



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

Editor: Brad Coles (editor@abf.com.au)

No. 211 October 2021

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52 WAYS TO MAKE
YOUR CHILD SMARTER.



BRIDGEWHIZ

THE ACBL
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

In August, the ACBL Foundation launched 'BridgeWhiz' – a digital initiative to teach beginner bridge primarily to middle school students.

In response, the ABF Council has endorsed a plan to reinvigorate youth bridge in Australia. The ABF has set an ambitious goal of gaining 5000 youth players over the next five years.

See inside for details.





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ARTICLES: 12 NOVEMBER

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**IMPROVE
YOUR
DEFENCE**

with
Ron Klinger

Solution on page 17

S/EW

♠ K 9 5
♥ 9 4 2
♦ K 8 5
♣ 10 5 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A J 8
♦ A 9 6
♣ K Q 8 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	dbl	1NT ¹¹⁻¹⁴ all pass

West leads the ♦3, fourth highest. Declarer calls for the five from dummy. What would you play as East?



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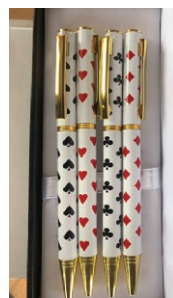
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2022 DAILY BRIDGE CALENDAR Well almost...

it is the 2005 DBC, with
the same days and dates
as 2022
With 365 hands. \$15.00



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20 \$4.00
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

president@abf.com.au



I take this opportunity to thank Geoffrey Chettle for his nearly four years of legal service as the ABF General Counsel. Geoffrey has been a valued contributor to the ABF Management Committee and Board, providing wise counsel on many issues as well as being a valued member of several committees as the ABF's legal representative. I wish him well as he returns to work as a County Court Judge in Victoria.

Congratulations to all involved with the success of the Hans Rosendorff Memorial Swiss Pairs. In particular, the Tournament Organiser Lynne Milne for her organisation. 100 players participated in this, the first face-to-face ABF-licensed event held since May. Well done to the winners of the Women's Swiss Pairs Viv Wood and Sue Lusk, and the Restricted Swiss Pairs winners Mavis Koay and Dianne Dwyer.

The ACBL Educational Foundation has unveiled "BridgeWhiz," a free digital initiative to teach beginner bridge primarily to middle school students. This first year of BridgeWhiz is intended as a pilot programme. If the pilot is successful, the ABF will look at the programme to see if we can access it as part of our reconfiguration of youth bridge.

A new national event for restricted players will begin on 15 November. The Grand National Restricted Pairs on Real Deal Bridge will be open to all players with less than 100 Masterpoints. I encourage eligible players to enter this exciting new event as it will afford them the opportunity to play in a national competition through the comfort of their club.

The Gold Coast Congress 2022 is open to entries on myABF (View Congresses). There will be the 60th birthday celebrations for this event and the organisers are asking everyone to enter now to show your support.

In order to provide a safe environment for players and officials at ABF Gold Point events in 2022, COVID-19 Event Plans will include the requirement that all players and officials be fully vaccinated. For those ineligible to be vaccinated for medical reasons, a medical certificate confirming such ineligibility along with confirmation of a negative COVID test conducted within three days of commencement of the event will be required. The ABF Board appreciates your support and understanding on this issue.

2021 HGR Swiss Pairs

Sue Lusk and Viv Wood (pictured left) had nine wins from nine matches to win the HGR Women's Pairs, and Mavis Koay and Dianne Dwyer (pictured right) were likewise convincing winners in the HGR Restricted Pairs.



ABF BOARD NEWS

*Major items and decisions from the
ABF Management Committee Meeting
August 13th 2021*

Retiring ABF Legal Counsel

Due to work requirements preventing him from continuing in this role as ABF Legal Counsel, Geoffrey Chettle will retire from the position on 31 August 2021. The Board thank him for his service to the ABF for the past three and a half years and wish him well as he returns to work as a County Court Judge in Victoria.

Deputy Legal Council, Michael Bryan will be given authority to advise on legal matters until the appointment of a suitably qualified practitioner at the May Annual General Meeting next year.

Mandatory vaccinations for 2022 Gold Point events

In order to provide a safe environment for players and officials at ABF Gold Point events, 2022 COVID-19 Event Plans will include the requirement that all players and officials to be fully vaccinated. For those ineligible to be vaccinated for medical reasons, a medical certificate confirming such ineligibility along with confirmation of a negative COVID test conducted within three days of commencement of the event will be required. MyABF will work on a tick box for players entering an event to confirm they have a vaccination certificates, or a medical certificate and a negative test confirmation.

Plans for ABF and ABF Licensed Events to November 2021 - February 2022

It was sad to see the cancellation of the VCC, Canberra in Bloom and the Territory Gold in Alice Springs. The current COVID-19 numbers in Victoria,

the ACT and NSW now puts other events in jeopardy. A decision on whether the 2021 ANC in Perth and the GNOT Final in Brisbane will run in November will be made on Monday 11 October. The QBA will make a final decision on the 2022 Gold Coast Congress on 1 December.

If the ANC is cancelled, the Swan River Swiss Pairs 2021 will still run, but the venue will be changed.

ABF Mid-Term Meeting

The Mid-Term meeting planned for 23-24 October in Sydney will now be a Zoom meeting on Sunday 24 October. At this meeting we will discuss the possibility of holding a one-day Council meeting in December or at the Summer Festival or Gold Coast to enable us to hold the Strategic Planning session.

ABF Tournament Committee, Terms of Reference

The Board agreed to approve the Tournament Committee Terms of Reference, which can be viewed on the website

www.abf.com.au/about-abf/committees

The new Terms of Reference mean that Tournament Committee minutes will no longer be uploaded to the website, instead a summary of key decisions will be included in the Board minutes and communicated to players via the Communique, and/or separately announced on the website.

Feedback & Future Meetings

The Board welcomes feedback and suggestions on the above matters or other subjects.

The next Board meeting will be in October followed by the Mid-Term meeting on 24 October.

2020-2022 ABF Board

Allison Stralow (President)

Kim Frazer (Secretary)

Ian Thomson (Treasurer)

Adel Abdelhamid

Rob Ward

Jane Rasmussen (Executive Secretary)

Michael Bryan (Deputy Legal Counsel)



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MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox
marketing@abf.com.au



HOW TO GET PLAYERS BACK INTO CLUBS

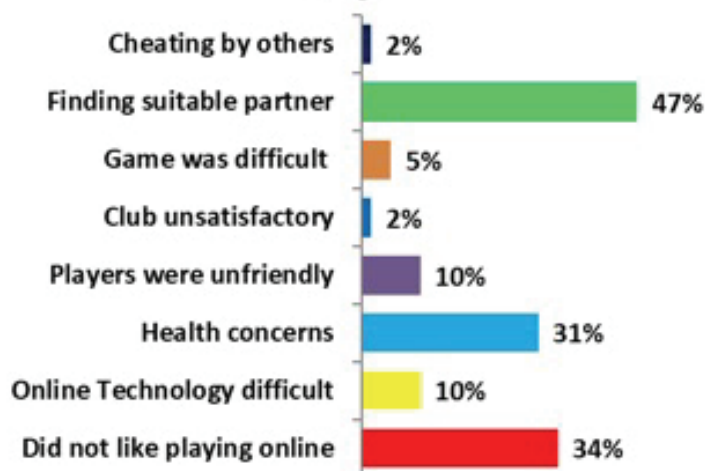
Hopefully, in the next few months we will get back to playing face-to-face in clubs again. The major tasks for clubs will be to attract players back into the clubs who have not been playing and start teaching beginners lessons again after a long hiatus with few new players. Even the states who played face-to-face whilst NSW and Victoria were closed down have not returned in the same table numbers as before COVID.

We wanted to know why people had not been playing and if there was anything we could do get them back to the club. In particular we wanted to survey the people who had become 'inactive' and not paid their ABF membership from December 2020 to August 2021 which was 2,094 players. Of these we had the email addresses of 446 and received 72 responses or 16% which was excellent considering these were a disaffected group who had left playing in ABF affiliated clubs.

I am going to show a few highlights of the survey so that the ABF and the clubs can improve the bridge experience for players.

About half the inactive players had not played at all but 35% had been playing online, 16% privately

If you have stopped playing, Why?



in friend's homes and 7% in ABF affiliated clubs but not for masterpoints.

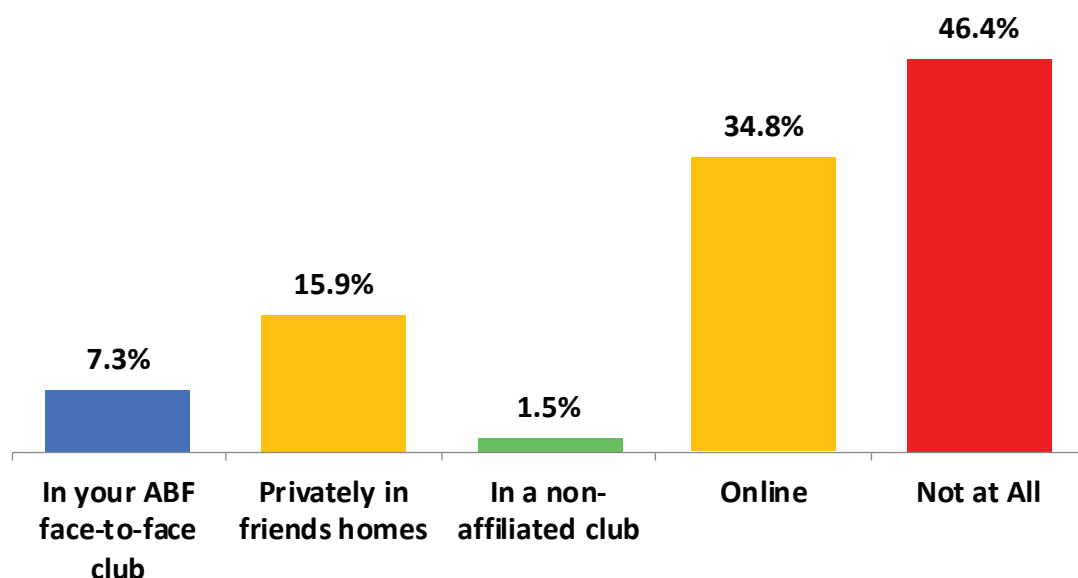
One third of the players did not want to play online but only 10% said the technology was the cause. Health concerns were a major factor for 31% which is not surprising for an elderly cohort. Not many found the game too difficult, cheating was irrelevant but the major problem for nearly half was Needing A Partner. This affects players at all levels of bridge and we need to be able to help with this problem.

I have found directing on BBO that robots are a saviour for many single players but an annoyance for some others.

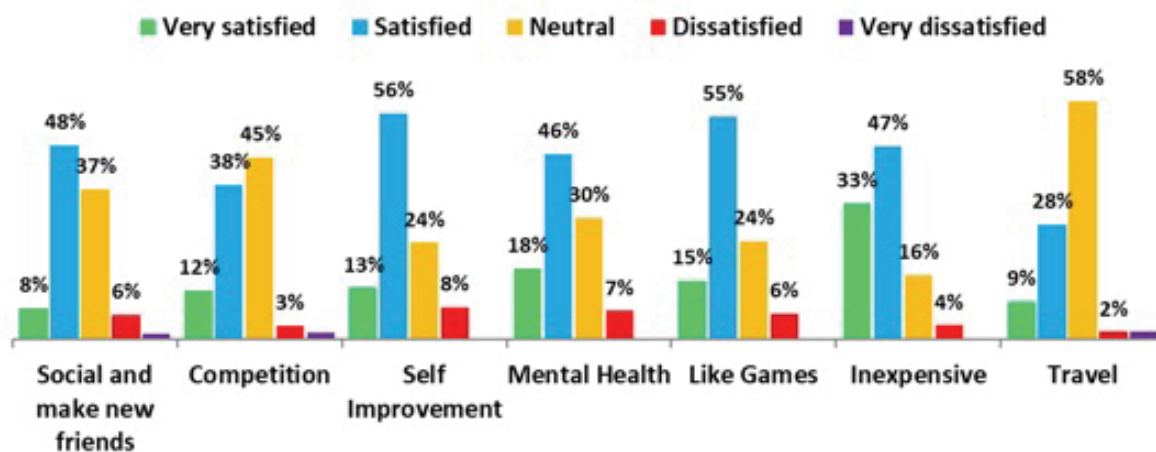
People were largely **satisfied or very satisfied** for most of the motivating reasons for playing bridge. The per cent **dissatisfied and very dissatisfied** was about 5%. The outstanding figure was that 80% found bridge to not be expensive.

In other questions nearly 60% had been contacted by their club since not playing there which was

Have you been playing bridge recently?



What did you hope to achieve from bridge and how would you rate your experience?



good but still many clubs need to follow up their members.

Another question was whether players would like free technology assistance but 86% said that no help was needed.

A critical question was when would they be prepared to play again and a concerning 30% said Not At All. A combined 50% replied when lockdowns were lifted or when vaccinated despite new cases. Nearly 20% would return when vaccinated but zero cases which may not happen for a long time.

Conclusion

In business, including leisure activities, it is far less expensive to regain or retain existing customers than it is to attract new customers. This should be the starting point for clubs to actively engage with your current and lapsed members by personally contacting them. The product is good and largely meets expectations, is very well priced but the

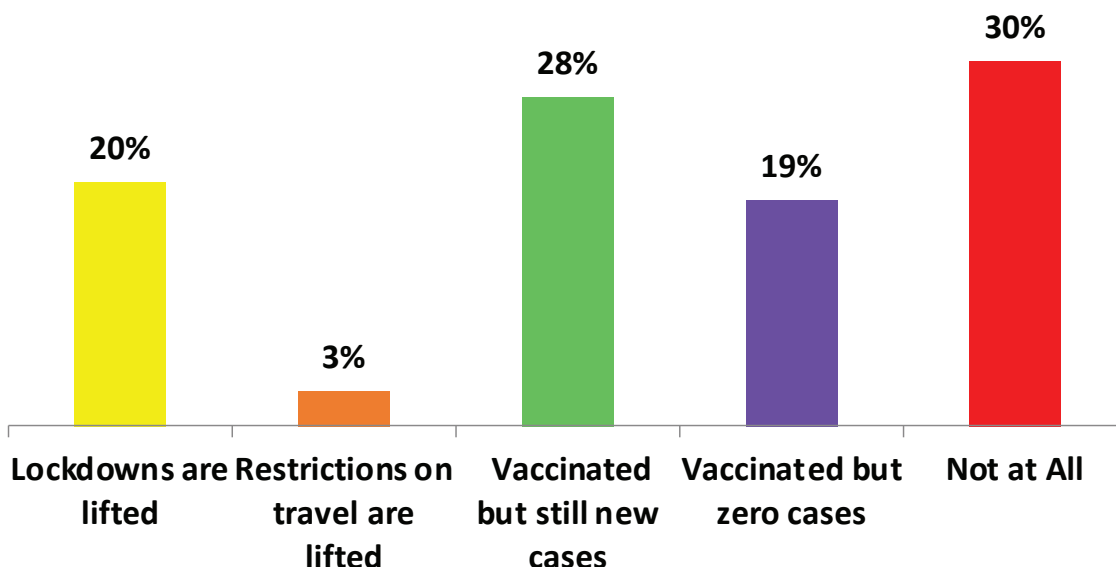
customer needs to be personally encouraged particularly to overcome the health concerns. Most inactive players are not lost to bridge but you have to take action to win them back to your club.

Suggestions

1. All players to be directly contacted by email or preferably by personal phone call
2. Players be double vaccinated as a condition of entering club
3. For those not vaccinated a doctor's certificate and a negative test before entering
4. Provide or recommend an online game for those who cannot play face-to-face
5. Have a person responsible for partnerships, a stand by player or an online service

Please contact Peter Cox at marketing@abf.com.au if you would like further information.

When are you prepared to play again in your club face-to-face?



BRIDGE WHIZ

and other youth initiatives

Kim Frazer



Teaching the young (and not so young) to play bridge

In August, the ACBL Foundation launched *Bridge-Whiz*, a digital initiative to teach beginner bridge primarily to middle school students. While the program hoped to get 1000 students involved, they have exceeded expectations with enrolments reaching 1700 after just six weeks of promotion.

The program is free for students, and the Foundation will provide a free, one-year Junior Membership in ACBL to each graduating student. Classes are once weekly, Mondays through Thursdays in all time zones during after-school hours.

The future of bridge is in the hands of young people, and you can help “bend” their minds so that they become more proficient in STEM related subjects, not to mention, get hooked for life on this wonderful game.

The Foundation has allocated \$US100K to promote this program via [PeachJar](#) to 1000 schools across the US and Canada, and has engaged top-notch bridge teachers and professionals who have prior experience teaching children and are proficient in Zoom and Shark Bridge.

Getting young people involved in bridge is a key objective of the ABF

At the 2021 AGM, the ABF Council endorsed a plan to reinvigorate youth bridge around the country. The ABF has set an ambitious goal of gaining 5000 youth players over the next five years.

Our state youth co-ordinators are leading this initiative with the support of the ABF. Over the coming months we aim to have new programs and activities in place to recruit new players to this fantastic game.

The first of these initiatives is establishing a regular national youth game at 3:30pm on Sunday afternoons on Real Bridge.

Each edition of the ABF Newsletter will continue to feature a youth section, with each of our youth co-ordinators taking a turn at writing about what is happening on their patch. If you or your club would like to get involved in your state/territory, please contact your local youth co-ordinator.

In the meantime, if you have young people (or not-so young people) who want to get started at home – check out this app:

Tricky Bridge

Kids love their apps, and it is hard to drag them away from their screens. This is where Tricky Bridge can help to get kids interested in bridge.



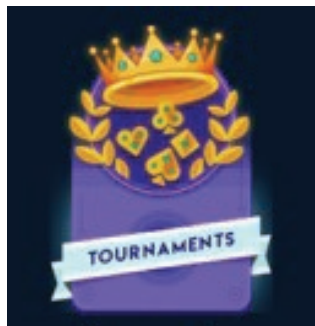
This super cool and fun app is a great way to get kids started with bridge. It's completely FREE too. With fun graphics it's appealing to a young audience. The app has three modules:



Designed for absolute beginners to learn bridge rules, bidding and strategy. Learn solo, at your own pace through 37 lessons, competitions and challenges.



The practice module lets you play bridge anytime with a world-class robot partner and opponents, online or offline. You can compare scores anonymously on each deal and view replays to improve and refine your skills.



The competition module lets you play duplicate bridge tournaments against players from around the world. Players can earn stars and rise through the ranks.

While it is targeted at the young, the not-so-young might also like to give it a go.

Shark Bridge

Shark Bridge is an online learning platform designed for teachers to assist with teaching bridge to students. While it was developed during the early stages of the pandemic to assist teachers with coping with online teaching, many teachers who are using it plan to continue to do so even when face-to-face teaching resumes.

thesharkbridgecompany.com

The origins of Shark Bridge started in 1997 when John Norris, a pro player and coder from Denmark, laid the foundation of Shark's bidding and play engine. John wanted to make a robot bridge player who would play the way humans do. He made a lot

of structural drafts and small drawings of how the modules should work together, but it took some years before he actually started the programming.

In 2006 Shark for the first time participated in the world bridge computer championship and finished last. But already in 2007 Shark was close to a place in the semifinals. Then in 2008 Shark made it to the semifinals, but narrowly lost to the eventual champion WBridge5.

In 2009 and 2010 an individual world championship was held in which the robots played everyone but themselves. Shark won both these championships. This proved that John's idea was good, but that he had to add more shared brain factor. Shark lost in the semifinals in the robot teams event.

In 2011 Shark won the computer bridge championship, convincingly beating QPlus in the finals.

In 2014, Shark won the championship again, beating Micro Bridge in a close, very well-played and low-scoring final.

In 2016, Shark lost its semi-final match against Wbridge5 on carry-over imps.

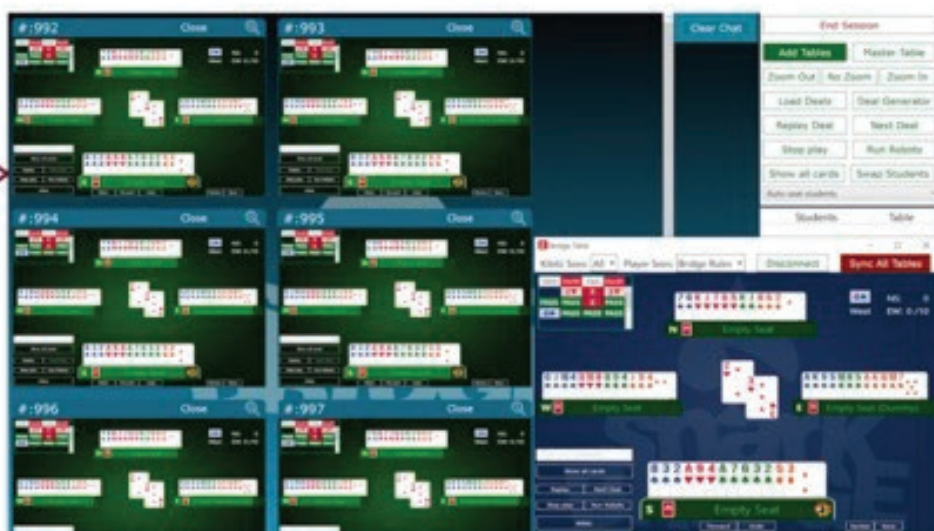
In 2018, Shark narrowly missed the semi-finals.

In April of 2020, Shark Bridge were approached by a group of teachers with a request to help them teach bridge online; in a short three-month time period, we came up with a concept and product to brighten the lives of instructors and students alike. The Shark Bridge Teacher's Console (pictured below) changed the way the game is learned and practiced.

Shark Bridge Company was founded in 2020 by Milen Milkovski (Canada), Plamen Panayotov (Canada), John Norris (Denmark) and Michael Woywode (Germany).

Classroom of tables

- **Engaging**
- **Easy to use**
- **Flexible**
- **Customizable**
- **Affordable**



Teacher's Controls

MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

julian.foster@abf.com.au

Three thousand users

On 7 September the 3,000th user registered for myABF – Stephanie Griffiths from the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Bridge Club. As I write this two weeks later, we are at 3,188. Onwards and upwards!

Getting help and support

Inevitably myABF is new to many players and of course there are some aspects where people are struggling with a lack of familiarity. There are lots of sources of help.

Besides simply talking to other players the biggest source of information is the **myABF Resources web-page**:

www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/

Home > Member Services > My ABF Resources

My ABF Resources

Introduction

- Players
- Clubs

Players

YouTube Videos

- Player functions – overall
- Browse, enter and pay for congresses.
- Live example of Congress entries and payment
- How to withdraw an entry and request a refund

“How to” Guides

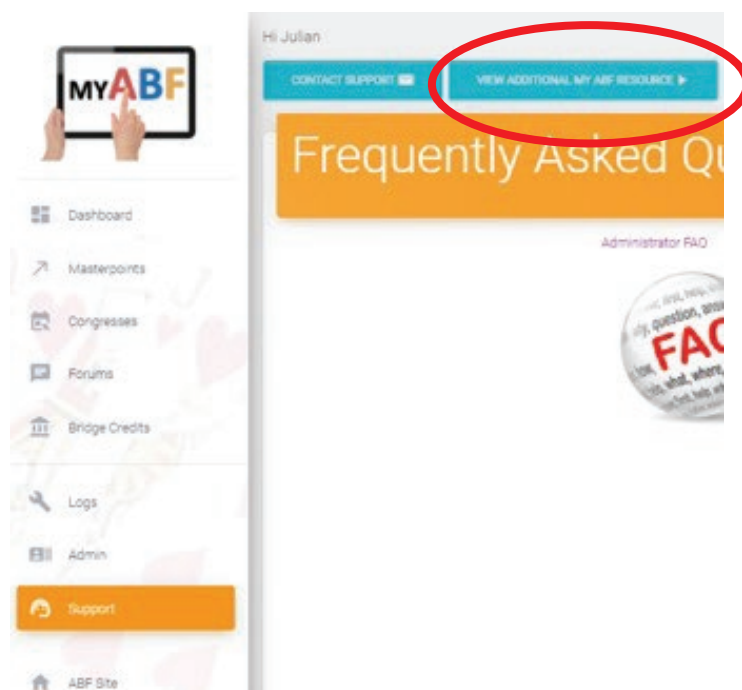
- Sign up (detail)
- Reset your password
- Browse the congress listing
- Sign up and enter a congress
- Enter and pay for a congress
- Enter a congress but not pay for everyone
- Make payments for an existing entry
- Make changes to an existing entry
- How to withdraw an entry and request a refund

This page has introductory guides, assorted YouTube videos and a series of illustrated step by step “How to” guides to show you the various common



things you might want to do in the system (mainly to do with entries and payments).

This page can also be directly accessed from within myABF. Select the Support main menu item and click “View Additional myABF Resource”:



That Support page within the system also has a series of FAQs which cover every area of the system.

The myABF helpdesk

The myABF helpdesk is currently staffed by Jane Rasmussen at ABF HQ and myself. Whilst we can help with most aspects of the system, PLEASE make the effort to have a look at the guidance materials beforehand. We have had several requests for “How do I do X” when there is a direct “How to” guide available for that very thing!

If you do need to contact us for help you can do it from within the system via the “Contact Support” button shown on the Support page. If you are not logged in you can also do it from the “logged out” myABF view:

<https://www.myabf.com.au/view>

(this is also the page you get to if you select myABF at the far top right of the main ABF website). Click on Contact Support (see diagram top of next page).

Both these routes bring up forms to complete about your issue which are then created as "tickets" within our support system to which we will respond (you will then get an email notification).

If your query relates to a Congress, please tell us which one! Remember MYABF contains listings from all over the country – we don't automatically know which one you are talking about. We are aiming to add a function where you can directly email the tournament organiser since many Congress related questions are better answered by them.

We all know IT can be extremely frustrating but we are real people and not a faceless call centre so it would be appreciated if requests could be polite and feedback constructive (99% are). Remember there can be many reasons why something may not be working – and some are actually nothing to do with MYABF at all. There are also many thousands of combinations of versions of device, web browser and operating system – it's simply impossible to test MYABF on every combination and always will be.

Current work

RECORDING YOUR COVID VACCINATION STATUS

As outlined in the President's report, the ABF is mandating COVID vaccination (or a valid exemption) for attendance at face-to-face National events from 2022. This will be managed within MYABF. Soon you will see a new tickbox in your Profile page where you will be able to indicate that you are fully vaccinated or have a valid exemption. Please visit your Profile page to update this. When you first attend a National event, you will be asked to show your certificate and your status will then be verified.

How do you access your profile page? This depends on what device you are using.

- On a computer, it's opened from the person icon at the top right of your screen:



- On a phone or tablet, it's opened via the Account item in the menu – see diagram ==>

Most of the other work currently going on with MYABF is not yet visible to anyone and is primarily for administrators. But it's still important for the future. We have been working on two main areas:

- Club administration
- Email handling

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

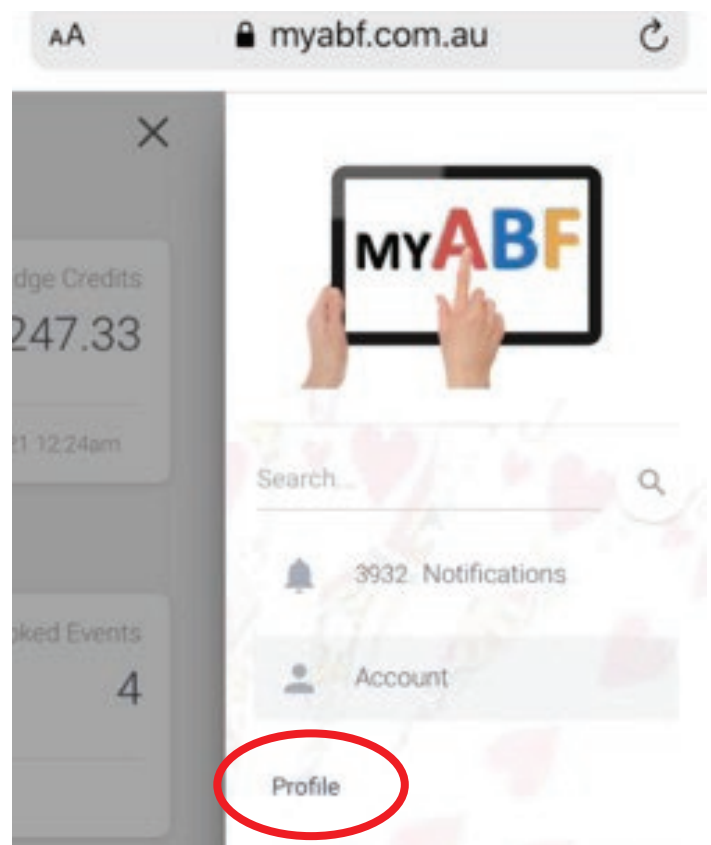
Club administration is going to cover a host of areas where nominated people for each club will have the ability to access different areas of the system and control who else has that access. One of these will be the ability to import a club's membership list (planning ahead so that the system can be used by clubs to accept online payment for club sessions where table money often varies between members and visitors – something we are looking to have available by the end of this year).

EMAIL HANDLING

The system already sends out email notifications for all sorts of things:

- Congress entries (new, changed, withdrawn, etc) – to players and organisers
- Congress broadcasts by organisers
- Payment items (top-ups, transfers, etc)
- Forum posts (where you have chosen to follow a particular post or forum)
- Help desk issues

In future, the system will also handle emailing of results and more general email distribution lists for the ABF, state bodies and clubs. Players will be able to select what they do and don't want to receive. We are therefore doing work to handle higher volumes of email, and the reporting of stats like bounced deliveries, emails opened, etc.





Playing in your first lesson



Ian Dalziel is a teacher and regular columnist for "Mr Bridge" magazine in the UK, where this column was originally published.

While it takes years to become proficient at bridge, anyone can be taught to play in one lesson, even if they have never played cards before. Prior to the advent of bridge classes, people learned at school, at home, at work, or from friends – at their first attempt, they were 'playing', albeit badly, but that didn't matter as long as they enjoyed it.

Hence, at my beginners' first lesson, they are dealing the cards and playing proper bridge (not Minibridge) after one hour of tuition. I want my students to think, 'bridge is an easy game,' so that they will come back next week and, if they enjoy themselves, they will. There is plenty of time later to

teach the skills of the game but if too much theory is taught at the start, it makes an exciting game quite dreary.

My first five lessons are 'pay as you go' so no one needs worry about paying a large term fee and regretting it, but very few people actually drop out.

My first three lessons are done, not with 'chalk and talk', but around a giant bridge table. I put four bridge tables together in a square, as pictured below; about 16 people sit round it and the rest can stand or sit behind. I speak from the corner. This makes it nice and informal, so they are not shy about asking questions and, even better, you always get some jokes cracked and lots of laughter. I show them what a pack of cards looks like and the four people who are seated centrally are 'volunteered' as demonstrators. We play a hand of whist but the cards are kept separate (no choice with a huge table) and stacked duplicate style.

Whist describes the mechanics of card play and ruffing nicely but shows how lucky or unlucky you can be with the trump suit, which is the last card dealt.

I explain that bridge is so much better than whist because the players decide the trump suit themselves with an auction. I have a bidding ladder (pictured right) on each of the four walls which can be seen by everyone.

They deal another hand, which I swap for one I prepared earlier and we bid the hands with the cards face up. Bidding advice is limited to:

5♦	11
5♣	TR
4NT	10
4♠	TRICKS
4♥	
4♦	
4♣	
3NT	9
3♠	TRICKS
3♥	
3♦	
3♣	
2NT	8
2♠	TRICKS
2♥	
2♦	
2♣	
1NT	7
1♠	TRICKS
1♥	
1♦	
1♣	



- bid with good cards,
- pass with poor cards,
- choose trumps by length before strength, and
- the ranking of the suits.

The cards are lifted (don't worry, they don't remember them) and the hand is played out duplicate style. When dummy goes down, I explain that this makes the card play much easier than whist because you can see 26 cards instead of 13 – so if you can play whist, you will find bridge so much easier.

After this hand is played, I answer questions and revise the terms, declarer, dummy, defenders and contract. I emphasise that no-trumps is different from no bid and dealer is different from declarer.

By this time, an hour has elapsed and it's time for the tea break; people always mix very well. I then draw for partners and tables and they actually play bridge.

The first few hands are bid with cards face up, but soon they do it properly. The cards are shuffled, cut and dealt rubber bridge style (I have a shuffle cut guide as shown), but stacked duplicate style. They record the bidding on my 'yellow pages' (see my previous article, June 2021 issue); bidding boxes are not needed at this stage. Believe it or not they score at their first lesson because this makes it more interesting – the scoring is duplicate (without vulnerability) with ready reckoners used to work out their score (as shown).

What about a bidding system and HCP? That, of course, will come later; today they have more than enough to learn – the mechanics of the game. They enjoy their introduction and leave knowing they have actually played bridge and it was a lot easier than they expected. They realise, of course, that they have lots more to learn, but they feel confident they will get there if it's done one step at a time.

Beginners need practice much more than theory. While prepared hands are essential to consolidate techniques taught in class, they need to play random hands too. Indeed, unless they play random hands, they don't experience the real excitement of the game. I encourage them to arrange home games among themselves and teach others to play. In fact, beginners are better than experts at teaching other beginners – they can't blind them with science because they don't know any.

SIMPLE SCORING READY RECKONER (Non Vul)

CONTRACT DEFEATED :- 50 pts per trick short (regardless of denomination).

Contract Made			Contract Made			Contract Made			Contract Made				
BID	TRKS	SCORE	BID	TRKS	SCORE	BID	TRKS	SCORE	BID	TRKS	SCORE		
1♣	7	70	2♣	8	90	3♥	9	140	5♣	11	400		
	8	90		9	110		10	170		12	420		
	9	110		10	130		11	200		13	440		
	10	130		11	150		12	230		5♥	11	450	
	11	150		12	170		13	260			12	480	
1♦	12	170	2♥	13	190	3♠	9	400	5♠	13	510		
	13	190		8	110		10	430		5	11	460	
	7	80		9	140		11	460			12	490	
	8	110		10	170		12	490		5 NT	13	520	
	9	140		11	200		13	520			6♣	12	920
1♥	10	170	2♠	12	230	4♣	10	130	6♦	13	940		
	11	200		13	260		11	150		6♥	12	980	
	12	230	2 NT	8	120		12	170			13	1010	
	13	260		9	150		13	190		6♠	12	990	
1♠	7	90		10	180		4♥	10	420		6 NT	13	1020
	8	120		11	210		11	450	7♣♦		13	1440	
	9	150	3♣	12	240		12	480	7♥♠	13	1510		
	10	180		13	270		13	510		7 NT	13	1520	
	11	210		9	110		4♠	10	430				
	12	240		10	130		11	460					
	13	270		11	150		12	490					
1 NT	12	240	3♦	12	170	4 NT	13	520					
	13	270		13	190								

FIRST ROUND ONLY	SUBSEQUENT ROUNDS
Shuffle one pack and cut for dealer	Put old cards in middle of the table
This pack is reshuffled by the player on dealer's left	The new cards are on the dealer's left
Dealer passes them to the right for cutting	Dealer passes them to the right for cutting
Cut towards dealer, dealer completes the cut	Cut towards dealer, dealer completes the cut
Dealer's partner shuffles other pack & puts on right	Dealer's partner shuffles old pack & puts on right
Now turn this card over	

I know the fashion is to start with Minibridge as a more gentle introduction. I did try this enthusiastically for one year but abandoned it when I found, to my surprise, that it actually slowed down the pace of learning. It works well for children because their time is limited at lunchtimes or after-school sessions.

Anyone wishing more details and a PDF copy of the stationery shown, at no charge, should email

ildalziel@gmail.com

Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK

BIDDING JUDGEMENT

with Paul Marston



Paul Marston has long been in demand as a bridge teacher. In 2015 he presented a course in Perth to 224 people. Peter Smith, who organised the course, said, "I believe this is the highest attendance ever for bridge lessons in Australia."

He has long been the go-to teacher in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. In February 2020 he presented a beginner course in Double Bay to a sold-out audience of 138, all coming from word of mouth. There was no advertising.

In the last 18 months that has continued online. Together with Nevena Djurovic, he has taught more than 1,000 beginners to play bridge with a retention rate above 95% for students who cope with the technology. More than 300 of these people have graduated to bridge clubs all around Australia. There will be more to come.

He has also presented courses on basic card play and bidding judgement, each with a sold-out audience of 240.

Today he is presenting the first of three articles taken from the bidding judgement course.

Bidding judgement calls for understanding. It cannot be reduced to a formula. If it could, computers would be experts at bridge, but they are not. They are struggling away just like the rest of us. The trouble is that there are far too many possible bridge hands.

This is the first of three columns that will shine a light on the areas where understanding is required. Today we focus on bidding judgment in notrumps.

High Card Points

HCPs give us a measure of our honour card strength. This is very helpful for notrump contracts. Often it will be all we need, but not always. When we are called on to make a close decision, we need to look more deeply.

Spot cards

Spot cards (tens and nines) make a difference, particularly in notrump contracts.

WEST	EAST
♠ A J 6	♠ 8 5 3

This holding will produce two tricks whenever South has both the king and queen – 25% of the time. But give West the ten...

WEST	EAST
♠ A J 10	♠ 8 5 3

Now you will make two tricks whenever South has the king or queen – 75% of the time.

Best together

Honour cards are like people – they perform best when they're working together. Consider this holding:

WEST	EAST
♠ K 6 3	♠ Q 5 2

Basically, you are good for one trick, not more. But bring the honours together...

WEST	EAST
♠ K Q 3	♠ 6 5 2

Magic!

Now you are good for two tricks 50% of the time (whenever South has the ace). When it is close, check out your spot cards and the location of your honours.

WEST'S HAND	WEST	EAST
♠ A J 2	1NT	2NT
♥ K J 4	?	
♦ K 5 4 3		
♣ K J 6		

This is a clear pass. You have no spot cards, and your honours are lonely.

In contrast...

WEST'S HAND	WEST	EAST
♠ K Q 6	1NT	2NT
♥ Q J 4	?	
♦ K 10 9 8		
♣ K Q 6		

This time your honours are homogenous, and your diamond pips are pristine, so you have a clear raise to game.

Thin games

You do not always need 25 HCP for 3NT. Sometimes 24 HCP is enough, perhaps even 23 HCP, but only when your hand is made of the right stuff.

WEST	EAST	EAST'S HAND
1♦	1♥	♠ A 8 6
1NT	?	♥ Q 7 5 4 2
		♦ Q 6
		♣ Q 6 5

Pass. This is not the time to look for a thin game. Your honours are scattered, and you have no spots. The two hands together...

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

Indeed, even 1NT is quite likely to go down. But here...

WEST	EAST	EAST'S HAND
1♦	1♥	♠ A J 10
1NT	?	♥ K Q 10 9 2
		♦ 10 6
		♣ 10 8 5

Same HCP and same shape, but this time your honours are pulling together, and your spot cards add real value. You may have a maximum of 24 HCP, but you still expect to make game if partner likes her hand. A raise to 2NT is clear.

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

3NT is almost guaranteed, despite holding just 23 HCP. Such is the power of good spot cards and honours working together.

In the next issue, I will look at bidding judgement in a suit contract. This will bring the Golden Rule of Duplication into sharp focus. The rule states that strength opposite shortage is wasted.

You cannot bid well without a proper understanding of this rule.

The Language of Bidding, 6th edition— Updated & expanded for 2021

With more than 50,000 copies sold, *The Language of Bidding* has long had a special place in the lives of many Australian bridge players. That role is set to continue. It is now available in a brand new edition that makes it both more effective and more simple than ever before.

It has 18 chapters, up from 14 in the previous edition, yet the length of the book is about the same. It includes a new chapter on slam bidding when you know partner's shortage. This was inspired by Paul's successful online Bidding Judgement course. It also includes a full discussion about the proper use of control bidding.

More simple & effective

The response of 1NT over a major is 6-11 HCP, not 6-9 (10) HCP as before. This one small change means a new suit response at the 2-level is now 12+ HCP. This makes the bidding more effective because it allows you to address the crucial question of fit before you have worry about a possible slam.

This change also makes the bidding more simple because you no longer have to worry about reverses and jump shifts after a two level response. Little wonder it has been embraced by all serious players in the modern game.

Available from:

The Bridge Shop <https://www.bridgeshop.com.au/>

Paul Lavings <http://www.bridgegear.com/>

Grand Slam Books <https://www.grandslambooks.com/books.html>





YOUTH BRIDGE NEWS with Rebecca O'Reilly

TASMANIA'S YOUTH PROGRAM

During 2021, Tasmania has run its first Youth Program, aimed at secondary school students.

TBA President (and former teacher) Julie Rhodes ran a 15-week program for four young adults on Wednesdays after school from 4pm until 6pm at the TBA.

Julie developed curriculum materials based on notes kindly donated by Andrew Mill and which are freely available for use with other not for profit bridge education programs.

Now that Fred, Tom, Molly and Roisin have finished their lessons they are looking forward to practising on the new regular ABF Real Bridge sessions which will commence on Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm from 10 October.

After that, they are looking forward to playing in the ANC Youth section with two other team members who are slightly more experienced.

The TBA plans to run the Youth Program again next year, commencing in March 2022.

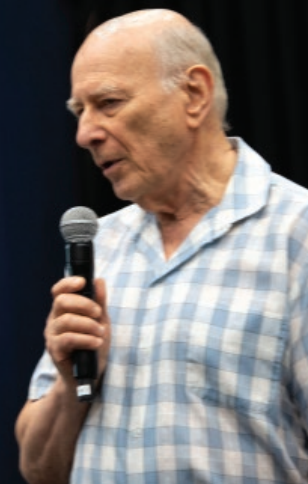


Fred Lawrence, Roisin Grosvenor, Tom Overton and Molly Porter (Julie Rhodes standing)

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



SURROUND SOUND

S/EW

♠ K 9 5
♥ 9 4 2
♦ K 8 5
♣ 10 5 4 3

♠ J 10 7
♥ K 7 5
♦ J 10 7 3
♣ A 6 2

♠ A Q 4 2
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ Q 4 2
♣ J 9

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A J 8
♦ A 9 6
♣ K Q 8 7

At every table the contract was 1NT. Once it was by West after this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1♣	pass
1NT	all pass		dbl

Lead: ♥4. Declarer played the ♥8 and captured South's ♥10. The ♦J was run to South's queen and he returned the ♠2 to the jack and king. North continued with the ♥2 and declarer rose with dummy's ace. Declarer can now collect seven tricks via two hearts, three clubs and a second diamond finesse, but South deflected declarer from this path.

At trick 5 the ♣K was cashed and South dropped the jack. When the ♣7 fetched the ♣9 from South, West won and placed South with ♣J-10-9. When he played the ♣6 to the ♣Q, he had no entry for the second diamond finesse and went one down.

At two tables, the bidding went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1NT	all pass	1♦

At both tables the lead was a spade to the king and declarer played a heart to the ten and king. Both Wests shifted to the ♦J: five - six - queen and both declarers went down.

At the last table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	dbl	1NT ¹
			all pass

1. 11-14 balanced.

Lead: ♦3. Declarer played low from dummy and East erred by rising with the ♦A. He returned the ♦9 and the ♦K won. A heart to the ten fetched the king and East cleared the diamonds. Declarer could cash out for six tricks, but he played a spade to dummy's king and led another heart, East erred again by playing the jack. The ♥Q won and three spade tricks later declarer had seven tricks and +180. If East takes the ♥A at trick 6, he can play ♣K, low club to the ace and the defence can come to eight tricks.

East does better by playing the ♦9 at trick 1 and keeping the ♦A to capture dummy's ♦K later. Declarer wins with the ♦Q and can cash out for five tricks. If instead he crosses to the ♠K to lead a heart to the ten, West takes the ♥K and continues with the ♦J. Now the defence can collect two hearts, three diamonds and four clubs for three down. That is quite a difference for applying the surround technique. Not only did East's ♦A at trick one give declarer two diamond tricks, but it also gave him two entries to dummy to set up a heart trick.

Around The Clubs

Sale Bridge Club's approach to successfully recruiting new members

SBC has completed its lesson program for 2021, bringing twenty new players to the club for supervised play, despite the stop and go of COVID and the associated lockdowns.

In recent years our club membership has declined. The committee decided to launch a new lesson program. In 2019 we ran an advertising program offering *Bridge In A Day* with Laura Ginnan from **Real Deal Bridge**. We placed a monthly advertisement in the local paper for three months, followed up with weekly ads for the three weeks prior to the day. Flyers were sent to community groups, U3A, sports clubs and local businesses. Our Vice President was interviewed on local radio.

Bridge In A Day 2019 was attended by twelve new players. Eight participants continued with lessons, followed by a catch-up day with Laura Ginnan, and supervised play. They are now all club members.

In 2020 we ran the same advertising campaign, and this was followed by lessons and thirty-four attended. Twenty-six followed up with lessons until the COVID lockdown. We offered video, Zoom and online play, eight beginners finished the lessons. We

were unable to offer a follow up program of supervised play. Unfortunately, regional internet services are unreliable and the unreliability does not encourage the improvement of technical skills.

In 2021 the club followed the same advertising campaign and we offered *Bridge In A Day* and lessons. Twenty-six attended, ten of those from the 2020 group. Subsequently, twenty players continued with the eight lessons. We have completed the lesson program despite the lockdowns.

This time we added a catch-up session on a different day after each lesson. Students could replay set hands from the lessons to date, ask questions and discuss any issues they had. Laura Ginnan presented the final catch-up day. The twenty SBC new players are now ready for supervised play, then a debut at the club.

Laura Ginnan and Real Deal Bridge have been available to support us throughout the lesson programs. *Bridge In A Day* is an excellent start, people are playing the cards from day one. The deal files of hands which reflect each lesson, videos and online games are available to reinforce the lessons. The catch-up day at the end of lessons is invaluable.

The club members have supported the program, helping with supervised play at each lesson and the catch-up sessions, and of course our club teacher is the backbone of the program.

We already have a waiting list for 2022 lessons and have not advertised yet.

Libby Thomson, Sale Bridge Club

Sorry, Partner Welcome to the Table!

There's a new bridge podcast in town!

Hosted by bridge partners and best friends Catherine Harris and Jocelyn Startz, SORRY, PARTNER is a playful take on the game of bridge and the worldwide community of bridge players.

The weekly program is organised into two sections. It kicks off with a lively conversation between the two hosts about anything and everything from funny things that happen at the table to bridge challenges of all stripes, as well as a mailbag of listeners' bridge stories. The second part features a long-form interview with a bridge champion who shares insights and top tips.

Episode one showcases Giorgia Botta, who discusses how she went from being a junior champion in Rome

to life as a bridge professional in New York City. Bridge legend Barry Rigal spearheads episode two with his trademark self-deprecating humor about his seriousness at the table. Future guests include Adi Asulin (Israel), Mel Colchamiro (USA), Heather Dhondy (England), Disa Eythorsdottir (Iceland/USA), Andrew Mill (Australia), and Kiran Nadar (India).

We think the program is fun and interesting for players at all levels, but features tips and advice of particular use to developing students of the game.

The program is available on [Apple podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#), and pretty much wherever people like to listen. We hope people will follow the show. Send your bridge stories to

sorrypartnerpodcast@gmail.com

or message Catherine Harris on

[instagram@sorrypartnerpodcast](https://www.instagram.com/sorrypartnerpodcast)

Catherine Harris & Jocelyn Startz, Melbourne

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with
Barbara
Travis



Solutions on page 20

QUESTION 1

♠ 9 5
♥ K 6 3 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ A J 5 4

♠ A Q J
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ 7 5
♣ K 10 8 6

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

West leads the ♦J - queen - king; East returns the ♦2, declarer winning West's ♦9 with dummy's ace.
How would you play?

QUESTION 2

♠ K Q 5 2
♥ 10 3 2
♦ K 9 6 2
♣ Q 4

♠ A 10 7 6 4 3
♥ A 6
♦ A 8 5 3
♣ 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
2♥	3♥	dbl ¹	4♠
all pass			

1. Showing honour-doubleton in hearts.

West leads the ♣A and ♣K, which you trump. How would you play?

QUESTION 3

♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ K 9
♦ A 7 6 4
♣ K 9 4

♠ A K 5
♥ A 10 5 4 2
♦ K 5 2
♣ Q 7

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

This auction has revealed that North holds four spades, so West leads a fourth-highest ♦3. What is your plan?

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with Barbara Travis

Solutions to problems on page 19

HAND 1

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

Against South's 4♥, West leads the ♦J - queen - king; East returns the ♦2, declarer winning West's ♦9 with dummy's ace. How would you play?

Drawing trumps is your first concern. You can lead a heart to your queen and West's ace. West now tries the ♦10, but you can trump, then draw the remaining trumps, finishing in dummy so that you can take the spade finesse.

West exits with the fourth diamond, because it gives declarer no additional help. You ruff with dummy's last trump, and the contract seems to depend on finding the ♣Q.

However, before you commit to this critical decision, you should acquire as much information as you can. Therefore, you should cash the remaining two spades. On the third spade, West discards. His hand shape can now be counted out: two spades, three hearts, four diamonds, and thus four clubs.

Declarer now leads the ♣K, to remove the singleton club from East's hand, then finesses against West's marked ♣Q.

HAND 2

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

Against South's 4♠ contract, West leads the ♣A and ♣K, which you trump. How will you play?

Draw trumps with the ♠K and ♠A. You have lost one club and will lose one heart, so the suit of concern is diamonds. Can you manage a 4-1 break in diamonds?



In order to allow for a 4-1 diamond break, you must work on eliminating the other suit/s (in this case, hearts). You should continue with the ♥A then accept your heart loser. If West plays low, East will be endplayed! Therefore, West needs to rise with the ♥K in order to retain the lead. Not wanting to break the diamond suit himself, he has to exit with the ♥J, which declarer ruffs.

Now you know that West started with six hearts (given East's doubleton showed honour doubleton), two spades and at least two clubs, meaning that he has at most three diamonds. If diamonds break 3-2, there is no problem with the hand. However, you know that East is the only person who may hold four diamonds, so play accordingly.

The solution: you lead a low diamond. If West plays an honour, then you win the ♦K, return a diamond towards your hand, planning to cover whatever diamond East plays. If West plays low, as in this hand, you play dummy's ♦9 and East wins with the ♦10. If East returns a diamond honour, win in dummy and you can finesse the diamonds; if he returns the ♦7, play your ♦8, which will win if diamonds are 4-1. And, should East return a club, you take a ruff and discard.

A little planning and counting goes a long way.

HAND 3

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

This auction has revealed that North holds four spades, so West leads a fourth-highest ♦3. What is your plan?

You have six top winners and can create one extra trick in clubs. Your real source of extra winners will be the heart suit.

If hearts are 3-3, then any line of play will bring in the extra tricks. However, if hearts break 4-2, you need to utilise your heart spots (the ten and nine). If you lead the king then the ♥9, you will be wasting the nine whenever West has a doubleton honour or four hearts (whether with Q-J or one top honour).

You should be leading towards dummy's K-9, bringing the power of the ♥9 into play.

Additionally, you don't particularly want a club switch, so you should win the first diamond. You win in your hand with the ♦K, so you can lead a low heart to the eight - nine - queen. East exits with the ♦9, which you can win in dummy (bear in mind, you know diamonds are 4-3 from the opening lead). Now you cash the ♥K and, when West follows with the jack, you contract is safe.

Lead a club, establishing your ninth trick. West can cash his two diamond tricks, but you have two spades, four hearts, two diamonds and one club.

OBITUARY

Margaret Bourke
1945 - 2021

Margaret was born in Canberra to John Cumpston, a career diplomat, and Helen Cumpston, a university administrator at the ANU. For her tertiary education she moved to Melbourne where she became involved in bridge, and met her future husband Tim.

Success came early, representing Victoria at the ANC for the first time in 1973. By the time she and Tim moved to Canberra in 1989 to join the Commonwealth Public Service, Margaret had represented Victoria in the Women's Team 13 times at the ANC plus once as non-playing captain, winning six times, as well as a win in the State Mixed Pairs in 1981, and the State Open Teams in 1982.

Once settled in Canberra, success continued at the ANC with eight Women's Teams for two wins, plus a win as non-playing captain, ten Open Teams for two wins, plus one win as non-playing captain, and four



Senior Teams for two wins, plus twice as non-playing captain. As well she won seven State Open Teams, one Open Pairs and seven mixed pairs.

Margaret was proud of her 47 continual years of attendance at the ANC. However, her best achievement was representing Australia on 31 occasions, currently more than any other player. These included 15 at World Championships, and 15 times at Asia Pacific Championships, including three wins. As well she has 74 wins in other national tournaments.

Over the years Margaret had many partners. However, her favourite partner was Lidia Beech (pictured left) with whom she won many events.

Once retired, Margaret threw herself into voluntary work, both at ABF headquarters in Canberra, and the Canberra Senior Citizens book fair for which she was the chief organiser for many years.

David Hoffman





Joan Butts



Teaching Beginners Bridge: The Third Lesson

NOTRUMPS

The theory behind the lesson (points to stress):

- Opening 1NT on balanced hands is very descriptive
- Play in no trumps with two balanced hands
- If responder has a long suit, they can be sure opener has at least two cards there
- Playing no trumps rarely works when responder is weak with a long suit. Prefer to make the long suit trumps
- Responder is usually the decider
- Opener is usually the describer

General Lesson Plan

Review the requirements for game and discuss how a 1NT opening gives responder a good description of the hand. Go through balanced shapes by asking the students to make up three different hand distributions at the table. (4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, and 5-3-3-2)

When discussing hand shapes, use "cards on the table" method, and also "transitions", ie changing cards around to create different hands for discussion.

Benefits: students see the examples easily, and they participate actively. It also enables the teacher to show different examples.

Tell the students that responses to 1NT openings need to be placed in their own unique category (minimum 0-7, medium 8,9 and maximum 10+).

There's no need to introduce shortage points yet. Counting length points is plenty.

Choose to play no trumps with two balanced hands, but prefer a trump suit when responder is unbalanced, especially weak. Show students that playing no trumps won't work when responder is weak with a long suit.

Play Point: Length

Show suit distributions by making up hands at the table. Use one suit only, and ask the students to distribute the cards, with (firstly) seven of a suit between two hands. Test how many tricks can be made with a 3-3 distribution, then a 4-2 distribution, etc.

Next have eight cards of the suit. Ask the students to make up a hand with AKQx opposite xxxx, then AKxx opposite xxxx, and finally Axxx opposite xxxx, to show them how many times the lead must be lost to make extra tricks through length.

What Students Will Find Hard About The Third Lesson

The fact that they need to keep responses to 1NT openings in a separate category is tough, because they have just learned to respond with 6+ points. Now it's something different (they might have to respond on zero points!)

The idea of inviting game and asking opener to "go" with a maximum is complex for a beginner. They will underbid unbalanced hands with six+ card suits, even with enough points for game. They feel safer staying in a partscore. (Let them play there).

Bidding two of their suit with 0-7 points is hard, but show them that having a trump suit works better than no trumps when the responder is weak with a long suit, and it will make sense.

They will also be wary of opening 1NT on hands without honours in every suit.

Re length, it's difficult to ask them to lose tricks early in order to win long suit tricks later. They don't like to lose tricks at all.

A Spiral Curriculum

The best way to teach bridge is to use a Spiral approach, whereby you introduce the concept in its simplest form first, and then later (maybe months later), when they have absorbed the basic idea, add the next layer. You can do this as they are "spiralling" upwards with their knowledge.

www.joanbuttsbridge.com



WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with William Jenner-O'Shea

ARE 25 POINTS ENOUGH FOR GAME?

In the past, the bidding wisdom was that you needed 26 points for game, but more recently the number that gets thrown about is 25. The question for today is, are 25 points enough for game?

If partner opens 1NT (15-17) and you have 10 HCP, then I recommend making a game-forcing bid. You might start with Stayman, or a transfer, or some other convention, but I would insist on game. The combined range is guaranteed to be 25-27 points, which I suggest is enough to insist on game. If 25 HCP is the least points that you have, then bid game.

What about if you only have 8 HCP? Now your combined range is 23 – 25 points, which could be as much as 25. You frequently hear that with 8 or 9 points, you should invite game. Since 25 is now the most points you can have, and that relies on partner having an absolute maximum number of points, game is unlikely. If 25 HCP is the most points that you can have, then generally don't look for game.

Here is an example hand with 8 HCP. If my partner opened 1NT (15-17) then I would simply pass. Game seems unlikely, and there is a risk that we will get too high.

♠ 4 3 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ A J 9 2 ♣ 10 7 5 2

If you are playing the most commonly played club games – either face-to-face or online – which are usually Pairs games scored at Matchpoints, the rewards for bidding game probably don't outweigh the risks for ending in 2NT or 3NT going down.

If you are playing Matchpoints scoring, and you can make the extra tricks (like playing in 1NT but making nine tricks) you still get rewarded. Many other players won't play as well as you, and you don't need to be in game to get a good score. It's better to be in 1NT making three, than in 3NT making one.



Here is another hand with the same 8 HCP, however this hand is quite different from the first hand. This time, you have two four-card majors, which means that there are great chances to find a major fit and play in a better suit contract. I would bid 2♣ Stayman, planning to invite game next by bidding 2NT, 3♥ or 3♠.

♠ A J 9 2 ♥ 10 7 5 2 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ 4 3

The reason that bidding here is more attractive is because you might find a better suit, as well as possibly finding a game. You should also consider bidding if you had a five-card major, or a five-four shaped hand.

You can't always know precisely how many points your partner or your team has during the bidding, if you know that your range is at least 25+ then I suggest that you insist on game. If 25 points would be the best-case scenario, then I recommend stopping low. If partner opens 1NT (15-17), then a 2NT invitation should be only made with a good eight or nine points.

Grand National Novice Pairs

by
Laura
Ginnan



A new Gold Masterpoint event on the calendar that is sure to turn heads

When you think about bridge, adjectives such as intense, challenging and addictive spring to mind, but not too often do you think of the word sexy. Occasionally a sexy card play manoeuvre is executed, and we all know that it is satisfying when a risqué bidding decision which flirted with danger pays off. Event formats though, aren't usually exciting – at least not until now!

Real Deal Bridge (RDB) is proudly presenting the Grand National Novice pairs in conjunction with the Australian Bridge Federation. This exotic cousin of the Grand National Restricted Pairs (not currently held) is sure to pave the way for delivering the ultimate player experience and provides an opportunity for EVERY player in Australia to take part. It truly is Grand with prestigious Gold Masterpoints up for grabs and the inclusive format really does make this event national.

What's the sexy format?

The first stage is a single session qualifier held anytime between the **15th and 21st of November**. Clubs which are lucky enough to be running face-to-face games can host a heat in person on a day of their choosing during that week. Clubs operating online can also choose a day to suit them best. If you are a player and don't have access to a club

heat, or would like to play additional heats, RDB will also be hosting daily online qualification events.

Each day of the club heats uses unique set of hands. This means you can play in a number of different heats in the qualifying period. The best part about the heats is that every board played includes expert analysis. Australian Representative player and world leading YouTube bridge sensation Peter Hollands will be analysing the hands with a different expert every day of the event. After you play, sit back, grab some popcorn and watch the movie! Clubs can even make a real day of this event by turning their rooms into a cinema and playing the video to the contestants (of course, providing the requisite popcorn!). All contestants will also be able to access game analysis videos online.

The club heat stage features a swag of great prizes and also gives participating clubs the chance to win exclusive teaching opportunities, the return of all entry fees and various online play options.

Everyone from Rookies to Grandmasters can play in the heats, however only partnerships where both players having fewer than 100 Masterpoints or <54% for Grand Slam players as of the 30th of June can qualify to the semi-final stage. The number of qualifiers from each heat varies based on the field size however, each heat is guaranteed a minimum of four places (but not exceeding 50% of the field). The semi-finals will be contested between **29 November and 5 December** online using RDB where players can earn Gold Masterpoints!

Qualifiers can choose which day(s) of the week to contest their Semi-Final(s) and can play in multiple sessions as long as they have not already qualified through to the Final in a previous heat. All Semi-Finals also feature video hand analysis and prizes.

1st and 2nd place from each semi-final will qualify through to the Grand National Novice Pairs Final to be held at 1.00pm (AEDT) on **Saturday 11 December** to determine the inaugural Grand National Novice Pairs National Champions!

Want to play but don't play bridge online (yet)?

Don't forget, GNNP heats can be played live in clubs. Contact your local club to find out if they are running a heat. If you play in a live heat and qualify through to the Semi Finals, extensive support and practice games will be provided to get you going.

If you would like to play a heat online and are prepared to dive in, Real Deal Bridge is here to help! There are a number of video tutorials which walk you through how to get started which can be found at

www.realdealbridge.com/videotutorials

If you prefer to read, you can also download the RDB quick start guide (click [here](#)). If you need some extra assistance, Laura Ginnan from RDB can be contacted directly at

laura@realdealbridge.com

How to get your club involved

The best way to get your club involved is to contact them directly and express your interest. Club administrators can be assured that running a GNNP heat is easy and RDB is committed to ensuring your event is a success. Every club will be contacted directly from RDB by email, a club kit will also be posted out by mid October. The GNNP Club administration website is at

www.realdealbridge.com/gnnpclubs

Do you have more than 100 Masterpoints?

Don't worry, the GNNP heats are open to players with more than 100 Masterpoints even though they

cannot proceed to the finals. If you would love to see this event format expanded in the future to include your masterpoint division in the future, vote with your feet by taking part in a heat this year!

Highlights of the 2021 Grand National Novice Pairs

- ✓ Heats can be played in clubs or online
- ✓ Gold Masterpoints are up for grabs in the Semi-Final and Final!
- ✓ Online play is through the 100% Australian RDB platform
- ✓ Expert analysis of every hand
- ✓ Incredible value at a fraction of cost for most Gold Point events
- ✓ Take part in a National Event while playing against familiar players
- ✓ Great prizes for players and clubs
- ✓ A chance to become a National Champion in an inaugural event

Now that is SEXY!

Find out more at

www.realdealbridge.com/gnnp-2021

2021 Australia-Wide Novice Pairs

The 2021 Australia-Wide Novice Pairs was won by Ray Cockshell and Kevin Stojko from Gawler Bridge Club (pictured left). Winners of the under-50 MP division were Lilly Jia and Martin Wu of Sunnybank Bridge Club.

The remaining Australia-Wide events for 2021 (the Open Pairs and the Restricted Pairs) have been postponed. They will now be held as one joint event in the week of 25-31 January (after the Summer Festival).

Brad Coles, Australia-Wide Pairs coordinator





A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

This was a slam-happy session.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ A K Q J	♠ 7 4
♥ K 7	♥ A 9 5 2
♦ A K J 7 4	♦ Q 9 5 3
♣ A 6	♣ K 9 3

Your auction will depend on your responses to 2♣, but if you play 'natural' responses:

NORTH	SOUTH
2♣	2NT
3♦	4♦
4NT RKC	5♣ one key card (if playing 14/30)
5♥ asks for trump queen	6♣ confirms ♦Q + ♣K
7NT	

After the 2NT response, North knows there is slam on. However, if it is at all possible, you want to establish diamonds as trumps, in order to find the ♦Q in partner's hand. Therefore, it is worth bidding 3♦, so you can have a more disciplined auction once partner does support diamonds. If partner denies diamonds, you can head to 6NT.

Try this one (South dealer):

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ A Q J 6 3	♠ K 5
♥ 10 6	♥ A K J 5
♦ A Q 7 3	♦ K 8
♣ 6 5	♣ A K 9 8 3

NORTH	SOUTH
	2NT ²¹⁻²²
3♥ transfer	3♠
4♦ natural	4♠ stuck!
4NT	5♦ zero or three key cards
5NT all key cards	7♠

I would be happy to open this South hand with 2NT (or its equivalent) because your hand is essentially balanced, and you should aim to protect those K-x suit holdings from the lead!

5NT promises all the key cards and shows interest in a grand slam. Given that West has shown at least 5-4 in spades and diamonds, all your cards are significant, and you can even ruff a diamond loser.

East-West had a turn, but nobody managed to bid this slam (East dealer):

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

WEST	EAST
	1♦
1♠	2♠
2NT ¹	4♥ ²
4NT	5♣ one key card
6♠	pass

1) I treat this 2NT rebid, after 1m-1M-2M, as forcing and an enquiry whether opener has three-card or four-card support. The continuations clarify both how many spades opener has, whether there are shortages, and whether a maximum or minimum.

2) The jump to 4♥ confirms four-card spade support (so important for slams), and shows a heart splinter. Responder can now work out that opener has a lot of minor card points. An alternative is for opener to rebid 4♦, showing four spades and a good six-card diamond suit. Now slam is easy to bid.

North-South's feast continued:

NORTH
 ♠ A K 7 6
 ♥ A 7 5
 ♦ K 10 8
 ♣ 8 7 3

SOUTH
 ♠ J 10 3
 ♥ K 3 2
 ♦ A Q J
 ♣ A K J 2

NORTH

1♠
 4NT quantitative
 6NT

SOUTH

1♣
 2NT 18-19
 6♠ maximum, three spades

This slam needs at least one black suit to behave. It has the HCP but not the shape. The ♠Q-x-x was on-side and the ♣Q was on-side, though clubs were 4-2. 12 tricks rolled in and this one was bid often.

And the next hand continued the onslaught:

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 10 6
 ♥ A K 10 9
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ A 9 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K 8 5
 ♥ Q 8 7 4
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ K 8 7 6

It was disappointing that those 9 HCP in diamonds were worth only two tricks! Most pairs reached 6♥, but a 4-1 heart break laid a few people low. Sometimes one can have too many options. Remove the ♥9 from North's hand and you have to play for West to be the person to have ♥J-x-x-x.

One of the recommended actions when you hold J-6-5-3 in trumps, as on this hand, is to play the ♥6 first, hoping to convince declarer that any bad heart break lies with partner rather than your hand. That is, play a higher heart, rather than your lowest.

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

EAST
 ♠ K 7 3
 ♥ A K Q 7 4 2
 ♦ A 6 3
 ♣ 8

There was nothing wrong with the auction:

WEST

2NT Jacoby 2NT
 5♣ one key card

EAST

1♥
 4NT
 6♥

South led the ♠Q, won with dummy's ace. Trumps were drawn in two rounds, ending in declarer's hand. A low club was led towards dummy, South playing low. The ♣J was won by North's queen, so now you need something good to happen. The spade return was won with the king and a spade was ruffed in dummy. A club was ruffed, then another heart was led to dummy, and another club was ruffed, hoping the ♣A was tripleton. Nothing good happened there, but the run of hearts squeezed South out of the ♣A and her ♦Q-J-x-x (which she had done well not to lead at trick 1).

South did well to duck the club lead, but was also able to draw inferences, based on East's immediate 4NT bid. East should be marked with a singleton club; with two or more clubs, East should have used some cue bids on the way to slam.

The last slam was a good slam that ran into a little misfortune:

WEST

♠ K 10 8
 ♥ K Q J 8 6 3
 ♦ A Q 2
 ♣ Q

EAST

♠ Q 6
 ♥ A 10 9 4 2
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ A J 6 3

WEST

1♥
 4NT
 6♥

EAST

2NT upgraded!
 5♥ two key cards, no ♥Q
 pass

North led the ♠9, South winning with the ace. South returned a spade, which North ruffed.

One point of declarer-play interest is that West should play the ♠10 under the ace. The ♠9 looks like a shortage lead, so try to provide some doubt for South. With South holding ♠AJ75432, there was no doubt about the spade lead when declarer played the eight under the ace. North either held the king (unlikely) or a singleton, so the spade return was marked.



For those bridge players who care about the environment, the ABF's sponsor, PENLINE, makes Reusable Coffee cups and Water Bottles, as part of its "War on Waste". If you are interested in more information, please contact Maryo Derofo by email: maryo@penline.com.au



An analysis of “drop-dead” Stayman

Gordon Bower

In response to Peter Hollands and William Jenner-O'Shea's recent articles on drop-dead Stayman, Les Bonnick of Hervey Bay has sent us the following analysis from Gordon Bower at TaigaBridge

Stayman was invented to help your partnership reach 4♥ or 4♠ rather than 3NT. But as soon as it was invented, people discovered that there was an extra benefit with a hand like:

♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ 8 6 4 3 ♦ 9 8 6 5 4 ♣ —

Responding 2♣ and passing opener's rebid, regardless of whether it was a natural 2♥ or 2♠ or the possibly artificial 2♦, led to a better result than staying in 1NT.

A few players resisted the use of Stayman. Some players championed “Extended Stayman” where responder promised invitational or better values and opener was allowed to use responses all the way to 3♠ to show his strength and distribution in more detail. Others decried the use of 2♣ on weak hands as an illegal risk-free psychic bid. Beginner's bridge books will sometimes up and say, “after a 1NT opening bid, a response of 2♣ requires 8 or more HCP.” But the vast majority found it a useful addition.

The standard textbook advice is to do this only when responder has 0-7 HCP and a 4-4-4-1 shape, with a singleton or void in clubs. It's clearly right to do so on those hand patterns. This may also be a reasonable gamble on hands that do not have four cards in all three suits. If responder is weak and distributional, a 4-3 major fit is often better than 1NT.

After an investigation of all reasonable shapes and strengths of hands, to see which hand patterns profit by bidding 2♣ rather than passing 1NT, the two fundamental conclusions are:

- having three cards in a suit is ok, but having two cards is bad, and
- the weaker responder's hand is, the larger the profit from using Drop-Dead Stayman.

Summary of Findings

Stayman shows a profit on the following hand patterns. You may be surprised by some of the results.

4-4-4-1 4-3-5-1 3-4-4-2	Always
4-4-3-2 4-3-4-2	Always (but if you have 7 or 8 HCP, rebidding 2NT is better than dropping partner in your three-card suit).
4-4-2-3	Always (but much less profitable than 4-4-3-2/4-3-4-2. Rebidding 2NT is better with 7 or 8 HCP and also with 6 HCP if opener is very likely to pass 2NT rather than raising to three).
4-4-1-4	Always profitable at Matchpoints. 0-5 at IMPs. (At either format of scoring, rebidding 2NT is better with 6+ HCP.)
2-4-5-2	Always (but with 7 or 8 HCP, rebidding 2NT over 2♠ is better).
4-2-5-2	Always only with 0-6 HCP at Matchpoints. 0-5 HCP at IMPs. (With 7 or 8 HCP, rebidding 2NT over 2♥ is profitable.)
2-4-4-3	Only profitable with 0-4 HCP.
4-2-4-3	Only profitable with 0-1 HCP at Matchpoints and 0-2 at IMPs.
3-4-3-3	Only profitable with 0-2 HCP not holding the ♣Q.
4-3-3-3	Only profitable with 0 HCP.
3-3-4-3	Never profitable.
3-3-6-1	Always profitable.

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com



YOU OPEN 1♥ AND PARTNER REPLIES 1♠

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥ ?	pass	1♠	pass
1. ♠ 6 ♥ Q J 10 6 2 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ A J 10 8			
2. ♠ A 8 5 ♥ A 9 8 4 2 ♦ A 9 7 2 ♣ 5			
3. ♠ A 9 8 ♥ A Q 8 7 4 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ 8 3			
4. ♠ K Q ♥ A Q J 7 4 ♦ 10 9 6 3 ♣ A Q			
5. ♠ A 7 6 5 ♥ K Q J 8 7 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 5			
6. ♠ A 3 ♥ J 10 8 7 6 4 ♦ A Q J 3 ♣ 2			
7. ♠ 3 ♥ A Q 9 8 7 6 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ 7 4			
8. ♠ A 6 ♥ A K Q 9 8 6 ♦ 10 5 ♣ J 10 3			
9. ♠ K 3 ♥ A Q J 1 0 8 7 3 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ 5			
10. ♠ A 8 ♥ A K 10 9 8 7 5 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♣ —			

SOLUTIONS

1. 1NT. You have a good hand with all those tens and nines and it is an automatic 1♥ opening. If you continue over 1♠ with 2♣ and partner now bids 2NT with an attractive 10 or 11 HCP you will pass and hope to make eight tricks.

A less stressful approach is to play in 1NT instead of 2NT. Rebid 1NT which may or may not be a better contract than whatever you may reach after 2♣ but is certainly preferable to playing in 2NT. Notrumps scores better for less tricks than suit contracts and I suggest a good way to toughen your game is to learn to love 1NT.

2. 2♠. Raising a possible four-card suit with only three is something I avoid but here you have a singleton outside and spades will play well with extra tricks coming from club ruffs in your hand.

3. 1NT. It could be right to raise spades with a small doubleton in an unbid suit and 2♠ would be a popular choice. Then again responder could have strong diamonds and a weak four-card spade suit so that 1NT is a better spot. What you do know is that when you rebid 1NT you are likely to score well in a contract that is very difficult to defend.

4. 2NT. You could rebid 2♦ or 3♦, but with 11 of your 18 HCP in your short suits, plus the ♣Q to protect, your hand is screaming notumps.

5. 3♦. A good idea is to play jumps to a new suit in these situations as a splinter rather than lump all your spade raises into 3♠. Let's say responder holds

♠ J x x x ♥ x x ♦ A K J ♣ x x x x

and the bidding proceeds 1♥:1♠, 3♠.

It is an easy 4♠ bid but what if opener bids 3♦ splinter? Now you don't like your hand and sign off in 3♠ and make exactly nine tricks.

Sequences like 1♣:1♥, 3♥ can now be reserved for hands of 18-19 balanced. Responder can pass 3♥ if they have fudged their 1♥ plus you have more space if slam is a possibility.

6. 2♥. Looking ahead if you rebid 2♦ and responder now bids 2NT or 3♦ you will want to show that you have six hearts. The problem is that your hand is not worth more than one forward-going bid. A better idea with your minimum is to bid 2♥ now to show the six-card suit.

7. 2♦. This is a much better hand and a good plan is to bid 2♦ first and follow up with 3♥ showing extra values. It should now be a simple matter for responder to choose the correct final contract.

8. 3♥. Strictly speaking 3♥ is 16-18 HCP but you have a well-constructed hand and you are a bit too good to bid just 2♥. Imagine responder has 9-10 HCP, they will pass 2♥ and you will miss an excellent game.

9. 3♥. You have an excellent hand but five losers (one spade, one heart, two diamonds and one club). To go all the way to 4♥ would be too much if responder could only cover one of your losers yet you are too strong to bid only 2♥ with your powerful seven-card suit.

The solution is to bid an invitational 3♥ and if responder has only 6 or 7 HCP they can pass 3♥. If partner accepts your invite with 3NT then return to 4♥. With a possible weakness in one or more suits you will then play in hearts to keep control.

10. 4♥. You expect responder to have 6+ HCP to respond to your opening of 1♥ and with only four losers you are justified in going to 4♥.

It is good tactics to frequently respond with less than 6 HCP to 1♣ or 1♦ but I prefer to pass a 1♥ or 1♠ opening with less than 6HCP.

Beginners Lessons Go Online

Kay Moyes, Teaching Coordinator at North Shore Bridge Club, writes about teaching beginners during lockdown

At North Shore Bridge Club, we have traditionally run our beginners' classes face-to-face, as it was hard to imagine teaching complete beginners without them being able to pick up the cards, shuffle, deal, and play. In addition, in an online class it is harder to build the community spirit and friendships that face-to-face lessons provide, meaning that retaining students into future would be more difficult. However, as the start date of our July 2021 semester 2 course approached, the Delta lockdown struck and we postponed to August, and then to September. Finally we realised that it needed to be delivered online – or not at all this year.

Much discussion ensued! Anita Curtis, one of our expert teachers, volunteered to recreate the online versions of the six "Introduction To Bridge" lessons using Zoom and BBO to demonstrate the play of hands. The first lesson was the most difficult of all, necessitating a change to the structure and empha-

sis from what she would normally use in the first lesson, and getting over that first hurdle for the brand-new players. The lessons are recorded for those who miss the Zoom, or want to rewatch the lesson at their leisure. But how would we overcome the fact that in a Zoom lesson the participants can't actually play a hand themselves?

So, on to part 2 of the plan. We decided to set up a RealBridge practice room each week, into which we could load the lesson hands and some extras, so that each participant would have the opportunity to play up to 10 hands each week. Realising that complete novices couldn't be expected to jump into an online platform and just play from week 1, we organised a team of helpers – drawn from the ranks of our experienced Rookie players - so that we had a helper at each table for each of the first two weeks. Having the ability to see each other and chat in the practice sessions not only provides the opportunity to play the cards for themselves, but it also goes some way towards providing the community spirit and friendship that is so important.

The whole exercise has entailed a great deal of effort all round, but the results so far have been all

The screenshot displays the Bridge Base Online (BBO) interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows <https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/>. The main header reads "Main Bridge Club (Host: anitacurt)". Below this, there's a navigation bar with "Back" and "Home" buttons. The central area shows a card game in progress. The top row of cards (North's hand) is: 6♠, 3♠, 2♠, 6♥, 5♥, 10♣, 6♣, 4♣, 2♣, A♦, Q♦, J♦, 3♦. Below this, the four players' hands are shown: North (N) has 8♠, 7♠, 4♠, J♥, 10♥, 9♥, 3♥, A♣, K♣, Q♣, J♣, 9♦, 7♦; West (W) has 8♠, 7♠, 4♠, J♥, 10♥, 9♥, 3♥, A♣, K♣, Q♣, J♣, 9♦, 7♦; East (E) has K♠, Q♠, 10♠, 9♠, Q♥, 8♥, 4♥, 2♥, 5♣, 10♦, 8♦, 4♦, 2♦; and South (S) has A♠, J♠, 5♠, A♥, K♥, 7♥, 9♣, 8♣, 7♣, 3♣, K♦, 6♦, 5♦. The bottom right corner shows a video feed of participants, and the bottom left corner shows a list of tables including "Main B", "Relax", "All Pub", "ACBL", "BBO P", "Robot", "Free T", "All Tou", and "Team M".



that we could have hoped for and more. We have 150 participants enrolled, from all over Sydney, from country areas, interstate and international. The participants have mastered Zoom (new to some), playing on an online bridge platform – as well as learning about the game of bridge itself. They have watched the early lessons in two groups – one morning and one evening. They have all played each week and really enjoyed the experience.

The future for these students? We see it as vitally important that we communicate with our participants and provide them with an ongoing path of teaching and play.

Exciting surprises?

The demand for this offering is huge. We did little marketing, but between our website and word of mouth, the requests kept coming.

Students can be anywhere in the world. Whether you are sitting in Sydney or Tokyo on a Zoom, or playing on RealBridge, makes no difference.

The compatibility of the lessons on Zoom, and the play of the hands through RealBridge has been very successful.

The future for more new students? Stay tuned... back to the table for further discussion.

ONLINE BEGINNERS LESSONS

Do you have friends that you would like to learn bridge? Do they not live near a major bridge teaching club or would they prefer to be taught by highly experienced and expert teachers? Then online is a great way for them to learn.

The ABF has included in the right hand column of the ABF web site home page a link to connect people who want to learn bridge to upcoming online courses.

ONLINE TEACHERS

If you are an Australian Online teacher you can provide your upcoming course information that will be posted on the Online Beginners Lessons page.

The courses must be available to all beginners in Australia.



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