



NOT NEWS

2000

Editorial Team: Peter Jamieson and Tina Zines

Production Team: Amy Scudder and Sheena Larsen-Jury

THE 31ST ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Youth Pairs Championship was played on Monday and Tuesday at the Burton and Garran Hall at ANU. The following are the results:

First Place:

Joshua Wyner (NSW)
David Wiltshire (SA)

Second Place:

Jillian Hay (NZ)
Michelle Murphy (NZ)

Third Place:

Deborah Moir (NSW)
Colin Baker (NSW)

There was a category for under 20 years of age. This was won by:

Dylan Calder
Jeb Cole

Congratulations!



YOUTH TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

After 2 Rounds

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. J. Wyner | 87 |
| D. Wiltshire | |
| G. Ware | |
| D. Krochmalik | |
| 2. L. Gold | 77 |
| M. Wilkinson | |
| T. Johnson | |
| M. Abraham | |
| 3. N. Croft | 34 |
| L. Matthews | |
| J. Maddison | |
| A. Lasocki | |

TOP 10 after 3 rounds

National Womens Teams (86 teams)

			VP's
1st	8	G TUCKER, A KEMPTHORNE, L RICHARDS, S COLLINS	67
2nd	13	M CORBOULD, V MACE, L YOUNG, M PITT	66
3rd	30	S KING, B GRIFFITHS, C BRISCOE, Y CAINS	64
4th	4	D MOIR, H PITT, R NAILAND, J HAY	64
5th	15	M FLYNN, P CRICHTON, N CHURCH, F SMYTH	63
6th	9	P BLINMAN, M FOSTER, M ROBB, C MOLLOY	63
7th	11	A BOOTH, L SHEILS, K SMITH, J DEL PICCOLO	61
8th	43	R MACKINLAY, B FEATHERSTON, J BROAD, C MARTIN	59
9th	29	E WHITBY, S DAVIES, J EVANS, H MILWARD	58
10th	16	C MILL, J COLLINS, R BLUTSTEIN, A ZERMAN, J LORD	58

National Seniors Teams (61 teams)

1st	6	G VARADI, L VARADI, J NEWMAN, R KALMIN	74
2nd	1	B HAUGHIE, G LORENTZ, J BORIN, J LESTER	69
3rd	3	J PETTITT, H DE JONG, M BLOOM, R RAWKINS	66
4th	9	G BRANTON, J BRANTON, C SCHWABEGGER P CUNDASAMY	63
5th	12	G REIZIGER, J HUSTON, J KLEEMAN, K BATTERSBY	60
6th	2	G RIDGWAY, D HAPPLE, S KLOFA, V MUNTZ	60
7th	14	M MILLAR, J MILLAR, F SWAINSTON, T SWAINTSTON	59
8th	5	T GOODYER, C GOODYER, F CUFAR, E AUERBACH	59
9th	31	C MITCHELL, J MITCHELL, J BROWNIE, H BROWNIE Z MOSKOW, R KLUGMAN	58
10th	27	J BENTLEY, F KOVACS, R ANDERSON, B THORPE	58
11th	74	HOUSE TEAM	58

National 0-149 Teams (38 teams)

1st	103	P FLYNN, R COWAN, P TSE, E TSE	73
2nd	107	P KAYE, P BROOKS, E FANOS, E LANG	66
3rd	134	V HOLBROOK, R NEVILLE, R HUTCHINS, P WAIGHT, R GALLAGHER, J CLARKE	62
4th	139	K LEMON, R THOMLINSON, D COLLINS, M EVANS	61
5th	114	B GOSS, D TURNER, J SEAR, E MOENS	60
6th	105	G ALLEN, J CHAN, B PARKINSON, G CUNNINGHAM	56
7th	112	M COSBY, M DRISCOLL, M LAMPORT, F MASSIDDA	56
8th	123	M CLARKE, D CLARKE, K CROUGH, J SELLECK	54
9th	109	C BAILEY, T STEWART-UDEN, A CURTIS, P THRESHER	54
10th	116	K DAKIN, J BELL, P CARPENTER, M CARPENTER	51

THE TRANS-TASMAN YOUTH CHALLENGE

In the Trans-Tasman Youth Challenge there were 3 teams:

Australia A

Nicolas Croft - Luke Matthews
Leigh Gold - Michael Wilkinson

Australia B

Mark Abraham - Tim Johnson
Arian Lasocki - John Maddison

New Zealand

Jillian Hay - Michelle Murphy
Martijn Prent - John West

The results of the first round robin were:
New Zealand d. Australia A 18 - 12
Australia B d. New Zealand 20 - 10
Australia B d. Australia A 18 - 12

The results of the second round robin were:
Australia A d. New Zealand 16 - 14
Australia B d. New Zealand 18 - 12
Australia A d. Australia B 25 - 3

Australia A and Australia B continued on to the final which was 4 sessions of 12 boards. The results were as follows:

Round 1

Australia A 47 IMPs
Australia B 32 IMPs

Round 2

Australia A 47 IMPs
Australia B 11 IMPs

Round 3

Australia A 29 IMPs
Australia B 23 IMPs

Round 4

Australia A 17 IMPs
Australia B 27 IMPs

Total

Australia A 140 IMPs
Australia B 93 IMPs

Australia A truly avenged their first round defeat at the hands of Australia B.



PARTSCORE OR GRAND SLAM?

by Tina Zines

NWT

Board 2 from the first session was one of the first hands I kibitzed in my brand new NOT NEWS cap purchased in downtown Goulburn yesterday.

♠AT7
♥KJT943
♦A
♣A42

♠J6543
♥5
♦K4
♣QJT53

♠K982
♥62
♦98762
♣76

♠Q
♥AQ87
♦QJT53
♣K98

It looks routine to bid to at least small slam on this hand via your favourite methods.

The nine Women's Datum sheets available for perusal (Who were the wicked three who failed to hand one in and give some meaning to the averages?) indicate 1 partscore, 1 game, 6 small slams and 1 grand slam.

The MOIR team, 1999 winners of the NWT, went for the jugular. Their opponents at one table had a first round oops when South passed North's jump to 2♥, thinking it was weak. Jillian Hay and Deb Moir had a more stratospheric auction as befits natives of the Land of the Long White Cloud:

South	North
1♦	1♥
3♥	4NT(1)
5♦(2)	5NT(3)
7♥(4)	

- (1) RKCB
- (2) 1 key card
- (3) grand slam interest
- (4) I didn't come all this way across the Tasman not to bid!

Managing the diamonds for a club discard was very easy when the king fell doubleton. 18 IMPs to MOIR.

Team-mate Helene Pitt tells me she had a moment of panic (just a moment,

Jillian & Deb) after her opponents' mistake – she envisaged some hellish possibility that her team might reach for the sky at the other table and go down. Consider Di Smart's hand, for example, from NOT NEWS #1. Bidding the grand is so often not necessary for a good pickup.

For the SCUDDER team Linda Stern and Berri Folkard eschewed an overdose of science. Berri bid what she thought they could make. Their auction proceeded:

South	North
1♦	1♥
2♠(1)	6♥

(1) Mini-splinter

0-149ers

I made my first foray into the 0-149ers, who eyed my NOT NEWS cap either with trepidation or with friendly amazement that anything happening at their table could be of interest. As there are no datums available, I am not sure how typical my observations were.

I kibitzed the hand above at a few tables. At one the auction went 1♦ – 4♥ swish. This, I think, is a common novice error. Fear that somehow partner may pass below game when you have a beautiful hand tempts you into taking the action that indicates, to the contrary, a very different kind of hand. The leap to game, taking up so much space when 1♥ was forcing and 2♥ strong for most, suggests a hand probably enough for game with a little bit of luck.

Three other tables I kibitzed bid effortlessly to small slam, one via Gerber and two via RKCB.



POSSIBLY NOT

The NOT NEWS crew would like to thank one of the so far few contributors for his item called 'Merrimac-ing Beats Bushwhacking'. The title gets 10/10 but our panel of experts regrets that neither the progressive squeeze nor the simple double squeeze would have worked on the club honour lead.

BERMUDA UPDATE

Hand from the Past English National Pairs 1968

In Session 10 our Australian Open Team played against the Argentinian Team and won 21 – 9. After this they were ranked 12 with 139.5 VPs. Indonesia was first on 194 and Poland second on 185. After playing Norway with a 14 – 16 loss, they were ranked 13 on 153.5. Indonesia was still first on 210 and USA1 was second on 208.

Dealer North; All Vul

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

South opened 1NT and North raised to 3NT.

Lead ♠2
Plan your play

Answer Page 6

Our Women's Team played Denmark in session 10 and won 16 – 14. They were then ranked 12 on 130. The first place was Denmark on 212 and second was USA1 on 198. In session 11 our women lost to Germany 9 – 21 and were ranked 13 on 139. The first place was still Denmark on 228 and remaining on second was USA1 on 205.

Our Senior's team played their 8th session against North America and won 17 – 13. They were still ranked 6 on 87. First was Poland on 131.2 and second France on 110.5. Session 8 was a loss to France 7 – 23, which kept our Seniors team in 6th position with 94. Poland was still first on 153.2 and France remained second on 133.5.



Food Glorious Food at The Promenade Cafe

Sample a variety of flavours from the extensive buffet at The Promenade Cafe at the Hyatt Hotel. Whet your appetite with a selection from our cold buffet including smoked salmon, antipasto, salads, cheeses and home baked breads. Move onto the hot buffet, before concluding your experience with a 'to die for' dessert.

With seafood in abundance on Friday, Saturday evenings and Sunday lunch, who needs an excuse to dine everyday at The Promenade Cafe?

An Australian Bridge Federation special buffet dinner price is available everyday during the tournament (12-21 January) from 6pm – 8pm in The Promenade Cafe for only \$22.50 per person.

(Normal price: Sunday – Thursday \$29.50, Friday and Saturday \$38.00)

LEADING SENIORS

Did you bid 6♦ on Board 10 in Session 3? John Newman and Lester Kalmin in the leading VARADI Team did.

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

West	East
	1♣
1♠	2♠
3♣	3♦
4♦	5♦
6♦	

Playing a strong club their first two bids were artificial, but everything afterwards was natural. Les signed off in 5♦ knowing that John's 1♠ response denied two aces, but John bid one for the road anyway.

Womens Teams Datums

BD	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3
1	+380	-350	+40
2	+1340	-460	-340
3	+320	+210	+440
4	+170	+680	+180
5	+670	+470	+460
6	-90	-1430	+190
7	+100	-180	+60
8	-300	-10	-20
9	-110	+100	-630
10	-90	+290	-500
11	-100	-50	+350
12	-280	+530	+300
13	+540	+150	+310
14	+170	+530	-370
15	+180	+120	+500
16	+30	+450	-100
17	+20	+980	+360
18	+20	+340	-130
19	+70	-500	+120
20	+70	+90	-650

Seniors Teams Datums

BD	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3
1	+130	-390	-20
2	+1140	-450	-390
3	+50	+300	+460
4	+170	+680	+510
5	+670	+450	+570
6	-90	-1120	+30
7	-20	-190	+20
8	-410	+90	-80
9	+10	-40	-510
10	-110	+120	-630
11	0	+20	+430
12	-350	+600	+160
13	+640	+100	+140
14	+120	+470	-320
15	+20	+70	+620
16	-60	+450	-200
17	-20	+980	+400
18	+10	+500	-270
19	+110	-430	-280
20	+70	-150	-670

SELECTION, CARE AND FEEDING OF PARTNERS

by Bob Johnston, Utah

Bridge is a partnership game. If you want to win at tournament bridge, your partner is the second most important factor, next only to your undoubtedly superb knowledge of the game. Millions of words have been written on how to improve your bidding and play, and on such topics as the Vladivostok Coup and the quadruple regressive squeeze, but little has been written on how to select a partner and keep him happy.*

If you like sociable bridge, read no further. This article is not for you. But if you are in hot pursuit of master points, with the distant goal of Life Master drawing on you like the Holy Grail, the time has come to take some constructive action on your partnership. It may even add to your enjoyment of the game, although of course that is incidental.

Selection of a partner is no real problem if you are willing to pay him. There are pros who will be happy to ease your path. Most of us are either too broke or too stingy or just too stubborn to hire an expert to collect the points for us. So we will be talking about how to select a partner from the many people whom we encounter at the tables every week.

The first requirement is competence. Ideally, your partner should be better than you are, but not too greatly. If he is too good, he surely will not want you as a regular partner. And in any case, a top dog and underdog arrangement doesn't work out well. Your approaches to bidding and play should be reasonably similar. Your Power Precision with dozens of your own gadgets will meet with at best grudging acceptance by a partner who secretly prefers early basic Acol. If your bids mean exactly what they say, you will not get along well with a compulsive psycher. Minor differences can be worked out, but under no circumstances should you waste your time trying to mate the unmatable.

*The use of the male pronoun should not be regarded as chauvinistic. "He or she" is simply too awkward, and most people consider it bad form to refer to partner as "it".

Second on the list of requirements is availability. A good partnership cannot be constructed by playing once a month.

Your intended partner must not be so burdened with side activities - job, family, school, or church — that he is unable to give his full attention to the main business of bridge. On the other hand, if your own time is limited, find a partner whose schedule can be matched to yours. Nothing is more discouraging than to find that your favourite partner refuses to attend a major congress, offering the weak excuse of a conflict with his daughter's wedding date.

The third requirement is personal compatibility, and here it becomes much more complex. One may talk about maturity and adult behaviour and a stiff upper lip, but it is all too easy to come apart at the seams when the going gets rough. A good partnership can survive this. The crux of the matter is that you must like your partner, and vice versa. Then the other problems can be worked out. Partner may have habits that annoy you. He may crack his knuckles, smoke strong cigars, or play footsie with young lady opponents. You will just have to decide whether you like him enough to put up with this nonsense and keep your mind on the game.

Although most successful partnerships are all-male or all-female, the he/she combination may work out well. When your prime prospect as a partner is of the opposite sex, take a long look at the possible complications. A jealous wife or husband at home will regard every trip to an out-of-town congress is an assignation. If your devotion to bridge is so great that you can say to hell with it, fine. Even so, you may well find that it is affecting your game... To be sure, none of these comments applies if your main purpose for the trip is other than bridge. As to husband-wife partnerships, the best advice is "Don't".

Of course, there are notable exceptions. But the average marriage has enough stress and strain without deliberately adding provocation. Thus far we have been talking about selecting one partner, or at most two. In the preliminary stages, you will need to evaluate three or four or a dozen before you narrow down the field. Don't

hesitate to drop anyone who fails to meet the test, and don't be hurt when someone drops you. It is best to be frank but tactful: "We just can't seem to get our game together." No need for "I don't think you'll ever learn this game."

Now that you have selected a partner, you will want to take care of him. Again, you must like your partner. Then you will praise him when it is called for and ignore his goofs until you can both discuss it rationally. This is not only good manners but also plain common sense. The game is difficult enough with two opponents, near-impossible with three. Let us say that partner, usually as steady as the Rock of Gibraltar, commences the first board with a lead out of turn and a revoke. You have 3 choices:

(1) You can comment sarcastically on his inability to concentrate and hint that more sleep and less partying might have helped.

(2) You can roll your eyes heavenward and mediate that surely this is your divine punishment for having taken up the game in the first place, meanwhile blowing the next three boards.

(3) You can concentrate on your own play, with no more comment to your partner than a "Too bad" and perhaps a quick compliment on something he did right. This must be done with discretion, of course. When partner has just missed an obvious trump coup, he will tend to be suspicious if you compliment him on finding a 1NT opening with 16 balanced points.

Many of the dos and don'ts are well known, but you might use them as a checklist. Don't criticize partner during the session, and never try to give him a lesson. Do compliment him on good bidding or play, but keep it short, as your opponents will tend to take a dim view of flowery tributes, and your partner will think you're trying to psychologize him. Don't question his bidding or play at the time. There is nothing more devastating than "Why didn't you...?" except possibly "What were you thinking of when you...?" Do write yourself a note on anything that requires discussion, preferably the next day. These discussions are essential to partnership-building, but they fail utterly if there is the least element of rancour.

In the heat of the game, of course, unwarranted comments may slip out. It is generally considered excusable to cast slurs upon your partner's ancestry or his sexual preferences, but not upon his intelligence. The word "stupid" and all of its synonyms and analogues (dull, dense, dumb, foolish, silly, asinine) have no place at the bridge table. And the dressed-up versions are just as deadly: "Partner, your play of the last hand wasn't even up to your usual standard."

On the technical side, the care of your partner consists of an attempt to visualize his problems. You are not looking at his cards during the bidding and defence, but the pattern generally emerges. The ability to put yourself in partner's seat, to see the cards from his side of the table, is the difference between great defence and merely good defence. First determine what he needs to know, then find a way to tell him. Make the bid that will help him on defence. Keep your leads and discards honest unless you are 100% sure he can't be lured into a misplay by your clever falsecarding. Find the suit where he may have problems in discarding, and give him the word by whatever methods you are using. The possibilities are endless.

Proper care of your partner pays major dividends. As a bare minimum, your games will be more pleasant. And if you do a good job of selecting and caring for your partner, he will do the same for you. This is the way to build a strong partnership and enter the winners' circle. Partner is your biggest asset - treat him well. We have covered the selection and care of partner in fair detail but have said nothing about his feeding. The only suggestion in this area is that if he does something really noteworthy, buy him a good dinner. You will never find a better investment.



TABLE TALLY

as of Midnight 12/1/00

642

MEMORIES OF CANBERRA

(1)

by David Stevenson,

David is a visiting Director from Liverpool in England. He and his wife have joined us here at the Summer Festival for the first time.

Liz and I are very pleased to visit Australia, and our first experience was Liz being "collared" by a sniffer dog at Sydney Airport. That will teach her to be carrying a controlled substance, namely grapes!

Anyway, we flew to Canberra, and were met by Sean Mullamphy, who told us all about the beauties of Canberra, and the great weather. Then he took us to the front of the Rydges Hotel, walked up to the automatic door – and nothing happened. Liz went to see the Parliament House, went on the roof – and it rained on her.

One of my first jobs was explaining to people in the Warm-Up Pairs why the hand records were only one side. Someone had made a few hundred copies of a blank sheet of paper – not one of the Event staff, I hasten to add.

During my first day directing, I dealt with the normal sorts of problems – the lady who doubled her partner's 1♠, and the man at the same table who ruffed his partner's winner; to make it worse, that

was a revoke, and she was not pleased.

Anyway, the high spot of the day was being called "Caddy": I really do not look like a teenage girl. The lady was somewhat embarrassed, and explained it was the bright blue coat that had thrown her, which puzzled me more: surely caddies wear yellow shirts?



Have you had a fabulous meal out in Canberra this year?

Denise McKinnon wants to know. She creates the restaurant guide in the 'Events and Eats' brochure that you received in your satchels.

If you would like to add to this list (or remove!) you can drop your recommendations in our pink NOT NEWS contribution boxes located at all venues. We will make sure that these gastronomic suggestions make their way to Denise's hands.

THE AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
PRESENT A LECTURE BY

GEORGE D JESNER

SEMINAR ON DEFENCE

TO BE HELD IN THE

MENZIES THEATRE
NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

ON

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2000

FROM 9.30AM UNTIL 10.30AM

George Jesner (born in 1925 in Scotland) a Professional Bridge Teacher and Writer, was a member of the Scottish Bridge Team that won the Prestigious Camrose Trophy in 1964. He has represented Australia on several occasions and won several national titles.

TOO HARD?

By Tina Zines

Eleven out of twelve datum sheets were submitted in the second session. Only one wicked witch. But back to only 6 out of 12 for the third session. Do get your sheets in to assist those who set considerable store by them, even if you are not a true believer.

Fresh from their slam on Board 17, North-South faced this collection on Board 18:

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

Pamela Blinman and Merilee Robb had this auction:

West	North	East	South
		2♥	X
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠		

Close, but no cigar.

How did our slam bidders from this morning manage this one?

With Deb and Jillian in the NS seats, the bidding went:

		1♥	X
4♥	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	4♠		

Helen Snashall's enterprising 1♥ opening at favourable vulnerability perhaps made it harder for Deb to envisage as much as a king in partner's hand. But would 5♥ rather than the second double have been an overstatement from the feisty Kiwis?

Linda Stern isn't very pleased with her efforts. She reckons Berri is already scouting for a new partner.

			1♦
1♥	Pass	2♦	4♦
Pass	Pass	4♥	

Not only did Linda sell out to 4♥, but it made. (At one table at least, it was doubled and made!) Berri led a diamond and Linda switched to ♠A and another. Berri recognized the doubleton and tried to give partner a ruff with her non-existent trump. Away went the spade losers for -420 instead of at least a humble 100. Or even 300 if you double. Or 710 if you bid game yourself. Or 1460 if you reach slam. Or 2210 if you stumbled into a very poor but very successful grand slam. Linda will long for the relative comfort of hippogriffs (see today's Column 8) in her sleep tonight!

It is an instructive and not uncommon kind of defensive error: giving partner a chance to go wrong when you can save her yourself by cashing ♠A. Of course you'd like to take two spade tricks, but what if partner thinks you have some other plan, as happened here?

On the 11 datum sheets returned, four Souths sold out and only one pair bid to slam - 6♦ - but went down. I didn't hear the actual sad story, but on the assumed heart lead declarer must use dummy's only entry to take the spade finesse, not the diamond finesse.



Answer to Hand from the Past

♠ A Q 10
♥ Q 4 2
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ J 6 2

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

♠ K 7 4
♥ A J 7 3
♦ A 5
♣ K Q 8 7

Contract: 3NT Lead ♠2
English World Champion, Kenneth Konstam showed accurate technique. He won the first trick in dummy with the queen and finessed the ♥J. West won and continued spades. Konstam again won in dummy and led a club to the king. He returned to dummy with the ♥Q and led another club. When East's ace appeared there were nine tricks.

The heart finesse must be taken at once, for should it lose, West cannot attack diamonds profitably from his side. A club at trick two allows an alert East to go up with the ace and switch to diamonds - which is what happened at several tables.

If clubs are 3-3 there is no problem. Konstam's line provided for the extra chance of Ax of clubs with East.

Many declarers were reported to have misplayed the hand e.g. club to the J and now East switches to ♦4 and its all over.



MY HERO

'Any good stories for me?' I say hopefully as I wander across to the emerging 0-149ers.

'Yes, yes,' says one woman. 'But it's nothing to do with bridge.'

'Like our play,' says another.

'It'd be good if there was an Idiot of the Week competition,' confesses the first. But there's no way she's going to volunteer a name.

'We're driving down to Canberra in a friend's car. French. A Peugeot. You know how the layout of those European cars is - not quite what you're comfortable with. Nothing's quite where you expect it to be.

'We've just passed through Bookham and are starting our way up a hill. There is a sputtering noise and we dribble to a halt. The petrol gauge - the one on the wrong side, you understand - shows we are empty. Hundreds of huge trucks thunder by. Frantic calls on the mobile to petrol stations in Goulburn. No way, lady.

'We're just about to call the NRMA when a giant car-transporter pulls up and MY HERO descends. Who ever said tattoos weren't beautiful?

'He winches our little car - a half-hour job - up on to his carrier and off we go with him to find petrol. The garage attendant can't believe he stopped for us. His view of truckies is as jaundiced as most people's!'

Is this a Good Samaritan story, a nostalgic reincarnation of the Age of Chivalry or a Not So Mad Max story?

Tina Zines

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Sheena Larsen-Jury

It is rare that you get an article about bridge, in a bridge festival bulletin, from someone who has never played the game. I can't promise it's a first – but it's got to be close.

3 years ago I arrived in Canberra with the Scudder family, having been appointed as this bulletin's assistant. I managed to procure this position purely on the basis of my typing skills - not, as you might think, for my skills in the bridge world. However, I soon began to pick up on just what bridge was about – hey, I'd played 500 quite a bit, this was practically the same thing. With a couple of – what are they called – systems..... Yeah right!

After mentioning this certain perspective in the scoring room, where I was dutifully typing up articles, I was promptly throttled by about a dozen people. Quite right they were I have come to learn, but only through the wisdom of years and some advice I got from Martin to zip it, as I had no clue.

After spending 3 years producing the NOT News I have regarded bridge from many different lights. When I started in 1997 I was daunted by the sheer number of players, and their seeming obsession with this card game. As you can imagine – or perhaps remember from the time you first came into contact with the game – I had no comprehension of the articles I was preparing for print, and I came away basically shell-shocked. The biggest thing I learnt from that first year was how much enjoyment, conversation and friendship you all get from playing. Having not grown up around people who played bridge, and being quite ignorant of the sheer magnitude of the followers of this game, I guess that I was unable to take in much more.

The next year I came back, much to the amusement of the scoring team, and this time I was a little better prepared for the experience. The truth is I did understand some of the game – and that is only because I had played 500 for many years. You may scoff, but I did know what tricks were, and how to win them, I knew how cards lay

and what trumps were. I could follow bidding – I thought. (Systems have started to make a little more sense to me now, but I haven't put the time into the theory as yet). While I typed up articles in 1998 I fervently studied the card play and tried my hardest to make some sense of it.

When you are ignorant of the game, the terminology alone is enough to scare you off. I know that the air con in the venues is a little on the chilly side – but describing a hand as cold was going a little too far..... ruff? Rough? no RUFF, ruff who, hang on that ain't in the spell checker..... flat board, aren't all boards flat?..... swings, pitches, squeezes, I know it's a sport but this sounds suspiciously like cricket..... finesse – well if you've ever entered the scoring room you'd know we possess none of that!

Anyway, by now I think you've got my point. Bridge is an overwhelming game to an outsider. It's somewhat like an exclusive club that you'd really like to join, but you're scared to put your hand up in case you don't cut the mustard.

When I got home after that year, however, I spent hours and hours trying to explain the game to my father. He said something that I still remember "Help me! Who's stolen my daughter?" I can only assume that I have caught the bug, the bridge one that is, not the Y2K variety.

Those people who have come to know me over the years know that nothing is more inspirational for me than my two weeks a year at the Summer Festival. Every year I go away saying I'll be back to PLAY next year, you watch me. I'm going to get lessons this time I swear. And maybe one day I will. I'm not the only one though – many young people I know have had this same feeling. I applaud those who support and encourage the youth bridge movement, and I think there needs to be a lot more coverage in this area.

Even though I am slowly becoming part of the crew here at the Summer Festival, I know that I am a long way from having an understanding of the full monty. By that I mean all those things that bridge encompasses – laws, regulations, systems, declarer play, defence play, the clubs, the gossip, the whole social experience, etc. etc. It's a huge job – but one day.....

Da Cellini Italian Restaurant

Da Cellini Italian Restaurant offers true Italian delights that are well priced with no fuss and good service. This elegant restaurant was voted Best Italian Restaurant 1997 and finalist 1998 in the Restaurant and Catering Association Awards for Excellence.

Delights include Antipasto, fresh seafood, pasta, beef, chicken, salads, cakes and home made gelati.

Dinner special – 2 courses just \$22.50

Includes free bread and a free glass of wine.

**Bookings preferred. Tel: 6247 2946
Please mention this special offer to your waitress on arrival**

Open:

Monday – Friday
Lunch 9.30am – 2.30pm

Monday – Saturday
Dinner 6.00pm – 10.00pm

Corner Lonsdale and Elouera Streets,
Braddon. Tel 6247 2946

The NOT NEWS will be keeping you all up to date on the latest appeals from the Summer Festival.

Appeals Committees (Chairperson Ivy Dahler) for Teams events

At Rydges:

E Ramshaw; M Scudder
P Evans; M Brown
A Clark; J Cormack
C Molloy; C Herden
J Hay; A Kempthorne
N Church

At Hyatt:

R Folkard; V Muntz
B Haughie; R Rawkins
J Newman; C Darrington

Editor's Note: *If you wish to make an appeal against a director's ruling tell the director, who can advise you of the process. Appeals do not need a monetary deposit BUT, beware... appeals deemed to be frivolous may result in a reduction in the appellants' score.*

COLUMN 8 (NOT)

This column is intended to bristle with snappy contributions from you, the players. Of course, you may also like us to enter such observations in The Bridge Shop's 'You had to be there' Award. Eyes and ears open please. Put your entries in a NOT NEWS box near you!

Meanwhile, we shall try to keep you amused with explanations of some colourful bridge terminology taken mainly from the ACBL *Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*. If some of you are familiar with them, we apologize. But our bridge community at the Summer Festival is constantly growing with new players to whom many may be unknown.



Are you eligible to play in a **flicht**? Do you want to? It is the British term (it actually means a side of bacon!) for what in the US is called a **Mr & Mrs** - an event limited to married couples playing with each other. I played in a flicht in Scotland 30 years ago, but have never heard the term used here. Perhaps someone else has?



Are you wary of a **death holding** when considering bidding to slam? The term most commonly refers to a worthless doubleton in the opponents' suit, suggesting that your side may not have adequate control for slam purposes.

Not to be confused with the **kiss of death**, although both may be equally painful. The latter refers to a minus score of 200 in a pairs event on what is only a partscore deal.



Recognize the insult offered in your analysis of a hand that is described as a **kibitzer's make**. The speaker is scornfully suggesting that the hand may have enough high-card winners and sufficiently few losers, but careful scrutiny shows it is doomed because of entry problems, the lie of a seemingly insignificant card, duplication of values etc.



Last year Column 8 introduced you to the **Fryda** defence to 1NT, which (jokingly) proposed a double to show a club suit and a 2♣ bid to show a hand that can double 1NT for penalties!

Are you embarrassed that your convention toolbox is underweight because you play natural overcalls? Don't worry – there is a label for overcalls which are not artificial. It's called **Mosher**, after one Robert Mosher, who had a sense of humour like our own David Fryda.



Did you know that an obsolete term for a tenace was a **fourchette**? (French for 'fork') It rather elegantly suggests the gaps, doesn't it?



A bridge player might try to fall asleep counting sheep, but wouldn't want to dream of **hippogriffs**. This was the name given to a mythical suit occurring in a celebrated anecdote about a man who dreamed he held a perfect notrump hand with 13 sure winners against a stranger (Satan), who was on lead. The Devil then proceeded to run a 13-trick set against declarer by cashing all the cards of a weird greenish suit called hippogriffs. Weird? Greenish? Sounds like something for Fox Mulder to investigate.

HOW TO CONTACT THE EDITORS OF THE 2000 NOT NEWS

Peter Jamieson (Editorial Team): Mobile: 0414 692 023

Tina Zines (Editorial Team): Mobile: 0411 562 997

Amy Scudder and Sheena Larsen-Jury (Production Team): Mobile: 0411 542 039

Email: notnews@madcow.com.au

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/>