

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

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Opinion

In a previous editorial, I commented on the fact that it can be daunting for new players to start playing at clubs. Many of our 'newcomers' are newly-retired people, with time on their hands, ready to 'take up' bridge, an aim they have long considered.

But where is the necessary influx of young players to the game? In my own club, we encourage youth players, charging them half price for a game, and for the large part, they are welcomed. But the fact remains that the young faces I see at my own club are few and far between, despite the fact that in Victoria, Cathy and Andrew Mill provide a very active youth bridge programme at Alphington Bridge Centre.

The youth section of the ABF website shows that there are a number of drives aimed at encouraging youngsters, and each state has a youth representative. Yet the Youth Bridge Camp in Nashville, USA, was cancelled earlier this year, and while there were two or three Australian Youth newsletters in 2004 and 2005, in 2006 there was only one, and the most recent was in January 2007.

Over the ditch in New Zealand the situation is even more dire. The last Youth Newsletter was published in 2005, and the NZ Youth Register fits on one page. A Youth Camp held in Christchurch in July reportedly went well, but I was told that at a recent Youth Pairs event in Auckland there were only three entries.

When I started playing the game I was 19, and my first bridge was played at a club. I loved it. There were many players around my own age over the next few years, and a large number of these contemporaries have stayed in the game, growing older like me. But it is a sad fact that at 56 I can often be one of the younger players in the room.

If like me it alarms you that bridge is not attracting young players, take the time to read the editorial in the August IBPA Bulletin, where the editor starts "Junior bridge is under siege". Globally, junior bridge is in serious trouble. The link is <http://www.ibpa.com/511bc.pdf>. Let's not just sit still and let others do all the work for youth bridge.

Gold Hunt in the Far East

Having lost the final of the Australian Open Teams Playoff by a single IMP, our team, npc George Bilski, Peter Gill - Paul Gosney, Tony Nunn - Sartaj Hans, Bobby Richman - Zolly Nagy, set out to contest the PABF Championships in Bandung, Indonesia in early June.



Tony Nunn - Sartaj Hans

The mood in the team was upbeat: after all, we did win a revenge match against the "Bermuda Bowl" team by 120 IMPs. With an aim to acclimatise ourselves to the playing terrain, we had participated in the Geologi Cup, a premier Indonesian tournament contested a few days before the PABF Championships. Four of us finished second in this strong event and Peter Gill - Paul Gosney teamed up with Youth Team members Nye Griffiths, Griff Ware and their npc, Cathy Mill to win the consolation Swiss.

The usual recipe for Australian teams overseas has been to arrive a day or two before play begins, start talking about winning the event over dinner, sometimes start off rather well, but almost always fall over before the event is finished. This time, there was a sentiment of doing well in the weeks leading up to the event. In fact, a few seconds after we lost the playoff in March, someone said "This is OK. We can go win the Far East now."

"All talk and no oomph", thought my good old pessimistic heart. I am sure a few others thought so too. After all, Australia had not won the Far East Championships for about 37 years, and had one third place finish to

show for our last four outings, the last silver medal dating back to the early 1990s. China would be a strong favourite to clean up the field, they won last year with a match to spare. Japan is another power in the region, and Indonesia would have the home team advantage and probably boasts one of the best credentials on the international stage from the Asia-Australia zone.

Gill 'n Goz

Buoyed on by the success in the local event, we jumped off to a good early start. 22-year old Paul Gosney started his debut for the Australian Open Team with a 25-0 win over Thailand.

In fact, Peter Gill and Paul quickly became the anchor pair for the team, leading the pair datums for most of the tournament and falling back to second only at the very end. They played a rather simple two-over-one game force system but being natural card players, both of them revelled when the card play began.

Check out this hand where they “ran rings around declarer” by a series of enterprising defensive efforts:

East deals, all vulnerable

	♠ K 10 9 4		
	♥ Q 9 5		
	♦ 9 7 3 2		
	♣ 9 6		
♠ A J 7 6		♠ Q 8 5 3 2	
♥ K J 10 7 6 2		♥ 3	
♦ 8		♦ A 6 4	
♣ 4 2		♣ Q 10 8 5	
	♠ ---		
	♥ A 8 4		
	♦ K Q J 10 5		
	♣ A K J 7 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>		<i>Gosney</i>	
		Pass	1♣ ¹
1♥	Dbl	1♠	2♦
3♠	Dbl	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

1. 15+, any distribution.

Gill, on lead with an awkward hand, led a low spade! Declarer played small from dummy and ruffed away Gosney's ♠Q. Next came a high trump and an accurate duck. On the next trump, Gosney won his ace as Gill discarded a discouraging heart.

Continuing the attack on declarer's trumps, Gosney continued a low spade (resisting the urge to switch to his singleton heart) as declarer, who had the wrong idea about the location of ♠A, discarded a heart and Peter won ♠A to get on play in the position shown in the next column:

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

Realising that he was endplayed, Peter Gill resourcefully got out with ♥K, locking declarer in his hand. (Note that a “natural” club exit lets declarer claim his contract).

Declarer won ♥A, cashed his two top clubs and ruffed a club. At this point the successful line involves using ♠K for a heart discard and then cashing ♥Q. However, the unsuspecting declarer tried ♥Q prematurely, only to see it get ruffed by Gosney for down one.

I consider this to be the best defensive hand I have seen in my bridge life: making the most of a difficult lead by Gill, the technical duck of the first diamond by Gosney (most would win ♦A and promptly switch to their singleton heart), the trust demonstrated by Gosney in not attempting his heart ruff, the enterprising ♥K exit when Gill was endplayed, all of this culminating in declarer's undermining when he innocently tried to cash ♥Q. On top of it, I am told that the cardplay part of the hand was over in less than two minutes.

Grand Greed

Traditional wisdom holds that one should be conservative about bidding grand slams at duplicate bridge. Sometimes, there will be pairs who will stop in game with our cards (or even partscores) and just bidding a slam will be sufficient to win IMPs or matchpoints without the risk that bidding a grand slam entails.

Traditional wisdom is for traditional souls; here's how some modern punks handled a grand:

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

<i>Hans</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
1♣	1♦
1NT ¹	2♦ ²
2♠	4♣ ³
4♦ ⁴	4♠ ⁴
4NT ⁵	5♥ ⁵
5NT ⁶	7♠ ⁷

- 15 - 17
- Artificial, game-forcing Checkback
- Splinter (Traditional wisdom, don't splinter in partner's suit, bah!)
- Cuebids, 1st or 2nd round controls
- Roman Key Card Blackwood
- We have all the Key Cards. Do you think we can make a grand slam ?
- Yes, I think so !

After the 5NT bid, Tony Nunn knew my whole hand. I had shown three aces, ♠Q and ♦K, that adds up to 17 points. He bid the grand slam counting on four spade tricks, five diamond tricks, two outside aces and two club ruffs in dummy.

It was a lot of fun bidding and making a grand slam, when most of the pairs didn't even get to the small slam!

Forgetting to KISS

Bobby Richman and Zol Nagy play a complicated Moscito system featuring transfer openings in first and second seat (1♦ shows hearts, 1♥ shows spades) and a strong club.

One would think that playing all this sophisticated stuff, they were the convention-hungry youngster types. Guess the "oldies" of our team are still young at heart !

On the deal shown in the next column, the opposition seems to have been rattled by the constant crossfire that the Richman - Nagy system generates:

East deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nagy</i>		<i>Richman</i>	
		Pass	Pass
1♦ ¹	Dbl	All Pass	

1. Precision style

While the Australian North in the other room chose a Keep It Simple Stupid (KISS) 4♥ bid, our opponent here elected to start with a double. Especially when partner is a passed hand, there is a lot of merit in bidding the value of one's hand immediately. The reason is that slam is unlikely and bidding game quickly might tempt an indiscretion by the opponents.

Here, the chosen double caused South to shiver in fear of what his partner was going to bid next. In an attempt to run the show all by himself, he decided to pass 1♦ doubled, hoping that partner's additional strength would help take enough tricks to go plus. Zolly Nagy promptly notched up two overtricks to go with the 420 from the other room to win some more IMPs for Team Australia.

Captain George

George Bilski was highly acclaimed by the womens' team he captained to a silver medal at the PABF last year. This year, the Open Team saw why. As our captain, he was a very strong positive force who seemed to have a good handle on what was going on. Instead of following the mechanical rotation of pairs scheme used by many, he used his judgement when fielding various pairs of his team. He was flexible enough to make changes to his originally announced plans, as and when warranted. George was a key player in our teams' performance.

Countdown

Midway through the event, we had taken the lead for a short period of time, with the tournament bulletin proclaiming Australia Day moving to June as all three of our teams were leading their respective events. But China soon reclaimed the lead, albeit by a small margin.

Our little Cinderella story continued into the last day when a 23-7 win over Indonesia in the morning match saw Australia again take the lead. China needed to beat us by 13 IMPs or more in the last 20-board match to win the championship. Hundreds of Australian and foreign kibitzers saw this match on Bridge Base Online as it was telecast live.

In the Open Room, Tony and I finished play and joined the crew of spectators awaiting results from the Closed Room. Peter Gill and Paul Gosney had finished off 13 of the 20 deals and Team Australia was trailing by 24 IMPs. The tension was nerve-wracking as quite a few “flat” boards passed us by.



Paul Gosney

On Board 18, we won back 6 IMPs when the Chinese overstretched to game.

Then came Board 19:

North deals, EW vulnerable

♠ 9 6
♥ A K 10 7 5
♦ A Q J 9
♣ 10 3

♠ J 5
♥ 8 4 2
♦ 10 6 5 4 2
♣ 8 7 2

♠ Q 7 2
♥ Q J 9 6
♦ ---
♣ A K Q 9 5 4

♠ A K 10 8 4 3
♥ 3
♦ K 8 7 3
♣ J 6

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Jack	Hans	Fu
	1♥	2♣	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1. 5+ spades.

Fu Zhong had gone one down in 4♠. One down? It seems like a simple enough make, losing two clubs and a spade. Even if the defence arranges a diamond ruff on the go, that’s a ruff with a natural trump trick. So how did the current Open Pairs World Champions stuff up a hand that would be a flat, boring +420 in any club’s regular Tuesday afternoon duplicate?

Tony led a low club. I cashed two rounds and played a third round, deliberately giving declarer a ruff-and-discard. This “smelly” defence put fears in declarer’s head about trumps splitting badly.

He decided to ruff in hand, cash ♠A, cross to dummy with ♥A and then “safety play” spades by playing a

spade to ♠10. Tony won and gave me a diamond ruff for an almost impossible set.



Peter Gill

A key point that declarer missed is that if a capable defender in East’s seat did hold QJxx of trumps, he would switch to his alleged “singleton” diamond or heart to con declarer out of the safety play. Bridge can sometimes become a psychologically deep game, especially in post mortems and in bridge publications!

We were hopeful of a favorable swing on this board and young Paul Gosney didn’t disappoint. He found himself in 5♦ on the same start to the defence, three rounds of clubs. He discarded a spade from dummy and then crossruffed his way to 11 tricks, despite the adverse trump split, to win 10 IMPs. Australia now trailed in the match by only 8 IMPs, and led the tournament by 5 IMPs.

Going into Board 20, the last board of the tournament, the last of 440 boards contested to determine the PABF champion, Australia was leading, and China needed 5 IMPs to come through.

This is how the two tables fared:

West deals, EW vulnerable

♠ 8 6 5
♥ K 7 6 4 2
♦ K J 6 5 2
♣ ---

♠ A 10
♥ Q
♦ A 10 9 7 3
♣ K 10 8 6 5

Hans
Pass
2♥¹

Nunn
1♦
3♦

1. Fit-showing jump.

Yang
Pass
1♥
5♦

Dai
1♦
3♣¹

1. Precision, limited to 15 HCP.

11 tricks were available for game and the Chinese had pulled through on the very last board!

A void in a hand where we have support for partner is a powerful asset and I had undercooked the potential for game at our table. Perhaps a 4♦ bid, “just in case”, was called for. It’s hard to try and find words of bridge wisdom when writing about such emotionally heavy hands, but I’ll sign off with the information that in the final standings, China took first place, Australia second and Japan third.

Sartaj Hans

How to play against experts

When you play at your local club you will have to play some boards against experts. Average players often face this prospect with trepidation. The expert thinks more quickly, has much more experience and can use more conventions. Surely with all these advantages, the expert is favourite to triumph over the lesser player? Not so: the laws of the jungle apply in the suburban bridge club just as much as in the wild. If the victims look like putting up a fight, the predators can get confused and make mistakes.

The lesser player has a considerable psychological advantage over the expert, who is aiming for a 65% score or better. This means that the expert likes to be in complete control of the hand as much as possible, relying on superior technique when this is likely to gain 'tops', or alternatively 'mixing it' with risky manoeuvres when he judges this is the best shot. It is correct tactics for the lesser players to disturb this control by deciding for themselves when the rough-house starts.

If you end in the same contract that will be played at most of the other tables in the drive, you are at a disadvantage against experts. So:

1. Bid aggressively, making light openings and light overcalls. You have more chance when you play the contracts than when you defend.

♠ K 8 7 6 4 2
♥ 4
♦ A 8 2
♣ Q 7 5

Open 1♠, vulnerable or not. You may have a cheap save against 2♥, and if not, the experts may go down in their 2♥ contract:

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

West plays in a heart contract after a 1♠ opening by South with the hand above. An expert West will finesse ♣K rather than ♣J, as he will place ♣A with South after the opening bid.

2. Choose different opening bids or contracts to the one you expect the other players to choose. With:

♠ K 7 3
♥ A J 9 6
♦ K Q 8 4
♣ K Q

you intend to rebid 2NT, showing 18-19 HCP.

Open 1♦ if you think others will prefer 1♥, 1♥ if vice versa. Or with:

♠ K Q 5
♥ A 7
♦ A K 9 8
♣ Q 10 9 4

Open 1♣ if you think others will prefer 1♦. This will introduce some variation into the proceedings.

3. Make different plays as declarer if there are reasonable alternatives to the usual plays:

♠ 8 4 3	♠ A J
♥ 9 4 2	♥ A K J 10 6
♦ A Q 10 9 6	♦ K J 4
♣ A K	♣ Q J 8
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
	2NT
4♣	4♠
6NT	

Lead: ♠K

If you are playing against experts in a teams match, duck the opening lead, win the spade continuation, cash ♥A and eight minor suit tricks, and then, at the moment of decision, play for the drop of ♥Q on your left rather than the finesse of the queen on your right. The 40% chance of picking up 17 IMPs outweighs the 60% chance of making it a flat board, since it is reasonable to assume the other declarer will take the finesse. If the experts have gained less than 17 IMPs on the rest of the other boards, they could be in for a surprise.

4. Do not send out count signals when defending against experts unless it is absolutely necessary.

The experts will use the information and probably gain overtricks or even make risky contracts that should go down on passive defence. Yes, experts do bid to risky contracts when they estimate their score is slipping below the target 65%, indulging in 'catch up' tactics. If this is the case at your table, particularly if it is towards the end of the drive, you should be extra careful.

Once you start using these tactics you should have more good boards and less bad boards against experts. Experts have long memories and even on the occasions when these tactics backfire, there will still be a positive gain. The experts will work out what you were doing, respect you for it and, on some future occasion, maybe think you were using these tactics when in fact you were just being conservative.

Happy expert hunting!

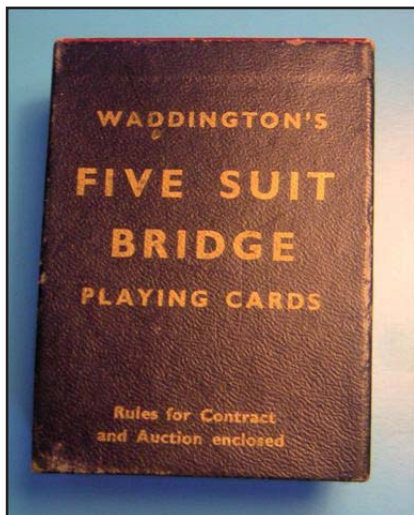
Michael Akeroyd, UK

Five Suit Bridge

Four Suits (and notrumps) not enough? Try this!

A recent find in a Perth antique shop was a boxed pack of 65 cards with the title 'Waddington's Five Suit Bridge.' A sticker on the side advised that this was (invented) by Dr. Paul Stern, a famous bridge name in Austria before WWII. Stern was Vice President of the Austrian Bridge Union and Captain of the Austrian World Championship Team.

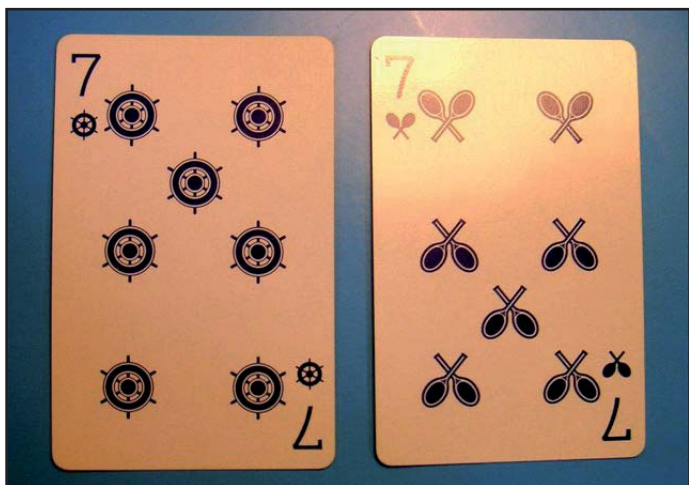
Inside are the standard 52 cards for hearts, clubs, diamonds and spades, plus another 13 "crowns" from the two to the ace (the king has two eyes like normal clubs, hearts and spades) and these are the fifth suit called "royals".



Included are the instructions for playing, which are paraphrased below.

"Each of the four players is dealt 16 cards and the 65th is placed face up on the table. Later it becomes the right of the declarer to exchange for one of his original 16 should he/she so wish."

The value of tricks for each suit are :-
 clubs & diamonds; 20 points
 hearts & spades; 25 points
 Royals; 30 points
 Notrumps; 40 points (not 40/30/30 as today)



The bidding goes from one to eight, i.e., a bid at the one-level contracts declarer for nine tricks and so on, up to seven for a 'small slam' and eight for a grand slam, or all 16 tricks.

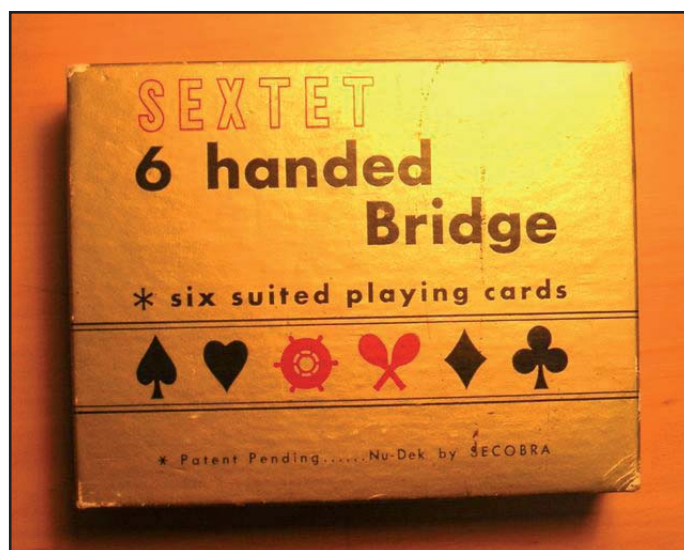
A game contract requires 120 points (c.f. 100 in standard rubber bridge for below the line). So 6♣ or 6♦, 5♥ or 5♠, 4 in Royals or 3 in NT are needed to be a game contract for the full 120. Penalties and over/under tricks are as normal but it seems that there has been a change over the years for slam bonuses as 500/800 are quoted for non vulnerable & 700/1200 for vulnerable slams.



This game really has obviously never caught on! The box of cards was not priced or dated. I'd guess it was pre-WWII, as it quotes Austria as current World Champions. Also the Stern Austrian System is advertised on an accompanying leaflet at 5/- 'obtainable also in Australia from The Australian Publishing Co. Pty. Ltd. at Australia House, Wynyard House, Sydney'.

A nice little find; the sadness is that the finder/buyer wants to keep it!

Derek Pocock, Perth



Can't find a four? How about six? Contract Bridge for six players – Sextet Bridge.

**GRAND TOUR of CALIFORNIA / NEVADA USA + MEXICAN CRUISE SEPT 5 – 25 2008:
With The Finesse Bridge Club - 20 DAY TOUR & CRUISE: From \$ 4480 pp + Airfare**



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Vision of the Seas: 7-day Mexican Cruise

Included in this price is 19 nights luxury accommodation, all meals and entertainment on the 7 day Mexican Cruise. All dinners. Breakfasts are included at San Francisco, Lunches are included on the 6 tour and transfer days. All tours in Mammoth, San Francisco and a Red Rock Canyon tour in Vegas. Also included is the tipping on these meals plus a full bridge program. Play as little or as much bridge as you prefer. There will be a 9 session B4Red Pairs event and a 4 session B5i Red Teams event. There will also be a 3 session Green Point event.



Napa Valley near SF



Big Sur Spectacle



Yosemite National Park

The Grand Tour, will commence by arriving at LA at 9:45 for 2 nights at The Omni followed by 7 nights on Vision of the Seas Round trip Mexican Cruise (3-ports). We then travel to Las Vegas for 4 nights @ The Hilton Grand Vacation Club, followed by 3 nights in beautiful Mammoth Springs at Juniper Lodge and finally we spend 3 nights in San Francisco at The Serrano Hotel.

For further information: <http://users.bigpond.net.au/FinesseBridgeClub/> gayeallen@optusnet.com.au Ph: 9547 2383 or 0410 127 326

2008 Open & Women's Playoffs

Dates:

Wednesday - Sunday 26-30 March.

Schedule:

The first match will start at 10am on Wednesday, 26 March. Subsequent scheduling is to be advised.

Location: Canberra, at a venue yet to be decided.

Format:

The 2008 Open and Women's playoffs will be played in two stages under a pairs format similar, but not identical, to the one used in 2006. 16 qualified pairs will contest Stage 1; 14 of those pairs will qualify via PQP and two via the Open and Women's Last Trains. At the conclusion of Stage I, the four bottom pairs will be eliminated and the remaining 12 pairs will contest Stage II.

Carryover:

12 pairs from Stage I qualify for Stage II. Carryover VPs will be awarded as follows:

First	28	Fifth	14	Ninth	6
Second	23	Sixth	12	Tenth	4
Third	19	Seventh	10	Eleventh	2
Fourth	16	Eighth	8	Twelfth	0

Entries:

Entry forms can be downloaded from the ABF website. The entry form will indicate a contact point from which information and relevant entry protocol can be obtained. Entries to the Open and Women's Playoffs must be submitted by registered mail to: Playoff, PO Box 1105, Mountain Gate, Victoria 3156. Entries close at 5pm on Monday, 31 December 2007.

Declaration of entries:

Two places in the 16-pair field will be filled from the 2008 Open and Women's Last Train events. The pairs occupying the other 14 places by virtue of 2007 PQP awards, plus two emergency pairs (15th and 16th according to 2007 PQP awards), will be declared on the ABF website on Thursday, 10 January 2008.

Systems for Playoffs:

It was resolved that any system may be used in the Australian Playoffs (Open, Women's, Seniors), provided that the system is permitted in the qualifying rounds of the international event which is the primary Target Event of that particular Australian Playoff. It was noted that, because YELLOW (HUM) systems are prohibited in the qualifying rounds of the 2008 Olympiad (the primary Target Event for 2008 Australian teams), no YELLOW system is permitted in the 2008 Playoffs.

Submission of systems:

Each pair must submit its system on an ABF standard system card in a form that can be posted on the ABF website. The deadline for posting on the website is 14 February, 2008. Failure to meet the deadline will result in a warning. Failure to post the system by 21 February will result in a fine of 1 VP (applicable to Playoff Stage I only). Further lateness will result in additional fines of 1 VP per week.

Declaration of availability:

The downloadable entry form will list the conditions (declaration of availability), approved by ABF Legal Counsel and endorsed by the ABF, with which pairs selected to represent Australia must comply. Submission of an entry (on the downloadable entry form) is deemed to represent acceptance of those conditions by the entrant.

Seniors' Playoff:

This will be held from Wednesday - Sunday, 9 - 13 April at the Hakoah Club, Bondi.

Full details and format will be in the November ABF Newsletter.

Only two more Bridge Holidays with Ron and Suzie Klinger in 2007



**Salamander
Shores,
north of
Newcastle
November 4-9**

**Norfolk Island
November 25-
December 5
Our 22nd
annual bridge
holiday on the island**



**Details for any of the above from:
Holiday Bridge
P.O. Box 140
Northbridge NSW 1560
Tel: (02) 9958-5589
email: suzie@ron-klinger.com.au**

2007 McCutcheon Standings

Current at 31 July, 2007

	<i>Total</i>	<i>This year</i>
1 EBERY JAMIE	3151.7	312.11
2 NUNN TONY	4021.5	275.93
3 HANS SARTAJ	2314.84	261.53
4 KLINGER RON	7932.63	257.05
5 DEL'MONTE ISHMAEL	5962.58	253.43
6 CHADWICK EDWARD	5624.07	238
7 FRANCIS NEVILLE	3733.2	224.69
8 CHUA CATHY	4333.1	213.02
9 HOWE BLAINE	3413.86	203.67
10 EWART NEIL	2738.66	202.02
11 WILLIAMS JUSTIN	2035.21	200.86
12 BILSKI GEORGE	3620.22	200.59
13 HINGE SIMON	6290.25	200.19
14 GUMBY PAULINE	8074.49	197.15
15 NOBLE BARRY	2560.08	189.85
16 BEAUCHAMP DAVID	5367.96	184.29
17 CLARK ALIDA	3091.63	182.16
18 GOSNEY PAUL	1176.13	182.1
19 BROWN TERRY	6116	179.28
20 LAZER WARREN	6768.22	179.03
21 GASPAR GEORGE	3940.89	174.55
22 BROCKWELL JOHN	4152	173.73
23 GOLD LEIGH	3701.22	173.72
24 NEILL BRUCE	5823.04	167.53
25 GILL PETER	6100.38	167.45
26 COURTNEY MICHAEL	3732.22	167.35
27 WATTS MARLENE	2862.78	166.37
28 MILL ANDREW	4715.72	166.34
29 BURGESS STEPHEN	3357	166.04
30 KLOFA STAN	4011.95	162.3
31 PEAKE ANDREW	3684.73	160.65
32 GRIFFITHS NYE	872.55	153.5
33 SCHWABEGGER CHARLIE	4331.73	151.37
34 RANASINGHE THILAK	735.52	150.39
35 RICHMAN BOB	9112.09	149.7
36 PARKER RALPH	3575.76	148.03
37 WARE GRIFF	1183.34	146.05
38 DYKE KIERAN	4911.58	143.22
39 SCHOKMAN DAVID	3268.26	141.87
40 MILLAR MARGARET	3311.19	139.68
41 BRAITHWAITE ANDREW	870.57	139.24
42 LAVINGS PAUL	8454.09	139.07
43 SHARP TONI	1144.97	138.97
44 BARNES EDWARD	750.47	136.32
45 OSMUND DANNY	814.83	133.54
46 HAINSWORTH PETER	3294.87	133.34
47 SCHROOR PAULA	2502.46	133.23
48 JAKES MAUREEN	1141.92	132.58
49 TUCKER GREER	2992.48	131.65
50 AFFLICK IAN	1364.57	130.62

DEALER 4

Improve the standard of play at
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New title for trophy

The ABF Management Committee is presently reviewing the condition and names of some of its trophies to ensure they remain appropriate.

Arising from this decision, from 2008 the trophy presented to the winning Open Team at the Australian National Championships has been named "The Denis Howard Trophy".

Denis has been a huge force in Australian bridge. He was a past President of the ABF from 1982 – 1986, World Bridge Federation President from 1986 – 1991, Founding Editor of Australian Bridge magazine, and Founding Convener of the National Open Teams. He represented Australia in five World Championships and was on the winning NSW team at the ANC 12 times from 1959 to 1975.

In appropriate recognition of his contribution to bridge in Australia, the Management Committee considers that it is fitting that his name be associated with the prestigious title of the winner of the ANC Open Teams.

There may be other changes to ABF trophies arising from this review.

Coaching Cathy at Contract

MULTI DILEMMA

Hi There David,

So many people are playing Multi Twos these days, that we thought we'd have a go. We have some reasonable notes but would like advice on the 2NT rebids.

Our notes say that with 23-24 and a balanced hand, open 2♣ and rebid 2NT. With 20-22 and a balanced hand, open 2♦, and rebid 2NT. Is this the normal way to do it?

You know me: I like to be fashionable.

Luv, Cathy

Greetings Cathy,

Firstly, remember that the 2NT rebids should be treated as 2NT openings whether they are 20-22 or 23-24. Thus it's 'system on' as mentioned in our last communication.

My experience is that most pairs agree to start the stronger range with 2♣ opening and the Multi 2♦ if it's 20-22. I prefer to do it the other way and for a good reason.

The most attractive aspect of the Multi 2♦ opening is that responder can make aggressive pass or correct bids with excellent fits for both majors.

For example, let's say you pick up either of the following hands:

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

Partner opens 2♦ as dealer and RHO passes. On the first hand, you would like to bid 4♥ (pass or correct) to put maximum pressure on LHO but, with such a poor hand, you are concerned that partner may have the strong balanced type and may have to convert to a dodgy 4NT contract.

Likewise, on the second hand, you would like to bid 3♥ as a correctible bid with your known nine-card fit, with the knowledge that a conversion to 3NT on a 20 or 21 point hand will lead to a contract with minimal chance of success.

Not only is the 23-24 a more robust hand and the correction in either case is less of a potential embarrassment, it also means that the strong balanced hand is less frequently held on the grounds that partner will hold 21 or 22 far more often than 23 or 24. The infrequency of the strong balanced option gives me the

freedom to make more aggressive correctible raises and maximize the pressure exerted on the opposition.

Incidentally, even if you decide not to put balanced 20-22 into the 2♣ opening, go easy on the 20-point hands. I treat flat 20-counts as one openings but am happy to open the 5-3-3-2 hands with the equivalent of a 2NT opening, especially if the five-card suit is a minor.

You know me, I shun fashion and go with what works for me.

Cheers, David

Extra notes: The notion of 'System on' is pertinent to auctions where Stayman and transfers still apply.

The shift in modern times has been very much towards 'system on' whenever a player makes what is effectively a natural opening call of no-trumps. The uniformity gained as a result places much less strain on the memory. So there are quite a lot of auctions where we need to be clear:

- ♦ Rebids of 2NT after strong openings such as 2♣ or 2♦.
- ♦ Overcalls of 1NT after ordinary openings.
- ♦ Overcalls of 2NT after weak or Multi opening bids. A reopening bid of 1NT (1<suit>: Pass: Pass: 1NT). This may also apply if you have a natural (20-22) call of 2NT in the same position.

Some situations create greater merit for using Stayman and Transfers than others. For example, over a Multi 2♦, there are distinct benefits to having system on, so we might as well use it whenever there is a 2NT overcall over a weak opening bid.

There is a gap here. If your RHO opens 2♠, essentially showing spades, what does a call of 3♥ mean in response to your 2NT overcall?

There are a number of possible uses including stopper check, Baron and minor suit Stayman. Any of those or find a new use and make a name for yourself! I have no particular recommendation.

David Lusk

Copy Deadline & Rate Changes

for Issue No 128, November 2007

October 25, 2007

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 129, January 2008 at the discretion of the Editor

editor@abf.com.au

From the current issue, the cost of advertising in the ABF Newsletter has risen by a small amount.

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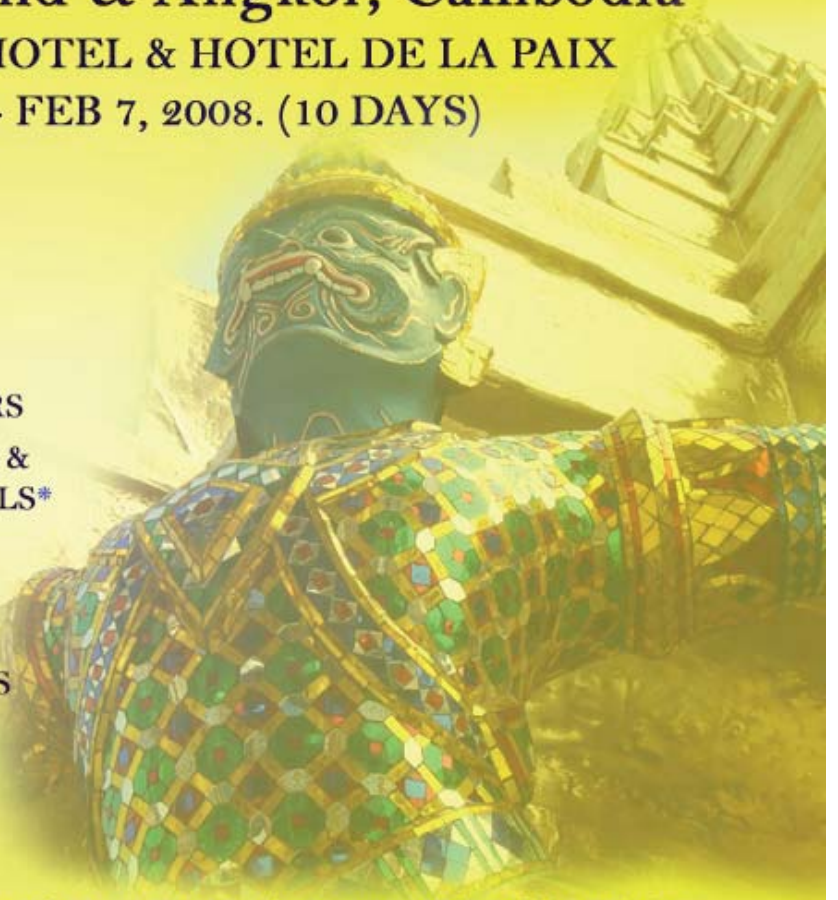
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Deadly Bridge Sins

The Seven Deadly Sins were put together by the Dallas Aces (in 1967, according to my copy) as a summary of the categories of mistakes we make as players – they used them when reviewing what they did during training and matches. The team of Bob Hamman, Mike Lawrence and a few other OK players went on to win multiple world championships, so there is probably something to it.

I have noticed that most mistakes partner and I make can be chucked into one of these baskets. If the same sin keeps repeating itself, we work on it.

Seven Deadly Sins

1. Bidding without values
2. System violations
3. Unilateral actions
4. No-Win declarer plays
5. No-Win defensive plays
6. Impulsive plays
7. Mechanicals

We try to identify such things ourselves when reviewing sessions or events. We then discuss specific hands or deal with the topic as a whole. Sometimes we may just identify a problem and that is enough by itself.

For instance, we may have had an evening where sloppy defence caused unnecessary losses. After the session, however, one of us says that the cause was being tired. Neither of us will now pursue any particular boards where the defence was poor.

These sins are basically just you as a player and you can work on them just like you work on your technique. The mistakes you make as partners, however, are just as important to your results.

I have attempted here to generate an effective list of the sins that occur on a partnership level. Surprisingly, the top three had direct parallels.

Broadly speaking, partnership sins are about how you conduct your relationship and how you conduct your defence where winning bridge is based on a fully co-operative effort.

My Seven Deadly Partnership Sins

1. Talking without values
2. Agreement violations
3. Unilateral defence
4. Domestic deafness
5. Body Language
6. Creating Bad Vibes
7. Laziness



Blaine Howe

It will be interesting to see if I have got it right or not. Maybe my partner will tell me if I have missed something. Also, maybe some of you out there can explore the themes. If you want to shield the innocent (such as your good self), then pass material on to me – I promise to protect my sources...

Talking Without Values

Your partner has just gone down in 3NT. You say: "I think you should have made that. Anyway, you could have put us in spades and let me play the hand."

I heard this said recently and, after the dust settled, it turned out that 4♠ had no play but 3NT did. 3NT was a better contract and it only went down because we defended well. Declarer was not a happy camper.

This is a clear case of *Talking Without Values*. Bridge is an emotional game and players get excited easily. This leads to players blurting out their opinions at the table when they are unhappy about something – a very dangerous practice. Take the time to think things through before criticising the actions of your partner or opponents. Criticism, like revenge, is a dish best served cold.

Agreement Violations

You open a weak 2♥ with 6-4 in the reds and two queens. Sounds OK, yes? Well, maybe. You are vulnerable in second seat and your partnership has a strong agreement that Weak Twos are constructive under these conditions. Whatever happens now, you will worry about how your partner views the bid. If the opponents bid 4♠, get doubled by partner and make an overtrick you are in a big hole. Is it worth it?

Of course, the answer is no, and you need to be very clear about what your agreements are. Good partnerships depend on effective agreements. They are as important as system itself. If you won't honour an agreement don't make it. Partnerships regularly break up because of problems in this area.

When you make agreements, you decide whether they are suggestions, strong guidelines or absolutes. You need to learn these better than you learn your formal system and spend time developing them. If you regularly fail in this area and have ambitions, your partnership is doomed.

Unilateral Defence

Defence is how partnerships rise and fall. If you defend well the rest of your game tends to follow.

You are defending 2♠. You have both been working hard to beat the hand. You are on lead at a critical point and have to decide whether to make a passive return to keep on grinding out the defence.

You finally sling out an unsupported ace to get the hand over with. Partner can see you pretty much shrug your shoulders – the defence collapses, and declarer soon claims.

You can almost hear partner thinking “Is it worth all the effort?” If you do this a lot, the answer is no.

Putting effort into beating more contracts is the best way to get partner to believe in your partnership. To be successful at the table, you and partner must think that hard work in defence is worthwhile.

When you start defending solo you don’t pay enough attention to partner’s signals. You should always feel bad when you miss a basic signal. When I miss a couple of these in a session, I start looking in my bridge bag for my knee pads – I know the apology is going to be painful.

Domestic Deafness

Make no mistake, a bridge partnership is a relationship. It has many parallels with marriage and you need to manage it like you manage your relationship with your life partner. This is what makes playing effective bridge difficult for married couples. It is tough enough trying to maintaining one relationship with someone. Maintaining two is impressive.

It is possible, I suppose, to have a personal relationship built on the principles required to play high level bridge successfully. If you have mastered this, I would like to meet you. Maybe we can bottle it and sell it for high prices to bridge couples.

You have to talk to each other regularly about a range of things and the problem is doing this efficiently and without one of you developing into a nag. Or both of you nagging, but about different things. Then you stop listening. We all know about how this happens. If it gets bad, then you have to do something, because domestic deafness can quickly become a habit.

I presume that you are not in the situation where your domestic deafness is due to a lack of respect for your partner’s views – if this is true, don’t bother to read any more of this until you form your next partnership.

Domestic Deafness is the Yin to Nagging’s Yang. Unfortunately, it is mostly the Yang that has to be dealt with if real improvements are to be made. The something you should do is generally trying to stay constructive at all times, keeping your proposals short and letting some things go. There is only so much energy in the tank to keep going over something.

Letting things go is not in a bridge player’s nature and you have to work at it. There are many situations where you know you can do better.

For instance, partner does something bad in a session and you keep on about it because you believe it is an important issue. Perhaps partner says at some point “I just made a mistake, OK?”. You then retort “But why did you do it?”. At this point, partner is turning down the volume on his hearing aid.

Body Language

Body language is unavoidable but we have to make an effort to control it at the table. This is not easy.

There are two kinds of body language. The first is where you pass information because of the manner in which you bid or play. This puts pressure on partner and makes it difficult to bid and play effectively.

1. You think about a bid or play for a long time and clearly show distress about your choice.
2. You move your hand to the Pass side of the bidding box, then change your mind and select a bid.
3. You lead your singleton with gusto as soon as the last pass is completed.

Giving partner ethical problems, or creating a tense environment because the opponents suspect there is one is a really bad thing to do.

The second kind is where you are making loud silent commentary.

1. Partner makes a stupid switch and you roll your eyes and play your card with a lob or lean over the table to inspect partner’s card.
2. Your shoulders slump when dummy comes down or when opponents find the correct continuation after holding the lead. The defence now feels confident and starts looking for that extra one off.
3. Partner gives you a look that makes it clear he wants you to be arrested or exterminated.

You don’t have an unlimited number of get out of jail free tickets so use your tickets carefully.

In a similar vein, asking too many questions, coffee housing or getting involved in opponents’ discussions can do your partner’s head in. If partner shows a distinct dislike of this, pay heed.

Creating Bad Vibes

This is not suggesting you join the silly backslapping of many team sports but that you do not go out of your way to be negative. How often have you heard this sort of banter at score-up:

“We were terrible.”

“We had two disasters.”

“I went down in two laydown games.”

Continued on page 21

Bridge into the 21st Century

TEST YOUR RESPONSES TO MULTI 2♦

What do you bid on the hands below, nil vulnerable:

2♦* (Pass) ?

*Weak two in either major, with no strong option.

1. ♠ 7, ♥ A Q 8 6, ♦ A Q J 7, ♣ K 8 4 2
2. ♠ K 7 4, ♥ Q 7 4, ♦ A 8 6 4 2, ♣ 9 5
3. ♠ 7, ♥ A K J 9 6 2, ♦ K 8 6, ♣ K 6 5
4. ♠ 9 8 7 6 2, ♥ J 9 7 2, ♦ 3, ♣ J 8 6
5. ♠ A 6 5, ♥ Q 10 8, ♦ A K 7 5 2, ♣ A 7
6. ♠ K 3, ♥ K J 4, ♦ K Q 4 2, ♣ K 6 3 2
7. ♠ A J 5, ♥ Q 5 2, ♦ Q 10 5 2, ♣ K 10 7
8. ♠ 7, ♥ 7 3, ♦ A J 5, ♣ K J 10 8 7 4 2
9. ♠ A 10 9, ♥ A 2, ♦ A Q 6, ♣ Q J 9 8 7
10. ♠ A Q 9 2, ♥ 2, ♦ 6, ♣ K Q J 9 8 7 5

1. 2♠. It wasn't my intention to do a quiz on the Multi in this issue, but I have seen it misused so often lately that it is surely time for a refresher. Responses to the Multi cannot be defined, since the responses at the two-level are different to the responses at the three- and four-level. Suffice to say that all responses are pass or correct. On this hand spades will play poorly, so bid 2♠, pass or correct. If partner bids 3♥, then of course you continue on to 4♥.

2. 3♥. You have nine trumps in hearts or spades, and with a nine-card trump fit it is recommended you preempt to the three-level. If you bid only 2♥ then your opponents have a much better chance to get together and find a fit, and perhaps outbid you to the four-level.

3. 2♠. Easy, but bidding 2♥ is a particularly common error. You expect partner to have spades, and if so 2♠ is the contract in which you wish to play. It is just possible partner has something like ♠ 653, ♥ Q108754, ♦ AQ7, ♣ 7. With 11 easy tricks in hearts you would now be playing in 2♥ if you bid 2♥ and not 2♠!

4. 4♥. It is still pass or correct at the four-level. You have 10 hearts or 11 spades, and who knows what opponents can make, probably a slam. You want to take up as much space as possible so preempt to 4♥, and let the opponents guess.

5. 4♥. This time you are bidding to make, but the opponents don't know that. You may find an optimist in the next seat, who may wander in at the five-level, doubled of course.

6. 2♥. This is more judgment than system. Your hand adds up to 15 HCP, but with no ace it is poorly structured. There is a far greater chance you will fail at the three-level, than you will make 10 tricks in hearts or spades. Partner held ♠ QJ, ♥ Q109753, ♦ J1075, ♣ 7, so you are missing the four aces, a poor start when trying for 10 tricks. Also opponents can construct a diamond ruff to hold you to eight tricks. On a bad day they will score two diamond ruffs, and 2♥ will fail by a trick.

7. 2♥. This defensive-type hand may or may not be good enough to make 3♥ or 3♠, so first you try to play at the two-level. This is a delicate area and your LHO opponent may have a close decision whether to come in or not over your 2♥. One thing I find annoying is my RHO asking what 2♦ is, and then passing when told it shows 6-10 points. What do you think, do the askers have two high-card points, or 10 or 11?

8. 3♣. Even if partner has hearts, and you have a 6-2 fit, the bulky club suit on the side will be a burden. You are a chance to make 3♣, so you should be able to simply sign off there by bidding 3♣.

9. 2NT. You want to make an invitation if partner has hearts, but go to game if partner has spades. The common method is that over 2NT opener bids 3♣ with hearts and a maximum, 3♦ with spades and a maximum, and bids 3♥ or 3♠ with a minimum.

I get by with just the 3♣ and 3♦ responses. If, over 3♣ or 3♦, the responder now bids 3♥ or 3♠, the Multi-opener carries on to game with a maximum (so here would bid 4♥ over your 3♥ with a maximum). The major advantage is that the partner of the Multi-bidder is always declarer and has the advantage of the lead coming around to the unknown hand.

10. 2NT. It looks like partner has hearts, but you never know, so there is some risk attached to signing off in 3♣. If there are only two response to 2NT, 3♣ = hearts and 3♦ = spades, then you can have the best of both worlds on this hand. If partner bids 3♣ over 2NT, showing hearts, you simply pass. If partner bids 3♦, showing spades, then you bid 4♠.

*Paul Lavings
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Book Review

Improving Your Judgement 1: Opening the Bidding
 Audrey Grant. Published by Baron Barclay

There have been other books on this topic, but Audrey Grant fans will welcome this offering.

There are four main chapters on opening bids, while the last part of the book comprises 32 Practice Deals (specially-coded cards can be purchased as an accessory for dealing these hands).

The material is presented very simply to appeal to inexperienced players, but nevertheless the student is invited to progress in skill with moderately advanced concepts such as length points in notrump openings. There are quizzes and summaries within the chapters. As always, the Grant books are built around a sound learning process, with colour used for emphasis.

I'm sure many people have heard of the Rule of 20 (the text refers to it as a guideline), but have you heard of the Guideline of 15? With a borderline hand in fourth seat, add the high card points to the number of spades in the hand. If it comes to less than 15, consider passing. The sample deals are analysed for bidding, play and defence. Here's one to consider.

East deals, NS vulnerable

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

West opens 1♠ in third seat and East responds 2♥, passed out. South leads ♣K, which West wins with the ace. There is at least one spade loser, three diamond losers and two club losers - one loser too many

West could try leading towards ♦K, a 50% shot, or (recommended) try to ruff a diamond in dummy. West should play a diamond from dummy at trick two.

♦K is just an illusion, which may prevent declarer from seeing the correct line. Even though the opponents can lead trumps back twice when they get in with diamonds, there is still one trump left in dummy to ruff the third diamond, and the contract slips home.

John Hardy



John Hardy
 Bridge Books
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Books

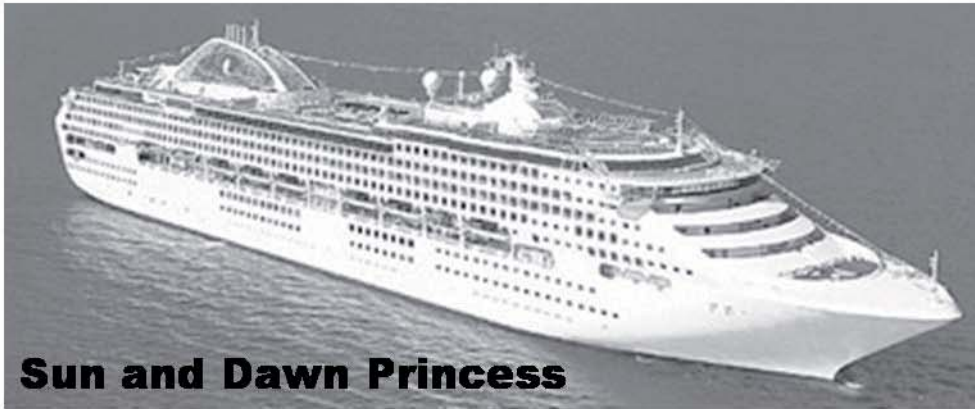
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Bridge

To play bridge is to play your cards,
For it is a game of 52, witit no room for jokers.
A standard deck with four points of view,
Such as the primary face of a
compass' directional due.

To be complete you need a scoresheet,
To be hidden from view until the hand is through.
Need a director for a misplay or other faultier,
And a clock to reign in the time defaulter.

Its origin I do not know,
Perhaps inspiration over times flow.
There are many systems that can be used,
Generally leading to some getting confused.

You need a partner and an opposition,
Sometimes there is a sit out,
At other times Rover gets a run,
Mitchell sits aside while Howell does
feet, shuffle and growl.

There are points Red and Green,
GNOTs and teams, pairs mixed or the same.
Congress and events without a standby,
Once you're hooked doesn't time fly.

Better a pen than a pencil,
For you need to place or pass a bid in turn.
With a lot of points you may pledge a slam,
For my introduction to this game,
Thank You Ma'am.

Paul Unger, Mardi, NSW

2007 Seniors Interstate Winners



SA Seniors Team: David Anderson (Manager), John Hewitt, Arthur Porter, Bob Clarke, Roger Januszke.

In absentia: David Cherry, John Horowitz

Congratulations also to the NSW Junior Team, Nabil Edgton, J Hornibrook, Daniel Krochmalik, Nick Rodwell, Gabby Feiler, Paul Gosney, who took out the Youth Interstate from SA.

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**Available from:
Dennis Yovich, EBA Pty Ltd**

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Fax: (08) 9341 4547

Email: dyovich@iinet.net.au



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Christmas is coming – gift ideas



Bridge Encyclopedia
Suit combinations, 100s of profiles, results, list of all bridge books + 560 page dictionary of bridge info. Next edition due 2012.
\$64.95 POSTFREE
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The Elusive Masterpoint
by Carl Vancellette
Highly entertaining and extremely witty book on a married couple learning the ropes. Lots of hands.
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By Mollo & Gardener
The most-read bridge book of all time now back in print. Lift you game to the next level.
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A woman's place is at the bridge table
Set of 20 serviettes
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1997 and 2003 Daily Bridge Calendar
The Daily Bridge Calendar has been discontinued. After March 1, 2008 the dates are the same day of the month as in 1997 and 2003. 365 hands equal to 6 bridge books
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Audrey Grant Bridge Books – Acclaimed Worldwide



Bridge At A Glance
32-page quick reference summary
\$16.95 POSTFREE



Bridge Basics 1: An Introduction
For beginners, and includes 32 prepared deals
\$19.95 POSTFREE



Bridge Basics 2: Competitive Bidding
Preempts, overcalls, takeout doubles and more.
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2001 US Teachers Ass. Book of the Year
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Doubles
Understanding the many uses of doubles
\$19.95 POSTFREE



More Commonly Used Conventions
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- 500 page double-sided BIDDING SLIPS. 40 pads \$180
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Our holidays are great value for money, our service is friendly and efficient and our accommodation modern and comfortable. We look forward to your company.

2008 Bridge Cruises



Sun Princess

Asia Cruise 6-21 May
World Cruise 14 July

These two magnificent bridge cruises are detailed on a separate page of this newsletter.



Marco Polo

South America and
Antarctic Cruise
19 Jan - 9 Feb, 2008

Your price from **\$10865** includes your return airfares with Lan Airlines, hotels for 2 nights in both Buenos Aires and Santiago, Marco Polo cruise & all transfers.

**Buenos Aires - Ushuaia - Port Lockroy -
Paradise Harbour - Half Moon Island -
Ushuaia - Punta Arenas - Puerto Cha-
cabuco - Puerto Mont - Santiago**



Queen Mary 2

Splendours of the Fall
& Transatlantic Cruise
26 Sep - 13 Oct, 2008

Your price of **\$7885** includes your return airfares with Singapore Airlines, your transfer from Southampton to London and 1 night at the Regency in Kensington.

**New York - Halifax - St John - Portland -
Boston - Newport - New York - Southampton**

For those wishing to stay on a tour of northern France at the conclusion of the cruise will be available.

For detailed itineraries and other enquiries relating to all the above cruises contact:-

Albury Kent Travel

Phone (02) 9569 1197

Email: veronica@alburykenttravel.com.au

Address: PO Box 92 Westgate, NSW, 2048

Next Bridge Holidays



Leura Gardens Resort

Blue Mountains 3 nights/ 4 days
27-30 November 2007

Your price of **\$539** includes 3 nights twin share accommodation, breakfast and buffet dinner each day and all bridge fees.



Thredbo Bridge Week

7 nights/8 days at the River Inn
9-16 January 2008

Your price of **\$775** includes 7 nights twin share accommodation, breakfast daily, welcome and farewell buffet dinners, dinner at Sante during the Blues Festival plus all bridge fees.

The holiday ends in time for those wishing to play in the National Seniors, Womens and restricted teams in Canberra.

Participants will have free time to enjoy the Blues Festival which will be held in Thredbo during this week.



Salamander Shores

Port Stephens 3 nights/ 4 days,
Feb 9-11 or 5 nights/6 days
February 9-14, 2008

Your price from **\$499** Includes 3 nights twin share accommodation, breakfast and dinner daily and all bridge fees. An optional extra 2 days of bridge coaching on the preceding weekend (Feb 9-11) is also available at \$319 or \$759 for the lot

For detailed itineraries and other enquiries relating to these bridge holidays contact John Newman at

Bridge Travel

Phone (02) 9888 3903

Email: bridgetravel@bigpond.com

Not only is this unnecessary but it erodes the confidence of the team (not to mention that of partner) and the confidence of other players in you .

Just do the score-up and get on with it. Some players seem to expend as much energy in post mortems as they do during the match itself. The use of the term post mortem to describe how players review their performance seems to be well chosen.

Jim Borin was at a national teams event many years ago and his pair went for a postcode. At score-up, however, it seems the board had been scrubbed at the other table. Jim took the entirely sensible position that it was not necessary to tell teammates until after the event, so he temporarily buried the result.

If you decide you have to confess to a sin immediately, at least do so with a sense of humour. Since when is one bad board a disaster? Get a grip!

Laziness

This is a tricky one. We can all play better by being physically well prepared. Keep fit, eat well, drink plenty of water and get plenty of sleep.

There is an expectation of a degree of commitment to the partnership that you need to keep up.

It doesn't matter what your level of commitment is, but try to stick to it. Doing the right thing is boring but real – especially once you are past your first year as a unit.

You may be in a freewheeling partnership where you turn up with a bottle of wine under your belt at nationals and wing it at the table. But that's not you, right? For those who want to do well you are expected to keep up certain standards. Some of the areas are:

1. Pay attention to partner's signals.
2. Read and learn your system notes.
3. Put enough effort into defending.
4. Have a system discussion and/or practise to keep your game ticking over between big events – whether for your partnership these are national, state or congress.
5. Turn up on time to stop partner getting tense.
6. Help with the administrative tasks like entering events and the like.

When you get lazy and stop doing these things to the level partner expects (especially the one about looking at those pesky signals), your partnership is starting to slip. We don't want that, do we?

Blaine Howe, Melbourne



The NSWBA and The ABF present the

SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS

24 OCT - 1 NOV 2007

Open Teams Tournament

Qualifying: Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th October 2007
Final Series: Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th October 2007

Dick Cummings Open Pairs (A Swiss Matchpoint Pairs Event)

Saturday 27th October 2007 and Sunday 28th October 2007

Manzoni Womens' Teams

Qualifying: Mon 29th to Wed 31st October 2007
Final: Thursday 1st November 2007

Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams

Qualifying: Mon 29th to Wed 31st October 2007
Final: Thursday 1st November 2007

Venue: Hakoah Club, Bondi

Convenor: Kim Neale (sn@abf.com.au)

Entry Details: www.abf.com.au/events/spnot

Gold Masterpoints & Playoff Qualifying Points

Congresses, ABF and International Events

September 22 -29

22nd New Zealand National Bridge Congress, Hamilton
Website: www.nzbridgecongress.co.nz

September 28 - October 1

Hans Rosendorff Memorial Congress, Perth
Women's Swiss Teams
Convener: Sheenagh Young hgrWT@abf.com.au
Men's Swiss Pairs
Convener: Nigel Dutton hgrMSP@abf.com.au

September 29 - October 13

38th World Championships, Shanghai, Chiina
Comprising the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Senior Bowl
and World Transnational Open Teams

October 4 - 7

Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs and the Australian
Swiss Pairs, Launceston
Convener: Catherine Elliott asp@abf.com.au

October 6 - 7

Gold Coast Congress
Butler Pairs & Swiss Teams
Convener: Pam Jessep gcbc@winshop.com.au

October 12 - 14

Muswellbrook Congress
Convener: ebbattist@bigpond.net.au

October 12 - 14

Commercial Club (Albury) Super Congress
Convener: Frank McConvill frankmconconvill@bigpond.com

October 13 - 14

Taree Bridge Club Pairs and Swiss teams
Convener: Judy Scott judithscott@bigpond.com

October 19 - 22

Queenstown Bridge Congress, New Zealand
Contact: Sharon Mosley shardonay@xtra.co.nz

October 24 - 1 November

Sydney Spring Nationals, Hakoah Club
Convener: Kim Neale sn@abf.com.au

November 4

Port Stephens Congress
Contact: bonito72@bigpond.net.au

November 3 - 4

Southern Highlands Bridge Club Congress
Convener: Ina Smith ina@hinet.net.au

November 18

Ballina Restricted Swiss Teams (NSW)
Contact: Lyn Graham bbclub@internode.on.net

November 30 - December 3

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) Finals
Club Banora, Tweed Heads
Contact: secretariat@netspeed.com.au

December 7-11

ASEAN Bridge Clubs Championships
Makati City, Philippines
Website: www.Aseanbridge2007.com

VIETNAM - 5 STAR - 17 days June 20 - July 7 2008 **With Greg and Gaye. Hand Picked by us for total luxury \$ 2980 + Airfare**



16 Nights; Includes 3 nights accommodation at the leading Majestic (Saigon) 5 Star, voted Vietnam's best hotel, 4 nights in Hoi An staying at the 5 Star Golden Sands Resort, followed by 3 nights at The Ancient Capital Hue staying at The Saigon Moran, followed by one of the worlds wonders, Halong Bay, then 3 nights at Vietnam's shopping capital Hanoi staying at the 5* Melia Hotel. Includes all dinners, all breakfasts, 9 lunches, all tours, all transfers, all bridge fees and tutorials. Also includes all 3 Internal flights. **(No steps or baggage handling)**. No long bus transfers in this tour. There is also a 4-night extension at The Victorian Sapa Resort all incl.



TERRIGAL - 5 STAR - STAR OF THE SEA APTS - Oct 22-26 **5 Star Luxury at Terrigal (5 DAYS - 4 NIGHTS) From \$ 595 Twin Share or Double**



Included in this price is 4 nights luxury accommodation, 4 dinners at leading restaurants, all lunches, transfers to the nearby restaurants. Includes 7 sessions of bridge, 2 workshops, champagne reception and a fabulous entertainment evening.



For further information: <http://users.bigpond.net.au/FinesseBridgeClub/> gayeallen@optusnet.com.au Ph: 9547 2383 or 0410 127 326

2008 Summer Festival of Bridge Entry Form

The Last Train Events - \$200 per pair

Women's Seniors Open

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
Player				\$
Player				

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> National Women's Teams	<input type="checkbox"/> National Seniors Teams	<input type="checkbox"/> \$440/team Non-Life Masters Teams	<input type="checkbox"/> \$440/team National Novice Teams	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 0-99 <input type="checkbox"/> 0-149
Captain				\$
Player				
Player				
Player				
Player				
Player				

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Players	<input type="checkbox"/> Men's	<input type="checkbox"/> Women's	<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors	<input type="checkbox"/> Novice
Player				\$
Player				

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> National Swiss Pairs - \$90 per pair			<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors	<input type="checkbox"/> Open
Player				\$
Player				

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Rydges	<input type="checkbox"/> Hellenic Club	<input type="checkbox"/> No Preference		
Captain				\$
Player				
Player				
Player				
Player				
Player				

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Speed-Ball Teams - \$60 per team				
Player				\$
Player				
Player				
Player				

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> National Flighted Swiss Pairs - \$120 per pair				
Player				\$
Player				

Players	Surname	Given Name	ABF/NZCBA No	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Australian Mixed Teams - \$280 per team				
Captain				\$
Player				
Player				
Player				
Player				
Player				

Please make cheques payable to Summer Festival of Bridge; or
 Please charge to my credit card the TOTAL amount shown

Total \$

Mastercard
 Visa

Card Holder Name: _____

Please Print in BLOCK LETTERS

Card Number:

Expiry Date: /

Telephone Number _____

Signature

Post Entries to: The Summer Festival of Bridge, PO Box 4173, WESTON ACT 2611

2008

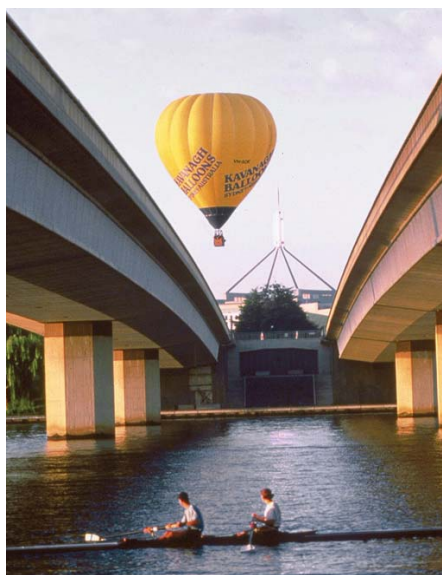
SUMMER FESTIVAL OF

Bridge

CANBERRA

14 to 28 January 2008

www.summerfestivalofbridge.com has a detailed itinerary of dates and entry details



**CALL 0401 509 616 OR EMAIL not@abf.com.au
FOR FURTHER DETAILS**