



**Setback for the Bulletin**

Against expectations, the editor made it through to Stage 2. I was expecting Sunday night off to do a bit of work then get some sleep but no such luck. Sigh ... At least there is no night play from here on. What a great idea!

**Who didn't make it?**

Gumby - Lazer for one. Despite winning the Interstate last week and making it to Stage 3 in the last few years, they never got going. Perhaps they shouldn't have played the Pairs on Friday?

Also missing out were Antoff - Simpson, who played for Australia in France a few years back and won the Open Pairs on Friday.

One of the pairs that qualified for Stage 2 decided to go for Seniors Stage A instead, without telling anyone. This necessitated frantic phone calls to bring in the next in line. Don't know who it was but in cases like this, it's sound to place your money on Gallus.

14 x 10 bd matches in Stage 2. The top 7 pairs each way will progress to Stage 3.

Let's have our customary look at the day's grand slams:

**Stage 1, Rd 12, Bd 22**

E/EW	♠ A		
	♥ 2		
	♦ AKJ952		
	♣ AKQ85		
♠ Q532		♠ J1087	
♥ QJ6		♥ 1098543	
♦ 876		♦ Q3	
♣ 972		♣ 10	
	♠ K964		
	♥ AK7		
	♦ 104		
	♣ J643		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
no	2♣	no	no
	3♦		2NT
	4♣		3NT
	7♣		4♥
			end

That's plausible, isn't it? A few pairs

were -50 in 7♦. Hills - Ali had this modest success:

Hills	Ali
	1NT!
4NT	no

Richard was getting tired and forgot that 4NT was a natural invite. Just as well. If Hashmat had shown his ace, they too would have been -50 in 7♦.

Still, NS datum was a commendable +1150. Well done, field.

Here's a simple-enough slam:

**Stage 1, Rd 11, Bd 14**

E/Nil	♠ 6		
	♥ KQ108		
	♦ AJ104		
	♣ AK85		
♠ KJ1083		♠ 9742	
♥ 52		♥ 963	
♦ K5		♦ Q9832	
♣ 10643		♣ J	
	♠ AQ5		
	♥ AQ74		
	♦ 76		
	♣ Q972		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	dbl	no	1♣
no	4NT	no	3♥
no	6♥	end	5♠

For instance. With any luck, West will lead a spade. Then it's easy. On a trump lead, it's awkward to ruff two spades in dummy. Better to draw trumps the take the double diamond finesse, taking care with the clubs.

Most of us are keen to keep partner off lead. Peter Reynolds chose the right time to be greedy:

**Stage 1, Rd 9, Bd 24**

W/Nil	♠ A8		
	♥ K103		
	♦ 52		
	♣ KQ9864		
♠ QJ10953		♠ 642	
♥ QJ764		♥ 82	
♦ K		♦ AQJ1097	
♣ 5		♣ 73	
	♠ K7		
	♥ A95		
	♦ 8643		
	♣ AJ102		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Appleton	Li	Reynolds	Chen
no	2♣	3♦	5♣
end			

Reynolds led the ♥8-5-J-K. Declarer drew trumps, cashed ♠K-A then led a diamond towards dummy. It was a good attempt.



If East plays low, it's all over. But he rose up and swallowed partner's ♦K to lead another heart for 1 off.

Devious Ed Barnes had a bidding coup on the same hand. It went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠*	3♣	3♦*	dbl
3♥	no	3♠	3NT
4♠	no	no	4NT!
end			

2♠ was majors or minors, 3♦ pass-or-correct. Ed felt his double then 3NT would keep West off diamonds. Brazenly, he kept on over 4♠, not content with +300.

**Bridge Axiom # 143**

When a group of pairs or teams is split into two seeded fields, the field you find yourself in is always the stronger one.

**ABF events**

**Stage 2 & Seniors Stage A**

Mon, Tue 10am, 3pm

**Stage 3**

Wed - Fri 10am, 2.30

**Youth triathlon at NSWBA**

5-7 August, Fri - Sun  
Teams, Pairs then Individual!

**World Youth Championships**

7-17 August  
at Olympic Park Homebush

The Huttons had no problems bidding this grand:

**Stage 1, Rd 10, Bd 6**

E/EW ♠ A Q 4  
♥ Q 9  
♦ A J 10 9 2  
♣ J 9 4

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Helena		Tony
		no	1♥
no	2♦		4♦
	4♣		4NT
	5♥		7♦
	no		

A good hand for 2-over-1 Game Force, because South was able to infer extra high card strength as well as the two aces.

7♦ is pretty good – virtually cold if diamonds are 2-2. If they are 3-1, you may need five heart tricks (50%) with the spade finesse in reserve. It's about 75% all up.

Can both sides find their double fit here:

**Stage 2, Rd 1, Bd 4**

W/Both ♠ A K Q 10 7 6  
♥ A 5  
♦ J  
♣ A 7 4 2

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	dbl	?	

Fast or slow? Against us, Paul Wyer simply bid 5♦ over the double. I agree – why mess about with hearts? I doubled again as North, giving Robert Krochmalik an awkward choice. He tried 6♣ for 10 IMPs in, rather than passing for 12 IMPs out. Life in the fast lane.

East-West do well to save at the 7-level. -800 would give them +3 IMPs instead of -10.

Here are two more 6-5s – in one hand ....

**Stage 2, Rd 2, Bd 16**

W/EW ♠ 6 3  
♥ K 7 6  
♦ 10 9 5 3  
♣ J 10 7 3

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
no	no	2♣	4♥
4♣	no	5♠	no
6♥	no	7♠	end

2♣ is fine with East's cards – more quick tricks than losers. West might pass 4♥ then bid 5♥ over East's 4♣ for the same outcome. North can keep them out of the grand by bidding 5♥ but +1460 still gives EW 6 IMPs. In fact, with all the grand slams so far, bidding six would have gained IMPs and saved the adrenaline rush.

[australianbridge.com](http://australianbridge.com)

**Congress events in Week 2**

All these events at the **Masonic Centre**, 279 Castlereagh St.

All start at 10am with no play in the evenings, to give you a chance to experience some of Sydney's night life.

**Swiss Teams**

Monday 1st Aug

**Swiss Pairs**

Tuesday 2nd Aug

**Restricted Pairs**

Wednesday 3rd Aug

**ANC Swiss Pairs (gold points)**

Wed - Fri, 3-5 August

Open to everyone! Not just drop-outs from Stages 1,2 & A.

You can enter at the Hospitality Desk or ring the Convener on 0411248 248.

**Exciting news**

the first two Aussie pairs in the Open Butler will be members of the Australian Team for the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship in Melbourne in March 2006 – leading into the Commonwealth Games!

The third pair will be the winners of the Youth Butler in Canberra early next year.

# ENTURY

“Long time no see.”

Get it? Here's another:

INITIA \_



*If you missed Stage 2, there's more gold in the ANC Swiss Pairs, which starts on Wednesday*

**National Senior Swiss Pairs**

13 - 14 October, 2005

(1pm Thursday - 4pm Friday)

**Australian Swiss Pairs**

15 - 16 October

(10 am Saturday - 5.40 Sunday)

**at Wrest Point Casino  
Hobart**

Playoff Points and Gold  
Masterpoints in both events

Ring Barry Kelly: (03) 6228 5247

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