



# NEWSLETTER

## AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

Editor: Barbara Travis (editor@abf.com.au)

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### AUSTRALIAN WORLD CHAMPION

#### **MARTIN CLEAR: World Palindrome Champion**

Martin Clear, member of Sydney Bridge Centre, won the World Palindrome Championships, held in Stamford, Connecticut, earlier this year. His win earned him a palindromic \$1001 in prize money.

He won the first round with a palindrome where the first and last words had to rhyme (his choice from four different constraints). His rhyme related to Yoko Ono:

**Ono, miked, unaware, damned, ruby burden made raw: a nude kimono.**

In the final round, his epic 93-word poem - a description of the event itself - gave him just enough adjusted audience votes to win:

**Tides reverse, I reverse.**

**Rise, demitasse for piety,**

**Locate spun words,**

**Drowsy as re-papered evil.**

**I, to get a mad raw award, am a god!**

**Potter freely, assess a madness, drown in word wars.**

**Alas, reverse many revered is no cosmetic:**

**I, to read a 'drome (gem or dada erotic item)**

**so consider every name's reversal as raw.**

**Drown in words: send, amass, essay, leer, fret.**

**Top Dog - a mad raw award a mate got.**

**I lived ere paper says "Words Drown Upset Acolyte."**

**I profess a time desire's reveries reversed it!**

For those interested in palindromes, the championship website details some incredible efforts:

<http://palindromist.org/WPC%20results>



*Martin Clear, world palindrome champion*

### MARY SMITH TURNS 100



Mary Smith, from Tenterfield, celebrated her 100th birthday with fanfare at Millrace, her aged care facility home on Wednesday, June 21st 2017.

Mary has been playing bridge at Tenterfield Bridge club for 20 years, since she arrived in town, and plays at both bridge sessions each week. Mary's carers have firmly suggested that she does not play on the cold nights during winter, however Mary more firmly insists on playing, joining us at the club twice a week.

Mary is a great-grandmother who is still very careful with her appearance, often dressing in her pearls, and is very generous. She maintains a stash of chocolates to give away but is not so generous when a No Trump contract is up for the taking.

The accolades that Mary received at the four birthday celebration events held in her honour included letters from Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor General, the Deputy Prime Minister and her favourite, a Papal Blessing.

Mary competed in the recent New South Wales State-wide Pairs competition, placing 56th out of 433 pairs.

She also plays a tough game of Scrabble!

*Peter Reid, Tenterfield*

### GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

#### **MARION RICE**

Sydney player, Marion Rice, who died late last year aged 107, has post-humously entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the oldest active bridge player. She was regularly playing bridge at the NSWBA until the age of 106, beating the previous record of 102, which was held by an American.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Susan Humphries lives in Sydney, but plays bridge for New Zealand. Susan (right) played with Julie Smith in the NABC (North American Bridge Championships), winning the Wagar Women's Pairs.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the time of writing I have just finished competing in the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Championships in Lyon France. This was the 43rd running of the World Bridge Championships, which started with the Bermuda Bowl event in Naples, Italy in 1951. It was also the 5th running of the World Youth Open Bridge Championships. These events have brought together bridge players of all ages from all over the world and provided a great opportunity for bridge players to meet with others and to hone their skills.

One WBF announcement that will be of interest to our older players is that the WBF Executive Council has decided to raise the age requirement for senior players to 65 over the next 8 years. In Australia, the ABF will shortly consider whether to follow.

In Australia a key issue for us now is the issue of organisational renewal and, at its last AGM, the ABF Council agreed that we should start a process of succession planning for key ABF roles. For those who are not familiar with the term, 'succession planning' can be defined as the desire and the methodology to identify mature candidates within the ABF for leadership positions deemed important to the future of the organisation.

A Committee comprising Bruce Neill, David Morgan, Julia Hoffman and Therese Tully has been established to address succession planning. The role of this committee is to:

- ensure appropriate procedures are in place for the future succession of the ABF President and other key ABF positions
- assist Council to identify potential replacements, and
- help candidates define and acquire the skills and personal development they will need to undertake their new roles.

The Committee will provide initial recommendations to Council at its mid-term meeting in October and will complete its initial work by the 2018 AGM.

*Bruce Neill*

## ABF WEBSITE

**[www.abf.com.au](http://www.abf.com.au)**

### DID YOU KNOW?

The ABF website has a large amount of information for all levels of players. One particular page is the "Players' Page" which contains information on Results for Past Events, Current and Upcoming events, and Latest News.

It can be reached either by: [www.abf.com.au](http://www.abf.com.au), then click on "Players" at the top of the page or [www.abfevents.com.au](http://www.abfevents.com.au) which takes you directly to the Players' Page.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are also sites for Teachers: [www.abf.com.au/education](http://www.abf.com.au/education) and Directors: [www.abfevents.com.au/directors/index.asp](http://www.abfevents.com.au/directors/index.asp)

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### IF I ONLY HAD A HEART: BRIDGE OVER THE RAINBOW

By Alex Adamson and Harry Smith

RRP \$32.95

Fictional bridge clubs are familiar backdrops for writers. It is, therefore, surprising that no one has gone 'over the rainbow' before. It is not a surprise, though, to find that everyone in Oz is a keen bridge player, even the Scarecrow and Tin Man. The Lion is as cowardly player as you would expect, and the witches of all flavours are deliciously wicked. The Wizard is, of course, a visitor from Down Under...

I'm a bit of a sucker for bridge humour and bridge re-writes (like the Kings' pastiches), so I loved every minute of this book – the stories, the hands and the characters.

### DEFENDING AT BRIDGE – A FIRST COURSE

By Bill Treble

RRP \$29.95

This book presents the basics of defence in eight short, clearly explained lessons, with lots of practical examples. Topics include: opening leads, signalling, discards, and second- and third-hand play. The end of each chapter/lesson provides eight example hands for teaching purposes. The only thing I would modify is the use of 'old-fashioned', natural signalling; I would prefer to teach reverse signalling.

I am thinking about running a series on defence, and would happily use many of the ideas and lessons in this book.

### TWO OVER ONE – A FIRST COURSE

By Bill Treble

RRP \$29.95

This book is designed for those who are already familiar with Standard American bidding but are interested in playing Two over One Game Forcing. It covers all aspects of switching to the Two over One approach to bidding, in eight lessons, including many example hands that can be used to practise bidding. Each of Bill Treble's books provides eight example hands, at the end of each topic/chapter, for teaching.

I plan to use this book as the basis for teaching a 2 over 1 course next year!

### MORE BREAKING THE RULES

By Barry Rigal and Josh Donn

To master bridge, we need to learn the 'rules' that govern the game, but we must also take them with a pinch of salt. The 'rules', or best practices, are there because they work – but not always. The more hands you play, the more you realise that context determines whether or not you should follow the general principles that operate successfully more often than not. That is what this book is about.

It goes beyond the basic rules that, in a vacuum, provide helpful advice. After all, one does not play bridge in a vacuum. Sometimes you need to break the rules. This volume, for advanced intermediate players, deals exclusively with second hand play, both by declarer and the defenders.

Barbara Travis



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### IMPROVERS' PLAY

By Derrick Brown

RRP \$16.95

Although Derrick Browne's latest book looks small, it contains a great deal of vital information for players who have learned and practised the basics. The eight chapters alternate between declarer play and defence with 9 sub-headings in each chapter. The text is followed by a brief review of the key points then a quiz and then 8 full hands with a full explanation of the bidding and play. It is clearly ideal for teachers with a group as well as students.

On this deal from the chapter on Signals on Partner's Lead, the author explains the thinking behind the winning switch:

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

Against West's 4♠, North leads ♣A and South discourages with ♣8 (low=like, high=hate). North sees that a diamond could be discarded on the ♣Q and so switches to ♦K. Declarer is able to trump two low hearts in dummy but is held to 10 tricks. If North had cashed ♣A and ♣K, declarer would be able to discard a diamond on ♣Q and make 11 tricks.

The book includes ruffing and discarding losers, finessing, hold-up play, leads and second and third hand play. Highly recommended.

Paul Lavings



*The 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge are now operational within Australia. There have also been modifications to what is expected of the players with regard to correct procedure, and their associated rights and obligations. Continuing on from the previous issue:*

## **Law 53:**

A lead out of turn to trick 13 may no longer be accepted and must now be retracted.

## **Law 65:**

A player may still draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly, but only until his side leads or plays to the following trick. Declarer bound by the same time limit as the other players.

## **Law 66:**

Declarer or a defender may inspect (but not expose) his own last card played until his side has led or played to the next trick. This is a change from the previous time limit which was until a card had been led by either side to the next trick.

## **Law 73:**

This law continues to recognise a player's right to deceive an opponent by a call or play so long as it is not protected by concealed partnership understanding or experience. Players may purposely violate partnership agreements (excluding certain psychic bids prohibited by regulation) in an attempt to deceive. Players may also deliberately play a deceptive card in an attempt to make an opponent go wrong, however it is now illegal to emphasise that deception with "unwonted haste or hesitancy".

A player may not take a long time to decide which of two equal spot cards to play in order to deceive an opponent when the effect of the hesitation is to give that opponent

the reasonable impression you were considering winning the trick. Nor is it acceptable to hesitate before making a penalty double where this might dissuade the opponents from running to a better contract (or encourage them to redouble).

## **Law 75:**

It is now clear that failure to disclose information accurately constitutes Misinformation. Players remain obligated to disclose partnership agreements fully and freely upon request, but they also need to realise that answering enquiries from an opponent with words such as "I take it to mean" or "I think it means" is improper. If no agreement exists players are expected to state that fact, not guess what a bid means. Guessing is not only a potential source of misinformation but also unauthorised information, which may lead to a score adjustment.

## **Law 79:**

The number of tricks won or lost should be agreed at the table. If a dispute subsequently arises after the end of the round, then the Director is now empowered to decrease one side's score, without necessarily increasing the other side's score.

Previously, if you found out that a wrong score had been entered when you checked your results, and the correction period (usually 30 minutes after the end of the session) had expired, your score could no longer be corrected. Now if you can persuade both the Tournament Organiser and the Director that the result is wrong, you might still be able to have it corrected (but not after the event is finished and the prizes have been awarded).

*Laurie Kelso*



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Your Bridge Director and Hostess is Anne Weber, the proprietor of the Grand Slam Bridge Centre in Canberra. Anne has escorted a number of success bridge holidays, including such destinations as Tuscany, Hawaii, Mediterranean and the Rhine and Danube River Cruise. Presently she is escorting a 3 week bridge holiday in South Africa. Everyone is welcome (even non-bridge players). To call or email Anne: 0407 957 978 or [anne@grandslamcanberra.com](mailto:anne@grandslamcanberra.com).

## MODERN PRE-EMPTS

A well-timed pre-empt has always been the best way to upset the opponents' bidding, so they are more popular than ever these days. The strict "rules" that students are taught have also relaxed and, although the vulnerability is always to be observed (especially vulnerable vs not), players may often be one card short of the requirements for pre-empting, and take no notice of "not having cards in the other major, or having voids".

Watching the European Championships this year, I saw a non vulnerable 3♠ bid in first seat on

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

Not a great suit, nor 7 cards, but he wanted to get his bid there on the table as soon as possible. It didn't stop the opponents from reaching 4♥ this time, but next time it might.

This hand came up in the teams at the VCC in June. You are dealer, vulnerable vs not, holding

♠ A 10 9 8 6 4 3  
♥ J 10 4 2  
♦ 6 2  
♣ void

What do you do? If you follow the books, you would pass because of the features which are supposedly wrong for an opening preempt:

- another 4-card major
- the spade suit is not good enough
- you have a void

I decided to pass, and the auction progressed:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦

What should I do now? I chose a gentle

2♠                  3♠ (strong)          Double

To me, this double meant 'lead spades', showing honour-doubleton. The opponents reached 4♦ and that was it.

Here is the whole hand.

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

I led the ♥2. Partner won and returned a club. I ruffed and underled my ♠A to partner's ♠K. Another club allowed me a second ruff, and the result was - 1. We had missed 4♠. Had I opened 3♠ we would surely have reached that game and, although North-South may have sacrificed in 5♦, we would have doubled that for +300. In the auction we had, should partner have bid 4♠ over North's 3♠ cue?

Because this hand presented a number of questions, I decided to ask some of the players at the VCC how they bid it. Should you get in there early and open 3♠? Or is the hand not suitable for a vulnerable vs not preempt?

The results:

Peter Hollands	Open 3♠
Paul Gosney	Open 3♠
Margaret Bourke	Open 3♠
Michael Ware (NZ)	Open 3♠
Nathan Van Jole	Open 3♠
	(he feels it's close to a 4♠ opening)
Jimmy Wallis	Open 4♠ (because of the 7-4 shape)
Geo Tislevoll	Pass
	(will hit the jackpot if partner bids 1♥)
Johnno Newman	Pass: come back in with 2♠
Ron Klinger	Pass: come back in with 2♠
Joan Butts	Pass: come back in with 2♠
Paul Lavings	Pass: come back in with 3♠

The school for "opening 3♠ immediately" say don't be concerned about a possible heart fit, and no one worried about having a void. Get in there and take the opponents' space away, or bid to your own making game as in this instance.

The "passers" remembered other hands when they opened 3♠ only to find partner with one spade and a lot of hearts. They preferred to pass at first and then come in with 2/3♠ over the opposition's 1♠ - Pass - 1♦. They said they now knew there was no worry about missing a heart fit, and a good partner would deduce you had hearts anyway, because you had passed initially.

Teachers should stick with text book definitions of pre-empts, ie a good suit (two of the top three (AKQ), or three of the top five honours, (AKQJ10), and also to be within two tricks of your contract when vul, but suggest a more flexible approach when non vul. But keep in mind something I read the other day... An advanced player knows the rules, but an expert knows when to break them!

*Joan Butts*



*Paul Gosney and John Newman, winners of the Coffs Coast Open Pairs*

## MAJOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS

### AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Canberra, 15-27 July

#### INTERSTATE TEAMS:

##### OPEN TEAMS

- 1st SOUTH AUSTRALIA:  
Phil Markey (captain) - Justin Williams,  
David Anderson - George Smolanko,  
Nicolas Croft - Joe Haffer
- 2nd NEW SOUTH WALES:  
Pauline Gumbly - Warren Lazer,  
Maurits Van Der Vlugt - Andre Korenhof,  
Paul Lavings - David Hudson, Bob Sebesfi (NPC)

##### WOMEN'S TEAMS

- 1st NEW SOUTH WALES:  
Linda King - Kim Neale,  
Helene Pitt - Ruth Tobin,  
Sophie Ashton - Anita Curtis, Marcia Scudder (NPC)
- 2nd QUEENSLAND:  
Margaret Millar - Sue O'Brien,  
Rosemary Glastonbury - Betty Hobdell,  
Greer Tucker - Sarah Strickland, Neville Francis (NPC)

##### SENIORS' TEAMS

- 1st NEW SOUTH WALES:  
Mike Hughes - David Beauchamp,  
Peter Buchen - Terry Brown,  
Rena Kaplan - Lorna Ichilcik, John McIlrath (NPC)
- 2nd ACT:  
Richard Brightling - David Hoffman,  
Stephen Mendick - Bernie Waters,  
Ian Robinson - George Kozakos, Peter Grant (NPC)

##### YOUTH TEAMS

- 1st NEW SOUTH WALES:  
Charles McMahon - John McMahon,  
Ramanan Rajkumar - Edmond Lee,  
Nico Ranson - Matt Smith, Stephen Williams (NPC)
- 2nd WESTERN AUSTRALIA:  
Renee Cooper - Francesca McGrath - Kirstyn Fuller -  
Rebecca O'Reilly - Megan O'Reilly - Jack O'Reilly,  
Allison Stralow (NPC)

#### ANC BUTLER PAIRS:

##### TBIB OPEN BUTLER PAIRS

- 1st Peter Hollands - Michael Ware
- 2nd Renee Cooper - George Smolanko
- 3rd Peter Buchen - Terry Brown

##### TBIB WOMEN'S BUTLER PAIRS

- 1st Cynthia Belonogoff - Deana Wilson
- 2nd Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk
- 3rd Nevena Djurovic - Elizabeth Havas

##### TBIB SENIORS' BUTLER PAIRS

- 1st George Kozakos - Ian Robinson
- 2nd Tim Davis - Emlyn Williams,
- 3rd Stephen Mendick - Bernie Waters

##### TBIB RESTRICTED BUTLER PAIRS

- 1st Bill Bradshaw - Peter Dieperink
- 2nd Michael McTiernan - Ross Milbourne
- 3rd Tony Jiang - Julia Zhu

### COUNTRY BUTLER PAIRS

- 1st Robert van der Hoek - Sue Neill (Moruya)
- 2nd Adrian Thompson - Phillip Williams (Leeton)
- 3rd Chris Dibley - Michael Seldon (Newcastle)

#### CONGRESS EVENTS:

##### BATEMANS BAY BC UNDER 300 MP SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Hadi Aghakhani - Shane Woodburn
- 2nd Louise & Michael Brassil

##### WAGGA WAGGA BC OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Jonathan Free - Philip Lagrange
- 2nd Sophie Ashton - Anita Curtis

##### ANNE WEBER MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1st Lillian Lesueur - Bronwyn Boehm
- 2nd Jennifer & Brett Yeats

##### LEETON SOLDIERS BC PAIRS

- 1st Gwen Gray Jamieson - Trevor Berenger
- 2nd Helen Lavings - Sue Ingham

##### GRIFFITH BC MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1st David Randles - Tim Davis
- 2nd Henry Hudson - Gytis Danta

##### SOUTH CANBERRA BC MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1st Bill Nash - Jim Wallis
- 2nd Peter Andersson - Ashok Tulpule

##### CAPITAL BC MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1st Bill Nash - Jim Wallis
- 2nd Chris Stead - John Brockwell

##### GUNGAHLIN MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1st Jill Magee - Terry Strong
- 2nd Gordon McRobert - Thilak Ranasinghe

##### HODGKINSON REAL ESTATE ANC SWISS PAIRS: OPEN

- 1st David Hoffman - Richard Brightling
- 2nd Kitty Muntz - Leigh Gold

##### HODGKINSON REAL ESTATE SWISS PAIRS: RESTRICTED

- 1st Michael McTiernan - Ross Milbourne (7th overall)
- 2nd Tony Jiang - Julia Zhu (14th overall)

##### CANBERRA BC ANC SWISS PAIRS: OPEN

- 1st Martin Bloom - Les Grewcock
- 2nd Louise Cregan - Chris Williams

##### CANBERRA BC SWISS PAIRS: RESTRICTED

- 1st Michael McTiernan - Ross Milbourne (12th overall)
- 2nd Tony Jiang - Julia Zhu (21st overall)



Robert van der Hoek and Sue Neill, winners Country Butler Pairs





*Cynthia Belonogoff and Deana Wilson,  
winners Women's Butler Pairs*

## COFFS COAST GOLD CONGRESS

Coffs Harbour, 8-13 August

### BUTLER SWISS PAIRS: OPEN

- 1st Paul Gosney - John Newman
- 2nd Elizabeth Havas - Arjuna De Livera
- 3rd Annette Maluish - Andrew Mill

### BEST PAIR WITH UNDER 1000 MPs (each)

Robyn Barrett - Robyn Rudzyn

### BUTLER SWISS PAIRS: INTERMEDIATE / RESTRICTED

- 1st Margaret Owen - Ian Maclaren
- 2nd Hans Van Weeren - Peter Clarke
- 3rd Marina Darling - Sue Read

### BEST PAIR WITH UNDER 300 MPs (each)

Hans Van Weeren - Peter Clarke

### SWISS TEAMS: OPEN

- 1st WYER: Paul Wyer - Kim Morrison,  
Simon Hinge - Joe Haffer
- 2nd HUNG: Andy Hung - Nabil Edgtton, Adam Edgtton,  
Liam Milne - Nye Griffiths, Daniel Braun
- 3rd GOLD: Leigh Gold - Kitty Muntz,  
Vanessa Brown - William Jenner-O'Shea

### BEST TEAM WITH UNDER 1000 MPs (each)

SNOOK: Chris Snook - Denise Hartwig,  
Gabrielle Elich - Byron Longford

### SWISS TEAMS: INTERMEDIATE / RESTRICTED

- 1st ADCOCK: Jacqueline Adcock - Desmond Manderson,  
Rob Hurst - Rowan Corbett
- 2nd MANDER: Evelyne Mander - Rachel Langdon,  
Stephen Hughes - Randall Rusk
- 3rd KENT: Barbara Kent - Ross Murtagh,  
Joan Jenkins - Sue Luby

### BEST TEAM WITH UNDER 300 MPs (each)

STEVENS: Margaret Stevens - Alan Boyce,  
Noreen Armstrong - Patricia Armstrong



*Peter Hollands and Michael Ware,  
winners of the Open Butler Pairs in Canberra*

*Ian Maclaren and Margaret Owen, winners of the  
Coffs Coast Intermediate / Restricted Pairs*



*Jacqueline Adcock, Rob Hurst, Desmond Manderson  
and Rowan Corbett, winners of the  
Coffs Coast Restricted / Intermediate Teams*

## SWAN RIVER SWISS OPEN PAIRS

Perth, 19-20 August

- 1st Marie-France Merven - Nigel Dutton
- 2nd Liz & Stephen Hurley
- 3rd Karol Miller - Kaiping Chen



*Ross Milbourne and Michael McTiernan, winners of the  
Restricted sections of both the Hodgkinson Real Estate Swiss Pairs  
and the Canberra BC Swiss Pairs, and also 2nd place-getters in the  
TBIB Restricted Swiss Pairs: a very successful week's bridge*

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The following articles provide some insights to the recent ANC.

## INTERSTATE YOUTH TEAMS

by Barbara Travis

Matt Smith, from the victorious NSW Youth Team, made his 4♠ contract where many others failed:

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

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

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

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

1NT  
2♠  
4♠

2♥ (transfer)  
3NT  
All Pass

Matt received the ♥8 lead, and realised that he had 5 spade tricks, 3 heart tricks and 1 club trick. He found an imaginative way to score 10 tricks, based on the lead itself. It seemed that the ♥8 was unlikely to be from the Queen and Matt played accordingly. He won the ♥K, then cashed the ♠A before finessing the ♥J and cashing the ♥A to discard his club loser.

Now he ruffed a club in dummy, returned to hand with another trump, ruffed another club (he should trump high), returned to hand with another trump lead and ruffed his last club. This line of play gave him 6 spade tricks, including the 3 club ruffs, 3 heart tricks and the club winner.

Matt's foresight was to win the first heart in dummy. If he had let the heart lead run to his ♥J, he lacked the entries to his hand to take all three club ruffs. Furthermore, his line worked even if trumps broke badly. (He could even use high trumps for the club ruffs, so only needed the heart suit to break 5-3 or 4-4.)

## A SMALL YET DECISIVE MARGIN: THE 2017 ANC OPEN TEAMS

by Phil Markey

*To those unfamiliar with Phil's style, do not take offence. Phil is a trained lawyer, and likes to push boundaries.*

South Australia has won another Australian National Championship Open Teams in 2017.

It was Canberra's turn to host the event in 2017. Canberra is cold in July. Silly cold. Still, it's a nice place for a bridge tournament and, whilst the venue was a bit out of the way, the playing area was excellent.

A brief rundown of your team's effort:

- Tasmania - These people are too nice.
- Victoria - Bloody fresh players. I don't know any of these guys. Obviously names like Thompson, Hinge, Gold, Mill and Ebery are past their use-by dates, so it is wise to build for the future.
- Western Australia - No fire power. Brayshaw - Mulley go alright and there is some promise on their list, but they lacked a pair with a killer punch.
- Queensland - Threatened for a while, but when it got tough they got pushed aside.
- ACT - Solid. I like seniors bridge, but it does sometimes serve as a hiding place for guys who can't handle the pressure. Yes, that's you Robinson, Brightling and Hoffman.
- New South Wales - Close. Very close. A good team but again some possible names that aren't there. Sebesfi is a keeper as captain.

After 13 of the 21 round robin matches S.A were in the middle of a slump. First, A.C.T beat S.A badly, and then Brayshaw - Mulley got on a roll for W.A, inflicting another bad loss. Suddenly the lead in the qualifying had been surrendered to N.S.W. In match 14 we faced Queensland, and needed a win, when Joe Haffer picked up this hand:

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



NSW Youth Team (left to right): Charles McMahon, John McMahon, Ramanan Rajkumar, Edmond Lee, Nico Ranson, Matt Smith, Stephen Williams (NPC)



He opened 2♣, showing a weak hand with both majors, and over his partner's enquiry he rebid 2♠ showing longer or better spades. Joe's LHO now decided to intervene with 3♣ and unexpectedly Joe's partner, Nic Croft, leapt to 5♦. It would, perhaps, be easy with Joe's cards to be happy that you have some diamonds and an unexpected void to go with your otherwise meagre holdings and pass 5♦. Joe bid 6♦ with alacrity. He was rewarded with 15 IMPs when, at the other table, the Queensland pair failed to reach game. The full hand turned out to be:

Dealer East	♠ J 9	♠ A 4
EW Vul	♥ K Q 7	♥ A J 8
	♦ 5 2	♦ A K J 10 7 3
	♣ A 10 8 7 6 2	♣ 5 4
♠ K 10 8 7 3	♠ Q 6 5 2	
♥ 9 6 5 2	♥ 10 4 3	
♦ Q 9 8 4	♦ 6	
♣ void	♣ K Q J 9 3	

The play in 6♦ presented no problems for Nic Croft. With trumps breaking 2-1, he ruffed two spades in hand to set up his twelfth trick, being the long spade, on which he could discard a heart.

South Australia played NSW in the final, and seemed to be cruising to victory. SA had won all three round robin matches between the two teams comfortably, and repeated that winning record in the first two of the 4 x 14 board sets of the

final. Early in the third set of the final, a similar pattern was developing as SA again led. At my table, Paul Lavings, for NSW had this problem on Board 6;

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

West	North	East	South
Williams	Lavings	Markey	Hudson
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

The ♥6 was led. What card would you play from dummy at trick 1?

If the King and Jack of hearts were both in either the West or East hand it would make no difference which card was played, so the only question faced by Lavings was whether East held the ♥K but not the ♥J, or the ♥J but not the ♥K. Paul Lavings is NSW bridge royalty. Few, if any, expert bridge players in Australia have played more national events and I am guessing he has played in a lot of ANC Open Team finals.

## GRAND ADVENTURE CRUISE - IRELAND, SCOTLAND plus

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This position then is not one that he would have enjoyed. Experts don't like to guess.

Given that the lead is likely from East's best suit, it may be slightly better to rise with dummy's Queen but there is little, if anything, to that argument. Lavings didn't torture himself overly and after maybe 15 seconds of reflection tried the Queen from dummy. Shortly thereafter, after winning the ♠A and playing the ♥J, I showed him a bunch of hearts and wrote +100 in my scorebook. "Another blow for SA", I thought. "Surely these Blue Baggers are getting punch drunk by now? Probably time for them to get desperate and try some stupid stuff."

We all know that you can do the right thing at the bridge table and still get a terrible score. Some bridge players like to moan about the luck in the game. I try hard not to do that. The "luck" is there to test your resolve and presents a true test of character. Are you going to allow the inherent nature of the game to deflect you from doing the right thing the next time? Lots of bridge players, including lots of expert bridge players, fail this test of character. I imagine that every bridge player has failed this test and the better question is whether, having failed before, will you fail again?

Five boards later not much had seemed to change. Lavings picked up:

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

With neither side vulnerable, the bidding tray was pushed through the screen and he observed that his partner had passed as the dealer and his RHO opened 3♠ which showed a non-inspiring weak 2-bid in spades. Lavings promptly tried a cheeky 3NT. My turn to make a choice as I looked at:

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

I am still worrying about the choice I made. I have given the position to two experts for their view and they both made the same choice as me - Pass. I didn't expect 3NT to make but I didn't want to defend 4-minor, which seemed a likely choice for Lavings if I doubled. 4♥ might make for our side but, on balance, it seemed unlikely that partner would have the right

hand for that to be a good choice, particularly after the 3NT overcall. Like I said, I am still worrying about it. The full hand turned out to be:

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

The defence to 3NT was quick and simple as we took the first 8 tricks for +200. This was not a good result when, at the other table, South opened 3♦ and East-West had a great auction to the good 6♥ contract, making 12 tricks easily.

NSW was on a roll late in the third set of the final and with just one 14-board set to play the substantial SA lead had been demolished to a mere 2.1 IMPs. In a crazy tense last 14 boards, SA never lost the lead but never led by more than 6.1 IMPs. In the end, the session's outcome was a 9 to 8 IMP win for NSW, but the title for S.A with 1.1 IMPs to spare.

There are lots of hands that created this margin. Given the carryover provisions (S.A had a carryover of 10.1 IMPs for the final given our big win in the qualifying stage), any hand from the round robin phase of the event worth 13 IMPs or more to S.A decided the event [e.g. the Haffer-Croft hand earlier].

The ANC teams is a great event, a rare opportunity to play representative bridge and to honour the place you live and the players you see regularly in a club game. For South Australians the priorities are clear: 1. Beat Victoria, 2. Beat N.S.W, 3. If S.A can't make the final, continue to beat Victoria or N.S.W so some other team can win. The event creates unique rivalries and friendships and is the best national event to win, as rather than get a quick taxi to the airport you get to gloat with your team at the victory dinner. If you get the chance to try to qualify for one of your State's four teams (Open, Women's, Seniors', Youth) make sure you take it.



The South Australian Open Team (left to right):  
Nic Croft, Joe Haffer, Phil Markey, Justin Williams, David Anderson, George Smolanko



## OPEN BUTLER PAIRS

by Barbara Travis

The next hand is from Stage 1 of the Open Butler:

Dlr East	♠ 10 5	
NS Vul	♥ J 10 8 6	
	♦ Q J 7 2	
	♣ 9 4 3	
♠ A J 9 8 7 4 3		♠ 6 2
♥ 4		♥ A 7 3 2
♦ void		♦ 10 8 5
♣ A K 7 6 5		♣ J 10 8 2
	♠ K Q	
	♥ K Q 9 5	
	♦ A K 9 6 4 3	
	♣ Q	

David Appleton and Peter Reynolds bid to 6♣ on their combined 17 HCP, the only pair to bid to slam (and most pairs played in spades).

West	North	East	South
Reynolds		Appleton	
		Pass	1♦
1♠	3♦	Pass	3♥
4♣	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Appleton and Reynolds are a long-term partnership and have many specific agreements. Over the 1♦ opening bid, a 4♦ call would show a game forcing hand with reasonably equal length in the black suits, whereas a 3♣ overcall would show an invitational black two-suiter. Therefore, the 4♣ bid showed an extremely distributional hand with longer spades, and clubs as the second suit. When Reynolds next bid 5♣, he was showing about 12 black cards, so David Appleton came to the party with his 6♣ call – bidding slam with his first ‘bid’ in the auction.

## RESTRICTED BUTLER PAIRS

by Bill Bradshaw

Peter Dieperink and I were fortunate enough to win the South Australian Restricted Pairs qualifier, and received an ABF grant to play in the ANC Restricted Pairs in Canberra.

After seven of the nine rounds, we had managed to get our nose just ahead of the rest of the field. We played a very good pair from Alice Springs, Eileen Boocock and Phil Hassell. After 11 of the 12 boards we were losing by 3 IMPs and needed something special from the last board.

Bd 24	♠ K 4	
Dlr West	♥ K Q	
Nil Vul	♦ A Q 8 5 4 3	
	♣ J 10 6	
♠ J 7		♠ Q 10 6 3 2
♥ A J 10 9 8 7 3 2		♥ 6 4
♦ 6		♦ 9 7 2
♣ 9 3		♣ Q 8 5
	♠ A 9 8 5	
	♥ 5	
	♦ K J 10	
	♣ A K 7 4 2	

After a 3♥ pre-empt from West, Peter Dieperink (North) thought long and hard before bidding 3NT. Whilst not exactly balanced, it does convey point count and a heart stopper, while denying a spade suit. With 15 HCP, I thought the South hand was worth a raise to 4NT. More thought from Peter,

Bill Bradshaw and Peter Dieperink,  
winners of the Restricted Butler Pairs



before his bid of 5♦. Now I wasn't sure if he took 4NT as an ace ask or was actually bidding diamonds, so I punted on 6♣.

After the ♥A and a small heart throwing a spade, all I had to do was find the ♣Q. First I played low club to the ♣A to guard against a singleton ♣Q offside. Then I crossed back to dummy with the ♠K and led the ♣J, East playing low. Given the pre-empt, I reasoned that East was more likely to hold the ♣Q (club length) so played low. When this won we had our 12 tricks, 9imps on the board, a 6 imp victory in the match and, ultimately, the championship.

In our match against the eventual runners up, Michael McTiernan and Ross Milbourne, this was the stand-out hand.

Bd 10	♠ K Q 9 2	
Dlr East	♥ 10 8 5 4 3	
All Vul	♦ void	
	♣ 9 8 6 3	
♠ J		♠ 10 4 3
♥ A Q 7		♥ K 2
♦ A K J 8 6 2		♦ Q 10 5 4 3
♣ A K J		♣ 10 7 2
	♠ A 8 7 6 5	
	♥ J 9 6	
	♦ 9 7	
	♣ Q 5 4	

Peter and I play Precision which certainly helped us find the slam here. After two passes, Peter opened 1♣ (16+HCP, any shape) and I responded 1♦ (0-7 HCP). Peter then bid 1♥ (19+ HCP) and I bid 2♣, which in our system means 5-7 HCP and at least 5 diamonds, which told Peter all he needed to know to bid 6♦, but he correctly went through 4NT to see if the remote chance of the grand slam was there. The play was straight forward but the bidding was the hero here.

Both Peter and I would like to thank the ABF for their generous support and continual encouragement of restricted players.

### RETURNING THE SUIT PARTNER LED

The card you return in the suit partner led should help your partner know how many cards you hold in that suit:

- \* With 4+ cards, return your original fourth highest card;
- \* With 3 cards, return your higher remaining card (you have a doubleton left);
- \* With 2 cards, return your only remaining card.

If you follow this formula, your partner will usually be able to determine how many cards you started with, and then they can determine declarer's holding in the suit. (This also helps you to unblock against NT contracts, when you hold 5-4 in a suit but get all "tangled up" and only manage to take 4 tricks.)



*In August, our Australian Teams played in the World Championships in Lyon, the best venue I've played in for many years.*

## THE D'ORSI TROPHY (Seniors' Teams)

The Seniors' Team started well, led for some of the Qualifying, and remained in the top four teams throughout. In the Quarter Final, they met and lost to Sweden, who finished with the bronze medal.

Bruce Neill provided a couple of hands of interest.

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

Bruce, South, played in 4♥, after West had shown a hand with at least 5-5 in the minors. West led the ♠5, which East won with the ♠A, returning a spade which was ruffed with the ♥10. The auction led Bruce to the winning line, since he knew that West held only one more heart. His only chance was to rely on that heart being the singleton ♥A (if East held A-9-x-x or A-8-x-x there were two trump losers).

On West's diamond return, he won the ♦A and led the ♥4 from dummy, finessing. All was well when that brought down the ♥A and the contract made – an important factor when Avi Kanetkar, North, had been champing at the bit to double 3♦ (as Bruce says, his partner's great loves in bridge are bidding slam and doubling for penalties).

From the Quarter Final comes a hand where Avi indulged one of those loves – bidding slam.

Dealer East	♠ void		
NS Vul	♥ A 10 3 2		
	♦ J 10		
	♣ K J 8 7 6 4 2		
♠ K Q 10 4		♠ A J 5 3 2	
♥ K Q 9		♥ 8 7 5 4	
♦ Q 5 4 3		♦ 9 8 7	
♣ 10 9		♣ 3	
	♠ 9 8 7 6		
	♥ J 6		
	♦ A K 6 2		
	♣ A Q 5		
West	North	East	South
	Kanetkar		Neill
		2♦ (majors)	Double
4♣	6♣	All Pass	

Avi and Bruce were the only pair in the Seniors' Quarter Finals to bid this slam. The opposition bidding helped them, and it demonstrates the need to listen to the opposition bidding and think about partner's hand, particularly on distributional hands.

## THE BERMUDA BOWL (Open Teams)

The Open Team rested around 8th place for much of the Round Robin, with 8 teams qualifying. Towards the end of the Qualifying, some losses damaged their final position, ending in 15th place.

Ben Thompson (NPC) wrote regular reports on BridgeWinners ([www.bridgewinners.com](http://www.bridgewinners.com)) for those interested in reading about the Open Team's exploits. Here is one of his offerings:

USA1 are a super-professional outfit (e.g. they didn't really know Andrew Peake so they researched his style – and weren't at all surprised at how aggressive he can be).

On the last four boards, we mixed some skill and good fortune to bring in two game swings. Board 13 hit system features for us in both directions.

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

After a 1♣ opening, David Beauchamp and Matthew Thomson (East-West) got to use their 2♠ overcall which showed a sound hand with at least 5-4 in the majors, landing in 4♥ by West. When North led the ♠5, it was all over.

*[Some Norths tried the effect of the ♣A lead, allowing them to switch to the ♦K at trick 2, getting their ruff.]*

In the other room, Peter Gill opened 2♣ (Precision-style). After East's double, Andrew Peake bounced to 5♣ immediately, and East-West had nowhere to go, except to double and collect their 200.

*[Where East overcalled in hearts, it was easy for North to switch to the diamonds at trick 2, defeating the contract.]*

We wound up winning 33-10 IMPs, 15.56 VPs.



*Peter Buchen, from the Australian Senior's Team*

## THE VENICE CUP (Women's Teams)

The Women's team peaked at 8th place, just past the halfway mark, then suffered a few losses in critical matches, to finish 13th. A couple of highlights were resounding wins against both USA teams. This hand comes from the match against USA2, where I failed to bid the East cards optimally (though it was a flat board):

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

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg		Travis	
	1♥	2♥	3♥
3♠	Pass	6♠	

After Candice Ginsberg's 3♠ bid, I should have continued thus:

3♠	Pass	5♥ (1)	Pass
6♣ (2)	Pass	6♦ (3)	Pass
7♣ (4)	All Pass		

- (1) Exclusion Key Card Blackwood – asking for key cards, excluding hearts
- (2) 1 key card + ♠Q: therefore ♣A and ♠Q.  
Our responses are: 0, 1 (no Q), 1 + Q, 2 (no Q), 2 + Q
- (3) Asking for 3rd round diamond control, for grand slam purposes (either the Queen or a doubleton)
- (4) Yes, I have 3rd round control

## TRANSNATIONALS TEAMS

The Transnationals Teams is the event run at the end of the Qualifying, open to non-qualifiers and any other teams willing to pay a substantial entry fee. The Damesy team, containing Peter Gill, Andrew Peake and Justin Mill, finished 12th in the Transnationals, with 8 teams qualifying. The Seniors' team finished in 17th place.

The following hands, both from Match 3, both had interesting 'lessons'. Firstly, what does it mean when your 3NT contract is doubled, and you redouble?

Dealer South	♠ 8 7 6		♠ A K Q 4
All Vul	♥ A K 9 6 3		♥ void
	♦ A 10 2		♦ K Q 6 5 3
	♣ 9 8		♣ K 7 5 4
♠ 10 3 2		♠ A K Q 4	
♥ Q J 10 7 2		♥ void	
♦ 8		♦ K Q 6 5 3	
♣ A Q 3 2		♣ K 7 5 4	
	♠ J 9 5		
	♥ 8 5 4		
	♦ J 9 7 4		
	♣ J 10 6		

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	2NT (enquiry)	Pass
3♣ (clubs)	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Double	4♣ *	All Pass

My double of 3NT asked for partner to lead dummy's first-bid suit, i.e. hearts. In this position, East should redouble, which expresses 'doubt' about the 3NT contract. Therefore, East's redouble here would be checking partner's heart stopper. If it is good, as in this situation, West can pass 3NT XX, for 10 tricks, scoring 1400 (the overtrick is worth 400). If West has poor hearts, she should run to 4♣ and let East decide the final contract (whether part-score, game or slam).

At the other table, West passed and North played in 1♥ X. Our team-mates scored +800, which combined nicely with the -130 at our table.

The second hand relates to hands where you plan to sacrifice – bid as high as you plan to go, as quickly as possible.

Dealer West	♠ 2		♠ A Q J 10 7 6 4
NS Vul	♥ K 8 7 6		♥ J 9 4
	♦ Q J 10 4 3 2		♦ 9
	♣ A Q		♣ 10 5
♠ K 9 8 5 3		♠ A Q J 10 7 6 4	
♥ 2		♥ J 9 4	
♦ A 6		♦ 9	
♣ K 8 6 4 3		♣ 10 5	
	♠ void		
	♥ A Q 10 5 3		
	♦ K 8 7 5		
	♣ J 9 7 2		

If West opens 2♠, and North overcalls 3♦, East should be willing to compete to the 6♠ level. Firstly, you know you have 12 spades, meaning you have no spade tricks. Secondly, opposite the 2♠, you have no defence, so should be willing to sacrifice. If you plan to sacrifice, bid to that level as quickly as possible. Our opponent, Sabine Rolland, jumped to 6♠ immediately. This should have been doubled but wasn't, and 6♠, down two, was a very cheap sacrifice against 6♦, which makes.

This was the final hand of the Transnationals Playoff for the bronze medal:

West	East
♠ A J 4 3	♠ K Q 10 8 2
♥ A 2	♥ 9
♦ K Q J 9	♦ A 7 6
♣ J 9 5	♣ A K 8 7
Robson	Gold
1NT	2♥
3♠	4♣ (cue)
4♦ (cue)	4NT (RKCB)
5♥ (2 key cards)	6♣ (grand slam try)
7♦	Pass

After East's grand slam try in clubs, West knew that the ♠Q (or doubleton) was needed. He didn't hold that card, but reached the conclusion that his diamonds were so good that, if they were trumps, he could discard his club loser on the fifth spade. Therefore he leapt to 7♦, as an alternative contract, and David Gold was happy to Pass. After one heart ruff, trumps could be drawn for 13 tricks (5 spades, 1 heart, 1 heart ruff), 4 diamonds, 2 clubs).

Since the other table had bid to 7♠, down one, this gained the PERCY team 19 IMPs. They were comfortable winners.

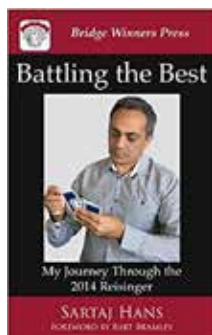
Barbara Travis

Each year the International Bridge Press Association presents awards to players for a variety of journalistic endeavours: best declarer play, best auction, best defence, best book of the year being some of those awards. In Lyon, the recipients of the 2017 awards were announced. Congratulations to the two Australians received awards:

## THE MASTER POINT PRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

was presented to Sartaj Hans for his book, *Battling the Best: My Journey through the 2014 Reisinger* (Bridge Winners Press).

The book is Sartaj's personal memoir, with many fascinating hands, introducing some unusual positions and with detailed explanations of the reasoning for his play.



## RICHARD FREEMAN JUNIOR DEAL OF THE YEAR

was awarded to Nabil Edgtton, for a hand he played in the World Youth Teams in 2016, and written up by Liam Milne.

Dealer East ♠ A 10  
EW Vul ♥ A 8 7 5 3  
♦ A 5 4  
♣ Q 7 2

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

♠ J 3 2  
♥ Q J 10 4  
♦ J 10 3 2  
♣ 8 6

West	North	East	South
1♥ (2)	2♥	1♠ (1)	Pass
Double	Pass	2♠ (3)	3♥
		4♠	All Pass

1. Natural or any balanced hand of 11-14/18-19
2. 4+ spades
3. Minimum opening with 4 spades

Some contracts look good when the dummy comes down. However, this 4♠ was not one of them. South led the ♥Q and continued with the ♥J. How would you play?

There are a number of issues to consider. To start, there are three unavoidable top losers. You can't afford to lose a second trump trick, so you'll need a doubleton Ace somewhere. In addition, your side suit needs a bit of love: you need clubs 3-2, and there is the small matter of locating the ♣Q. Finally, you are in danger of losing trump control: the opponents have led hearts and they'll get in at least once more to shorten the trumps in East.

Liam explains in full how Nabil proceeded to make the contract, without having to guess who had the ♣Q. The article can be found at:

[http://www.ibpa.com/archive/Awards/2017\\_IBPA\\_Awards.pdf](http://www.ibpa.com/archive/Awards/2017_IBPA_Awards.pdf)

Well done to Nabil Edgtton, who gently guided this deal home for 12 IMPs to Australia. Nabil used a bit of imagination to find the trumps lying well, a bit of intuition to decide to ruff out the clubs, then a touch of technique at the end to watch the discards and find the right counter.

## Inaugural Australia - Indonesia Youth Test Match

The ABF is pleased to announce the establishment of an inaugural test match between Australia & Indonesia.

A conversation late last October between Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia, Paul Grigson, and Australian businessman Geoffrey Gold, a long-term resident of Indonesia, laid the beginnings of the inaugural Australia-Indonesia Youth Bridge Test Match. Geoffrey has initiated high profile sports diplomacy programs between Australia and Indonesia including Soccer, Basketball and AFL, and now Bridge.

Geoffrey drew to the attention of the Ambassador the importance of Bridge in Indonesia, an observation he had initially made during visits to Jakarta by his son Leigh Gold, a top Victorian bridge player who was always warmly welcomed by Indonesia's expert players. He was also aware that not only is Indonesia a regular finalist in major bridge tournaments, but its national organisation, Gabungan Bridge Seluruh Indonesia (GABSI), has always included very high profile community leaders, including Mr Wiranto, the current Security Coordinating Minister and a two-term President of GABSI.

Bridge is also one sport that can be played within the walls of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, although the match will be held as part of the Indonesian Open Tournament from 10 to 12 December 2017 at the Margo Hotel, Depok.

Through Leigh, Geoffrey ascertained full support from ABF President, Bruce Neill, which accelerated the diplomatic interest. At the Ambassador's request Geoffrey then prepared and delivered a detailed briefing on the sport in Indonesia and Australia and the two organisations, ABF and GABSI.

The speed with which the first tournament has come together reflects the serendipity of its beginnings.

The Australian Youth Team will be: Renee Cooper - Francesca McGrath and Jamie Thompson - Matt Smith, and the Chef de Mission/Non Playing Captain will be Justine Beaumont.

The ABF are particularly grateful to Geoffrey Gold (pictured with his wife Princess Raden Ngaten Titik Dwi Apriati Ningsih), for his efforts in suggesting this match to the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, and to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta for providing funding and consular support for the Test Match.



## World Teams Championships – Lyon

Congratulations to the Seniors' Team who reached the Round of 8 in this event, losing to Sweden, and ending the d'Orsi Trophy placed equal 5th. The Women's team placed 13th, whilst the Open team were 15th - 22 VP's off qualifying, with many teams in the field quite close to each other. The Australian Seniors' went on to finish 14th (out of 112) in the Transnational Teams event.

Kim Frazer



## KIAMA BRIDGE CLUB

In July, Kiama & District Bridge Club granted life membership to John Hetherington (pictured being presented with his certificate by the Vice President, Barry Krone). John has been their 'go-to' man for many years, tackling all the messy problems that clubs suffer. He has been a dedicated club man, working tirelessly for Kiama Bridge Club. The members respect him, and his ethical and moral fortitude has had a positive impact on the culture of the club. The list of roles he has undertaken is particularly lengthy, including being President, Secretary, director, Novice congress convenor, mentor, and assisting with the transition program for beginner players.

Congratulations, clubs need members like John, and it's great to see them acknowledged and rewarded.



## BAIRNSDALE BRIDGE CLUB

Bairnsdale Bridge Club celebrated its 40th birthday on Saturday, June 24 with a "Ruby Red" party, where everyone wore something red. The celebrations coincided with the final of the annual Anniversary Pairs competition, which was won by Joan Courtemanche and Jean Macleod.

Approximately 60 present and past members enjoyed an afternoon of bridge followed by drinks, savouries, speeches and birthday cake in the clubrooms, which were decorated fittingly, in red, for the occasion.

Inaugural president, Geoff Brown congratulated the club on 40 years since becoming affiliated with the ABF. Jan Sharp, now living in South Australia, started the club by giving bridge lessons and it has grown into a home club membership of over 80, with many more associate members.

The Bairnsdale Bridge Club will be holding its 15th annual Bridge Congress on the 21st and 22nd October 2017, at St. Mary's Parish Centre. Home baked/cooked cakes, slices and savoury food provided between play. If you are interested in playing, email [langdongood@gmail.com](mailto:langdongood@gmail.com).



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# WHAT WOULD YOU LEAD?

## HAND 1

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	2NT	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

1NT = 12-14 HCP  
 2NT = 5/5 both minors

What would you lead and why?

## HAND 2

South  
 ♠ K Q J 4  
 ♥ Q 5  
 ♦ K J 10 3  
 ♣ Q 5 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

What would you lead and why?

## HAND 3

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

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

What would you lead and why?

**Solutions: Page 20**



Kim Morrison, Simon Hinge, Joe Haffer (absent: Paul Wyer), winners of the Coffs Coast Open Teams



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## A CERTAINTY

Dealer East : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		2♠*	3♦
3♠	DBL**	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
DBL	All Pass		

\*Weak two, 6 spades, 6-10 points

\*\*For takeout

What would you lead as West from:

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

You need a strong reason to choose a suit other than a suit in which partner has made an overcall or a pre-empt. A good reason would be a singleton in an unbid suit or an outside suit headed by A-K. Neither of these applies here and so the ♠J is the normal start.

You lead the ♠J and this is what you see:

North  
♠ A 6 4  
♥ K 10 9 4  
♦ K Q 10  
♣ 9 4 2

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

Declarer plays the ♠A, East produces the ♠K and South follows with the ♠5.

*What do you understand from East's ♠K?*

Partner could have played a lower spade as simply encouraging. The ♠K can be read as letting you know that East's spades are solid. Maybe East intended the ♠K as a suit-preference signal, but that is not clearly so.

South played the ♦K - 3 - 2 - 5 and the ♦10 - ♥7 - ♦J - 9.

*What do you know about the diamonds?*

South began with seven diamonds and East with a singleton diamond.

*What about the spades?*

East figures to have started with six spades and South with two spades.

*What does East's ♥7 mean?*

You play high-encourage and so the ♥7, East's highest spot card is encouraging.

*What can you tell from that?*

East almost certainly has the ♥Q.

*How many hearts did East start with?*

East would not discard a heart from ♥Q-x-x in case South began with ♥A-x-x. East figures to have four hearts. At trick 4, South plays the ♥J. Do you rise with the Ace or play low?

The deal arose in the final of a 2017 National Open Teams:

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

Both Easts opened 2♠. Both Easts are world champions, but I remain to be convinced that it is a good idea to open a weak 2♠ with five hearts on the side.

When South played the ♥J at trick 4, West played low. South put up the ♥K, winning. Now South lost only a club and a spade, +750.

West should have risen with the ♥A and cashed the ♣A for one down, enough to win the match. He could not expect South to have a singleton heart, but your first duty is to beat the contract. With two hearts, South would not mis-guess the hearts, given West's double of 5♦. If West did rise with the ♥A and South needed the heart finesse, South might later play West for the ♥Q anyway.

At the other table, the auction went:

West	North	East	South
		2♠	3♦
3♠	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
DBL	All Pass		

West led the ♣A and gave East a club ruff. The ♥3 went to the ♥A. South was one off, East-West +200 and 14 IMPs.

*Ron Klinger*

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## COUP 4: THE MERRIMAC COUP

*Reproduced with the permission of Brian Senior*

The Merrimac Coup is, I believe, named after one of the early iron-clad military ships from the American Civil War. Presumably the ship was often used on blockade duty, restricting the enemy's entries, as it were.

Dealer South      ♠ 4 3  
 Nil Vul            ♥ 5 4 2  
                      ♦ A 3  
                      ♣ K Q J 10 9 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

When South opens a weak 1NT (12-14 HCP), an immediate raise to 3NT is a reasonable gamble with the North cards. True, North has only 10 HCP, but the club suit will usually provide several winners, and the fast auction gives West a blind opening lead, which may prove to be to declarer's advantage.

West leads the ♠J to East's ♠A. An automatic spade return, the choice of many players, will allow the contract home. Declarer wins the spade and knocks out the ♣A while the ♦A sits in dummy as an entry to the established club winners.

The killing defence is for East to switch to the King of Diamonds at trick two to knock out the entry to dummy. East can then duck two rounds of clubs to restrict declarer to just two tricks from that suit. Though declarer gets three diamond winners, if the full deal is as shown, he is held to only eight tricks in all.

This spectacular play is a Merrimac Coup – the deliberate sacrifice of a high honour card with the object of knocking out a vital entry to either declarer's or, more commonly, dummy's hand.

If you find this play at the table you will be entitled to congratulations. Just yawn and say, 'Oh, it was just a Merrimac Coup', as though they are an everyday occurrence for you.

*Brian Senior*



*Ian Robinson and George Kozakos,  
 winners of the Seniors' Butler Pairs in Canberra*

## MY FAVOURITE HAND

**BRUCE NEILL:** *although really it is about someone else!*

### CREATING A FALSE IMPRESSION

One skill some of the greatest players in the game have is an ability to see the hand from the opponent's viewpoint and give them a losing option. Look at this declarer play problem. You are declarer in 3NT by West, after a bidding sequence that amounts to 1NT (12-14) by you, 3NT by partner.

Dealer West  
 EW Vul

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

North leads the ♠3, fourth best. South plays ♠4, using high encouraging. You lead a heart to the ♥9, ♥J and ♥Q. South leads the ♠5 to the ♠Q, ♠K and ♠9. North thinks a bit, and leads the ♠10. What's your plan?

Since the ♠2 is missing, it looks like North started with 5 spades. He didn't clear the spade suit, so clearly he doesn't have the ♥A as well. The whole deal might be:

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

In that case, you had better duck the club, win the return, and knock out the ♥A. That gives you 2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds (you assume), and 2 clubs. You can't afford to win the ♠A and play hearts at this point because that might give South 2 more heart tricks to go with the ♠K and the 2 tricks the defence already have.

That's exactly what declarer, a former world champion, did. But it wasn't a success! The whole deal was in fact:

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

So, when declarer ducked the club, South, Avi Kanetkar, won and produced the ♠2! Next North won the ♥A and cashed the fourth spade for one down.

Look how by subtly hiding the ♠2, Avi gave declarer a wrong view of the hand. There's nothing more satisfying than beating an unbeatable contract!

*Bruce Neill*

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## ITINERARY

### MONDAY MAY 7

Welcome to Dublin, find your way to your hotel - The O'Callaghan Davenport where you will be free to relax after your flight – Dinner in the hotel is included.

### TUESDAY MAY 8

In the morning we take a coach tour and visit St Patrick's Cathedral, the largest church building in Ireland and Dublin Castle. The afternoon and evening is free for you to explore.

### WEDNESDAY MAY 9

Today a half day tour to Russborough House and a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

### THURSDAY MAY 10

Transfer to Dublin Port for cruise departure.

### FRIDAY MAY 11

Explore Belfast.

### SATURDAY MAY 12

A sea day, with a one hour optional morning bridge lecture at 10am and afternoon duplicate 1.30-4.00pm.

### SUNDAY MAY 13 AND MONDAY MAY 14

Reykjavik the capital and the largest city in Iceland.

### TUESDAY MAY 15

Akureyri Iceland – 2nd largest city with a cool café scene.

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### THURSDAY MAY 17

Explore Lerwick/Shetland Scotland.

### FRIDAY MAY 18

A sea day with a one hour optional bridge lecture and afternoon duplicate followed by farewell cocktail party.

### SATURDAY MAY 19

Return to Dublin

### SUNDAY MAY 20

Disembark in Dublin OR continue on with Dani & Nigel for another 8 days and cruise the Norwegian Fjords\*.

## HAND 1

*North*  
 ♠ K Q 4  
 ♥ Q 2  
 ♦ J 4 3  
 ♣ A Q 10 8 7

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

You should be leading a trump without even thinking about it. West has been asked to choose between clubs and diamonds, and chose diamonds. That should alert you to their club shortage, though your own club length should be alerting you to that fact anyway.

The full hand:

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

On a trump lead, 3♦ will fail, making 8 tricks. On the heart lead, declarer won the ♥K, crossed back to the ♥A, and led a club. North won the ♣A and still refused to lead trumps! The lead of the ♠K was won with the ♠A, declarer trumped a club, then ruffed a spade back to dummy and led another club. If South discarded, West would make her ♦Q, so South ruffed with her ♦K but now declarer had 9 tricks – 1 spade, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds, the ♣K and a club ruff.

## HAND 2

*South*  
 ♠ K Q J 4  
 ♥ Q 5  
 ♦ K J 10 3  
 ♣ Q 5 2

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

The Pass of 2♥ indicates preference for hearts rather than spades. This means that West has some combination of the following (spades: hearts) – 1:3, 0:3, 2:4, 1:4 or similar. There must be at least two cards greater length in hearts than spades in dummy. This means you should lead a trump.

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

South led the ♥Q and the defence was one step ahead of declarer. The ♥Q was ducked, and a heart continued. However, when declarer now led a spade, South ducked so North could win the ♠A and remove another round of trumps.

At least two declarers still made this contract on a squeeze on South! Having drawn the third round of trumps, North switched to the ♣J. Declarer won the club and led another spade, South winning. South continued with the ♣Q won by declarer. If spades were breaking 3-3, the contract would still make, so even though this seemed unlikely given the first spade play, a spade was led and ruffed in dummy.

Spades didn't break, so declarer exited a club to North. North now had to realise that South would be under pressure finding a discard. Look at the diamond spots in dummy and in North's hand. The last club left South without recourse. East trumped, and South either had to throw away a spade winner, or give up the diamond suit. North needed to do some counting – East had shown a 5-4 in the Majors and then had followed to 3 rounds of clubs. That meant it was imperative to lead a diamond now, into the Ace-Queen, to stop the squeeze pressure on South.

In terms of knowing when to lead trumps, one question you should ask yourself as you listen to the auction is, "Should I be leading trumps to cut down the ruffs in dummy?" It is good to lead trumps when declarer has bid two suits and ends up in the second suit.

## HAND 3

*East*  
 ♠ 10 6  
 ♥ 10 5  
 ♦ K 6 4 3  
 ♣ J 10 9 8 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

One option is to lead partner's suit, the ♥10. Another option is to lead a trump. I think the trump lead is very attractive for the simple reason that you have both clubs and diamonds held, and partner has hearts (and values). Trump leads are recommended when you have all three outside suits held, because you are restricting declarer's trumping ability.

The full hand:

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

Provided the defence switches to trumps, 4♣ will fail. However, sometimes you need to be able to lead trumps more often to do full damage to declarer's prospects.

On all the above hands, a trump lead is best. The reasoning for the trump lead varies with each hand. However, the reasoning for each trump lead applies in all similar situations.



*With apologies to Ron Klinger, creator of The Old Master stories*

Patrick Huang first played bridge for Chinese Taipei in 1958, when he was 15 years old. In 1969 and 1970, he was part of the Chinese Taipei team that came second in consecutive world championships. During this period, he was instrumental, together with CC Wei, in introducing the Precision bidding system to the bridge world. In 2014, his contributions to bridge were recognised with his being awarded the IBPA Personality of the Year.

Nearly 60 years later, he is still a star for Chinese Taipei. Watch him at work on this hand from the 2017 Asia Pacific Bridge Championships in Seoul, played in June.

Dealer North ♠ void  
NS Vul ♥ A 9 6 3  
♦ K 8 3  
♣ A K 9 7 6 4

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

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	Liu	Whibley	Huang
1♠	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	Double	3♠	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Matthew Brown (New Zealand), on his 21st birthday, led the ♠A, an unfortunate choice of lead. This was ruffed in dummy. Patrick cashed the ♠A and ruffed a club in hand, drew two rounds of trumps with the ♦A and the ♦K, then trumped another club to establish the club suit.

He now exited with his last trump, because he could not afford to use dummy's (heart) entry to the clubs while there was still an outstanding trump. Though there was no longer a trump in any hand, Matt Brown was end-played. If he led a heart, it could be run around to declarer's ♥Q, so he tried a spade exit, which simply allowed Patrick to discard dummy's two hearts on his spade winners, and then dummy was high.

This impressive result became even better when the New Zealanders underbid the hand at the other table:

West	North	East	South
S. Yang	Cornell	D. Yang	Bach
	1♣	Pass	1♥ (= 1♠)
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

There were six team events held in Seoul: Open, Ladies, Seniors, Juniors, Girls and Youngsters. The final contract in each of the events was almost universally 3NT, which was an awkward contract on the ♠J lead, but, with West having the entries, it should make. Many declarers failed, by ducking spades at trick 1, but the majority made their contract. However, Patrick Huang and his partner were the only pair to bid and make slam.

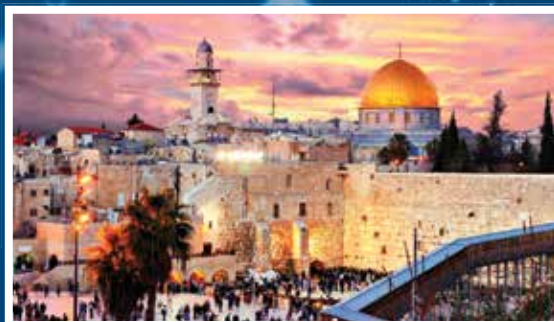
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**Directing Team:**

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Bill Kemp CTD: 0478 595 275

[diggadog@iinet.net.au](mailto:diggadog@iinet.net.au)

Neville Walker: 0418 944 077

[nevillewalker1@bigpond.com](mailto:nevillewalker1@bigpond.com)





## ENCOURAGING NEWER PLAYERS

Bathurst & District Bridge Club believe that new members are the life blood and an essential component of any organisation.

To introduce and encourage new members, the club - on an ongoing basis - holds:

- Bridge courses on a programmed basis
- Weekly teaching sessions within the club rooms
- Bridge classes as part of the U3A program, held during the year at Charles Sturt University
- Public information and display days at local shopping centres

The club also provides results for all sessions based on actual results and on handicap, and it is a happy event for the beginner when they take out a session on handicap. On the last week of a month, "chocolate" prizes are awarded for handicapped results over that week and these are won by players right across the range of expertise.

To further complement the gaining of experience for new players, B&DBC hold a Novice Tournament each year for players with 50 MPs and under. This year the tournament will be held over the weekend of 28 & 29 October 2017, offering a weekend of bridge, good food, great company and friendly competition, accompanied by delightful prizes. This sort of event is a perfect introduction to bridge congresses as well as providing good competition to the more seasoned player.

*John Shield, Bathurst BC*

**The ABF is looking for a new National Marketing Officer to develop and drive our next National Marketing Plan to sell the game of bridge and the ABF brand.**

## DUTIES:

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The new person will have the following mix of skills, attributes and experience:

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- creativity and the ability to consider and develop innovative approaches;
- loyalty to the services we are offering and the brand;
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## THE COURTNEY COUP by Chris Depasquale

In chess we are familiar with the idea of sacrificing material (one or more pieces) to further our aims in the game at hand. At chess the temporary giving up of material leading to immediate greater gains is not a genuine sacrifice; it is merely a tactical blow (or part of a combination of blows) similar to a coup at bridge. Genuine sacrifices of material are far less common.

I first met Michael Courtney at national junior chess championships more than 40 years ago. Like all chess players Michael was partial to the chess sacrifice, and studied it deeply. After graduating to bridge Michael found the occasional use for the sacrifice. This hand was played at a high stakes rubber bridge game in Double Bay about 30 years ago. I will let Michael explain it in his own words.

"This was my hand, on lead after the following auction.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			7♥

South's 2♥ was natural and game forcing. North's 3♦ promised an ace and a king plus a useful suit. 4♣ was natural and 4♣ a cue-bid while 5♥ was simple preference. So, North has the ♠A, the ♦K and at most two doubletons in partner's suits. South is certainly void in diamonds and expects to take 13 tricks by ruffing a club in dummy. He doesn't quite have ♠x ♥AKQJxxx ♦void ♣AKQxx. With that much he would open 4NT, asking for specific aces.

What do you lead to defeat this grand slam?

I led ♦A giving the 11th and 12th tricks, otherwise declarer has no hope except 3-3 clubs. Now with 12 top tricks and such small trumps in dummy he instead ran his winners but no squeeze ensued.

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

On any other lead declarer has no line except to cash one trump and attempt to ruff out 3-3 clubs. After the ♦A is led, however, he has 12 top tricks, 13 if the ♦J is dropping. He has chances of squeezes with menaces in all three suits. Here the 3-3 club break works against him for both players can guard that suit."

There it is: the Courtney Coup. The player deliberately sacrifices material (the ♦A), and gives declarer extra tricks, in order to break an otherwise unbreakable contract. How often does that come up?

Roll the clock forward now to the 2016 Territory Gold Bridge Festival in Darwin, and once again Michael Courtney was at the table, so once again I will let Michael describe what transpired.

"	♠ 3	♠ Q 8 6	
	♥ A K J 8 4	♥ Q 7 6 3	
	♦ J 5	♦ K 10 9 6 2	
	♣ Q J 10 6 4	♣ 5	
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♦	Double
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♦8 dummy plays low. How do you play?

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

If East plays low on the diamond declarer has only 11 tricks without a successful finesse. So he will cash five clubs, discarding one spade and one heart. Then he will finesse the spade through the one defender who showed any values in the bidding, i.e. East.

♠ void	♠ void
♥ A K J	♥ Q 7
♦ J	♦ K 10
♠ 10	♠ 4
♥ Q 10 5	♥ 9
♦ void	♦ A 7

I have given both players the ♥Q in the end-game to demonstrate that the squeeze succeeds whoever holds that card. It is easy to see that East has already had to reduce to two hearts, to guard diamonds. Now the ♦A is cashed, and West must surrender his third heart in order to guard spades. The hearts cash without a finesse and the slam is made.



Michael Courtney (right) with Ron Klinger.  
In 2010, Michael won the IBPA's award for the Best Declarer Play of the Year (see next page).

East rose ♦K on the lead! Now declarer had 12 top tricks and a choice of finesse or major suit squeeze. He won the ♦A, unblocked the ♦J, crossed in clubs to cash the ♦Q, discarding a heart, before running clubs to reach:

♠ 3  
♥ A K J 8

♠ 10 9 7  
♥ 10 5

♠ A K J  
♥ 9 2

♠ Q 8 6  
♥ Q 7

East had calmly come down to Q-x in hearts during the deluge of minor suit winners. Now declarer cashed one top heart, then he cashed the ♠A and ♠K while I followed with the ♠9 and ♠10. In the two-card ending he led towards the ♥K-J... After due consideration, he finessed and lost the last two tricks to the two naked ladies!"

The chess player in me demands that I call this type of sacrifice the Courtney Coup.

*Chris Depasquale (Darwin)*

## A PRIZE-WINNING COURTNEY COUP

*This is from Bobby Wolff's blog about Michael Courtney. This is NOT a recommendation to play like Michael. It shows how some people are capable of plays that we would never even consider.*

Certain players seem to cause curious happenings at the bridge table. The incomparable Zia (Mahmood) is the first name that springs to mind. The late John Collings (UK) is another. And a third is Michael Courtney of Australia. This hand won the 2010 International Bridge Press Association's Rose Cliff Declarer Play of the Year Award, and the winning journalist was the prolific author Ron Klinger.

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

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

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

♠ K Q 4  
♥ Q 9 2  
♦ J 9 2  
♣ A K 9 8

West	North	East	South
	3♦	Pass	3NT

All Pass

The deal arose at rubber bridge and Michael Courtney came up with an ingenious deception that claimed East as its victim. When North opened 3♦, Courtney bid 3NT and West led the ♠6 to the ♠10 – Jack – King. Now Courtney took the losing diamond finesse, leaving East on lead. Keen to show where his values lay, East cashed the ♥K. West, keener for East to revert to spades, followed with the ♥J, denying the Queen. Courtney knew that the initial spade lead was from at most a 6-card suit since he could see the ♠3 and ♠4, therefore East held at least one more spade and the contract was hopeless. Accordingly, when East followed up with the ♥A, Courtney contributed the ♥Q! Naturally, West continued his unblocking in hearts, playing the ♥10, since East clearly had the rest of the hearts.

Now, having read West for an initial holding of J-10-9-7 in hearts, with South holding the doubleton-Queen, East continued with a third heart – and Courtney produced the master ♥9 and took his nine winners.

## BASIC BRIDGE 101

During the regular social drink and a quick discussion after the Thursday night bridge session at our local club, Sarah came over to me with a frown on her face and said it was all to do with board 14. Without giving me a chance to say anything, she said that she had remembered previous discussions on 'vacant spaces' and applied the principle, but to no avail. "Perhaps," she said, "the 'vacant spaces' are in my head, as a former ex-partner unkindly suggested." At this point, she stopped talking and gave me a chance to say that I was sure her ex-partner, besides being very rude, was incorrect and asked what had happened. This was the hand in question.

Dealer West ♠ K 10 8 3 2  
EW Vul ♥ K  
♦ K 4 3 2  
♣ Q 4 3

♠ Q 7 6  
♥ void  
♦ J 10 9 8 7  
♣ J 10 9 8 7

♠ void  
♥ J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3  
♦ 6 5  
♣ 6 5

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

"West opened that filthy collection 2NT for the minors and my partner bid 3♠ and East passed. I checked the back of my cards to ensure that I had the same deck as everyone else and after ensuring they were, I rolled out 'Blackwood' and the follow up indicated we had all the Aces and Kings so I bid 7NT to protect against any potential ruffs."

"That was very prudent," I interjected, "and well thought out."

She continued, "West led the ♦J. I saw that I had 3 club, 3 diamond and 3 heart tricks and 5 spade tricks assuming the suit broke. That is more than 13 tricks, but 13 would suffice, of course. Now, remembering about 'vacant spaces', West has at least 10 cards in the minors so West has at most 3 cards in the majors, and East has at most 4 cards in the minors so at least 9 cards in the majors. With this knowledge, I won in hand with the ♦A and led a small spade to the ♠K, and when East showed out and I went one off. I knew from reading the tea leaves in the morning, this was not going to be my day."

'Your analysis was excellent up to a point,' I stated, "and you were indeed unlucky, but you could have delved further before playing the key suit, spades – that is, play the other suits first. Play the ♦A and ♦Q, and then a heart to the ♥K will reveal West's void. Now cash the ♦K throwing a spade (it is your 14th trick, after all) and then play all the clubs and hearts. East will show out on the third round of both diamonds and clubs, confirming what you knew from West's opening bid.

What do they both have outside of the spade suit? With each opponent not able to follow at one stage or another, you have an exact count, East has 9 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs and, therefore, no spades or West has 0 hearts, 5 diamonds and 5 clubs and, therefore, 3 spades. "You did well to avoid 7♠," I said. "Most people went one off on a heart lead, ruffed."

*Chris Hughes*

## OFF OR ON?

Dear Venerable and Ancient One,

A sudden thought struck me the other day when I held:

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

My right-hand opponent opened with a Multi 2♦ (weak in either major or maybe some kind of 20+ balanced hand sort-of-thing) and I bid 2NT to show a strong balanced hand.

My left-hand opponent passed and Glenda bid 3♦. My big problem was whether 3♦ showed hearts or diamonds. As far as I remember, we hadn't discussed this and I always thought that transfers were OK over real NT openings but not after overcalls.

Actually I bid 3NT and that was all right but, before anyone led, my partner explained that she meant 3♦ as a transfer. Was that right? What should we be doing?

Luv,  
Cathy

Dear Young and Foolish One,

What a time to consider your bidding agreements! I can't tell you what you were supposed to understand but I would have thought that it might have been discussed in a partnership that has been functioning for quite a while.

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

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

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

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

There is a gap here. If your RHO opens 2♠ essentially showing spades, what does a call of 3♥ mean in response to your 2NT overcall? There are a number of possible uses, including stopper check, a three-suited hand or minor suit Stayman. You can decide to adopt any of those, or find a new use and make a name for yourself! I have no particular recommendation.

Regards,  
David

David Lusk

In his email to me pointing out a typo in the May edition, Roger Phillips attached the following story:

On 24th June 2016, as the sun was in its nadir, my bridge career was closely following the same trajectory as I found Chapter 85 in my forthcoming autobiography '101 ways to go wrong at Bridge'.

This is a tome which has been over 40 years in the construct and features all the usual things: trumping partner's Ace, bidding out of turn, leading out of turn, reneging, trumping a suit and then immediately leading back that suit. To paraphrase that great songwriter Paul Kelly, I've thrown my hat into the ring, I've done all the dumb things.

On this midwinter's day I truly surpassed myself, let me take you through it.

In my defence, may I say that I verge on the obsessive about counting my cards face down with each new hand, so much so that in a recent Yarra Valley teams event I found myself with only 12 cards in my hand. I checked again with the opposition and partner, all of whom had the regulation 13, so I called the Director and explained the situation. With a deftness that Houdini may have envied, he reached into his top pocket and said, 'I think this may be yours.'

It was indeed the missing card but the board had been played for three tables before it was noticed!

And now for Chapter 85: My partner and I were having a very poor day when we finally bid to 4♠ (from her). As I was laying down my dummy, I noticed that two cards had fallen face up into my lap. I quickly retrieved them, slotted them into their correct positions and play proceeded. It went on until the twelfth trick when North noticed that while she and all the other players were down to just one card each, dummy was smiling up with three cards. Oops!

The Director was called and I was served with the kind of look usually reserved for the kid that comes last in the egg and spoon race. The hand, which partner had played superbly to make the requisite 4♠, was declared null and void and averaged. The Director was kind enough to point out that it is the responsibility of all players to note the correctness of the dummy and rode off into the lunch-break.

So there it is readers, faux pas No. 85, the day I laid down a 15 card dummy, undetected.

May I point out that at least one other player should have noted that their ♦10 was replicated in dummy. Let him who is without sin trump the next trick.

Roger Phillips  
Waverley BC

### OPENING LEAD TIP

You shouldn't automatically lead fourth highest of your longest and strongest suit:

- Listen to the auction before leading.
- Work out what you know about the opponents' length in different suits and their HCP.
- Think about how many HCP you can expect in partner's hand.
- THEN make your lead.



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## COMMON MISTAKES PLAYERS MAKE by Barbara Travis

*This month I am writing about two common mistakes, because they both relate to bidding after partner's 1NT opening or overcall (or 2NT openings and overcalls).*

### USING STAYMAN INCORRECTLY

Your partner opens 2NT (20-22 HCP) and you hold:

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

If you play 'minor suit Stayman' over 2NT, which is a good use for the 3♠ bid, then this hand is ideally suited to this bid. Without minor suit Stayman, what call would you make? I would just bid 3NT because there is no sensible way to bid this hand without any minor-based bidding conventions.

At the table, the person holding this hand chose to bid 3♣, Stayman. I imagine they were worried about the heart shortage and hoped to hear partner bid 3♥, so they would feel more comfortable about rebidding 3NT.

There is a very good reason why using Stayman on this hand is not a good action. The reason is that you promise a 4-card Major (or both Majors) when you use Stayman, so that if opener responds 3♥ and you rebid 3NT denying heart support, then opener should rebid 4♣ with 4-4 in the Majors, on the assumption your 4 card Major must be spades. Using Stayman does not solve your problem on the hand.

On the next hand, partner opens 1NT and you hold:

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

You should Pass 1NT. You only have 6 HCP and that is not enough for any game. Do not use Stayman to look for a Major fit, because if opener responds with 2♦ you will have to rebid 2NT, which invites game – and you do not want to do that. Occasionally you will miss a Major fit, but the cost is that too often you will play in 2NT or even 3NT and be unable to make your contract, yet 7 tricks are easy. Leave your partner in 1NT on a balanced hand without the values for game.



*The victorious NSW Seniors' Team (left to right): John McIlraith (NPC), Rena Kaplan, Terry Brown, Lorna Ichilcik, Peter Buchen, Mike Hughes, David Beauchamp*

### REBIDDING AFTER A JACOBY TRANSFER

1NT                      2♥  
2♠                        ?

You've used a Jacoby transfer, but what should you do next? You need to remember that you have already told your partner that you have at least 5 spades, so now you need to tell them what they do NOT know about your hand.

If you rebid your spades you should have 6+ cards in the suit, given that opener may only have 2 cards in spades. Often people jump to 4♠ with the following type of hand:

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

They have enough points for game, and are uncomfortable about their doubleton heart, so they rebid 4♠. However, bidding 4♠ shows 6+ spades, as mentioned above. Your correct rebid here is 3NT, which is not 'terminal', rather it is telling your partner that you have only 5 spades and the values for game. Now it is up to opener to decide whether to play in 3NT or 4♠, usually based on their level of spade support for you.

The other rebid that people tend to mis-use occurs when responder holds a good hand with 5-5 in the Majors opposite a 1NT opening bid:

♠ K Q 9 5 4  
♥ A Q 8 5 4  
♦ 4  
♣ 8 6

The auction should start:

1NT                      2♥  
2♠                        3♥

because a new suit at the 3-level is forcing to game.

However, most people jump to 4♥ immediately, although there is no need to do so; it just removes some valuable bidding space from the auction. A 3♥ rebid forces your partner to bid again and, if necessary, you can then bid 4♥ to show your 5-5.

Jumping to new suits at the 4-level should, in fact, be Splinter bids, setting your own suit and showing a shortage (singleton or void) in the 'jump suit'. Opposite a 1NT opening bid, it would confirm a good 6+ card suit, given that opener may still have a small doubleton in your suit, and shows some interest in slam depending on whether partner has good cards or poor cards facing your now-known shortage.

*Barbara Travis*

### OPENING LEAD TIP

When responder passes opener in opener's second-bid suit (e.g. 1S – 1NT – 2H – Pass), you should lead trumps. This auction suggests that responder is very short in opener's first-bid suit, therefore you lead trumps to limit declarer's ability to trump in dummy.

## SQUEEZING YOUR WIFE

From *Australian Bridge* January 2001, written by Khokan Bagchi about playing bridge in Tonga.

'Akau'ola and his wife, Evelini, are one of the most formidable bridge partnerships in Tonga.

On the following hand from a not-so-friendly rubber bridge game on the tropical paradise of Ta'unga, Evelini was repeatedly squeezed by 'Akau'ola, although not in the manner that she may have liked.

*Evelini Faletau*

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

*'Akau'ola*

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

*Lynleigh Evans*

♠ 7 6 3 2  
♥ A Q  
♦ Q 7 6 4  
♣ Q 5 4

*Khokan Bagchi*

♠ 8 5  
♥ 10 9 8 7 4  
♦ 10  
♣ 10 8 7 6 2

After 'Akau'ola and Lynleigh had overbid to the optimistic spot of 6NT, Evelini (North) felt quite comfortable about defeating the contract, sitting with her collection.

She led the ♠J which 'Akau'ola won, to lead a club to the ♣Q and another to his ♣K. Evelini won her ♣A and continued spades. At this stage, 'Akau'ola realised that even if spades and diamonds broke, he would still need the heart finesse to win. Accordingly, he led a heart to the ♥Q which, of course, won. He cashed the last club, on which Evelini felt the pinch in the following ending:

♠ 9 4  
♥ K 3  
♦ J 9 5 2  
♣ void

♠ A  
♥ J 6  
♦ A K 8 3  
♣ void

♠ 7 6  
♥ A  
♦ Q 7 6 4  
♣ void

*immaterial*

*[Evelini still has to find a discard on the last club.]*

Knowing that a spade or diamond discard would certainly cost a trick, Evelini discarded a heart in the hope that Khokan, not 'Akau'ola, held the ♥J. No such luck. 'Akau'ola cashed the ♥A, and came to hand with the ♠A to squeeze Evelini again with the ♥J, making a very lucky slam.

In spite of this result, it is reported that 'Akau'ola and Evelini are still married.

*Khokan Bagchi*

## SIMPLE SQUEEZE PLAY SIMPLIFIED

Quite often on a hand, you are potentially one trick short of your contract. It can be beneficial in these situations to lose a trick (or however many tricks you can afford to lose), in order to 'rectify the count' – meaning that you have lost your trick/s and can then exert pressure on the opposition in the remainder of the play. This will often bring about a position where a simple squeeze will operate:

♠ 3 2

♥ A K 6

♦ A Q 7 2

♣ A K Q 5

♠ Q J 10 8

♥ 3 2

♦ 6 5

♣ 9 8 7 4 3

♠ K 9 7 6

♥ J 10 9 8

♦ J 10 9 8

♣ 2

♠ A 5 4

♥ Q 7 5 4

♦ K 4 3

♣ J 10 6

*West*

*North*

*East*

*South*

2♣

Pass

2NT

Pass

3NT (22+ HCP)

Pass

6NT

All Pass

West leads the ♠Q against South's 6NT contract. South has 11 top tricks – 1 spade, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds, 4 clubs. Many declarers would win the spade lead and hope one (or both) of the red suits breaks favourably (3-3).

On the other hand, a more experienced player will see that there are also chances for a squeeze – pressure on an opponent who guards too many suits – providing an extra chance for the contract. A squeeze will operate only if declarer rectifies the count by losing the one trick they can afford. The squeeze operates because the 'victim' has no spare (idle) cards they can afford to discard, which is why you have to rectify the count (lose your loser) first.

So South will duck trick 1, then win the spade continuation.

Now, when South leads four rounds of clubs, East has discard problems. He can afford to discard two spades, but the fourth club forces him to discard a red card, unguarding the suit. South will then be able to take four tricks in whichever red suit East has had to discard, making 12 tricks.



*The NSW Women's Team, winners of the Interstate Women's Teams (left to right):*

*Linda King, Helene Pitt, Ruth Tobin, Anita Curtis, Marcia Scudder (NPC). Absent: Kim Neale, Sophie Ashton*



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## FUNNY STORY 1

One evening after the completion of bridge, Bob Richman approached Ishmael Del'Monte with the line: "I've got the funniest auction for you."

Ishmael replied, "Board 25? I bet I've got a better story than you have."

Richman, never one to turn down a challenge, proposed a \$5 wager.

The deal in question:

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

At Richman's table, the auction was:

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

To this day, the Australian international representative player sitting South is trying to justify giving preference to North with his major holding. [Ed: This was around 1995.]

At Ishmael's table, the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	3NT
Pass	Pass	DBL	4♣
All Pass			

Bob to Ishmael: "Do you have change of \$20?"

## FUNNY HAND / STORY 2

From the IBPA Bulletin, April 2017

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	X	All Pass

After the ultra-conservative North-South bidding, with hearts over dummy's bid suit and trumps seemingly splitting badly, East made a speculative double. Declarer won West's singleton heart lead with dummy's ♥A and cash the ♠A, revealing the 1-1 split. No more cards needed to be played. Declarer could cash the minor-suit Aces and cross-ruff the remaining 9 tricks. 13 tricks, and 4♣ X, with 3 overtricks. + 1390.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣ (1)	Pass	4NT (2)
Pass	5♦ (3)	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

- (1) Club splinter
- (2) RKCB
- (3) 1 or 4 key cards

At table 2, North-South bid very efficiently to 7♣. The play did not tax declarer and 13 tricks were quickly chalked up for +2210. That represented a 13 IMP gain.

The result could have been very different if either of Table 1's North or South could have redoubled. A redoubled contract making overtricks always scores better than the undoubled higher contract. 4♣ XX with 3 overtricks scores more than 7♣, being worth 2280 (each overtrick being worth 400).

Tenterfield BC members celebrating Mary Smith's 100th birthday.



## PASS, OVERCALL OR DOUBLE?

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable, after 1♣ by your right hand opponent (RHO):

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

1. Double. Your hand is flat and minimum and you have only one chance to enter the bidding and that is now. Perhaps your partner has 4 or even 5 hearts and 9 or 10 points and if your LHO responds 1♣, then your side is out of the bidding unless you act now.

On the other hand you are minimum and balanced and caution is recommended if you are against a strong pair who might double you (rare) at the 1-level if you only have a 4-3 fit.

2. Pass. Your hand has the same shape as Hand 1, but this time all your points are in the suit your RHO opened. As such, your hand is much more suited to defence and you should pass and plan to lead a heart against any No Trump contract.

3. 1♠. Only 7 HCPs but an attractive hand with a good 5 card suit and some shape. If your partner has 4 or 5 spades, or even 3, you want to be in the bidding, pushing the opponents around. There was a time when partnerships would double opponents for penalty at the 1-level but this has become quite rare, making the 1♠ bid even more appealing.

4. Pass. You are 5-4 in the majors, but your hand is more defensive in nature with 8 of your 9 HCPs in your two doubletons. This is the sort of hand where you pass first but, if the opponents stop in 2-minor, you balance with a double. Your delayed action warns your partner not to expect too much and, by balancing rather than bidding at your first opportunity, you imply that your suits are weak, warning partner to exercise caution if leading your suits.

5. Double. In the past, I have always preferred to overcall the 5-card major with 5-4 in the majors rather than double. However, in a recent article by Kit Woolsey, on Bridgewinners, he pointed out that you should double and when you later bid your 5 card major it is simply Equal Level Conversion and does not show extra values. This is like the situation when you hold say ♠xx ♥AKxx ♦Axxx ♣Qx and you double 1♣, but, if partner responds 2♣, you bid 2♦ showing 5 diamonds and 4 hearts but no extra strength.

6. Double. This hand is not nearly as strong as in Hand 5, but the same principle of Equal Level Conversion applies. Should partner reply with 1♦, you continue with 1♠ showing 5 spades and 4 hearts. You are very likely to lose the heart fit if you overcall 1♠.

7. 1♥. Do I hear cries of "I've got 16+ HCPs so double first?" The modern approach is to get your suit in while you have the chance. Let's say you doubled and it went 1♣ on your left and 3♣ on your right – what would you do now? You would have the choice between double and 4♥, both of which are less appealing than overcalling 1♥. The best approach is to bid your suit first and then if it then continues (1♣) P (3♣), now double.

8. 1♠. The danger in overcalling is that you might be left to play in 1♣ with a much better diamond fit or with a fit in both spades and diamonds so that 4♣ makes. Most of the hands in this quiz come from the 2017 Coffs Harbour Gold Congress and partner held ♠Q4, ♥Q762, ♦A1092, ♣J104 and passed the 1♣ overcall. 1♣ was passed out, making +170.

Only 10 tables out of 59 bid 4♣ with 17 HCP opposite 9 HCP and, in most cases, only because the opening bidder didn't pass the hand out. My view is that advancer (overcaller's partner) was at fault for not responding 1NT to the 1♣ overcall even without a club stopper.

9. Double. This time, with a strong 2C opening, your hand really is too powerful to risk being passed out in 1♣. When you double intending to show your suit later, you should be prepared to bid at least to the 4-level if the bidding is that high by the time it gets back to you. Even if opponents bid say: (1♣) Dbl (5♣) it wouldn't be too adventurous to bid 5♣ rather than double, which would mean that you would never show your 7-card suit.

10. 1♥. You have a powerful hand but it is dangerous not to show your 6-card suit first. In answer to those who would double first fearing they might miss a game, on this deal you needed to stop low and you can only make 7 tricks in hearts when partner held ♠86, ♥7, ♦KQJ8763, ♣865.

In fact, you need to bid 1♥ to give yourself space to be able to stop in the last making spot of 3♦.

*Paul Lavings*



*Playing behind screens (and on Bridge Base Online) at the World Championships*

# T B I B

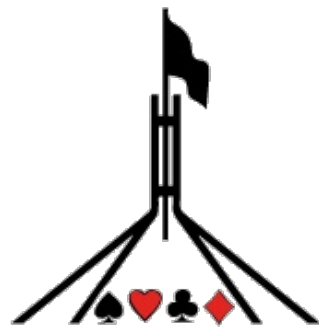
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