



# NOT NEWS

2000

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## HOT BIDDING

by Peter Jamieson

In NOT NEWS #10 we asked for people to come forward if they had had a good auction on Board 10 Session 11

Dealer E, Vul ALL

♠ J 4 3  
 ♥ 8 7 6  
 ♦ J 3  
 ♣ A K 6 4 3

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

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

Matthew Thompson and Peter Newman from the No 1 seeded team at Rydges nailed this hand with their relay system.

East opened 2NT, multi 2 both majors, limited values.

West launched into relays as follows:

W : 3♦, relay, setting spades

E: 3♠ minimum

W: 3NT relay

E: 4♣ shortage in clubs

W: 4♦ relay

E: 4♥ 5521 shape

W: 4NT RKB

E: 5♣ 1 keycard on spades

W: 5♦ heart ask

E: 5♥ I have HQ

W: 6♣ .....and confident

On a more humorous note (or sombre note depending on your point of view), our special investigator reports an unusual 5 imp swing on this hand on match at Rydges.

At one table East opened 2NT multi showing red suits or majors.

## SWPT Top Eight after 14 rounds

These teams play in the round of sixteen, which is twenty boards on Friday (last) night and twenty boards this morning.

### National Convention Centre

1st	1	P. Smith, P. Yovich, D Lilley, N Rosendorff, B. Thompson, B. Jacobs	269
2nd	11	G. Finikiotis, J. Chan, K. Hocking, J. Hewitt	266
3rd	5	S. Hinge, C. Chua, A. Webb, S. Henbest	253
4th	10	D. Moir, D. Scully, P. Brayshaw, G. Dupont, K. Morrison, M. Chadwick	252
5th	4	M. Borewicz, E. Otvosi, K. Lasocki, M. Milaszewski, W. Malaczynski	251
6th	3	A. Braithwaite, M. Ware, S. Lester, M. McManus M. Mullamphy, V. Cummings	250
7th	15	D. Woodhead, C. Haugh, K. Robb, T. Nunn	250
8th	2	P. Wyer, P Marston, M Mayer, G Kozakos, J Haffer, G. Smolanko	250

### Rydges Canberra

1st	3	B. Neill, W. Lazer, P. Gumby, A. Walsh, B. McDonald M. Hughes	278
2nd	1	M. Thomson, D. Beauchamp, P. Newman, A. Peake	275
3rd	5	(Ziggy) S. Konig, J. Walls, A. Bach, K. Dyke	267
4th	4	B. O'Hara (npc), S. Burgess, T. Lloyd, R. Cooper H. Christie, J. Cormack, J. Alabaster	257
5th	2	B. Noble, T. Brown, G. Bilski, P. Gue, M. Prescott P. Fordham	256
6th	6	B. Travis, J. Travis, E. Havas, R. Harms, J. Courtney L. Godfrey	241
7th	23	M. Bloom, R. Rawkins, I. Glanger, M. Scudder, S. Bock	239
8th	13	M. Jappe, B. Nagy, D. Smyth, J Maddison, A Lasocki	239

(NOTE: There were 3 teams on 239 at Rydges. In a 3 way play off PETTIT was eliminated.)

West relayed with 3♣ and 3♥ showed the majors.

East bid 4♦ (intended as cue bid) and everyone passed! – minus two.

At the other table, East opened a multi 2 but something got lost in the wash and when the music stopped the final contract was 6♦!! down 4. That's a difference of 200 or 5imps.

PS Confession time.....this editor and his partner played peacefully in 4♥ on this hand, but we are still speaking – just!

*Peter Jamieson*

## TRANS-TASMAN YOUTH CHALLENGE

*by Peter Gill*

During the Youth Week before the NOT, Australia defeated New Zealand in an two-day international youth bridge challenge. As these two hands from the event are presented as declarer play problems, you might want to cover the EW hands:

Dir W, NS vul.

♠ A J 10  
♥ A 10 5 3 2  
♦ Q  
♣ A J 9 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The 3C opening bid was a transfer to diamonds. Leigh Gold won ♥Q with the king, and led a diamond to the queen, on which both East and West played low. Next came four rounds of trumps, discarding a heart from dummy. The ten of clubs lost to East's king. East won ♦J, regretting that it had not been unblocked earlier. Would you now exit

a club or a heart as East?  
Dir E, NS vul.

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ A 9 7  
♦ A K 7 4  
♣ 9 8 4

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

♠ A Q 7 5  
♥ Q 10 5 4 3  
♦ J 9  
♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	2♠ (1)	3♥
		All Pass	

Once again the opening bid was a transfer, this time showing clubs. Leigh won the club lead with the ace, and played a heart to the nine. He cashed ♥A, observing the satisfactory 3-2 break. Now comes the tricky part; how to approach the spade suit?

Returning to the first hand, the best exit, perhaps surprisingly, is a heart. If declarer then broaches clubs, partner can cash ♦A. If declarer plays on hearts, you can cash two long hearts to defeat 4♠.

At the table, NZ's East erred by exiting a club. Dummy wins, and East is thrown in with a low heart for another endplay to provide declarer's tenth trick. West had also erred, by ducking the diamond at Trick Two. This writer thinks that playing the ace doesn't help, but the good play of ♦10 will make it clear to partner that ♦J must be unblocked.

On the second hand, Leigh played ♠8. East covered, playing West for ♠7. The contract duly made on a finesse through ♠J. This seems to me to be the best play. If ♠8 is not covered, declarer can decide whether to play East for ♠Jx or ♠J9X, depending on the smoothness of the non-cover.

## A HAND FROM THE YOUTH PAIRS

This hand features the winners against

the runners-up:

Dir W, NS vul.

♠ 8 5  
♥ Q J 5  
♦ K J 10 4 2  
♣ A J 5

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

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

West	North	East	South
Hay	Wyner	Murphy	Wiltshire
Pass	1NT	2♠	4♥
All Pass			

2♠ showed either spades or minors. Jillian Hay led ♠K followed by a spade to the ace. Michelle Murphy found the best continuation of a third spade, Hay ruffed with ♥6 and dummy overruffed. Now when ♥Q was led from dummy, Murphy had to make a quick in tempo decision about whether to cover. Bare ♥A and bare ♥10 in partner's hand are both possible, so she ducked and the contract made.

Would you have found the unusual play of ruffing the third heart with ♥10, in order to tell partner you have ♥10? It is clearly the best play, but most experts when shown the hand as a problem have ruffed with H6, the more "natural" play. David Wiltshire and Joshua Wyner went on to win the three-session event fairly comfortably, leaving several internationals in their wake.

## HERO TOURNAMENT

*by Peter Gill*

In early January four young Australians took on a world class field of 25 youth teams in Holland. Austria defeated USA in the Final.

The main organisers, who looked after Kylie Robb and Tony Nunn before the tournament when they saw in the year 2000 in Amsterdam, must be thanked. They are Kees Tammens and Anneke Simons. Anneke and her five teammates are currently leading the Grand Final of the Venice Cup in

Bermuda by 32 imps, so it has been quite a month for her.

Hero is a soft drink sponsor. The organisers have attracted lots of sponsors. One of the attractions is a Pro-Am on the day before Hero begins, with sponsors' reps partnering international stars. A good idea; well worth copying in Australia.

Here's Tony and Kylie in action:

Tony	Kylie
♠ A J	♠ 6 4
♥ K Q 6 4	♥ A
♦ A Q 9 7 6 5	♦ K 10 4 2
♣ A	♣ Q J 9 7 6 4
1♦	2♣
2♥	3♦
4NT (RKCB)	5♥
7♦	Pass

Only five of the twenty four tables reached 7♦. At the other table, South for Australia opened 3♠, and EW languished in 5♦.

The following result was more typical, as we were on the wrong side of most of the big swings, and thus finished only 19th of the 25 countries:

		♠ K 9 7 6 5 4	
		♥ A K Q 7	
		♦ A 3 2	
		♣ -	
♠ J	♠ Q 3 2		
♥ J 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 5		
♦ Q 10 7 6	♦ J 9 5		
♣ Q J 8 7	♣ 9 6 3 2		
		♠ A 10 8	
		♥ 8 6	
		♦ K 8 4	
		♣ A K 10 5 4	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Ellestad	Tony	Charlsen	Kylie
		Pass	1NT (12-14)
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	X !!!	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

At the other table, Norway also reached 7♠. Paul Brayshaw (or perhaps his partner Matt Raisin) led ♠J, and Nils Kvangraven, who had emailed me before the event to say that he wanted revenge against Australia for our 23-7

defeat of the Norwegians at the World Juniors, therefore decided to play East for ♠Q32. So Kylie and Tony's grand slam bidding was needed in order to avoid a large swing.

But look at that double of 4♣ by Thomas Charlsen, rated as one of the best juniors in the world. It was a classic psyche, misleading declarer about the club length while preventing partner from leading a spade. When ♠Q was led, it seemed that the double was on a jack high suit. However Kylie had little chance of picking the psyche so the slam failed.

Next time it's her turn for revenge; Norway's 24-6 win helped them become top qualifiers.

The experience gained should help Australia's chances at future World Juniro events, as Kylie and Tony are both only 21 and have many years of Youth Bridge ahead of them.

### THE FUTURE OF YOUTH BRIDGE - CAN YOU HELP?

If you have the time, money or inclination to help promote Youth Bridge, whether in a tiny or considerable way, please contact either:

David Lusk  
email [lusk@chariot.net.au](mailto:lusk@chariot.net.au)  
phone 08 8336 3904

or  
Andrew Mill  
phone 03 9499 5580

or  
Peter Gill  
email [gillp@bigpond.com](mailto:gillp@bigpond.com)  
phone 02 9560 2704, or 0417 436361

Ways in which you can help include:

- Lobby your State Association to put funds aside for the purpose.
- Offer to partner a junior player for a session or event.
- Attend youth sessions (if any) and show an interest in the progress of young players (applicable mainly in Adelaide and Sydney).
- Pass your ideas for promotion and sponsorship on to your local or

national youth coordinator (via David or Peter as above).

- Give us any constructive advice.

### GOLD COAST YOUTH CHALLENGE

A new Youth Bridge event will be held at the Gold Coast Congress in February. On Saturday February 19th, the day before the GC Pairs begins, this 40 board event is open to anyone born in the 1970s or 1980s, although you have to be born on or after 1/1/75 to be in your State Youth Team at the Interstate Teams later in July.

Play starts at 1-30pm at the ANA Hotel. You enter as a pair, or as an individual (several youths, including a player who has just won a National Championship, have offered to partner those who enter as individuals).

You play five 8 board matches, three before dinner and two after dinner, with different teammates for each match. The winning pair receives trophies and prizes of bridge books. The cost is only \$5, including afternoon tea.

This is a good opportunity to meet other young players from Queensland and interstate. Performances in this event will be used as a guide when the 2000 Queensland Youth Team is chosen.

Enquiries and entries to either

Denise Dodd  
email [dodd@modemss.brisnet.org.au](mailto:dodd@modemss.brisnet.org.au)  
phone 07 3359 1285

or  
Peter Gill  
email [gillp@bigpond.com](mailto:gillp@bigpond.com)  
phone 02 9560 2704 or 0417 436361.

If there is any reason why you cannot attend the Youth event and hopefully the Gold Coast Congress thereafter, please contact the organisers.

For example, a large apartment has been booked to provide low cost accommodation, and assistance with travel or for a partner for the rest of the week can be arranged.



# SMOOTH SLAM BIDDING

Session 13 Board 13 (Wow – look at those numbers !)

Dealer N, Vul ALL

♠ 7 6  
♥ A Q 3  
♦ A 3 2  
♣ A Q 7 5 2

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

♠ 9 8  
♥ J 9 8 2  
♦ J 5 4  
♣ J 8 6 3

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

This cold grand slam (one of dozens this last week) was missed at some tables.

Scores of people had accurate, no sweat auctions. Here is one.

At one table Helena Rule opened 1NT (good 14 to 17 pts).

Tony Hutton enquired with 2♣ to which Helena replied 3C (16-17 and 5 clubs). Doubleton ♠K is magic holding, so Tony Hutton rolled out Blackwood (3 aces) and bid a crisp 7♠. Even if Helena doesn't have ♣Q there will be good chances of establishing the clubs or failing that, there may be a squeeze or even a basic finesse for 13 tricks.

Peter Jamieson

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

## YET ANOTHER SLAM

Hope you aren't getting bored with the slams, but there have been so many of them this SWPT and, lets face it, they are usually challenging and exciting.

In the "Round of 16" board 2 provide a slam bidding opportunity.

Dealer E, Vul NS

♠ A K J 5  
♥ 10 9 4  
♦ A Q 10 5 4  
♣ 9

♠ Q 7 6 3  
♥ 8 7 2  
♦ 8 7 6  
♣ Q 7 4

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

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ K Q J 6 3  
♦ K 3  
♣ A 10 2

In the Vu-Graph match, neither Ashley Bach –Kieran Dyke or Paul Wyer – George Smolanko reached the slam. On Vu-Graph Ziggy Konig opened the East hand 3♣ (their partnership believes in frisky pre-empts we are told), Smolanko doubled for take out, Wyer cued 4♣ and Smolanko's 4♥ was greeted by three passes. The Bach-Dyke auction at the other table is not known.

In the Smith – Bloom match in the round of 16 Martin Bloom and Steven Bock bid this slam (not bid at the other table) for a 10 imp pick up,

<b>Bloom</b>	<b>Bock</b>
1♥	4♣ (1)
4♦ (2)	4♠ (2)
4NT(3)	5♦
5♥	6♥ (4)

- 1 Splinter bid, agreeing hearts, club singleton or void
- 2 Cue bid
- 3 Trump Cue bid (not Bwood)
- 4 Bock has some concern on trump

NOT Rydges Datums		
BD	Rnd 13	Rnd 14
1	+40	-300
2	-150	+80
3	+160	+140
4	+100	-680
5	-60	-90
6	+400	+100
7	+630	+90
8	+270	0
9	+10	+120
10	-580	+680
11	+430	+300
12	+680	-130
13	+1740	-1080
14	+610	+100
15	+340	-160
16	-1430	-630
17	+450	+410
18	0	-80
19	+900	-110
20	-80	+40

quality but correctly guesses that Bloom has good trumps in the context of the bidding.

Peter Jamieson

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

## ONE DECENT CARD

by Warren Lazer

Session 3; Board 20; Dealer West; Vul All

♠ Q 6 3  
♥ Q 9 8 3  
♦ A K 8 3  
♣ 10 4

♠ K 10 4 2  
♥ 6 5 4  
♦ 6 4 2  
♣ K Q 7

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

♠ A J 9 7 5  
♥ K 10 7  
♦ J  
♣ A 9 8 2

Kieran Dyke (West) was declarer in 1NT. This hand is a bit embarrassing to write up because of all the wrong cards that the defence found, but it did have one spectacularly successful card.

Pauline (North) got off to a small heart lead picking up the entire suit for declarer, 5, 8, J, A. Declarer now played a heart to the 9 and then a club to the 9 and king. Pauline now led the ♠Q! Declarer, assuming North to have led from QJx, ducked. Pauline continued with the ♠4 to my jack. A diamond switch would now have held declarer to 5 tricks, but flushed with the success of this coup I just played a spade straight back. The rest of the defence wasn't so good, but we still managed to beat it one trick.

NOT NCC Datums		
BD	Rnd 13	Rnd 14
1	+40	-390
2	-30	-50
3	+150	+100
4	+110	-660
5	-70	-180
6	+470	+130
7	+620	+90
8	+160	+100
9	-20	+150
10	-640	+680
11	+440	+380
12	+660	-300
13	+1990	-820
14	+620	+90
15	+280	-150
16	-1430	-620
17	+480	+410
18	+30	-80
19	+760	-130
20	-80	-10

## GADGETS SOMETIMES WORK

Team 29 had enjoyed a very charmed run during the first three days at the convention centre. One of those gadgets you talk about but never use came up during round 9.

Dealer E, Vul ALL

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

West	North	East	South
	C. Shugg		M Callender
		Pass	1♠ (1)
Pass	3♣ (2)	Pass	4♣ (3)
Pass	4♦ (4)	Pass	4♥ (5)
Pass	4♠ (6)	All Pass	

- (1) Precision
- (2) Agreeing spades, slam interest, game force.  
Asking about club holding. 6 step ask  
0 = none, 1=K, 2=A, 3=singleton, 4=void, 5= AK
- (3) Void. Looks good but...
- (4) Diamond ask
- (5) No controls
- (6) Now both our opponents and ourselves know we've got two losers in diamonds

Lead: An inspired ♦A. After the trump, 11 tricks roll home.

At the other table, fortunately (for team 29) the opponents took the chance and bid the slam. +13 IMPs.

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠

## RE. SLAM PROBLEM IN NOT NEWS #10

By Kitty and Victor Muntz

We did not play session 11 – but if we had we would have had the following auction on board 10:

East	West
2♥ (1)	2NT (2)
3♥ (3)	3♠ (4)
4♣ (5)	4NT (6)
5♦ (7)	6♠

- (1) 5/5 in ♥ and another
- (2) strong enquiry
- (3) 2<sup>nd</sup> suit is spades
- (4) forcing (since 2♠ could have been bid in round 1)
- (5) 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> control in clubs
- (6) RKCB
- (7) 1 key card

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

by Brian Westlake

My mother once told me to respect my elders as they were kind, wise and honest. From my memories of my grandparents and their friends I'd agree my mum was right. But that was 23 years ago. After having a match yesterday I have changed my opinion. The elderly couple were snarly, rude and 'active ethics' is obviously an alien term to them. It is a real pity that this generation of senior citizens is not like the last.

Perhaps you think I shouldn't assume all elderly people are tarred by the same brush as my opponents. If you do – I agree. Equally, however, all youth players should not be considered rude and condescending due to the actions of one, as was done in an earlier article, pair. People like Josh wyner, Kylie Robb, Mark Grahams etc etc. are among the nicest opponents in Australian Bridge. So don't assume you will have a pleasant match just because your opponents are young or old or male or female etc. Wait and see, you may be pleasantly surprised. Think about it!

## TRIPLE DUMMY PROBLEM

by Hilda Lirsch

Round 14, Board 3

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

South declared 5♦. Trick one – club to jack. Trick two – diamond to ace, trick three – spade to ace. There is no killing defence now – another spade, which does not prevent a future second heart finesse, since declarer has entires in trumps. At the table West found the heart switch, and South found the totally dumb play of the ♥A.

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠

## VIGNETTES FROM THE NEILL TEAM.

by Warren Lazer

Session 6 Bd 16 Dealer W, Vul EW

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

It is rare that a hand is interesting merely because the auction was the same at both tables.

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Pauline made an overtrick for +120.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Alan Walsh could only manage 7 tricks, for +90, but this was still 5 IMPs in.

# TOP THREE IN SOUTH WEST PACIFIC TEAMS CATEGORIES

These scores are from after all rounds have finished.

## Zone 7

- 1st C19 HOFFEINS 234**  
B. Hoffeins, P. Hoffeins,  
E. Gallie, K. Lipson
- 2nd R127 WEST 233**  
J. West, J. Hay,  
M. Murphy, M. Prest
- 3rd C23 BURROWS 233**  
W. Burrows, M. Genc,  
M. Perley, S. Coleman

## Mixed

- 1st C14 GUIRA 241**  
N. Guira, D. Morgan,  
R. Krochmalik, W. Scampese  
N. Hughes
- 2nd R22 PETTIT 239**  
J. Pettit, J. Pettit,  
H. De Jong, T. Hutton  
H. Rule
- 3rd R21 FOLKARD 238**  
B. Folkard, R. Folkard,  
H. Milward, R. Milward

## Womens

- 1st C58 CORNISH 215**  
M. Cornish, J. Lora,  
J. McGee, E. Clode
- 2nd R36 PAUL 214**  
A. Paul, M. Elson,  
J. Pelzer, L. Szabo
- 3rd R30 BATE 213**  
A. Bate, J. McLarty,  
J. Blight, R. Krasenstein

## Seniors

- 1st R44 VAUGHAN 230**  
E. Vaughan, R. Vaughan,  
L. Shaw, B. Freeman
- 2nd R39 SWAINSTON 228**  
T. Swainston, F. Swainston,  
J. Millar, M. Millar
- 3rd R46 PRIESTLEY 223**  
B. Priestley, M. Faire,  
K. Merten, M. Foster,  
B. Purnell, R. Cowan

## Country

- 1st C60 ROGERS 244**  
K. Rogers, G. Connolly,  
D. Byrnes, I. Wright
- 2nd R32 PARFAIT 237**  
M. Parfait, P. McGrath  
C. Dibley, L. Woo
- 3rd R44 VAUGHAN 230**  
E. Vaughan, R. Vaughan,  
L. Shaw, B. Freeman

## Novice

- 1st C117 WILTSHIRE 225**  
D. Wiltshire, N. Croft,  
D. Krochmalik, G. Feiler,  
K. Hughes
- 2nd C129 GALLAGHER 212**  
R. Gallagher, G. Hutchins,  
P. Waight, L. Cowlshaw,  
T. O'Keeffe
- 3rd R128 PRYDE 181**  
D. Pryde, P. Henniker,  
V. Totterdell, K. Black

## Local

- 1st C7 THOMSON 249**  
I. Thompson, R. Brightling  
C. Quail, I. Robinson,  
N. Ewart
- 2nd R10 DUDLEY 238**  
E. Dudley, A. Powell,  
R. Hills, H. Ali,  
H. Hudson, L. Yu
- 3rd C17 CRICHTON 235**  
R. Crichton, P. Crichton,  
N. Church, M. Flynn,  
S. Mendick, R. Roworth

## Youth

- 1st R127 WEST 233**  
J. West, J. Hay,  
M. Murphy, M. Prest
- 2nd C117 WILTSHIRE 225**  
D. Wiltshire, N. Croft,  
D. Krochmalik, G. Feiler,  
K. Hughes

There were no further contenders  
for the youth category

# SOME MULLINGS AND FOUR HANDS FROM NICK HUGHES

## Starting times

Looking back a few years to when I was Editor of NOT News, I notice that I recommended starting each day at 10am, just like Friday, and having a twilight session. The times I pushed were 10am, 2pm and 5.30. There are sound arguments in favour, such as giving the old-timers an early night if they wish; allowing people to finish for the day THEN go out for a jolly meal; the fact that there is no reason for a late morning start (unlike Surfers, when you can go to the beach). Anyway, nobody seemed interested. However, I happen to notice the starting times for the Bermuda Bermuda Bowl. They play three 20 board matches, just like us, at 10am, 2pm and 5.30. Time to take a hint from the WBF?

## Datums - are they worth it?

In Bermuda, they published the Butler results (IMPed against the field) for all 60 odd pairs at the end of the round robin. As expected, Meckstroth - Rodwell were on top, +0.712 IMPs a board over 320 boards (out of a possible 380). All the Australian Open Pairs were minus. DelMonte - Richman were - 0.136 over 280 (Bobby had minor health problems so they play less than expected). The Rothfields were -0.293 over 160. "Ha" you say. "They must have sat out against the top teams." Well, not really. They might have faced the softer pair, but who knows and who cares? In the SWPT, our team was mashed 22-8 in Round 3 by Christy Bridgeland's team. Our teammates were -70 on datums against two top young guys; Robert and I were +40 against some inexperienced girls. But if we had sat the other way, in all likelihood, WE would have been -70. Except at the top tables, your datums mainly measure the competence of **your particular opponents**. If you follow them, make sure discount the blitzes.

Braithwaite beat us 23-7 in round 13. This moved us out of the event and them out of the danger zone. They needed the buffer because they lost heavily in the last match to just scrape in.

Here are two boards from that match:

Rd 13, Bd 15

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

Both declarers played 3NT from South. Matt Mullamphy led a diamond (declarer

had shown hearts) which scuttled the contract immediately. Declarer finished two down. For our side, David Morgan led a heart. Stephen Lester won in dummy and pulled a low spade.

East can duck this to partner's 10 but that's tough to find. Instead she rose with the ♠Q and tried a diamond, which did no harm from her side of the table. Declarer eventually made 10 tricks. It looks like a club switch will shoot it but not so. If declarer ducks, West wins the ♣K and returns one for +100. However, declarer can simply hop the ace to block the suit and go about his business.

Another hand from that match:

Rd 13, Bd 18

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

East-West reached the normal, failing 4♠ at one table. At the other table, the contract was 3NT by West after a slight bidding mishap. North led a heart and declarer ducked two rounds then ran the diamonds without much hope.

But wait. Holding key cards in three suits, North is squeezed on the last diamond. This is the ending:

E/NS	♠ Q 10 3		
	♥ J		
	♦ -		
	♣ A K		
♠ 7 5		♠ A K 9	
♥ -		♥ -	
♦ J		♦ -	
♣ Q J 10		♣ 9 7 3	
	♠ J 8		
	♥ 10		
	♦ -		
	♣ 6 5 4		

I like end positions because they help to fill column space. If North pitches the ♥J, declarer can set up a club trick. Anything else is just as bad.

In Thursday's Bulletin, Gary Ridgway wrote a piece about people who stuffed up their defence to a strong club opening. In my view, Gary and partner had no excuses for their three poor results. I just love it when people wheel out their silly bids. Admittedly, you need to be prepared to play in suits they show, partly because they might stuff up but mainly because their "suit" could be your suit.

I like nothing more than collecting penalties from non-vulnerable components who think they have a license to bid their silly heads off. Take this:

Rd 11, Bd 16

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Hughes	Ebery	Scampese	Gold
1♣	1♥	2♣	2♠
No	3♣	X	All Pass

Not your usual auction. 1♣ was 16+, 1♥ showed spades or minors (silly concept), East showed 8+ balanced. South said "It's fun and safe to bid to favourable vulnerability" and we said "No it isn't".

3♣ might have gone for 1100 but our +800 was okay, particularly since 3NT failed at the other table! The young Melbourne guys were on a hiding to nothing.

At the other table, our North bid 2♣ over West's strong 1♣. How radical! West declared 3NT and ducked the first club as South "unblocked" the jack. Then came a low diamond (?) To the jack, ducked, followed by a low diamond exit to South's queen. When clubs surprising proved to be 5-3, that meant -100 and 14 IMPs out.

Be brave with an ugly suit on this next hand: Rd 7, Bd 13

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

South leads a safe trumps against East's ambitious 4♥. Declarer throws North in with the third trump. The likely heart return runs to South's king and the heart exit gives nothing away. East's best shot is to find North with ♣Q-x so he wins the heart return with the ace and plays a club up. If North fails to unblock, the hand is over. Cash the ♥Q, ruff a diamond and exit with a club. Finis. If North unblocks, ruff a diamond to run the trumps, catching South in this ending:

	♠ -		
	♥ J		
	♦ J 10		
	♣ 5		
♠ -		♠ 9	
♥ Q		♥ 7	
♦ A Q		♦ -	
♣ 8		♣ J 9	
	♠ -		
	♥ -		
	♦ K 9		
	♣ A 10		

South is skewered by the last trump.