

ABF Leadership – Setting the Direction for 2016 onward

In the July Newsletter I provided an outline of some of the major topical issues considered at the ABF's Annual General Meeting held in May. In addition, I provided an update on how we are progressing with the key strategic planning activities that Council identified for 2016.

I am pleased to announce that we have recently formed a committee with Kim Frazer as Chair, to investigate ways to improve performance of our international teams. I also congratulate the Australian Girls team - Renee Cooper, Ella Pattison, Jessica Brake, Kirsty Fuller and Cesca McGrath, Ian Thomson NPC. They achieved our best ever result at a World Youth Teams Championships, reaching the grand final and winning the silver medal.

I am also delighted to announce that David Wawn has agreed to take on the role of Government Relations Officer. David has a very suitable background for this role. His initial focus will include: making Government more aware of the health benefits of bridge, particularly to aging players; exploring routes to introduce youth organisations to bridge; and access to grants and funding.

The focus of the remainder of this article is on what is happening with our **marketing and club support program**.

Our National Marketing Officer, Sandra Mulcahy, has been provided with additional resources for 2016 and she has subsequently placed emphasis on:

- conducting 3 hour **marketing seminars** for club administrators (*ACT, WA, NSW and QLD to date*).
- organising a **National promotional campaign** with nurses, mid-wives and allied health professionals (*a full page advertisement will appear in the September issue of Health Times Magazine*); and
- providing interested club administrators with a **monthly Marketing Update** providing hints, tips and ideas for 'growing and retaining members'.

The marketing seminars are designed to provide practical ideas and information on how to 'grow' membership and how to design and implement a strategic education program for members and prospective members of a club. The seminars are a fantastic way to gain a broad understanding of the key facets of managing a bridge club's membership program.



An additional benefit from the seminars has been the opportunity for club administrators to network and discuss issues of mutual interest and concern.

If you are interested in a marketing seminar for your Region or club, please contact Sandra at marketing@abf.com.au.

In the next issue

A more in-depth look at our Teaching program.

Bruce Neill
ABF President

Farewell Felicity

Felicity Beale passed away peacefully on August 19, 2016 after a short battle with cancer. Her many achievements include representing Australia in the World Bridge Teams (formerly Olympiad Women's Teams) in 1980, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008,



Australian Venice Cup in 1981, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2005 and 2009
APBF Women's Teams (formerly Far East) in 1973 (1st), 1978, 1971, 1982, 1984 (1st), 1986, 1987, 1990 (1st), 1994, 1995 (1st), 1997, 1998 and 2007.

Her national achievements include winning the: National Women's Teams in 1981, 1982, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1997, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2012 and 2016

Linda Stern Women's Teams in 1989, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2011

Australian Women's Butler in 1998

Interstate Women's Teams in 1976, 1977, 1981, 1984, 1985 and 2006

Sara Tishler Women's Swiss Pairs in 2011

Gold Coast Open Teams in 1998

To her family, friends and bridge partners we offer our sincerest condolences.

From the Editor's Desk

Hi bridge players throughout Australia,

Putting the short bio together on the passing of Felicity Beale has prompted me to make this my last issue as Newsletter Editor. When I think about my long past as a bridge writer for two great Australian publications, Australian Bridge and The ABF Newsletter, I recall the days when Felicity would call me out of the blue: "Stephen, this hand on page 16, that was not my intention as declarer," and we would have a long and insightful talk about said hand, with me often recanting in the next issue! Those were great days.

With health problems affecting my day to day life, it is no longer practical to commit to the time-consuming job.

Good luck to the new Editor. I wish you well in your task of trying to encourage the players to contribute to the Newsletter, which has been difficult.

Stephen Lester

Hi Stephen,

We owe Stephen a huge "thank you" for the great job he has done in charge of the ABF Newsletter. Stephen has had a long and distinguished career as a bridge journalist. He has edited the Newsletter for nine years now, and before that he edited *Australian Bridge* magazine for 11 years.

And of course I have to mention his successes as a player, including wins in such prestigious events as the National Open Teams and the Victor Champion Cup, among others!

The ABF and I personally thank Stephen for his wonderful service as Editor, and wish him and his partner all the best for the future.

Bruce Neill
ABF President

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on a great newsletter, I always look forward to having a good meaty read.

Re the grand slam hand from the Bathurst Bridge Club in July's Newsletter, you noted North's 2♥ bid shows five hearts to a top honour and three controls; are we putting too many expectations when bidding this way over a game force opening. Shouldn't the bidding simply go: 2♣: 2♥ (5 card suit, no promise of anything else yet): 4NT (RKCC): 5♥ (2 controls – obviously ♥K and ♦A): 7NT.

I hold the belief that game force openings at the two-level crowds the bidding room, consequently the response must be concise, i.e. get your five card major in early in case you can't find a fit anywhere else, hard to find fits at the three level sometimes. If I had to promise the above I would often not be able to bid the suit except at the three level, and would it be four or five cards? I've been playing this way for several years and have had very few problems reaching games and slams. I would be interested in learning any new conventions for this situation.

Cheers, Kath Kean

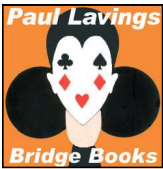
Nowra/Berry Bridge Clubs

Hi Kath,

Thanks for your letter, I appreciate your comments.

Regarding the hand from the Bathurst Congress, of course a 'bash-em style' approach will certainly work on the given hand, but having no constraints about the strength of the hand can often lead to disappointment when partner has no Key Cards. I admire your sentiments, however, and would be scared to play against you when you got a really good hand and the wind was in your sails!

Stephen Lester



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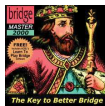
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North Shore Magic

by David McMahon

A couple of interesting hands occurred in club games this week. I don't often see two slam hands, both makeable on a double squeeze, within a couple of days of each other.

The first occurred at *Trumps Bridge Club* in the Monday night duplicate session 6♠ and 6NT are possible with careful play.

Board 26, East deals, all vulnerable

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

The squeeze is a progressive double squeeze, and requires playing a club to ♣10 (or ♣Q). Suppose East wins with ♣J and returns a spade. After trumps are drawn with the marked finesse, the heart finesse taken and ♥A cashed, cashing ♦A and ♣A along the way, the situation is as follows with South on lead:

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

South leads ♠Q. West must discard ♦9 to protect hearts, and dummy discards ♥5, East discards C5.

Now South leads ♥2 to ♥J, West follows with ♥9, and East is forced to discard ♦4 to protect clubs.

South takes the last two tricks, leading ♦10 to ♦K and then ♦6.

The second hand occurred three days later, during a Thursday afternoon session at the North Shore Bridge Club On the hand on the next column, 7NT is cold with careful play.

After any lead, 12 tricks are easy if you cash ♠A, K and take the club finesse twice.

Board 11, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

However, you can always make 13 tricks on a simultaneous double squeeze: West is squeezed in spades and diamonds and East in the red suits. A typical ending is as follows, after declarer (North) has taken the first nine tricks (three spades, three hearts and three clubs after finessing West twice in clubs):

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

Declarer leads ♣10 from North, and East has to discard a diamond to protect hearts. South discards ♥7 and West is squeezed into discarding a diamond to protect spades.

Declarer now plays ♦2 from dummy to ♦K, then ♦10 to ♦A and takes the 13th trick with ♦3.

Unfortunately, as so often happens at the table, neither of these slams was bid by yours truly and his partners.

Regards, David

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

For Issue 182, November 2016, copy deadline is:

October 26, 2016

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 184,
March 2017. Email: editor@abf.com.au

Winter in Melbourne

by Barbara Travis

A mass invasion of Melbourne in mid-winter. It can't be for the weather, so it has to be for either football or bridge. In this case, it was for bridge – the Victor Champion Congress. The main teams event, the Victor Champion Cup, is run as a 10-round Swiss of 14 board matches, from Saturday to Monday, with no final – so after the 10th round, the leaders are the winners.

This year there were two dominant teams: *CORNELL* and *MILNE* who had created a reasonable break by the sixth match and, with one round remaining *MILNE* was on 151.15 and *CORNELL* 145.68 with third-placed *TRAVIS* more than a match behind first on 127.84.

In the final match, *CORNELL* faced *TRAVIS* and *MILNE* met fourth-placed *WILKINSON*. *MILNE* had several disastrous results in their match, scoring 1.59 VPs. At the same time, *TRAVIS* was having a good win against *CORNELL*, so positions remained unchanged until the last board ... where *CORNELL* gained 12 IMPs to claim the title.

1. *CORNELL*, Michael Cornell – Ashley Bach, Phil Markey – Justin Williams, 153.52 VPs
2. *MILNE*, Liam Milne – Nye Griffiths, Sartaj Hans – Avi Kanetkar, 152.74 VPs
3. *TRAVIS*, Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Howard Melbourne – Joe Haffer, 140.00 VPs
4. *WILKINSON*, Michael Wilkinson – Griff Ware, Mike Doecke – Will Jenner-O'Shea, 139.49 VPs

This hand from the first match is one where I was happy with my judgement. You hold ♠ KJ4, ♥ J542, ♦ K6, ♣ 7654

GINSBERG	TRAVIS
1♦	1♥
4♣ (1)	4♦ (2)
4♠ (3)	4NT (4)
6♣	6♥

1. Splinter bid, showing game values (19+ TP), four-card heart support and a singleton or void in clubs
2. A control cue-bid, showing first or second round control in diamonds. The hand itself has improved significantly now that there is at most one club loser. Partner's values must be outside the club suit.
3. A control cue-bid, showing ♠A (given I have ♠K). Not only that, it seems likely that partner has a club void, since she did not use Roman Key Card Blackwood herself!
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood: We use bids at the

six-level to show an 'even' number of Key Cards plus a void – so I knew Candice held ♠A, ♥A and ♥K, ♦A and a club void. I was confident that she would have bid 7♥ with ♥Q as well!

Partner's hand was ♠A109, ♥AK73, ♦AJ10843, ♣---
When hearts broke 3-2 and diamonds behaved, I had 12 tricks.

Melbourne and Haffer play a very 'active' bidding system, with a mini 1NT (9-12 HCP) opening bid if not vulnerable, so on this hand, East (Haffer) as dealer had opened 1NT, and South had simply overcalled 2♦ (an under-bid). North didn't have anything to say, so they played in 2♦, making nine tricks!

I thought I'd check how the other two top teams fared on this hand ... *MILNE* bid to 6♥ making, whereas their opponents only bid to game for +11 IMPs.

CORNELL had a more unusual outcome on this hand. Cornell - Bach reached the slam for +980, only to lose 15 IMPs! Markey and Williams play a 1NT opening bid showing 9-14 HCP. Unlike Melbourne - Haffer's opponents, their South knew to double with such a good hand. Markey-Williams played in 1NT redoubled, and unfortunately they lost the first 11 tricks for -2200. I imagine that their score-up was entertaining, given that Cornell - Bach would have hoped to gain IMPs, rather than lose 15! So, if ever you have a disastrous board, don't despair – not only did their team win the match, but they won the whole tournament. [Note: Justin Williams gave me the 'ok' to mention this hand.]

In Match 2 our opponents, Stephen Fischer - David Morgan, bid very efficiently and effectively to 7♠ with:

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

After East opened 1♠, West jumped to 2NT to show a 4+ card game forcing raise. East then showed a 5-2-4-2 shape with 3 Key cards (♠A, ♠K and ♦A) and ♥K, and West could bid 7♠.

Thankfully, Melbourne - Haffer had an equally effective auction, although their bidding allowed West to show the singleton diamond, ♠Q, ♥A, ♣A and ♣K. Again it was easy to bid to 7♠.

A few people carelessly went down in either 6♠ or 7♠ by trumping the second diamond with ♠2, and North could over-trump and then give South a club ruff. With all those high trumps, it should be easy to trump two diamonds with ♠9 and ♠J and draw trumps. The last diamond can be discarded on the third top club.

There were several hands where pre-empted left the opposition with difficult bidding decisions. Look at this beauty! You hold: ♠6, ♥AQ64, ♦AQ52, ♣AKQ8

All vulnerable, partner passes and RHO opens 4♠. My double showed a good hand, with partner being allowed to bid or pass. Usually to bid at the five-level requires a 6+ card suit (or a 5-5 hand shape), so partner passed with her 1-4-3-5 and a King. Unfortunately the opponents' hands were:

♠ AKQ98752	♠ J104
♥ ---	♥ K10752
♦ 104	♦ J987
♣ 532	♣ 4

There was no way to stop 10 tricks (eight spades and two club ruffs), for -790.

5♣ our way can fail on ♠J lead and a heart shift (ruffed), but many made the contract. We lost 15 IMPs on this board, along with many other teams.

To be continued in next issue

The Mental Game

by Kim Frazer

Match Fitness

In sport, coaches often talk about being 'match fit'. Practice form doesn't always transfer to the playing field, where nerves and the pressure of competition play a part.



As an athlete, it doesn't matter how much time you spend on practise, and practice matches, the first 'real' competition of the season is always hard. It is easy to have a nervous flutter at the beginning of the match, or to lose form or focus towards end of the match. In the physical sports, athletes often tire towards the end of the first match of the season, whilst in the mental sports like bridge and chess, it is concentration and focus that suffer. Athletes in all sports and competitions experience this phenomenon of match fitness that shows particularly towards the end of a match, no matter whether it is football, tennis, chess or bridge.

The reasons for this are unclear - maybe it is the added



Margaret Smith

MEMORIAL TEAMS 2016

"A grand master with a reputation of being a "grand" partner. Margaret was happy to play with players of any level to put back into bridge the pleasure and social interaction she enjoyed throughout thirty years of playing."

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Entries required by **Thursday 10 November 2016** (max. 40 tables)
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tension of 'competition', the higher focus, or other factors - however there is no doubt that true competition is infinitely harder than practice matches.

It is important to be able to remain focussed, and concentrate right through until the last card is played. Just imagine how disappointed you will feel if you play really well for the first 10 boards of a 14 board match, only to find you lose 20 IMPs in the last four boards of the set due to loss of concentration. This is where your match fitness shows.

Athletes address the phenomena of 'match fitness' by participating in overload training, and by playing in some lesser competitions before the main competition of the year.

What this meant for me in shooting was that if my match was 60 shots long, I used to regularly practise shooting matches twice as long. With everything else going on in competition, the last thing you need is fatigue contributing to a sub-optimal performance. I once heard a champion athlete say 'your competition day should be the easiest match of the year'.

How does this apply to bridge matches which are multi-match and multi-day events? If we consider that any of our national events are usually multiples of 14, 16 or 20 board matches per day, then our practise and preparation for these events needs to prepare us to be able to play at our best right up until the last card of the day. In the same way that I regularly shot more rounds

6

than the length of my match, in preparing for these types of event, playing multiple 30+ board matches in practise sessions will help ensure you are prepared for the rigours of competition.

Overload training on its own is insufficient, and I have also discussed in previous articles the concept of taking a mental break when a bad board occurs, or when one of the partnership has a failure at the table that may cause them to lose concentration.

The same tactics may also be used to provide a mental break in the latter part of the match. A toilet break at board 10 of a 14 or 16 board match might not be physically necessary for a player, but it can provide the time for a little mental rest allowing you to avoid lapses in the vital last few boards.

Finally, knowing your preparation has made you match fit going into a competition can give you a confidence boost, and the benefit of this in a close match can be the difference between success and defeat.

Invited 2016 Yeh Cup Mixed Teams

by Richard Wallis

Mr Yeh is a leading Taiwanese industrialist who over the years has privately sponsored many top class international invitation bridge events, including the Yeh Cup, which was held for the first time outside of Asia, at the Gold Coast in 2009, convened on behalf of Mr Yeh by Therese Tully and David Stern. On a more domestic level he has also sponsored a Mixed Teams event in his home town, Kaohsiung, for many years, and this year he decided to strengthen this Mixed Teams event by giving personal invitations to a small number of overseas teams, from Australia, China and Indonesia.

At Mr Yeh's specific request, the three Australian teams were invited without publicity. If Mr Yeh continues to invite overseas players in future years, hopefully even more Australians will get the chance to go, but the current venue has very limited space.

The three teams from Australia were:

Aussie Allstars - Bruce Neill, Margaret Bourke, Warren Lazer and Pauline Gumby

Sydney – Peter Buchen, Kathy Buchen, Matthew Thomson and Cathryn Herden

Gold Coast – Simon Hinge, Elizabeth Havas, Richard Wallis and Therese Tully

The event was conducted using screens and bidding boxes throughout as a 10-round delayed Swiss, with the top 8 (of 22) progressing to the Quarter-finals. Preliminary matches were of 10 boards, conducted over Friday and Saturday, and the Q/Fs were 2/8

board matches, the S/Fs 2/10 board matches, and the Final 2/12 board matches, all played on Sunday, with a Butler Pairs on Sunday for those pairs not playing in the S/Fs.

The Aussie Allstars won the qualifying round, with the Gold Coast sneaking into 8th place, but both teams lost the quarterfinal and were relegated to the Butler Pairs.

On a brighter note, Simon Hinge - Elizabeth Havas came second in the Butler, and Matthew Thomson - Cathryn Herden finished in third place. It was great fun, albeit with some language difficulties due to our lack of understanding of Chinese (some system cards were completely in Chinese), and it is a pity lack of space makes it difficult at present for Mr Yeh to open it up to more teams.

Round 2, Board 15, South deals, NS vul

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	
All Pass			

On board 15 in the second match EW had a 2/1 auction to 3NT. After ruling out all other suits I led ♠4.

This hand is easier if East is declarer, to protect against a spade lead, and declarer tried ♠Q at trick 1 which Therese won and led back ♠J, which also held, and she now cleared the spades.

Declarer did not have a clear blueprint of the hand, and eventually lost three spades, a heart, a diamond and a club for two off and +100 to us.

If declarer plays low on the spade lead Therese cannot lead another, and maybe declarer will scrape home, but is still likely to go one off.

At the other table Liz stopped in 2♥ on the misfit, and could not see the magic club position which could yield nine tricks double-dummy, and finished one down, for +2 IMPs.

In another match, Bruce Neill, sitting North, led a spade and watched as after winning ♠Q, East won ♣A and then led ♣3, setting up dummy, emerging with 11 tricks for a big loss to Bruce's team.

Holding two entries to dummy, ducking a club will offer many chance.

Match 4, Board 6, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3s
4♦	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♠	Dbl	All Pass

On Board 6 in the fourth match there was a lively bidding sequence at the end of which Therese was in 5♠ doubled, as I had guessed that 5♦ was a likely make and 5♠ doubled would be cheap and thus took out insurance.

West led ♦A and Therese ruffed the next round and led a heart towards dummy, West playing low hoping for Therese to play ♥J, but she unerringly played ♥K and led a trump. When the club finesse worked, that was 11 tricks and +650.

At the other table Simon played in 5♦ as West, and here North doubled, but he was end-played at trick 1!

On any lead Simon could draw trumps, carefully preserving a trump entry to dummy, and take advantage of the favourable lie of the hearts to discard a club on the 4th heart for +750, and 17 IMPs.

Match 6, Board 4, West deals, All vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♣!	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On board 4 in the sixth match I had a good hand but was short in Therese's suit and conservatively bid only 3♣ over her 2♥ response, which was not forcing after her simple 2♥ response in competition.

Luckily she had two aces and decided to have another go with 3♦, and my 3NT closed out the auction. However, when East led ♦9 and dummy tracked, it was obvious that 6♣ had many chances, probably cold on the club finesse.

Having missed a possible slam, I made sure of 11 tricks by playing low in dummy, and won the spade at trick two to lead ♣A and another for +660.

At the other table NS did get to 6♣, but this was defeated and +100 gained us 13 IMPs. Since ♣K and ♥KQ are all well placed 6NT is cold, but do you want to be there?

After the match it was agreed that my best rebid is 2♠!

Match 6, Board 5, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Board 5 in the sixth match was a simple partscore with less than half the high cards between us and no good fit, which did not bode well for success, but you have got to get lucky some time!

East led ♣5, and wanting to preserve a later entry, I played low from dummy and paused for thought as to how I could garner seven tricks.

Spades looked to be my best prospect, so I led ♠J and

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19 – 21 October (Wed – Fri)

Spring Nationals Open Teams Qualifying

19 – 20 October (Wed & Thu)

Two Men & a Truck Restricted Teams

All players fewer than 300 Masterpoints at 30/6/2016

24 – 26 October (Mon – Wed)

Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams Qualifying

All players born before 1/1/1959

24 – 26 October (Mon – Wed)

Linda Stern Women's Teams Qualifying

Pairs Events

22 – 23 October (Sat & Sun)

Dick Cummings Open Pairs

22 – 23 October (Sat & Sun)

Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs

Both players fewer than 300 Masterpoints at 30/6/2016

22 – 23 October (Sat & Sun)

Spring Nationals Novice Pairs

Both players fewer than 100 Masterpoints at 30/6/2016

27 October (Thu)

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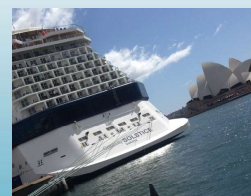
Date	Ports of Call	Arrival	Depart
Wed 04Jan 17	Sydney, Australia	6:30 PM	Board
Thu 05Jan 17	At Sea		
Fri 06Jan 17	At Sea		
Sat 07Jan 17	Noumea, New Caledonia	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
Sun 08Jan 17	Lifou, Loyalty Islands	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
Mon 09Jan 17	Isle Of Pines, New Caledonia	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
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it held! Another spade and I had the pips to set up the suit for three tricks, and the club finesse to cash them. Along the way EW also gave me a trick in each red suit, so I emerged with eight tricks for +120.

At the other table NS also stole the contract, but this time in 2♠, which went 1 off for another +100 and 6 IMPs.

Match 7, Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	All Pass		

Here I made a simple overcall after West opened 1♣, and Therese bid 2♣ to show at least a limit raise in spades.

East led ♥A and switched to ♦9, on which I played ♦10

and West ♦J. I ruffed ♥Q on the table and played ♠7 for a trump finesse. West obliged with ♠A, but now he was endplayed, or so he thought!

West exited with ♣2, and I won on the table and ran ♠J, losing to East. I was glad I had not run ♠J at trick two, as I would then have had two more trump losers.

If East had returned a diamond I had no recourse due to the short club, but East knew I was out of hearts so played another heart, and I ruffed, drew the remaining trumps and ran the clubs for 10 tricks and +420.

At the other table 4♥ by Liz also made 10 tricks as East for +620 and 14 IMPs.

Match 10, Board 9, North deals, EW vulnerable

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

This was nearly the end of our participation in the Yeh Cup Mixed Teams, but luckily the following disaster, which resulted in a loss, was not bad enough to drop us out of the top eight.

My jump to 3C was highly invitational, but not forcing, and when Therese set clubs with her 4♣ response, I was interested in slam.

Cuebids were followed by RKCB, and when Therese showed both major suit Aces but denied ♣Q, I thought her support for clubs (xx at least) and my extra club would be as good as ♣Q, so asked about kings, and her 5NT response suggested ♠K.

I have heard of a few instances of a grand slam being bid and made when only game had been bid at the other table, and this was another one, well almost!

At the other table they had a bidding mix-up and

Bridge and Cruising - Find your "FIT"

by Cath Whiddon

If you are reading this newsletter, you almost certainly are a bridge player and know all about how important it is to find a fit – but, you may not know anything about cruising, yet bridge and cruising go together like ... a horse and carriage; love and marriage – sounds a little bit “old world”? Well, yes – that’s part of the attraction. Many Australians who are new to cruising decide to try a sampler first.

This may be a three-day cruise to a mystery island or a 7-10 day cruise around New Zealand. These “entry point” cruises allow you to gauge what’s important to you and how much you need to pay to get what you want. So, check out cabin preferences (internal, porthole, balcony, suite; forward, stern or midships (most stable)); graze 24/7 at the cafes, bars and restaurants (cuisine surcharges); study the night life and deck life; profile your fellow travellers; and assess budget constraints re tours, drinks and other extras or all-inclusive options.

Then you should be ready to decide whether you prefer a more formal and traditional style of ship or a casual, party afloat. Also: whether you like smaller, quieter boats; the latest gargantuan of the seas with all the bells

and whistles (ice skating rink; rock-climbing wall); or, something in between.

Depending on the size and style of ship, free day-time activities on sea days may include morning exercise, experts’ lectures, trivia quizzes, sewing circles, art auctions, spa demonstrations, cocktail shaking, pool games, table tennis, bands as well as dancing, film premiers, music recitals, etc. Free night-time activities include more trivia quizzes, musical show or guest entertainer, bands, disco and dancing. There are usually also shops, gym, casino, pool and spa, library and games rooms.

If bridge is important to your holiday needs, make sure you check with your booking agent that the ship you intend sailing with has a dedicated bridge teacher and director on that cruise.

Many cruise lines only offer a bridge teacher/director on cruises over 14 days. Some of these cruise lines do not have a bridge/card room, or it is too small and the classes are held in the (noisy) pizza bar or (gloomy) disco with oval-shaped tables and no table cloths.

A good travel agent should be able to tell you which cruise lines always have a bridge teacher/director on board and the ships that have a dedicated bridge room for duplicate players.

The ABF newsletter is an excellent resource in which to find a wide array of bridge cruise holidays on offer from professional Australian bridge players and teachers. These specialty (bridge) cruises usually offer lessons and games on sea days for their select group only (i.e. other cruise passengers cannot join). Tours for days in port may also be organised for the group, or port days may be left free for you to arrange tours with the ship or choose your own thing. The big advantage is you know who is going to be your teacher/director and the system they teach.

Common to all cruise experiences are:

- easy embarkation (drop your bags, sign in, lunch in buffet restaurant enjoying views of harbour, orientation walk around decks and through bars, holiday read selected from library, dinner reservations confirmed);
- modern, spacious cabin with (at a minimum) lounge, desk, en suite;
- unpack everything just the once and slip bags under the king bed for the rest of the holiday;
- a safety drill – very reassuring – before sailing out of the port and into the wide blue seas.

Some first time cruisers are anxious about the seas ahead, but modern cruising ships are very stable and sea sickness medication is available if you need it.

What is not common to all cruise experiences is the bridge game. So, when considering your next holiday, why not add cruising into the deal to see if it's a fit for you? And, if you want the perfect fit, look again at the specialty bridge cruises advertised in this newsletter.



Bridge on board Cunard's Queen Victoria

Splinter Responses to 1NT Opening

by Arie Meydan

Most players who use a natural system have the agreement that after a 1NT opening, responder's jump to the three level shows an excellent six-card suit and slam ambitions. This has two shortcomings. Firstly, if a slam or a game is reached in their suit it may be wrong sided, the 1NT opener's tenaces being vulnerable to the opening lead. Secondly, the frequency of actually having such a hand is quite low, perhaps once a year for regular players.

This style originated before transfers and RKCB became the norm. Transfers lead to right-siding the contract and RKCB ensures that the chosen suit is sufficiently robust for a slam contract. Consequently, there is now no need to use the jump to the three-level as a slam try with a single suited hand.

There is a better way to utilise responder's jump in a major by using a splinter bid called the 5431 convention. It has been part of the Polish Club system for a couple of decades, but it can be easily transplanted to any natural system. In this convention, a jump to 3♥ or 3S is a game force, showing a singleton in the major, three cards in the other major and 5/4 in the minors.

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A good example of the merit of the 5431 convention is a hand recently played in the Berwick Swiss Pairs Congress in Victoria.

West deals, nil vulnerable

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

At most tables East opened 1NT (15-17), was raised to game, and lost first the first five tricks after a heart lead. Using the 5431 Convention the bidding is simple: 1NT - 3♥ - 4♦ - 5♦.

The tables where EW finished in a diamond contract (usually a partscore) were where South got busy and

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overcalled 2♥ (Cappelletti?), or EW played a strong club system.

Thus: 3♣=♦ shortage,

3♦=♥ shortage,

The 5431 convention was aptly named after its shape. There are several advantages to the convention:

- a. It greatly reduces the chances of playing in a hopeless 3NT.
- b. It makes it easier to find a minor suit slam.
- c. It right-sides the game and slam contracts.
- d. Occasionally, it allows diagnosing a makeable 4M contract on a 4:3 fit when both 3NT and a minor game have very little chance.



3♥=♠ shortage and

3♠=♣ shortage.

As the responder may have shapes other than 5431 his convention should not be named a 5431 convention, perhaps "Klinger Splinters". The other shapes could be 4441 or 5540 or even contain a six-card minor, the responder being prepared to play in the minor if partner has no stopper in the splinter suit.

Klinger's convention is quite sophisticated and may be over

The idea of splinter bids opposite a 1NT opening was also explored by Ron Klinger, in his book published in 2000: *"Bid better, MUCH BETTER"*.

He expanded the idea, by showing shortage in all four suits by jumping to the suit below.

the top for ordinary tournament and club players. It is not recommended for casual partnerships. However, the 5431 convention is quite simple and could be easily adopted by a regular partnerships, particularly those who have a meta agreement that all single jumps are splinters.

Results in major events

2016 Swan River Open Swiss Pairs

Matt Smith - Johnno Newman
Rose Moore - Jonathan Free
Val Bilotto - Nick Cantatore
Jo Sklarz - Pauline Hammond

Coffs Coast Super Congress

Open Swiss Pairs

Peter Gill - Sue Ingham

Top Pair each under 1000 MPs

Kellie Potts - Nigel Mcivor

Intermediate/Restricted Swiss Pairs

John Sherlock - David Featherstone

Top Pair each under 300 MPs

Sarah Carradine - Michael Young

Open Teams

Kitty Muntz - Leigh Gold -
Vanessa Brown - Will Jenner-O'Shea

Top Team all under 1000 MPs

Kellie Potts - Nigel Mcivor - Alan Gibson - Alison
Dawson

Intermediate/Restricted Teams

Max Gilbert - Kathy Gilbert -
Siamak Parsanejad - Hamid Sadigh

Top Team all under 300 MPs

Kerry Rymer - Kit Meyers -
Noelene Hiron - Felicity Purdy

Australian National Championships

Open Teams

New South Wales, Nick Hughes - Nicoleta Giura,
Michael Wilkinson - Matthew Vadas, Peter Buchen -
Terry Brown
defeated

Western Australia, Jane Reynolds - Viv Wood, Chris
Mulley - Tim Munro, Deana Wilson - Warren Fiske

Seniors' Teams

South Australia, Judy Hocking - Kevin Lange -
Roger Januszke - John Zollo - David Anderson -
George Smolanko
defeated

ACT, Jon Hunt - Christophe Quail - Elizabeth Havas
- Arjuna de Livera - Peter Grant - Tony Marinos

Women's Teams

Queensland, Therese Tully - Pele Rankin - Greer
Tucker - Maha Hoenig - Margaret Millar - Sue
O'Brien
defeated

ACT, Margaret Bourke - Jodi Tutty - Julia Hoffman -

Judith Tobin - Elaine Leach - Leone Moffat

Youth Teams

New South Wales, Matt Smith - Ailsa Peacock
- Alex Phillips - Lakshmi Sunderasan - Charles
McMahon - John McMahon
defeated

Western Australia, Renee Cooper - Kate Dores -
Francesca McGrath - Kirstyn Fuller - Jack O'Reilly
- Rebecca O'Reilly

Open Butler Pairs Stage 2

1. Paul Wyer - Michael Courtney
2. Sartaj Hans - Tony Nunn
3. Hugh Grosvenor - Ann Paton
4. Matthew Brown - Michael Whibley
5. Howard Melbourne - Jo Haffer
6. Laura Ginnan - Ben Thompson
7. Johnno Newman - Jamie Thompson
8. George Kozakoz Simon Hinge
9. Moss Wylie - Anne Somerville
10. Elizabeth Adams - Andrew Peake

Women's Butler Pairs Stage 2

1. Janeen Solomon - Eileen Li
2. Sue Lusk - Margaret Bourke
3. Viv Woods - Jane Reynolds
4. Elizabeth Havas - Renee Cooper
5. Margaret Pisko - Carolyn Miller
6. Pauline Evans - Jay Faranda
7. Maha Hoenig - Greer Tucker
8. Cecily Critchley - Lynley Jenkins
9. Marilyn Chadwick - Toni Sharp
10. Margaret Gidley-Baird - Chris Williams

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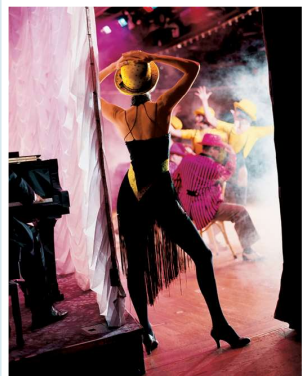
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Australian Girls Win Silver Medal



Renee Cooper, Justine Beaumont (Coach), Cesca McGrath, Jessica Brake, Ian Thomson (NPC), Kirstyn Fuller and Ella Pattison

The Australian Girls lost the final to The Netherlands at the recent World Youth Championships in Salsiomaggore

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In my opinion the contents of the ABF Newsletter as currently presented are of little benefit to the “average” bridge player (which includes me). At least 50% of every issue is devoted to hands played at congresses, etc. by “experts,” using esoteric bidding systems and methods unknown to, and not understood by, a large majority of normal bridge players.

Previously articles such as “Coaching Cathy at Contract” presented problems faced in the “real world” and then provided solutions. These articles enabled players to learn from mistakes made or problems regularly encountered at club sessions. Can similar articles be included in future issues?

Yours faithfully

Richard Hughes, Tasmania

Dear Richard,

You are welcome to your opinion.

The previous issue not only contained articles based on local clubs: “Bridge in Geelong”, “Bathurst Bridge Club” but as well contained articles writtten entirely for the average player, “What Should I Bid?”

We have a a great vehicle for the above average player in Australian Bridge, produced by Brad Coles. Brad also produces at a very reasonable rate the Novice Edition of Australian Bridge. I suggest Richard takes advantage of this great vehicle for his needs.

Hawks Nest Bridge Club

Bridging the Gap

Life in a small community is very, very different to that in a city so it is not surprising that Hawks Nest Bridge Club is “unusual”.



Ours is a community where 30% of residents live alone, so there is a strong incentive to encourage locals to get out and about, to meet new people and to form the friendships which help avoid loneliness, isolation and depression. For some of our older members bridge has become a major part of their social life.

Formed in 1995 HNBC has more than 100 members; we are designated as “remote” by the ABF. The average age of our community is 21 years older than the national figure, and the percentage playing here is about 15, yes fifteen times higher than the NSW average. We encourage participation, with very affordable introductory lessons and low table fees.

Recognising the above impacts on the nature of the bridge played and the style of lessons offered as, though we live in hope, it is most unlikely that another “Ron Klinger” will emerge from “mature” novice students.

Unusual in that we have to take into account that many players are in high demand as babysitters and have doctors’ appointments all too often. Consequently, a successful innovation has been to give each lesson twice a week; once in the evening and repeated later on a morning. That way “students” have two opportunities to attend.

Community is a big word around here and we support *Bridge-for-Brains*, hold fund-raising events for *Prostate Awareness* and *The Dolphins*, a local association for the elderly.

As a result of savings, successful grant applications, innumerable raffles, a “market table” at sessions, Council encouragement, the ABF through the James O’Sullivan Trust and incredible generosity by members we are a long way towards having our own clubhouse. A comfortable and safe clubhouse which we are committed to sharing with other “homeless” mind sport groups. However, and despite our best efforts, it looks inevitable that we will have to borrow from the banks.

*Responding to 1NT (3) –
Jumps to the three-level*



Up to around 25 years ago jump responses to a 1NT opening were natural, with a six card or longer suit, and inviting slam. Nowadays there are other ways to show these hands and partnerships look for better ways to use these idle bids.

This is my recommended scheme of responses, the two criteria being frequency and usefulness.

- 1NT 3♣ – Puppet Stayman
- 3♦ – Minor suit Stayman, 5-4, 6-4 or 5-5 in the minors, slam interest
- 3♥ – Splinter, game forcing singleton heart with three spades
- 3♠ - Splinter, game forcing singleton spade with three hearts

1NT – 3♣

Although it is a good idea to open 1NT with a five card major you will sometimes miss a 5-3 major fit that simple Stayman won't uncover. A frequent and useful solution I like very much is to use 1NT:3C as

Puppet Stayman

Puppet Stayman is easy:

- 1NT 3♣ - Puppet Stayman 10+ HCP or the equivalent
- 3♦ I have one or both four-card majors, responder now bids the major not held so that the strong hand can be declarer
- 3♥/3♠ 5-card suit
- 3NT No 4 or 5-card major

On this deal Puppet Stayman would have saved the day:

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| ♠ AQ1076 | ♠ J85 |
| ♥ KQ3 | ♥ AJ102 |
| ♦ A54 | ♦ KQ76 |
| ♣ 76 | ♣ Q3 |

Using Simple Stayman the bidding would be:

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1NT | 2♣ |
| 2♠ | 3NT |

Opponents can take the first five club tricks but with 3C as Puppet Stayman the bidding is:

- | | |
|-----|----|
| 1NT | 3♣ |
| 3♠ | 4♠ |

You can also use Puppet Stayman simply to find the 5-3 major fit.

Bid 3C with:

- ♠ K106, ♥ Q98, ♦ 64, ♣ AJ752
- ♠ K106, ♥ 85, ♦ 6432, ♣ AQJ2
- ♠ 1064, ♥ 85, ♦ AKJ1062, ♣ Q3

1NT – 3♦

This is not frequent but does cope with hands that cannot otherwise be bid and shows at least 5-4 in the minors and game forcing.

To save space the 1NT opener can bid 3♥ over 3♦ with four clubs and 3♠ with four diamonds (♥=♣, ♦=♠). 4♣ or 4♦ directly over 3♦ should be Minorwood, giving more space for slam exploration.

Responder bids 1NT - 3♦ with these hands:

- ♠ 6, 98, ♥ AK764, ♦ KJ982 ♣ ---
- ♠ K6, ♥ 85, ♦ AKJ32, ♣ AJ82
- ♠ 4, ♥ 85, ♦ AKJ1062, ♣ KQJ3

1NT – 3♥, 1NT- 3♠

Splinters and transfers are two methods that have prospered over the years. The jumps to 3♥ and 3♠ over 1NT are game-forcing splinters with exactly three in the other major.

Some examples are:

- 1NT - 3♥
- ♠ K106, ♥ 8, ♦ KJ76, ♣ AJ952
- ♠ 1065, ♥ 5, ♦ K6432, ♣ AQJ2

The next bid should be automatic for the opener:

1NT – 3♥

- ?
- ♠ K106, ♥ Q985, ♦ AK4, ♣ A52 – 3NT, your hearts are thin but nothing else appeals
- ♠ K10653, ♥ Q98, ♦AK4, ♣ K2 – 3♠ you have a 5-3 spade fit
- ♠ AQJ4, ♥ 985, ♦ K43, ♣ AJ2 – 4♠ only a 4-3 fit but you can trump hearts in dummy
- ♠ AQJ2, ♥ AQ2, ♦ K1062, ♣ 87 – 3NT a good spot with the lead coming into ♥AQ

This hand was from bidding practice:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ K9 | ♠ A103 |
| ♥ 542 | ♥ 3 |
| ♦ AKJ9 | ♦ Q1054 |
| ♣ KJ108 | ♣ AQ952 |

- | | |
|-----|------|
| 1NT | 3♥ |
| 4♦ | 4♠ |
| 4NT | 5♠ |
| 6♦ | Pass |

Here the splinter pinpoints the perfect fit (three small is the best possible holding opposite a shortage) and the opener agrees diamonds as trumps and asks for Key Cards when responder cuebids what must be ♠A. Opener can easily visualize responder with ♠A, ♦Q and ♣AQ and thus the 27-HCP slam is easily bid.

Be seduced by a slice of Dolce Vita. Best of ITALY 23 days 5* \$ 8375



Come with us to our favourite country and travel as a local – not a tourist. This is our 8th adventure to Italy and we know we now have it just right. Home of artistic treasures, renowned sights, fashion and some of the best food on the planet - Italy will surely impress. From Rome's ancient streets, we then soak up the sunshine in the coastal towns of Sorrento and the beautiful Amalfi. We then see Cinque Terre, which is defined with rugged cliffs, turquoise waters and pastel seaside towns. This area is known for towns like Portofino and Santa Margherita. Finally we drive to the heart of the Tuscan region – Montecatini – within 30 minutes of Lucca, Florence, Pisa, Livorna, Sienna & more. Magnificent 5* accommodation to make your stay complete. All this combined with your bridge, makes a perfect holiday at the best time of the year. The holiday will include all tours with private guides, all breakfasts, most dinners & transfers. 4-night Venice option.



Melbourne Cup at Terrigal: **Star of The Sea Oct 31 – Nov 04 :** **NYE @ Wisemans Ferry** **Wisemans Retreat Dec 29 – Jan 02** **New Year @ The Hunter** **Bluebush Estate Jan 03 - 06**



Included for \$ 775 pp

- 4 nights Absolute 5* Accommodation.
- All Dinners, lunches and sweepstakes.
- All Bridge Fees

Included for \$ 895 pp

- 4 nights Accommodation.
- All Dinners, Breakfasts & Lunch Cruise
- All Bridge Fees & Entertainer on NYE

Included for \$ 675 pp

- 3 nights Accommodation. Optional 4th
- 2 Dinners, Breakies, 1 Lunch
- All Bridge Fees & Entertainer on Jan 4th



QT HOTEL, CANBERRA 10-22 JANUARY 2017

Entries are open online

Our full colour brochure is available for download from the SFOB website at www.abfevents.com.au/events/not/2017 so check out the events and dates. By far the **cheapest, safest, most secure and efficient method** of entry and payment is online because:

- you receive instant confirmation
- your entry will appear in the entries list online within 24 hours
- payment by credit card is safe and secure and incurs NO transaction fees; and
- paper entries and cheque payments take several days to clear through.



Partnership Desk

We have appointed Perelle Scales as the Partnership (and Standby Teams) Secretary and she will be available before and throughout the event to assist with organising partner/s. Her contact details are:

E: cperelle51@gmail.com

M: 0450 961 935

Also being trialled at the 2017 event will be a **Partnership Wall**. You will be able to place your details on a partnership card and pin it to the Partnership Wall on the Mezzanine Floor, near our Partnership Desk.



If someone is interested and available they can take your details and call you direct. These requests will also be monitored by our Partnership Secretary who will try to match you up with another player/s so that you can participate in your chosen event/s.

Alternatively, visit our Partnership Desk and let Perelle know what you are seeking. She is there to help!



Novice Liaison Officer

Following feedback from players at previous events, we are moving to make the SFOB more attractive for novice players with less than 100 MPs as at 30 September 2016. Laura Ginnan is our Novice Liaison Officer and Director in charge of our new *Novice Player Program*. Specific details about this Program will be released in our next news update but the following are the key elements:

- A warm-up pairs session on the Tuesday night before the full program starts
- pre-event training videos on those frequently asked questions when transitioning from club to national level events (*eg system cards, Bridgemates, bidding boxes, teams scoring etc*)
- your own pre-event webpage
- novice players own Daily (mini) Bulletin
- A novice workshop presented by Joan Butts
- Help with technology at the event.

Get entries and payments in early!

We recommend you get your entry and payments in early as we have come close to capacity in recent years, especially on the first week of the Festival. Final deadline for payment of all pre-event entries is **Friday 6 January**. No money will be collected for pre-event entries at the event.

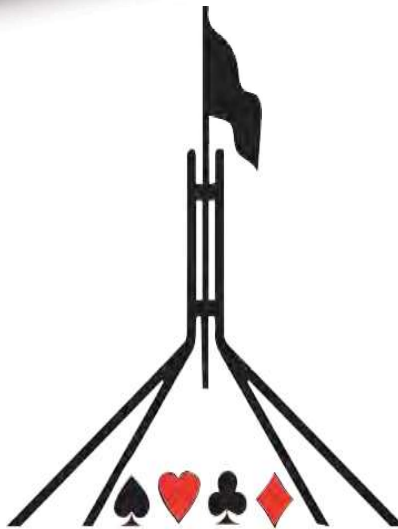
Stay tuned for more updates about this premier bridge event.

Roy Nixon
Tournament Organiser



www.abf.com.au

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January 10-22, 2017

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