5-3 fit, especially when the hand with three trumps has a doubleton and so potential for ruffing. Opting for 3NT can be right with a 5-3-3-2 opposite a 4-3-3-3. If North's doubleton here is in diamonds, 3NT might play badly. In addition, North might well have two doubletons, possibly even a singleton. All of that argues for removing 3NT to 4♠.

The winning decision was 4♠. (See Board 52 in the right-hand column) Hamman (W) led the ♦J. South won and played the ♠10 to the ♠A. South lost just to the three missing aces, ten tricks, North-South +620.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>K'malik</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Lavings</i>	<i>M'Stroth</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All pass	

1 - Puppet to 2♦

North's 2♣ : 2♦, 3NT sequence showed a 5-3-3-2 pattern with five spades and asked South to choose between 3NT and 4♠. South opted for 3NT. The problem in 3NT was not the diamonds, but the hearts. West led the ♥10: three – four – king. The ♣6 went to the king and ace. East returned the ♥J and declarer finished two down, -200, 13 Imps to Australia.

Session 4: Bd. 52: East dealer: Both vulnerable

♠ QJ542 ♥ 53 ♦ A82 ♣ KQ4 ♠ 73 ♥ A10987 ♦ J106 ♣ 982 ♠ K106 ♥ KQ6 ♦ KQ ♣ J107643	♠ A98 ♥ J42 ♦ 97543 ♣ A5
--	-----------------------------------

This arose in Session 5:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	

What would you lead as West from:

♠ Q764 ♥ J53 ♦ A9653 ♣ 2

Bd. 74: North dealer : Both vulnerable

♠ K953 ♥ Q87 ♦ J1042 ♣ J5 ♠ Q764 ♥ J53 ♦ A9653 ♣ 2 ♠ J82 ♥ K4 ♦ KQ ♣ AKQ1064	♠ A10 ♥ A10962 ♦ 87 ♣ 9873
---	-------------------------------------

Against 3NT, I led a low diamond to the ♦Q. Zia Mahmood (South) returned the ♦K, ducked. After a heart to the ♥Q and ♥A, he had nine tricks, +600.

A low heart (or any heart) beats 3NT. The defence will collect four hearts, a diamond and a spade eventually. At the other table Stephen Burgess – Gabi Lorentz (N-S) bid Pass: 1♣ (16+ points, any shape), 1♠ (balanced, 0-7 points): 1NT, 2♣ (Stayman), all pass. Lorentz managed to take 11 tricks, +150, but -10 Imps (instead of +8 if 3NT had been defeated by two tricks at the other table).

We lost Session 5 by 2 Imps, trailing 134-139, but USA had much the better of the final session, 49-24, to win the match by 188-158.

ABF SUMMER SCHOOL

INTRODUCING ABF SUMMER SCHOOL

ABF Summer School is a ten-week, free online course to help beginner and novice players prepare for the 2017 Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra.

Each week, ABF National Teaching Coordinator Joan Butts will cover a different topic to ensure all players have a good foundation for competing in the tournament.

FIND OUT MORE OR REGISTER NOW:

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The course is tailored to two levels - novice players, and teachers. Novice players can undertake the lessons on their own, while teachers will receive tips for use with their own students.

The ABF Summer School is free and open to all bridge players and teachers, but only available for a limited time.

Summer Reading

Here are some of my all time favourite bridge books to help you get ready for Summer School:

Defensive Bridge Play by Eddie Kantar. Also known as the big red book, Defensive Bridge Play was written in the 1970s but is still relevant today. This book covers just about everything you need to know about defending in bridge. At around 500 A4 size pages with tons of information it is quite a slog to get through, but there are just so many good ideas in here that it is worth the effort.

Take all your Chances at Bridge by Eddie Kantar. I think this is a sensational book about card play, the percentages and how to make your contract. Containing 100 problems broken up into 4 problem blocks with normal and advanced problems intermingled into each set. After considering the 4 problems set out on one double page, one turns over and the solutions are provided with detailed discussion on the next pages. The advanced problems might be a bit hard for newer players, but regardless of this the suggested lines of play will provide good technique for players at any level.

Judgment at Bridge by Mike Lawrence is a very readable book from one of my favourite authors. This one discusses common bidding errors and suggests how to avoid them when playing Standard American. As I read through this book many years ago, I found myself nodding at the number of examples which I recognised myself having perpetrated at the time. Whilst I like to think I now avoid many of the

errors discussed (although others may disagree), I frequently observe players making the exact mistakes that Mike discusses.

How to Play Card Combinations by Mike Lawrence.

Another super book from Mike which discusses both how he and his partner reached the contract, and how to approach the play. The variety of hands shown will provide something for everyone.

Card Play Technique (The Art of Being Lucky) by Victor Mollo & Nico Gardener. No summer reading list would be complete without including this great book from Mollo that covers just about everything you need to know about playing the cards. First published in 1955 it has stood the test of time, and is still relevant today. Mollo is also the author of the wonderful series of "menagerie" books featuring the exploits of characters such as 'the hideous hog' and 'the rueful rabbit'. This super series is fun and educational as it follows the game of these and others at "the Griffins".

Finally if you don't want to spend any money, and want to do some free practice - go onto BBO (Bridge Base Online), and have a look in 'Other Bridge Activities' or Practice depending on which version you are using. You can try the Bridge Master 2000 hands, the Double Dummy hands, or just the Learn to Play Bridge section for free lessons and play problems. You can do this on your own, and you don't have to put up with any rude opponents. The ABF website also has tips & videos for newer players to help you improve. Click on Education/Improvers and have a look around.

Kim Frazer

The Mental Game - Concentration

Kim Frazer



Loss of concentration can be devastating for our results as bridge players. It is easy to dump 20imps in the space of 3 or 4 boards through poor concentration. Top athletes generally have superb concentration – it is a skill which is developed over time – and if they lose concentration they have mechanisms to regain it.

Imagine what would happen if an athlete at the Olympics who was about to take an attempt at the high jump, allowed their focus to waver by a distraction at the event. Would they be likely to make a successful jump? Tennis players, golfers and others often complain about the noise of spectators, and the impact this has on their ability to concentrate. Bridge players are no different – often finding themselves unable to concentrate properly due to a variety of distractions – whether it is a director at the next table, the players discussing a hand or chatting nearby – or the stage they have reached in the match which may be commencing, nearing its conclusion, nearing lunch and so on. Loss of concentration need not come from a distraction. It may also manifest itself through the mind wandering - thinking about the last hand, the card you failed to play, the mistake you made, the game you didn't bid, the victory which is in sight, and so on.

In an earlier article I discussed maintaining focus, (Edition No 167, May 2014), and how to regain focus after a distraction. However, it is better if one doesn't become distracted at all. If the mind does not wander and we can concentrate despite what is happening around us and the circumstances that we find ourselves in. Concentration is a skill, just like counting cards, that can be practiced and improved. I have provided two exercises – one very simple, and one slightly more difficult - that were provided to me many years ago when I was participating in a training camp for shooting. The original source is now unknown, and I have modified these to be applicable to the bridge world. I hope these will help you improve your concentration skills to assist in maintaining focus.

There are also many articles about improving concentration available on the internet. The Australian Institute of Sport has a course available on their free online e-learning facility which you can register for via <https://learning.ausport.gov.au/> if you want to complete something more structured.

Exercise 1: To begin this exercise, get seated in a comfortable position, close your eyes, and breath slowly.

On a signal, begin to count respirations by adding one on each inhalation and continue to do so for a period of one minute. Because this is a simple activity and there is a pause during the exhalation other thoughts will rise to the conscious level. Do not get distracted by these; just passively let them pass through your mind. Otherwise breaths will be missed, the count will be lost, and/or you may find that you are counting on exhalations and not inhalations.

Exercise 2: To begin this exercise. you need to have an object which is a part of bridge. The object, for example, can be a piece of clothing you always wear at bridge, your favourite pen, your system card, a playing card, etc. The type of object is not important as long as it is something that is directly connected with performance in bridge. In addition, a watch or clock is needed to time the concentration periods.

To begin the exercise, sit in a comfortable position with the bridge object in your hands. The purpose of the exercise is to concentrate on the object for an increasing period of time. During the exercise be aware of nothing except the object itself - its colour; its texture; its smell; its weight; and its taste. Examine the object in detail, becoming aware of scuff marks, creases, stitching, shadows as the object is moved. etc. Guard against being distracted (i.e., losing concentration) by what the object is used for, past or future performances, sounds and/or actions going on in the environment, or non-bridge related thought.

Initially, practice this exercise in a place that is quiet and which has few or no distracting sights and sounds. At the beginning, use a 30 second concentration period followed by a 30 second rest period. As the ability to concentrate increases, extend the concentration period and then shorten the rest period until the concentration period can be held for five minutes.

When you can maintain focused concentration for up to five minutes, the exercise can be made more difficult by changing breadth of focus. This is accomplished by focusing first on the object as a whole, then broadening the focus to the object in relation to you and other objects within your sight line, then narrowing down to a single crease, mark, point on the object, etc.

Both these exercises can be made more difficult by doing them in distracting settings, such as an area with noise, or by having someone deliberately attempt to distract you.

Peter Gill - Emerald Grand Master

During October, Peter Gill became the ABF's seventh Emerald Grand Master, joining this select group of other well known Australian players which includes Ron Klinger, Paul Lavings, Margaret Bourke, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer and the late Bob Richman.



The Sydney based professional bridge player was a member of the 2016 Open team for the World Championships. Peter also teaches and directs bridge events.

Peter is the winner of over 30 national championships, and is a multiple Australian team representative.



TBIB



Lottery

\$50,000

All competitors in the **TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs Championship** will automatically be eligible for a bridge lottery prize of **\$50,000!** Six numbers within the IMP range of +40 to -40 will be randomly selected and any pair who can match five of these numbers will win the lottery.

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Terms and Conditions

1. Free entry is provided to all pairs registered for the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs Championship being held on 14 and 15 January 2017 at the QT Hotel, Canberra.
2. The lottery prize is \$50,000 if there is a winning pair. In the event of a draw, the prize will be divided equally between winning pairs.
3. The Lottery will close on 15 January at completion of play for the competition. Competitors will be notified of the winning numbers at this time. To win, a pair must match 5 out of 6 randomly selected IMP scores in the range of +40 to -40 IMPs. For the purpose of this clause, "completion of play" shall mean the end of the corrections period for the last round of the competition; "matching an IMP score" shall mean having a match IMP total (ignoring the decimal fraction if any that may be part of that total, and any variation in scores resulting from an appeal after completion of play as above) that matches one of the randomly drawn numbers.
4. The winning numbers will be announced at the competition venue, the QT Hotel, Canberra.
5. The winning numbers will be notified in the SFOB Daily Bulletin and the ABF homepage on 16 January and for those who have provided their email address on their registration form for the event, an email will be issued.
6. The promoter for the Trade Promotion Lottery is the Australian Bridge Federation, ABN 70 053 651 666.
7. In the event that no pair has claimed the winning numbers, the prize will be withdrawn.
8. The prize cannot be given away.

Marcia Scudder

I decided that the 2016 Spring Nationals would be my 7th and last as its Tournament Organiser. After advertising the position for some time, Mike Prescott put his hat in the ring. I am confident that the Spring Nationals will be in excellent hands into the future.



NSWBA chairman, Julian Foster (right) presenting flowers and certificates to me and behind the scenes stalwart, John Scudder.

Meanwhile, preparations were underway for this year's event, with the required resources being based on 'guesstimates' of entry numbers. Booklets were printed, hand records duplicated, boards were being dealt, and eventually entries started to dribble in. It looked unlikely that the 2015 numbers would be reached, particularly for the Open Teams, which was a record high that year. As the event neared, entries still came in slowly, and then, suddenly, a few weeks out, the floodgates opened. This year the entries in the Open Teams reached 62, 9 more than in 2015!! At the same time, the entries in the Women's and Seniors' Teams approached, then passed those for 2015. Pairs is always an unknown quantity, as there is no early bird discount for entering and paying early. However, again, they equalled or surpassed those for 2015, the Restricted Pairs entry rose from 22 to 36, and the Novice Pairs entry remained at 24. The Open Pairs entry however increased by a staggering 28 pairs, so this year, 126 pairs competed.

What does all this mean for a Tournament Organiser?

It has meant dealing more board replicates, creating extra score books, printing more hand records, sourcing more physical tables, creating more table numbers to go on the tables. In particular it has meant employing additional Directing staff at relatively short notice. Very fortunately, Laurie Kelso was available so I was able to separate the Chief Tournament Director and Chief Scorer roles.

The venue size posed no problem, as the Sky High and Galaxies rooms at Canterbury Park Racecourse are so large that they could accommodate additional tables with ease.

I took the event over from Kim Neale in 2010; the number of table days that year was 392. Over the seven year period, this has risen to 565, a 44% increase. The Open Teams and Dick Cummings Open Pairs have both grown significantly, and this growth has been augmented by the introduction of the Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs and the Novice Pairs. The Women's and Seniors' Teams have fluctuated over the period, without substantial growth.

I played only in the Women's Teams, by which time the tournament was chugging along smoothly. The hands were not dull, with some being spectacular, especially Round 3 board 3 where East held a no loser hand:

♠A ♥AKQ63 ♦A ♣AKQJT8

Of the 46 tables in play (22 in the Women's and 24 in the Seniors') a grand slam in ♥ or ♣ or NT, was only bid at 9 + 18 tables. How do you find out if partner has the ♥J, or some other suitable ♥ and/or ♣ holding? The full hand was:

♠	J876	♠	A
♥	J54	♥	AKQ63
♦	J62	♦	A
♣	763	♣	AKQJT8
♠	Q5	♠	KT9432
♥	T9872	♥	-
♦	Q873	♦	KT954
♣	92	♣	54

At our table where my partner, Inez Glander and I were sitting NS, the bidding was:

South	West	North	East
2NT ¹	P	3♣ ²	X
3♦ ³	P	3♠	6♣
6♠	P	P	X
P	P	P	

1 - 5+/5+ in ♣/♥ or ♦/♠ (<opening, or 8 playing tricks)

2 - Enquiry

3 - Showing ♥/♠ and < opening bid

I walked the tightrope by bidding 6♠, inviting E to bid the laydown 7, but, having not been able to diagnose the ♥ situation, she took the sure positive on the hand and doubled.

Did you know that the ABF has an App?

The ABF App provides quick access to Masterpoints, ABF Calendar, ABF Facebook, Results, Events and the ABF website.

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Visit the "app" store on your smartphone & search for "ABF"

Major Australian Event Results

WBF World Bridge Games - Poland

Mixed Team: Paul Hookyaas (NPC) – Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer – Cathryn Herden – Matthew Thomson – Margaret Bourke – David Hoffman.

Round of 16 - Lost to Germany

Seniors Team: David Stern (NPC), Paul Lavings, Robert Krochmalik, Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, Ron Klinger, Bill Haughie.

Quarter-Final - Lost to USA

Open Team: George Bilski (NPC) – Bill Jacobs – Ben Thompson – Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn, Peter Gill – Andrew Peake.

Knocked out in Round Robin

Womens Team: Jenny Thompson (NPC) – Helene Pitt – Renee Cooper – Pele Rankin – Paula McLeish – Jane Reynolds – Ruth Tobin.

Round of 16 - Lost to USA

2016 Spring Nationals - NSW

Open Teams

1. Liam Milne - Nye Griffiths - Andy Hung - Sartaj Hans
2. Avinash Kanetkar - Bruce Neill - Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

Open Pairs

1. Matthew Thomson - David Beauchamp
2. Phillip Markey - Ben Thompson

Women Teams

1. Alida Clark - Viv Wood - Pele Rankin - Eileen Li
2. Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg - Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk - Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty

Senior Teams

1. Jonathan Free - Michael Smart - Robert Sebesfi - Richard Douglas
2. Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer - Ian Robinson - George Kozakas

Restricted Teams

1. Tony Bowmaker - Fay Jeppesen - Michael Young - Ruth Cowan
2. Martin Clear - Phillip Halloran - Tanya Renaud - Ru Bizys

Restricted Pairs

1. Jenny Delaney - Susan Laurenson
2. Dennis Kristanda - Terry Dunne

Novice Pairs

1. Bevin Brooks - Ingrid Cooke
2. Ken Cahill - Paul Roach

Territory Gold Festival - NT

Matchpoint Pairs

1. Murray Perrin - Neville Francis
2. Andrew Richman - Sandra Richman

Open Teams

1. Martin Bloom - Nigel Rosendorff - Sue Ingham - Terry Brown
2. Murray Perrin - Neville Francis - Michael Stoneman - Bastian Bolt

Swiss Pairs

1. Jeannette Collins - Simon Hinge
2. Andrew Richman - Sandra Richman

HGR Memorial - WA

Swiss Pairs - Women

1. Harry Leybourne - Leone Fuller
2. Pauline Collett - Joan Prince

Swiss Pairs - Restricted

1. Dave Sloan - Gary Frampton
2. Corrie Davis - Kimberley Zhao

Youth Invade Canberra!

The 2nd Canberra in Bloom Bridge Festival, held in early October, was invaded by youth players.

The influx was thanks to the organisational efforts of John Newman and John Yoon together with funding support from the ABF Youth Committee, NSWBA, BFACT and the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund. Over 40 youth players came from all over the country to the Festival and they played throughout the event.

Roy Nixon commented: "This must be one of the largest single groups we have had in an Australian national event with the possible exception of Youth Week. Let's make this a regular feature of the bridge calendar."



This year's event also experienced a surge in overall entries – up 28% on 2015 – with players appreciating the new venue at Thoroughbred Park with its spacious and well-lit areas, not to mention the sweeping views across the racecourse.

The great news is that this venue has been secured for the next three years, and the Tournament Organiser, John Brockwell, and his committee, will be working hard to make Canberra in Bloom 2017– to be held from Sept 29 to Oct 2nd – even better.

Canberra in Bloom Bridge Festival - ACT

Royal Bluebell Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

1. Stephen Mendick - Bernard Waters
2. Arjuna de Livera - George Kozakas

Spider Orchid Novice & Restricted MP Swiss Pairs

1. Desh Gupta - Subhash Jalota
2. Andrew Gosney - Jack Luke-Paredi

Golden Wattle Open Teams

1. Ian Robinson - George Kozakas - Khokan Bagchi - David Lilley
2. Ann Powell - Earl Dudley - Stephen Mendick - Bernard Waters

Silver Wattle Novice & Restricted Swiss Teams

1. Phillip Halloran - John MCGovern - Jacky Gruszka - Sylvia Halloran
2. John Rogers - Wing Roberts - Hans Van Weeren - Peter Clarke

Canberra Bells Swiss Pairs

1. Margaret Gidley-Baird - Chris Williams
2. Ian Robinson - George Kozakas

Federation Rose Novice & Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. Margaret Carr - Karen Irvine
2. Desh Gupta - Subhash Jalota

By Barbara Travis

England holds several top-level tournaments, some being held on an on-going basis through the year and others being held on long weekends, given that distance/access is not a problem (unlike Australia). The Summer Meeting is held over two weekends, with a Seniors and Novice (“Really Easy”) Congress filling the week between. The first weekend event is a Swiss Butler Pairs, with the second being a Teams event.

Fiona (Fee) Brown knew that Howard Melbourne and I would be in the UK for the second event and invited me to play with her. It’s always flattering to have a world champion asking for a game, so I found Howard a partner, Gareth Hyett, and we were set to play in the Four Stars Teams.

This was the 50th anniversary of the Summer Meeting, and the first at Eastbourne rather than Brighton. The venue didn’t really cope with the very hot weather (it was 32 and the UK!), but otherwise the organisation ran smoothly.

I’d like to focus on the differences between this event and playing a national teams event here. As with Australia, there was a qualifying and then a final, but the format was very different. The qualifying involved playing 10 x 8-board matches, 3 on the Friday night and 7 on the Saturday afternoon and evening. The top eight teams would then play a round robin Final on Sunday, involving 7 more 8-board matches. Similarly, the next eight teams played off to win the “Plate”. Meantime the rest of the teams played on for ‘position’.

Small cash prizes were to be awarded to all teams in the Final and Plate, and there were even prizes for the top teams in the rest of the field.

I was amused to find that the format is referred to as an “Australian-style movement”, based purely on the North-South pairs remaining at their home table. This is where any resemblance to Australian movements ends, given that the ‘home table’ only remains for one session, and then it changes with each session. There is no seeding prior to the event; on arrival, you make a blind draw for your team number and then sit at that table, with odd numbered tables being one side of the room and even numbered on the other. Your first opponents are the respective odd/even numbered table on the other side of the room.

I must say that I prefer our proper home seating, but I liked the fact that BridgeMates provided us with the next round’s draw and the names of your expected East-West opponents (unless they changed their line-ups).

Another difference to Australian teams events is that English teams events are scored with an old-fashioned but ‘simple’ EBU Victory Point scale (20-0, no decimal points). In the UK there is universal support for this VP scale, given its simplicity for the players.

We were all expected to have two completed English Bridge Union (EBU) convention cards at the table, though I noticed that the Norwegians tended to provide WBF cards, despite the regulations. The EBU system card is very different to the Australian convention card, so I was glad that Fee had com-

pleted ours. (The last time I played in the UK the EBU system card was a pathetic attempt at providing information, but the new version was pretty good – just different.)

In a typical coincidence, our first opponents included a woman who grew up in Sydney, one suburb from me! I thought I’d play the “Adelaide card” and ask her where she went to school, just in case we had gone to the same school, but that wasn’t to be. Fee and I also managed to play the other Australian in the field – Kieran Dyke – in a later match.

In the final, I was really impressed with the behaviour and ethics of two English Junior representatives. There had been a failure to alert an artificial 2NT bid, which was also later described as “natural”. This affected our auction, in that we reached 4♥ instead of 4♠, and also impacted on Fee’s play of the hand – going down 1 in 4♥X instead of making. However 4♠ was an obvious contract and would always make. Even before the Director was called, our opponents both agreed that they thought we should be given 4♠ making. I just don’t see such polite and cooperative behaviour in Australia; usually the opponents argue the point! It was such a pleasant change to have opponents accept that they had caused us some damage... and when the Director came everyone was very amenable – no shouting or fussing involved.

There was one other difference—apparently it was a ‘first’ in England too—but what a delightful difference it was. In the large area abutting the playing area (see photo), about 10 tables had been set up with all sorts of games: Chess, Cribbage, Scrabble, Go, Chinese Checkers, and cards, so before game time people enjoyed socialising over a quick game.



Anyway, our team qualified in second place for the Final, which we won, though not without a scare in the last match, when we were thoroughly trounced until the final board. In the end, we won by 1 VP! And this leads me to the final difference between events in the two countries: the EBU now pays prize money into individuals’ “EBU accounts” – from which one can obviously pay entry fees too. So, in order to claim our prize money, I emailed the organiser asking if he could transfer our money into Howard’s English bank account, since neither of us is an EBU member. By morning he had responded to Howard, advising him that there was in fact money already in Howard’s EBU account, which he knew nothing about! (I guess Howard moved to Australia shortly after this method was introduced.) So not only did we win a small amount of prize money, but we also found Howard’s ‘forgotten’ past prize money!

Sandra Mulcahy

ABF National Marketing Officer

National promotions

Over the past 2 years the ABF has undertaken promotional campaigns with Rotary Clubs, teachers of both private and public schools and with nurses and allied health professionals.

The most recent full-page promotion was in the September 2016 issue of Health Times Magazine.

More campaigns are planned for 2017.



Free promotional materials

There are a range of promotional materials on the ABF website which can be downloaded by clubs. Simply go to the ABF website, look under Marketing / Promotion of Bridge / Materials.



Marketing Updates for Club Administrators

A monthly newsletter is issued to interested club administrators providing hints and tips on marketing.

This newsletter also provides details of upcoming workshops – both marketing and teacher training – and of national campaigns so that clubs can take advantage of the exposure to a particular professional group.

Copies can be viewed on the ABF Website – look under Marketing / Marketing Updates.

To subscribe contact marketing@abf.com.au

Marketing Workshops

Over the past 12 months I have been conducting marketing workshops for club administrators and teachers.

To date, these have been provided in Perth, Bunbury, Ballina, Sydney, Melbourne (pictured below), Surfers Paradise and the ACT.



At these workshops attendees are guided through a step-by-step process to develop a membership strategy that serves the needs of their members as well as generating a financial return for their club.

Discussion centres around fundamental concepts, including:

- how to develop and convey a compelling value proposition;
- how to engage members and prospective members in a way that will keep them loyal to their club;
- understanding the membership lifecycle; and,
- how to develop an education strategy for all members and prospective members at their club (including suggestions for how to transition people from beginner classes to session bridge).

Feedback on the workshops has been extremely positive from participants. If you would like a marketing workshop run in your region, please contact me at: marketing@abf.com.au

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What the heck do I do now?

'What the heck do I do now?' is an alternative slant on 'what should I bid?'. Each newsletter, our Brain's Trust will tell you what they would have done in the same situation - whether it is a bid out of turn; unauthorised information or other situations that arise.

The Brain's Trust this month is:

Bill Jacobs: A member of Australia's Open Team at the 2016 World Championships.

Matthew McManus: Director Extraordinaire; he also plays bridge!

Sebastian Yuen: Talented Player & National Director

This hand was played in the final round of the Swiss Pairs at Albury 2016. Jamie Ebery & Kim Frazer were running 2nd at the time sitting EW and this was the first board of the round. Here's how the story unfolded:

At equal vulnerability, your RHO passes out of turn and you hold "♠ - ♥AQxxx ♦KQJx ♣xxxx". The director comes to the table and advises you of your options which are:

- "accept the pass" – bidding proceeds as normal
- "reject the pass" – bidding reverts to the opening bidder (your LHO) and RHO must pass at the first turn

BJ: I would reject the bid. Of course had I known in advance what was about to happen ... if only time travel to the future were possible.

MM: I would accept the pass out of turn and open 1♥.

There is usually a significant advantage to be had by being the first to bid on a hand. My hand is one which is only just an opening bid and I can see potential for the auction getting back to me with the opponents

having pre-empted in spades. If RHO has been forced to pass, LHO's actions can be very random, so I won't know whether 4S is a truly "normal" pre-emptive bid or something made on a much stronger hand.

SY: I would accept the pass out of turn and open 1♥. Even though I don't have spades, there's no reason yet to think this isn't our hand, and I welcome most opportunities I have to get in the first blow — and if LHO is about to bid a lot of spades, I will feel better having at least shown one of my suits.

Even if LHO stays generously silent, this is a hand where I'd like to start bidding before partner. Suppose I reject the pass out of turn, LHO passes and partner opens 1♠. Then, depending on methods, our uncontested auction might proceed 1♠-1NT-2♠ (2/1 context) or 1♠-2♥-2♠ (standard context), both of which are fairly uncomfortable positions. On the whole, the auction looks more tractable if I have the opportunity to show both hearts and diamonds before partner potentially rebids spades: 1♥-1♠-2♦-?

Your partner has passed out of turn, and your RHO decided not to accept the bid, the bidding has reverted to you. Your

partner must pass for the first round. Holding ♠AKQxxx ♥x ♦Axx ♣Qxx what do you bid?

BJ: I like 4♠. Apart from the actual effect of preempting the opponents, it protects against the scenario where partner has a little something and 4♠ is making ... and if I bid less, then that's where I might play if neither opponent chooses to bid.

MM: I would also bid 4♠ - as little as the two minor suit kings might give us play for game. I could open 1♠ and hope that the opponents keep the auction open, so that partner can later express their values. However, if partner has a maximum for their pass out of turn, there is a reduced likelihood that that will happen and therefore also more likely that we will make game.

SY: I think game is sufficiently likely that you should guess to bid one here, and I think 4♠ is right. Partner doesn't need very much for this to be right -- something like xx-xxxx-Kx-Kxxx has good play, for example. My guess is that it will be makeable at least half the time, and the defence may slip up more often not knowing what sort of hand you have. (And if it doesn't work, partner will be too busy apologising in the post-mortem to blame you!)

3NT is a plausible alternative, but I don't think it's quite as good as 4♠. Assuming spades run, you need partner's hand to generate only two tricks rather than three, but you also need them to be sufficiently fast. For example, even something as strong as xx-Axx-Qxx-KJxxx isn't good enough — they may get their four heart tricks and the ♣A before you get to your ninth trick.

Not accepting the pass might not have been the best option now that the bidding has gone:

North	West	South	East
4♠	P	P	?

What do you do now?

BJ: That's it, I don't care about the impossibility of it all, but I am jumping into the nearest TARDIS, travelling backwards in time, and discussing with my partner whether a double of 4♠ is for penalties or takeout. If penalties, I bid 4NT. If takeout, I double. Either agreement is reasonable (but you should undoubtedly play takeout doubles of 4 hearts).

MM: This is a matter of partnership style. Either 4NT or double would I think be fine. RHO's enforced pass has randomised the auction somewhat and we are now making the last guess. Anything could be right, but taking some action rather than passing seems best.

SY: I would double (takeout). This is fairly light, but gives us at least a chance to avoid the dreaded double game swing opposite (for example) xxx-Kxx-Axxxx-x, where both 4♠ and 5♦ are likely to make. Meanwhile, we will defend (probably successfully) when partner has Qxxx-Jx-xxx-AJxx, rather than going for a number at the five-level. At such a high level, partner should be taking out the double only with some distribution.

If double here would be penalties, then our choices are worse. We don't have a hand justifying a penalty double, and 4NT (takeout) is a unilateral commitment to the five-level. Since I can't involve partner in the play-or-defend decision, I might follow the principle of not taking the last guess — pass and hope LHO chose poorly!

The full deal, along with what actually happened...

Barbara Travis

After partner has passed, with a 4♥ bid in front of you, would you Pass or bid 4♠ as South?

♠ KQ10765
♥ Void
♦ KQ4
♣ K875

Partner talked herself out of bidding because I was a passed hand and she was ace-less. However, bidding is the correct action... Both 4♥ and 4♠ make. If you bid 4♠, either West will double or the opponents will bid to 5♥ which should fail. We lost 11 IMPs when our team-mates saved in 5♥ over 4♠.

Now it's time to show one we got right!

East dealer : E-W vulnerable

♠ J9743
♥
♦ K63
♣ AK742

♠ 1052
♥ K5432
♦ A94
♣ QJ

♠ AKQ6
♥ A109876
♦ J8
♣ 5

♠ 8
♥ QJ
♦ Q10752
♣ 109863

West	North <i>Travis</i>	East	South <i>Ginsberg</i>
		1♥	Pass
3♥ ¹	X	4♥	4NT ²
Pass	5♣	X	All Pass

1 - Limit Raise

2 - Two places to play

After I had bid 5♣, East took a very long time to make his bid, finally opting to double. Because of the length of time he took, West felt compelled to Pass; without the hesitation or if East had passed in tempo, she would have bid 5♥, given her 5 card trump support.

5♣X made when the diamonds behaved so kindly, whilst our team-mates bid on to 5♥ for +650, and 15 IMPs to our team.

People often ask me about high-level bidding and sacrificing. It can be a hit-and-miss affair (and differs at Teams to Pairs too!). However, if the opponents pre-empt at the 4-level you should aim to have at least a 9-10 card fit to be bidding at the 5-level! At the ANC in Adelaide in 2013, David Beauchamp (NSW) wrote an article about 5-level contracts, and how you should NOT be the second side to be bidding at the 5-level. Some of the above hands demonstrate that situation, although others are examples of when one SHOULD bid on at the 5-level. It isn't easy – just like the rest of this game!!

Our final match, against CORNELL, was on BBO, and provided some interesting hands with potential swings—with one hand remaining for our team to play, MILNE still led.

On the final board of the TRAVIS – CORNELL match, one table had finished – playing in 5♥ making 12 tricks – and the other table had a lengthy auction which kept spectators on their toes with Cornell - Bach eventually reaching 6♣ which was an excellent outcome. Their score of 1370 gained CORNELL 12 IMPs, and the championship. (And, thankfully, we held on to third place.)

If you read the last Newsletter, you would have read that Howard Melbourne and I had won the Gold Coast Pairs on the last board, defeating Michael Cornell and Ashley Bach. It seemed like justice that Cornell – Bach and their team-mates, Markey – Williams, won the Victor Champion Cup on the last hand, playing against us! It seemed like justice that Cornell – Bach and their team-mates, Markey – Williams, won the Victor Champion Cup on the last hand, playing against us!

Bridge Etiquette – Table Talk

At the last two congress events in which I have played, the players at my table have not played boards due to overhearing the post-mortem discussion at the next table. On one occasion my opponents overheard the discussion and reported it, whilst on the most recent occasion my partner heard the conversation and reported it. On the last occasion, the cancelled board cost us a win in the match as my partner and I would have been most likely to bid slam using our methods against the game bid at the other table, so the match result of a draw would have become a 13 imp win.

Sometimes it is not even a conversation about why the pair failed to get to the right contract, but the entry of the scores in the bridgemate which causes the problem. Player A says loudly “so that was 6H by North making 13”, or Player B says “What was the score there? 4S one off?”. GRRRRRR.....

Discussion about hands at the table is prevalent in Australia, and it is totally unacceptable for three main reasons:

- It is against the rules;
- It slows down play; and, most importantly,
- It often damages other players when boards get cancelled due to overhearing the conversation. (I won't mention what happens when players don't report overhearing the conversation and use it to their advantage).

Bridge playing areas are generally quiet, so conversations are easily overheard. As we approach 2017, let's all make a New Year's resolution to try and keep conversations about hands, post mortems and loud statements about final contracts for after bridge discussion over drinks & dinner and help ensure all players have an even playing field.

Kim Frazer

Send contributions for Bridge Etiquette to editor@abf.com.au. The best contribution submitted will be published in the next edition.

Often less experienced players end up in the wrong place because responder bids their suits in the wrong sequence. In many cases newer players bid shorter suits before longer suits, reverse when they don't have enough values, and end up confusing everyone including themselves.

Application of some general bidding principles when playing Standard American is important to help ensure you end up in the right contract. Here is an example:

Partner opens 1♥ and you hold:

♠ KQxx ♥ xx ♦ AJ10xxx ♣ A

Many players like to respond 1♠ giving preference to finding a major suit fit, followed by 2 (or 3)♦ over partner's 1NT or 2♣ or 2♥. This is not really the best bidding plan. With this hand as responder you are strong enough to force to game, and to make a game forcing "responder's reverse" bid.

Instead of responding 1♠ here, I like the bid of 2♦ (forcing, but not game forcing unless you are playing 2/1) intending to bid either 2♠ (now showing a game force hand) if partner rebids 2♥, or 3♠ if partner rebids 2NT.

This bidding sequence has now shown your partner LONGER diamonds than spades **and** a game going hand with four spades as well.

Imagine on this hand, partner holds the following:

♠ xx ♥ AK10xxx ♦ KQx ♣ xx

Six diamonds is quite a nice contract, but you are unlikely to find it if you bid the spades first. Worse you might end up misplaying the 4♥ contract you ended up in and going off.

Now let's change the above hand slightly. With:

♠ KQxx ♥ xx ♦ QJxxx ♣ Ax

A bid of 2♦ is again correct. Although not quite as strong as the "slam potential" hand shown at the top of the column, this is still a hand that is worth trying for game opposite partner's opening bid. Your plan is to:

- bid 4♥ if partner rebids 2♥ (this should show 6 hearts)
- bid 3♠ if partner raises 2♦ to 3♦ - partner should bid NT with a stopper in clubs (assuming 3♠ shows spade stoppers & enough values for game).
- bid 3NT if partner bids 3♣ (partner has now denied 4 spades because they could have bid 2♠ instead of 3♣). You do not bid 3♠ now, because this would be asking partner for spade stoppers for NT. You have the stoppers so just bid 3NT, showing not much more than you had for your 2♦ bid and enough for NT. If partner has a really big hand—they can go on.

Finally with something like the next hand:

♠ KQxx ♥ xx ♦ QJxxx ♣ Jx

with insufficient values to force partner to game, a bid of 1♠ is correct. You are not strong enough to bid at the 2 level with only 9HCP. Bid 1♠, intending to:

- pass if partner now bids 1NT;

- give preference back to 2♥ if partner bids 2♣, or;
- consider raising a 2♦ rebid by partner to 3♦ (still not showing any extra strength and not forcing, but preventing the opponents entering the auction with clubs)

So the general bidding principles are:

PLAN your bidding before you make your first response. This includes what you will bid over any rebid partner may make.

AGREE what your bidding rules are with partner; e.g. is a new suit always forcing? When are you asking for a stopper and when are you showing a stopper in an auction where you have no fit and are looking for no trumps?

Remember that if you make the wrong first bid, your partner will never find out about your hand shape, and you might end up in a disastrous contract!

The Bridge Professor

6NT on a Squeeze without the Count!

by David McMahon

<p>♠ J1093 ♥ J10743 ♦ 8 ♣ 862</p>	<p>♠ AQ842 ♥ Q2 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ K5</p>
<p>♠ 76 ♥ A86 ♦ J74 ♣ AQJ104</p>	<p>♠ K5 ♥ K95 ♦ 109632 ♣ 973</p>

West led the ♠J against my 6NT as South. It was unlikely to be from the ♠K, so if I covered with the ♠Q or ducked in dummy, a spade return or continuation would seem to leave me with only 11 tricks. As the cards lay, I could have ducked and then dropped the now singleton ♠K with the ♠A, making the 12th with the ♠Q.

However, I could not see East's cards, so went up with the ♠A and relied on an end-play, hoping that East had both major kings. East was already marked with the ♠K, so the odds were roughly 50% that he also had the ♥K.

I played off 9 more winners in the minors, and on the last, a ♦ from dummy, East had to decide which major king to bare. In practice, he had no choice, as his ♠K was already bare after trick one. I read it correctly and threw him in with dummy's ♠Q, and he was forced to lead away from the ♥K, enabling me to win the last 2 tricks with the ♥Q & A. Had East been able to keep another ♠ and bared the ♥K, then I would have dropped the ♥K with the ♥A, winning the 12th trick with the ♥Q.

Of course, I could not have achieved 12 tricks by ducking at trick one, to rectify the count, and then trying to squeeze East in the majors, because both threats (the major queens) are in front of East.

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Returning home to the NZ National Congress

by Liam Milne

At the end of September, I headed over the ditch with Nye Griffiths to play in the NZ National Bridge Congress in Hamilton. Having attended virtually every Congress while I was still living in NZ, this was the first time I had played the event since 2012. I had forgotten what a great tournament it is!

The NZ Pairs has an excellent format that rivals any events in Australia. Two sessions qualifying without about half the field making it through, then another two sessions in a semi-final stage where the top third make the Final and the next third make the Plate, followed by a 28-pair barometer final where every pair plays each other. You might notice some similarities to the Gold Coast Pairs.

In the Teams, a few tweaks to the format have been tried over the last couple of years, but the general idea is a two-day qualifying, followed by successive knockout stages until the culmination of the week with the NZ Teams Final. There are ample fun side events for players who are knocked out of the main events.

The winners of the major events were Australian's Tony Nunn and Peter Hollands in the Open Pairs and Michael Cornell-Ashley Bach, GeO Tislevoll-Mike Ware along with Martin Reid and Vivien Cornell in the Open Teams.

One of the best parts about NZ Congress is the atmosphere. Kiwis are generally a friendly bunch, and the bridge is competitive but always features sportsmanship. Another element which NZ has which doesn't seem to happen at most of the Australian national events is that the venue has a large bar/lounge area right next to the playing area. You can wander in at virtually any time of the day or night and find someone to ask a bidding problem or tell your bad luck story to, as most players are staying on-site at the Distinction hotel.

At the opening of the Congress, New Zealand's national teams were welcomed back from a successful trip over to the World Championships in Poland. It was great to see both the Open and Womens teams congratulated and applauded by hundreds of bridge players for their noteworthy results. The Womens team had made the knockout rounds for the first time ever, and the Open team had not only made the Round of 16, but knocked out the European champions (France) to progress to the quarter-final. It was clear to everyone at Congress that NZ Bridge values and celebrates its international team's success.

Not only were the NZ teams celebrated, but while Congress was still going, word came through that the WBF had officially awarded Michael Cornell-Ashley Bach the gold medal in the Open Pairs event at Poland! If you haven't heard the story yet, it involved a scoring error at the event which was not discovered until after the official correction period had expired. Despite this, a very sportsmanlike effort by the original winners led the WBF to eventually award joint gold medals. It was fantastic to see NZ crown its first world champions in a pairs or teams event.

I couldn't finish my article without including a few hands from the NZ Teams. Here's an effort from a Round of 16 pool match that we were particularly pleased with:

Board 13; Dealer South, Vulnerable Both

♠ AK872
♥ KJ42
♦ K64
♣ 6

♠ 94
♥ Q987
♦ QT5
♣ K753

Milne (E)	Peake (S)	Griffiths (W)	Ashton (N)
	P	1♦ ¹	1♠
X ²	2♣	P	2♥
P	3♣	All pass	

1 - Precision style, 2+♦

2 - 'Negative', implying a heart suit

Nye led the ♥3 (thirds and fifths), low from dummy. The normal play is the ♥7, of course: finesse against dummy. Declarer is marked with the ♥A (because we don't usually underlead Aces against a suit contract!) and playing the ♥Q looks like a beginner error.

But before we go into auto-pilot, could partner have a singleton heart? No, impossible – that would give declarer a heart fit. So partner has three hearts. Does declarer really have the Ace? We know declarer has two spades (partner won't have five), so he could have given preference back to 2♠ over 2♥. He chose to bid 3♣ instead, so he must have a nice club suit. But if he holds the ♥A, he can't have the ♣A and his club suit isn't so wonderful after all. Things are looking a bit fishy.

Could partner have underled the ♥A? We have shown hearts, so it's possible, and dummy has the heart strength on this auction, making it more likely. We can also see partner has no other attractive lead, with likely the unsupported ♦A as the only alternative besides the opponent's black suits.

Putting it all together, I chose to make the dumb-looking play of flying with the ♥Q, which held (phew). Not done yet – let's switch to diamonds, so partner can play ♦A and another round to set up our Queen before his ♥A gets knocked out. The full deal was:

Board 13; Dealer South, Vulnerable Both

♠ AK872
♥ KJ42
♦ K64
♣ 6

♠ QJT3
♥ A63
♦ A983
♣ 92

♠ 94
♥ Q987
♦ QT5
♣ K753

♠ 65
♥ T5
♦ J72
♣ AQJT84

All went well, and we managed to beat 3♣, which surely would have made on any other lead after declarer finds out more about the hand. A few nervous moments along the way though!

Finally, one from the Teams Final, which our team ended up losing to the Cornell squad. Watch Ashley Bach handle a seemingly cold vulnerable game to bring home the bacon:

Board 4; Dealer West, Vulnerable Both

♠	AJ3	♠	K74
♥	K2	♥	A8
♦	KJT72	♦	AQ8
♣	T53	♣	QJ942
♠	QT865	♠	92
♥	J3	♥	QT97654
♦	965	♦	43
♣	AK7	♣	86

Bach (W)	Milne (N)	Cornell (E)	Griffiths (S)
P	1♦ ¹	1NT	2♥
X	3♥	P	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
P	P		

1 - Precision style, 2+♦

The lead was the ♥K. After this lively auction, Bach could place most of the cards with me in the North seat. Because there had been so much bidding, it looked like South was quite unbalanced – possibly holding a singleton spade. As the only real risk to the contract was losing one heart and three trumps, Bach played safe to counter this risk.

After winning the first trick, Bach played a low spade to his ♠Q, ignoring the 10 for now. North won the ♠A and returned a heart to South's ♥Q, and the ♣8 came back. Bach won in his hand, and now played a spade to dummy's ♠7, safely insuring the contract against ♠AJ93 with North. This time, trumps were 3-2 so the safety play did not appear to have gained.

In the other room, however, the play went differently. South had similarly shown hearts with their pile of junk, so declarer was aware that spades might be splitting badly. However, they chose to play a spade to the ♠10 on the first round. After North won the Jack, there was no way to safely guard against both singleton ♠9 and doubleton ♠92 with South.

After winning the lead again, declarer was at the crossroads. Eventually, he decided to finesse the ♠7, losing to ♠92 and a score of +12 IMPs to Bach's team.

If you are thinking about checking out NZ Congress some time, I highly recommend it. It is one of the bridge tournaments that I most enjoy on our Australasian bridge calendar.

Set3, Board 7

♠	--	♠	AKJ87
♥	AKJ963	♥	7
♦	AT32	♦	6
♣	Q73	♣	AKJ965

41 pairs bid 7♣, 37 making. GERMANY bid 6NT, which needed a finesse to make. Gumby/Lazer bid 6♣, losing 2imps, rather than winning 12imps for making the grand slam.

Set 4, Board 26

♠	KQ5	♠	T9832
♥	72	♥	AK9532
♦	AQJ874	♦	--
♣	A8	♣	K4

6♠ bid 15 times, never making (it requires ♠J singleton or doubleton). GERMANY stopped in 5♠. Herden/Thomson bid the slam, losing 13imps.

On these 7 slam hands, GERMANY made 3 bad decisions, but picked up on two of them. AUSTRALIA made 4 bad decisions, all costing. If we had got them all correct, we would have been 88imps better off.

In set 5, we lost 19-67, but won the last irrelevant set 35-14 to lose 135-262. GERMANY then lost by 1imp to BULGARIA in the next round.

What the heck should I do now? Continued from Page: 20

B27: South dealer : Nil vulnerable

♠	6532	♠	
♥	JT95	♥	AQ643
♦	62	♦	KQJ3
♣	K87	♣	9543
♠	JT9	♠	AKQ874
♥	K87	♥	2
♦	T954	♦	A87
♣	AJT	♣	Q62

At the table, Ebery decided not to accept the bid out of turn (he also wanted Bill's time machine!). The opponent's partner, (Susie Hall) South, found what the experts agreed was the right action - an excellent 4♠ bid at equal vulnerability. With a flat 9 count West could take no action; so when the auction got back to Ebery he opted for a 4NT bid (takeout for EW) as insurance against the potential making game.

West ended up declarer in 5♦. Whilst 4♠ would have been one off, two-off for EW ended up as a flat board for EW on the datums.

Email your submissions for 'What the heck do I do now?' to:

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Whether To Pass Or Respond To One Club

Both Vulnerable:

1♣* (Pass) ?

*1♣=3+ clubs



1. ♠ J962 ♥ Q73 ♦ 943 ♣ Q107
2. ♠ 1052 ♥ 74 ♦ 98732 ♣ AJ8
3. ♠ J876 ♥ KJ92 ♦ 642 ♣ 76
4. ♠ 9832 ♥ J862 ♦ 109764 ♣ ---
5. ♠ Q2 ♥ 76 ♦ Q976542 ♣ 54
6. ♠ KJ64 ♥ 2 ♦ 764 ♣ 109854
7. ♠ A10632 ♥ 75 ♦ 864 ♣ 873
8. ♠ 32 ♥ 1098762 ♦ 764 ♣ 42
9. ♠ 32 ♥ A87652 ♦ 4 ♣ 10874
10. ♠ QJ105432 ♥ -- ♦ J92 ♣ 753

1) **Pass.** With 5 HCP many players would respond 1♠ but you have a lifeless hand with no intermediates, the worst possible shape plus you are vulnerable. With a minimum opening partner will struggle in 1NT, a common result would be 2 down for -200.

The main consideration is how you will go in 1♣ if the opponents pass you out there. It shouldn't be too bad. If partner has a 2NT rebid, 18-19 balanced you may only have a 3-3 fit but you will likely come to 7 tricks in 1♣ and a plus score.

1♣ is the most difficult contract to play but also to defend, so opponents will bid if they possibly can.

2) **Pass.** Again you are better to leave it in 1♣ rather than venture into the unknown especially as 1♣ looks to be quite a playable spot. If you respond the opponents do very well to just defend and reap a harvest. As you can see from the makeable contracts box below, when the hand came up it well and truly belonged to the North-South opponents:

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		
N	4	2	3	3	3	12	
S	4	2	3	3	3	12	5
E	-	-	-	-	-	11	
W	-	-	-	-	-		

3) **1♥.** You have a chance for a fit in hearts or spades and you only have 2 clubs, making 1♣ a much less desirable contract. The few points you have are in your suits and if opener rebids 2NT you can pass and expect to make your contract well over 50% of the time.

4) **1♥.** 1♣ is going to be a terrible contract if partner has 18-19 balanced with only 3 clubs and the opponents will be sure to pass you out in 1♣. When the hand came up opener rebid 1♠ over 1♥ so you can pass now and you have found a great fit. On a bad day opener will rebid 3♣ so you will now

simply pass and hope for the best. A 6-0 fit at the three-level is not good, but it is better than a 3-0 fit at the one level when there are many better contracts.

5) **1♦.** To pass 1♣ is unthinkable when you know a partscore in diamonds will be a better contract. If opener rebids 2NT you need a convention to allow you to sign off in 3♦. In Wolff Sign-Off a bid of 3♣ forces 3♦ which you can pass. A better method is transfers in response to a 2NT-rebid and you can transfer to 3♦ with 3♣ and then pass.

6) **1♠.** Only a 4 count but lots of potential. For instance, if you responded 1♠ and partner raised to 3♠ showing 18-19 balanced with 4 spades you would seriously consider going 4♠. And if partner is minimum you want to make it hard for the opponents to find their known heart fit.

7) **1♠.** Again you want to make it difficult for the opponents to find their heart fit.

If partner rebids 2NT you need a mechanism to get back to exactly 3♠, either Wolff Sign-off or transfer responses as in Question 5.

Of course you face the perennial problem of what happens when you don't have the values for your bid. If partner rebids 1NT it may fail by two or three tricks but the possible upside makes a 1♠ response a good gamble.

8) **2♥.** Jumps to 2 of a major over 1♣ or 1♦ show 0-6 HCP with a 6 card suit. They warn partner not to bid on with 18-19 balanced. When this hand came up my partner thought long and hard about continuing on over 2♥ but eventually good sense got the better of him and he passed. This hand certainly is a minimum but responding 2♥ is better than passing 1♣ and risking a 3-2 fit with a possible 6-4 fit on the side.

9) **1♥.** Most people with 0-6HCP and 6 hearts would make a weak 2H pre-empt here however but you may have an excellent club fit. Give partner something like

♠A86, ♥4, ♦AK3, ♣AK6532

and opener should pass 2♥ while 6♣ is an excellent contract. Let's say you respond 1♥ and partner rebids 3♣, now you will bid on, either a forcing 3♥ or 5♣. Weak jump responses should typically be short in opener's suit.

10) **3♠.** My preference is to play three-level jumps as natural pre-empts rather than splinters in response to 1♣ or 1♦. You can use inverted minors to show splinter hands. When this hand came up partner bid 3♠ and opponents came into the bidding and bid up to 5♦ which was doubled and went for a penalty of 1700. Some players pre-empt too much and some players don't pre-empt enough, the trick is to hit the opponents where it hurts. You know they have a big heart fit so 3♠ has extra appeal.

My thanks to Greg Nolan of the Redland Bridge Club for the inspiration for this quiz.

Paul Lavings

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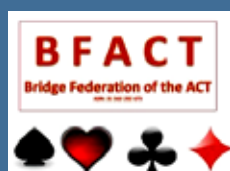
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ENQUIRIES - KIM ELLAWAY

+61 7 3351 8602

+61 412 064 903

manager@qldbridge.com

qldbridge.com/gcc



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