



Spring Nationals Bulletin

No 1
Editor

Thursday 7 November 2002
Nick Hughes

Masterpoints

In the Women's Teams (20 bd matches), 1.20 Gold Points per player for each win.

In the Open Teams (16 bd matches), 1.28 Gold Points per player.

Signing in

You will usually need to sign in each time you arrive at the club.

Smoking

The smoking area at the Hakoah Club is on the ground floor, in the gaming area.

Any player discovered smoking in any other area, in particular the stair wells, will be suspended for either the remainder of the current session, and/or for the following session.

There will be no warnings! **Smoking in the stair wells is against the law!**

Mobile phones

Mobile phones must be switched off in the playing area. A procedural penalty of 3 VPs (or 9 IMPs) applies to any player whose mobile phone is switched on unless the director determines that there is a valid (e.g. medical) reason.

Lunch menus

Menus will be provided during morning sessions for collection before 12.30. Coffee is available, including cappuccinos etc. There is a bar on the ground floor.

Charity Pro-Am IMP Pairs

for Mission Australia

This will be held next Thursday, 10am start, with 3 x 16-board matches. Scores will be IMPed against the Closed Room results from the SpNOT final.

Last year

During last year's Spring Nats, Australia went one up against Uruguay; Kim Beasley lost an election but he's still floating around. In the SNWT final, The Hoffman team from Canberra led by 30 IMPs at half time but eventually lost to Bourke - Cormack, Lusk - Tully, Beale - Smart.

Women in Montreal

Numbers were down in the World Championships in August, with just 36 teams in the McConnell Cup, the women's teams.

The all-American final saw Irina

Welcome

Welcome to the 2002 ABF Spring Carnival.

Things are much the same as last year – same event order, same session times, same parking and lunch arrangements.

On most days play will finish by 7pm so make sure you line up a few team dinners at one of Bondi's great restaurants.

We wish you all good luck.

Frank Budai, Convener

Parking

On-street parking is metered and the Hakoah car park is generally unavailable so go to Secure Parking

under the Swiss Grand. If you present your ABF card or a hand record, you'll find the daily rate is **\$3.50!**

No evening sessions

This is good for locals and interstaters. Now you can devote 9 hrs for bridge with shortish breaks (1 hour for lunch, 30 minutes at 4pm). In other places, you have to set aside 12 hours with longer breaks between matches.

This is the WBF and European way, with Americans starting to fall into line. You finish the day's bridge at 7pm then either go home to your family, or to one of Bondi's restaurants (there are two at Hakoah) for a relaxed meal.

The SpNWT

The field will be about 32 teams, the same as last year.

Qualifying is over nine 20-board matches, then the top two play a 64 board final on Sunday.

Winners receive 36 playoff points (PQPs), 18 to the runners up. Same in the SpNOT (the sensitive new acronym for the SNOT).



Spring National Women's Teams (SpNWT) 9 x 20 bds

Thu 7th SNWT 1-3 at Hakoah 10am, 1.30pm & 4.30pm.

Fri 8th SNWT 4-6

Sat 9th SNWT 7-9

Sun 10th 7 Round Congress Teams, 10am start. \$100 per team (SNWT final from 9am, start time to be confirmed)

Spring National Open Teams (SpNOT) 12 x 16 bds

Mon 11th SNOT 1-4 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

Tue 12th SNOT 4-6 10am, 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm

Wed 13th SNOT 7-9 10am, 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm

Thur 14th Mission Australia Pro-Am IMP Pairs, 10am start (SNOT final from 9am, start time to be confirmed)

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Fri 15th Qual 10.30am - 11.30pm
(some teams start with byes)

Sat 16th Qual 10am - 11.30 (80 boards!)

Sun 17th Semis from 9am
(also Provincial Pairs)

Mon 18th GNOT final at Double Bay Bridge Club, from 9am

Levitina, Kerri Sanborn, Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer, Randi Montin and Jill Meyers comfortably outscore Judi Radin, Shawn Quinn, Mildred Breed, Rozanne Pollack, Hjordis Eythorsdottir and Valerie Westheimer.

Big story from this event is that Eythorsdottir (originally from Iceland) did not receive her silver medal because she refused a drug test. One of her medications was on the banned list. The other five in her team trotted up on stage, though.

Around this time, the WBF's Olympic push was petering out. Following changes at the IOC, the sentiment turned against non-sports like bridge. The general feeling is that the Olympics need to get smaller, not bigger. It's time to jump off the bandwagon.

It's a pity the WBF jumped through hoops to accommodate the Olympians on drug testing. The drug in question would not help Disa play better bridge but it would help an athlete. However, there are drugs that might cause concern. Cocaine was used a few decades ago to maintain energy levels. That's clear but how about stimulants like caffeine and nicotine? There are plenty who appear need one or the other in order to perform at their best. In 10 year's time, we may well have drugs to slow or prevent the onset of Alzheimers. Should people who use them be banned from Seniors' events?

Here's a hand from an earlier round of the McConnell:

Clear and Easy

by Ed Franken

The reigning European champions Bep Vriend and Marijke van der Pas from the Netherlands started with a nice defence in their first match of the McConnell against Kerlero (France).

W/Both ♠ A 6 2
♥ J 8 4
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ J 6 2

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

♠ K 3
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K J 9 7
♣ 10 9 8 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bello	Vriend	Le Sur	van der Pas
1♥	No	2♣	No
2♥	No	3NT	End

South led the ♠9, promising the ten but not a higher honour. East won with the ace and played the ♠10, which took the trick. The ♠9 continuation went to South's king. Van der Pas continued with the ♦7 to the ace in dummy. On the next spade East threw the heart two and what about South? She realised that her ♦7 was not very encouraging. To make it clear and easy for her partner she threw away the ♥Q!

Vriend got the message and returned the only card to defeat the contract: the ♦10. There was nothing East could do, and N/S took three diamond tricks to defeat the contract. At the other table Hoogweg-van Zwol bid and made 4♠.



61-67 Hall St Bondi
Ph: 9130 3344

Congress Teams

This Sunday, 10am.

\$100 entry per team, usual 7-round Swiss.

To enter, ring Frank on 9958 4281 or email him: budai@all.com.au

ABF Alert Regulations

Alert by circling partner's call and saying "Alert" but don't offer an explanation unless asked (then aim to be concise, yet complete).

Don't alert these 'self-alerting' calls:

- any double or redouble
- any call beyond 3NT
- a bid in a suit **bid** by an opponent

At the end of the auction, the declaring side should offer an explanation of any 'self-alerting' calls.

Do alert:

- all other conventional calls (including Stayman)

Note: This natural-sounding bid:

2♥ = hearts & a minor

is conventional because it conveys a meaning other than a desire to play in hearts.

- 'unusual' natural bids

These include: weak jump shift responses, pre-emptive jump raises, inverted minors, canapé tendency, negative free bids, transfer accepts that deny four trumps, etc.

Pre-alerts

The Pre-alerts section of your system card should include 'unusual' self-alerting calls, such as a double of 1NT that shows a 1-suiter; lack of negative doubles.

Also list methods that may require a prepared defence – complex defences to 1NT or a strong club; RCO Twos; transfer pre-empt; etc.

What happened?

If you have a story of interest, the Editor will be here much of the time or contactable on 9365 9934 (Hakoah Bridge Club) or 0414 876 175 or nhughes@bigpond.net.au.

Or just fill out a *What Happened* form and drop it in the bulletin box or hand it to Sean, Frank or Chris.

Tournament Conveners:

Frank Budai and John Mottram

Chief Tournament Director:

Sean Mullamphy

Chairman Tournament Committee:

Eric Ramshaw

Chairman Appeals Committee:

Ivy Dahler

Assistant Director:

Chris Diment

Scoring and Computing:

Martin Willcox

GNOT Convener:

John Brockwell