



Spring Nationals Bulletin

No 4 Wednesday 13 November 2002
Editor Nick Hughes

Evening blitzes

Three heavy wins in round 8 allowed NAGY, ANTOFF and MARSTON to reassert some dominance, though the break is small at two-thirds distance. No team is unbeaten.

Too much Swiss cheese?

The ABF runs 6 Open teams (selection) events, of which 5 are basically Swiss. Even the 6th, the GNOT, has a Swiss element.

If you could change just one event, which one would it be and why? Also what format would you like to see? Send me an email.

I don't mind the SpNOT as a Swiss because the field is strong so you get a good match every round. Still, the randomness of the endgame is a worry. Rarely (if ever?) have the top two with one round to go, gone on to play each other in the final.

Charity IMP Pairs

for Mission Australia

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

You can even join in later, playing a 16-board set. (Preferably) see Frank or Sean to enter or just turn up.

Some hands, mostly slams

Did you manage these slams? If so, you've done very well and might even give RDK a call...

SpNOT Match 7, Bd 4 (rotated)
♠ Q J 8 6 5 4 3 ♠ AK
♥ — ♥ K J 7 2
♦ 10 2 ♦ AK
♣ AK 6 4 ♣ Q J 9 8 3

WEST EAST
1♠ 2♣
?

Sensible is to play 2♥ = forcing, 3♥ = splinter, 4♥ = void. If you use that, East has an easy RKC over 4♥ for +2140.

SpNOT, Match 7, Bd 10
E/Both ♠ J 4
 ♥ 8 7 6 4
 ♦ K 2
 ♣ K Q 9 6 3

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

♠ 9 8
♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ K 2
♣ K Q 9 6 3

West risks a 1♠ opening and has a clear RKC over partner's splinter.

If North lead the ♣K, declarer shouldn't go wrong – win the ♣A, pitch a heart on the ♣J, draw trumps then ruff a diamond.

A heart lead is more interesting. Win the ♥A (don't play dummy's queen)

SpNOT after 8 rounds

1	3	Nagy	159
2	8	Antoff	157
3	1	Marston	153
4	12	Gaspar	147
5	15	Baker	142
6	5	Noble	141
7	2	Cummings	141
8	7	Walsh	138
9	23	Urbach	137
10	10	Browne	135

Entry – 50 teams (48 last year)

then ♦A, ruff. ♣A, ruff, draw trumps and ruff another diamond. When you ruff another club and play the last trump, you have ♥3, ♦QT while South must have ♥K, ♦J9, for a pleasant endplay. Just hope North didn't lead the ♥7 from ♥KJ97!

Abrahams - Wilkinson relayed this one to 6♥. Not so easy in Standard:

SpNOT, Match 7, Bd 14

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

1♦ 4♣?

I guess East is worth the splinter raise – 5 losers, 18 TP. Now West will have a go.

I like the way Peter Chan and George Finikiotis bid this hand:

SpNOT, Match 6, Bd 8

W/Nil ♠ J 9
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ K 10 5 4 3
 ♣ K Q 9 8

♠ Q 5 3 ♠ AK108642
♥ K J 3 ♥ Q 9 5 4
♦ 9 8 7 2 ♦ —
♣ 10 4 2 ♣ 5 3

♠ 7
♥ A 8 7 6
♦ A Q J 6
♣ A J 7 6

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Chan Finikiotis
No No 4♣ Dbl
No 4NT No 5♦
End

In the old textbooks it says that South's double is penalty, typically a strong notrump. You're supposed to bid 4NT for takeout.

This is a bit silly – the higher they preempt, the more important it is for

Spring National Open Teams (SpNOT) 12 x 16 bds

Wed 13th SNOT 9 - 12 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 Centre, from 9am

your takeout action to be double and not some committal bid.

Peter said pick a minor and George chose his stronger one. EW are -100 in 5♠ but East has to be the one to act. Maybe double 5♦ to pass the buck "I'm too good to flag it away."

That's one method. Say that South bid 5♣ instead of 5♦. Now East wants double to be Lightner. Indeed the ♦9 lead followed by a spade underlead would be extremely satisfying. Can't really have it both ways.

SpNOT, Match 6, Bd 15

S/NS	♠ J 5 4		
	♥ J 10 4 3 2		
	♦ K 8 6 2		
	♣ 6		
♠ K 10 9 6 3 2		♠ A	
♥ —		♥ AKQ975	
♦ QJ107		♦ A3	
♣ K108		♣ AQ72	
	♠ Q87		
	♥ 86		
	♦ 954		
	♣ J9543		

Some Wests would have opened 2♠ (or 2♦) and ended in 6♠, which is easy on any lead but a diamond from North. Declarer is likely to fly with dummy's ace for an unlucky one down.

6♠ is not so great anyway since there will be two trump losers 40% of the time.

6NT is fun, played it from West on a low heart lead. Slotting the nine is deep so declarer rises with the ♥A and played ♦A-another. This needs 3-3 clubs with heaps of squeeze chances. Not this time. You have to play a club to the 10 early on.

Most went off in this grand:

SpNOT, Match 5, Bd 6

E/EW	♠ A982		
	♥ AK95		
	♦ K962		
	♣ 6		
♠ J765		♠ Q43	
♥ J7		♥ 1062	
♦ J53		♦ Q10874	
♣ Q754		♣ 102	
	♠ K10		
	♥ Q843		
	♦ A		
	♣ AKJ983		

You'd rather not be in 7♥ but it's more fun than six. On a trump lead to the J-K, normal is ♣A, club ruff.

Cross to dummy to ruff with the ♥9. Unlucky!

Yes, declarer can simply draw trumps and take the ruffing finesse in clubs but you'd have to be playing against religious count-givers to do that.

On a trump lead, another way is to ruff the second club high and finesse against East's ♥10 on the way back. A brave play but restricted choice is a factor. Did anyone do that?

If declarer is going to get clubs wrong but trumps right (ok, unlikely), East can still shoot it by leading a spade or a diamond, which avoids compromising the defenders' trump holding.

Paul Lavings once made me promise not to lead trumps against grand slams. When partner *did* lead a trump here, I was so peeved I withheld the ♥J. Now it was Ziggy-proof. How about this one:

SpNOT, Match 5, Bd 9

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

6♠ by North is a fair spot. East needs to lead a heart to shoot it. Tough to find but jack-third has a much better record than jack-fourth. On a diamond lead, declarer has to guess right to make it.

Here's a hand for bidding forum:

SpNOT, Match 4, Bd 4

W/Both	♠ J 10		
	♥ 10 8 6 5		
	♦ AK 7 6		
	♣ A 5 4		
♠ 5 4		♠ KQ97632	
♥ A9732		♥ Q	
♦ 954		♦ 10832	
♣ KJ2		♣ 3	
	♠ A 8		
	♥ KJ4		
	♦ QJ		
	♣ Q109876		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	1♦	3♠	?

Double, 4♣ and 3NT are possible.

3NT is a lucky make – it doesn't even matter how you play clubs.

Double gets 4♥ from partner, then you feel uncomfortable out removing to 5♣. If you bid 4♣, partner will raise and West will lead a spade.

Should you make? Win the ♠A, unblock diamonds and ... You might as well try the ♣10 but West should be alert enough to play low in tempo. A better shot is the ♣Q. If West covers, you are home but you'd feel silly if East had ♣K or K-x.

Perhaps expert play is for the first round of trumps to go ♣Q-2-A.

How many reached this one?

SpNOT, Match 3, Bd 3

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

Datum was +480 so not many. Who can get me to the 80% 6♠ after West opens a strong notrump? Any takers?

Corrections and complaints

I got the wrong CHEN team as winning the Congress Pairs. The actual winners were:

Michael Chen, Renda Zhang, Les Lowe, Egon Auerbach.

In the first hand from the SNWT (Issue 3), swap Cummings and Feitelson. Also, South's double was more "Let's do something" rather than "Let's defend."

Kieran Dyke took me to task for doubting the legality of a weak two on a 2-count. The current ABF System Regs forbid it but, as Kieran points out, there doesn't appear to be a basis in Law for this particular restriction. If so, one wonders when we'll get legal Regulations.

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.