

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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ANC & Butler Championships 2011

2011 was Victoria's turn to host the annual Interstate and Butler Pairs Championships. The venue, the Powerhouse Convention Centre, overlooking the lake at Albert Park, was a first as a bridge venue. The staff at the centre looked after the bridge players attentively, with an espresso machine and snacks served in the foyer, and soup and tasty sandwiches available for lunch every day.

In the Open Interstate, ACT dominated the double round robin, and faced Victoria in the final.

Finishing order in the Open after 14 rounds:

ACT	290.8
Victoria	174.7
South Australia	44.7
New South Wales	27.1
Queensland	9
Western Australia	-121.3
Tasmania	-148
Northern Territory	-291.4

ACT, Mark Abraham - Griff Ware, Hashmat Ali - Richard Hills, Richard Brightling - David Hoffman won 13 of the 14 matches; their only loss was to Victoria, Jamie Ebery - Leigh Gold, Bill Jacobs - Ben Thompson, Simon Hinge - Peter Hollands in the very loast round of the double round robin.



Victoria: Bill Jacobs, Leigh Gold, Ben Thompson, Simon Hinge, Jamie Ebery, Peter Hollands

From the start of the final, however, ACT were in trouble, losing their 12 IMP carry forward - and more - in the first stanza:

Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

♠ 9 6 5
♥ Q 6 2
♦ Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 8 6

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

♠ K Q 7 4 3
♥ A 9 7 5 4
♦ ---
♣ A 10 3

West	North	East	South
Gold	Brightling	Ebery	Hoffman
		1♦	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♦	2♥
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Hills	Jacobs	Ali	Thompson
		2♦	2♠
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

With ACTNS, Hoffman had the chance to bid both his suits, and he elected to lead ♠4. Ebery won Brightling's ♠9 with the ten, and thought for some time before embarking on the winning line, playing on clubs at trick two. The defence were powerless - declarer had four club tricks, two spades and three diamonds on the marked diamond finesse.

With Victoria NS, Thompson only had the chance to show spades, and despite a low heart lead at trick one to the queen and king, declarer misjudged the play. He elected to set up diamonds, losing the lead to Jacobs' ♦Q. The contract drifted two down for 13 IMPs to Victoria, who never looked back.

Compare the two running scores:

ACT: (c/f 12), 24, 29, 31, 71, 89, conceded

Vic: (0), 41, 54, 135, 155, 196

Congratulations to the squad from Melbourne.

In the Women's event, it looked likely to be a match between *New South Wales* and *Queensland*, who oftentimes face each other in the final. *Western Australia*, however, pulled out all the stops in the last two rounds (and defeating *Queensland* in the last round by 20 IMPs) to overtake *Queensland* and take out a final berth.

The standings after the double round robin:

New South Wales	169.2
Western Australia	159.1
Queensland	142.9
Victoria	41.1
ACT	24.5
South Australia	-38
Tasmania	-188.6
Northern Territory	-314.1

New South Wales continued strongly in the final, making fewer errors than their counterparts, and the final result was a 186 - 143 IMP win to *New South Wales*, captained by Michael Wilkinson.

Congratulations to *New South Wales*, Berri Folkard - Helen Lowry, Giselle Mundell - Judy Mott, Lorna Ichilcik - Lynn Kalmin and *Western*

Australia, Lauren Shiels - Annabel Booth, Leone Fuller - Val Biltoft, Joan Touyz - Viv Wood, captained by Allison Stralow.



NSW Women's Team

The Seniors' event was dominated by *South Australia* and *New South Wales*, with both teams fielding some big names of Australian bridge.

At the end of the double round robin, these were the standings:

South Australia	185.4
New South Wales	136.8
ACT	30.7
Queensland	16.9
Western Australia	-15.8
Victoria	-55.4
Tasmania	-305.5

As expected, this was a tight match, with *South Australia* taking the lead for most of the final. After Round 5, *New South Wales* was in the lead by 3 IMPs, but in the final stanza, *South*

Australia produced a 20 -3 IMP scorecard to emerge victors 150 - 136 IMPs.

Congratulations to *South*

Australia, John Zollo - Roger Januszke, David Parrott - Russel Harms, David Lusk - Peter Chan and *New South Wales*, Nicky Strasser - George Bilski, Paul Lavings - Marlene Watts, Bob Richman - Andrew Reiner.



The Youth field was only six teams, so they played a triple round robin. Front runners *Victoria* were expected to be in the final, but who would they face, with three teams possible finalists in the last round?

Standings after the triple round robin;

Victoria	301.5
ACT	8.2
South Australia	3.2
Western Australia	-11.9
Queensland	-50.9
New South Wales	-256.7

In the event, it was *ACT*, James Higgins - Sebastian Yuen, Stephen Williams - Laura Ginnan, John Yoon - Qiao Zhou who would face the experienced Victorian squad. The final score was 176 - 83 IMPs in *Victoria's* favour.

Congratulations to *Victoria*, Liam Milne - Michael Whibley - Justin Howard - Max Henbest - Jamie Thompson - Pascale Gardiner who swelled the total victories for their state to two.



Max, Pascale & Michael - part of the Victorian Youth Team

The side events held alongside the Interstate were well-attended, and the Victory Dinner, held on the Friday before the Butler Pairs was due to start, was a splendid affair. Of special note was Ben Thompson's thank you to Dr Ian McCance, npc for the Open Team. Ian has been a part of Victorian bridge for seven decades, and it was fitting that the team he captained won the Open event.

Next year the ANC and Butler Pairs will be held, from July 7 - 19, at the Darwin Convention Centre at the Waterfront Precinct.

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What should I bid?

The best submission for June came from Alan Boyce.

Playing with a partner for the first time, and expecting it to be the last after what I was about to do, I was dealt this hand in the West seat:



IMPs, North deals, all vulnerable

♠ 2
♥ 10
♦ K 10 8 7 2
♣ A Q 8 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
	1♣	2♣	All Pass

Comments: We had agreed to play immediate cuebids as normal Michaels, so partner promised both majors. After South passed, I checked the card to make sure that 1♣ alerted was “could be short” and not something more dramatic. I then went into a thought process. Eventually I decided to follow Marty Bergen’s advice which says, when you sense a misfit, stop bidding immediately. I prepared the “Sorry, partner, but I do have a nice six-card trump suit for you” speech, passed, and after all passed, took the obvious glare from across the table.

There was an interesting result from the other table: our teammates got a plus 500 result, because our direct opponents played a 2NT bid to show a major and another, leading to West bidding 3♦, followed by some no doubt rapid fire corrections before and after the penalty doubles arrived, ending up in 4♦ doubled for down two.

For the record, partner had six spades and five hearts and 8 HCP (no ace), South 4 HCP and North 19 HCP, with a 4-3-3-3 shape.

Back to the question, would you pass 2♣ or make the bid of 2♥ (giving humungous preference because it’s a 10 not a deuce)? At the time, the other decider for me was the real danger that, East, with a strong two-suiter, could take my preference as an indication of a possible three-card suit, and make a dangerous move towards game! One other pair played 2♣ from the East seat, and given that North held three clubs, probably the entire room opened 1♣ irrespective of their system. I’m thinking that overcalling spades with six is better than the Michaels Cuebid anyway?

Kieran's Reply:

Alan, I’m passing 2♣. I’m well aware that partner might have a big hand, but this hand is liable to make fewer tricks than partner expects - he won’t be expect-

ing your chosen trump suit to have a length of one. If it works poorly, I’ll apologise as graciously as I can muster, employing what I call the Streaker’s Defence - “It seemed like a good idea at the time”.

I haven’t passed Michaels before, but quite a few times I’ve put down dummy in a “both majors” call over the opponents’ notrump. I haven’t been badly wrong yet (and often spectacularly right).

Quite a lot of years ago, in the August journal *The Bridge World*, a bidding problem was put to a panel of experts - LHO opens 1♣, partner overcalls 2♣ (in those days, showing a game-forcing hand without reference to shape) and you hold ♠x, ♥x, ♦10xx, ♣Jxxxxxx.

Many passed. I think they figured that if partner can make four of a major opposite this hand, they’ll probably bid to six of a major and fail.

I don’t mind 2♣ or 1♣ with the hand that you describe opposite, although with extra strength I’d tend to start with the six-card suit - especially when it’s spades, since partner will be apt to prefer hearts with equal length.

Suit quality might tip the balance - ♠AKJxxx, ♥xxxxx, ♦x, ♣x looks like 1♠, ♠Qxxxxx, ♥KQJxx, ♦x, ♣x looks like Michaels...hands in between will have to choose one or the other.

Kieran



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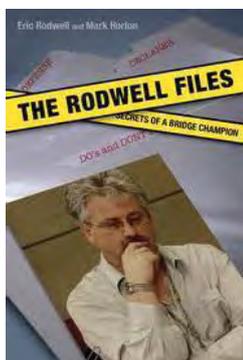
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BOOK REVIEWS

The Rodwell Files

by Eric Rodwell and Mark Horton (Master Point Press, Canada, 2011, soft cover, 400 pages, \$42.95 post-free (\$34.95 if not mailed)



One would expect a large volume from the pen of the inventor of Support Doubles and Redoubles (and more) to be on bidding theory and system. Not at all. Eric Rodwell's major opus is on cardplay. Starting off with four chapters on the basics, the authors move on to more advanced plays in the next four chapters. The second half of the book contains hundreds of examples of experts in action at the table.

This deal is from chapter 16, *The Dos and Donts of Card Play*, with the sub-title

Anticipate Possible Snags:

South deals, NS vulnerable

♠ K
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A K Q 7 2
♣ A J 4

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

♠ A 5 3
♥ Q 9 8 7 6
♦ 9 3
♣ Q 6 5

West	North	East	South
Johnson	Ferraro	Meckstroth	Duboin
1♠	Dbl	4♠	Dbl
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West led ♠Q, and Duboin considered the bidding. East clearly had four trumps, and no high cards to speak of, so was almost surely short in hearts. At other tables, declarer now played a heart to the queen, but West had won ♥A and locked declarer in dummy with a diamond. Duboin foresaw this, and cashed two top diamonds before playing to his ♥Q. Now West had to play a spade or a club, and declarer could then take the heart finesse from hand...

"The Rodwell Files" is a wonderful read, not only for the many, many brilliant plays and defences, but for



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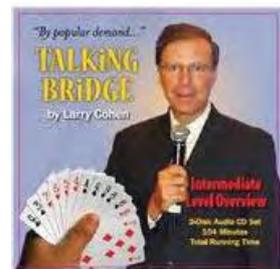
the bidding battles featuring the world's top players. The message seems to be "defence is hard, so overbid". The book is mandatory reading, and is registering record sales in the USA.

Talking Bridge

by Larry Cohen (2-Disk Audio CD set 104 minutes total running time)

\$34.95 post-free

"By popular request" Larry has finally shared many of his thoughts on the game on an audio CD. Larry covers 23 topics in short spells of between two to six minutes. He discusses general principles including bidding methods, while emphasising the importance of keeping conventions to a minimum.



Do you know what the most important thing in bridge is? According to Larry it's concentration.

Larry has a pleasant speaking voice, and the CD can be played in the car (he discusses the pros and cons of this in the introduction), and on your computer. Great value.

Reviews by Paul Lavings,

Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies
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Man bites dog

I have long maintained that the problem - answer format, so popular in bridge books and magazines, is gravely flawed, *exactly* because the problem is always presented in the critical position. It only remains to work out what weird, what anti-intuitive, thing to do. A hard worker might then work out why the rule-breaking move is needed. Trouble is, the key to mind games is to recognise the critical position...

Consider this recent example that I was delighted to solve in a recent BBO tourney...

North deals, all vulnerable

```

♠ K 6 3 2
♥ 9 6
♦ J 10 8 4
♣ A 6 2

♠ 10 7
♥ Q 10 8 2
♦ Q 9 2
♣ 10 9 5 3
    
```

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Partner leads ♥5, dummy plays low; what card do you play?

For the trained solver its easy enough – the rules say third hand high – so that's out – must be, ♥10 is the answer.

For those who need to justify their man-bites-dog manoeuvre, the first steps are easy – we play fourth highest leads, so declarer has ♥A43 or ♥A3 ♥A4 – the ten will do.

Why is it needed?

This was the full deal:

```

♠ K 6 3 2
♥ 9 6
♦ J 10 8 4
♣ A 6 2

♠ A 9 8
♥ K J 7 5 4
♦ 7 3
♣ K J 8

♠ 10 7
♥ Q 10 8 2
♦ Q 9 2
♣ 10 9 5 3

♠ Q J 5 4
♥ A 3
♦ A K 6 5
♣ Q 7 4
    
```

If we play ♥Q at trick one and it goes ♠Q, ducked by West, a spade to West's ace and a third spade to dummy's king, declarer will run ♦J, then cash the three diamond winners, leaving:

```

♠ 6
♥ 9
♦ 10
♣ A 6 2

♠ ---
♥ K J 7
♦ ---
♣ K J 8

♠ ---
♥ 10 8 2
♦ ---
♣ 10 9 3

♠ 5
♥ 3
♦ 5
♣ Q 7 4
    
```

What does partner discard on the fourth diamond? Well, it's given as the critical position, so we know to throw a high heart... At the table, however, West might innocently discard the low heart, and then even a very poor declarer would exit with a heart and make the contract.

You might argue that partner will cash the top heart before exiting with a trump – might he not, however, play you for ♥Qx, and a doubleton ♠10, winning the trump ace and playing ♥K, heart? Playing ♥10 at trick one, then ♥2 will stop all that.

Third hand plays high – except in problems
 Lead partners suit – except in problems
 Return partners lead – except in problems
 Don't discard winners – except in problems

And so it goes on. Every problem involves breaking sound strategic (ie generally correct) rules for specific tactical (based on exact calculation) reasons.

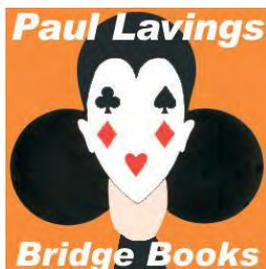
To learn bridge what is needed is to learn the left hand rules - then break them only when precise arithmetic dictates. All problem-answer texts promote their constant breakage.

It will soon be my pleasure to present to the bridge community the greatest book on cardplay ever written. It was penned in 1914 by a great problemist. The first man to demonstrate every possible case of the knight's tour at chess; who provided, also for the first time, the shortest possible victory at peg solitaire.

My reticence to do so earlier is because of the Man-bites-Dog issue. This book was so good that it appeared under many titles, and by many authors. I am calling it *Man Bites Dog* in the hope that the reader understands that what constitutes a "brilliant" move, is the very fact that it breaks the normal rules of good play.

Perhaps "*Do Not Try This at Home*" would have been a better title.

Michael Courtney

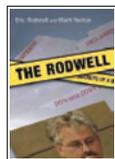


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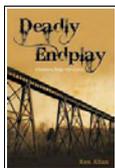


The Rodwell Files
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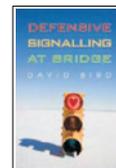


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 by Paul Thurston
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BEST OF 2011



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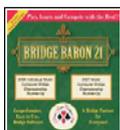
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What to do to win at Swan River

The perfectly organised and most enjoyable 2011 Swan River Swiss Pairs, played in Perth on the weekend of 13-14 August, was dominated by extremely dynamic hands.



Winners Karol Miller - Gerry Daly

To win such a competition you need to do very well in slam bidding, one would think.

Look at a few examples below, and think again...

Round 2, Board 24, West deals, nil vulnerable

♠ A K 7 4 3
♥ J 8 5
♦ 10 8 5
♣ J 2

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

♠ 6 5 2
♥ 10 6 4
♦ 4 3
♣ 9 8 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Exquisite judgement by our opposition ... 12 tricks and -9 IMPs for us.

Round 3, Board 11, South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ Q 9
♥ K Q 10 5 2
♦ 9 7 6 5 4
♣ 6

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

♠ 8 4 3
♥ 9 7 4
♦ J 10
♣ Q 9 5 4 3

How do you play 6♠ from the West seat with no interference bidding? Our opponent had no problems after ♥K lead: spades from the top, and club finesse. – 11 IMPs.

Round 4, Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

♠ A J
♥ 9 6 5 4 2
♦ 4 2
♣ Q 10 7 2

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

♠ 10 9 7 5 2
♥ 8
♦ Q 8
♣ J 8 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
Gerry		Karol	
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥ ¹	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	7♦	All Pass

1. 2-3 controls, no suit to show

Would West have ♠A or ♣A, I thought as East? The merciless Southern opponent led ♠10 -15 IMPs. By the way, we won this match.

Round 7, Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

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

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

♠ J 5
♥ 8 6 5 4 3
♦ J 9 8 7 6
♣ 4

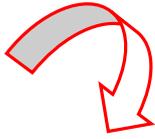
West	North	East	South
Gerry		Karol	
		1♥	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²	Pass
3♦ ³	Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass
4♦ ⁵	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

1. Various options, including a game force in hearts
2. Natural, game-forcing
3. (I will show heart support later)
4. Slam interest
5. Cuebid

Sydney Spring Nationals



Note change
from advertised
date



19 – 27 OCTOBER 2011

SPRING NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS 19-23 October

SPRING NATIONAL RESTRICTED TEAMS 19-20 October

(each player must have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 30/6/2011)
Winners awarded entry to 2012 Gold Coast Restricted Teams/Pairs

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On the excellent lead of ♠10 the result was 11 tricks and -15 IMPs. The lesson to learn here is the following: when you are going to make a mistake, do it in such a way so that it does not hurt your result too much. We won this match 25-4....

Round 10, Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

♠ A 7 3
♥ A K 4 2
♦ K Q 6 3
♣ 9 6

♠ K 8 5
♥ Q 10 8 7 3
♦ 10 9 4
♣ 3 2

♠ 10
♥ J 6 5
♦ J 7 5 2
♣ Q J 10 7 4

♠ Q J 9 6 4 2
♥ 9
♦ A 8
♣ A K 8 5

West	North Gerry	East	South Karol
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3♠ ³	Pass	4♥ ⁴
Pass	4♠ ⁵	All Pass	

1. Various options, including a game force in spades
2. Natural, game-forcing
3. Slam interest
4. Shortage
5. Hands do not seem to fit well

After this unimaginative sequence I took all 13 tricks for an 11 IMP loss. We did not win this match...

We won some IMPs on the following board, played against John Ashworth - Fiske Warren: this is how it happened:

Round 8, Board 21, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ A 10
♥ 6
♦ K J 9 6 5
♣ Q J 10 9 5

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 9 8 7 4
♦ Q 10 4
♣ 7 4 3

♠ J 9 8 6 2
♥ Q 10 5 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ 2

West	North Gerry	East	South Karol
			♠ K Q 4
			♥ A K J 3
			♦ A 2
			♣ A K 8 6
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

I have been here before... A few years ago, playing with Tony Lusk, I spent almost the entire Swan River Swiss at Table 1 NS. In the penultimate round, John Ashworth and Terry Piper came and beat us 22-8.

They went on to win the tournament... I really did not want to lose this one!

After Gerry's 1-Key-Card-showing 5♣ response, I began to seriously worry. 5♦ is now asking about ♣Q, but what if Gerry thinks it is to play? Or is he so weak, he will chicken out and pass? Irrationality entered my mind. If I cannot ask for ♣Q, is it perhaps better to play in 7NT? That can often make if partner's diamonds are very good, and clubs not so good? And so I blasted 7NT.

How would you play on ♠7 lead? As you can see, both red finesses work, but I decided to try to drop the red queens. This line succeeds if one of them is doubleton, or both are in the same hand (a squeeze develops) or the opponents misdefend. And guess what: after cashing clubs, spades and hearts in the two-card ending, I changed my mind and finessed in diamonds! Why? Because the defenders followed to the first 11 tricks with no visible signs of discomfort and in tempo. Therefore, the squeeze must have not materialised. +2220 and +7 IMPs.

Round 8, Board 22, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

On the very next board, our opponents, John Ashworth and Fiske Warren bid to 6♥ after a 2♣ - 2♦ start, followed by natural bidding. 12 tricks, and 12 well-earned IMPs. One may reflect on the power of natural methods, where bids convey intentions, rather than the information about specific holdings...

Perhaps excellent judgement in bidding light games is therefore the key? Look at the next deal and think again....

Copy Deadline
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 the deadline is:
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 until Issue 153, January 2012
 Email: editor@abf.com.au

Round 1, Board 5, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North Gerry	East	South Karol
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

-800 after the inevitable double = -12 IMPs.

Maybe successful high-level doubles, then? How about this deal:

Round 3, Board 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

East opened 1♠, and a moment later the opponents were in 5♦. I thought it a good idea to double for a spade lead... 12 tricks, -6 IMPs.

How about making close games? There might be a grain of truth in this idea, see the next two examples:

Round 7, Board 9, North deals, EW vulnerable

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



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I opened East hand 1♣, and very quickly found myself in a forcing auction, inevitably going very high. It stopped at 5♣. How do you play on ♦7 lead?

Before we fantasise about how to take 11 tricks, let us focus on the simpler (?) task of avoiding three trump losers. How about we "finesse" ♣J through North by playing ♣2 from dummy at trick two?

North thought it a good idea to jump in with ♣A and switch to ♠8 ... 11 tricks and +11 IMPs!

Round 7, Board 11, South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ Q 10 8
♥ 8 7 6 3 2
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ Q

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

Here, I am in 3NT from the East seat after Gerry opened 1♣ and rebid 3♣. The play on ♥4 lead is sim-

ple: you come to hand with ♠K and need to guess clubs.

♣6, fast ♣10 from South, what now? I think the brain of a very experienced player sitting South would not allow him to play ♣10 very quickly from a ♣Q10 holding. The idea of falsecarding with ♣Q would affect the speed. I played ♣K from dummy. 11 tricks and +8 IMPs.

Not letting opponents making close games also helps:

Round 7, Board 8, West deals, nil vulnerable

♠ A K 9 8 7
♥ K 2
♦ J 10 7
♣ A 7 6

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

NS bid quickly: 1NT - 2♣; 2♠ - 3NT. The bidding suggested the opponents had more than necessary

Fourth Suit Game Forcing



Norman Squire formally introduced Fourth Suit Forcing to the public in 1957, in his ground-breaking book, *The Theory of Bidding*.

For many years fourth suit was played as forcing for one round, but nowadays, for convenience, it is played as forcing to game.

If you bid suits up-the-line, so that you always bid 1♦ over 1♣ with four diamonds and four of a major, then the sequence 1♣ - 1♦; 1♥ - 1♠ is not a fourth suit sequence, responder is simply bidding suits up the line. The jump to 2♠ over 1♥ is reserved for 4th Suit GF for these partnerships - 1♣ - 1♦; 1♥ - 2♠.

My guess is that less than 10% of partnerships bid this way, and most prefer Walsh, where over 1♣ responder generally bypasses diamonds to bid a major. In Walsh, after 1♣ - 1♦, it is better if opener rebids 1NT on any balanced minimum, and suppresses four card majors. So in the sequence 1♣ - 1♦; 1♥, opener is 4-4-1-4 or has at least five clubs and four hearts. In the sequence 1♣ - 1♦; 1♠, opener will have at least five clubs and four spades.

Playing Walsh responder may bid 1♦ in response to 1♣ with:

- ♠ J7, ♥ A83, ♦ AQ876, ♣ K83
- ♠ AKJ7, ♥ 83, ♦ AQ876, ♣ 52
- ♠ 987, ♥ 863, ♦ AK76, ♣ 753
- ♠ 74, ♥ 832, ♦ AQJ87, ♣ J52

On the first hand, responder is not interested in a major, and wants to hear a 1NT response from opener on all balanced hands. On the second hand, responder can Checkback over opener's 1NT with 2♣ or 2♦, or bid a forcing 2♠. On the third and fourth hands, responder is bidding 1♦ because notrumps are better played from opener's hand. Responder actually doesn't want to hear if opener has a four-card major.

On the other hand, after 1♣ - 1♥, or 1♦ - 1♥, the partnership will miss their 4-4 fit partscore in spades if opener bypasses a four-card spade suit, so opener should bid 1♠ over 1♥. The upshot is that if you play Walsh, then 1♣ - 1♦; 1♥ - 1♠ is 4th Suit GF.

What do you call on these hands after the sequence:

1♣ (Pass) 1♥ (Pass)

1♠ (Pass) 2♦ (Pass)

?

1. ♠ AJ87, ♥ 98, ♦ K76, ♣ KJ83
2. ♠ A952, ♥ 96, ♦ 753, ♣ AKJ6
3. ♠ A952, ♥ A96, ♦ 3, ♣ AQJ96

combined strength for their contract, so an aggressive lead was called for. I came up with the idea of leading declarer's four-card spade suit, so I detached ♠3 (ostensibly fourth best). Now Gerry asked about the bidding, and to my horror the answer was that declarer had *five* spades! I desperately tried to change my lead to ♦A, but the opponents and bridge laws would not let me... Declarer took the trick with ♠9 and tested clubs. When this did not work it seemed the easiest way to nine tricks was to establish a long spade. So, ♠A - I follow with ♠10 to reinforce the illusion, ♠K, and... two down and +2 IMPs.

I read in one of Michael Lawrence's books that in his opinion, three times more IMPs changed hands in partscore battles than in the slam zone. Our experience certainly confirms this:

Round 1, Board 3, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

This hand may not look like a partscore hand at first glance, but we played 2♠ doubled for a score of +770.

Round 10, Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

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

And the same contract in this one, for +1270!

Looking at the examples presented, we conclude that to win the Swan River Swiss (and for that matter any IMP-scored pairs competition) you need to gain about +1.15 IMPs per board (we managed +1.20) and approximately 18.7 VPs per match.

So now all secrets are revealed! See you next year at the 2012 Swan River Swiss Pairs.

Karol Miller

4. ♠ KQ76, ♥ A83, ♦ 62, ♣ K762
5. ♠ KQJ2, ♥ 9, ♦ 753, ♣ AQJ62
6. ♠ K10875, ♥ 3, ♦ 9, ♣ AKJ1092
7. ♠ A952, ♥ 96, ♦ AJ9, ♣ AKQ6
8. ♠ AJ52, ♥ K6, ♦ 3, ♣ AKQJ64
9. ♠ KQ76, ♥ 3, ♦ K962, ♣ AJ62

1. 2NT. This is the hand you will have most of the time after 4th Suit GF, a modest collection with a stopper in the fourth suit. Let's say responder now bids 3♠ - 1♣ - 1♥; 1♠ - 2♦; 2NT - 3♠. That would be 15+ HCP with four-card spade support, too strong to simply bid 4♠ over 1♠.

2. 2♥. Responder should not get too excited, this is not support for hearts, it is mere *preference*. Responder may have three-card support, but very likely has an uninteresting hand like this one.

3. 3♥. With real support for hearts and a good hand opener encourages strongly, but responder may still have only four hearts.

4. 2♥. This time you have good support, but not a good hand. If responder continues with 2NT you can bid 3♥ to show you really have three-card heart support: 1♣ - 1♥; 1♠ - 2♦; 2♥ - 2NT; 3♥. Don't forget

that 2♦ is forcing to game.

5. 3♣. A difficult hand, without heart preference or a diamond stopper. Best is to just mark time by rebidding your five-card club suit.

6. 2♠. I guess about 25% of players would open 1♠, which works well when partner has spade support. If you open 1♣, then you are happy to rebid 2♠ to show 6-5, or maybe even 5-5 shape.

7. 3NT. Showing 18-19 balanced, though it is better tactics to rebid 2NT over 1♥ (1♣ - 1♥; 2NT), ensuring the strong hand won't be dummy.

8. 4♣. To bid only 3♣ would be an error. Someone needs to break the "3NT barrier" and head for slam, and, with your beautiful hand, it is you.

9. 3♦. Showing a four-card diamond suit, and thus a 4-1-4-4, or 4-0-4-5 shape.

One last point. notrump over notrump is quantitative, as always.

This sequence is invitational in notrump:

1♣ - 1♥; 1♠ - 2♦; 2NT - 4NT

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The ABF is upgrading its Masterpoint site. This will result in a new-look site with improvements for both our members and club administrators, including:

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- a new player registration will generate an ABF number immediately
- monthly and quarterly reports will be emailed instead of posted; and
- club Masterpoint Secretaries will be able to upload Masterpoint award files direct.

Testing with 'power users' and other interested parties is currently under way. The launch of the new site is expected later this year.

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Your cooperation in supporting all sponsors would be appreciated. Working in effective partnerships with our sponsors should add to our enjoyment of our sport. Should any ABF member be interested in discussing sponsorship options for their organisation, please contact the ABF National Marketing Coordinator, Sandra Mulcahy, at marketing@abf.com.au or telephone 0417 920 816.

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Australian Butler Pairs Championships, 2011

Congratulations to Arjuna de Livera - Ian Robinson, winners of the 2011 Open Butler Championships from Ashley Bach - Nabil Edgton and Richard Jedrychowski - Bruce Neill.



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Mary Hogg's 100th year

Hunters Hill Bridge Club member, Mary Hogg, will celebrate her 100th birthday this year on Christmas Day.



Mary had an exciting career as an army nurse during World War II. Near the conclusion of the Borneo Campaign in 1945, she went from Queensland to Indonesia, where she was right in the thick of things, when the police state was declared, after the Battle of Balikpapan. She then went to Manila to look after POWs. She and nine other nursing sisters flew there in a DC4, with no seat belts, bouncing from floor to ceiling, while going through incredible turbulence. The American GIs, expecting group of nuns, were pleasantly surprised when they discovered their mistake, resulting in an all-night party. There are plenty of other stories - tea like black ink, water bottles full of gin - an interesting time indeed!

Mary, currently a Life Master, came to bridge somewhat reluctantly. Taught by her husband, Jim, in 1947, they played at the Western Suburbs Bridge Club. Mary is careful to point out that she did not partner her husband at this stage, playing instead with Helen Jeffery.

In the 1950s, Mary and Jim joined Lindfield Bridge Club. Soon thereafter, Jim was instrumental in starting up the Parramatta Bridge Club, at the Parramatta Leagues Club.

In the mid 1970s, the Hunters Hill Bridge Club was established, with duplicate sessions conducted in a small council-owned hall. Mary has been a stalwart of the club since that time.

Mary remembers Jim as a very good player, adding that she was never any good (which is a bit difficult to believe). She fondly recalls his first bridge congress: he had been in Paris on the Saturday, and was back in Sydney on the Monday, playing teams at the Manly Hotel. Mary claims that Jim dragged her along

to many a congress, though anyone who knows Mary, would consider it unlikely that she'd have participated in any activity against her will.

Mary is forthright and intelligent, with mental acuity at the bridge table the envy of players of any age. After a hand has been played, Mary can recall where every card was, and exactly how the contract should have been played or defended. Formidable!

This year Mary has experienced a few setbacks. Health permitting, however, she continues to be a regular at the club where she frequently wins. Mary is a fine example to us all.

*Mike Bush & Linda Allen,
Hunters Hill Bridge Club*

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Appeals and the Appeals Process (Laws 92 and 93)



The frequency of appeals at national and international events has decreased markedly in recent years. Part of the reason for this has been a change in the approach used by directors to arrive at judgement-based rulings. It is now a requirement that when the Director makes a ruling that involves bridge judgement, he does so only after having consulted appropriately with both colleagues and players of like ability. He also no longer rules automatically in favour of the non-offending side when he believes the correct judgement requires him to do otherwise. The overall effect is that most of these types of director rulings now involve peer evaluation and input, whereas a decade ago this might only have occurred after the initial decision became the subject of an appeal.

Another changed aspect is that appeals committees no longer start from scratch, or make their rulings independently from that of the Director; instead, they are now charged with the responsibility of determining whether the director has erred in his determination of the facts, or in the exercise of his judgement. In other words, an appeals committee simply reviews the ruling, and either confirms that it is correct, or modifies the original adjustment when it finds something amiss.

A contestant may only ask for a review of a ruling made at his own table. No account of the interests of non-involved players from other tables is ever taken into consideration. In a pairs event, both members of the partnership must concur in their wish to appeal; if only one of them is interested, then the appeal cannot go forward. In a teams event, the decision to appeal rests solely with the team captain.

In order to effectively appeal a decision, one must first understand the grounds upon which it was made. Not all the participants in an event are equally knowledgeable about such matters, and hence for most national events, there is usually an officially appointed Appeals Consultant. The consultant's role is primarily to explain the issues involved, and to generally assist players of lesser experience.

Ideally, an appeals committee will comprise of not fewer than three members, nor more than five. It should include some strong uninformed players, together with others who possess broad bridge experience, and a balanced objective approach. The chairman of the committee will ensure that the stronger players play a leading role in questions of bridge judgement. It is also desirable that at least one member of the committee should have some insight into the laws of the game. It is not, however, that member's task or the function of the committee, to establish what law is applicable, and how it is to be interpreted; these are matters to be enquired of the director. The committee simply applies the given interpretation of law to the facts and circumstances of the case.

Having deliberated and reached a decision, the committee then records the outcome of the appeal, together with the basis for the decision, and any other relevant information. It then becomes the responsibility of the director to inform all the parties involved.

Law 80 places the responsibility for the actual arrangements required to conduct an appeal with the Tournament Organiser. For large events, this person is usually called the 'Convener' whereas in a club environment, it would probably be either the Club Committee/Proprietor or the Tournament sub-committee.

Some clubs elect not to use a committee structure at all, and instead simply refer the occasional appeal to their most senior director (as provided by Law 93A) for resolution. Others rely upon a single externally appointed official, who often has no close affiliations with the club at all. This latter approach has become the norm in a number of European jurisdictions. Similarly, only the very highest category ACBL events still utilise appeals committees comprised of players. A panel composed entirely of appointed tournament officials now hears most of the other appeals during major North American events.

Whatever arrangements your club might have in place for appeals, please remember that the workings of the appeals process are not those of a court of law. A hearing before a player-based committee is simply a formal review by one's peers.

Laurie Kelso

ABF EDUCATION PROGRAM – CELEBRITY SPEAKERS

The 2012 Summer Festival will, for the first time, include a celebrity speakers' program. There will be a mix of six Australian and International teachers including Jack Zhao, a world champion player from China.

Everyone is welcome to attend and sessions to suit a variety of bridge levels will be offered. A small charge will apply to each session.

More information will be provided once we firm up the arrangements.



40th CANBERRA Summer Festival OF BRIDGE



16th to 29th January 2012

We're turning 40! Our 40th birthday should be one of the best Summer Festivals yet! We always listen to our players and here are some of the changes to be implemented in January 2012.

- South West Pacific Teams becomes a 4 day event – 12 x 20-board matches
- National Swiss Pairs all in the one playing area – the Ballroom at Rydges
- **New** Restricted Swiss Pairs
- The Blue Ribbon Match-point Pairs **Returns In a 3-Stage Format**
- National Open Teams now all 64-board matches
- Celebrity lectures during both weeks teams' events.

Let's look at the changes in more detail

- **South West Pacific Teams**
This event has been reduced to 4 days leaving three days for the Blue Ribbon Pairs, the Mixed Teams, the Flighted Swiss Pairs and the National Open Teams (the teams finals) to all finish on Sunday.
- **National Open Swiss Pairs**
In 2011 this event was expanded to 2 days. This was enthusiastically accepted by the players but the event was split between two playing areas. In 2012 all players will be in the one playing area – the Ballroom on the 1st floor at Rydges Lakeside.
- **NEW Restricted Swiss Pairs**
Many of the restricted players wanted to play in the Swiss Pairs but as it was an open field many found it intimidating. In 2012 a Restricted Swiss Pairs will be contested at the same time as the Open Swiss Pairs. Players in this event must have less than 500 MPs.
- **Blue Ribbon Pairs**
The Summer Festival of Bridge has not had a great match-point pairs event since the heyday of Blue Ribbon Pairs. It was a hugely popular event and will return in 2012 with a new improved format – 3 Stages – Qualifying, Semi-Finals & Finals.
There will be a separate entry for the qualifying stage and the Semi-Final/Final Stage. If you only wish to play one day you can enter the qualifying and not continue into the weekend.
- **The National Open Teams**
This event (the finals of the South West Pacific Teams) will be 8 teams with no night play, and all matches will be 64 boards. The Final will finish on Sunday.
- **Celebrity Lectures**
Players during the teams events in both weeks of the Summer Festival will have the opportunity to attend lectures delivered by some of Australia's great players and teachers. Details will be available on the ABF website closer to the event.

For full details visit www.summerfestivalofbridge.com
The Summer Festival of Bridge – vibrant & progressive bridge for all.

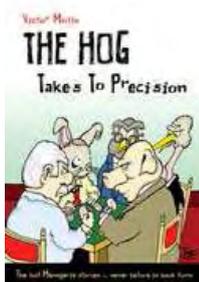


Book Reviews

The Hog Takes to Precision - Victor Mollo

This book is a treat for all fans of Mollo's Menagerie series. These previously unpublished stories were recently found by Mollo's grand-daughter and feature all the characters that feature in his other books – the Hideous Hog, the Rueful Rabbit, Papa, Karapet, Timothy the Toucan, Charlie the Chimp among others.

The first few chapters were written in the early 1970s and feature the Hog dabbling with the Precision system, when this was all the vogue. The rest of the book features natural bidding. But the hands, while extraordinary themselves, serve only as a backdrop to the classic Mollo narrative that describes the personalities and idiosyncrasies of the Griffin Club members, all of whom are easily identifiable.



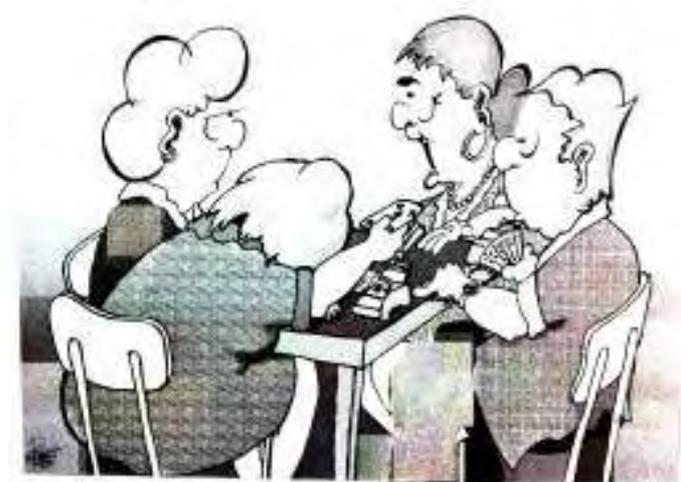
RRP - \$29.95

Out of Hand and Off the Fairway – Bill Bettle

This is a bridge book without a bridge hand! It's a collection of cartoons featuring bridge and golf. Very entertaining.



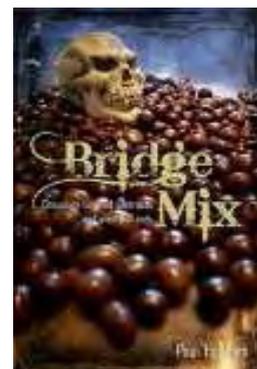
RRP - \$19.95



"Our bridge teacher says you're to make the opening lead face down!"

Bridge Mix – Chocolate Covered Contracts and plenty of nuts – Paul Holtham

Bridge humour and fiction is becoming increasingly popular and some of my favourite books from the past few years come from this genre (*The Principle of Restricted Talent*, *Bridge at the Enigma Club*).

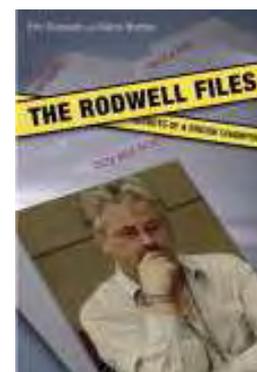


Bridge Mix is a collection of short stories that start at a bridge tournament but then weave their way through all sorts of colourful locations like outer space and ancient Egypt. All sorts of interesting characters pop up playing cleverly designed and interesting hands but for me, the stories themselves are the most entertaining and appealing aspect.

RRP - \$29.95

The Rodwell Files: secrets of a bridge champion – Eric Rodwell

One of my favourite bridge books of all time is Card Play Technique. It's one of the few books that I read and re-read every few years and it's rightly acknowledged as one of the most important bridge books on card play of all time. I think **The Rodwell Files** will receive the same accolades in years to come – I've already read it twice in the past few weeks as I try to absorb all the great tips and ideas it contains.



For years Eric Rodwell (a multiple world champion) kept a folio of loose, unedited notes on ideas he's come up with to improve his own declarer play and he has finally been convinced to share these in book form. Rodwell clearly explains how to plan a hand as declarer or defender, what to look out for, what tricks and traps to avoid and what key concepts every player should consider.

The concepts Rodwell discusses start off lightly and progressively become more complex and advanced (and for me, more enlightening). Plus he's gone to a lot of trouble to illustrate everything he discusses with hands, usually from his personal archive.

400 pages jam packed with some of the best advice you'll ever find in a bridge book.

RRP - \$34.95



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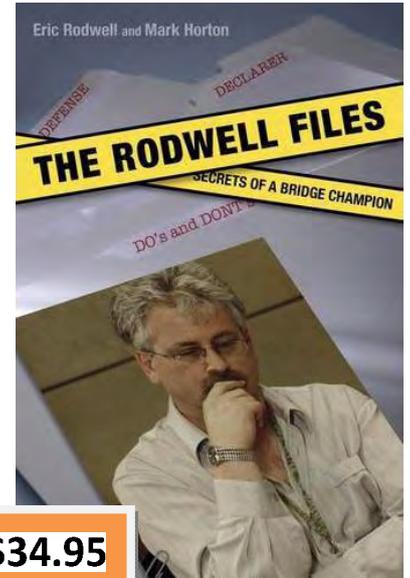
THE RODWELL FILES - secrets of a bridge champion

This is the most important technical bridge book published in many years. There are two aspects to this book, both unique. First, multiple world champion Eric Rodwell describes and explains a range of innovative ideas in cardplay and strategies that can be used as declarer or defender.

Secondly, Rodwell talks about the mental side of the game: areas that mark the key differences between an average player and a successful one.

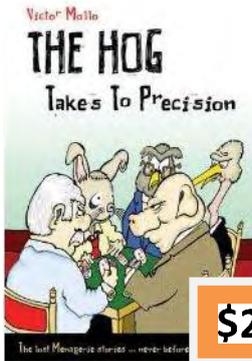
The first draft of this book has been in existence for more than fifteen years, but it is only now that Rodwell is prepared to share his 'secrets' and allow them to become public knowledge.

400 pages jam packed with some of the best advice you'll ever find in a bridge book.



\$34.95

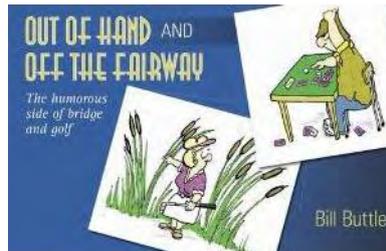
OTHER NEW TITLES



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The Hog Takes to Precision

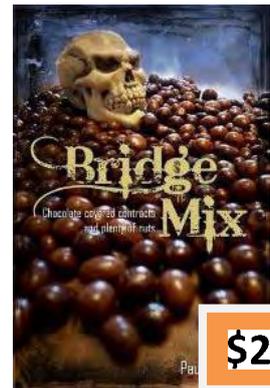
Never before published stories from the Griffins Club - a treat for all Mollo, Hog and Rueful Rabbit fans.



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Note advertised prices include GST but not p&h.

Coaching Cathy at Contract

LIGHTNER'S CURSE

Please Explain,

The other day my partner and I bid to a really good slam. These were the hands:

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

I was South and opened 1♠. Partner responded 2♦, and I made a jump rebid of 3♠. Partner asked for aces and we ended up in 6♠. I was a bit surprised when East doubled, but I just passed, and that's where we played. West led a diamond and East rather rudely trumped it and put ♣A on the table (with an annoying flourish). I was a bit mortified because, as you will agree, it was a brilliant slam. In the inevitable self-congratulatory discussion between my opponents afterward, someone mentioned the term "Lightner Double" (or was it 'Lightning'?). Can you please shed some light on this because it seemed a bit shonky to me, initially, but obviously there is some kind of conventional deal going on with this double.

Mystified as always,

Cathy

Dear Mystified,

Doubling a slam when not on lead makes up one group of informative or lead-directing doubles. This concept is attributed to American player, Theodore Lightner, hence the term for the call. He advocated that the player not on lead doubles only when it is necessary to alert partner to what is loosely described as an 'unusual' lead. At its least rigorous, this is a little too vague for most players, so it makes sense to get some kind of priority list in order.

1. Double calls for a lead of dummy's first bid suit.
2. Double confirms the ability to trump the right opening lead (often a long suit).
3. Double certainly prohibits the lead of a suit bid heavily by our side in a competitive auction; choose something else other than a trump.

Without stressing any priority order so if the player

on lead is faced with a choice, he or she must work out by logic, which of the above applies at the specific time. In the unfortunate hand you have cited as an example, the fact that diamonds was dummy's suit and West held six of them, the logic of the situation was that East advertised his diamond void with the double, so quite sensibly, his partner was alerted to the only lead that would defeat your slam. Whether he would have found that lead in the absence of the double, only he would know.

Of course, not all Lightner Doubles lead to happy endings. Some hazards of the gadget are listed below:

1. The double gets the required lead but sadly, there is no second trick.

2. The opponents are alerted to the danger and convert to 6NT, which makes 12 tricks, with the player on lead later mumbling something about knowing what to lead with or without the double. Your pain may be intensified if you look at how your sample hand would have played in 6NT.

3. Driving partner to a nervous breakdown when you double a slam simply because you know that it is going off, only to discover that your partner is on lead and has several minutes of agony trying to work out what unusual lead you actually want.

So that's the Lightner Double. Handle with care!

Best wishes,

David

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QUEEN'S SLIPPER

Nationwide Pairs

Nationwide Pairs 21 August 2011

There are 22 Sections from 20 out of 21 Clubs registered for this event

21 of these Sections have committed results

Place	Players	Club	Score	Percentage
1	Johnson, Patterson	Townsville Bridge Club	6796.235	73.552
2	Macleod, Milner	Bairnsdale Bridge Club Incorporated	6487.122	70.207
3	Ruderman, Rial	Cairns Bridge Club	6305.544	68.242
4	Moss, Drury	Phillip Island Bridge Club Inc	6264.317	67.796
5	Thomson, Snashall	Kings And Queens Victoria	6239.487	67.527
6	Hensen, Young	Kiama & District Bridge Club Inc	6132.482	66.369
7	Thompson, Thompson	Echuca Bridge Club	6107.689	66.101
8	Barrow, Singh	Commercial Club Bridge Club - Albury	5980.955	64.729
9	Sanderson, Coyle	Commercial Club Bridge Club - Albury	5952.395	64.420
10	Innes-Irons, Dixon	Kings And Queens Victoria	5897.652	63.827
11	Browne, Potter	Hawkesbury Bridge Club	5844.210	63.249
12	Ginsberg, Hurwitz	Kings And Queens Bridge	5829.495	63.090
13	Conlan, Henderson-Brooks	Cairns Bridge Club	5786.205	62.621
14	Harvey, Vorbach	Frankston Bridge Club	5777.384	62.526
15	Kaehler, Garvin	Kiama & District Bridge Club Inc	5735.840	62.076
16	Wilson, Sundermann	Sale Bridge Club	5730.337	62.017
17	Amoils, Barany	Kings And Queens Bridge	5696.720	61.653
18	Querfield, Larsen	Moonee Valley Bridge Club	5695.787	61.643
19	Del'Monte, Chimes	Kings And Queens Bridge	5684.463	61.520
20	Aghakhani, Berenger	Capital Bridge Club	5683.000	61.504
21	Kneebone, George	Ballarat Bridge Club	5675.057	61.418
22	Dale, Jamieson	Hawkesbury Bridge Club	5671.165	61.376
23	Phillips, Ward	Frankston Bridge Club	5666.692	61.328
24	Nailand, Zets	Kings And Queens Bridge	5647.689	61.122
25	Czapnik, Meydan	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	5645.664	61.100
26	Afflick, Prickett	Batemans Bay Bridge Club	5642.860	61.070
27	Jacobson, Jacobson	Kings And Queens Bridge	5641.383	61.054
28	Arul, Ellery	Waverley Bridge Club Inc	5625.729	60.885
29	Pawlowski, Pollock	Rye Beach Bridge Club	5619.187	60.814

Norman Mussen - 1909-1967

Continuation of article from July issue:

The second hand we feature was written up by Les Parker, Norman's partner of the time, and is a hard luck story. To hold AQJ10987 of trumps, with five honour tricks outside, would normally tempt one into slam – particularly when your partner holds seven honour cards - but Norman managed nine tricks only. The full deal was:

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

Because of the misfit Les and Norman settled in 5♠, but that was two too many. West led ♣2 to his partner's overall. A small club from the table was taken by East, who returned a club for a ruff. South was able to get in with ♥A, to lead ace and another trump. East won, and gave his partner a second club ruff for the fourth defensive trick. Had North held but one small spade and South a small red card, nothing could have defeated the grand slam. Les added that insult was added to injury by the remark of P.T. Hayter, in the West seat: "I thought I held the beating cards."

Competition was suspended for the duration of the war. Norman was a member of the winning Victorian ANC team in 1946 (with Hal Oddie, Victor Champion and Charles Hickman) but, he was, for a number of reasons, not a prominent tournament player after that time. His health was part of the issue – he contacted tuberculosis in his thirties – but the larger factor was the development of his career in engineering and architecture. We know nothing about Norman's early career, other than it was a long time incubating. In 1936, his occupation was still listed as 'student' in the electoral roll. This seems to have been something of a family tradition, as his sister Eileen, seven years older than he, was similarly still a student in 1936. (She married Ivan Croft and is recorded in later Victorian teams as Mrs I. F. Croft).

In 1937, he had made the transition to work. In that year he also married Ruth Russell, a fellow student, and

sometime tennis partner, whose ambitions of a degree were cut short by the Depression and her father's financial losses. They remained devoted to each other until his death in 1967. Ruth's father, George Russell, had started as a gun dealer and importer. During the First World War, he was reported to own the British rights to an American invention which would send jets of water against the enemy through which an electric current was run. Unfortunately, the army declined to use the device, on the grounds that in battlefield conditions, it would not always be possible to guarantee an electricity supply and sufficient water pressure.

During the 1920s, George Russell significantly expanded the business into one of Australia's major hardware retailers and wholesalers. A news report on a 1925 attempted burglary at the company's premises gives an interesting insight into the 'Wild West' aspects of Melbourne at the time. A caretaker, hearing sounds from the building, and seeing a man inside, took a 'shoot first and ask questions later approach', firing his pistol at the man through the window. He missed, and in turn was fired on by the man's accomplice, who he had not seen. In the ensuing gunfight, the caretaker was wounded in the arm, but the men escaped.

The family's Toorak mansion and Mt Macedon summer homes were important social centres for Melbourne, but the business was mortally wounded by the Depression. The business was finally wound up in 1936, after losing money for several years; the Toorak mansion was sold and part of the grounds subdivided, and George Russell's antiques collection, regarded as one of the finest in the country, was auctioned.

Once Norman entered the world of work, he seems to have established himself very quickly. We first hear of him as a consulting engineer, through a letter written to *The Argus* in July, 1940, beginning his passionate advocacy for innovation in building materials. He argued that the war necessitated a reform in building practices. In particular, too much steel that could be better used in munitions, was being wasted in building frames. Reinforced concrete was cheaper, and saved two thirds the weight of steel required for a steel frame.

He announced in that letter that he would not be practising his profession as a consulting engineer during the war. However, he was rejected by the army on account of his tuberculosis and we do not know what he did do during those years. In 1945, he was listed with his father as a director of a new company – Electro Motors Proprietary Limited – and his occupation was listed as consulting engineer.

After the Second World War, he formed an architectural and engineering practice with Keith McKay and Charles Potter, starting with an office in his house, before moving to Latrobe St. During this period they were responsible for both the Boiler House, Australian Paper Mills (1954) and Hosies Hotel (1955), both much-admired by architects today (who see them as fine examples of modernist buildings).

He lectured in structures at Melbourne University, studying architecture, from which he never graduated, as he was unable to sit for his own subject. For some reason, he was not awarded a credit. He also designed the spire of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Russell St Police Headquarters, and various other projects during these years.

Awarded the job of designing and building the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra, Norman and Ruth moved to Canberra in 1953. He was hired to replace Melbourne's Head of Architecture, Brian Lewis (who set a precedent by being sacked) and found a huge H-shaped hole in the ground as a basis for the design. Bridge was out of his life and dealing with academics proved a more tactical, challenging, competitive and complex task. The biography of Howard Florey, the driving force behind the school, recorded that Norman's appearance on the scene made a major difference, but at some stage he also was sacked, but continued to work on the enormous project which was then nominally headed by his erstwhile employee, John Scollay.

He was engineer for the Melbourne Art Gallery and Cultural Centre, working with Roy Grounds and with his former student, Roy's stepson Hamish Ramsay. His daughter recalls that "they were exciting times in Victorian architecture, with Roy Grounds, Frederick Romberg and Robin Boyd among the innovative thinkers of the era. Everyone knew everyone and his professional life was very exciting."

During this time he continued to be a fine writer and proselytiser for change in his architecture and engineering. He appears again in an article in *The Age* in May 1951, pressing the obvious but so often ignored importance of siting of a house in the design phase. He argued that "correct siting of the house is the first essential...It does not cost a penny more to site the house on the block so that any view is caught by the right rooms; any sun is caught at the right times; so that the summer breezes are welcomed and the winter winds screened; and so on. Every house should be judged on these grounds. But where do most people site their house? 25 feet back from the street, main rooms to the front, regardless."

His primary concern was that he felt that the profession of architecture had taken a wrong turn. In 1952, in a series of lectures at Melbourne University, he began with the statement that "ours is not a great age of architecture, and I think we all wonder why this should be". To Norman, the answer lay mainly in the way architecture had separated from engineering. He pointed out that "until the beginning of the 19th century, the architect did all of the job himself, and was generally the builder as well. He decided the thickness of walls, the size of beams and posts, the construction of arches and domes – he understood all the trades and crafts – he was appreciative of beauty. Wren was an example of this sort of architect."

During the previous century, though, the architecture profession had become a closed shop, and separated itself from the engineers, and now Norman's concern was that all emphasis was on the external look rather than the entire building as a work of art. "For man has senses other than his eyes. The scent of flowers wafting in through a window, a feeling of snugness around a fire, are quite as relevant to architectural vision as combinations of colours or textures. And it goes deeper than this, for there is something even less tangible ... a consequence of men who knew how to build something they loved for something they believed in. I feel that these things have been forgotten in an urge to the photogenic."

He never did manage to tackle the closed shop of architecture or call himself an architect. Nevertheless, tributes from former students make it clear he was an inspiring teacher, who opened new frontiers for a new generation of architects. He had the great teacher's ability to make everyone feel interesting and worthwhile, and students (now in their 70s) from his days as a lecturer were still delighted to meet the family and reminisce about him. Kevin Borland in his book "Architecture From The Heart" paid particular tribute to Norman's contribution to his success, including the Olympic Swimming Pool in Melbourne. He wrote that Norman "had a completely different approach to teaching theory of structures, having us analyse the stresses in buildings rather than just using set formulae to design columns, beams and slabs. He also introduced us to the new construction of pre-tensioned and post-tensioned concrete. The lessons were crucial to their winning the competition for the 1956 Olympic Swimming Centre. Because of the continuing post war shortage of materials (which created criticism that building for the Olympics was taking away much needed materials from housing) the competition rules stressed the importance of finding ways to reduce the amount of materials in the building.

Seniors or Womens Last Train

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Player	ABF Number	

First Week Teams Events

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Novice <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-life Masters <input type="checkbox"/>	Novice <input type="checkbox"/>	
0-50	0-99	0-150	

Player	ABF Number	Women, Seniors Life-masters \$560 per team Non-Life Masters & Novice \$500 per team
Player	ABF Number	

Open Last Train Entry

Player	ABF Number	\$200 per pair
Player	ABF Number	

National Swiss Pairs

Open Restricted

Player	ABF Number	\$200 per pair
Player	ABF Number	

Please Post entries to:

The Summer Festival of Bridge
PO Box 4173, WESTON ACT 2611

South-West Pacific Teams Championship

Player	ABF Number	\$800 per team
Player	ABF Number	

Blue Ribbon Pairs Qualifying

Player	ABF Number	\$50 per pair
Player	ABF Number	

Flighted Swiss Match-point Pairs

Player	ABF Number	\$150 per pair
Player	ABF Number	

Mixed Teams Championship

Player	ABF Number	\$320 per team
Player	ABF Number	

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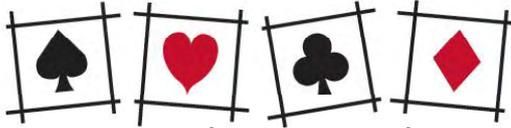
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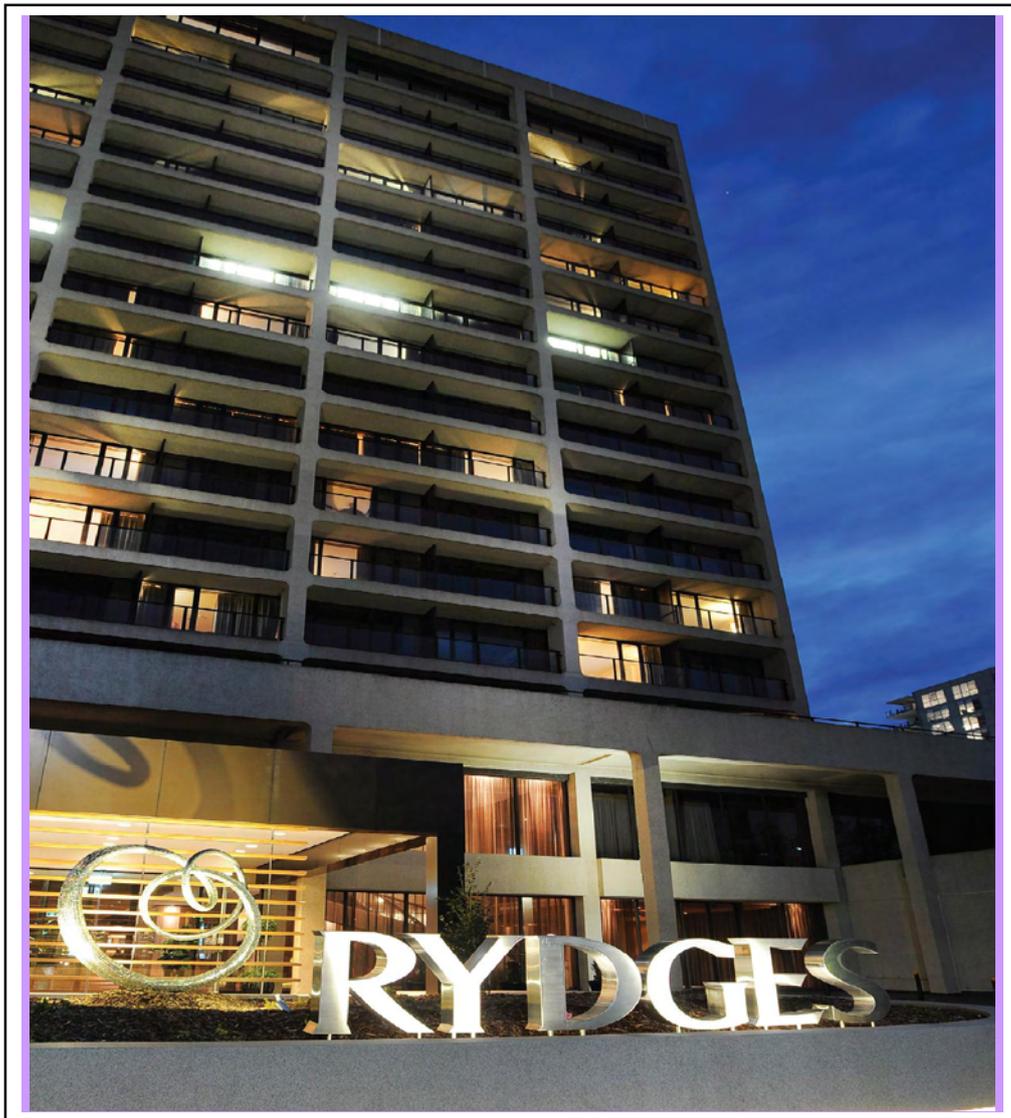
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