



Finals today, Vugraph tonight

The four finals are on today. Three 20 board segments at 9.30, 1pm and 4.10. Screens and bidding boxes throughout. In one match – probably the open – the final 20 boards will be on Vugraph at 7.30. Wine, nibbles, expert commentary! All action is at the NSWBA.

All 60 boards of the Open final will also be on BBO.

The five **Pairs events** are on Friday at the Masonic Centre – Cnr Goulburn & Castlereagh – which is also the venue for tomorrow night's **Victory Dinner**.

Who's playing whom

In the Open & Seniors, Queensland had heavy final round losses to dip out. Favourites NSW and ACT made the **Open** final, surprise packets WA will play NSW in the **Seniors**.

Although the **Women's** was close most of the way, the final was decided with one round to go. Favourites Victoria missed out – it's NSW vs Queensland.

In the **Youth**, Queensland will need to beat South Australia by 19 IMPs this morning to make the 40-board final against ACT.

If Only *by David Hoffman*

This is the first hand of the second round robin:

N/Nil	♠ K 8 6 4		
	♥ A 9 6 5		
	♦ 5 2		
	♣ 10 7 4		
♠ A Q 10 9 7 5 3	♠ —		
♥ Q 10 3	♥ K 4		
♦ 9 6	♦ A Q 3		
♣ 8	♣ AKQJ9632		
	♠ J 2		
	♥ J 8 7 2		
	♦ K J 10 8 7 4		
	♣ 5		
WEST Lee M	NORTH Hoffman	EAST Ken M	SOUTH Wawn
	2♣ ^{majors}	dbl	3♥
4♠	no	5♣	no
5♠	no	6♣	end

After Ken Miller doubled my 2♣, David Wawn pre-empted to 3♥ and Lee Miller, even given my announced spade length, felt that 4♠ was worth trying.

Not surprisingly, Ken felt that this might not be the best contract, so tried 5♣. Worried that Hubby was showing minors, Lee corrected to 5♠. When Ken re-corrected, Lee knew enough was enough.

David led the ♥2 and I played the ace. When I switched to a diamond, a fuming Ken was forced to finesse. The upshot was two down.

Ken was upset because he realised – moments after contributing the ♥4 to the first trick – that he had blown the contract. If he's done that, he could win the ♦A and take the heart finesse to throw his losing diamonds on the ♥Q and ♠A.

Of course the real culprit was I, who can guarantee beating the contract by inserting the ♥9 to the first trick. Ken and I compared opportunities lost later over a drink at the bar.

"6-5, come alive!"

This a phrase I associate with RDK, though Google attributes it to Grant Baze. This hand produced a double game swing in over half the matches:

Teams 2/6, Bd 14

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		2♠	no ?
4♠	no	no	?

This was a common auction, with 2♠ showing spades and a minor. In

Final Teams standings

Open

1st	NSW	252.2
2nd	ACT	178.7
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3rd	Qld	166.3
4th	Vic	112.3
5th	SA	20.4
6th	Tas	-132
7th	WA	-144
8th	NT	-463

Women's

1st	Qld	161.4
2nd	NSW	99.9
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3rd	Vic	21.9
4th	ACT	-28.1
5th	Tas	-76.3
6th	WA	-89.5
7th	SA	-91.1

Seniors

1st	WA	187.5
2nd	NSW	162.3
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3rd	Qld	149
4th	Vic	90.8
5th	SA	58.6
6th	ACT	3
7th	NT	-306.4
8th	Tas	-362.4

Youth (with 1 round to go)

1st	ACT	150.3
2nd	SA	98.3
3rd	Qld	62.2
4th	Vic	-60.2
5th	NSW	-78.7
6th	WA	-178.2

NSW vs Queensland Open, Warren Lazer passed throughout as South. Peter Hainsworth passed first up then backed in with 4NT, reaching 5♦x. +550 & +420 meant 14 IMPs to Queensland.

Par is -100 EW in 5♠x. To reach this, West needs to make fit-jump to 4♣. This might backfire by making it easier for North-South to enter the auction.

