



Gold Coast Bulletin

No 6 Friday 24th Feb 2006
Editors Nick Hughes & Nicoleta Giura



Semis & Finals today

The Open semis got underway at 9.30 this morning, in the Tilba Rooms. The Senior & Restricted finals began at 11am.

For those with net access, one of the Semis and the Final will be on vu-graph on Bridgebase. See every card played with expert comments from local and overseas experts.



As expected, an average of 19+ was needed to make it through.

In one semi, the GCI winners **WYER** (Paul Wyer - Michael Courtney, John Lester - David Lilley) play

BRIFMAN (Peter Gill - Richard Jedrychowski, Vince Demuy - Gavin Wolpert)

In the other, the HI winners and defending champions **HOLLAND** (John Holland - Michelle Brunner, John Armstrong - Howard Melbourne, Hugh McGann - Paul Marston) play

GRUIA (Calin Gruia - Michael Elinescu, Alex Lucaciu - Veronel Lungu), the Romanians.

With foreign teams in the semis, I believe **GARDINER & NEILL** get 4½ play-off points. Not sure.

The usual VuGraph will be on tonight on Level 2 HI from 8pm – first 20 boards of the final. The rest of the final will be on Saturday morning, while most of us are playing the ANA

/ Holiday Inn Shield, hopefully with a first time partner, following the time honoured tradition. Then it's the dinner dance 7.30pm Saturday. Bring your ticket with you!

Some teams hands:

Match 8, Bd 16

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

Hearts makes 10 tricks. EW will often try 4♠ over that and find it making.

Say North leads the ♥A. Now the only winning switch is a club. Then North must hop on the first trump and cross to partner's ♣K while South still has a trump exit. Then declarer loses a trick in each suit. Quite tough.

Another way is for North to lead the ♦8 at trick 1, to the J-A. When North wins the first or second trump, the defence is again on a knife-edge.

Vivienne Goldberg found the only winning continuation – a low heart. The card she chose – the ♥8 – was dangerous. Partner saw no reason to play the ♥9 on that and was endplayed with the ♣K a few moments later. -620. Sigh.

Top 10 after 10 Rounds

HI Open (120 teams)

1	1	Holland	207
2	3	Brifman	199
3	5	Gardiner	186
4	9	Nelson	184
5	38	Johnson	182
6	2	Rothfield	181.5
7	6	Chua	179
8	8	Hirst	178
9	15	Leibowitz	177
10	11	Lee	111

GCI Open (124 teams)

1	3	Wyer	194
2	7	Gruia	192
3	5	Neill	188
4	16	Gaspar	187
5	13	Jackman	185
6	23	Livesey	184
7	6	Gosney	183
8	20	Davidson	182
9	2	Noble	181
10	31	Cleaver	180

Seniors (56 teams)

1		Ridgway	204
2		Puskas	200
3		Marinos	190
4		Winestock	176
5		Smee	175
6		Mendick	175
7		Fordham	172
8		Milward	167
9		Croft	166
10		Back	165

Restricted (86 teams)

1		Houghton	214
2		Whitmee	193
3		Wotherspoon	185
4		Whiddon	181
5		Harris	178
6		Woolf	178
7		Daglish	177
8		Graham	176
9		Paul	173
10		Palethorpe	173

Gold Coast Teams (Seniors at GCI, Restricted at HI)

Fri	9.30	Semis start, then 1.30pm
	11am	Restricted & Seniors finals start
	12.30	Swiss Rds 11 & 12 , finishing at 5 pm
	8 pm	Vu-graph at HI, <u>first</u> 20 boards of final
Sat	9am to 9.45	Holiday Inn Shield starts , walk-in till 9.45
	9am	Final bds 21-50
		Senior & restricted finals start at 11am
	7.30 for 8 pm	Dinner/Dance on Level 4 HI

Our team needed a big win in Match 10 to make the Semis and lost heavily, sending BRIFMAN through comfortably. Guess how I went down in this 4♥:

Match 10, Bd 22

E/EW	♠ 4 3		
	♥ AKQ943		
	♦ A 7		
	♣ A 8 7		
♠ K 9 8 7		♠ A J 5 2	
♥ 8		♥ J 7 5	
♦ Q 10 5		♦ K 2	
♣ K Q J 10 3		♣ 6 5 4 2	
	♠ Q 10 6		
	♥ 10 6 2		
	♦ J 9 8 6 4 3		
	♣ 9		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
J'kowski	Hughes	Gill	Giura
		no	3♦!
no	4♥	end	

The defence needs to play diamonds to have a chance. That might promote East's ♥J.

Say East leads the ♦K. If declarer wins this, he's down. Try it!

Better is to duck, win the next diamond perforce, play the ♣A and ruff a club. Then lead a diamond off dummy to pitch a spade. This kills the trump promotion.

Perhaps I'd have worked that out but we'll never know, because Peter Gill found the very Polish lead of the ♦2 at trick one! Too tough for me now!

Very restricted choice

Paul Lavings

Match 3, Bd 11

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lavings	Lilley	K'malik	Lester
		no	no
1♦	2♠	3♠	no
3NT	end		

The ♠6 was led to queen and ace. I cashed the ♥K, unblocking dummy's

♥8 when North's ♥9 appeared.

Then came a heart to dummy's ace and a diamond to the queen. After the ♣A-K, and a heart up, it wasn't close.

Odds on finessing against South's ♥J are at least 3-1 on, not the usual 2-1, so a big favourite.

The Ultimate Fizzer

Andy Braithwaite

There are many exciting moments in one's bridge career, often involving fine and aggressive bidding, perhaps leading to success in a tight slam.

One of the biggest fizzers in my bridge career came in Match 3 of the Teams where, for the first time as far back as I can remember, a slam was missed without our side even taking a bid! Of course it would have to be Board 13:

Match 3, Bd 13

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

North opened a super-aggressive vulnerable 3♥ – no fear here – and I committed the first wimpish action by passing. South had heard of the Law of Total Tricks and found 4♥ in a flash. My partner, Bill Haughie, did not like his heart cards or textureless club suit and also passed.

When this came back to me, I could not justify a delayed double or 4NT so that was it. 4♥ one down gave us poor compensation for the 1370 available in either minor, or even 1440 for the brave souls in 6NT. 15 IMPs in the out column (and 13 IMPs

Wednesday walk-in winners

NS
John Howie & June Cross
EW
Judy O'Neill & Sarah Kalin

out against the datum) did not make good reading.

Who was it that said "Pre-empts work?" This one certainly did.

Yes, what a difference a level makes! This was the auction in our match:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Coleta		Nick	
	2♥	3♦	3♥
4♣	no	4♥	no
4NT	no	6♣	end

I too would have passed a 3♥ opening. Full marks to North at Andy's table, though next time s/he might shell out 1400. Ed.

You be the Judge

Robert Herr

Many bridge magazines have a "You be the Judge Column". This is a hand from the Pairs Final:

Pairs Final 3, Bd 4

W/Both	♠ J 10 6 2		
	♥ A 9 7		
	♦ J 4		
	♣ A J 9 3		
♠ 8 4		♠ K 9 3	
♥ 6		♥ Q J 8 4 3 2	
♦ AKQ87652		♦ —	
♣ 6 2		♣ K Q 8 4	
	♠ A Q 7 5		
	♥ K 10 5		
	♦ 10 9 3		
	♣ 10 7 5		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♣ ¹	no	2♦ ²	no
3♦	no	3NT	end

- 1 Benjamin 2, 8 playing tricks
- 2 waiting

West also had the option of a gambling 3NT opening. Questions:

- 1 What is West's correct opening?
- 2 After 2♣, what should East respond?
- 3 What should East do over 3♦?
- 4 Should West pass 3NT?

East thought that West should have opened 3NT. The actual sequence guarantees a side-suit entry.

West thought 2♣ then 3♦ showed this hand, that East should pass 3♦.

East would have bid 4♣ over a 3NT opening, leading to -100 in 4♦ rather than -400 in 3NT.

West said: "I couldn't open 3NT be-

cause I had 8 tricks, not 7.”

The Editor reckons West is dreaming. It's impossible to stop in 3♦. The hand lacks the high cards for a Benjamin 2♣. For 2♣ then 3♦, West should have something like

♠ A43 ♥ 7 ♦ AKQ1065 ♣ A62

when 3NT is the place to be.

After the strange 2♣ opening, East should give a positive with hearts. Can't wait on every hand!

The gambling 3NT opening is rare and has problems. The main issue is that the wrong hand will be playing 3NT. Still, it would have been okay here, the extra diamond is no barrier. East should bid 4♣ over 3NT, leading to a respectable -100 in 4♦.

Fruit Salad

It was good to read the suggestion by Richard Grenside regarding the format for next year's Gold Coast Congress, to realise that some people do care and think about changes.

More input to the discussion from more sources – particularly those with little interest in the finals or PQPs – would be especially illuminating.

I strongly disagree with Richard's contention that starting the Pairs on Saturday evening would make no real change to travelling and accommodation costs.

Generally, extra expenses will be incurred by having to use prime time flights instead of off-peak; plus an extra night's lodging will need to be funded.

Bringing the Pairs forward and reducing the Welcome Pairs to a hasty pre-competition side-show would reduce the holiday feel of the whole week.

An extra two matches – for most players – would reduce the Teams event to an endurance test.

Reducing the matches to 12 boards would add nothing to the prestige of the event, nor the pleasure. 14 boards is a very accommodating number from several points of view.

A general recommendation should be to keep the format as it is and avoid the single field.

Geoff

Round 7 datums

Seniors	Bd	Open HI	GCI
-939	1	-690	-960
50	2	50	100
260	3	150	420
320	4	80	170
650	5	610	650
-410	6	-340	-530
600	7	520	580
140	8	100	90
440	9	440	450
200	10	100	-10
170	11	150	120
-10	12	-10	-40
640	13	630	540
400	14	350	450

Round 8 datums

Seniors	Bd	Open HI	GCI
-140	15	100	160
290	16	340	120
-260	17	-280	-20
-90	18	20	-160
10	19	-90	-50
640	20	490	650
130	21	80	110
520	22	650	470
640	23	600	650
-340	24	-240	-410
-680	25	-670	-690
-1430	26	-1320	-820
-440	27	-350	-420
-420	28	-300	-420

Round 9 datums

Seniors	Bd	Open HI	GCI
-190	1	-300	-330
20	2	-100	70
110	3	30	120
520	4	160	80
-260	5	-310	-190
360	6	350	440
0	7	-30	-20
-20	8	-10	160
-40	9	-40	30
-650	10	-650	-650
10	11	30	80
-50	12	-110	-130
330	13	320	320
40	14	140	70

Round 10 datums

Seniors	Bd	Open HI	GCI
-110	15	-130	-80
-670	16	-640	-680
-90	17	-40	-60
-110	18	-100	-50
-320	19	-550	-360
-30	20	-180	30
380	21	460	380
360	22	280	330
-340	23	-520	-280
110	24	290	110
-310	25	-330	-610
-20	26	-10	-100
90	27	110	20
230	28	320	200

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Bridge Teachers' Meeting

There was a well-attended meeting on Tuesday morning. My thanks to Joan Butts, who organised Hugh Grosvenor, Gavin Wolpert, Ron Klinger and Ishmael Del'Monte as speakers.

They discussed various approaches to teaching and retaining beginners, gained from their experiences around the world (USA, Canada, Slovenia!)

The ABTA web site will soon be set up, with funds from the ABF.

Thanks to all who attended.

Lorraine Harkness
ABTA President

Great Barrier Reef Congress

9-12 June 2006 at Sofitel Reef Hotel Casino Cairns

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Entries to Barrier Reef Congress Secretary PO Box 1589 Cairns 4870

Appeal #3

Match 7, Bd 7

S/Both ♠ K 8 7 4
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 7 5

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

♠ A J 3 2
♥ J 10 6
♦ A Q 10 9 6
♣ A

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
?	?	?	?
			1♣ ¹
no	1♦ ²	no	1♠
no	2♣ ³	no	2♦ ⁴
no	2♠	no	2♥ ⁵

- 1 strong
- 2 negative
- 3 3+ spades

- 4 canapé
- 5 fragment (insufficient)

Director: I was called when 2♥ occurred. After discussion with the Chief Director, we determined that 3♥ by South would not have been "incontrovertibly non-conventional" and applied the Insufficient Bid Laws 27B2 & B1A.

South was told that North would have to pass for the rest of the auction. He choose to pass 2♠ for +200.

Appellants: The 1♠ rebid denied four hearts. 3♥ over 2♠ would have been a natural fragment, not forcing. If 3♥ is considered natural, North would be allowed to bid over that, leading to 4♠.

Committee: (P Carter, A Walsh, A Sarten, S Lester, R Busch): By a 4-1 majority, we decided that South was bidding his shape out naturally, so

the insufficient should have been treated as natural.

(This was a question concerning interpretation of Law. The AC does not have the power to assign a score in these circumstances. Rather ...)

The committee then requested that the Chief Director re-examine the ruling in respect of the use of the word *conventional* in Law 27.

The CTD (L Kelso) sought further advice from available members of the *ABF National Authority* before re-confirming the original decision. Score stands.

Bidding Boxes

Sean is considering these for Canberra. Should we have them here too? Up to 400 sets would be needed, a lot to lug around! Still, they are used around the world.

Stock Pick of the Day

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www.qldbridge.com/gcc

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