



NOT NEWS

2000

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WELCOME

So it's January again, the time to be in Canberra and play top class bridge in the largest bridge event in the southern hemisphere. You will see old friends and make new ones whilst my staff makes your stay in Canberra something very special.

Quite a few familiar faces will be missing this year with Richard Grenside and Chris Diment working at the World Championships (which are in Bermuda from 9-21 January, 2000). Also that tower of strength since the inception of the Summer Festival, Val Brockwell, will not be here. She is in Paris.

In addition the three Australian Teams competing at the World Championships will be missing:

Open: Wally Scott (npc)
Carol Rothfield - Jessel Rothfield
Seamus Browne - Khokan Bagchi
Bobby Richman - Ishmael Del'Monte

Women: Julia Hoffman (npc)
Lidia Beech - Margaret Bourke
Feicity Beale - Di Smart
Sue Lusk - Therese Tully

Seniors:
Neville Moses (c) - John Mottram
John Brockwell - John Ashworth
Bobby Evans - Bill Westwood.

The NOT NEWS staff will be keeping a board at Rydges up-to-date with the results from Bermuda as well as publishing the results and any interesting articles from Bermuda in our bulletin.

The web site for Bermuda is www.bermudabowl.com. The web sites for the Festival are www.abf.com.au/events/not/2000/bulletins/ (bulletins) and www.migrationpath.com.au (results).

We expect that the Seniors will fill the Hyatt Ballroom this year so there have been three changes in venue from the 1999 event. Bridge Buffs Teams and the Mens Pairs have moved to the Canberra Room at the Hyatt whilst the 0-149ers have moved back to the Ballroom at Rydges.

Again this year the Caddies have been kitted out in yellow polo shirts to make them more visible. When you need a board please look around for a yellow shirt, call "Caaaaddy!!" in the appropriate direction and finally put your hand up so that the caddies can find you. As the yellow shirts made it so easy for you to find a caddy last year we have extended the concept to Directors. You just need to look for a blue jacket, and under that you will find one of our friendly directors. They too can do with help in locating you, so please put up your hand after you have called "DIIIRECTOOOR!!!".

Has your team collected its satchels from the hard working Caddies? In the satchels you will find two Summer Festival pens, they are for your use throughout the Festival. Each event will have its own specially designed score booklet. We have new designs for most events but we are also using the scorebooks left over from last year. So some of you may not have a TOTAL box for IMPs. The booklets will be on your table at the beginning of play. You need to keep them for the entire event.

There are dress regulations in the brochure which forbid, amongst other things, bare feet and thongs. Please observe these regulations or else the blue jackets might descend upon you. Perhaps next year we should have a black tie evening during the first week. What do you think? (let the NOT NEWS staff know)

The bulletin that you are now reading needs your support. When your partner

Field Sizes as of 11th January

	This year	Last year
NWT	71	86
Seniors	73	62
Restricted	42	38
Mens Pairs	16	23

TIMETABLE (initial events)

National Womens Teams

Stage One
Wed 12 - Fri 14 January
at Rydges Hotel Canberra
Qualifying session times:
11.00, 3.00, 8.30

National Seniors Teams

Wed 12 - Fri 14 January
at Hyatt Hotel Canberra
Session times:
11.00, 3.00, 8.30

National 0-149 Teams

Wed 12 - Fri 14 January
at Rydges Hotel Canberra
Session times:
Wed, Thurs 11.00, 3.00, 8.30
Fri 11.00, 3.00

Bridge Buffs Teams

Wed 12 - Thurs 13 January
at Hyatt Hotel Canberra
Session Times: 11.00, 3.00, 8.30

Walk-In Pairs

Wed 12 - Sun 16 January
at Hyatt Hotel Canberra
Session Times for Wed 12 - Fri 14:
11.00, 3.00, 8.30
Times for Sat 15: 1.30
Times for Sun 16: 1.30, 7.30

Mens Pairs

Friday 14 January
at Hyatt Hotel Canberra
Session times:
11.00, 3.00, 8.30

does a brilliant thing at the table, write it up and submit it to one of the editorial staff (if your partner does not notice your brilliancy, then I guess you will just have to write it up yourself). The editorial staff have left contribution boxes at both venues; they can accept articles on floppy discs, on paper or by email (notnews@madcow.com.au). If you feel that you have not got time to write up your partner's brilliancy, just jot down the salient facts and hand it to one of the editorial staff. They might expand it into an article for you or use it in a Column 8 (NOT) type article. The prize for the best brilliancy published is free entry for both the author and the player to next year's SWPT (currently valued at \$150 each).

The Republic Restaurant has sponsored the 2000 Mixed Pairs by awarding a prize of a dinner for two (valued at \$120) to the winners. This top class restaurant, diagonally opposite the Park Royal in Civic, has been frequented by Summer Festival cognoscenti for quite some years.

Following their successes in 1998 and in 1999 (several placings in the various events), Bridge Buffs provided the partnership service for the Summer Festival again this year. My thanks go to Prue Lawford for arranging partnerships for you.

Players who have come for the first three days of the Festival might like to spend another day in Canberra and take the opportunity of playing in the Mixed Pairs. Alternatively do some touring around Canberra - the National Gallery comes to mind - and then play in the Flighted Pairs this coming Saturday evening. This event is designed to cater for those players arriving from the far-flung parts of the nation for the South-West Pacific Teams (SWPT) who like a friendly warm-up game on Saturday night.

On the second Friday evening (21 January) after the completion of the SWPT the ACT Bridge Association is organising a Vu-Graph, two stanzas of ten boards. Some of Australia's leading players will be there to entertain you. Why not stay another night in Canberra, organise a leisurely dinner with friends and then come to the Vu-Graph which starts at 8.00pm. Last year's entertainment was brilliant, some of the best Vu-Graph equipment ever seen

complemented some very interesting bridge.

The Hyatt Hotel is putting on a smorgasbord in the Promenade Café throughout the Festival, (that's right! during the SWPT as well) at the enticing price of \$22.00 per head. The Burley Griffin Restaurant continues with its traditional buffet at \$19.50 per head.

Bookings are essential for both restaurants.

I wish all contestants the best of luck over the coming days. May you enjoy the bridge, the friendships and the food.

John Scudder
Convener

RYDGES CANBERRA HOTEL FOOD & DRINK FACILITIES

Most participants at the Summer Festival of Bridge are familiar with this Hotel's food and drink facilities. But for newcomers and people with rusty memories here is some info: -

Ken's Canteen (formerly Mario's Deli)

This is the popular sandwich & fast food service available on the first floor (convention area) throughout the Summer Festival of Bridge.

Some prices on popular items are:

- Assorted salad rolls @\$3.50 each
- Assorted gourmet pies @ \$2.50 each
- Jumbo sausage rolls @ \$2 each
- Fruit @ \$1.50 per piece
- Potato crisps @ \$ 1.50 each packet
- Soft drinks @ \$1.50 each
- Coffee or tea from \$1.50 per cup

Bobby McGees Restaurant (ground floor)

- Open 7 days from 7 am to 10 pm
- Breakfast is 7 am to 10.30 am
- Lunch special \$9.90 p/p inc. soup, pasta and salads
- Dinner is from 6 pm (special 2 course choice menu @ \$15.50 p/p)

The Burley Griffin Restaurant and Bar

- Located on 15th floor (good views!)
- Bar opens 5 pm and closes when the last diners leave
- Open for dinner during the Festival 6pm to 10pm (opening specially on Sunday the 16th of January because of the Bridge Championships)
- Offers special buffet meals during the Festival @ 19.50 p/p inc. soup, pasta, roasts, salads, fresh fruit, desserts and tea & coffee.

The Lobby Shop

- Open 7 days in morning and evening but has limited hours. (depends on demand)
- If it is closed then the hotel reception desk holds limited stocks of basic items like toothpaste, toothbrushes etc.

Cahoots Bar

- This traditional type bar is open from 4pm til . . . late!
 - There is a piano (which patrons are allowed to play) and also a TV so you can check the cricket scores etc.
- (As you descend the grand staircase turn right, up the steps and then right again).

Bobby McGees Lounge

- A popular disco open from late afternoon until *late*.

ABF ALERT REGULATIONS

The current regulations have been in force since May 1 1998 but with all the chopping and changing over the last ten or so years many of us have lost track of what exactly is required of us.

The current rules run to almost five A4 pages. This may seem intimidating but in our opinion they are concise and well written. If you are serious about bridge – and you're not silly enough to think you've come to Canberra for fun - you should read them. There are copies on the notice boards.

However, we're not silly enough to think that all of you will take our advice. And so we offer the following summary of salient points, with direct quotations from the ABF document in italics.

The essential spirit of the regulations is summed up by this statement from the introduction, especially relevant perhaps in this Olympic year: *It is necessary for all players to understand and practise the principles of full disclosure and active ethics.*

The principle of active ethics encompasses more than a general notion of good sportsmanship, which in many arenas sadly appears to have lost its former power to inspire. Active ethics require that *you should always make sure the opponents know, upon request, as much about your auction (bids, passes or carding signals) as your partner knows, including what you know from the experience of playing with the same partner regularly over a period of time.*

Which calls should you alert? *Any which the opponents may not fully understand or may reasonably misinterpret, even natural bids which by agreement, convey meanings different from, or in addition to the normal meaning ascribed to them.* Obvious examples include negative free bids, fit-showing jumps.

Certain calls in this category are exceptions. These are so-called **Self Alerting Calls**, those that, because they *may have many possible meanings, will usually not be natural – these are doubles, redoubles, cue bids of opponents' suits (including skip cue*

bids) and all calls above 3NT. They must not be alerted.

Skip bids - bids from 2♣ to 3NT that jump one or more levels of the auction - are alertable if conventional – because, for example, they promise a second suit (as in the case of RCO's), or specify quantitative support for partner (as in the case of Bergen or Jacoby raises or fit-showing jumps).

Skip raises of partner's suit are alertable only if the supporting hand may contain fewer than 8HCP. Ordinary Weak Two openings and single-suited skip overcalls are thus not alertable as they are natural. Mini-splinters are alertable, being below 3NT, but 4-level splinters are not, being above.

At the start of a round, players have a responsibility to inform their opponents of:

Basic system, including the minimum suit length and strength of one level openings;

Strength and style of the 1NT opening;

Any unusual two and higher level opening bids.

Alerts are compulsory – *you cannot ask the opponents not to alert* even when you have the opponents' detailed system card in front of you. Alerts are made immediately after partner's alertable call has been completed by audibly saying "Alert" and either circling the written bid or using an alert card. No explanation should be given unless there is an enquiry.

In the case of a player forgetting what partner's alertable call means, the player must still alert, and explain that the meaning has been forgotten. The Director should then be called.

If you fail to alert partner's bid in reasonable time before an opponent bids but make a **late alert**, the director may allow the player to retract the call and substitute a legal call without penalty, provided that his/her partner has not subsequently called, and it is probable that his/her action might be different after the alertable bid's meaning has been explained. Furthermore, and interestingly, *any call retracted in accordance with the*

provisions of this Regulation is authorised information to the partner of the player retracting the call.

If a player fails to ask at his/her turn to call i.e. at the first opportunity, he/she must take care later to avoid giving partner unauthorised information by asking about a specific call, *but should instead request an explanation of the entire auction.*

The declaring side should offer a full explanation of the completed auction, but not the defenders, unless in response to an enquiry, as they may convey unauthorised information. Any explanation should include not only explicit agreements but those *based on partnership experience*; also information such as *distributions and point ranges specifically excluded by a call, as well as those shown directly.*

If there is no partnership agreement as to the meaning of a call, players must say so and not try to offer a possible explanation unless as a result of partnership experience and style players are able to form a cogent view of the likely meaning of an undiscussed call.

In the case of a **failure to alert**, a **mistaken alert** or a **misexplanation** by the declaring side, the Director must by Law be called before the opening lead and a correction made. If the defending side have committed an offence, *no explanation can be given until the end of play* when the Director should be called. This is an area in which the Director will give particular consideration to *whether the principles of active ethics and full disclosure have been adhered to by the players.*

And a warning to those of us who may come to Canberra with a shiny new toolbox packed tight with the latest array of bidding gadgets : *It is implicit in the Laws relating to misinformation that a partnership should know its own system. The Director may impose a penalty upon any pair which consistently displays ignorance of its system and/or specific conventions, and may prohibit such a pair from playing any such system.*





NOT

The members of our current Australian Women's Team are not with us this year. They are in Bermuda competing in the Venice Cup, which is being played at the same time as the open championship, the Bermuda Bowl. The Venice Cup is the newer competition and was first played in 1974 in - you guessed it - Venice, as a challenge match between the USA and Italy, the European representative. It is held every odd year - well 2000 is a pretty odd year and happens to be the 50th anniversary of the Bermuda Bowl - and has so far been won eight out of eleven times by the USA. It has since increased in size to include teams from all WBF zones.

Julia Hoffman of Canberra is non-playing captain of the Australian Women's Team at the Venice Cup. She has played for Australia herself and captained our team on three previous occasions. She shares with us her thoughts about our hopes in Bermuda.

AUSTRALIA AT THE VENICE CUP 2000 - TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

This year's team would be to many the 'same old crew' and are undoubtedly the best team we could have of those who make themselves available:

Lidia Beech - Margaret Bourke,
Felicity Beale - Diana Smart,
Sue Lusk - Therese Tully.

(The Lusk - Tully partnership is relatively new but they have already played together for Australia once, and several other times with different partners.)

They have considerable credentials in terms of international experience: between them this sextet has played for Australia 84 times. This must surely give cause for a high level of optimism that they should now on be on the threshold of realising their full potential. Certainly at recent world championship events they have gone close to the Holy Grail of reaching the play-off stages - for the Venice Cup this would be the quarter-finals.

What faces them in this tournament? A full round robin of twenty board matches against the whole field of twenty teams over seven days. As the qualification for entry to the Venice Cup is by zonal representation even the notionally weaker teams in this sort of field CAN play.

There are valid reasons for Australia's disappointing performances at the world level (especially when compared to some more athletic sports) such as the lack of exposure to intense competition and the amateur nature of bridge in our region when compared to the Americas, Europe and some of the Asian countries. These are long-term issues that may remain insurmountable for some time.

What have been the 'black spots' in the past that can be identified and addressed? Two stand out: a tendency for this team to start slowly and the failure to extract full measure from those teams which fill the lower places on the competition table. These are problems to which all bridge players can relate.

Internationally, slow starts have sometimes been blamed on time adjustment problems - this year all players will have been in the northern hemisphere and close to, if not actually in, Bermuda for several days. With that excuse gone, it will be a captain's challenge to tackle the other facets of this problem.

The need to extract full value from any match where a team has the winning edge is dependent on many things - the most significant of which is full concentration. So obvious, so easy to identify but still difficult to deliver when the 'easy' matches may come hot on the heels of a very difficult set of boards.

Alternatively, the need to win big may come after a match against some dazzling stars of the international stage who, by virtue of their great skill and competitive drive, can leave opponents feeling drained.

The clash of dates between the Summer Festival and World Championships has been disappointing but it will have one benefit: the Australian bridge community will be able to follow the progress of their

teams more closely than usual. I will be doing my best to get up-to-date results through to the editors of this Bulletin: thus exposing the team's, and their captain's, performance to immediate and close scrutiny.



Therese Tully of Brisbane is in Bermuda with partner Sue Lusk. The hand she sent us reminds me of the story of Terence Reese's reputed powers of concentration at the table: a foolish kibitzer lost a bet that Reese would not even look up if a gorgeous naked woman came to the table to watch. Or was it an Omar Sharif story? The kibitzer would then seem less foolish!

A HAND FROM HELL

In 1989 in Jakarta Joan Butts and I were representing Australia for the first time. We were playing Indonesia, the host country, on Vu-Graph in the open room. We were nervous, eager, but in control until the hand from hell.

I have obliterated most details from my memory bank but I do know that vulnerable I held a 3-1-5-4 opening hand when partner opened 1♣ (always 4 unless 4-3-3-3 min) and RHO 4♥. Playing take out doubles to 3♠ I chose to bid 5♣ - promptly doubled by LHO.

As the cards lay this contract was cold, in spite of partner's 4-3-3-3 hand. Poor Joan knew she had to set up diamonds and stop wondering why she was lumbered with a partner who had forced her to play in a 4-3 fit doubled at the 5 level.

She had embarked on the winning line when there was a big kerfuffle as the Minister for Sport and his entourage were ushered in. We all had to stand up and bow and be introduced. He was a very keen bridge player and had come along to see some action...and action there was.

By the time the bridge had resumed Joan had forgotten ♠Q had fallen doubleton. She could have claimed. Instead she lost the plot, lost control

HERE



and I think we went 5 off doubled. (I have a very convenient memory when it comes to things like that.) The minister, who had been sitting behind Joan, left at the end of the hand. His exit was better timed, perhaps, than his entrance.

Our poor captain, John Brockwell, and watching teammates had to suffer through each undertrick on Vu-Graph, not a pretty sight! At least Joan and I can laugh about it nowand you'll be pleased to know we then changed our take out doubles to 4♠.

Any willing takers for a bet that Joan wouldn't blink if a naked Adonis.....?
by *Therese Tully*



Di Smart of Melbourne is in Bermuda representing Australia yet again with partner Felicity Beale. She sent us the following item.

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF A BRIDGE HAND

Bridge is an arena in which the full gamut of emotions can be experienced, as I found in a recent team game.

We were green vs red and I held as North:

♠x
♥Kxxxx
♦AQ10xxx
♣x

East passed, and Felicity (South) opened 1♥. West bid 2♥ (Michaels) and I was in a quandary. I could splinter and try to have a helpful dialogue, but risked being pre-empted and having to guess whether we had enough controls. So I bashed 5 Ace Blackwood, intending to bid 6♥ if we had enough Aces. To my surprise, and eventual worry, my partner bid 5♠, showing 3 of the 5 controls. Now we could be missing 7 and I'd given up the opportunity to find out! I tried to recover with 5NT, telling partner we had all the top controls, and Felicity felt she had plenty of extras, so bid 7♥ with

♠A10xx
♥AQxxx
♦ -
♣AKxx.

The ♠K was led and Felicity asked the meaning of 2♥. The unexpected reply was both minors! I certainly wouldn't have taken such a rosy view if I'd known that, and might have worried about a first round ruff.

Felicity won ♠A and embarked on a cross ruff, playing ♣A and ruffing a club. Next ♦A (discarding a spade) and a low diamond dropped West's doubleton king. So much for the minors! The hand was now an easy make and we scored up 1510.

Later, at score-up, I caught sight of 510 on our partners' scorecard and so called out 'flat'. It took Felicity three boards to get out an agonised 'It wasn't a flat board!' As so often is the case, just bidding the small slam would have been enough.

by *Di Smart*



Sue Lusk has represented Australia many times and is currently slogging it out in Bermuda with partner Therese Tully. She supplied the following to be used in evidence against her.

BRIDGE BRAT

What a precocious bridge brat Sue Lusk was in student days. She told us of a 3NT hand she and her father were defending against Peter Fordham one Sunday at 7am after a 15-hour rubber session at home. Dad led a heart from T98xx when Sue held KQJ. Peter won and, praying for a break or a blockage in hearts, led a spade to knock out the ace. Dad won and Peter's prayers were answered.

Young Sue, observing that Dad held Axx in spades opposite her singleton, was quick to comment that he should have held up until the third round to enable her to discard her two blocking hearts. The game was abandoned in disgust at

such pipsqueak perspicacity at that time of the morning.

by *Tina Zines*



BERMUDA BLUES

As promised an update on things in Bermuda - sadly at a time when no Australian team is jumping for joy.

The women are lying 14th (out of 20). The first day went OK - beating NZ 18:12, losing to China 10:20 and beating Great Britain (the current European champions and picked by several journalists here to be in the final 4) 19:11.

A good sound start but Day 2 was to have overtones of drab with a 12:18 loss to Netherlands (another strong contender) and the same result against the substantially less fancied Argentina. The third match was the body blow and, as is the way with these things, largely self-inflicted. After a depressing score-up the damage was USA 1 25: Australia 4. Thereby catapulting USA 1 to the overnight lead. This morning's match was a 13-17 loss to Indonesia - the necessary big results are proving difficult to generate. The problems to date have been, as bridge usually is, a matter of mistakes - not a failure to deliver brilliancies or overcome those of the opposition. To be fair: there are no easy beats here either!

The open team are lying 18th (out of 20) although they have had some good results against the main contenders - their losses have been savage. The Seniors are also in action - 6th out of 6 at the moment.

Will send more, and hopefully better, news anon.

Cheers for now from Bermuda - which really is like being in paradise.

Julia Hoffman

A LITTLE SUNSHINE IN PARADISE

Latest from Bermuda: In Round 8 of the Venice Cup our Women defeated Austria 16 - 14 but lost to Brazil 10 - 20 in Round 9, leaving them twelfth out of 20, with 114 VPs. Denmark is running first with 198 VPs and USA1 second with 181.

In the Bermuda Bowl in Round 8 our Open Team defeated Pakistan 24 - 6 but lost to China 13 - 17 in Round 9. They are now thirteenth out of 20 with 119 VP's. Indonesia is running first with 178 VPs, followed by Poland on 173.

In the Seniors, Australia defeated China 16 - 14 in Round 5, and in Round 6 they drew 15 all with Poland. They are still running sixth with 70 VPs, but it is satisfying to have drawn with the current leaders - Poland (114.2 VPs). North America is lying second on 94.

For more information on the progress of our Australian Teams, please refer to the Bermuda Results Board in the Geneva-Nyanza Room at the Rydges Hotel Canberra.



ANNUAL BRILLIANCY PRIZE

In expectation of reams, of megabytes, of scintillating articles on fantastic feats at the bridge table during the Summer Festival (including the Youth Championships), the ABF has doubled this year's prize for the best play or defence reported in NOT NEWS.

Both player and author will receive free entry to the 2001 SWPT (together currently valued at \$300)

Ron Klinger and Denis Howard have kindly agreed to judge this competition and the article will be published in Denis's column in *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

You have to be in it to win it. So please report all good hands to us, whether it was your own good play, or just possibly partner's, or even an opponent's.

100 NOT OUT

In a year with a 00 suffix, in the middle of the cricket season (a reference that shows this editor's incredible tolerance of others' incomprehensible passions), in the year of the inaugural World Seniors' Championship in Bermuda, on the opening day of our own National Women's and Seniors' Teams, this hand, reported in an old 'Bridge International', seems very relevant. It was written up as a tribute to the declarer (Julia Chadwick - no relation to our very own Ted) who was celebrating her hundredth birthday.

All vul;imps; dealer N

	♠AKQT963	
	♥853	
	♦K2	
	♣2	
♠J874		♠2
♥JT92		♥764
♦JT87		♦9543
♣K		♣87654
	♠5	
	♥AKQ	
	♦AQ6	
	♣AQJT93	

South played in 7NT after North revealed solid spades and an outside king. On the ♥J lead fourteen tricks were in sight if spades broke. If they didn't there was always the chance of finding East with king doubleton in clubs. What to do first?

Most of us would play spades, shrug, finesse clubs, go down and be none the wiser. Our declarer gave herself an extra chance. She won the heart lead in hand and cashed her other five red suit winners to which both opponents followed. Only then did she play spades and get the bad news. What did she know now? West held four spades, at least three hearts and at least three diamonds and so *could not possibly hold four small clubs*. Thus even a successful club finesse, since it could be taken only once, would not yield thirteen tricks.

There was one last hope and declarer knew what to do. She played a club to the ace and claimed her grand slam as that hope was realized with the fall of the singleton king. A simple matter of counting!

KERI

Every year at the NOT we watched a smiling fair-haired girl helping her big brother Ari at Ron and Suzie's stall. Her sudden death has shocked us all.

The Klinger family has made a great contribution to Australian bridge. What can we do to offer some tangible token of our appreciation, of our sympathy?

We can make a donation to the establishment of a permanent memorial planting of trees in Israel dedicated to Keri. Please put to good use the 'Keri Klinger' envelope you all received when you collected your satchels.

Enclose a donation, cash or cheque (payable to JNF Environment Gift Fund). Write your name on the back of the envelope if you wish to be included (name only) in the sympathy book to be presented to Suzie, Ron and Ari.

A receipt will be issued for tax deductible items of \$2 or more if you also write your address on the back of the envelope.

Seal the envelope and return it to the Festival Secretary at the ABF desk at either venue.

THE YOUTH SCENE

Last year the table numbers at the Youth Championships reached an all-time low of 5 tables (Butler), 4 tables (Teams) and 3 tables (Pairs).

Rather than abandon the event, an option which had been considered in the 1980s when a similar collapse occurred, the ABF to their credit took steps to rectify the situation. Inspired by the initiative of David Stern, the ABF appointed two National Youth Coordinators, David Lusk and Andrew Mill, to try to reinvigorate Youth bridge.

Slow and steady progress is being made. Numbers are up to respectable levels with prospects of future growth, and several states are making good progress thanks largely to the efforts of one or two people.

To promote Youth Bridge, one doesn't simply present to schoolchildren the long beginners' classes which are given to adults. Innovative methods are often better, keeping instruction to a minimum and allowing youngsters to learn about the game by playing bridge rather than being told how to play it. A repeating pattern in Youth Bridge promotion in the late 1990s was that if bridge is presented attractively to youngsters, the response is excellent, and at times overwhelming.

The success of Dorothy Jesner in Canberra and Christine Hadaway in Sydney (see November 1999 ABF Newsletter for details of the latter) is typical.

A generous initiative which makes the promotion of Youth Bridge much easier is the new Helman-Klinger Award. An annual award of several hundred dollars goes to the best Youth Bridge Player of the year. The Hills-Hurley Trophy is also new. It is to be awarded to the youth pair who fully appreciate the need to approach bridge as a partnership rather than an individual game.. Both inaugural awards will be made at the presentation on Friday 21st January during the NOT.

And is such effort worthwhile? I certainly think it is. It can be argued otherwise but, without going into any detail, the anti-youth lobby's arguments are not supported by my limited research into the effects of youth bridge around the world.

Any reader who would like to help in any way to promote youth bridge is encouraged to contact David Lusk (email lusk@chariot.net.au ,phone 08 8336 3954) or Andrew Mill.

by Peter Gill

Ignoring Youth Bridge is like ignoring the greenhouse effect. The real effects won't be felt for 30 years.

Nick Hughes; ed. 1998 NOT NEWS

"You had to be there" Award

During the South West Pacific Teams, we'd like you to keep your ear to the ground and record those pearls of wisdom (or folly) that we all make. It might be a funny remark at the table, during score-up or a comment you overhear in the bar during the post mortem. Otherwise let us know about an occurrence that left you all in stitches.

We'll publish entries as they come in and at the end of the week, the winner will receive a \$100 gift voucher from **The Bridge Shop**.

To get you warmed up, here's a few comments attributed to Edgar Kaplan when he was commentating on Vu-Graph:

- Now that he's at the six-level, he knows no more than he did before but there's less bidding space for making errors.

- I think he'll keep doubling them until he finally beats one.

- That's unfair. North-South were just having a good time and suddenly East-West turned nasty and doubled.

- Four hearts is a very good bid - but on some other hand.

- South's bid implied: I have four spades, four hearts, six clubs and the rest are diamonds.

- If you want to bid naturally and still sound modern, just say your bid shows the suit below the suit above the one you bid.

- East is wondering why he didn't pass one spade. So am I.

- Somebody said down one is good bridge. Making is perhaps better.

- To equal the result in the other room, he needs 16 overtricks.

- North doubled four hearts to tell himself what to lead.

Entries can be submitted to the Daily Bulletin Office (Room 1204 at Rydges), The Bridge Shop stall at the Convention Centre or if you see Peter Jamieson, Tina Zines or Nick Fahrer wandering around, just hand it to them.

You can be the winner at this year's festival special twilight dinner at The Republic \$25

Served perfectly between the afternoon and evening sessions from 5.30 to 8.00pm, Canberra's most modishly beautiful restaurant offers bridge delegates a superb value dinner package.

The offer: A special 2 course menu with a complimentary glass of wine.

The food: Flavours of Asia and the Mediterranean.

The atmosphere: Good time buzz with the occasional monarchist.

The company: A popular haunt of politicians, visiting VIPs and Sydneysiders.

The verdict: "Easy and gentle ambience, full of good things."
SMH 1999

The location: 3 minutes walk from the NCC. Just take the Park Walkway to Casino Canberra and continue through Allara St. You'll find The Republic at 20 Allara St diagonally opposite the Capital Park Royal Hotel.

Open: Tuesday to Saturday

Bookings: Recommended on 02 6247 1717.
Also open for a la carte dinner.

SOME DOS AND DON'TS FOR PLAYERS

1. TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE - it is bound to ring just as you are about to make the killing switch in defence. If you must have it on so that you can be contacted during the session, leave it with a Director.
2. Smoking is not permitted anywhere within any venue for the Summer Festival. When you want to smoke you will have to venture outdoors. During the session be wary of the time that will be needed to light up.
3. The staff of the two hotels are operating the buses that will transport you to and from the venues. This year they are running on a strict timetable of a bus leaving both the Hyatt and Rydges every ten minutes. Please do not abuse this bus service. I rely on the hotel's goodwill to operate these buses and everyone would be in a mess if this service were withdrawn. With a little bit of planning, you should be able to get to the other venue with plenty of time.
4. If you are skilful enough to win a prize in one of the Walk-Ins, please collect your prize from the Festival Secretary at the Hyatt or the NCC. Remember that the Walk-Ins are playing the same boards as the main events so you can compare your scores with the datums published in the Bulletin or with your friends over a leisurely drink in one of the comfortable bars near the venues.
5. The Scoring Room is unable to provide an email service for you. Please do not impose yourself on them as refusal often causes ill-feelings.
6. Greet your opponents when they first come to the table. Friendliness should be the hallmark of tournament bridge.
7. If you are a substitute lodge a

substitute's form obtainable from the Registration Desk. No form, no masterpoints.

8. No flyers on the tables - there are carousels and noticeboards for this purpose. See a Caddy if you need help.
9. With the use of circles of six for a set of boards wherever possible in teams events, the board movement should be smooth and the number of Caddy calls limited. You will find that there are two colours of boards in play in each session; these colours alternate between circles. Please do not play a board which is of a different colour to the colour that you have been playing. This ensures that boards do not migrate from one circle to another causing a bank up of tables wanting the missing board.
10. You should be using the ABF Standard system card for disclosing your system to the opponents. There should be two copies on the table. If you need a blank copy just ask a Caddy.
11. Enjoy yourself, that's an order!

John Scudder
Convener



POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

I opened the twenty-year-old centrefold of a 1980 *Australian Bridge* and was greeted with the bold heading **BRIDGE TALENT AT THE 1980 SITMAR** (as the Summer Festival was then called). Was this a report of the dazzling thrust and parry of declarer play and defence? No. It was a series of 16 pictures of women players, including this esteemed editor. I guess no male editor would hazard allowing that one through in these dangerous days. Heck! Twenty years ago I was talent! I don't know whether to feel chuffed or huffed.

by Tina Zines

COLUMN 8 (NOT)

Here are two of last year's Column 8 NOT stories to remind you of the flavour of this section:

1. from NOT NEWS 99 #6, (Board 9 Session 3, 15/1/99)
"Julie Pettit held as South ♠K ♥AQ652
♦A6 ♣AKQJ8 and her partner, Julie Sheridan opened the bidding. . . . with 2♣! Game Force!!

Julie Pettit had been planning to open with a 2♣ bid herself so there was only one sensible bid to make. . . 7NT. There were more than enough tricks even though the opening 2♣ was a bit thin (♠AQJ108 ♥J ♦KQ7432 ♣10)."

2. From NOT NEWS 99 Issue 10 "Getting Tired??" The afternoon session was pleasant and both myself and opposition were waiting for partner to play his 3rd card after "excessive" hesitation. We saw his head drop and found him to be asleep. Much Embarrassment!!!

More stories like these would be welcomed so please contribute !

by Peter Jamieson

COLLECTORS' ITEMS

You may have noticed the Y2K bugs crawling over your satchel this year. When the 1700 satchels appeared, they were dated 1999 instead of 2000. Oops!! What could we do but assume that our printer was one of very few in the entire world to suffer from Y2K Who knows, in years to come these satchels could become collectors' items of great value.

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Feel free to contact us at any time, or leave your articles or comments in the NOT NEWS boxes at either venue.

The NOT News will be posted daily on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.abf.com.au/events/not/2000/bulletins/>