



ANNUAL IBPA AWARDS

The annual IBPA awards were announced this week after the World Championships in China. The prize for Declarer Play Of The Year was awarded to Michael Whibley, for the hand reported by Liam Milne in this Newsletter (April 2019, page 13) and previously in Australian Bridge Magazine. The runner-up was Barbara Travis, reported by Ron Klinger (August 2019, page 6).

Here are two of the other award winners:

JUNIOR DEAL OF THE YEAR

Defended by Kevin Rosenberg (East) at the Platinum Pairs at the Spring NABC in Memphis. Reported by John Hurd in the IBPA Bulletin (April 2019). Click PLAY to play the hand.

♠ A Q 8 3
♥ J 5 2
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ A 10

♠ J 10
♥ K 10 8 7 6
♦ A 10 7 6
♣ K 7

As declarer in 4♥, you win the club lead in dummy and have to decide how to play trumps. At the table, declarer, Hurd, led a low heart from the board, took the queen with the king, then ran the eight of hearts. This was the full deal:

Board 8 ♠ A Q 8 3
E/Nil ♥ J 5 2
PLAY ♦ K Q 4 3
♣ A 10

♠ K 9 7 6 4
♥ 4 3
♦ 9 8 5
♣ 9 4 3

♠ J 10
♥ K 10 8 7 6
♦ A 10 7 6
♣ K 7

Rosenberg
♠ 5 2
♥ A Q 9
♦ J 2
♣ Q J 8 6 5 2

When Kevin Rosenberg made the ♥9, he not only had a brilliancy prize entry, but the admiration of his opponents, Hurd and Jeff Meckstroth, and partner David Gold!

John Hurd

BEST DEFENCE

Defended by Pablo Ravenna (East) at the 2018 Rosenblum. Reported by Ana Roth in the IBPA Bulletin (October 2018).

The LAVAZZA versus CHAGAS match was dramatic until the last board. In the end, LAVAZZA won by 6 imps and made their way to the semi-finals. At one of the tables, the Italian team

was represented by Dennis Bilde - Giorgio Duboin as North-South while for the CHAGAS team, Marcos Thoma sat West and Pablo Ravenna East.

The following board saw an excellent defence by Ravenna that managed to fool the declarer into going down in a cold contract.

QF2-52 ♠ A K 10 7 6 5 3
W/Nil ♥ A 10 4
PLAY ♦ J
♣ 3 2

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

♠ 9 8
♥ J
♦ 10 5 2
♣ K J 10 9 7 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Thoma	Bilde	Ravenna	Duboin
1♣	1♠	dbl	pass
4♥	4♠	pass	pass
dbl	all pass		

Ravenna, East, led the ace of clubs. After winning the first trick, East shifted to a trump to stop declarer's potential heart ruffs. Looking at dummy's nine-eight of spades, he led the two so that declarer could not develop a late entry to the table with the nine of spades. Bilde played the eight of spades from dummy, West the queen, and declarer won with his trump ace.

The BBO commentators thought that it looked like minus 590 at this point. However, Bilde continued with a club and Ravenna discarded the eight of hearts. He was still thinking about denying declarer the nine of spades as an entry to the clubs in dummy. Declarer won the trick with the king of clubs. At that point, Bilde believed that West had both of the remaining trumps.

Declarer played another club and, after this play, he could no longer make the contract. When Bilde played dummy's six of clubs, West played his queen, Bilde ruffed with the seven of spades and East discarded another heart. Declarer continued with the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart in dummy, and played a club. West ruffed with his four of spades and Bilde threw his last heart loser. East pitched his last heart too. West returned the king of hearts; Bilde ruffed with the six of spades, but Ravenna now over-ruffed and the diamond trick to come meant one off. That was fantastic defence. Bravo!

Double dummy, there is no legitimate way to beat 4♠. After the ace of clubs lead and, say, a spade shift, declarer utilizes the bidding to deduce that West holds all the red high cards and draws trumps, squeeze-endplaying him.

Ana Roth

HOAX EMAILS

Recently some members have been sent hoax emails, purporting to be from various officers of the ABF and the QBA, requesting money. We advise all members to be vigilant regarding email scams. In particular:

- Check the email address, not just the display name.
- Be alert to unusual requests.
- Be extra careful with email accounts. If possible, use two factor authentication so that it sends you an SMS code if you use a new computer, and make sure your email password is different from your other passwords. This is because if someone gets into your email they can reset the password on lots of other things.

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**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER EDITION
ADVERTISING: 14 NOVEMBER 2019
ARTICLES: 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Australian Bridge community can be very proud of our Under-26 Youth team who have had a successful 2019. In Croatia at the World Youth Teams Championship the team finished 4th, Andrew Spooner was 4th in the Individual, and Jamie Thompson and Matt Smith were 2nd in the pairs. Jamie Thompson placed 3rd in the Under-26 Triathlon and Nicolas Ranson and John McMahon finished 1st in the Under-26 Butler ranking. They were also awarded two international awards: the Joan Gerard Award for aptitude, diligence and international spirit, and from the International Bridge Press Association, the John E. Simon Sportsmanship of the Year Award.



The Management Committee is pleased to announce that it will exercise one of the measures in the ABF Strategic Review, "to introduce positive incentives and rewards for good and excellent performance," and give each player in the under-26 team a reward of \$500.

The ABF has a new Emerald Life Master. An objective of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme is to provide a means of measuring a player's achievements. The number of masterpoints won by players over their lifetime is used to determine each player's master ranking. Simon Hinge becomes the first Victorian to become an Emerald Grand Master and joins an elite group of Australian bridge players: Pauline Gumby, Paul Lavings, Warren Lazer, Margaret Bourke, Bob Richman, Ron Klinger, Peter Gill, Terry Brown and Arjuna de Livera. The ABF Management Committee congratulates Simon on earning 10,000 masterpoints and being promoted to the rank of Emerald Grand Master.

The ABF have commenced development of the systems outlined in the Technology Strategy. This work will take up to two years to complete. We expect the first part, event entry and payments, to be ready in the second quarter of 2020 with other components such as results and scoring available following that. A mock-up of parts of the system as it is expected to look will be available shortly for members to provide their feedback. It is also intended to hold demonstrations of the system at some upcoming events.

Entries for the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Open Congress in Perth, 15-22 April 2020, can now be submitted online, using our secure site:

<https://www.entries.bridgeaustralia.org/onlineentries.php?id=55>

As this is a congress year the event is open to all bridge players. I encourage all players to save the dates and organise your teams and/or pairs to take advantage of the opportunity to compete in an international event on home soil.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Management Committee please email:

abf.pres@gmail.com

The best of bridge to you all.

Allison Stralow, ABF President



Teachers are using their own initiative to help grow new bridge player numbers... and it's working! Here's a success story from ABF Accredited Teacher, Christine Hadaway:

A TRIP TO THE SHOPPING CENTRE!



Recently I took over the beginners' program at Brisbane Water Bridge Club in Woy Woy on the Central Coast. We were concerned about the small number of new players that were playing across our regular sessions which we run six days a week.

We realised that we needed a larger intake of new players because of our falling membership. Paid advertising and letter-box drops had not yielded enough new

players for our recent beginners' lessons, so we needed a new approach. I went to the Centre Management of our two local shopping centres with ABF insurance certificates in tow to ask for permission to set up a table of people playing bridge and handing out flyers in their centres. I also revamped our flyers and printed them in coloured ink to attract more attention.

It was great to see many of our members becoming involved in the letter-box drop and playing bridge outside the supermarket. We had a few giggles as shoppers were intrigued by these people who were playing cards in the middle of the shopping centre. You can target your audience this way and give a flyer to those who show interest.

The campaign was very successful with more than twenty new players signing up. I follow Joan Butts' program of six weekly lessons and get the players to come back on another day to revise and practice the lesson hands so that everyone plays every hand. Getting new players into the habit of coming to bridge twice a week straight away is a very good practice to get them into. I also encourage them to go onto Joan's' web

site and play the hands again. We plan to have a champagne graduation duplicate with our new players being partnered by all the people who helped with flyers and our committee.

Things to do before you start:

- Read the ABF Marketing Plan and Marketing Report (ABF Newsletter, December 2018) by Peter Cox
- Download the ABF Public Liability Certificate of Currency & Voluntary Workers Schedule
- Revamp your flyers to attract attention
- Have your ABF Teacher accreditation certificate
- Recruit as many enthusiastic members of your club that you can to be involved.

All upcoming ABF Accreditation workshops may be viewed at ABF Education:

<https://www.abf.com.au/education/>

Joan Butts



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I want to write about two good news stories. The first I trust will inspire you about the next generation of Youth players and the second to motivate you to grow your clubs.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TEAM WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

The Australian Under 26 Bridge Youth Team has been awarded the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) John E. Simon Sportsmanship of the Year award during the World Championships in Wuhan, China on Monday, 23 September 2019.

The award was presented by IBPA President Barry Rigal to Renee Cooper, who accepted the award on behalf of the under-26 Australian Team. Renee was in China representing Australia in the Mixed Teams at the World Teams Championships.

The Australian team beat Japan by 1 imp to make the semi-finals at the World Youth Championships in Opatija Croatia in August. However, when scoring the match, the Australians found a one-imp scoring error that should have been in Japan's favour, hence drawing the match. The young Australians reported the scoring error to the Tournament Directors, but the Japanese team had left the venue. They were recalled, and the ensuing playoff was won by Australia.

The members of the team (pictured below, left to right) are Mike Doecke npc, Renee Cooper, Jamie Thompson, Andrew Spooner, Nico Ranson, John McMahon, Matt Smith.

Nicholas Ranson has represented Australia in Korea, Amsterdam, Croatia and New Zealand and says, *"When our team noticed the scoring error, there wasn't any discussion about what we would do. We only made sure that the score was incorrect, and then went to adjust it. It wasn't in any political consideration, but was what everyone in the team thought was the natural and obvious thing to do."*

John Carruthers, Bulletin Editor of the IBPA stated, *"I trust you all appreciate that your kids are representing you with honour."*

Allison Stralow, the President of the Australian Bridge Federation stated, *"The ABF is indeed proud of our Youth Team's terrific display of sportsmanship."*

Michael Doecke, the non-playing captain said, *"Every team they played against displayed outstanding sportsmanship which augurs well for the future of bridge."*

Allison Stralow is writing separately in her President's Report in this newsletter about the results of the Youth team and its individual members and announcing a special reward to the team for their outstanding sportsmanship and performance.

I will include a video of Nico Ranson and Mike Doecke discussing the decision in Croatia in the Marketing Bulletin.



ABF PRESIDENT VISITS BAYSWATER BRIDGE CLUB

The Bayswater President, Sandy Sutton-Mattocks writes:

"We caught up with Allison at a BAWA meeting held recently at Melville Bridge Club and we got to talking about our club which started off seven years ago with ten students learning bridge deciding to make a new club. We have changed venues many times from the Function Room at a member's home overlooking Langley Park, then to various rooms in Bayswater including at the Dome Coffee Shop, the Bedford Bowling Club and the Bayswater Bowling Club which were all great at the time but became too small as our membership grew. Now that we have moved to the top-class premises of the Bayswater Tennis Club we really feel as though we are home at last."

Sandy writes at considerable length about Allison's visit, her warm enthusiasm, her connections to the local mayor and for including him in the visit. Allison also presented volunteer awards and played with her husband, who is turning 90 next year, and won. A link to the full letter will be included in my ABF Marketing Bulletin.

BRIDGE AND DIVERSITY

This is a story I wrote for the Marketing Bulletin which created considerable interest including a club wanting to publish it in their club newsletter:

I direct and teach at the Randwick Bridge Club in Maroubra, in the south-east of Sydney, which is only 10 kilometres from the centre of the city. At a session recently I conducted research on the origins of the players, which they did not have to participate in to protect privacy, but they were all highly enthusiastic. There were 13 tables hence 52 players and they





cheered the results which showed they came from 18 different countries including; one each from Hungary, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Singapore, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, Italy, Malaysia and the Soviet Union. Two were from the Czech Republic, Indonesia and China with three from Greece and India. The UK came in third with 7, South Africa 8 and Australian born topping the list with only 12 or 23%. One insisted that I also register him as gay. I appreciate that the numbers would be different in some suburbs and certainly in the country, but it demonstrates what an amazing multicultural society Australia has become and how the bridge tribe welcomes a diverse range of people who thoroughly enjoy the friendship and experience.

MARKETING GRANTS

I also wrote in the Marketing Bulletin about the Canberra Bridge Club leading the way in running a Facebook Advertising campaign. In a detailed initial report the CBC campaign reached

15,500 unique people with 32,600 impressions for a cost of \$500. The ABF Grants match the club's investment to a limit of \$500 which means so far it has cost the CBC \$250 and the ABF \$250. The CBC has received 12 enrolments on their landing page and presuming that about 50% are retained through the teaching and supervised stages to becoming full members then, with an average table money of \$10 and playing about once a week, they will be worth \$600 each a year in table money alone or \$3,600 in total a year, less minimal masterpoint costs. All of this for an outlay of \$250. The ABF will receive a total of \$160 a year for capitation and masterpoints.

If you are planning your beginners classes for early 2020, and would like to submit a proposal for a grant, then go to the Marketing page of the ABF web site and see under ABF Marketing Strategy (the ABF Marketing Special Project Grants 2019 Applications) or contact me at marketing@abf.com.au.

Peter Cox



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GEELONG GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Geelong Bridge Club (GBC) members celebrated 50 years of existence on 14 August, with a special function at which the history of the club was outlined through talks, displays and a Power Point presentation.



After 15 years playing in a variety of (less than ideal) venues around Geelong, GBC moved into the current club rooms in Portarlington Road in July 1984.

The land and building were all paid for by 1993, without outside financial assistance. The wisdom of the early committees was pivotal to this.

Current membership includes 12 Grand Masters, two of whom – Arthur Robbins and Gary Ridgway – joined soon after the club formed. They have won innumerable club championships as well as representing Victoria in national competitions.

At the celebrations, Arthur (President for 23 years from 1979) entertained those present with details of the graduation from makeshift venues to the current location and how fittings were obtained from a range of 'interesting' sources.

Gabrielle Wilson, whose mother was one of the founders, presented a potted history of the club's early days – a host of interesting characters.

Club President, Alan Blackburn, gave a brief description of the vital contributions made by several of the long-standing GBC members. He then called on Arthur Robbins to cut the impressive birthday cake after which everyone enjoyed refreshments and reminisced.

Marion Scambler, Secretary GBC



MOLLYMOOK'S FIRST HOME-GROWN GM

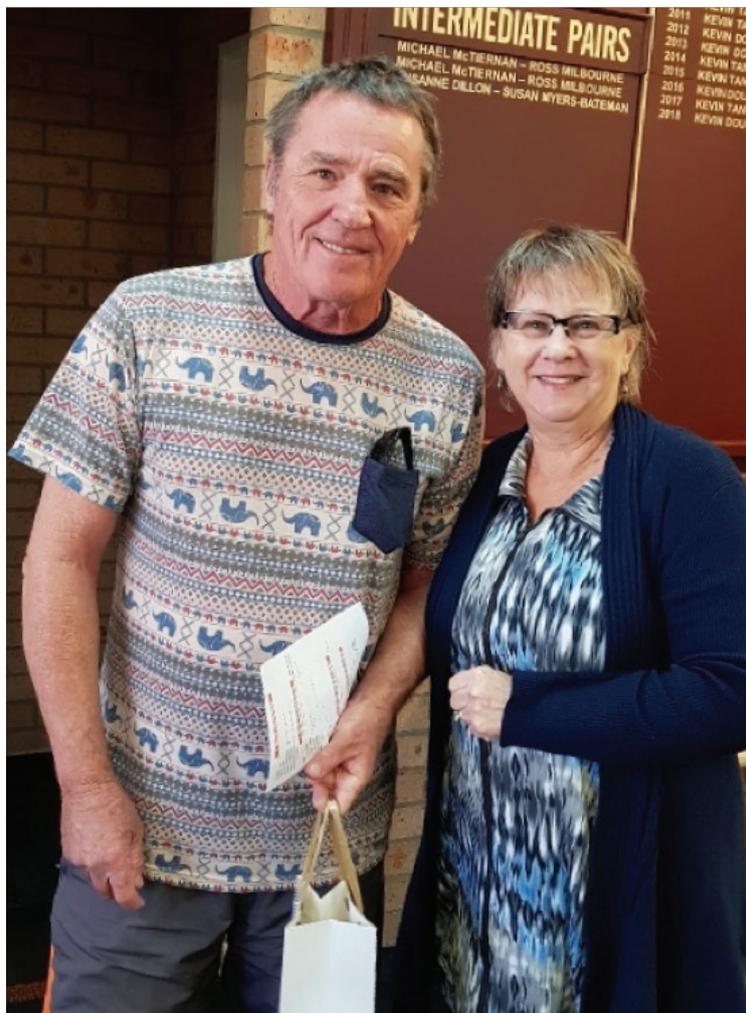
The President of the Mollymook Bridge Club, Pam Date, recently made a presentation to club member, Graham Evans, on his attainment of the rank of Grand Master. While the club currently has four other Grand Masters among its membership, Graham is our first "home-grown" achiever, having started as a registered bridge player at the Mollymook Club in the early 2000s.

Graham played a little social bridge as a student but did not play competitively until joining the Mollymook Club. He started as a club player without the advantage of completing the bridge lessons that the club offers to new members. He was helped in the early years by some of the club's foundation members, including Charlotte Sinden, Aileen Bathe and Brian Tierney.

To achieve the rank of Grand Master, a player needs to compete successfully at both the club level as well as at the Regional and State levels. Graham has won the Mollymook Bridge Club's annual pairs championship, with long term bridge partner, Kevin Douglas, a total of seven times over the last 12 years. As well, he has been a member of winning pairs and teams at the annual congresses at Mollymook, Nowra, Batemans Bay and Wollongong. He was a member of the winning team that won the National Life Masters tournament in Canberra. He has also represented southern NSW in the Grand National Open Teams and the NSW Open Teams.

Graham has served on the Mollymook Bridge Club committee on many occasions, including as President for three years and is a fantastic ambassador for our club.

Sue Tooth, Mollymook



DUBBO GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Bruce Meares was the driving force behind the establishment of Dubbo Bridge Club in August 1969. Bruce had been a member of the Queensland team and was keen to continue playing bridge in his new home town. The club was originally called Macquarie Bridge Club because many of the founding members came from other towns along the Macquarie River as well as Dubbo. When the club incorporated in 1997, clubs had formed at Wellington and Narromine/Trangie and it was no longer necessary for the club to encompass them in its name.

For 38 years the games were held in various clubs or rented venues but, in 2007, the Club occupied a former tennis club house pursuant to a licence agreement with the Council. After two renovations the club house is now a very comfortable and attractive venue.

There are only two original members left who have continued to play until the present. These two, Mimi North and Jill Beith, have also been presidents of the club, and both directed for many years.

A celebratory luncheon was held on 25 August with Bruce Neill, immediate past president of the ABF representing Allison Stralow, the current president, and John Scudder, Chairman of NSW Bridge Association, in attendance.

Jane North, Dubbo



GLENBROOK 10TH BIRTHDAY

On Sunday 21 July, Glenbrook Bridge Club celebrated their 10 year anniversary. We started off as a 'small' group with four members (one table) and have now grown to 150. We are very proud of this and so decided to give something back to the members in appreciation and celebrate with a finger food lunch and also had a cake made to finish off the celebration! We had to limit the numbers to 17 tables.

Cath Gordon, a committee member, took many memorable photos on the day, one of which appears below.

If any Sydneysiders come up the mountains on the third Sunday of the month, then we hold a session starting at 1.30pm. All players are welcome.

Kerrie Fitzpatrick, Glenbrook



TWEED BRIDGE CLUB VAMs (Venerable Aged Members)

To be a VAM, a bridge club member must be an active bridge player and be 90+ years. How many VAMs does your club have? Our club boasts 14 very valued VAMs (11 women and 3 men).

Marie Franklin, Ruth Hair and Joy Hill are all Life Members. Ruth Hair has a ranking of Grand Master, Marie Franklin is Silver Life Master, Nancy Sharp Gold Life Master, and Joy Hill and Joy Rennie are National Masters.

Marie Franklin is still an active Director.

Ruth Hair has been a member since 1981 and was one of the initial bridge teachers at Tweed Bridge Club.



Betty Wicks



Bruce Gibson



Eddie Farrell



John Walker



Ruth Hair



Nancy Sharp



Marie Franklin



Joy Rennie



Patricia Knox



Sheila Beattie



Vi Hawker



Joy Hill



Jean Redman



May Mortimer

Tweed Bridge Club would like to honour our VAMs for the huge contribution they have given our club over many years. They are the proof that bridge is good for you.

Roslyn Hand, Tweed Heads

Sitting North, nil vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ K Q 5 4 2	♥ —	♦ A Q 8	♣ A 6 5 3 2
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2♥	pass
4♥	?		

West's raise to 4♥ is not necessarily based on points; it can be based on long hearts, just increasing the preempt. You should take some action. I suspect many people would double with this hand, though I think the best action is to bid 4♠. After all, partner may have three spades but won't be able to bid them over a double of 4♥. If you double, you have to be happy if partner chooses to pass – which I would have done on the South hand. Let's have a look at the full hand:

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

4♥ fails by two tricks. 4♥ doubled will score you 300 instead of 100, which is a reasonable outcome. 4♠ will make comfortably, although it is a hand on which you must ensure you establish a side suit (clubs) before you draw trumps, in order to retain trump control. (A heart lead at trick one will shorten your trumps.)

On the following hand, I made a poor bid which happened to succeed. It's worth looking at the hand to discuss how the hand should be bid better.

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

Our auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	2♣	pass	3NT
all pass			



bridgewithbarbara.com

3NT was more of a 'practical bid' rather than a good bid. Given the 2♣ overcall and my great club support, I was anticipating a six-card club suit opposite. I should have responded with a forcing 2♥. This should result in a splinter bid from North:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	2♣	pass	2♥
pass	4♦	pass	4♥
all pass			

The splinter would not generate us to slam on this hand but would certainly do so if my heart suit was headed by the K-Q and I had no wasted values in diamonds.

However, the first 'wrong' bid on the auction was the 2♣ overcall. The suit lacks quality for a 2-level overcall (though it is fine for a one-level overcall). The hand is ideal for a takeout double instead. That would result in my bidding 4♥ anyway.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	dbl	pass	4♥
all pass			

The reason my 3NT bid "succeeded" is that West led the ♦Q. She would have done better to lead the ♠K, since I must have the ♦K for my 3NT bid. Conceding a 12th trick was expensive, given that 4♥ was always making 12 tricks (490 vs 480).

The next hand was interesting from both sides of play. Here's the auction and my hand (South):

♠ 9 7 6	♥ Q 10 5	♦ A 10 5	♣ A 6 4 2
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1♥	pass
2♥	pass	4♥	all pass

I thought I was looking at three defensive tricks – two aces and a trump trick. Therefore, I decided to start with a very aggressive defence, hoping to cash four quick tricks. I led the ♦A and saw this dummy:

Dummy	
♠ 8 3	
♥ 9 8 4	
♦ J 9 8 6 3	
♣ K Q 9	



Me

♠ 9 7 6	
♥ Q 10 5	
♦ A 10 5	
♣ A 6 4 2	

Partner encouraged the diamonds. I chose to cash the ♣A next, then continued with a second diamond - six - four - king. Declarer cashed the ♥A and ♥K, finding that she had a heart loser. However, she was now stuck in her hand, unable to reach dummy. She cashed the top two diamonds, then exited a heart to me. I now led spades, and partner came to a natural spade trick (or two).

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

How could declarer have countered this? At trick one, she needed to unblock one of the top diamonds under my ace. Then she could reach dummy via the ♦J, making ten tricks in comfort. It's not a play that people see immediately, but when dummy is weak you need to find ways to generate entries (or care for your entries).

I was fascinated to find that Deep Finesse says that 4♥ should fail. Some "deep analysis" reveals that a small diamond lead will defeat the contract, with the ruff threatening. Declarer will actually lose a trick in each suit, because winning the first diamond in dummy once again blocks the suit!

Here's another hand where the thrust and parry could have gone either way:

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

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

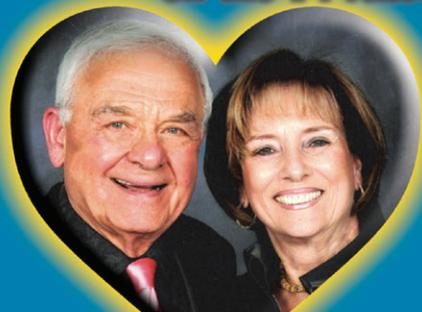
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦ (?)	1♠	dbl
2♠	all pass		

Hmm, North had a 1NT opening bid but, I'll guess, playing with me was adding her usual bridge sense. Anyway, her bid was helpful for my opening lead, the ♦5. Declarer won with the ♦A to lead a small heart towards hand. North won the ♥A immediately. Knowing that East plans to do some ruffing in dummy (both hearts and diamonds), North should cash the ♠A and ♠K. A small diamond to my king then allows me to lead the third round of trumps and declarer will be held to seven tricks.

Declarer could have countered this defence – but only by ducking trick 1. Then our defensive lines of communication have been cut. North can win the ♦Q and cash the top two trumps, but she cannot reach my hand, so declarer will always be able to trump one diamond, then repeat the heart finesse, ensuring the contract. Keep thinking about whether to duck and whether to win – and whether ducking is of benefit to you or the defence.

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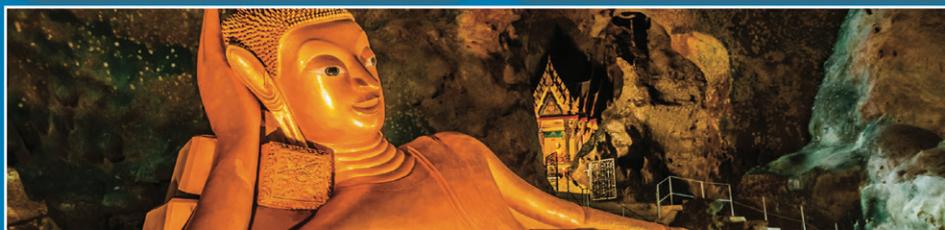
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TWO TALES FROM ALICE SPRINGS by John Brockwell

In early September, the Northern Territory Bridge Association staged the 2019 Territory Gold Bridge Festival at the Alice Springs Convention Centre. Eileen Boocock convened a splendid five-day tournament.



1. THE COURTNEY ANALYSES

In his 1999 book *The Big Game*, Robert Sheehan wrote about rubber bridge players in a London club. Sheehan said some nice things about Michael Courtney and described some of his fine hands. This was one of them.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Sheehan		Courtney
pass	1NT	5♣	6♦
pass	pass	dbl ¹	rdbl
all pass			

1. Lightner double, for an unusual lead.

Lead: two of spades, suggesting a club return.

West had to guess which major to lead. He guessed wrongly. Declarer, Michael Courtney, knew from the bidding that East had great length in clubs. He knew from the lead that East also had a heart void and the ace of spades. He decided that the ace could well be singleton. Backing his analysis, Michael ducked the spade lead in dummy. East won and returned a club. Now declarer had eleven top tricks and, on the run of the trumps, squeezed West in hearts and spades for the twelfth. Contract made, for +1830.

That was 25 years ago. In the TGBF Matchpoint Pairs at Alice Springs, Michael Courtney demonstrated that his analytic powers have not diminished:

Round 1	♠ —		
Board 23	♥ K J 10 8 3		
S/All	♦ K 4		
	♣ Q J 6 5 4 3		
♠ K 9 8 5		♠ Q J 10 7 6 4 2	
♥ Q 9 6		♥ 7 5	
♦ A Q J 9 8 5		♦ 7	
♣ —		♣ 9 7 2	
	♠ A 3		
	♥ A 4 2		
	♦ 10 6 3 2		
	♣ A K 10 8		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Courtney	Wallis	Ingham	Nash
2♠ ¹	3♠	4♠	1NT
pass	5♠	pass	5NT
pass	6♣	6♠	dbl
all pass			

1. Spades and a minor.

Lead: ♣Q.

On a heart lead there is no tale. But, understandably, North chose the queen of clubs. Declarer Michael Courtney ruffed. He knew that these defenders were not going to give him a second chance, so he needed a favourable lie of the cards. Michael spent about ten seconds in analysis. If North had a void spade and doubleton king of diamonds, the contract was gin. So – ace of diamonds, low diamond ruffed dropping the king, another club ruff, then queen and jack of diamonds pitching the hearts. South made his ace of trumps but nothing else.

Twelve tricks made was worth +1660 to East-West and all the matchpoints. Had North-South chosen to save in 6NT, they would have found that it was the best kind of save – the kind that makes.





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2. WILLIE'S DIVE

Even in early September, Alice Springs can get quite hot – good beer-drinking weather. Mind you, there's a class of bridge player that maintains that any weather is good for drinking beer. These people were discussing hands after a session of the TGBF Swiss Teams. This was one of them.

Board 15 S/NS ♠ A 10 2 ♥ 5 ♦ 9 8 7 ♣ Q 10 9 6 5 3	♠ K 6 4 ♥ A K Q 10 2 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ 4 ♠ 9 7 5 3 ♥ 9 6 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ K J 7 2
	♠ Q J 8 ♥ J 8 7 4 3 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ A 8

At Futile Willie's table¹, Willie's partner sitting West overcalled South's opening 1♥ with a cavalier 2♣. When North-South reached 6♥, Willie took a dive in 7♣. South stood up to double. This adventure cost 1700 – but only one imp, because Willie's teammates did not bid the slam.

"7♣ is ridiculous," was the beer drinkers' consensus.

One brave soul, however, approved Willie's action. "Assuming 6♥ is cold," he argued, "there are three likely scenarios at Willie's table (making 5, 6 or 7 tricks), with two variations at the other table (Willie's teammates either bid the slam, or they don't)." He scribbled a table on the back of a hand record and passed it around:

	Willie's action	Action at other table				Net IMP gain/loss	
		Slam bid	IMPs	Not bid	IMPs	Slam bid	Not bid
7♣ (5 tricks)	-1700	+1430	-7	+680	-14	-7	-1
Pass	-1430	+1430	0	+680	-13		
7♣ (6 tricks)	-1400	+1430	+1	+680	-12	+1	+1
Pass	-1430	+1430	0	+680	-13		
7♣ (7 tricks)	-1100	+1430	+8	+680	-9	+8	+4
Pass	-1430	+1430	0	+680	-13		

"If Willie judged that 5, 6 or 7 tricks in 7♣ are equally likely results," the brave soul went on, "the table shows that he was right to dive".

The beer drinkers were sceptical: "A grotesque over-simplification," they scoffed. Futile Willie was pleased – he had found a champion.

John Brockwell

1. Futile Willie was a character in SJ Simon's classic Why You Lose At Bridge, first published in 1945. Clones of Futile Willie have abounded in the bridge world ever since.

SEE PAGE 17 FOR ANSWERS

HAND 1

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

♠ K 7 6 3
 ♥ Q J 8 6
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ Q J 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	pass	1♥
pass	3♦	pass	3NT
all pass			

West leads the ♠J. What is your plan?

HAND 2

♠ 5 3
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ A J 7 6 5
 ♣ 9 6 4 3

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1NT	pass	1♠
pass	3♠ ^{two spades}	pass	3♥
pass	4♦ ^{cue}	pass	4♣ ^{cue}
pass	4♠	all pass	4♥ ^{cue}

West leads the ♠10. What is your plan?

HAND 3

♠ 9 2
 ♥ K J 10 5
 ♦ A Q 9
 ♣ A 8 5 2

♠ 7 3
 ♥ 9 8 7 3
 ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ Q J 10 8 5 4
 ♥ A 6 2
 ♦ K 6 3
 ♣ J

♠ A K 6
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ J 10 8 4
 ♣ K 7 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	1♠	1♣
pass	3NT	all pass	1NT ^{denies 3 hearts}
pass			

West leads the ♠7. What is your plan?

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Hans Rosendorff Memorial Congress

HGR WOMENS SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Gwyneira Brahma - Stella Steer
- 2 Viv Wood - Sue Lusk
- 3 Florence Maltby - Di Brooks
- 4 Kate Smith - Jill Del Piccolo
- 5 Angela Norris - Lori Smith
- 6 Deb Frankel - Deidre Greenfeld
- 7 Val Biltoft - Cynthia Belonogoff
- 8 Di Quantrill - Audrey Stokes
- 9 Wendy Driscoll - Shizue Futaesaku
- 10 Joan Touyz - Jan Blight

HGR RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Fiona Han - Laurie Money
- 2 Joanne Payne - Joe Louis
- 3 Heather Fergie - Bob Fergie
- 4 Marion Bogue - Deborah Greenway
- 5 Kimberley Zhao - Alan Cransberg
- 6 Mavis Koay - Arianna Yusof
- 7 Chris Bacon - Tuya Cooke
- 8 Edward Roscoe - Joan Schneider
- 9 Annelouise Dubrawski - Andy Cayley
- 10 Deirdre Doepel - Jennifer Sharpe

Swan River Open Swiss Pairs

- 1 Leone Fuller - Marnie Leybourne
- 2 Chris Mulley - Tim Munro
- 3 Ron Cooper - Joachim Haffer
- 4 Karol Miller - Val Biltoft
- 5 Kitty Muntz - Leigh Gold
- 6 Trevor Fuller - Nick Cantatore
- 7 Deana Wilson - Fiske Warren
- 8 Cynthia Belonogoff - Anton Pol
- 9 Kaiping Chen - Yumin Li
- 10 Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill
- 11 Jane Reynolds - Peter Reynolds
- 12 Viv Wood - Ann Paton
- 13 Vivian Zotti - Therese Garbutt
- 14 Jessica Chew - Rez Karim
- 15 Alan Harrop - Virginia Seward
- 16 Lynne Errington - Bruce Fraser
- 17 Elizabeth McNeill - Cassie Morin
- 18 Helen Kemp - Helene Kolozs
- 19 Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside
- 20 Jan Blight - Joan Touyz
- 21 Jan Burgess - Jana Mayhew
- 22 Fiona Han - Denis Gimblett
- 23 Hugh Probert - Steven Rogoysky
- 24 Maura Rhodes - Rick Rhodes

Coffs Coast Gold Congress

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Ken Yule - Kathryn Yule
 - 2 Bruce Neill - Justin Williams
 - 3 David Beauchamp - Jodi Tutty
 - 4 Joan Butts - Geo Tislevoll
 - 5 Marlene Watts - Peter Gill
 - 6 Andrew Slater - Ken Dawson
 - 7 Nick Hughes - Nicoleta Giura
 - 8 Greer Tucker - Liz Sylvester
 - 9 Catherine Chaffey - Colin Clifford
 - 10 Ross Crichton - Pam Crichton
- Under-1000 MP: Catherine Chaffey - Colin Clifford

INTERMEDIATE/RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS



- 1 Jim Stewart - David Owen (top)
- 2 Philip & Cathy Hocking (bottom)
- 3 Allan Pike - Arthur Bragg
- 4 Helen Chamberlin - Trevor Dwerryhouse
- 5 Rod Binsted - Judy Scholfield
- 6 Fran Martin - Ian Bannister
- 7 Edgar Beckett - Janice Beckett
- 8 Edward Truscott - Alexis Ngan
- 9 Hema & Shanaal de Zoysa
- 10 Jacqui Morton - Lanny Chan



OPEN TEAMS

- 1 Martin Bloom, Tony Nunn, Nigel Rosendorff, Elliott Kaplan
 - 2 Bill Nash, Jim Wallis, Tania Lloyd, Hugh Grosvenor
 - 3 Martin Doran, Paul Hooykaas, Stephen Fischer, Pele Rankin
 - 4 Annette Maluish, Andrew Mill, Marina Darling, Justin Mill
 - 5 David Beauchamp, Jodi Tutty, Tom & Steph Jacob
- Under-1000 MP: Alan Bustany, Pauline Caust, Anne Grayden, Henrietta Hohnen

INTERMEDIATE/RESTRICTED TEAMS

- 1 Jamie McFall, Frances Gaunt, David Shorter, Doug O'Meara
 - 2 M Gilbert K Gilbert M McAuliffe W Roberts
 - 3 N Williams R Holgate N Armstrong P Armstrong
 - 4 P Cockbill G Richmond R Scotford S Scotford
 - 5 C Chaffey C Clifford P Halloran R Ward
- Under-300 MP: Gary Gibbards, Debbie Gibbards, Peter Gruythuysen, Margaret Jennings



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Territory Gold Festival

MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1 Sophie Ashton - Sartaj Hans
- 2 George Kozakos - Phil Gue
- 3 George Bilski - Mischa Solar
- 4 John Brockwell - Niek Van Vucht
- 5 Steven White - Frank Kovacs
- 6 Justin Mill - Marina Darling
- 7 Ian Afflick - Paul Collins
- 8 Judy Herring - Rex Hanson
- 9 Jim Smith - Wendy Smith
- 10 Bruce Crossman - Bev Crossman

2nd place in the Territory Gold Teams



TEAMS

- 1 George Kozakos, Phil Gue, Simon Hinge, Joachim Haffer
- 2 Wendy Ashton, Shane Harrison, Marlene Watts, Jessica Brake, Wallace Ashton, Sartaj Hans
- 3 Martin Bloom, Peter Gill, Dee Harley, Anna St Clair
- 4 P Collins I Afflick J Malinas S O'Brien
- 5 T Sheedy E Miller N Moore R Kumar

SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Sophie Ashton - Sartaj Hans
- 2 Martin Bloom - Peter Gill
- 3 Neville Francis - Murray Perrin
- 4 Sue O'Brien - Toni Bardon
- 5 Cathryn Herden - Matthew Thomson
- 6 Marlene Watts - Jessica Brake
- 7 Terry Brown - Jeanette Reitzer
- 8 Jim Martin - Lyn Martin
- 9 Attilio De Luca - Susan Emerson
- 10 George Bilski - Mischa Solar

Coffs Coast Intermediate Teams winners



Australia-Wide Open Pairs

- 1 Judi Knighton - Edith Flanagan *Monaro*
- 2 Susan Greenwood - Mervyn Harris *Bridge @ the Bay*
- 3 Norma Pears - Vince Menezes *Maylands*
- 4 Peter Johnman - Stewart Duxbury *Central Coast*
- 5 Julia Johnson - Rod Barnett *Tasmania*
- 6 Alan Cransberg - Kimberley Zhao *Mandurah*
- 7 Kathy Power - Robina McConnell *Mandurah*
- 8 Michael McAuliffe - Wing Roberts *Hunters Hill*
- 9 Constance Bruce - Jill Shirley *KLTC*
- 10 Bernadette Mossman - Catherine Wood *Cowra*
- 11 Paul Kemp - Stuart Craig *Maleny*
- 12 Denise Hartwig - Mavis Simpson *Warwick*
- 13 Denise McEwan - Philip Hassall *Alice Springs*
- 14 David Graham - Karin Schaefer *Goulburn*
- 15 Patricia Anderson - Alan Dundas *Mandurah*
- 16 Hilary Richardson - Rosalind Hart *Warwick*
- 17 Jan Rava - David Brennan *Wagga Wagga*
- 18 Damon Flicker - Jennifer Rothfield *VBA*
- 19 Tineke Tamis - Janet Strzelecki *Monaro*
- 20 John Johnson - Geoff Allen *Townsville*
- 21 Chris Watson & Shirley Watson *Bairnsdale*
- 22 Peter Goddard & Jennifer Goddard *Bendigo*
- 23 Nicky O'Connell & M Fulwood *Rockingham*
- 24 Gail Farrell & Hazel Adamson *Moruya*
- 25 Jill Scott & Judy Regan *Bowral*
- 26 Jan Hackett & Tom Hackett *Yarrowonga*

44th World Team Championships

BERMUDA BOWL

POLAND (Krzysztof Buras, Bartosz Chmurski, Jacek Kalita, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Michal Nowosadzki, Piotr Tuczynski) 174 def NETHERLANDS (Simon De Wijs, Bob Drijver, Bauke Muller, Bart Nab, Ricco Van Prooijen, Louk Verhees Jr) 153

VENICE CUP

SWEDEN (Kathrine Bertheau, Sanna Clementsson, Ida Gronkvist, Jessica Larsson, Emma Ovelius, Cecilia Rimstedt) 189 def CHINA (Yan Liu, Yan Lu, Qi Shen, Nan Wang, Wen Fei Wang, Xiaoxue Zuo) 169

D'ORSI TROPHY

DENMARK (Knud-Aage Boesgaard, Soren Christiansen, Henrik Norman Hansen, Jorgen Cilleborg Hansen, Hans Christian Nielsen, Steen Schou) 194 def ENGLAND (John Holland, David Kendrick, Alan Mould, David Muller, Malcolm Pryor, Trevor Ward) 167

WUHAN CUP

RUSSIA (Alexander Dubinin, Alexej Gerasimov, Andrey Gromov, Anna Gulevich, Tatiana Ponomareva, Olga Vorobeychikova) 175 def USA (Cheri Bjerkan, Allan Graves, Christal Henner, Uday Ivatury, Jill Meyers, Howard Weinstein) 170

EQUAL LEVEL CONVERSION – DOUBLE OR OVERCALL?

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable:

paul@bridgegear.com



WEST	NORTH	EAST (1♥)	SOUTH ?
1. ♠ A J 8 6	♥ K 6	♦ A 9 8 6 4 2	♣ 5
2. ♠ A Q 5	♥ 3 2	♦ K 7 6 4 3	♣ K J 5
3. ♠ 9 4 3	♥ 5 2	♦ K 9 8	♣ A K J 10 2
4. ♠ 9 4 3 2	♥ 5	♦ K 9 8	♣ A K J 10 2
5. ♠ Q 7 3	♥ Q 6	♦ Q J 4	♣ A J 7 6 4
6. ♠ K 9 8 2	♥ A	♦ Q 2	♣ A Q 7 5 4 3
7. ♠ A J 10 3	♥ 5	♦ K 7	♣ Q 9 8 7 5 3
8. ♠ Q J 7 2	♥ Q 2	♦ Q 5	♣ A K 8 3 2
9. ♠ A K 7 3	♥ 9 2	♦ 4	♣ A K Q 8 6 5
10. ♠ 10 8 6 2	♥ A J 6 3	♦ K	♣ A J 10 5

1. Double. Normally you wouldn't consider making a takeout double with a singleton in one of the unbid suits. This is where **Equal Level Conversion** comes in. If you agree to play this method, then when you make a takeout double of one of a major and convert responder's 2♣ to 2♦, you are not showing extra strength.

The problem with overcalling diamonds first is that the bidding might escalate to say 4♥ before you get a chance to show your spades.

2. Double. Your choice is between a 2♦ overcall or double. You have an all-round hand rather than one with a good suit that is also a good lead, so double first is right. You have only three spades to make a takeout double; even so double is clear-cut.

3. 2♣. How strong do you need to be to make a two-level overcall? In the 1970s Paul Marston kept a record of the success or failure of many actions. Light overcalls at the two-level proved to be a big winner over time. Another factor here is your strong suit, if you give partner a good lead then you can consider your side to have won the auction.

4. Double. The hand is similar to Question 3 but this time you have four spades so it is more important to double in case you have an eight-card or better spade fit. You wouldn't want to miss your spades.

5. Pass. You have 12 HCP but an anemic suit and lots of defence with all those queens and jacks. Also you would be happy for partner to lead their own spade or diamond suit, all of which adds up to pass.

6. 2♣. If you double the most likely response from partner is 2♦ and you are showing a stronger hand if you double first and then bid clubs. Better therefore to bid 2♣ and hope to be able to follow up with 2♠.

7. 2♣. Only 10 HCP but your hand has a lot of good features and you should enter the bidding with 2♣ planning to bid 2♠ later. Remember it's a bidder's game.

8. Double. With 14 HCP and four spades you want to come into the bidding but should you bid 2♣ or double? Your hand doesn't have the quality to bid 2♣ and then 2♠ so I would take a chance and double as the lesser of two evils. If partner bids 2♦ I suggest pass and hope partner has a five- or six-card suit.

9. Double. When this hand came up at the recent Blue Mountains Bridge Club Swiss Teams I overcalled 2♣ and we played 3♦ instead of 5♣ or 5♦. At another table Peter Gill held my hand and he doubled first and they easily reached 5♦. Peter added, "I thought I was too strong for 2♣ which might get passed out with 4♠ making":

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

WEST	NORTH Paul L.	EAST	SOUTH Helen L.
1♥	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	2♠	pass	3♦
all pass			

WEST	NORTH Peter Gill	EAST	SOUTH Liz Sylvester
1♥	dbl	3♥	4♦
pass	5♣	pass	5♦
all pass			

10. Pass. If you double the chances are that partner will reply 2♦ leaving you without a rebid. A better approach is to pass and hope to come in later. You could either double for takeout if they end up in diamonds or if either opponent rebids 1NT you could double to show a good hand with strength in the suit opened (otherwise you would have acted over 1♥).

Paul Lavings

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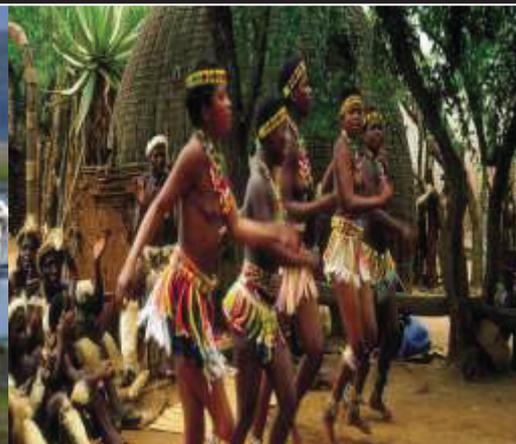
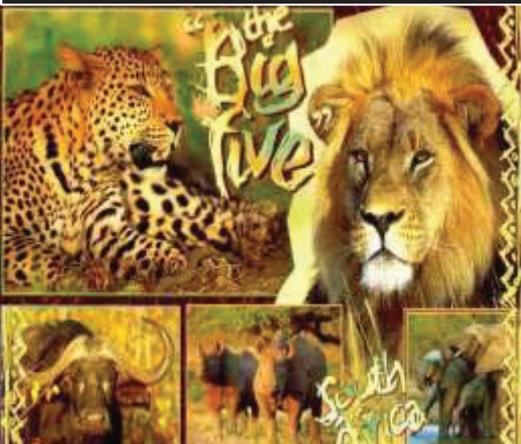
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- All transfers
- Welcome Drinks

AN UNUSUAL SAFETY PLAY

This hand was played by Justin Mill in a state competition. I'll give you the first few tricks, and then see if you can reproduce his line of play.



♠ J 6 5 4
♥ A
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ —

♠ 10
♥ K 8
♦ 6
♣ A Q J 10 4

N/NS ♠ A J 6 5 4
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ A J 10 9 4 3
 ♣ —

♠ Q 10
♥ K 10 8
♦ K 7 6
♣ A Q J 10 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	3NT
pass	4NT	pass	6NT
all pass			

You end up in 6NT by South, and West leads the ♥2. You play low from dummy, and your ♥10 wins! At this stage you want to try and build some spade tricks, and it looks like you will need to guess diamonds. You lead the ♠Q and West covers with the king, dummy's ace winning.

* * * * *

With the ♥10 winning at trick one, we now have three heart tricks and three spade tricks, as well as the ♣A. This means we only need five diamond tricks for the slam.

Any play in the diamond suit will give us at least five tricks. Can you see any potential problems?

♠ J 6 5 4
♥ A
♦ A J 10 9 4 3
♣ —

♠ 10
♥ K 8
♦ K 7 6
♣ A Q J 10 4

The lead is in dummy at trick three. Take a minute to decide how you will play from here, to guarantee twelve tricks.

There's a quite interesting safety play here. Usually safety plays are designed to avoid losing extra tricks in the case of a bad distribution. Here, we can happily lose one diamond and we will have plenty of tricks, but we have another problem: what we actually need is entries.

Imagine that we cash the king and ace of diamonds, and the queen doesn't drop. We can knock out the ♦Q, but then we will have no way to get back and forth between the two hands. The ♥A is the only entry to the North hand, and the ♠10 is the only entry to the South hand, but both of these cards are blockages, preventing us from taking our tricks.

The same risk applies if we play low to South's king and then low to finesse the ♦J. If East has the queen, he will win, leaving this position:

East will play a spade, removing South's last entry before the ♥K can be cashed. We could have prevented that by getting rid of the ♥A earlier, but then we would be at risk of losing contact with dummy – if East had a third diamond, he would lead it now to remove dummy's diamond entry before the ♠J is free.

SOLUTION

The only 100% line is to lead the ♦J from dummy at trick three, and let it run if East follows suit. This way our five diamond tricks will be established while we still have a diamond entry in each hand.

That is what Justin did. East played small and West showed out, so Justin continued by running the ♦10. He then unblocked the ♥A, crossed to the ♦K, and cashed the ♣A. With six diamond tricks, he no longer needed the ♠10 – he was able to overtake this card with the ♠J to reach the last three diamonds for 6NT, conceding a spade at trick 13.

Click the **PLAY** button to go through the options yourself.

<https://bridgevid.com>

Peter Hollands

WBF Appointments

At the recent World Championships in China, Laurie Kelso (pictured left) was promoted to the role of WBF Head Tournament Director, and Ben Thompson (pictured right) was elected to the WBF Management Committee.

The current Management Committee consists of:

Chairman: Gianarrigo Rona

Chairman Emeritus: José Damiani

Members: Patrick Choy, Marc De Pauw, Giorgio Duboin, Jan Kamras, Alvin Levy, Suzi Subeck, Ben Thompson, Alternate Janice Seamon-Molson

General Counsel: David Harris

Secretary: Simon Fellus



HAND 1

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

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

♠ Q 9 8 4
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A 9 7 4 3

♠ K 7 6 3
 ♥ Q J 8 6
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ Q J 6

West leads the ♠J against 3NT. Clearly, if the diamond finesse fails, you will go down, because you will only have eight tricks. Therefore, you must assume the diamond finesse works.

You should win the first trick in hand with the ♠K, and take the diamond finesse, which wins.

Playing the ♦A now will lead to failure if the diamonds break 3-1. Once again, you will only have eight tricks.

However, you have no quick entry back to hand to repeat the diamond finesse.

The solution is to lead the ♥K from dummy. If the opponent with the ♥A wins the trick, you can re-enter your hand with the hearts, and take the diamond finesse again. If the ♥K is ducked, then you revert to the diamond suit, leading the ♦A, then another.

HAND 2

♠ 5 3
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ A J 7 6 5
 ♣ 9 6 4 3

♠ 10 9 7
 ♥ 8 7 2
 ♦ Q 9 8 3 2
 ♣ 10 2

♠ 8 6
 ♥ K 10 9 6
 ♦ K 10 4
 ♣ K Q J 8

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

West leads the ♠10 against 4♠.

The trump lead makes your situation difficult. There are ten tricks available, but you need to be able to reach dummy to make use of the ♦A.

If West has the ♥K, you can lead a small heart towards dummy's queen. However, what if East holds the ♥K? Then you will go down, as he will lead a second trump. There is a solution, and it requires slightly lateral thinking...

At trick two, lead the ♥J. If West has the ♥K and wins it, you still have the ♥Q as an entry to dummy. If East has the ♥K and wins it, you still have the ♥Q as an entry to dummy. If the opponent with the ♥K ducks, you can cash your ♥A, then ruff the heart to dummy.

HAND 3

♠ 9 2
 ♥ K J 10 5
 ♦ A Q 9
 ♣ A 8 5 2

♠ 7 3
 ♥ 9 8 7 3
 ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ Q J 10 8 5 4
 ♥ A 6 2
 ♦ K 6 3
 ♣ J

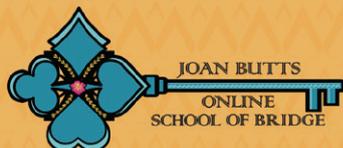
♠ A K 6
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ J 10 8 4
 ♣ K 7 4 3

West leads the ♠7 against 3NT.

The lead of the ♠7 suggested that the spades are dividing 2-6 (top of a doubleton). There was little point in ducking the spades.

Instead, declarer won the ♠K, and led the ♥Q, ducked. A second heart was continued, which East won with the ♥A. East continued with a high spade, won with the ♠A. Declarer crossed to dummy's ♣A to cash the two heart winners (East discarding a diamond, South discarding two diamonds).

His plan was to duck a club to West, making two spades, three hearts, three clubs and one diamond. However, when East discarded a spade on the second club, a different plan was needed. Declarer won the ♣A and, realising that East was likely to hold the ♦K, South now exited with his last spade. East could cash three spade winners but then had to lead diamonds around to dummy, making both the ♦A and ♦Q into winners.



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Hi Uncle,

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

Detail #1

♠ Q 10 7 3
♥ K 8 4
♦ J 7
♣ A 9 7 6

♠ K J 8 6 5
♥ A 9 6
♦ K Q 5
♣ 10 8

West doubled my 1♠ opening but we got to 4♠ anyway. West led the ♥2 and I took East's jack with my ace. Then I led trumps and West took the ace and played another heart. Eventually, I lost a trick in each suit. Why did the other pairs manage to make it?

Detail #2

PLAY

♠ 6 5
♥ K 8 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A J 9 6 2

♠ Q 10
♥ A Q J 10 7 3
♦ A 5 3
♣ K 10

This time I was in 4♥, with the other side quiet. West led the ♦Q and I won and drew trumps. West showed out on the second round, so I had to play trumps three times to draw them. Then I played the ♣K and the ♣10, overtaking with the jack for a finesse. That lost to the queen, and the opponents took two diamonds and two spades – two off!

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

*Ever Disillusioned,
Cathy*

Dear Disillusioned,

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

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

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

Before we get to that, what are your two heart honours doing for you? They are obviously stopping hearts for the time being, but one of them may be a crucial entry. Let's say you took the first heart in hand (as you did) and then started on diamonds. If you held the first diamond trick and lost the second, you would have been defeated by the opposition's smart play and your own error at trick one. So let's go back to that. The ♥A is the only quick entry to your hand and the future winning diamond, so winning the first trick in dummy is required to preserve this function. Now the ♦J at trick two, and the defender can hold up if he wishes, but you can continue diamonds and set up your winner. Now when hearts are continued, you can win in hand and play your diamond winner, throwing a heart. Only after the completion of this mission should you lead trumps. Not only have you averted the heart loser but you have your tenth trick when you trump your third heart in dummy.

On the second deal, the club finesse could have turned out better but you may have done better to try to ruff out the ♣Q. This is a slightly better chance (Qxx or queen-doubleton will do) and a much better chance if (a) the ♥9 falls early or (b) the hearts are 2-2. Unfortunately, your description of the play did not confirm the fall of the ♥9, but it did confirm that the trumps did not break 2-2. My preferred line on the diamond lead would be to lay down the ♥A at trick one. If someone shows out at trick one, reverting to your line would become the best hope because ruffing out the club suit will no longer yield success. If hearts are not 4-0, commit to king-ace of clubs and ruff one high. If the ♣Q falls in the process, play queen and king of hearts in that order and cash your clubs for an overtrick. If the queen has not fallen, you are cooked unless the ♥9 fell on the first round or a heart to the king revealed a 2-2 break. In either instance you can ruff the fourth round of trumps (high again) and cross back to dummy's ♥8 to collect the eighth trick. On this line, you make if the ♣Q is guarded once or twice, but also on any 4-2 club break whenever the ♥9 falls in one or two rounds. The other advantage is that you collect a handy overtrick (useful at pairs) on a good day and most likely only go down one only on a bad day.

*Yours,
David (Bridge Pathologist)*



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A RARE SLAM FROM GRAND SLAM

Paul Marston showed me this rare hand from the Grand Slam Bridge Centre in Double Bay, where North-South can make exactly 12 tricks in any contract. The hand came up at their Saturday duplicate on 3 August.

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

6NT is the obvious contract, with 33 HCP and no fit. With the help of the spade finesse and the 3-3 club break, we can take three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and four clubs. Alternatively, we can set up a diamond trick by giving up the ♦Q – this is a better line, as we no longer need the spade finesse.

Thanks to the 3-3 trump break, 6♣ has the same 12 tricks as 6NT. We can draw trumps and give up a diamond. The same applies to 6♦ – after giving up the certain trump loser, we can draw all of West's trumps and play as if we are in 6NT.

6♥ is tougher, as we have only a seven-card fit, and East's trumps are too strong to draw. With a certain heart loser, we can no longer afford to give up a diamond. Luckily, we have a backup plan – the spade finesse is still there, so we still have 12 tricks. East may ruff one of those 12 tricks (specifically the fourth club) with his natural trump trick, but we will be compensated when our fourth heart becomes good. Alternatively, we can just give East his trump trick immediately (at trick two, or any other time) and then draw all the trumps – from there, the play is again the same as in 6NT.

6♠ is another thing altogether, with only a six-card fit and, again, a certain trump loser. Unlike in 6♥, here we have no way of removing East's fourth trump. East will use that trump to ruff our fourth club, leaving us a trick short – unlike in 6♥, East's ruff will not promote a trump trick for us.

Luckily, we have another backup plan: a heart ruff. Take the spade finesse as early as possible (East should cover the ♠J) and then play ♥K, ♥A and a third heart, ruffing with the ♠3.

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

From this point forward, the unfortunate East will have to follow suit to every honour we play, until ultimately his long trump falls on our diamond loser at trick 13.

Brad Coles

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENSE – QUESTION

SEE PAGE 20 FOR ANSWER

Teams	♠ 8 7 6 3	
N/Nil	♥ 6 4	
	♦ A Q 10 9 5	
	♣ A K	
		♠ A J 5
		♥ Q 7 5 3
		♦ J 8 4
		♣ J 10 5



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	pass	1♥
pass	1♠	pass	2NT ¹
pass	3NT	all pass	

1. 11-12, balanced.

West leads the ♣6 (thirds and fifths): ace - jack - three. The ♥4 is led from dummy: three - ten - jack. Partner plays the ♣2: king - ten - four. Declarer continues with the ♥6 to the ace, the ♥K and a third heart to your queen. On the third and fourth hearts partner discards the ♣7 and ♦3. What do you play now?

See page 20 for the solution.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ALERTING

Something that is not considered very important at our bridge club is alerting. For example, 2♦ after a 1NT can go begging, unless someone at the conclusion of the bidding asks, "By the way, that 2♦, is it special?" "Oh yes, I always forget to circle!" Then they lean over and do the trick. There obviously is no penalty – at least that is what our directors think.

I was just wondering how important alerting is.

Name supplied but withheld

Alerting is as important as any of the other rules. A lot of the time it won't matter, but there are times when it will. More importantly, there are times when one side thinks it mattered, and the other side disagrees – that's where the real problems arise.

Alerting is there simply to stop one side having an advantage over the other. If they know what 2♦ means, and you don't, then you are at a disadvantage, and you may not even realise it.

If the failure to alert does affect your score, then the director will have to make an adjustment. Adjusting scores is messy; the director's job (not optional) is to give the non-offending side the most favourable score that would have been reasonable without the infraction. This is certain to make at least one side unhappy, sometimes both sides. In your 2♦ example, here are two likely ways that either side can get hurt:

1) North bids 2♦, not alerted, and South ends in 2♥. West, on lead, asks "Is 2♦ special?" and learns it is a transfer. Here are West's thoughts: "I have a close decision between a diamond or a club lead. Partner might have doubled 2♦ if she had good diamonds, so I'll lead a club. But wait... partner probably wouldn't double 2♦ if she thought it was natural. Although, ethically, am I even allowed to take advantage of the knowledge that partner didn't find out that 2♦ was a transfer...?" What a mess!

It is hard for West to know what to do. If it turns out that East has good diamonds, but failed to double for the lead because she thought 2♦ was natural, then the director will probably award an adjusted score (assuming East knows to call the director).

2) Next round, 1NT-2♦ again. This time East does have good diamonds, and would like to double for the lead – but only if 2♦ is not natural. East asks, "Is 2♦ special" (an inappropriate question, as it would have been alerted if it was special). But this time, 2♦ is natural! Somehow South ends up in 3NT. West leads a diamond – the only lead to beat 3NT. Did West lead a diamond because she heard that East was interested in the diamond bid? West can say, "I was always planning to lead a diamond," but it doesn't matter; the director must assume that West led the diamond because of East's "lead-directing question", and should adjust the score to 3NT making.

In each case, the result will have been decided by the director, instead of being determined by the play, which defeats the point of playing the game. It also puts pressure on the director, who has to decide what the non-offending side might have done, and how many tricks might have been made on a different lead.

Postscript: I was the victim of an opponent's failure to alert recently. South overcalled 2♦, which showed hearts. North, holding diamonds, chose to pass his partner's 2♦. North (a current state representative and national champion) deliberately chose not to alert 2♦, saying, "We were going to play in diamonds anyway, so you didn't need to know 2♦ was artificial." The point of the alert is that your opponents' bidding decisions will be affected. We were entitled to know, during the auction, that South had hearts and North had diamonds (as opposed to thinking South had diamonds and not knowing where the hearts were).

Editor

LEADING UP TO STRENGTH

Teams ♠ 8 7 6 3
N/Nil ♥ 6 4
PLAY ♦ A Q 10 9 5
♣ A K

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 5
♥ Q 7 5 3
♦ J 8 4
♣ J 10 5



Against 3NT, West leads the ♣6 (thirds and fifths): ace - jack - three. The ♥4 is led from dummy: three - ten - jack. Partner plays the ♣2: king - ten - four. Declarer continues with the ♥6 to the ace, the ♥K and a third heart to your queen. On the third and fourth hearts partner discards the ♣7 and ♦3.

What do you play now?

You are sitting over dummy's A-Q-10-x-x suit with J-x-x. It would be unusual to lead into dummy's strong suit, but sometimes needs must.

N/Nil ♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ 6 4
♦ A Q 10 9 5
♣ A K

♠ K 9 4
♥ J 9
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ 9 7 6 2

♠ A J 5
♥ Q 7 5 3
♦ J 8 4
♣ J 10 5

♠ Q 10 2
♥ A K 10 8 2
♦ 2
♣ Q 8 4 3

East followed with the ♣J (denying the ♣Q) and declarer followed with the ♣3. On the ♥4 from dummy, East played the ♥3, South the ten and West won with the jack. West continued with the ♣2 and declarer then took the ♥A, cashed the ♥K and played a third heart to East's queen. On the third and fourth heart West discarded the ♣7 and ♦3. The critical moment was at hand and East had to decide what to play next.

In practice East shifted to a low spade, ten, king and West returned a spade to the ace. Declarer had the rest for +400.

A spade switch is certainly understandable. When a suit bid by dummy turns out to be very weak, that is often the best place to attack. The spade shift would have worked if West had ♠K10x, but as the play went, East did not need West to be that strong.

South is known to have A-K in hearts and you can place South with the ♣Q for the jump to 2NT and West's club discard.

When East signalled with the ♣J at trick one West knew South had the ♣Q. Holding ♠KQx or ♠KQxx, West would have shifted to a spade when in with the ♥J. That means South has a spade honour and therefore will not have the ♦K.

Once you place West with the ♦K a diamond shift will defeat the contract if West also has the ♠K. Diamond to the king and ace, spade to the ten and king and a diamond from West sets up the ♦J for East with the ♠A as entry.

Ron Klinger

AUSTRALIA-WIDE OPEN PAIRS – GOONDIWINDI SESSION

Bridge players are resilient, tenacious beings, and this was evident when we held our heat of the Australia-Wide Pairs at Goondiwindi. A late cancellation necessitated a North-South sit-out, and then halfway through the event a widespread blackout resulted in no electricity for almost an hour.

Luckily the hotel where we play had dim emergency lights. We continued on for two four-board rounds with the aid of small torches from ladies' handbags and the light from mobile phones!

Bridgemates have batteries, so scoring was not affected, but conditions worsened when the emergency lights themselves began petering out.

There was a loud cheer when the electricity came back on and we finished another two rounds in a civilized manner.

Board 12 was my most stressful hand from the event, but it did have a good outcome.

Board 12	♠ A 5	
W/NS	♥ Q 10 6 5 4	
	♦ 5 2	
	♣ Q J 7 5	
♠ 10 9 4 2		♠ K Q J 7 6 3
♥ 7		♥ 9 3
♦ K Q J 10 6		♦ 9 3
♣ A 6 4		♣ 9 8 3
	♠ 8	
	♥ A K J 8 2	
	♦ A 8 7 4	
	♣ K 10 2	

We played it in semi-darkness. Trish, the dealer sitting West, hesitated ever so slightly before passing. This made me (North) think it was quite safe to hog the bidding space with 2♥ (hearts and a minor). Judy, East, bid the expected 2♠ and I felt rather uneasy when my husband John jumped to 4♥.

Trish then supported her partner to 4♠, but John was on a roll and bid 5♥! Trish doubled this and I suddenly wished I played chess instead, where you don't need to rely on the common sense of another person. Worse was to come: John redoubled!

Trish was quick to lead the ♦K – an opening lead out of turn. I accepted and put my hand down as dummy. After all, it was only fitting that the one who put us at the five-level vulnerable should be declarer!

John took the king with the ♦A, drew trumps and knocked out the ♣A. West then took the ♦Q but that was the last trick for the defence. 5♥ redoubled making scored +1200 North-South!

Lots of funny things happened during this duplicate. One member named Greg thought his reputation might be forever tarnished. When the lights came back on he was spotted by staff coming out of the ladies toilet with a mobile phone in his hand! All innocent though, he had merely been shining some light into the pitch black room for a septuagenarian making an emergency pit stop.

We were all surprised and excited to find light rain falling as we left the venue. No one had umbrellas. We've had a drought here for years and the town is on water restrictions. We ambled slowly to our cars enjoying the soft drops on our heads, and some even looked skywards to feel the rain on their faces!

PS. We had 4 mL overnight.

Barb Whitmee

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GRASS ROOTS

As reported in the last instalment of youth news, we had heard Cedric Parker had started bridge groups at two schools in Tasmania's North, so we paid him a visit to offer our support. We attended one of his schools at Marist Regional College and challenged the students to think outside the box. Discussing the possibility of Youth Week and possibly fielding a team for the 2020 ANC – which is something Tasmania has been unable to do for a number of years.



We enjoyed the hospitality between Cedric and the TBA so much we returned the following week, visiting the Launceston Bridge Club. We were able to speak with the committee before enjoying a home-made lunch and an afternoon game. We look forward to returning to Tasmania in the New Year to assist with a Bring Your Grand Child To Bridge (BYGCTB) Day. Toward the end of September we hosted our own Bring Your Grand Child to Bridge Day at the VBA inviting everyone from around Victoria to come for a fun school holiday activity. We were delighted with the turnout at such short notice and although some were too young to compete we still managed to run a 7-table competition at the end of the day.

Some of the feedback included:

"Thanks for the great day – they loved it. I turned my back this morning and when I came back they were happily playing bridge together!"

"When the kids arrived home, they went searching for a pack of cards. We loved the day – thank you."

Here is a hand we showed the Marist students to get the brain thinking. The contract is 6♠, on the ♥J lead.

♠ 9 8 7 6 5

♥ A K 2

♦ A 9 8

♣ A Q

♠ A K Q J 10

♥ Q 4 3

♦ K J 10

♣ 3 2

How do you guarantee 12 tricks in 6♠ on any layout, on the ♥J lead? The answer is at the bottom of this article.

RECENT RESULTS

The Australian Youth team had a big month on the road in August. A number of the Australian team flew straight from the ANC to play the Chairman's Cup at the Swedish Bridge Festival. The team was sponsored by the Swedish Bridge Federation and were offered accommodation, entry and breakfast. Without this generous offering, our team would have missed out on a much needed practice match against some international opposition, less than a month before the World Championships.

The Australian team was Jamie Thompson - Matt Smith, John McMahon - Nicholas Ranson, Renee Cooper - Andrew Spooner. The format for this event was a two-day qualification followed by knockout matches starting at the round of 32. If knocked out from the main event, you get a 2nd chance in another knockout called the Bonus Cup. The team finished the qualification in 14th position and played a Swedish team called Cosmos. At the halfway point of the Round of 32 they found themselves 44 imps down, but staged a big comeback to fall agonisingly 5 imps short when the music stopped. The team won their first match in the Bonus Cup but fell in the round of 16 to a local Swedish team.

The team all commented that it was a very well run and attended event, and a great warm-up for what lay ahead. In late August the team reunited in Opatija, Croatia for the World Youth Open Championships, joined by non-playing captain Mike Doecke.

The first event was the Youth Pairs, with a two-day qualifying and one-day final. 49 pairs took part with 26 pairs making the cut for day three. All three Aussie pairs finished in the top 10 with Jamie Thompson and Matt Smith finishing 2nd in the final.

Next up was the Teams event. The qualifying format was eight matches of eight boards. Australia not only topped the field by a big margin but Ranson and McMahon topped the datums. Australia played Japan in the quarter-finals. The match was tight with Japan taking an early lead before Australia came back.

At the end of the match both sides believed Australia had won by one imp, before our team noticed a scoring mistake bringing the match back to a draw. A two-board playoff was held with Australia making it through to the semi-finals. For reporting this scoring error, the team won the Joan Gerard Youth award for sportsmanship. A further award was presented recently (pictured below); see the marketing article by Peter Cox for more details.



**TRIPS TO
TASMANIA**

**BYGCTB Day
25/09/19**



Unfortunately the team's good run finished against Netherlands in the semi-final and lost the third-place playoff to England.

The last event held was the individual. Andrew Spooner and Jamie Thompson both made the finals with Andrew winning the silver medal.

There was also an award for the best performing players over all three formats. Jamie Thompson was awarded third place overall. Congratulations team, you made Australia proud.

Mike Doecke provided this hand from the event. Playing Matchpoint Pairs with everyone vulnerable, you pickup:

♠ Q 9 2 ♥ A K Q 10 5 4 ♦ K 10 ♣ 9 4

And hear your RHO open a natural 1♦...

I must be getting old, because I would settle for a simple 1♥ overall. Jamie Thompson holding this hand had greater ambitions and decided to start with an offbeat 1NT overall.

The auction continued:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
(1♦)	1NT	(2♣) ¹	2NT ²
(pass)	?		

1. Both majors.
2. Invitational with 6+ clubs.

Over his partner's 2NT, Jamie again took a rosy view raising to 3NT, which was passed out.

Now he was forced to plan the play in 3NT on the lead of the ♠5.

♠ A 3
♥ 9 7
♦ 8 6 5
♣ Q 10 8 7 3 2

♠ Q 9 2
♥ A K Q 10 5 4
♦ K 10
♣ 9 4

Jamie played low on the table and captured East's jack with the queen. With the bidding marking his LHO with both majors, a heart loser looked inevitable, however at trick two he played a small heart towards the table!

West, looking at ♥J862, saw no reason to hop in, but regretted his choice immediately when the nine won the trick! Now a diamond towards the king established Jamie's 9th trick for +600 and a 95% board.

Youth bridge is rarely dull!

See the October issue of Australian Bridge Magazine for Stephen Lester's report on the event.

YOUTH WEEK

The ABF generously supports an under-35 bridge event every year in Canberra. Next year, the dates will be from Saturday 4 January until Friday 10 January, directly before the main Open events of the Summer Festival begin.

Around 60 youngsters from around Australia and New Zealand travel to play, learn, and compete in a national event amongst

the best young players in Australia. This event is one of the most engaging and fun events on the calendar, as well as teaching a lot of skills to players of all levels. The Youth Week program includes regular bridge events, as well as special fun events, and finishes with a selection event to select a team to represent Australia in World Youth events. In 2019, young players represented Australia in Sweden, Croatia, and New Zealand. Recent graduates of Youth Week, Nabil Edgton and Andy Hung were regular attendees, and this year represented Australia on the Open Team in Singapore and China.

As well as the program of events for existing players, this year's event will include a "Learn to Play Bridge" school holiday camp on Monday the 6th and Tuesday the 7th of January.

Any players under 30 are encouraged to attend, and if you know any young players in your club, make sure to let them know about this fantastic opportunity.

The website can be found via the ABF website > Events > Youth Week. There is a link here:

www.abfevents.com.au/events/ayc/2020/

MARIST COLLEGE SOLUTION

The solution to the problem at the start of this article:

Draw trumps, win your heart tricks, and then play ♣A followed by ♣Q. They now need to open diamonds or give you a ruff and sluff.

Keep up with all the news at the Australian Youth Bridge page on Facebook

Leigh and Bianca Gold

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MIKE'S COMPUTER CLOCK

This problem has probably been faced by many bridge clubs: Arana Bridge Club had an old electronic clock on the wall that was reaching its use by date. We investigated a hardware replacement, only to realise that the cost was excessive. Not only that, but most players in our large room could not see the clock as it was (a) too small and (b) not in a suitable place. In addition, the director had to get up and go to the clock to start and stop it if required.

We investigated computer clock replacements. We first considered the clock that is built in to Compscore2. However, there are some deficiencies with this clock. Firstly, the sound options are limited and the display options are to show seconds or not. Finally, the clock cannot be controlled from the club room as the cursor is too small to see. We then investigated some shareware computer clocks, but were not enamoured with any of them.

As I am a computer analyst/programmer from way back, it occurred to me that I could design a clock that would suit all the requirements of our many directors. Accordingly, the clock was tested by all our directors until it satisfied their needs. The final version caters for the following.

Assume the round is 24 minutes (4 boards per round):

- The clock counts down in minutes until 3 minutes is reached.
- The clock then changes to a countdown in 15 second intervals, the display changes colour, and a bell is sounded.
- At 2 minutes, the colour changes again.
- At 1 minute, the colour changes again and the countdown changes to every second.
- At 0 minutes, the colour changes to red, the clock "buzzes" and the players get 60 seconds to move for the next round.
- Repeat as required.



All sounds are customisable. The sounds can be used, or not, at 3, 2, 1 or 0 minutes as required. To make the clock as easy to use as possible, a custom Windows cursor, consisting of a large blue dot is used. This cursor is so large that the cursor position can be seen anywhere in the club room. Thus, the director can take the wireless mouse to their table and control the clock without leaving their seat.

The icing on the cake is that we installed 3 TVs – one on the North wall, one on the East wall and one on the West wall. Using an HDMI splitter, all TVs show the clock, so that anyone in the room can see it at all times. Also, each TV has its own sound for the bell and buzzer sounds. The clock is multi monitor aware, so it can be set to display on the secondary PC monitor and TVs while Compscore is only shown in the club office on the primary PC monitor.

The clock runs on any version of Windows from Windows 7 to 10. It is free for all clubs to use. Any club that is interested may contact me to obtain a copy. My email is

mikelevoi@gmail.com

Mike Le Voi



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METRO TRAVEL

♠ K 9 7 6
♥ 8 5
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A K J 6

♠ Q J 2
♥ K Q J 6 4
♦ A 9 6
♣ Q 2



SOUTH	NORTH
1NT	2♣
2♥	3NT

West leads the ♠3 (4th best) to the six, ten and your jack. The lead indicates that West has four spades including the ace. On a diamond lead you'd have had no chance. How can you make sure you capitalise on this apparent reprieve?

At present you have four clubs, a spade and a diamond trick and need three more to succeed. The heart suit is the obvious (and only) source of these and you will always succeed if the suit breaks 3-3, which is slightly against the odds. Should you bang down the ♥K?

A moment's thought suggests a much better play. You want to lead, twice if necessary, towards the heart honours to overcome some of the 4-2 heart breaks. (If West holds A9xx, A10xx, or Ax, nothing can save you.)

Cash your four clubs (discarding two diamonds) ending in dummy which is where you want to be to lead a heart. When you lead the heart, you end up winning with an honour in hand giving you the seventh trick.

You now play the ♠Q which introduces a new twist and provides West with a problem. If she takes the ♠A, then you will end up making three spades bring the total to nine and success. West recognises this and ducks, but you don't, and you overtake with the ♠K (8th trick) again landing you in dummy for a second heart lead.

East is stymied again. Rising with the ♥A leads to 11 tricks, and ducking leads to the required nine.

Note that this play doesn't give up on a 3-3 heart break even if West has the ♥A.

The full deal:

PLAY

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

Note how banging down the ♥K at trick two leads to failure. The position of the ♥A has allowed you to achieve a Morton's Fork in two suits (plus a chance for overtricks if East rises with the ace on the second heart). How good is that!

This is an extension of the example given in Guy Levee's *The Encyclopedia of Card Play Techniques at Bridge*, page 124.

Dennis Zines

OPENING STRONG HANDS

This month's Workshop at Sydney Bridge Centre was all about opening strong hands with 2NT or 2♣.

I play that a 2NT opening shows 20-22 HCP and a balanced hand, and partner can use Stayman or Transfers, and can pass a 2NT opening. I play that a 2♣ opening shows either 20+ unbalanced, or 23+ balanced, and is game forcing, no matter what.

With 23+ HCP and a balanced hand, I open 2♣ and then rebid 2NT, and play that systems are on after partner's 2♦ response. I strongly dislike opening 3NT, or jumping to 3NT, to show an extremely strong balanced hand, since over 3NT it is not clear what the continuations are. Having the ability to use Stayman and Transfers is incredibly important, and will allow you to find the best fit and game. See the footnote for an advanced method to show your points more accurately.

When responding to 2♣, there are many different approaches, but I think that the simplest is best. In response to 2♣, I bid 2♦ on all hands of less than 8 points (Negative Response). I only bid something other than 2♦ if I have 8 or more points, and a good quality five-card suit. If I have a balanced hand, or a hand with a poor 5+ card suit, then I respond 2♦ as a "waiting" bid, even with 8+ points.

Usually the opener in a 2♣ auction has a lot to say, so the responder should usually let opener describe their hand. By using 2♦ as a negative or waiting bid, it usually means that the stronger hand becomes declarer, and allows more bidding room.

The reason to use 2♦ as less than 8 points, is that most hands of 8+ points will make a slam after a 2♣ opening. If responder has started with 2♦, waiting, and has 8+ points, they should investigate a slam once a fit has been found.

Here is one way that responder can show their points on a subsequent round of bidding. Partner opens 2♣ and this is your hand:

♠ J 9 5 2 ♥ K 10 3 ♦ Q J 9 2 ♣ 8 4

I would respond 2♦ (negative or waiting), and when partner bids 2♠ you have options. In a game forcing auction, you should apply Fast Arrival with a minimum hand. Bidding 4♠ here should show a fit and 0-4 points. With this hand, you should raise to 3♠ (Slow Arrival), suggesting around 5-7 points.

If your ♦Q in the hand above was the ♦A instead, you now have 9 HCP, you should still start with 2♦ (waiting) but then look for slam over partner's 2♠ bid. Perhaps start with 3♠, or simply bid 4NT asking for aces or keycards.

One other great technique that we discussed in the workshop was how to bid the following hand:

♠ A 5 ♥ A K Q 10 8 7 2 ♦ K J 4 ♣ A

You should open 2♣, and then over partner's 2♦ response, you should jump to 3♥. A jump after a 2♣ opening shows a self-sufficient suit (usually 7+ cards, and solid or nearly). You are insisting that hearts are trumps regardless of partner's support. Partner needs to decide whether they have any help for you, and then bid 4♥ (with no help) or perhaps make a Control Bid, or 4NT, if they have a trick or two for you. Note that if partner had responded anything other than 2♦, then you would not have a jump to 3♥ available.

Advanced Note: One option to tighten the point ranges of balanced hands is to play 2NT as 20-21, and 2♣ followed by 2NT as 22-23 and use a convention called Kokish Relay, or Birthright, to show 24+ points. Using Kokish Relay, after 2♣-2♦, bidding 2♥ is artificial and says "bid 2♠", and either shows hearts, or (when followed up with 2NT) 24+ balanced.

Will Jenner-O'Shea

LOCAL CONGRESSES – TAMWORTH

In Australia today there are more and more bridge congresses in country venues. For example in NSW alone there are about 65 weekend events this year. That is more than one event per week outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Considering there are none in January and December the concentration in the other 10 months is very high. Consequently, there are frequently multiple events to choose from each weekend. Even so, the attendance at these events is good, but it could be much higher.

One complaint from the organisers is that clubs in the same area are often on at the same time. Clearly it is time for the NSWBA to make some effort in spreading the events so that those in the North of the state do not conflict with others in the North and so forth.

Recently I had reason to visit Tamworth to visit my family. I chose to visit at the same time as the Tamworth Bridge Club's annual two day Swiss Pairs event. At the same time there were three other events north of Sydney. Even so, Tamworth managed to attract 24 pairs to their most wonderful weekend.

The hospitality, friendliness, and country town catering were outstanding. All the members of the club chipped in to produce a memorable experience. The bridge was well organised and entertaining.

The winners were Virginia Dressler and Ian McKinnon, from Rosalie Broughton and Ken Wilks, and third Michael Johnson and Alan Meikle. The best local pair were Roy Cottage and David Cohen in fourth place. The best restricted pair were David Bonsey and Arun Tiwari.

Going into the last round my partner and I were on 119.53 with Ken Wilks and Rosalie on 127.10. Clearly with us 7.57 VP in arrears we needed to win well, as well as some luck elsewhere. To succeed, we needed some help from the local pair Roy and David (the congress convenor) who were to play Ken and Rosalie on this last round. Some help came with this board:

Board 14	♠ K
E/Nil	♥ 9 8 7 5 3
	♦ J 4 2
	♣ 8 6 4 2
♠ 10 8 7 6 4 3	♠ A Q 9
♥ —	♥ A 6 4
♦ A Q 6 3	♦ K 8 5
♣ Q 9 7	♣ A K J 3
	♠ J 5 2
	♥ K Q J 10 2
	♦ 10 9 7
	♣ 10 5

Roy and David were the only pair to bid this to 6♠:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2NT	pass
3♥	pass	3♠	pass
4♦	pass	4♠	pass
4NT	pass	5♦	pass
6♠	all pass		

All that was needed to make this was to keep the spade losers to one. With the singleton king in the North hand that was easy.

Then there was this:

Board 11	♠ 7 6 5
S/Nil	♥ A 3 2
	♦ J 7 5
	♣ A K 5 3
♠ A Q 8 4	♠ K 3 2
♥ Q 9	♥ K J 10 5
♦ 10 6 3	♦ A Q 4
♣ J 7 6 4	♣ Q 8 2
	♠ J 10 9
	♥ 8 7 6 4
	♦ K 9 8 2
	♣ 10 9

Bidding this hand to 3NT is not easy after North opens in third seat with 1♣. At our table my partner, East, overcalled 1NT. I checked for a major fit and settled in 3NT. It is hard for the defence to put this contract at risk. Roy and David were one of only three pairs to bid and make 3NT. These two hands proved to be enough for our win.

It is disappointing that there is not more promotion and reporting of these very popular weekend events. Some are oversubscribed, such as the Central Coast, Coffs Harbour and Glen Innes, but many suffer from conflicting dates. I am not as familiar with these types of events in other states but I think it is time that the administrators throughout Australia got behind these events with proper promotion. There is a lot of top class entertainment available for Australian bridge players, at very little expense.

Ian McKinnon

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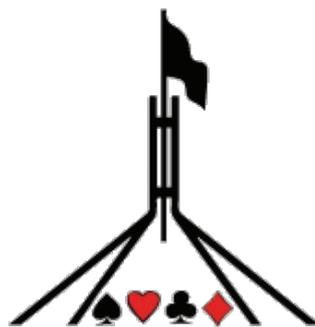
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