

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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2022 Gold Coast Congress

The return of face-to-face bridge





APRIL 2022 ISSUE



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Advertising and article enquiries: editor@abf.com.au

Distribution or admin enquiries: secretariat@abf.com.au

Letters to the Editor and feedback: editor@abf.com.au

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E/Nil

♠ A Q 6

♥ A J 9 3

♦ 9 4 2

♣ J 10 8

♠ 10 9 8

♥ 10 5 2

♦ A J 8 7 5

♣ A K



WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

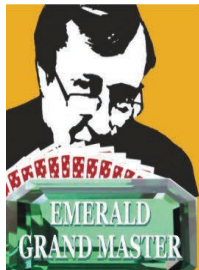
2♦
pass

dbl
4♠

pass
pass
all pass

1♠
2♠

You lead the ♣K: eight - seven - five, followed by the ♣A: ten - two - six. What do you play at Trick 3? You are playing low-encouraging, high-discouraging.



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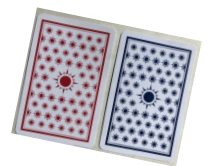
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

president@abf.com.au



Welcome back to national and international face-to-face bridge and isn't it great to be back! The Gold Coast Congress ran smoothly in February, as did the Tasmanian Festival of Bridge in March and our Australian teams are currently competing in the World Team Championships in Italy. Determination and hard work by a lot of dedicated people have been the key to successfully getting these events up and running. Congratulations to all, and all the best to the South Australian Bridge Federation for the upcoming Autumn Nationals in Adelaide.

The ABF Council completed the Strategic Plan on 2022-2025 at our meeting in February. Our quest is to guide and promote bridge in Australia. The plan is focussed on three key themes of Attracting, Developing and Retaining players, directors, scorers, tournament organisers and volunteers of many kinds, supported by our committed and talented contractors. The fifteen key priorities are targeted to help us to be in a stronger position in 2025 than we were before the pandemic.

The Australian bridge community is again stepping up to support the 'Fund Raising for Flood Relief'



We are looking for your ideas to improve your Bridge experience and enjoyment.

Scan the QR code above with your camera or favourite scanner. You will then have the option of leaving suggestions anonymously or leave us your contact details and we will get back to you.

to help people affected by the devastating floods across QLD and NSW. The donations from clubs will help provide countless essential items and services to families who've lost everything. The ABF will provide Red Points (B4C) for Fund Raising events at no charge. The proceeds should be sent to any fund being conducted in either of the two States. There is no doubt that support to any fund to assist those in need will be greatly appreciated.

The ABF Annual General Meeting will be held in Adelaide on 2 May. As this is a voting year all ABF Board positions will become vacant, and an election will be held. Kim Frazer (Secretary) and Adel Abdelhamid (member) have decided not to renominate in 2022. I thank them both for their many hours of service to the ABF and wish them well in their future endeavours.

If you have any feedback on the above or any other issues you wish to raise with the ABF Board, email

president@abf.com.au

Inaugural ABF Foundation Pro-Am Tourney by Kim Frazer

After being rescheduled twice, thanks to COVID, the ABF Foundation held its first ever Pro-Am tournament on RealBridge over two nights on February 1st and 15th. The event raised over \$10,000 and these funds will assist the foundation with its philanthropic work in supporting the future of bridge.

The ABF Foundation Trustees would like to express their deep appreciation to those who ensured the success of the event who included:

- the experts and professionals that generously donated their time for one and in some cases two sessions;
- the successful and unsuccessful bidders combined;
- Matthew McManus, who kindly donated his directing service to the event; and
- Pauline Gumby, who created an awesome gateway to the auction and biographies and collated all the meaningful data to ensure a successful event.

In addition to raising funds for the ABF Foundation, the event provided a unique opportunity for players of all levels to have a game with an expert player – something which many players might not be able to do. One of our players enjoyed the experience so much, she bid again on her 'pro' partner from the first Pro-Am for the second event.

Each event produced a NS and an EW winner:

- 1 February: 1st NS Michael Courtney - Philip Hassall
1st EW Arjuna De Livera - Simon Tissera
- 15 February: 1st NS Sartaj Hans - Gary Barwick
1st EW Phil Markey - David Fryda

Details of our next event, in 2023, will be announced on both the Foundation and ABF websites later this year:

abffoundation.org.au
abf.com.au

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with
Barbara
Travis



Solutions on page 30

QUESTION 1

♠ Q 3
♥ J 10
♦ A Q 9 5 2
♣ K Q 8 5

♠ K 10 8 6 5 2
♥ K 8
♦ K 6
♣ A 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♦ ^{GF}	2♥	1♠
pass	4♠	all pass	2♠

West leads the ♥2 - 10 - ace - 8. East continues with the ♥Q - king - three - jack.

What is your plan?

QUESTION 2

♠ K 7 6
♥ K Q 5
♦ Q 7
♣ K J 10 4 2

♠ A 5 3
♥ A J 6
♦ A K
♣ A 9 8 7 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	6NT	all pass	2NT ²⁰⁻²¹

West leads the ♠Q. What is your plan?

QUESTION 3

♠ Q
♥ A K 6
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ K J 9 6 3

♠ A J 10
♥ Q J 9
♦ A 10 5 3
♣ 7 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♣	pass	2NT ^{invite}
	3NT	all pass	

West leads the ♠4, dummy's queen winning. What is your plan?



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MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox
marketing@abf.com.au



BridgeTV launches with expert commentary of World Team Championships

BridgeTV Australia has had a great opening with hundreds of people watching live commentary on Zoom each night of The World Team Championships in Salsomaggiore, Italy. Australia is one of only seven countries to send teams in all four events, however we were lucky in the opening round to have the Australian open team playing Norway, one of the world's leading teams. AND WE WON.

We had a team of Australian bridge legends Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy and the Australian Team chef de mission Ian Thomson providing great commentary. On the second night we had bridge royalty in Paul Marston and Barbara Travis as commentators. Over the qualifying week we had experts providing their many years of experience and expertise to help players increase their knowledge for free. It is also an opportunity for the leading players to become better known in the wider bridge community.

BridgeTV created player profiles for the international team members which can be seen on the home page of the BridgeTV.com.au website and on the ABF web site. BridgeTV also provides the draw, system cards and results for all our team members.

BridgeTV Objectives

- Engage all sectors of the bridge community
- Improve the knowledge and enjoyment of bridge
- Inform and encourage club management, teachers and directors
- Build recognition of Bridge Champions to inspire future players
- Promote interest and performances of Australia in International events
- Use video and technology to help attract a Youth market
- Rebrand Bridge as a fun, exciting and challenging game
- Contribute to retaining and growing the bridge market

BACKGROUND

As communications, including for bridge, have transitioned from printing to digital the next stage is to pivot to video and streaming. Not only is streaming highly competitive to television entertainment and movies but for communicating, interacting, learning and teaching many activities, hobbies and sports with a high level of retention. It is well-suited to retaining and growing the bridge market and provides an opportunity to appeal to younger people who are seeking new leisure activities and sports.

CREDITS

I have to thank a small group of largely volunteers for building BridgeTV who put in hundreds of hours and for humouring all my requirements including:

Angela Bettess

Web builder and Graphic Artist (Whiteduck Design)

Margaret Mobbs

Video shooting, editing adviser, Zoom controller

Anne Russell

A great photographer and Zoom operator

John Hollands

Cameraman, Video Editor, Promo Producer

Barbara Travis and Elizabeth Havas

Bridge Commentators around the clock

BridgeTV Content

We have built a specialist video web site for BridgeTV Australia with video sections including:

- Bidding, defence and play advice and lessons
- Interviews with leading Australian and International players
- Regulations explained and ethics promoted
- Your Club, Your Community
- Mental health and wellbeing
- News from the bridge world

Go to [BridgeTV.com.au](https://www.bridgetv.com.au) and see all the information on the site but remember it is a work in progress and it will be expanding in variety and depth of video and podcasting content in the future.

The Future of Bridge

Bridge has largely recovered from the effects of COVID particularly in SA, WA and Qld where the clubs were closed for only a very short period. However, COVID was particularly disruptive in the largest bridge states of NSW and Victoria where some people are still hesitant to return and frequency of playing has declined. It has also hurt attendances at face-to-face congresses with the Gold Coast Congress down in attendances by over 50% and Tasmanian FOB also down. We need to support upcoming National congresses such as the ANOT and the ANC both in South Australia, the Territory Gold in the NT and the VCC in Melbourne in June.

Bridge and the Community

An Aged Care Expo and Forum was held at Easts Bondi Junction in Sydney. The Easts Bridge Club supported the event with a stand and a table where club members demonstrated a bridge game.

ABF Marketing supported the club with an ABF table cloth, a pull up banner and promotional material. Being seen to be a part of your community is a great tool for building awareness and creating

interest. The club President said that they thought about half a dozen people showed interest to learn or to return to playing bridge again.

Gold Coast Congress 2022

BridgeTV recorded interviews with some of the strategically important people that were at the GCC. These interviews are informative about one of the world's leading bridge tournaments and provide clues for all tournament organisers.



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Follow our teams in the 45th World Bridge Team Championships

When: 27th March - 9th April 2022



MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

julian.foster@abf.com.au



The latest release for MYABF contains a lot of the behind the scenes work (some technical, some bug fixes, some on Club administration features – see below) so players won't notice much difference but there is one important thing: a visual change to the entry screen which makes things simpler to edit and pay for entries.

A common question asked is **how do I pay for my share of a Congress entry?** It depends whether you are the person creating the entry to start with, or if someone else has already done so.

If you are creating the entry

You have complete control over who you do and don't pay for. The system initially assumes you will pay online for everyone in the entry (that was how about 80% of entries to major events were done prior to MYABF so that's why we did it that way).

If you do NOT wish to pay for someone then you simply change the Payment Method selection against them so that it says, **"Ask them to Pay"**.

The "Pay Now" column always tells you what YOU will be charged if you complete the entry at that point in time.

So when you ask someone else to pay their entry fee moves to the Pending column:

Player	Payment Method	Pay Now	Pending
Mark Guthrie	My Bridge Credits	145 credits	
Alan Admin	My Bridge Credits	145 credits	
Select...	Select...		
Select...	Select...		

- Select...
- My Bridge Credits
- Bank Transfer
- Cash on the day
- Cheque
- Club PP System
- Ask them to pay

When you click the green Confirm & Pay button you will be charged what's in the Pay Now column.

If someone else has already put the entry in

When they have confirmed it (i.e. it's not still sitting in their shopping cart) it should be visible on your dashboard with a message:

You now have two choices to make payments:

METHOD 1: Pay all your own outstanding entry fees in one go

Click the red Pay Now button to bring up this:

Pending Payments					
These entries are awaiting payment					
Date	Congress	Event	Entry Status	Payment Method	Entry Fee
3 Jul 2022	Our Big Congress	Open Teams	Unpaid	TBA	145 credits
23 May 2022	Easter Madness	Welcome Pairs	Unpaid	Bridge Credits	20 credits
PAY NOW WITH BRIDGE CREDITS					

Your Upcoming Events

You have unpaid entries

PAY NOW

23 May 2022: Easter Madness - Welcome Pairs

3 Jul 2022: Our Big Congress - Open Teams

This shows your own entry fee for all events you are entered into but have not yet paid for (you can also reach this screen by clicking on the Booked Events shortcut at the top of your dashboard).

You can pay these in one go by clicking the green Pay Now with Bridge Credits button. BUT this method only lets you pay your own share for everything you have outstanding together in one transaction. It's nice and simple if there's just one entry. But if you have several entries unpaid and don't want to

pay for them all yet; or if you want to also pay for a partner or teammates then use Method 2.

METHOD 2: *Pay just one of your outstanding entry fees, or pay for someone else*

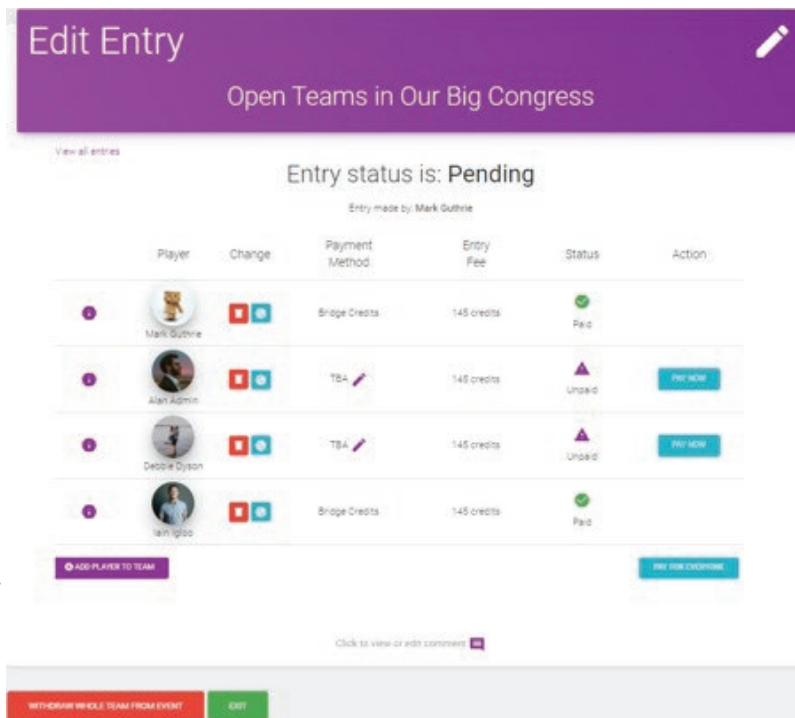
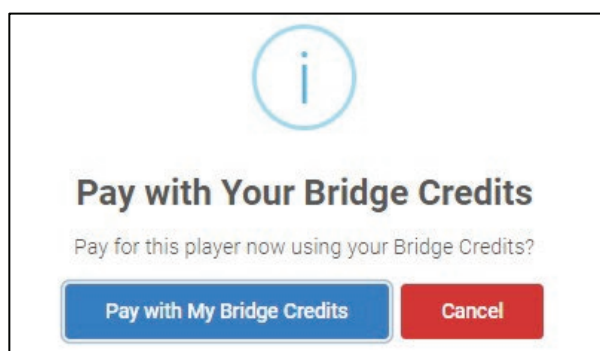
Open the relevant entry (by clicking on the event name in the Your Upcoming Events box).

You will now see the Edit entry screen.

This screen allows you to do a number of things, including paying. In the right hand "Action" column:

- Click "Pay Now" against your own name to pay your share individually.
- Click "Pay Now" against other players in the entry to pay for them.
- Click "Pay For Everyone" at the bottom to pay everything outstanding for the entry in one go.

You are also now able to confirm before the payment actually goes through:



Pay with My Bridge Credits just means it will take money from your account if it's there, otherwise it will take you to an online card payment screen. **You never need to "buy" bridge credits in advance!**

These functions have always been there, but you previously had to click on "Edit Entry" in the header to open them, which a lot of people didn't find obvious. We hope this will make things easier.

Club Admin

Remember MYABF is a system being built not just for players but for clubs and congress organisers too. Part of the vision is that the system becomes the primary facility for clubs for all of their bridge functions.

A lot of our recent focus has therefore been on delivering the first parts of the Club Administration area. Like everything, this will grow over time, but the next release will establish the menu and provide nominated club personnel initial access to it.

Area	What it does
Club	Shows a headline dashboard for your club.
Members	Import and maintain a list of your club members (to be used initially just to calculate the right table money at sessions, later extending to manage member renewals and payments).
Congresses	Set up new Congresses and manage existing ones for your club.
Communications	NOT YET OPERATIONAL Build mailing lists and email templates for club members, distribute email communications, manage stats.
Finance	Access the club's bridge credits statement and, in future, more financial reports for sessions, congresses, etc.
Access	Manage who gets access to all these areas for your club.
Settings	Maintain the club's basic details and other static information (member types, session types, table money rates, etc).

Note at this stage clubs also remain set up in the Masterpoint Centre and that remains the primary "source of truth" (when a club is set up in MYABF the existing data is copied across). The two systems will exist in parallel for a while but things will gradually transition into MYABF over the next two years.

Some of the things that can be set up here will be used for the following release which will facilitate club sessions being paid for with bridge credits.

I'll talk more about that in the June issue.

World Bridge Championships Salsomaggiore Terme 2022

**KIM FRAZER reports on
Australia and New Zealand's
representative teams in Italy**

The World Bridge Championships, which features the four most prestigious events on the WBF calendar, occurs once every four years. Delayed from the originally scheduled date in August 2020 due to COVID, the Championships feature four main events:

- The Bermuda Bowl (Open)
- The Venice Cup (Women)
- The d'Orsi Trophy (Seniors)
- The Wuhan Cup (Mixed)

A win in the Bermuda Bowl is viewed by bridge players as having similar prestige to a soccer team winning the World Cup, or a tennis player winning Wimbledon.

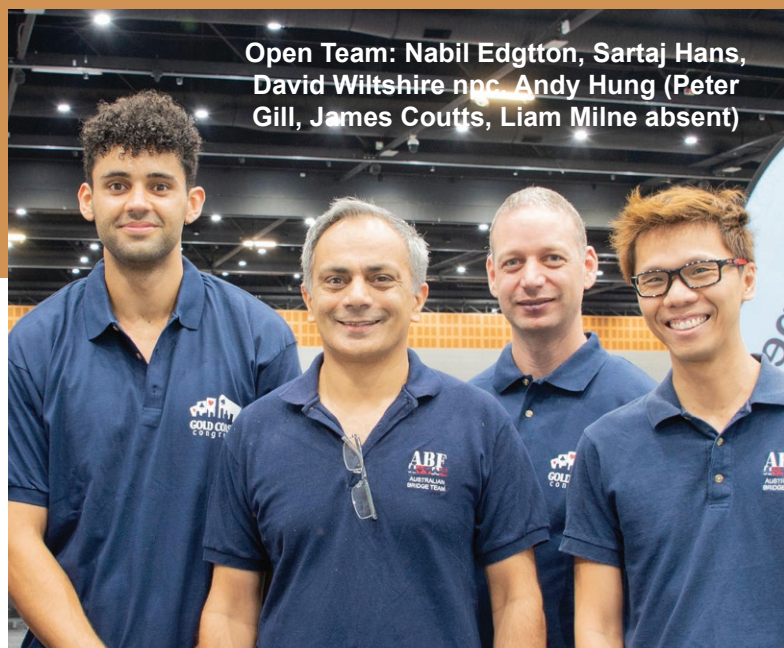
Salsomaggiore Terme (Salso as it is known to bridge players) is a town in northern Italy. It is located in the province of Parma, in the Emilia-Romagna region, located at the foot of the Apennines. It is a popular Spa town. The Championships are held in the stunning Palazzo dei Congressi.

In anticipation of the teams' experiencing issues due to COVID outbreaks, the ABF appointed Ian Thomson as the Chef de Mission for the teams and also the ABF on-site representative to the WBF.

The first snag hit the teams before the event began when Dee Harley, who was to captain the women's team, could not travel due to ill health. It was fortuitous that Ian Thomson was on the ground in Italy and so he was appointed as the women's team NPC.

The next snag was that one of the players tested positive to COVID before a card was even played. Fortunately, a subsequent test was negative and the team was not disrupted. Other teams have not been so lucky.

The World Championships is a bit of a marathon as one might expect from an event of this class. The



24 teams in each field are faced with a 23-round qualifying stage held over seven days during which they play all other teams. At the end of the qualifying, the top eight teams head to the two-day quarter-finals which is a six-match knockout between teams. The victors move on to the semi-finals, also six matches over two days, with the final two teams facing off against each other on the last two days.

Often spectators wonder at the errors which are made by the world's best. However, when the pressure is on, and players are tiring towards the end of what is a quite gruelling event, it is a fact of life that errors are often made. All else being equal, minimising these errors is often the difference between success and failure.

Team results

Our teams were originally selected two years ago. The women's team underwent some changes, as not all original pairs were available to make the trip to Italy. So original team members Jessica Brake and Susan Humphries were joined by Ellena Moskovsky - Ella Jacob and Giselle Mundell - Rena Kaplan, with Ian Thomson as non-playing captain.

Despite recording some good wins, including a maximum win against Scotland in the final round, the women's team struggled against the power-houses of USA, Norway, England, Poland and Turkey and finished 16th overall.

The Seniors' team of Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings, Stephen Burgess - Gabi Lorentz, George Kozakos - George Smolanko, with Peter Buchen as non-playing captain, won more matches than they lost, and included a small win against eventual quarter-finalists Poland. Unfortunately their wins were a bit too small to gain them a sufficiently high placing to qualify, and they ended the event in 17th position.

The Open team was in the top 8 after 14 of the 23 matches. The well-credentialled team of Sartaj Hans - Peter Gill, Nabil Edgton - Andy Hung and Liam Milne - James Coutts, with David Wiltshire as non-playing captain, have had very strong wins on the Australian national circuit. However, a string of losses in early rounds left the team playing catch-up bridge, and while they recovered in the middle stages of the event, the back half of the event saw them drawn against many of the eventual top half of the field. They were unable to maintain their finals placing, slipping back in the later rounds after suffering big losses to USA1 and Italy to finish in 12th place.

The Mixed team entered the final day of qualifying in 9th place facing a tough draw against Latvia, Romania and Belgium, all of whom were sitting in the top 8 at the time. The original team selected in 2020 also had one pair withdraw, and so Trevor Fuller - Leone Fuller and Stephen Fischer - Pele Rankin were joined by David Beauchamp - Jodi Tutty, with Julian Foster as non-playing captain.

Viewers were very excited when the Mixed Team went on a 30-2 run mid-match in the penultimate round to be well within reach of qualifying. However their run was halted by a rally from their Romanian opponents, who scored 13 on the last four boards. Nevertheless, the Mixed Team entered the final round in 9th place and needed a win against 3rd-placed Belgium to qualify. Sadly, nothing went right for the Aussies, and they suffered a heavy loss to slip back to 10th place overall.

Broadcast for Australian Viewers

This year the ABF launched its newest innovation, BridgeTV Australia. Developed by Peter Cox, BridgeTV has broadcast key matches from Salso daily, with expert commentary provided by some of Australia's greatest players, including Ishmael Del'Monte, Ron Klinger, Paul Marston, Matt Mullamphy, Phil Markey, Mike Doecke, Liz Havas and Barbara Travis. Technical support for zoom, as well as commentary in the late-night matches, was ably supplemented by Anne Russell and Margaret Mobbs. And of course, Peter Cox has been losing a lot of sleep coordinating the whole activity.

I believe BridgeTV made the regular BBO broadcast more accessible to players. The great expert commentary provided many insights to the bidding and lines of play which are not always obvious to the average player, and not often covered by the BBO commentators on vu-graph. Additionally, the commentators have found interesting ways of keeping the viewers entertained during the inevitable pauses and those dull boards that always occur during a bridge match. Mike Doecke and Phil Markey's repartee on Poker was one such lively interlude.

The time zone difference between Italy and Australia was reasonable for viewing times for half the day's matches, with the first and second rounds of the day broadcast in our evening from 7pm AEDST up to around 1am, while the latter rounds were watched and commented on into the early rounds of the morning by die-hard fans of bridge.

Unfortunately, we could not control which matches were broadcast on BBO, and we were not always able to bring viewers matches from our own teams. Nevertheless, some contests produced excellent bridge from the world's best players.

A look at Match 18 New Zealand vs Bulgaria

I helped with some commentary in one of the later rounds when the NZ Open Team (who finished in 15th place) was playing Bulgaria in Round 18. It is said that the quality of bridge is inversely proportional to the sum of imps, and this was a most interesting match with imps flying both ways due to a lot of aggressive and competitive bidding on the challenging deals. Unfortunately, NZ lost the battle 46-55. Interestingly, the Australian Open team lost to Bulgaria by the exact same margin with slightly fewer imps at 42-51!

I thought it would be fun to take a look at a few of the more interesting boards from this match and compare how our four teams scored on the same deals:



Australia's Traian Chira coordinates all the vu-graph activities on BBO for the WBF

Board 18 ♠ A K 6 3
E/NS ♥ K
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A K Q 8 7 6 4

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

♠ J T 2
♥ Q J
♦ A J 9 7 6 4 2
♣ 5

Board 19 ♠ 10 4
S/EW ♥ K Q 9 7 4
 ♦ A 8 7 3 2
 ♣ 8

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

♠ Q 8 3
♥ J 8 6 5 3 2
♦ J 10 5
♣ 5

Firstly, Board 18 was a 12-imp loss for NZ when they pushed on to 6♣ after the following auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2♦ ¹	pass
3♥ ²	dbl	pass	5♦
pass	6♣	all pass	

It is easy to feel sympathetic to the NZ North, who had no option but to bid 6♣ after his partner's leap to 5♦. The Multi-2♦ bid from East holding a five-card suit, together with West's preemptive jump response created enough interference to push NZ to the non-making slam when the ♠Q was offside. This was one bright spot in Australia's open team match when they also picked up 12 imps for the same result against Italy. Our mixed team faced Portugal and were more sedate, scoring +1 for making an overtrick in 5♣. The women faced off against Morocco and scored up a flat board when 6♣ went down for the Australians, while 4♠ was down for the Moroccans.

It felt like this board set the scene for the Bulgaria - NZ match. We moved on to more imps flying with Board 19:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
dbl	5♥	5NT	3♥
6♣	pass	7♣	pass
			all pass

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	2♥	2♠	pass
4♠	5♦	5♥	2NT
pass	pass	6♠	6♥
dbl	all pass		7♥

Here NZ's NS pushed the Bulgarians into the non-making 7♣ at one table, while the Bulgarian NS at the other table propelled themselves to 7♥x (five off). This is one of those boards when you wonder who is sacrificing! The NZ team got this right at both tables and happily picked up 17 imps when both contracts were defeated.

For the Australians, in the women's match Morocco got the bidding right and picked up 16 for 6♣ played by EW when the Australian's tried 6♠, where declarer needs to get the spades right, down one. The Mixed reached 7♠ at both tables for a push, while the Seniors lost 10 imps when they allowed Belgium to play in 5♣ making at one table and 5♥ going three off undoubled at the other. The Open team played in 6♣ at both tables for a flat board.

On Board 22, both tables reached 7NT. What would you lead after the following auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	2♣ game force
pass	2♠	pass	3♦
pass	3♠	pass	4NT ^{RKCB}
pass	5♣ ^{one keycard}	pass	5♦
pass	6♠	pass	7NT
all pass			

You hold:

♠ J 4 3 2 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ 5 ♣ K 10 7 5 2

NZ's West opted for an aggressive club lead which gave declarer momentum, and West was squeezed on the run of the diamonds, allowing Bulgaria to



make. So the 17imps gained on Board 19 was handed back to Bulgaria:

Board 22	♠ K Q 10 9 6 5	
E/EW	♥ Q J 4	
	♦ 3 2	
	♣ 9 6	
♠ J 4 3 2		♠ 8
♥ K 7 3		♥ 9 8 6 5 2
♦ 5		♦ 10 8 7 4
♣ K 10 7 5 2		♣ J 8 3
	♠ A 7	
	♥ A 10	
	♦ A K Q J 9 6	
	♣ A Q 4	

At the other tables, the Open team also lost 17 when Italy played in 7♦, while the Australian's tried 7NT. The Mixed lost 14 when both tables played in 6♦ with Portugal making while the Australians were unsuccessful. The Seniors had a flat board with both tables in 6♦, while in the Women's the Australians tried 7NT down two, and their opponents 6♠, down one for 2imps out.

Two boards later it was another 10imps to Bulgaria when 3NT made by West in the Open Room, but went down when played by East in the Closed Room.

Board 24	♠ K J 7 6 2	
W/Nil	♥ K 8 4	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 10 9 4 3	
♠ 10 8 5		♠ A Q 4 3
♥ A 3		♥ Q J 9 6
♦ J 9 8		♦ A Q 5 4 3
♣ K J 8 7 6		♣ —
	♠ 9	
	♥ 10 7 5 2	
	♦ K 10 6 2	
	♣ A Q 5 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1♦	pass
2♦	pass	2♠	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	all pass

Here East received the ♣A lead and failed to navigate the diamonds correctly after a heart switch at Trick 2. In other matches, the women lost 6imps when Morocco played in 3NT while the Australians remained in 3♦. The Open team lost six when 3NTx made in the closed room with the open room also making 3NT. In the mixed, both tables played in the diamond partscore, while in the Seniors the Austra-

lians picked up 12 when NS tried 4♣x for six tricks against a partscore at the other table!

Finally, the next swing came to NZ on Board 26:

Board 26	♠ A K 8 6	
E/All	♥ K 7 6 3	
	♦ 8 3 2	
	♣ A 6	
♠ 5 2		♠ 10
♥ 9 4		♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ A Q J 5		♦ 9 7 4
♣ Q 10 8 4 2		♣ J 9 5 3
	♠ Q J 7 4 3	
	♥ A Q J	
	♦ K 10 6	
	♣ K 7	

The Bulgarians went down in 6♠ while the Kiwis stayed in game and earned 13imps back. Here West led a spade and sat back and waited to collect two diamond tricks. In all four Australian teams, the board was flat when all played in 4♠ or 5♠ making 11. Sadly New Zealand were unable to qualify in this year's event, and finished the event three spots behind Australia in 15th position.

To finish our wrap-up of the round, here is how our teams fared:

Open vs Italy: lost 13-39
 Women vs Morocco: won 66-26
 Mixed vs Portugal: lost 29-40
 Seniors vs Belgium: won 50-42

The World NBO Teams Trophy

Teams which do not make the finals get to play in a 'side' event for the final week, normally called the Transnational and open to all-comers. This year, due to COVID, the event is called the World NBO Teams Trophy, and is restricted to only team members with all categories playing in the one field. We wish our teams the best of luck in this event.

Players can read all about the World events in the bulletins, which are available on the WBF website at:

<http://db.worldbridge.org/Repository/tourn/salsomaggiore.22/microSite/Bulletins.htm>

Edited by Mark Horton, and with stellar journalists (David Bird, Jos Jacobs, Barry Rigal, Marc Smith, David Stern, Ron Tacchi) the bulletin is a great read with stories, hand analysis, photos and all the results from the day's play.

Statement from the World Bridge Federation

The World Bridge Federation regrets to advise that while its preference is for Wroclaw as the location for the World Bridge Series, due to the current circumstances in the region all options regarding the dates and location for the event are being considered. Further developments will be published as soon as possible.



Bridge Vid

with
Peter Hollands



Defending Without Signals Part Two

With many people now playing online, possibly in casual games with strangers, you may find yourself unsure about what signals your partner is playing. This is particularly the case if you play with the robots on BBO, who do not signal at all.

Try this problem:



♠ K 9
♥ A
♦ J 10 9 6 5 2
♣ A J 8 5

♠ Q 6 4
♥ Q 8 4
♦ K Q 7
♣ K Q 10 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	2♣	pass
2♥	pass	4♥	all pass

Partner leads the ♦3.

It's important to think what was the lead from, and what can we deduce from it. Here, the ♦3 could be low from an honour, but partner doesn't have any honours (they wouldn't be leading low from an ace). It can't be top of a doubleton, so it must be a singleton, and we're lucky that we can get in quickly with the trump ace to give partner a diamond ruff. We'll lead the ♦2 to suggest a club return, so that we can deliver a second ruff – the BBO robots will not recognise this suit preference signal, of course, but they might return a club anyway, as a spade return could cost a trick.

When partner leads something like a three, you may be able to rule out all other holdings and conclude that it's a singleton. Here's another example:

♠ Q 10 8
♥ Q 7 5 3 2
♦ 9
♣ A K Q 4

♠ A 2
♥ 9 6
♦ A 10 8 6 3
♣ 9 7 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
2♠	pass	4♠	all pass

East could have made a stronger bid than 4♠, but today we're just talking about defence. Partner leads the ♣2, and we want to work out what this means.

Declarer wins the club in dummy, following with the ten from hand, and leads the ♠Q at Trick 2. We want to take two inferences: what is the inference from the lead, and what is the inference from declarer's line of play.

Partner may have led from ♣J862 – that's not a particularly appealing holding to lead from, but it is possible. However, if declarer had a singleton club, wouldn't they be more likely to cash the top clubs to throw some losers before giving up the lead?

We also would like to find a way to beat the contract. If declarer has a singleton club, we might get a spade trick and a diamond trick, but finding four tricks will be difficult. Instead we want to hope that West was being a bit tricky, and that partner has not led from jack-fourth.

Another possible option is that partner led a singleton, and if that's the case we want to rise with the ♠A and try and give them a ruff. Win the ♠A, lead a club for partner to ruff, and if partner has a third trump we can deliver another ruff after winning our ♦A.



GOLD COAST CONGRESS

It was great to see some youth (and ex-youth) representation at the Gold Coast Congress last month. The first face-to-face event in what seems like forever started with the Bobby Richman Matchpoint Pairs with stand-out youth performances from David Gue and Rebecca O'Reilly qualifying for the A-final and Jamie Thompson paired with Joe Haffer taking the top spot in the B-final. Jamie and Joe continued their strong performance teaming up with Andrew Spooner and Phil Markey to finish runners-up in what was a hard-fought Open Teams Final. Meanwhile in the Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs Sebastian Langdon MacMillan playing with Andy Hung took second place.

Taking a break from the more serious stuff the Gold Coast Bridge Club very generously held a Youth Night during the congress, run fantastically by Laura Ginnan. Every youth player was paired with an experienced ex-youth player to play a series of boards each with a twist – one of my favourites being bidding after only looking at half of your hand. The atmosphere and energy on the night was just another reminder of how much face-to-face events have been missed over the past two years.

A huge thank you to the contributions of the QBA, ABF, Friends of Youth Bridge, Paul Brake and Michael Gearing to make this event so accessible and such a huge success for all youth players.

7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships

The ABF has been invited to send Youth Teams to compete in the 7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships to be held at Palazzo dei Congressi, Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy from 7-14 August 2022. We would like to support our current youth players providing subsidies for players

selected in the U26 and U21 categories. The ABF subsidy (amount yet to be determined) will cover standard travel costs, payment of the entry fee and team uniforms.

We will be taking nominations from pairs in U31, U26 and U21 categories, although U31 will only receive a partial subsidy (entry fees and uniform). All eligible pairs are encouraged to send in their nomination with system notes. Selected representatives for the event will be expected to participate in regular training sessions and work with a mentor in the lead up to the tournament.

All players nominating must be eligible to play for Australia as per the ABF's Eligibility to Represent Australia Policy. Below are age limit cut offs for relevant categories:

Under 31: for players born on or after 1 January 1992

Under 26 Open: players born on or after 1 January 1997

Under 21: for players born on or after 1 January 2002

If you have any questions regarding the event or nominations, email

youth@abf.com.au



From the Gold Coast dinner-dance: Josh Tomlin, Bec O'Reilly, Andrew Spooner, Danni Fuller, Alan Stoneham, Darren Brake, Damon Flicker, David Gue, Jamie Thompson, Alex Phillips

WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with William Jenner-O'Shea

FINDING 3NT INSTEAD OF FIVE OF A MINOR

This month's face-to-face Workshop was the first for quite a while, and we covered a few fundamentals of bidding, play and defence. One of the interesting hands that came up had two interesting points in the bidding, as well as an interesting element in the play.

As dealer, this is your hand, and you open 1♠:

♠ A Q 10 7 3 ♥ 2 ♦ K 10 8 5 4 ♣ K J

Partner responds 2♦, what do you do?

Playing either Standard, or 2-over-1, you have an excellent hand for diamonds. One tip when bidding, is don't get too excited adding shortage points when you are raising a minor. You might end up in notrumps, and then your shortages aren't an asset any more. One other thing to consider is that if you bid four-of-a-minor in any auction, you can't go back to 3NT which is often where you want to be.

Now let's swap seats and see what responder is doing. Responder's hand:

♠ 8 5 ♥ A K 9 ♦ A Q 9 7 3 2 ♣ 9 6

This hand heard their partner open 1♠, so started with a 2♦ response. Partner raised to 3♦. Now what?

You have points for game for sure, so bidding 5♦ is an option. However, especially at Matchpoints, playing in five of a minor is rarely a good score. You could bid 3NT and hope that the club suit is not wide open. There is one more useful bid available, and this applies anytime you and partner have agreed on a minor suit. You could bid 3♥, despite only having three of them. After agreeing on a minor suit, you probably don't have a major fit. Partner already opened spades, then raised diamonds (instead of bidding hearts), so a heart fit is very unlikely. If you bid a new suit after agreeing a minor it shows strength in that suit, not necessarily a four-card suit, and looks for notrumps.

Once you bid 3♥, partner knows that you are worried about clubs (with all suits stopped, you would have just bid 3NT).

If you look back to the opener's hand, they had the ♣KJ only, which may or may not be a stopper, but if that hand is the declarer, then the ♣K will be a trick if clubs are led. Opener should bid 3NT.

♠ A Q 10 7 3
♥ 2
♦ K 10 8 5 4
♣ K J

♠ 8 5
♥ A K 9
♦ A Q 9 7 3 2
♣ 9 6

On any lead, declarer has a stopper in every suit, so can win the lead and has six diamonds, two hearts and the ♠A for nine tricks. If clubs are led, then declarer has no more club stoppers, and should probably just settle for her ten tricks (after winning the ♣K in addition to her original nine).

Interestingly, if the defenders don't lead a club – let's say a heart is led – then declarer can take a risk for an additional trick. Declarer can win the opening heart lead and finesse the spade. If the spade finesse wins, you gain a trick, and off you go! Note that if the finesse loses, it is losing to the hand that was on lead originally, the hand that can't lead clubs without setting up declarer's ♣K. The ♣K is a positional stopper, but with the opening leader on lead, the defence can't lead clubs to defeat you.

I have been appointed the ABF Online Teacher and will be running two online Workshops in May.

The first is on Friday 13 May and the next is on Saturday 28 May. Both are at 1pm AEST (12:30pm Adelaide, 11am Perth). These are suitable for club players of all levels, from beginner graduates up to open level players. Details via the ABF website, and you can sign up at myABF.





Joan Butts



Teaching Beginners Bridge: The Fifth Lesson

Opener's next move

By the time beginners have reached this point in their course, they have been given a huge amount of new information. I feel that a beginners course could end there, after four lessons, following the suggested path in this column, of

- The Mechanics
- The Bidding
- Notrumps and Responses
- Suits and Responses

Of course, teachers would then encourage their students to continue via play practice in Supervised sessions, and later take the next steps via more lessons such as this one.

But, many clubs prefer more lessons in the first place. I think absolutely no more than six lessons is needed for a beginners course, and four is plenty. Teachers ask, "But how could I possibly give them enough information in only four lessons, or even six?"

My answer is: When do you ever stop? Isn't it better to teach students the love of the game, and playing hands, instead of clogging them up with too much information? Students will learn in their own time, and putting them in a non-threatening environment where they are not feeling overloaded will encourage them to pursue more information when it's needed.

So, having said this, if you embark on Lesson 5 (Opener's Next Move) be aware that it is a huge area of bidding. In a spiral learning approach to teaching bridge, just touching on the area of Rebids is enough for beginners. It needs revisiting over and over, and much later.

THEORY BEHIND THE LESSON (POINTS TO STRESS)

- At opener's second turn (rebid), describe shape in more detail.
- At opener's second turn (rebid), describe strength in more detail.

GENERAL LESSON PLAN

In general:

- with minimum opening hands (13-15), opener rebids as cheaply as possible;
- with medium hands, (16-18), opener makes a jump; and
- with maximum hands (19-20), opener jumps to game.

Shapes: single-suited, two-suited, balanced and a fit for responder.

It's a good time to reinforce the idea of forcing and non-forcing. The easiest way to do it is to say that "new" suits in the auction are forcing, and "old" suits (ones that have been bid before) are not.

ESSENCE OF CHAPTER FIVE

Divide opener's second bid into three-point ranges, and four shape categories. Some shapes are easier to describe than others. The most difficult one for beginners is the two-suited hand, especially when strong.

The play point of trumping losers, if shown carefully via the replay of hands card by card, will prove to students that shortages do indeed improve the value of a hand. (Sometimes shortage points are called "dummy points" for this reason).

THE HARD BITS

Showing two suits, and sometimes needing to bid a four-card suit that is not strong, is a difficult concept. Realising the difference in meaning between opener's rebid and responder's is also confusing.

Recognising whether responder's bid is forcing or not, and the impact that has on subsequent bids, takes time (perhaps years) to understand.

Although this lesson takes students a lot further into the possible "maze" of bidding theory, it is an exciting lesson, because it shows how well partners may work together to discuss the "Where" and "How High" principles of bidding.

Around The Clubs

The selection events to choose teams for the 2022 ANC are now under way all over the country. This nice defence by Kaiping Chen and Karol Miller came up in the last round of Western Australia's open selection final. Chen and Miller were defending 4♥:

Board 11	♠ Q 10 5 3	
S/Nil	♥ Q J 5 4	
	♦ A J 9	
	♣ Q 2	
♠ J 9 8 7 4		♠ A 6
♥ K 10		♥ 9 7 6
♦ 10 5		♦ Q 8 7 4 3
♣ J 10 8 5		♣ K 7 6
	♠ K 2	
	♥ A 8 3 2	
	♦ K 6 2	
	♣ A 9 4 3	

Chen led the ♠9, and Miller won the ace and returned the suit to declarer's king. With no convenient entry

to dummy, and wanting to draw trumps as fast as possible, declarer played ace and another trump.

This unfortunate start opened up a weakness in declarer's trump holding. Chen won the ♥K and played a third spade for Miller to ruff with the ♥9, a card that declarer was no longer able to beat. Then, with only minor-suit cards left, Miller smartly exited with a diamond into dummy's ♦AJ, giving declarer an unwanted free diamond trick while preserving his own club trick for one off.

It's understandable that declarer wanted to draw trumps as quickly as possible, but as the cards lie it would have been better to start with a low heart, keeping the ♥A in place to overruff East's ♥9. Another line that works on the actual layout is crossing to the ♦A to take a (losing) heart finesse.

At every other table the defenders led a diamond, leaving declarer with no problems.

SA Bridge Association Club Manager needed



The SA Bridge Association (previously known as SABA) is the primary South Australian bridge club and the second largest bridge club in Australia with an income over \$0.6m per year and venues at Unley, Walkerville, Mt Barker and Glenelg North.

It has a proud history of club activity, membership growth and educational programs. Impacted recently by the impacts of COVID, we seek a manager to lead the club into the next phase of growth and development who will be responsible for all the operational activities of the Association's venues.

The Manager will:

- ensure the SA Bridge Association provides necessary capabilities and a friendly environment.
- manage the SA Bridge Association's staff and facilities and liaise with stakeholders
- promote the interests of the SA Bridge Association and its members
- develop and implement marketing plans to promote the game of Bridge and identify new opportunities to increase membership and enhance the playing experience
- work with the Treasurer to manage the Club's finances
- manage the Club's teaching and coaching programs
- manage membership
- undertake operational tasks as specified in the Role Description document.

To be successful in this role you will ideally have a background in leading a team in the clubs or community services sector. You will be a good communicator who enjoys organising and delivering successful programs, encouraging and supporting members and contributing to the club's development. Reporting to the club's President, you will enjoy a high level of autonomy while demonstrating a focus on collaboration. You will be supported in the role by a part time Book Keeper, bridge sessions directors, bridge education teachers and tutors and a large number of services contractors.

Please use the following link for details of the position requirements and offer:

<https://sabridgeassoc.asn.au/>

Further details, including a full Role Description, are available from the Club President.

Please phone 0402 433 674 or email at aabdelha@icloud.com

2022 TASMANIAN FESTIVAL

Kim Frazer reports
on the four TFOB
Swiss Pairs events



The four days of the Tasmanian Festival of Bridge which ran from 24-27 March brought bright and sunny days and cool nights to go with a fantastic event which was held in the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Launceston.

In the first two days which featured fields in Seniors, Restricted and the new Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs event, the eventual winners of both the Seniors and Mixed reach table one after round one and stayed there throughout.

Kitty Muntz and Leigh Gold justified their number one seeding when they were victorious in the Mixed event which featured a small field of 20 pairs. This board where Gold, sitting South, navigated a tricky spade position to make 4♥ shows why, as many pairs across all three fields failed to reach game.

Board 11	♠ A Q 6 3	
S/Nil	♥ A 9 6 4	
	♦ K 7 6	
	♣ K Q	
♠ K J		♠ 9 8 4 2
♥ Q 10 2		♥ J
♦ J 10 3 2		♦ A Q 9 8 5
♣ 10 5 3 2		♣ A 8 7
	♠ 10 7 5	
	♥ K 8 7 5 3	
	♦ 4	
	♣ J 9 6 4	

On the lead of the ♦J ducked all round, Gold ruffed the diamond continuation and led a low club to dummy's queen, won by East's ace, and East continued with another diamond ruffed by Gold in hand. He now played a heart to the ace, cashed his winning ♣K and returned to hand with a heart to the king. He continued with ♣J, pitching a spade from dummy and when the ♣10 didn't fall, Gold needed to get the spades right to make. He played a low spade from hand to the jack and dummy's queen, and with no safe way back to hand, now played the ♠A hoping for West to have started with 2-3-4-4 shape and ♠KJ in the pocket. Nicely played!

The top 3 place-getters were:

1. Kitty Muntz - Leigh Gold
2. Avril Zets - Axel Johannsson
3. Cathryn Herden - Matthew Thomson

The impact of COVID hit the Roger Penny Seniors Swiss Pairs hard with the field size reduced from 86 pairs in pre-COVID 2019 to just 26 pairs this year. While the World Championships currently being held in Salsomaggiore have also contributed to this year's decline in numbers, it is quite clear that the effect of COVID has been dramatic on face-to-face bridge events.

Neil Ewart and Ian Robinson were never headed in the Seniors' event after a big win in Round one. This board played on Match 3 against the eventual bronze medalists (Nigel Rosendorff and Phil Gue) illustrates the use of good conventions within the two-over-one bidding system. Here Ewart - Robinson stayed in a partscore on a board which threw up a variety of results with many NS pairs reaching the non-making 5♦, non-making 4♥, or, at some tables, EW reached/saved in their non-making 4♠.

Board 35	♠ Q 9	
S/EW	♥ 9 8	
	♦ A 9 6 4 2	
	♣ K Q 5 3	
♠ A 10 7 6 2		♠ K J 8 5 4
♥ J 5 4		♥ K 10 6
♦ —		♦ K Q 5
♣ J 10 9 6 2		♣ 8 4
	♠ 3	
	♥ A Q 7 3 2	
	♦ J 10 8 7 3	
	♣ A 7	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
pass	1NT ¹	pass	2♣ ²
pass	3♦ ³	all pass	

1. Not forcing (less than GF).
2. Diamonds, or big balanced, or an invitational hand.
3. 5+ diamonds; not forcing, but invitational to 3NT.

Eleven tricks in a minor is a big ask, even with nice distribution, and Ewart - Robinson did well to stay in the partscore. They eventually went on to win from Andrew Mill - Simon Hinge, with Gue - Rosendorff rounding out the top three.

In the Restricted Pairs, which featured 36 contenders, several pairs were in contention going into the final round. Matthew Tiplady and Rodney Macey scored a strong result to win comfortably over the top seeded



Bob Ranson and Frank Milford with Eugene Pereira and Rex Meadowcroft taking out the bronze.

The weekend brought the premier event – the Australian Swiss Pairs – featuring 82 pairs this year which is also significantly lower than pre-COVID days. As the competition heated up, so did the temperature in the room which was great for people like me who are always cold, but not so great for some, so there were a few grizzles. However we survived, and unlike in the lead-up events, the battle for first was very tight with many changes in lead over the two days.

At the end of Day 1 after six matches Jamie Ebery and I led the field, and we drew the eventual winners for our first match on Day 2. In this match two boards gave the winners the edge. On Board 5, Ebery - Frazer bid to the normal 3NT contract which was one down for 7 imps to Dagmar Neumann and Maurits van der Vlugt after the ♠Q lead from Neumann at East. Then Neumann - van der Vlugt stayed out of trouble and scored another 5 imps for their partscore after the following auction on Board 9:

Board 9 ♠ A Q
N/EW ♥ Q J 3
 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ J 10 7 6 4 3

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	2♣ ¹	pass	2♦ ²
2♥	pass	pass	3♣
dbl	pass	3♥	all pass

1. Precision (10-15 5+♣ or 5+♣/4♦).
2. 11+ enquiry.

The remainder of Day 2 saw several lead changes with Gosney - Leibowitz, Kanetkar - Klinger, Mill - Markey and Rosendorff - Gue all in contention throughout the day. In the penultimate round our victors scored a big win over Mill - Markey to set up a final round showdown with

Klinger - Kanetkar who had also scored a win over Ebery - Frazer in round 10.

This board (Match 10 Board 6) from the penultimate round helped Klinger - Kanetkar knock Frazer - Ebery out of contention:

Board 6 ♠ K 10 7
E/EW ♥ K Q 4 3
 ♦ 9 6 4 3
 ♣ K 5

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

 ♠ Q 9 6 5 2
 ♥ A 9 6 5 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ 9 2

Klinger - Kanetkar scored 6 imps by reaching 4♥ by North after the following auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Klinger		Kanetkar
		1NT ¹	2♦ ²
pass	2NT ³	pass	3NT ⁴
pass	4♥	all pass	

1. 15-17.
2. Majors.
3. Range enquiry.
4. Maximum.

Interestingly EW can make 5♣/5♦ but Frazer at West was reluctant to compete vulnerable vs not. After all, until North shows interest, East could have held more values in the majors which would have made a minor suit contract unappealing at this vulnerability.

The final round had a fairly boring set of boards which gave few chances for brilliance. Neumann - van der Vlugt finished the round +2 imps, to score a small win, and wrapped up first place after Gosney - Leibowitz failed to improve on their placing, losing their match to the eventual bronze medallists Jill Magee and Terry Strong.

Photos by Andrew Richman: Open winners Dagmar Neumann and Maurits van der Vlugt, Restricted winners Matthew Tiplady and Rodney Macey, and Mixed winners Kitty Muntz and Leigh Gold.



A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

What does this auction mean to you?

WEST	EAST
1♠	1♣
2♦ forcing	2♣
4NT	2NT denying three spades
	?

When there has been no suit agreement and the last bid has been notrumps, then a bid of 4NT should be quantitative, inviting slam. Given that East has shown 12-15 HCP (the 2♣ rebid, rather than 3♣), West should be showing a very good 18+ HCP, inviting partner to bid slam with a maximum hand or to pass 4NT with a minimum hand. On this hand, East would pass:

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

Here's another example, from the same session:

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

WEST	EAST
?	1NT 15-17

West should use Stayman first:

2♣	2♦
?	

With no suit agreed, West should still rebid 4NT, showing a slam invite. After a 1NT opening bid, this bid is kept to a very narrow point range, usually a very good 15 HCP (with a decent five-card suit that can be used as a source of tricks) or 16 HCP.

It asks opener to head to slam with 17 HCP, or with 16 HCP and a source of tricks (i.e. their own decent five-card suit). Obviously, on this 15 HCP 1NT opening bid, East should pass.

What about this hand? You are South and hold this motley collection:

♠ A 10 7 6	♥ Q 10 9	♦ 10 9 5	♣ J 3 2
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♥	dbl	pass	2♠
pass	3♣	pass	?

What has partner shown with this auction? They have doubled then introduced their own suit, showing a hand that was better than an immediate overcall of 3♣ over 2♥. I'd expect a very good hand, probably with six clubs and about eight playing tricks.

South should bid 3NT, showing a few values and something to control the heart suit. Only a couple of pairs reached this game, with many Souths being wary of bidding on. North held:

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

Where North overcalled 3♣, they played (deservedly) in that contract. Doubling then bidding your own suit shows this hand perfectly.

On the next hand, nobody reached a reasonable 3NT, but I think you should:

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

North opened 1♣ and South responded 1♠. What should North rebid on their hand? They can't bid 2♦, since that is a reverse. They shouldn't rebid 2♣ since that should show a six-card suit (and that hand certainly doesn't qualify!). I would rebid 1NT, which can be done with a singleton in partner's responding suit, showing 12-14 HCP.

I'd recently given a talk about 11 HCP hands opposite the 12-14 notrump opener's rebid. The talk related to whether you have a 'good' hand or a 'poor' hand. If partner had, for instance, opened 1♦, I would consider this a poor hand. However, opposite a 1♣ opening, I think the potential support for clubs makes this a hand qualify for an invitational raise to 2NT. Now, North should bid 3NT with their maximum hand for their bidding so far (plus the five-card suit).

How would you and your partner go bidding these hands, East dealer?

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

WEST	EAST
	1♠
2♣	2♥
?	

If you are playing 2-over-1 game forcing, West can simply rebid 2NT. East now bids 3♥, but you still have little idea where to go...

If you are playing Standard, West should rebid 3♦. The hand is too strong simply to rebid 3NT over 2♥. If you use 3♦, fourth suit game forcing, then rebid 3NT, you imply a hand too strong for 3NT immediately (i.e. a good 16+ HCP). So we continue...

3♦	3♥
3NT	?

Now East should be able to work out that West has five clubs (max of two spades and two hearts, so clearly 5+ clubs). If you can, East should bid 4♣ – showing three-card club support and slam interest (since you have removed your side from a game contract):

4♦ cue	4♣
4NT	4♥ cue
?	5♣ three key cards

Though many would just settle in 6♣, you may be able to reach 7♣, assuming West realises that East has a 5-5-0-3 hand shape on the auction, so the two small diamonds can be trumped. Over East's keycard response, West should actually rebid 5NT to promise all the key cards:

WEST	EAST
	1♠
2♣	2♥
3♦	3♥
3NT	4♣
4♦ cue	4♥ cue
4NT	5♣ three key cards
5NT	6♥
7♣	pass

If partner rebids 5NT, promising all the key cards, and clubs are trumps, that means they are interested in a grand slam if you have ANY king. After all, any response that shows a king takes your side higher than 6♣!

Nobody managed to bid a slam on this hand, mostly settling in 3NT, but one pair played in 4♥.

Remember to plan a hand. Check your winners. This was a hand where many played too fast:

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

♠ A J 3 2
♥ Q J 3 2
♦ K
♣ Q 9 7 3

After South opened, and North responded 1♥, North punted 4♥ after South raised. This was all perfectly reasonable.

You have six heart tricks and the ♠A. You may need to trump three diamonds in dummy. You'd better not draw any rounds of trumps before preparing the cross-ruff because, if you do, once West gains the lead, he can lead more trumps – and two rounds of trumps will leave you a trick short.

East leads the ♠10. Win the ♠A, then lead dummy's ♦K. An alert West will return a trump and you should go down, but they may decide to cash their ♠Q first. If they do so, you will be home and hosed.

Anniversary at the Cairns Bridge Club

Play bridge, play golf, play tennis. With these three things, you'll never be short of companionship

During the first weekend in March, Cairns Bridge Club reached a very significant milestone – its 50th birthday. To celebrate, the committee organised a wide range of activities to mark the special occasion. There was a free red point bridge session each day from Friday through to Sunday and they were pleased to include Kim and Ray Ellaway in all of these events.



A special morning tea was organised particularly for its more elderly members who have not been able to attend the club in recent years mainly due to COVID. Amongst those who attended were four members who were present at the club from the moment of its inception in February 1972: Hal Westaway (the club's first treasurer), Colleen Collingwood (the "typist" of the first committee), Ev Turner and Mary Griffiths. Ev has reached a milestone of her own as she is now 100 years old. She has been very active in the club throughout her life as director, teacher and committee member and so it was very appropriate that she cut the birthday cake for the club during the morning tea.

Saturday night, the festivities continued with a dinner at the Cairns Colonial Club. The slideshow ran all night bringing back wonderful memories of the many members and events throughout its 50-year history. William van Bakel, the current president of Cairns Bridge Club, shared news from Robert Grace's recent research that bridge was enjoyed in the far north with several clubs even as far back as the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s but died out with the start of WW2 until it was resurrected again in 1972 by Pat Shedden. Mary Griffiths, who has been a club member since 1972 and is one of their most popular members due to her kind-hearted and bubbly disposition, was then presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers to honour her for her years of loyalty to the club. Mary was absolutely delighted and happily told everyone she received this lovely gift "just for being old".

Sunday morning, many members returned to the club for the final bridge session preceded by a special brunch cooked on the new barbeque kindly donated by Frances Winkworth, a member of the club since 1978. Whilst William van Bakel, Simon Kruistum and Gidi Azar braved the heatwave on the patio to cook breakfast for everyone, members of the club chatted happily in the cool air-conditioning.



Robert Grace, a more recent member of the Cairns Bridge Club, wrote that it's "not the first bridge club in Cairns but probably the most enduring, as evidenced by the celebration of 50 years since its formation". He also added an adage told to a founding member, Prue Haussmann, by her mother:

"You need to do three things to get on in life.
1. Play bridge, 2. Play golf, 3. Play tennis. With these three things you'll never be short of companionship."

Long may bridge be played in Cairns. Viva the Cairns Bridge Club!

Andy Mathieson

Gold Coast Congress 2022

We asked KIM ELLAWAY to provide some insights into the differences she noticed at this year's post-COVID GCC, compared with previous years

Thank you to all who attended the face-to-face 2022 Gold Coast Congress. It was certainly different in many ways:

- Everyone had to wear a mask or shield.
- We could not provide free water to players, and we in fact had to charge players \$2 a bottle to players to cover the costs that the GCCEC charged the event for this privilege.
- All the entrances bar the main entrance were closed.
- Upon entering the building, proof of double vaccination was required and checking in was compulsory. This required the Congress to provide at least five, sometimes more people to assist with checking. This procedure occurred every time players entered the building.
- Good news was that there were no queues in the toilets, especially the women's, or the Coffee Areas, as player numbers were down.
- New systems of not using monies were implemented and since the start of COVID, the GCCEC has completely gone cash-free so for them only cards were an acceptable way of payment. All vending machines had been removed.
- Only three international players entered.
- We had no lollies on our Admin Desk for players.
- Player numbers were well down, by around 50%.

- As staff numbers were down, staff had to multi-task significantly more than in previous years.

However, on the bright side, we had no cases reported, and the feedback from the players who attended was outstanding. Thank you to all our sponsors who continued to support us, and a big thank you to those players who supported us. Dates for next year are 17–25 February 2023.

Gold Coast Congress Rescue

I believe the Gold Coast Congress was a major success and this has led to a return of confidence in face-to-face bridge. Some players who attended the 2022 GCC had not played face-to-face bridge since the 2020 GCC Congress. However, because of contractual obligations etc, the Congress ran at a large loss.

To assist the QBF with covering these losses, the ABF has approved a fundraising Rescue Series on RealBridge. The first events were widely supported by congress players from all over the country and we cannot thank all those players enough. The next two series are 9-10 April and 3-4 September. GCC Rescue events are advertised via the ABF Website, QBA Website and MyABF.

We thank you for your support.

Kim Ellaway, Gold Coast Congress convenor



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Gold Coast Teams Final

Liam Milne

The long-awaited return of face-to-face bridge

These two boards from the Teams Final show the importance of getting your suits into the auction when you have a distributional hand. The first board is from Set 3 of the final between MILNE (Tony Nunn, GeO Tislevoll, Liam Milne, James Coutts, Nick Jacob, Paul Dalley) and HAFFER (Joachim Haffer, Jamie Thompson, Andrew Spooner, Philip Markey). This board completed a run of six boards where 65 imps changed hands:

Board 35 ♠ A 7 4
S/Nil ♥ K J 9 8 7
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K 8 4 2

♠ K Q 8 6 5 3
♥ 10 3
♦ Q 9 8
♣ J 10

♠ J 10 2
♥ 2
♦ A K J 6
♣ A 9 7 6 5

♠ 9
♥ A Q 6 5 4
♦ 10 7 5 3 2
♣ Q 3

WEST Jacob	NORTH Thompson	EAST Tislevoll	SOUTH Haffer
2♠	pass	4♠	pass all pass

It is hard to fault either North or South for not entering the auction here. A weak 2♥ from Haffer would have saved the day, or a risky 3♥ overcall from Thompson, but everyone's actions were within tolerance.

There were only three losers in 4♠ and Thompson - Haffer surely hoped this would be a flat board.

WEST Markey	NORTH Dalley	EAST Spooner	SOUTH Nunn
1NT ⁹⁻¹²	2♥ ^{H+m}	dbl	pass
4♠	pass	pass	5♥
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

Markey tested the market with a highly fruity "weak notrump" that would have Terence Reese turning in

his grave. It was much safer for North to enter the auction at this table, and Nunn eventually made the fine decision to persist with the hearts at the five-level.

Spooner was happy to double this and collect the money. There was little money to be found, however, and when Dalley played on diamonds to establish the suit he was able to make 5♥x for +650 and a massive 14 imps, allowing MILNE to emerge with a 35-30 profit from the six-board bloodbath.



Winners of the Diamonds Theme Day, Peter and Linda Neil



MILNE headed into the final quarter leading 130-75, but HAFFER picked up three large swings to narrow the gap. This was the 2nd-largest swing of the match:

Board 45 ♠ Q 10 3
N/NS ♥ 9
♦ Q 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 7 6 4

♠ K 8
♥ Q J 10 2
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ J 8 5

♠ A J 9
♥ K 7 6 5 4
♦ A K 10
♣ 10 2

♠ 7 6 5 4 2
♥ A 8 3
♦ —
♣ A K Q 9 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Markey	Tislevoll	Spooner	Jacob
3♥	pass	1♥	2♥ ¹
	pass	4♥	all pass

1. Spades and a minor.

Eyeing the vulnerability, Tislevoll conservatively passed 3♥ rather than dredge up a 3♠ raise, just in case partner had a large hand. In normal conditions this might pass muster; with an opposing team bidding everything in sight, it might have been prudent to protect his side by mentioning the fit.

Thinking partner likely had heart shortage, Jacob wanted to bid once more but couldn't bring himself to do it. 4♥ was a trivial make for NS -420.

At the other table, Haffer and Thompson landed another heavy blow, bidding boldly and aggressively to reach their vulnerable 4♠:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Milne	Thompson	Coutts	Haffer
	pass	1NT	2♠ ¹
dbl	3♠	4♥	4♠
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

1. Spades and a minor.

The spotlight was on Milne to find the killing lead of the ♠K, perhaps findable given Coutts' double, but he fell from grace and led the 'normal' heart queen. Haffer was able to ruff two hearts in dummy and lose just three trumps for an outrageous NS +790.

The double game swing was good for 15imps to HAFFER and the margin was down to 29imps with three boards left.

Disappointingly for HAFFER, the fairy-tale finish fizzled out. Board 46 was a straightforward partscore hand, while the penultimate board saw Markey make a 3♦ contract that failed in the other room but was only worth a 5-imp swing. The last board was another quiet partscore deal and HAFFER won the set 48-18, but MILNE were the match winners, 148-122.

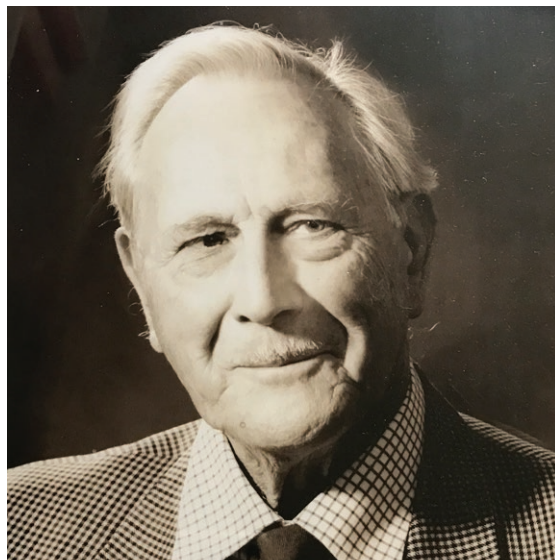
This was the first win in this event for Nick Jacob and Paul Dalley. Particularly in the last set, HAFFER played with a high level of toughness to give themselves a chance, but some unforced errors from the first half came back to bite them in the end. MILNE were far from perfect but did enough good things to get the job done, a tale frequently told in such matches.

For those bridge players who care about the environment, the ABF's sponsor, PENLINE, makes Reusable Coffee cups and Water Bottles, as part of its "War on Waste". If you are interested in more information, please contact Maryo Derofo by email: maryo@penline.com.au

Peter Crawley

1923 - 2022

The creator of the Master Bridge Series has died at the age of 98, after a career in publishing that spanned more than 70 years



Peter Crawley, who started the Master Bridge Series (MBS), one of the leading bridge lists in the world, died on 18 January 2022 at the age of 98. The list was started in 1975, and Peter continued to publish new titles until just before he died. Most of the early books are still in print, with authors such as Hugh Kelsey, Ron Klinger, David Bird and Terence Reese.

Peter started his publishing career at Faber in London in 1947, becoming Sales Director in 1962. On leaving the company in 1973, he established the Hyperion imprint of Ward Lock, where he started the Master Bridge Series. Subsequently he published the bridge list in association with Victor Gollancz, which in turn was sold to Cassell, and then to Orion (where it came under the umbrella of Weidenfeld & Nicolson). Orion is now owned by Hachette.

When Peter started the Master Bridge Series, he approached Hugh Kelsey, a highly respected bridge writer, player and critic, to be the Editor. The first book in the series, written by Hugh himself, was the *Instant Guide to Bridge*, which was published in 1975. Updated by Ron Klinger to bring the bidding content into line with modern standard AcOl, the book was republished in 1993 as the *New Instant Guide to Bridge*, and is still in print.

Crawley went on to publish other books by Kelsey, including the celebrated *Killing Defence at Bridge*, originally published by Faber in 1966. According to Alan Truscott, bridge columnist for the New York Times for 41 years, *Adventures in Card Play*, written by Kelsey and Géza Ottlik and published in 1979, "broke new ground in many technical areas and is still considered the most advanced book on the play of the cards."

Soon after Crawley started the Master Bridge Series, Kelsey approached Ron Klinger, who was then editor of *Australian Bridge Magazine*, and asked him to write

Playing to Win at Bridge. This was first published in 1976, followed in 1978 by *Basic Bridge*, a book for beginners, and, in 1984 by *Improve Your Bridge Memory*. All of these titles are still in print.

Since then, Ron Klinger has written over 60 titles, most of them for the Master Bridge Series, including *Guide to Better Card Play*, which won the American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Best Book of the Year Award in 1991, and *Right Through The Pack Again*, which won the 2009 International Bridge Press Association Book of the Year Award (IBPA).

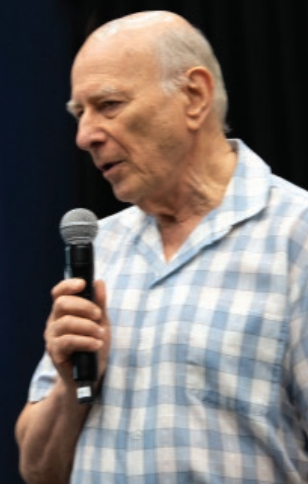
The Master Bridge Series also includes a celebrated collection of humorous fiction about bridge-playing monks, written by David Bird. In 1982 Bird contacted the leading bridge writer of that time, Terence Reese, asking if he could assist him in writing an introduction. "I can do better than that," Reese replied. "I can become a co-author." This title was *Miracles of Card Play*, published the same year, the first of 13 in the Monk book series. Bird went on to win the 2016 IBPA with *The Abbott, the Parrot and the Bermuda Bowl*.

Both David Bird and Ron Klinger have happy memories of Peter Crawley. To quote Klinger: "He was not just my publisher but also a very good friend. He organized a bridge teaching tour for me in England and drove me around England and Wales to bridge clubs and whenever we were in Europe we would include a visit to see Peter and Joan (Peter's wife). That was usually every two or three years. Peter and Joan also came to Australia and stayed with us. We had many good times with them, whether it was drinking champagne by our poolside in Sydney, or taking them on a trip to the scenic Blue Mountains, corrupting them both with a lunch that included a hamburger and a coke, the first they had ever had. Peter had a fine, whimsical sense of humour, and I remember sitting in the upstairs room at Garth House and Peter outlining his ideas for future books."

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



SHOW BUSINESS

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

At one table, the auction went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	1♠
2♦	dbl	pass	2♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

You lead the ♣K: eight - seven - five, followed by the ♣A: ten - two - six. What do you play at Trick 3? You are playing low-encouraging, high-discouraging.

It is common practice to change the order of leading from A-K doubleton compared with A-K-x or longer. If you lead the ace-then-king from A-K-x holdings, then you play king-then-ace with the doubleton, and vice versa. Players who lead ace to ask for attitude and king to ask for count have the disadvantage that partner cannot tell when the opening leader has A-K bare.

East played the discouraging ♣7 on the ♣K. When West continued with the ♣A, East recognized the doubleton holding and played the ♣2 as a suit-preference signal to show a potential entry in diamonds. West understood the message and switched to the ♦5. East won with the ♦K and gave West the club ruff. That was one down for +50.

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	2♦ ¹
pass	2NT ²	pass	3♦ ³
dbl	4♠	all pass ¹	

1. Multi-two.
2. Strong inquiry.
3. Weak two in spades.

Lead: ♦3. After that lead the contract could not be defeated and declarer actually made eleven tricks for +450.

West's lead-directing double worked out badly. If West passes 3♦ and East finds the club lead, West plays ♣A, then ♣K. That is how to show the doubleton in third seat. East plays the lowest club as suit-preference on the second club and now 4♠ can be beaten.



Two of our regular readers enjoying the New Year holiday with Barbara Travis's regular column

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with Barbara Travis

Solutions to problems on page 5

HAND 1

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

West leads the ♥2 against 4♠, to the ten - ace - eight. East continues with the ♥Q - king - three - jack.

The only concern on this hand is the spade suit. If West has A-J-9-x you will go down. That isn't likely on the auction, where East is more than likely to hold the ♠A. Therefore, your main concern should be if spades are 4-1, with East holding a singleton. If the singleton is the jack or nine, you will be fine. If the singleton is the ace, you must ensure you don't lose a trump honour to the ace. So, you should plan to lead the first round of trumps from dummy towards your honours. And, you should plan to lead the ♠3.

When you lead the ♠3, you bring down East's ace, and just have one more spade loser (the jack).

If you used the ♠Q (or ♠K) on the first round of trumps, you will have three trump losers.

HAND 2

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

West leads the ♠Q against 6NT.

On seeing dummy, you should realise that, due to the mirrored hand shapes, the maximum number of tricks available on this hand is 12, and that is dependent on making five tricks in clubs.

Rather than commit to the club suit immediately, you should gather as much information as possible before-

hand. Since you always have to lose a spade trick, duck Trick 1. Win the spade continuation, and cash the third spade. East shows out on the third round.

You should now cash your three heart winners. Once again, East shows out on the third round. West is now known to have started with a 5-5 in the majors. All you have to do now is cash a top diamond. When West follows suit, only East could have started with three clubs.

Now you simply lead a club to dummy's king. West discards, and you know to finesse East's ♣Q-6-3, making 12 tricks.

I love hands that demonstrate the power of counting.



HAND 3

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

West leads the ♠4 against 3NT, dummy's queen winning. What is your plan?

Your first concern is about East gaining the lead too soon. You do not want East to be able to lead a spade through your ♠A-J.

Your normal approach would be to lead a club to the ♣9 or ♣J in dummy, but that maximises the risk of East winning the trick (with the ten or queen or ace). Basically, you want West to hold the ♣A or ♣A-Q.

Firstly, you need to realise that playing on diamonds doesn't give you enough tricks! You need at least one trick in clubs; playing on clubs is always necessary.

Your best option is to win the ♠Q at Trick 1, then cross to hand with the ♥Q at Trick 2. Now lead a club to dummy's king. When it holds, you exit with a low club from dummy. West will win his ace, but still cannot lead spades without giving you an extra trick. His best exit is to lead a heart, which you win in dummy to lead a third club. Now you have three club tricks, two spades, three hearts and one diamond.

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com



BALANCING WHEN OPPONENTS STOP LOW

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	pass	1♥	pass
2♣	pass	pass	?
1. ♠ K 10 7 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ A J 8 4 3 ♣ 9 2			
2. ♠ Q 5 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 2 ♦ A 3 ♣ 8 7 6			
3. ♠ A Q ♥ K 10 8 4 3 ♦ J 5 4 ♣ A 10 4			
4. ♠ Q J 7 6 ♥ Q 9 8 2 ♦ A 8 7 2 ♣ 4			
5. ♠ Q 10 6 3 ♥ K Q J 6 4 ♦ 10 7 3 ♣ 7			
6. ♠ A 7 4 ♥ A 9 6 3 2 ♦ 5 3 2 ♣ A 3			
7. ♠ Q 8 5 2 ♥ 8 7 6 4 3 ♦ A Q J ♣ Q			
8. ♠ Q J 7 6 ♥ Q 7 6 5 ♦ Q J 5 2 ♣ 2			
9. ♠ A Q 2 ♥ Q 9 6 3 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ K 4 2			
10. ♠ A 10 7 ♥ A K Q 10 8 2 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ 4			

SOLUTIONS

1. 2♦. I agree with not overcalling 2♦ on the first round on this very average hand with a broken suit. When you now decide to back into the auction you are "balancing". From the 1950s to around 1990 balancing was frequent. Overcalls on the first round were conservative, a popular US style required an opening bid, and there was no great urgency to get into the bidding. Nowadays overcalls are much lighter and with many early auction entry is paramount.

Mike Lawrence wrote an excellent book on balancing, which has grown over various revisions to 451 pages. Lawrence writes, "Balancing is not something you do because of a one-line rule. It is something you do when you take many factors into consideration."

On this hand, have opponents laid a carefully prepared trap, or have they simply run out of steam? Surely the latter and balancing with 2♦ is clearcut.

2. 2♥. Once you pass over 1♥ and then bid hearts you are showing you have hearts. Your side could possibly have an eight-card heart fit, even nine, and no other fit. Even if you have a seven-card fit in hearts you are well-positioned over the original heart bidder with AQ98 and when you play the hand it will be easy to read the cards. On this bidding opponents could have a good heart fit or as little as 5432 opposite a void.

3. 2♥. Your hearts aren't as strong as in Q2 but you have a stronger hand. Perhaps the opponents now bid on to 3♣ and your partner has a good hand in support of hearts and can bid 3♥ or when opps compete to 3♣ the

contract fails. There are many reasons to balance in these situations rather than let opponents play in 2♣.

4. Double. Despite only 9 HCP many would have doubled 1♥ for takeout while they had a safe opportunity to enter the bidding. Note that since you passed over 1♥ your takeout suits now include hearts as well as diamonds and spades. You are quite happy for partner to bid hearts if they have them and respond 2♥.

5. Double. A close choice between 2♥ and double but double seems to give you more flexibility. If partner replies 2♦ you can now bid 2♥ to show five hearts and four spades. Partner can now put you back to spades with one heart and three spades.

6. 2♥. A tough decision with your threadbare heart suit but the only choice is to let them play in 2♣ where they only need eight tricks. Good judgement in partscore bidding is the mark of the true expert and this includes not allowing opponents to play in low level contracts. Even if you go one down and they were making +90 or +110 you are showing a profit.

7. Double. You didn't double at your first turn because you only have three diamonds, not that every player would be concerned by that. Your hand isn't terribly good, with only nine working HCP but taking a chance on finding a fit is a better option than letting opps play in 2♣ where they might have an eight- or nine-card fit and less HCP than your side.

8. Pass. You have the perfect shape for a takeout double but your hand contains zero quick tricks. The four aces and four kings take a good share of the tricks on any given deal, along with length tricks in the trump suit. A hand with no ace or king and no long suit will take very few tricks and a prudent pass is recommended.

9. Pass. With your flat and defensive hand it is recommended you pass and try and defeat 2♣. Your partner could have acted over 2♣ with a moderate hand and a long suit so it is very likely your side has no eight-card fit but good defence.

10. 3♥. On Q2 and Q3 you balanced with 2♥ but this hand is much stronger and if you bid only 2♥ you may miss a cold game. Whenever you have their suit as here you must pass over 1♥ since 2♥ is Michaels (5-5) and 3♥ is most likely undiscussed. With many it shows a solid suit and asks for a heart stopper for 3NT.

The choices seem to be double or 3♥. Double may create complications so I suggest a jump to 3♥ would do your fine hand justice. With a couple of tricks, say ♠K and ♦A or ♠K and ♦QJ, partner could confidently raise to 4♥. Of course a couple of hearts in support as well would be invaluable.

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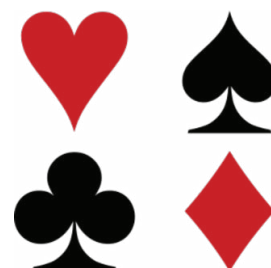
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