

# Australian National Bridge Championships 2015



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## Do you and your partner know how to bid this hand?

(IT Open Match 1: NSW vs SA)

By David Beauchamp

Brd	16	♠	AJT9		♠	2
Dlr	W	♥	AKQJT73		♥	64
Vul	EW	♦	-		♦	AK9843
		♣	J5		♣	Q986

	16		
4		9	
	11		

At the table, the SA team member decided to make a takeout double – this ended the auction. The declarer ended up down 1 (-200). Not a great result when cold for a slam.



Allison Stralow (WA OPEN 1 and WA WOMEN'S 1 NPC and ANC Recorder) and David Beauchamp (NSW OPEN and SENIORS' NPC)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1H	2D	Pass
Pass	?		

What are our choices?

- 1) 4H
- 2) 2S
- 3) 3D
- 4) 4D
- 5) X

I like 4D – a self-supporting splinter for Hearts.

South knows that partner has a Diamond void and has 3 great cards KQS and AC. South can bid the H slam!

Bidding to 7S looks too tough to me!

## Tomorrow's Program (Tuesday 14th, 2015)

### Championship Events

10am  
1.30pm ANC Teams:  
4.30pm Open, Women, Seniors, Youth

### Congress Events

10am WABC Eclectic Pairs A  
2pm WABC Eclectic Pairs B

## Off-beat Overcall

By Maura Rhodes

When we are first taught the wonderful game of Bridge, we are taught rules. Later, when we have progressed a little further, we learn that the “rules” are guidelines only and can be broken at times. I remember being taught that an overcall always has at least five cards, which is a good rule of thumb. However, with a strong suit, it can be judicious to overcall a four-card suit at the one level. Such a hand cost us 12 Imps in the last round of the Vantage Wealth Management Teams.

Brd	25	♠	Q7						
Dlr	N	♥	76532						
Vul	EW	♦	T43						
		♣	JT4						
		♠	9643						♠ T85
		♥	KT8						♥ AQJ4
		♦	AQ9						♦ K875
		♣	K93						♣ Q5
									♠ AKJ2
									♥ 9
									♦ J62
									♣ A8762

	3	
12		12
	13	

Rick and I were sitting E/W, playing Standard American. After a Pass by North, Rick opened 1D and South overcalled 1S. I think that is a great overcall, in spite of having only 4 cards. Ron Klinger has a rule that you add your number of cards to your number of Honours and if the total is seven, you are good enough to overcall at the one level. If the total of your Honours and cards is eight, you can overcall at the two level. South's hand has 4 cards and 3 Honours, so Bridget Cooke correctly overcalled 1S. I ended up playing in 3NT, which has no play on the lead of the QS. At the other table, 3NT made on a Club lead.



## The new WBF “Continuous” VP Conversion Scale is flawed

From David Matthews

The WBF Committee that formulated this new scale (based on one created by Henry Bethe of the USA 10 years ago which was used in the US trials) also published a “Discrete” VP Conversion scale (similar in format to the old system) which consists of whole numbers of VP's. The Discrete

Scale was suggested to be used in local team events for those clubs that wanted something simpler.

However it is the Continuous Scale (the one that converts Imps to Victory Points between 0.00 and 20.00) used in all WBF Qualifying competitions that I am commenting on. I should point out that many other commentators around the world have expressed their misgivings over this new scale.

I have met very few bridge players in West Australia who like the new VP conversion scale. In my opinion, there is a good reason for this antipathy. The players I have talked to believe that the new scales are flawed.

Many reasons were given by the Committee for changing from the old system and numerous mathematical scenarios were run to prove that the new conversions are mathematically equitable. One statement, in particular, struck me as odd. I cannot find the reference now but, if I recall correctly, it was stated that 5 years worth of past championship results were run and the top three positions would not have changed! It begs the questions that if the results did not change, why change from the old system! Has the WBF Committee never heard the old saying, “If it ain't broke don't fix it”? The Committee did give a number of reasons for the change (refer to the WBF website) but none of them are really convincing. A further thought on this is that if the WBF felt that the scale needed changing (rather than tweaking) then it must be because of some perceived injustices in the overall results generated by the old system. So a new scale should mean that past results actually change!

One of the pleasures of playing IMP competitions (Teams) as opposed to Matchpoints (Pairs) used to be that overtricks did not matter that much. It meant that you could take a superior declarer line (e.g. via a safety play to guarantee the contract) and not worry that the opposition might make an extra trick on an inferior line. With this new scale that type of thinking has gone out of the window. Overtricks are now vitally important. In fact I could even go as far as saying they are almost more important than in a Pairs event. A simple example of this is a 6 Board team match that you lose by 1 Imp. The winning team gets 10.50 VP's and the losing team gets 9.50 VP's. This is a difference of 1 complete Victory Point for a match that you lost by only 1 Imp! So a

1 Imp win is now worth a difference of 1 Victory Point. (Note that you can ignore the fact that the Imp swing was 2, being +1 and -1, because it is the VP score that determines the overall outcome). My personal view is that a 1 Imp loss should be a draw, even though I can accept that playing 6 Boards is not many.

We can look at a couple of other examples. Playing a 14 Board match (standard fare for an evening session of 2 matches) a 1 Imp loss equates to a VP difference of 0.66, a 2 Imp loss equates to 1.32 VP's and a 3 Imp loss equates to 1.94 VP's. Playing a 20 Board match (World Championship qualifiers or Interstate Teams) a 1 Imp loss equates to a VP difference of 0.56, a 2 Imp loss equates to 1.1 VP's and a 3 Imp loss equates to 1.64 VP's. These are huge VP differences in the context of the number of Boards and Imps scored.

In my opinion the WBF Committee, like many experts who get down and dirty with the detail, did not see the wood for the trees. In a 20 Board match I could go as far as to say that a 5 Imp win/loss should be a draw 10 – 10. A 3 Imp loss on a 14 Board match should be a draw and so on, depending on the number of Boards. I am not here to formulate the scale but if you lose a 20 Board match by a few Imps then you have to say that it was a pretty even game and a draw would be a fair result with ties being broken by the Imp scores as now (but these would need to be truncated to stop heavy Imp results playing a significant part in VP ties).

Now let's look at bigger scores than 1, 2 or 3 Imps and the resultant VP differences:

No of Boards	6	10	14	20
Win/Loss in Imps ▼				
5 Imps	12.33 – 7.67	11.85 – 8.15	11.58 – 8.42	11.34 – 8.66
	<i>(Diff of 4.66)</i>	<i>(Diff of 3.70)</i>	<i>(Diff of 3.16)</i>	<i>(Diff of 2.68)</i>
10 Imps	14.25 – 5.75	13.43 – 6.57	12.97 – 7.03	12.53 – 7.47
	<i>(Diff of 8.50)</i>	<i>(Diff of 6.86)</i>	<i>(Diff of 5.94)</i>	<i>(Diff of 5.06)</i>
15 Imps	15.83 – 4.17	14.80 – 5.20	14.19 – 5.81	13.61 – 6.39
	<i>(Diff of 11.66)</i>	<i>(Diff of 9.60)</i>	<i>(Diff of 8.38)</i>	<i>(Diff of 7.22)</i>

20 Imps	17.12 – 2.88	15.97 – 4.03	15.26 – 4.74	14.58 – 5.42
	<i>(Diff of 14.24)</i>	<i>(Diff of 11.94)</i>	<i>(Diff of 10.52)</i>	<i>(Diff of 9.16)</i>
25 Imps	18.19 – 1.81	16.97 – 3.03	16.21 – 3.79	15.45 – 4.55
	<i>(Diff of 16.38)</i>	<i>(Diff of 13.94)</i>	<i>(Diff of 12.42)</i>	<i>(Diff of 10.90)</i>
30 Imps	19.06 – 0.94	17.84 – 2.16	17.04 – 2.96	16.23 – 3.77
	<i>(Diff of 18.12)</i>	<i>(Diff of 15.68)</i>	<i>(Diff of 14.08)</i>	<i>(Diff of 12.46)</i>

What strikes you upon a cursory viewing of these numbers is that a win by a small to average number of Imps generates a VP result out of all proportion to the Imp match result. Overtricks have become significantly more important to the exclusion of more accurate declarer play (or conversely more accurate defence). A couple of examples will suffice. A 10 Imp loss for a 14 Board or 20 Board match is the equivalent of a one game swing or a couple of part scores and yet you lose by roughly 6 and 5 VP's respectively. To me a 10 Imp loss over 14 or 20 Boards is a pretty close match and yet you are hammered on the VP conversion.

In conclusion, these new scales are more slanted towards rewarding luck rather than skill. They need to be reviewed and revised again.

Ian McKinnon of NSW (Sorry Ian – I cannot find your Email address to ask your permission to quote you) writing in March 2014 made the following observations on this new scale (amongst others):

“The major conceptual problem I have with these scales is they do change the game. When you change a scoring method you change the game, whatever the game is.

The WBF VP scale is of a finer granulation than that of the standard IMP scale by a factor of 5 which defies logic. The objectives of all VP scales should be to produce a result that equalizes the value of all the matches in all sessions of bridge event. The new WBF VP scale makes small wins of disproportionate value and changes the game strategies. This scoring method, used in qualifying rounds, requires different strategies to those used in the finals

Consequently the continuous VP scale means that when you are playing teams of roughly equal



talent you should be more conservative and always consider very seriously about playing for overtricks in most contracts. When playing teams that are much stronger than yours, and expecting to beat you soundly, then it would be wise to play a flamboyant game and take more risks. Conversely when playing a weak team be careful if they have had a few risky moves pay off”.

Ian’s final comment:

“The irony is that the old WBF VP scale addresses all the contentious issues:

- It does not favour small wins
- It punishes big losses
- It discourages gambling for a win
- Overtricks are not as valuable
- Encourages bidding tight games
- The lower blitz point makes all sessions of equal value
- Results are published in integer values
- The VP result is known to the teams at score-up time
- Has fewer step points than the IMP scale
- Above all it is simple”

I couldn’t have put it better myself.

Next time I will be turning my attention to Cross Imping – another scoring method that, whilst equitable on the surface, is very much a disaster across a field of uneven quality and skews the results in favour of whichever side holds the most points during a particular session.



## West Australian Bridge Club

*Located near the beach in Swanbourne the West Australian Bridge Club is the third largest club in Australia. Its purpose-built venue caters for 60 tables.*

President: **Kitty George**

Location:

7 Odern Crescent,  
Swanbourne

Phone: (08) 9284 4144

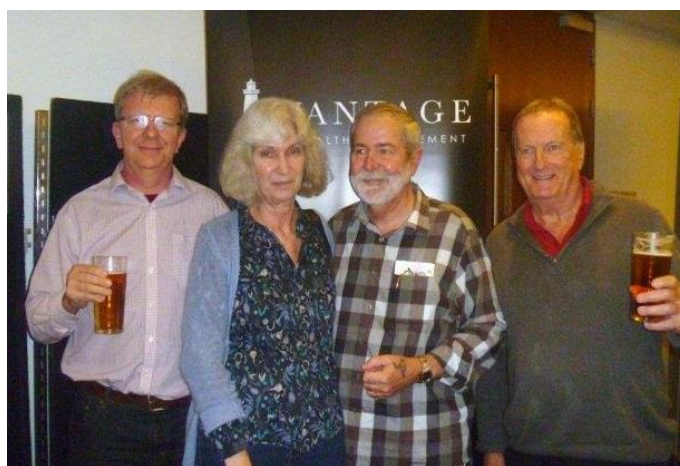
[www.wabridgeclub.com.au](http://www.wabridgeclub.com.au)

## Makanyane Safari Lodge / Webb & Brown-Neaves Pairs



N/S WINNERS: **Heather WILLIAMS** and **Jan BLIGHT**

## Vantage Wealth Management Teams



**WINNERS:** Richard FOX, Dave SLOAN, Suzanne GOODALL and Martin GOODALL



2<sup>nd</sup>: Tim MUNRO, Chris MULLEY, Simon BRAYSHAW and Gregory DUPONT

## CONGRESS RESULTS

Vantage Wealth Management Teams

Place	Name	Total
1	<b>FOX</b>	<b>102.37</b>
2	MULLEY	98.71
3	WIGNALL	86.7
4	NASH	77.37
5	BIEGANSKI	76.15
6	KLEIN	75.02
7	BURN	73.85
8	WYLIE	72.82
9	EARDLEY	72
10	BRAHMA	71.64
11	CROSSAN-PEACOCK	70.67
12	GRENSIDE	67.36
13	MOORE	65.25
14	ORR	62.37
15	WILES	62.32
16	HENDERSON	46.46
17	COOKE	42.18
18	CAMERON	39.82

## INTERSTATE TEAMS RESULTS

Teams Qualifying After Round 3

### OPEN

Place	Team	Win	Draw	Loss	Total
1	NSW	3	0	0	191.7
2	ACT	3	0	0	180.3
3	VIC	2	0	1	135.3
4	SA	1	0	2	102.3
5	QLD	2	0	1	93.2
6	WA 1	1	0	2	82.2
7	TAS	0	0	3	45
8	WA 2	0	0	3	3.6

### WOMEN'S

Place	Team	Win	Draw	Loss	Total
1	NSW	3	0	0	176.3
2	SA	3	0	0	160
3	ACT	2	0	1	122
4	VIC	1	0	2	112.5
5	WA 2	2	0	1	104.8
6	QLD	1	0	2	86
7	WA 1	0	0	3	57
8	TAS	0	0	3	20.8

## SENIORS'

Place	Team	Win	Draw	Loss	Total
1	QLD	3	0	0	178.5
2	VIC	2	0	1	130
3	ACT	2	0	1	127.2
4	NSW	2	0	1	120.4
5	WA 1	2	0	1	112.3
6	WA 2	1	0	2	59.2
7	SA	0	0	3	56
8	TAS	0	0	3	55.8

## YOUTH

Place	Team	Win	Draw	Loss	Total
1	SA	2	0	1	166.6
2	QLD	2	0	1	161.4
3	WA	1	0	2	100.4
4	ACT	2	0	1	95
5	VIC	1	0	2	56.5
6	NSW	1	0	2	47.6



WA Youth Team



QLD Youth Team











# Esplanade Hotel Bridge ANC Perth 2015

## Exclusive offers

- Espresso coffees, from the Bridge Foyer or Marine Lounge Bar - @\$3.00 each
- Pre-ordered lunches (orders start on the 11<sup>th</sup> for the 12<sup>th</sup> July) from \$7.50– select from;
  - Pastrami, dill pickle, cream cheese baguette. **\$8.50**
  - Smoked Ham, roma tomato Mazzdam and basil Panini. **\$8.50**
  - Roast turkey, cranberry relish and rocket sandwich. **\$8.00**
  - Tuna , smoked paprika and creamed corn Bagel. **\$7.50**
  - vegetarian available on request
- Marine Lounge Bar Lunch - @\$20 beef burger or steak sandwich. Or simply chose from the existing bar menu for alternative choices;
  - Wagyu rump steak sandwich **\$20.00** (\$5.00 discount) - Toasted panini, balsamic onions, cheddar cheese and rustic fries
  - Flame grilled beef burger **\$20.00** (\$4.00 discount) - Toasted sesame bun, crispy salad, cheddar cheese, smokey BBQ sauce and rustic fries
- Atrium Garden Restaurant Dinner Buffet - @\$45.00 per person, includes full sumptuous buffet, continuous soft drink, and a complimentary glass of red or white wine
- Harbour Master 2 Course Set Menu - @\$50.00 per person.(See menu)



		<b>South Perth Bridge Club</b>
		<b>Undercroft Bridge Club</b>
		<b>West Australian Bridge Club</b>
		<b>Busselton Bridge Club</b>