



2000

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Editorial Team: Peter Jamieson and Tina Zines Production Team: Amy Scudder and Sheena Larsen-Jury

#### TRUST YOUR PARTNER

Session 9; Board 8; Nil Vul; Dealer West

**★** K 8 5 2 ♥ 8 7 6 **♦** K 7 4 2 **♣** 7 5

<b>↑</b> 743	♠ QJ1096
♥ A K 3 2	♥ J 4
♦5	<b>♦</b> A 9 6
♣ A K J 10 9	♣ Q 6 3

♣A
♥Q1095
♦QJ1083

After a brief auction 1 - 1 = 2 = 2 = 3NT Hilary Yovich led her Q, ducked all round. The J won the next trick, then a diamond to the king and ace.

Then came the clubs and Hilary looked to be in trouble. But her partner, Margaret Abrahams, was there for her. On the third round of clubs Margaret discarded the  $\heartsuit 8$ , showing spade value(s).

Hilary had to pitch on the 5<sup>th</sup> club and even though spades had been bid by declarer, she decided to trust partner .....and discarded her Ace of spades!!! Declarer was held to 8 tricks.

Peter Jamieson

#### **Vu-Graph Presentation**

Last year's Vu-Graph was a big success. Don't miss out this year.

When: 8pm tonight

Where: 1st Floor Rydges Hotel

What: 2 10-board sessions selected

from the Round of 16

Why: Expert (and amusing)

commentary

Refreshments available

# SWPT Top Ten after 12 rounds

P. Smith, P. Yovich, D Lilley, N Rosendorff,

#### **National Convention Centre**

2nd	8	B. Thompson, B. Jacobs R. Dalley, P. Lavings, G. Jesner, A. Delivera, T. Bourke, B. Waters	228
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J. Roberts, M. Smart, P. Jamieson, N. Perry, R. Sebesfi

B. Folkard, R. Folkard, H Milward, R. Milward

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#### A WOMAN'S INTUITION

Session 8 Board 10

♠ Q 10 7 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A 7 4 3 2 ♠ Q 7

> **♠** A J 9 4 ♥ J 9 8 ♦ K J **♣** A J 4 3

- (1) ♥ & minor
- (2) promises spades, no stopper.

The defence cashed ace and king of hearts then switched to ♣10. Declarer cashed ♠A (woman's intuition) took a second round of spades then cashed winners and cross-ruffed for 10 tricks. This went well with -140 spade partial at the other table.

by Anonymous

## FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO BE IN ICY SLAMS

by Alex Ozanne.

Board 10 Session 9

♠ K Q 3 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A K Q 10 7

\$\delta 42\$
\$\delta 64\$
\$\delta 9852\$
\$\delta J98752\$
\$\delta 82\$
\$\delta J96543\$

♠ A J 10 9 8 5 ♥ A J 10 3 ♦ Q 6 4

Ask your N/S pair why they didn't find

this one!!

6♠ and 6♥ can never make despite an excellent spade fit and/ or a desperate heart fit.

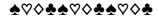
Ace of diamonds – ruff – takes care of either of these.

But how do E/W stop 6NT? They can't.

If West leads the ace, the king drops and now the queen is a second round stop, giving you 14 tricks. Underlead the ace and East is in with the singleton king and forced to give you merely the next 13 tricks.

Take them in a hurry.

P.S. No I didn't find it at the table! And am urgently in need of a system which allows me to bid such a cold slam...



#### A JUICY ORANGE

by Tina Zines

Young Mark Abrahams, winner of the \$400 Helman Klinger Award for such qualities as sportsmanship passed the test with flying colours on Board 1 of Session 12:

Dealer North, Vul Nil

♥AJ108 ♦J87 ♣AKJ52

**4** 

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

When North opened 1♣, Mark bid an alerted 2♦ showing spades and diamonds EXCEPT when the opponents' system card says 1♣ may promise only two clubs.

Michael Wilkinson bounced boldly to 4♥ and Mark had to take his punishment in four hearts doubled going for 2300.

It was a laughing Mark who volunteered that this was the postcode for Orange.

And I thought it was sad when sitting NS we pushed to 5♥ and went one down!

## THE DANGER OF PLAYING PRECISION?

by Gary Ridgway

After six days of using Precision we have had five bids by highly experienced players over our 1. openings that were meant to describe particular biddings. Three of these bids were either nonsystemic, incorrectly described or not alerted.

1. Seniors Teams (vs Jim Borin and Bill Haughie) Round 8 Board 9

Dealer North, E/W Vul

**★** K 9 6 3 ♥ A 10 9 2 ♦ 9 4 **♣** K 7 6

♠AQJ1054
 ♥J8743
 ♥KQ
 ♦6
 ♠AQ10532
 ♣AJ94

**★**87 ♥65 ♦ KJ87 **♣** Q10832

 North
 East
 South
 West

 Pass
 1♣
 1NT(1)
 2♠

 Pass
 2NT
 Pass
 3♥

 Pass
 3NT
 Pass
 4♥

 All Pass

(1) 1NT showed diamonds and spades in the Borin / Haughie system and was correctly described as such. This incorrect bid probably stopped us from reaching 4♠, a superior contract to 4♥ which went 2 off.

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2. Swiss Pairs (vs Braithwaite and Ware) Round 8 Board 26

Dealer East, All Vul

**A** Q 8 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ Q 2 **4** J 10 9 8 3

> **♣** J 7 3 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ A K Q 7

North East South West Pass 1♣ Pass 2 1NT Pass X(1) XX Pass **Pass** 20 2NT Pass 3NT All Pass

- (1) The double was described as showing clubs. We did not handle this well with the contract failing. The double was later described by West (at the end of the auction) as showing a big hand.
- 3. And the very next hand, Board 27

**★** 10 8 3 ♥ J 10 9 5 ♦ K Q 9 4 2 **♣** 6

> **≜**AK ♥AKQ742 ♦J73 **♣**Q7

 North
 East
 South
 West

 1♣
 Pass

 1♦
 2♡
 Pass

 4♡
 4♠
 X
 All Pass

(1) 1♠ was not alerted. At the end of the auction East explained that 1♠ showed spades and clubs. West then agreed that East would have at least 10 black cards.

The jack of hearts was played on the

opening lead of the ace and was interpreted by South as a suit preference card. East therefore made 4♠X when diamonds were led.

The scores on all these boards were allowed to stand. The last hand caused great damage but they all tend to illustrate the difficulty caused by such misunderstandings and the lack of protection the laws provide.

#### TESTED AT TRICK ONE

by Richard Webb

Gerry Daly showed excellent declarer play skills while his partner, Ray Martin bid skilfully on the following deal from Session 10.

Board 6 Session 10 Dealer East, E/W Vul

> **♣** J 10 9 6 3 ♥ J 5 ♦ J 7 **♣** A Q 5 3

**♣**Q742 **♣**AK ♥K1043 ♥-♦96 **♦**AKQ10854 **♣**J109 **♣**8642

> **◆**85 ♥AQ98762 **◆**32 **♣**K7

 East
 South
 West
 North

 2♦ (1)
 2♥
 2NT
 Pass

 3NT(2)
 All Pass

- (1) ACOL strong two
- (2) A great bid by Ray Martin most Easts are playing in 5♦ going one down...

On the lead of ♥5, Gerry Daly was tested immediately, And he proved himself up to the challenge discarding a diamond from dummy – NOT a club which would have been fatal on the club switch...

South won the ♥A and now the defence can only come to 4 tricks whatever they do.

Gerry is not a flashy declarer but a very sound one – a flashy player would have discarded the ♠A with the same effect!!

 $\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond$ 

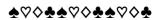
Here is another story on this hand. East opened 1♦, South bid 3♥ and after two passes East was in the spotlight.

The bid chosen was 3NT! This was passed around to North who bid 4♥. East should have doubled and "taken the money", but nervous of all the freaky hands served up by the ABF computer, decided to hope partner had something useful in clubs and bid 5♦. Not today, down one, flat board.

The adventurous East is in fact one of the NOT NEWS editors. He is still trying to get sympathy from his team mates for his  $5\diamondsuit$  bid but has been told a penalty double was **the only possible bid** over  $4\heartsuit$ .

South was Jan Cormack and North was Jan Alabaster.

Peter Jamieson



#### NICE BIDDING

Board 8 Session 11 Nil Vul Dealer W

◆ 982 ♥94 **♦** Q 6 ♣ K96542 **♠** K Q J **♠** A 5 4 3 ♥ K Q 6 2 ♥75 ♦ K 8 7 5 ♦ J 10 9 4 3 2 **♣** Q 10 🏚 J ♠ 10 7 6 ♥AJ1083 ΦA ♣ A 8 7 3

west	North	East	South
1◊	Pass	1♠	Χ
1NT	2♣	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pas	SS	

4♠ is the only makable game for East/ West and +420 was chalked up soon after. Kieran Dyke was West and Ashley Bach East.

Peter Jamieson

#### WHAT WOULD YOU BID?

1. Dealer North; Vul Nil			
West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	1♡
Χ	3♡	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	?	

#### East holds

**★** K Q 10 ₩6 ♦852 **♣** K Q J 10 9 6

#### 2. Dealer West; Both Vul

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	Χ
?			

West holds:

**♠** AK8532 ♥7 ♦8 ♣ QJ1073

#### 3. Dealer West; Vul Nil

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	2♡	Χ
4♡	Pass	Pass	?

#### South holds

ØΑ ♦ 106432 ♣ KQ8752

#### 4. Dealer North: Vul Nil

		,	
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1◊
Χ	2◊	3♠	Pass
?			

#### West holds:

**♠** A K 10 ♥Q87 ♦964 ♣ A 10 7 6

(see page 5 for answers)

### LEAD PROBLEM SWPT JAN **2000**

You are South on lead to 6♣ holding

**★** K Q 10 9 2 ♥963 **♦ K 8 2** ♣ 9 5

The bidding had been	West	East
	1♡	2♣
	2\$	2♠(1)
	3♣	4NT
	5♣	6♣

West showed 1 of the 5 aces (on clubs) Your opponents are above average, regular tournament players.

Answer Page 7.

### (1) 2♠ was 4<sup>th</sup> suit game forcing

 $\Phi \Diamond \Diamond \Phi \Phi \Diamond \Diamond \Phi \Phi \Diamond \Phi \Phi$ 

partner would have bid 6\$.

Session 11 Board 10

(1)5-51RF

#### SLAM PROBLEM

### SOFTLY, SOFTLY, CATCHEE MONKEY

by Tina Zines

I missed a great opportunity to get to slam on Board 17 from Session 10.

. . . .

	<b>♠</b> K J
	♡J986
	♦8653
	<b>♣</b> Q 9 5
<b>♠</b> A 8 5 4	<b>♦</b> 9732
♥ A 10 3 2	♡KQ754
♦ Q 4	♦ 10 2
<b>♣</b> 632	<b>♣</b> 10 4
	<b>♠</b> Q 10 6
	♡ -
	♦ A K J 9 7
	<b>♣</b> AKJ87

In an uncontested auction as N/S we bid:

North	South
Pass	1♦
1♡	3♣ (1)
3\$ (2)	3NT
Pass (3)	

by Peter Jamieson

**▲** 1/3

(2) A slight underbid despite my meagre 7 HCP because partner won't picture 7 cards in his suits. Still, if he can't bid again, I figure we're not missing game. (3) Silly. Knowing that partner has

nothing more than a singleton opposite

my heart rubbish, I could have made the delicate bid of four spades and

	₹ J 4 J
	♥876
	<b>♦</b> J 3
	<b>♣</b> A K 6 4 3
★ K Q 6 2	<b>♠</b> A 10 9 8 5
♥AK5	♡ Q 10 9 4 3
<b>♦</b> A K 5 2	♦ 6 4
<b>♣</b> Q 7	<b>4</b> 10

**♠** 7 ♥ J 2 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 **♣** J 9 8 5 2

NOT NEWS made some enquiries around the watering holes searching for a really good auction to get to 6♠ on this hand. We heard of several auctions that bashed it without Blackwood, and some that Blackwooded into it... but there could have been 2 quick club losers.

One East opened a multi two and over the 2NT enquiry showed a good major 2

Did you have a quality auction? Please let us know.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BERMUDA?

(Answers to bidding problems from pg 4)

After 64 boards of the 160 board finals:

#### **Bermuda Bowl**

USA1 192 vs Brazil 113

#### **Venice Cup**

Netherlands 120 vs USA1 88

48-Board Playoffs for third place: Bowl: USA2 143 Norway 115 Cup: Denmark 202 Austria 62

Board 1 of the final (What Would You Bid #1): Dealer North; Vul Nil

<b>♦</b> 85
♥AQ83
♦943
<b>♣</b> 7542

<b>♠</b> A 9 6 4	<b>♠</b> K Q 10
♥ K 5 4	♥6
♦KQ6	♦852
<b>♣</b> A83	♣ KQJ1096

**♣** J 7 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 7 2 ♦ A J 10 7

West	North	East	South
Campos	M'stroth	V. Boas	Rodwell
	Pass	1♣	1♡
Χ	3♡	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♣? (1)	Pass
6♣	All Pas	s `´	

♥10 led, ace; ♦9, ace. One off, -50 (1) Why the panic? Partner isn't always wrong. Full marks to N-S for inducing the panic.(Looking at the results at other tables below, 6♣ one off is almost par).

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Chagas	Nickell	Branco
	Pass	1♣	Pass
3NT	All Pas	S	

 $\heartsuit 3$  led, 11 tricks +460. 11 Imps to USA1.

In other matches:

**Venice Cup:** USA1 6♣ -50 Netherlands 3NT +430

Playoff: USA2 NS 4♥X -300 and EW 6♣ -50

Board 4 of the final (What Would You Bid #2): Dealer West; Vul Both

♠ Q J 9 ♥ 10 4 ♦ Q 9 4 3 2 ♠ 8 6 4

<b>♠</b> A K 8 5 3 2	<b>◆</b> 764
♥ 7	♥8653
♦8	♦ J 6 5
<b>♣</b> O J 10 7 3	<b>♣</b> A 5 2

**★**10 ♥AKQJ92 ♦AK107 **★**K9

West	North	East	South
Campos	M'stroth	V. Boas	Rodwell
1♠	Pass	1NT	4♡
4♠	Pass	Pass	Χ
All Pas	S		

♥10 led, -200

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Chagas	Nickell	Branco
1♠	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♠ (1)	Pass	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

(1) Strong candidate for the 'Wimp Bid of the Year' award. It is unwise to show a 1-suiter when you hold a freak 2-suiter. With only 5 losers, West might reasonably choose a 4♣ rebid. Imagine if East had x Pass xxxx Pass xxxx Pass AKxx. (4♥ maybe gin, 5♣ gin.) ♣ led; ♣Q: 4-5-K. 12 tricks +680. 10 Imps to Brazil.

In other matches:

Venice Cup: USA1 4♠ -100 Netherlands 4♠ -100 ('Real Ladies Don't Double.') Playoff for 3<sup>rd</sup>: USA2 NS 5♥ +650 and EW 4♠X -200

Board 8 of the final (What Would You Bid #3): Dealer West; Vul Nil

	<b>≜</b> AQ1076 ♥KQ <b>♦</b> 9875 <b>♣</b> 104
<b>◆</b> 9542	<b>★</b> K 8 3
♥ 10 9 7 5	♡J86432
♦ J	♦ A K Q
<b>♣</b> AJ96	<b>♣</b> 3
	<b>∲</b> J
	♡A
	♦ 10 6 4 3 2
	<b>♣</b> KQ8752

West	North	East	South
Campos	M'stroth	V. Boas	Rodwell
Pass	1♠	2♡	Χ
4♡	Pass	Pass	X (1)
All Pas	s		` ,

(1) If you play double after a jump raise is takeout, then double here is clearly best, even though 4♥ is on the fringe of success and even though most other tables took a different action.

**♦**J led, ace; spade ruff; One off, -100

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Chagas	Nickell	Branco
Pass	1♠	2♡	Χ
4♡	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5◊	Χ	All Pass

♦Q; ♦K; ♦A; ♥6, ace; ♣K, ace; ♥10, king; ♠A, 8 tricks, -500. 12 Imps to USA1.

In other matches:

**Venice Cup:** Netherlands NS  $5 \diamondsuit X - 300$ , E-W  $5 \heartsuit X$ , -100

Playoff: USA2 5♦X -300 Norway 5♦X -300

Board 17 of the final (What Would You Bid #4):

Dealer North; Vul Nil

♠4
♥106432
♦KJ753
♣J9

<b>♠</b> A K 10	<b>♠</b> 76532
♥Q87	♡K9
♦964	<b>♦</b> A 8
<b>♣</b> A 10 7 6	<b>♣</b> K 8 3 2

♠QJ98 ♥AJ5 ♦Q102 ♣Q54

West	North	East	South
Branco	M'stroth	Chagas	Rodwell
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Χ	2◊	3♠	Pass
4♠? (1)	All Pas	s	

(1) Even with a generous assessment of 8 losers for West, there is hardly any case for playing a passed partner to have enough for game opposite this collection. East would be entitled to jump to 3♠ with a 5=3=2=3 or 5=2=3=3 and 3♠ would then be in some jeopardy.

cont. pg 7

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Appeal 9

Event: SWPT Round: 8

Match: Boga vs Otvosi

Players:

North: Boga South: Marshall West: Malaczynski East: Milaszewski

#### **Appeals Chairperson:**

I Dahler

#### **Appeals Committee:**

P Buchen I Thompson D Stern E Ramshaw R Brightling

#### **Board 18**

Dealer East N/S Vul

**♠** A K Q 6 5 ♥ K 8 3 2 ♦ A **♣** A Q 3

<b>∲</b> J	<b>★</b> 10 9 8
♥ J 4	♥ 10 7 5
♦ K 4 3 2	♦ J985
<b>♣</b> K 10 8 5 4 2	<b>♣</b> J 7 6

**↑**7432 ♥AQ96 **♦**Q1076 **♣**9

#### Final Contact and result:

7♠ North

#### Play:

- ♠ lead to ace
- 2. **♠**K
- 3. ♥ to dummy's queen
- 4. ♦10, small, ace, small
- ♥K cashed
- ♥ to dummy's ace

Declarer claims

## TABLE TALLY

as of Midnight 20/1/00

5634

#### **Tournament Director's Report**

Declarer, before he started his line of play, was asked by East to play on. At this stage I was called and during the ensuing activity it became plain to all that East still had a trump. Since the commotion was affecting the adjacent tables, I asked them to start the next board and I would give them a ruling at the end. There was also a suggestion from West that the contract could not be made, anyhow, from the position reached. It can be made by going -A, A ruff, ♦ ruff, ♦ ruff, ♦ ruff, clear the last trump, 13th trick is a heart. However, I consider that declarer did not know there was a trump outstanding. Why else would he have taken out 3 rounds of hearts, then claim before embarking on a precarious club ruff. Therefore, using Law 70C2 (contested claims) I ruled one off.

#### **Appellants' Claim**

At trick 1 the \$10 was led and I planned my hand how to play it. Well the suspicion of \$K could be on East hand, and shows East has a balanced hand at trick 2. ♠A and West dropped \$5. At this stage, knowing West has no spades, and East has the \$9 instead of taking the risk of finessing the club I tried the heart break. Small to the queen and then \$10 from dummy and

then ♥K from hand and then I saw the ♥J drop, so East had to have 3 hearts even though I realised West could bluff me dropping the ♥J and I wanted to make sure he doesn't have another heart so I played the heart to dummy's ace, but when I saw the 10 has dropped from East I could see the full picture of the hand. So I opened my hand with the intention of showing my line of play realising East has the ♠9 but before I could declare my line of play East said "play" and dummy said since the hand had been opened you can't play the hand. East again said "play" and dummy said we better call a director so you can say your line of play.

Trump clubs twice from Dummy and trump diamonds twice from the hand. Draw the last trump and make ♠10.

#### **Appeals Committee's Decision**

The director ruled in accordance with Law 70C2. That declarer was probably unaware that a trump was outstanding.

The committee also noted that the general objective of Law 70 – contested claims – the director adjudicates the result of the board as equitably as possible to both sides but any doubtful points shall be resolved against the claimer.

### **NOT Rydges Datums**

BD	Rnd 10	Rnd 11	Rnd 12
1 2	+120 -290	+70 -260	+400 +100
3	+430	-560	+10
4	+610	+20	-610
5	-440	-410	-470
6	+10	-400	-410
7	0	-110	-480
8	-30	-140	+20
9	+480	+60	+40
10	+300	-1260	+60
11	-360	+110	-60
12	-160	-110	-30
13	+650	+80	-510
14	+40	-120	-100
15	-100	+640	+230
16	-630	-610	+390
17	+500	+460	+190
18	-130	+80	-20
19	+300	-80	-100
20	+60	-530	-330

#### **NOT NCC Datums**

BD	Rnd 10	Rnd 11	Rnd 12
1	+110	+400	+430
2	-340	-50	+80
3	+560	-630	-50
4	+680	+70	-540
5	-440	-410	-470
6	-100	-380	-420
7	+70	-110	-650
8	+30	-70	-40
9	+450	-20	-40
10	+110	-680	+100
11	-400	+100	+70
12	-60	-100	-140
13	+650	+70	-470
14	+10	-130	+30
15	-100	+560	+430
16	-560	-620	+450
17	+420	+460	+360
18	-130	+50	+30
19	-10	-70	-60
20	-10	-560	-220

Director called to the table after trick 6. The appellant was asked in light of Law 70 why the appeal had been lodged. This reason for the appeal in light of the Law was not answered sufficiently.

The committee also felt that the director was unable to ascertain the facts at the table due to the behaviour at the table. This was of concern to the committee.

The committee ruled that insufficient evidence supporting the claim and in particular that a trump outstanding Law 70 applies.

EW need to note that once the director has been called the director should be led to establish all the facts.

The committee considered a penalty for an appeal substantially without merit. In this instance the committee decided not to apply a penalty.



## BIDDING PROBLEMS FROM BERMUDA CONT.

♦2, king, ace; ♠2, ten; ♠K, ♠A, club to king, ♥9, queen. 9 tricks, -50

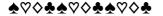
West	North	East	South
Soloway	Janz	Hamman	Mello
	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	1♠ (1)	Pass
2♣	2◊	Pass	2♡
2♠	All Pas	s	

(1) Have you noticed how suit quality does not play a big part in this team's style of 1-level overcalls?
9 tricks, +140 5 Imps to USA1.

In other matches:

Venice Cup: Netherlands NS 1NT -50, E-W 3♠, +140

Playoff: USA2 NS 3% -100 and E-W 4 $\spadesuit$ X -100



# ANSWER TO LEAD PROBLEM SWPT FROM PAGE 5

This was board 16 Session 7 **★**8654 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ A 5 4 **♣**732 **♦** J 3 **♠** A 7 ♥ K Q 10 8 4 ♥ A 2 ♦ J 10 6 3 ♦Q97 **♣** K Q ♣ A J 10 8 6 4 **★** K Q 10 9 2 ♥963 **♦** K 8 2 **♣**95

At the table South led ♠K and that meant +1370.

If they had all 5 key cards they might have tried for seven so partner figures to have an ace. They seem unlikely to have two quick spade losers – declarer will likely have ♠A or a singleton.

♠K is only correct if partner has a certain winner in conjunction with your now established spade. Opener has shown 5 hearts and your heart holding indicates there is nothing nasty for declarer in that suit

Hard to find the diamond lead but not impossible.

$$\Delta \heartsuit \Diamond \Delta \Delta \nabla \Diamond \Delta \Delta \nabla \Diamond \Delta$$

## THE SWISS MOVEMENT (A REPLY)

by Peter Gill

2000

In NOT News #8, Allan Mawdsley queried why the Round 1 draw in the NOT uses the "bloodbath" method. The Encyclopaedia of Bridge under Swiss Movement says "pairings for the first round are random". This random method was used in the 1999 Autumn Nationals in Adelaide.

Allan sought an explanation of the current method. I guess it is tradition. It's always been that way in the NOT. It is curious that the two National Swiss events do not use the same method.

Allan's suggestion of "top seed vs 2nd seed et al in Round One" has some drawbacks.

In recent years, those top seeds who lose their first match have tended to do well. In about 1998, both top qualifiers were top seeds who lost their first match. This factor, where the first match has less importance than the second match and so forth,

through to the 14th match which is the most important of all, argues against using Round One for the clashes of the Titans. It is worth mentioning that some teams with weak sponsors take advantage of this factor by playing the sponsor only in the less important early matches.

Some other disadvantages of Allan's method are:

- it seems silly to reward the lowest seeded teams by drawing them against each other in Round One.
- Late, or misseeded, entries such as the New Zealanders who just won the Youth Championships (Team 127 at Rydges I think) gain an advantage. I don't think the organisers want to reward late entries!

### NO GRIT

by Tina Zines

Keiran Dyke and Ashley Bach bid very inelegantly – as did several others who haven't learnt Blackwood yet – to slam missing two aces on Board 7 Session 12. My distinguished opponents did the same, but I led the ♠A and there was no hope.

Dealer S, Vul ALL ♠AJ2 **♥763** ♦ J 10 9 **♣**9754 **★** K Q 8 7 ♥KQ84 ♥ A 10 9 2 **♦** K Q 7 3 ♦A85 ♣ Q ♣ KJ 1082 109643 ♥ J 5 ♦642 **♣**A63

Keiran Dkye, however, received a trump lead. He drew 3 rounds of hearts and then played four rounds of diamonds discarding a spade from dummy. Now he led the  $\Phi$ Q and South conceded.

Kerian was as much upset at South's lack of grit as his own failure to overtake the club in dummy. Now, although the ♣9 is not short declarer can still prevail. South is forced to lead a spade, king, ace ruffed. Now he takes his 2 club winners ruffs one with his last trump in hand and cashes his spade winner for twelve tricks.

As it was, all South had to do was duck the  $extit{d} Q$ . He was probably too upset at the way things had gone to focus on the issue at hand.

#### MEMORIES OF CANBERRA (3)

by David Stevenson

Canberra seems to be composed of circles, and we are always going round them when we try to get anywhere. Liz tried to get from Rydges to the NCC. She went right out of Rydges, and then followed the road round to the left ...... until she found herself back at Rydges.

One of my colleagues was approached by a charming and extremely shapely young Kiwi lady, who wanted to know which categories she should fill in. "Are you all female?" asked my colleague – and no-one has thought of an answer yet.

One lady opened 1♥, then blushed furiously because she had meant to bid 1♠ with the South hand:

She did not know that she was allowed to change it (after calling the Director) so she sat there and worried. Of course, poor West had no idea what to do! Eventually she passed, and North and East passed.

Now our hero was in 1♥. She went four off for 400, and embarrassedly tried to explain the disaster to team-mates. They had missed the slam, so they had only got 680 to gain six imps. Our hero could not understand why she was being congratulated but said she would never do it again.

The standard of food in Canberra is very variable. We have eaten in restaurants ranging from abysmal service through lousy food to excellent cheap food. Best of all was the Indian restaurant in Marcus Clarke Street: cheap, reasonable, quick, and a bottle of "Champagne" for \$11.50!

#### COLUMN 8 (NOT)

Late Mail: Remember Board 7 Session 5 where 7♠ goes off on a diamond ruff? Polish International Mirek Milascewski opened the South hand 3NT which in their system shows specifically a solid 7 card major and no A or K outside! North Chris Lasocki had an easy raise to 7NT.

NOT NEWS understand's that a 3♠ opening shows a solid 7 card minor. Thus the declarer (if 3NT or 4 of a major) is the closed hand and dummy is the hand that everyone knows about. Neat!

Remember the 7♦ contract on thew front page of yesterdays NOT NEWS that Bach-Dyke bid. This reminded me (PJ) of a hand 2 months ago at the NSWBA in Sydney. George Edwards opened 2♣ on ♠ A Q 7 6 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 7 ♦ K 5 ♣ void. His partner, Ruth Jamieson responded 3♦. What now? George rolled out the grand slam force bid of 5NT. Ruth bid 7♦ showing two of the top 3 diamonds and now George bid 7♥. Nice.

Overheard during the Youth Championships

"You taught me bridge in half an hour this morning; what do you expect from me?" – one player to complaining partner.

"It would have been better if we hadn't been vulnerable, but that applies to every board we've played this session."

"I'm not grumpy; I just actively dislike the opponents."

"My partner was delightful. It's the first time I've ever played with someone who notices all my mistakes but never says a word of criticism." – top player whose partner cancelled at the last minute so a 10 year old replacement was found.

Standing in the foyer of the Convention Centre last night I heard the following "How did you go?"

"Great. We had a serious win."

"A serious win?"

"Yes – Up till now we have had a draw, a winning draw and now a REAL win."
Obviously a happy Canberra newcomer– Bridge Buffs eat your heart out.

Waiting for Thommo

It can be reported that Matthew Thomson is a very thoughtful declarer – during one match Matthew paused for thought... and carried on pausing. He finally did play a card – but not before 2 of the other players at the table and 1 kibitzer had all had time to go for a toilet break – separately!! Obviously this strategy works – the Thomson team are currently lying 2nd at Rydges.

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