



NOT NEWS

2000

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Welcome #2

To those players who have just joined the 2000 Summer Festival, I extend a warm welcome. I hope that your stay will be enjoyable. With quality bridge, food and friendship on the agenda, why wouldn't it be?

Zone Seven teams have not survived the cut in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup or the inaugural Seniors event. However you can follow the progress of the finals of these events on the special Bermuda Bowl board in the foyer at Rydges.

With the World Championships being run contemporaneously the number of teams competing in the South West Pacific Teams (SWPT) is down. The same factor has affected the National Womens Teams. The other events such as the Seniors continue to grow with the exception of the Australian Open Pairs, but look at the quality of the field. I am being lobbied to run the Swiss Pairs over two days but this would change the concept of the event. This was to provide a warm-up vehicle for those players (especially from far a field) who have to work on the preceding Friday. They find it hard enough to get to Canberra for a 1:30pm start on the Saturday let alone an 11:00am start. Talk to your friendly NOT NEWS reporters (look for the hats) if you have an opinion on the Swiss Pairs format.

Each player in a major teams event receives a satchel. You will notice that the Y2K bug was not all myth, it had a hand in the production of this year's satchels. In the satchels you will find two Summer Festival pens, they are for your use throughout the Festival. Scoring booklets will be on your table at the beginning of play, you need to keep them for the entire event.

On Friday evening after the completion of the SWPT there will be a Vu-Graph organised by the ACTBA. The stars will be a selected match from the Round

RESULTS

National Womens Teams Final Results (71 teams)

In the final TRAVIS (B. Travis, E. Havas, J Courtney, A Clarke, L Godfrey) beat CORMACK (J. Cormack, J. Alabaster, V. Cummings, C. Feitelson)
The progressive scores are below. Congratulations to the winners!

Team	C F/W	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3	Rnd 4	Total
TRAVIS	0	10.0	61.0	103.0	162.0	162.0
CORMACK	8.5	60.5	103.5	121.5	149.5	149.5

National Swiss Pairs Championship Final Placings (240 pairs)

1st	226	A PEAKE - M PRESCOTT	155
2nd	6	P GUE - G BILSKI	154
3rd	21	D STERN - R GRYNBERG	152
4th	42	G FINIKIOTIS - J CHAN	151
5th	154	P GALLLASCH - M DEATON	150
6th	19	P BUCHEN - M GREEN	149
7th	237	C GRUIA - K LASOCKI	149
8th	14	R HILLS - B WILLIAMS	147
9th	129	J GRIFFIN - A MILOVANOVIC	146
10th	1	D BEAUCHAMP - E CHADWICK	145
11th	199	J HAY - C KUMPSTONE	145
12th	107	L MATTHEWS - D MORTIMER	144
13th	103	K TANT - S DONOGHUE	144
14th	13	M THOMSON - P NEWMAN	142
15th	39	A SILVER - B HOWE	142

Australian Open Pairs Final Placings (58 pairs)

Final

1st	TENCER - GASPAR	609
2nd	MARSTON - MAYER	596
3rd	NUNN - BAKER	569
4th	CHADWICK - MORRISON	560
5th	LOWE - ASHWORTH	557
6th	KONIG - WALLIS	541
7th	BACH - DYKE	541
8th	MALACZYNSKI - MILASZEWSKI	535
9th	DALLEY - LAVINGS	518
10th	GAL - FLEISCHER	518

Plate

1st	KRISHAN - CARR	631
2nd	GUMBY - LAZER	595
3rd	NAGY - TENCER	566

Consolation

1st	CROFT - LASOCKI	544
2nd	SWIDER - BILLIK	519
3rd	SLATER - STRICKLAND	514

of 16. Following the brilliant production last year, it has been decided to have two stanzas of ten boards on Vu-Graph. Some of Australia's leading players will be there to entertain you. Come along and enjoy a relaxing evening outgussing the experts.

The fast food complex in Glebe Park, adjacent to the Convention Centre, has been closed. It was to become the Media Centre for CHOGM (recently departed for elsewhere in Australia) so the NCC has set up a Bridge Café in the Swan Room. You can stay in air-conditioned comfort while you have lunch or dinner. In another attempt to beat the Canberra heat (residents would say that there has been no heat in this summer), the carpark underneath the NCC is offering a deal of \$5.50 for a full day's parking. It beats the price of the open air carpark opposite. Tickets are to be purchased through Reception at the NCC (open 9am to 5pm).

Do you remember the yellow shirts from last year? They are the caddies. It should be easy to spot a caddy so if you run out of boards - find a yellow shirt, call "Caaaaddy" and put your hand up so that they can find you. This colour concept has been extended to Directors who have all been kitted out in blue jackets. I am told that the shade of blue makes them also extremely easy to spot.

Under one of those blue jackets you will find a Liverpoolian – David Stevenson. David is an expert on the Laws of Bridge and a leading Welsh director. He is visiting the Summer Festival and the Gold Coast as a guest tournament director, showing us how it's done in the UK. Those interested in the Laws should seek him out and listen to his opinions. He will be at both venues during the coming week. Accompanying David to the Summer Festival is his wife, Liz, who has been enjoying playing with a multitude of Australians when we have needed substitutes – thanks Liz.

On the subject of substitutes, one of the convener's worst nightmares occurred on Wednesday, in three of the four teams events the fields were odd. The Canberra Bridge Club (aka ACTBA) rose to the occasion supplying house teams in each event, I am told that in one session they managed to get 18 players to come in and keep the movements going.

The NOT NEWS that you are now reading has been first class during the first week. Please make contributions so that everyone can read about your partner's brilliancy, your brilliancy, your good luck – or bad luck, or just a funny incident. There are contribution boxes at both venues and contact information in this bulletin. If you feel that you have not got time to create a full article, just jot down the salient facts and hand it to one of the editorial staff who may write it up for you.

Have a great time playing in the SWPT, meeting old friends and dining out in the quality restaurants around Canberra.

John Scudder
Convener



Vale Dick Cummings (1932 – 1999)

Distinguished Australian bridge player, writer and teacher, Dick Cummings, died late last year. Most readers of NOT NEWS have no doubt seen obituaries in various newspapers and magazines. A short summary of his major achievements appears in the official Encyclopedia of Bridge.

NOT NEWS had a look through its archives for a less famous Dick Cummings hand and likes this one reported by Ron Klinger in his article "The Bridge Olympics".

In Australian Bridge 1980 (Reprinted with permission from Australian Bridge Magazine.)

The Bridge Olympics

In the duel between Cummings of Australia and Kulda of Poland, the former scored a hit, a most palpable hit, on this deal:

Dealer East: Both vulnerable

♠ Q 8
♥ 9 6 3
♦ K 10 9 5
♣ Q 10 6 4

♠ A 10 7
♥ K 5 2
♦ Q 6 2
♣ K 7 5 2

♠ 5 4 3 2
♥ Q J 7 4
♦ J 8
♣ 9 8 3

♠ K J 9 6
♥ A 10 8
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ A J

West	North	East	South
<i>Cummings</i>	<i>Milde</i>	<i>Seres</i>	<i>Kudla</i>
Pass	2♣(2)	Pass	1NT(1)
Pass	2NT(4)	Pass	2♦(3)
All Pass		Pass	3NT

- (1) 16-19 points;
- (2) Enquiry;
- (3) 4 diamonds;
- (4) Invitational

With nothing attractive, Cummings made his opening move with the ♣2. South won the jack and led ♠6 to the queen and a spade back to the king and ace, East echoing with the 3-2. Cummings now switched the attack to declarer's weakness, the heart.

South ducked, East's jack winning and South ducked again as the ♥4 went to the king. South hoped that this ducking and weaving would foil West, but Cummings scored the final blow when he next switched to a low club, dropping South's ace and setting up his king before South could set up a diamond trick. Touche!

'Not so hard,' Cummings said after the bout, 'South was known to have four diamonds from the bidding, four spades from East's peter, three hearts since he must still have the ♥A for his 1NT opening - and that could leave no more than two clubs.'

Again I had the feeling that the opponents had done too much talking.

This is not a spectacular hand but it illustrates the rewards of concentrating and counting points and shape. Hard work at the bridge table in conjunction with skill and talent consistently pays dividend.

Dick Cummings collected many such dividends at the table in his long and illustrious bridge career.

Peter Jamieson

THE FLIGHTY PAIRS

by Hilda Lirsch

First, a flighty bidding problem: You pick up: ♠ A J, ♥ - , ♦ K 10 6 4 3, ♣ K Q J 6 4 3, in the flighted pairs. Partner opens as Dealer with 2NT, showing a weak 5/5 in the odd suits (spades and diamonds, or hearts and clubs).

RHO takes advantage of the favourable vulnerability to overcall 4♥. Your bid? At the table 4NT was chosen, and pard showed one ace with 5♦. Your bid? At the table a wimpy pass was chosen, but LHO came to the rescue with 5♥. Now 6♦ could be triumphantly bid to the applause of the kibitzers.

Except that RHO bid 6♥. This was of course routinely doubled, and of course routinely made for +1210.

Now a flighty play problem. You're in 6♥ after LHO has made a weak jump overcall in spades. The opening lead is the queen of clubs.

♠ Q 9 3
♥ A J 10 8
♦ Q 10 9 6 3 2
♣ -

♠ A 5
♥ K 7 5 4 2
♦ A
♣ A K 6 5 3

The best line is to discard two spades from dummy on the ace and king of clubs. One spade and two clubs can now be ruffed in dummy. The contract now makes if either trumps are 2-2 or clubs are 4-4.

In keeping with the spirit of the event, I instead adopted a flightier line of play, resulting in a richly deserved -50.

Ed. This was board 22 Saturday evening (Pairs). Bob Gallus was also in 6♥ after 2♠ WJO from West. He chose to win Q♣ with the ace. Cash A♦; cash A♥; play ♥J and run it (West shows out). Now Q♦ and it was all over. East began with ♠ 6 2, ♥ Q 6 3, ♦ K 8 5 4 ♣ 9 7 4 2 making 13 tricks.

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

Mercury Swiss Pairs 2000-01-16

Please note if you are planning a trip to Tasmania this year to try and earn some play off points in this event, it is being held in Launceston (not Hobart as printed in some publications).

Australian Bridge Magazine Competition

Don't forget you can win a year's subscription to this fine bridge magazine. All you have to do is nominate the team that will win the NOT this year when you subscribe to Australian Bridge or renew for another year. This competition closes on Wednesday 19/1/00. Read the Australian Bridge Magazine's history of the NOT brochure that was in your satchel for details.

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 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BERMUDA?

After 64 boards of the 96-board quarter-finals the scores were:

Bermuda Bowl

Norway 143.5 vs Indonesia 107
USA1 139.5 vs Italy 132
USA2 112 vs Poland 95
Brazil 170 vs Sweden 127

Venice Cup

Canada 139 vs USA 1 123
Netherlands 141 vs China 122
Austria 133 vs Germany 121
Denmark 191 vs France 83

During the third 16-board session Italy had a purple streak, picking up 56-9. They gained three double figure swings within four boards, starting with Board 42 which proved to be a swing in every match:

Dealer East Both Vul

♠ Q 10 3 2
♥ 9 6
♦ 8 5
♣ K 10 9 8 6

♠ A 8 7
♥ Q J 10 4 2
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ Q

♠ J 9 6
♥ A 8 7
♦ K Q 6 2
♣ J 7 5

♠ K 5 4
♥ K 5 3
♦ J 7 3
♣ A 4 3 2

4♥ vulnerable at teams is reasonable, but not outstanding.

Without a spade lead, 4♥ should fail. USA1 vs Italy

West	North	East	South
<i>M'troth</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Lead: ♥6, 9 tricks. +140.

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>De Falco</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Lead: ♠2, 10 tricks. +620, 10 Imps to Italy.

Other matches:

Bermuda Bowl:

Norway 4♥ -100 Indonesia 4♥ +620
USA2 2♥ +140 Poland 4♥ -100
Sweden 3NT -100 Brazil 4♥ +620

Venice Cup:

Canada 4♥ +620, USA 1 4♥ -100
China 4♥ +620 Netherlands 2♥ +170
Austria 3♦ +130 Germany 4♥ -100
France 4♥ -100 Denmark 4♥ +620

Italy picked up 10 more IMPs when they reached the impressive spot of 4♠ on the next board:

Board 43: Dealer South; Nil Vul

♠ Q J 10 2
♥ K
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ A 10 8 5

♠ 8 5 4
♥ J 9 4 3
♦ J 10 8 7 2
♣ Q

♠ 9 7 3
♥ Q 10 8
♦ K Q 3
♣ K J 3 2

♠ A K 6
♥ A 7 6 5 2
♦ 9
♣ 9 7 6 4

USA1 vs Italy

Bocchi-Duboin had a relay auction to 4♠. The ♣Q lead was taken by the ace, followed by ♥K, ♦A, ♦6 ruffed, ♥A followed by a high cross-ruff for ten tricks, +420.

Nickell-Freeman reached 3NT, one off.

In other matches:

Bermuda Bowl:

Norway 4♠ +450 Indonesia 3NT +400
USA2 4♠ +420 Poland 4♠ +420
Sweden 5♣ -50 Brazil 5♣ -50

Venice Cup:

Canada 3NT +400, USA 1 3NT -50
China 5♣ -50 Netherlands 4♠ +420
Austria 4♠ +420 Germany 4♠ +420
France 4♠ +420 Denmark 3NT +400

Two boards later:
Board 45 Dealer North Both Vul

♠ A
♥ A Q 5
♦ J 10 8 7 3 2
♣ K 8 3

♠ 10
♥ K J 10 8 7 6 2
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 6 2

♠ K J 9 7 5 3 2
♥ 9 4
♦ A 4
♣ 9 5

♠ Q 8 6 4
♥ 3
♦ K 6
♣ A Q J 10 7 4

West	North	East	South
<i>M'troth</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1♦	2♠	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Lead: ♠10, won by the ace; ♦3 from dummy (no chance to misguess now), ♦A; ♠K, ruffed; ♥A; heart ruff; ♠8 . . . 12 tricks +1370

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>De Falco</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
	1♦	1♠	2♣
2♥	2♠	3♠	X
All Pass			

Declarer made 6 tricks, -800, but 11 Imps to Italy.

6♣ is no gimme. It would be easy enough to go wrong in diamonds.

Other matches:

Bermuda Bowl:

Norway 6♣ +1370 Indonesia 3NT +630
USA2 3NT +600 Poland 3NT +630
Sweden 6♣ +1370 Brazil 5♣ +600

Venice Cup:

Canada 3NT +600, USA 1 6♣ -100
China 5♣ +620 Netherlands 5♣ +600
Austria 3NT +660 Germany 6♣ +1370
France 6♣ -100 Denmark 5♣ +600

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

TIME TO CONFESS

by Ted Chadwick

Ted Chadwick, occasional venomous pen-wielder in AB, occasional OZ rep, but on no occasion whatsoever winner of the NOT, is grounded in Sydney with Y2K commitments. Reliable sources inform us that his regular partner, David Beauchamp, unconvincingly stifled whoops of joy and made alternative arrangements for Canberra in nanoseconds. The following article may explain why.

Scoring up the last session of the NOT final in 1989, the conversation went something like this:- 'Down by 2, one board to go, we're +420' say team-mates expectantly. 'We're -400' we respond. 'Damn, didn't think they'd get to 3NT on that last board, never mind make it' say team-mates.

'Mmmmm' we respond.

Gain 1, lose by 1 imp. We check the score, no errors unfortunately, and leave the team huddle to congratulate the NZ team (Cornell, Taylor, Braithwaite, Wright) on their victory.

When you lose a match by such a small margin, one tends to think of all the missed opportunities, IMPs slopped here and there by the failure to make easy overtricks etc etc. However, for some reason, the last few boards seem to be of more significance than the earlier ones. In my case this last board has given me more sleepless nights than any other bridge hand.

Well, they say that confession is good for the soul, so after 11 long years, it's time the truth was revealed about that last hand.

NS Vul, Dealer North

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

Tim Bourke and Chris Hughes somehow got to 4♣ on the EW cards. This contract is doomed on either red suit lead but South led a trump and declarer was able to draw trumps and guess the clubs correctly for 10 tricks and +420.

At my table the auction was short and sweet. I opened 1NT (12-14) as North and played it there. Had Taylor led his 4th highest spade the defence would have taken 5 spades and switched to clubs. I would have knocked out the A♦ and come to 3 diamonds and 2 clubs for -200 and 6 imps to the good guys.

I would have had my picture taken next to that wonderful trophy and, more importantly, I would have that NOT monkey off my back. As it is I still haven't managed to win my favourite event despite 16 years of trying.

Why oh why couldn't you lead a spade Tony?

What happened, you asked. Well I won the club lead, knocked out the A♦ and took the club exit. I went to dummy with a diamond and then got greedy. Thinking that -200 would not be well received I decided to try for -100. I pulled a heart from the table in a vain attempt to slip past the ace and score a trick in that suit before finishing the diamonds.

Curtains, Cornell rose Ace, cashed lots of clubs and switched to a spade: -400.

So, there it is, I've finally got it off my chest. Sorry guys, please forgive.

Ted Chadwick



THE ROAD TO CANBERRA

by David Stevenson

Tina Zines has asked me to tell you about myself, so here is a potted history. I live near Liverpool, in England, UK, with my wife, Liz (who is here with me) and two Siamese cats, Quango and Nanki Poo. I am a Grand Master in England, having won the Grand Masters Pairs (our top pairs competition) twice, plus various other National events.

I am the Senior Consultant Tournament Director of the English Bridge Union, and the Chief Tournament Director of the Welsh Bridge Union. These grand titles are all very well, but what it means is that I am a big fish in a small pond in Wales, and in England they respect my ability with the Laws but think others may be better than me at organisation.

As I developed as a Director I found a talent for understanding the Laws and communicating them to other people. I have made friends and contacts around the world through the Internet. Directing opportunities in England and Wales are limited, so I have been looking overseas for more experience.

I have directed at a small friendly invitation tournament in Denmark. I also played with Liz, and won our first tournament after twenty-three years of marriage! The next year I directed and played again, with less playing success. In 1999 I was asked to direct in Warsaw at the European Pairs Championships (despite not having the European qualification because of English politics <spit>) and also a Russian invitation event. When I arrived in Moscow I found I had been put in charge of the event despite knowing no Russian! The players attempted to bully me (as they had my predecessors) but I managed to say "nyet" frequently enough!

I have also served on the Tournament Appeals Committee at the World Championships in Lille. I contribute to the ABDA's Directors Bulletin and comment on North American Appeals Committee decisions in their case-books. I have re-written a booklet called Duplicate Bridge Rules Simplified. I have developed an extensive web site including a large section on the Laws of Bridge.

Eventually I offered my services to John Scudder here at the Summer Festival and Tony Jackman at the Gold Coast Congress. To my surprise and pleasure both accepted so I am spending seven weeks in Australia, the first three with my wife, and so far it is great and I have met many wonderful people. I expect to see Sydney, Brisbane (where I am helping to direct a small event at the start of February) and as many trains as I can fit in!



DIRECTOR! ‘PENALTY CARD’

by Sean Mullamphy
Chief Tournament Director

There are probably very few players who have not seen a penalty card at the table. Many players, perhaps correctly, think that they know the rules. Nevertheless, there are a few little things about penalty cards that players may not know.

Major Penalty Cards

A Major Penalty card is a card which a defender has either:

- exposed during the auction or
- illegally exposed during the play of the hand

How can a card be illegally exposed during the play of a hand?

- The card might have been led out of turn and not accepted
- The card might have been played and the defender had then realised that he had made a revoke which was then corrected.
- An honour card accidentally dropped

All of these situations produce a major penalty card for a defender. If these same situations occurred to declarer then the card played would not remain a penalty card. It would be returned to declarer's or dummy's hand and defenders would have no options regarding the play of this card.

What Happens Next

If a defender has a major penalty card then this card must be played at the first legal opportunity.

What does this mean? It means that

- On lead a defender must lead a major penalty card
- When following to a lead from declarer or dummy, a major penalty card must be played if that suit is led or
- Must be discarded if the defender cannot follow suit to the card led. This would include playing a trump if it were a penalty card even if it meant under or over-trumping dummy, declarer or partner.

Declarer's Choice

Often though, the defender who does not

have the major penalty card will be on lead. When this happens, the declarer has a number of options.

Declarer may:

a) *Insist* on the lead of the suit of partner's penalty card. If this option is chosen, then the penalty card is put back into partner's hand, does not need to be played and is no longer a penalty card. Should you win this trick you are not required to continue to lead this suit. You should note that although it is not a penalty card any longer, you don't legally know that partner holds this card. In other words, you cannot make a lead that you would not have made if you had not known that partner had that card.

b) *Forbid* the lead of the suit of partner's penalty card. Again, if this option is chosen, then the penalty card is put back into partner's hand, does not need to be played and is no longer a penalty card. Although it isn't a penalty card any longer, you don't legally know that partner holds this card. Should you win this trick then you are still forbidden from leading partner's suit until you lose the lead.

c) *Allow* you to lead any suit. If this option is chosen then partner's card remains a penalty card. This means that if you lead partner's suit then the penalty card will have to be played. If you lead another suit and either remain on lead or gain the lead later, then declarer will have these same options, if partner still has a penalty card on the table. This option puts declarer in a very strong position if the major penalty card remains on the table.

Minor Penalty Card

This is a card which is:

- accidentally dropped and is also
- a card ranked from 2 to 9

Declarer has no options over either the defender holding the minor penalty card or their partner.

A minor penalty card must be kept exposed on the table but is:

- not required to be led
- not required to be discarded
- not required to be played to a trick unless the owner wishes to play a card of that suit which is not an honour

BRIDGE-LAWS MAILING LIST

by David Stevenson

Over the last few years I have been talking to people around the world via the Internet about the Laws of Bridge. We started with a small group of readers on the newsgroup rec.games.bridge and eventually built up the bridge-laws mailing list.

With about 250 readers, there are Directors of clubs and Directors of World Championships: there are people with a deep knowledge of Appeals Committees and people who do not direct at all but have an interest in the Laws.

We have the Chief Directors of four countries (South Africa, Denmark, Wales and Russia) plus the WBF Chief Director. We have the Chairman and Secretary of the WBF Laws Commission, and several Australian Directors, including Laurie Kelso and Sean Mullamphy.

But do not be over-awed: we also have many people with no grand titles who want to talk about the Laws, their interpretation, their use, and how they should be changed.

If you are interested in talking about such subjects, or finding out more about the Laws, then please consider joining: there is no charge. The list is open to everyone on the internet. To join, send an email with a blank Subject line to

majordomo@rgb.anu.edu.au

In the body of the email put

subscribe bridge-laws

Be careful to include nothing else. I really hope you enjoy it. Note that his is a lively list with many emails: threading software is an advantage! If you have any difficulty you can write to me (not before March) and I shall help: my address is

bridge@blakjak.demon.co.uk

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

Appeal 5

Event: Seniors

Tournament Director:
David Stevenson

Appeals Chairperson:
I Dahler

Appeals Committee:
R Folkard, T Strong, J Newman,
J Lester

Round: 9; Board, 4; Dealer, West; Vul, All

♠T962
♥8
♦863
♣QJ954

♠AQ85
♥62
♦K52
♣KT76

♠K43
♥KQJ94
♦Q74
♣A8

♠J7
♥AT753
♦AJT9
♣32

Play if Relevant:

♦J led. East eventually attempted to endplay North to lead away from pressured ♦A.

Tournament Director's Report and Decision:

East asked meaning of Jack lead and was told 'top of sequence'. After initial ruling, E – W claimed East had asked whether higher diamond was possible, not clear what answer was. Result stands. Misinformation not demonstrated. West refused to let Director complete ruling and was fined 0.5 VP disciplinary penalty.

Appellant's Claim:

♦J led by South to East's 3NT. Declarer asked specifically about their agreement regarding leading and was clearly informed that the jack was the highest card South could hold. Declarer played the hand on this basis.

Responder's Reply:

We have only played once, four months ago. We had not discussed this matter and our agreement was to lead top.

Appeals Committee's Decision:
Director's decision upheld unanimously. Committee was quite sympathetic to declarer but under law of misinformation declarer had no redress.

Appeal 6

Event: National Seniors Teams

Round: 8

Match: 13 vs 27

Players:

North – K Anderson
South – F Kovacs
East – E Moskow
West – C Klassen

Tournament Director:
P Marley

Appeals Chairperson:
I Dahler

Appeals Committee:
R Folkard, J Newman, T Strong, J Lester

Board 16 Dealer West E/W vul

♠ Q 7 2
♥ A 7 6
♦ K 7 6 5
♣ J 9 4

♠ 8 6
♥ Q J 10 5 2
♦ A 9
♣ A 7 5 2

♠ K J 9 4
♥ K 9 8 4
♦ 4 3
♣ K Q 3

♠ A 10 5 3
♥ 3
♦ Q J 10 8 2
♣ 10 8 6

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

(1) 10 – 12 points ♥ raise
(2) agreed long thought

Final Contract and Result: 4♥ N/S – 620

Tournament director's report and decision:

East has chosen from among logical alternatives one which was

demonstrably suggested by West's break in tempo. Systematically 3♥ is sign-off according to West, not according to East.

Appellant's Claim:

North did not question the bidding until after next board was started. Had we gone down no appeal therefore two bites at cherry. Furthermore we had suffered a 1700 loss and we needed every thin game to try and catch up.

Responders' Reply:

Rights are reserved – I did not remove my cards from the next board until the director arrived. My delay was due to:

1. I did not have a problem if it went down.
2. I was loathe to call the director because hesitations tend to be somewhat acrimonious.

Appeals Committee's Decision:
Director's decision was upheld unanimously.

Appeal 7

Event: Mens Pairs

Date: Friday 14/1/00

Appeals Chairperson:
Ivy Dahler

Appeals Committee:
P Marston, P Gue, J Chadwick,
M Ware

Appellants: J. Roberts – M. Smart

Respondents: K. Ozanne – A. Ozanne

Board 22

♠ Q 9 7 4 2
♥ J 9 6
♦ Q 7
♣ K Q 5

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

♠ K J 10 5 3
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ –
♣ A 8 7 3

South West North East

1♦ 3♦ (1) 3♠ 1♦ Pass

4♣ All Pass

(1) Alerted and explained, on request as preemptive

Final Contract and Result:
4♣ by North, 11 tricks +450

Play:

West led a club and, when in with ♠A, tried to develop a ruff by partner in hearts, but did not have the trumps to achieve that.

Tournament Director's Report and Decision:

I was called to the table at the end of play and told by E/W that North had failed to alert the fact that South's 1♥ overcall could have been the start of a canape overcall sequence. As a consequence, East claimed that he had been unable to envisage a heart shortage in partner's hand: "If North held 3 hearts, he would surely have supported hearts over 3♦ instead of calling 3♠? I could have lead ♥A, followed by ♥x and given partner a ruff when in with ♠A."

N/S said they had pre-alerted their canape style before the start of play in this 2 board round, but E/W claimed that – amongst a large number of pre-alerts, they were not told unambiguously that N/S's overcall were canape style.

I ruled that there had been an infraction – failure to alert – but, following discussion, ruled that E/W had not been damaged as a consequence of the infraction. Score stands.

Applicants' Claim:

West's 3♦ bid shows 5 + diamonds. Diamond and spade leads are not sensible by East. Only alternatives are ♥A and ♣J. No alerts by N/S and no offer of explanation before the lead re canape overcall style. No prealert re overcall style before round. North is obviously expecting a club/spade canape overcall by 3♠ bid and not 3♥ support. If East is alerted to this style he may well lead ♥A. This would also follow a similar lead and defence adopted by East in Session 2 board 2 for a top score vs S. Burgess and B. O'Hara – look for shortage and preempt hand is a good defence. The failure to

alert removed East's likely ♥A lead.

Responders' Reply:

There was a clear prealert about canape overcalls and (for a wonder) we have an independent witness for this.

North had no way of knowing on the bidding that South had a canape suit, so no reason to explain.

It would seem that E/W were actually advantaged by the canape style:

1. Against standard bidders, West would be on lead.
2. Against standard bidders, hearts would not have been mentioned, reducing the chance of recognising possible shortage.

With 3 card hearts and 5 card spades, a weakish hand and a chance South may have 5 hearts, which he will rebid if strong enough, but he may have 3 spades for a fit. We don't get dealt 5-4-x-x hands more often than others! But we do sometimes overcall on 4 card suits without a canape suit.

Appeals Committee's Decision:

Panel is unanimous that the failure to alert has not significantly influenced East's lead. The Director's decision to stand.

N/S to be severely censored for failing to alert. The Panel voted 3-2 not to fine N/S.

N/S to alert:

1. Overcalls
2. Responses to overcalls
3. Raise of responses to overcalls.



BIDDING PROBLEM

Australian Open Pairs Finals
Session 1

Your LHO opens 4♥ Vul against not which his passed around to you. What action, if any do you take on:

- ♠ K Q 10 3
- ♥ 8 7
- ♦ 10
- ♣ A Q 10 8 6 2

Answer and story Page 10

GETTING TIRED IN THE NWT FINAL...

Board 22; Session 2;
Dealer East; E/W Vul

- ♠ Q 10 9 2
- ♥ A J 2
- ♦ 10
- ♣ Q 9 8 3 2

- ♠ K 5
- ♥ Q 6 4
- ♦ K Q 5 4 3
- ♣ A 10 5

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

- ♠ A J 8 7
- ♥ 10 7 5
- ♦ 8 7 6
- ♣ J 7 4

One of NOT NEWS's Roving Reporters spotted some missed opportunities on this board.

After two passes, West declared 3NT after opening 1NT going through an enquiry and answer sequence.

North led the club 3 and the defence was allowed to win this trick with the J. A spade switch from South now would beat the contract, but South continued clubs. Declarer won in dummy and should now play a heart to the Q, hope that clubs are continued, then later play a spade to the king (the ♠A must be onside to make the contract). But declarer erred and played the spade up at Trick 3. Now South could fly up with the ♠A and play another club and the contract would have to go down 1. In the event South ducked and declarer switched to hearts - another opportunity for the defence (fly ♥A, cash 3 spades) but North ducked and that was +600.



TABLE TALLY

as of Midnight 16/1/00

2521

BURGESS VS BURGESS!

In the Australian Open Pairs qualifying Session 1 (also played in the Mixed Pairs) Neil Ewart exercised the opportunity to use Burgess vs Burgess.

N/S Vul Dealer East

♠ 9 8 6 4
♥ A Q 10 9 7 3 2
♦ -
♣ K 3

♠ A K 5
♥ K 4
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ A 6 2

♠ J 3 2
♥ 8 6 5
♦ A J 2
♣ 9 8 7 4

♠ Q 10 7
♥ J
♦ K Q 10 9 8
♣ Q J 10 5

Stephen Burgess opened 1NT (12-14) as West after two passes. Neil Ewart bid a crisp 4♥.

(...“Always” bid game on 7-4s is an approach espoused by Stephen Burgess).

Bill Haughie led ♣9, Q, Ace on which Ewart unblocked the king. A and K spades were cashed and diamond exit. Ruff, over to ♣J, hook heart...+620.

Peter Jamieson

‘PLANNING AT TRICK ONE’

by Andrew Smith

Board 10 from Session 2 of the Swiss Pairs is one of those interesting hands

where the choice of line as declarer can vary significantly depending on the level of the contract.

All Vul Dealer East

♠ Q 8 2
♥ 9 5 4 3
♦ J 5 3
♣ 9 6 2

♠ 7
♥ A 7
♦ K Q 10 9 2
♣ K Q 8 4 3

♠ A K J 10 4 3 2
♥ Q 2
♦ 7 6
♣ A J

♠ 9 5
♥ K J 10 8 6
♦ A 8 4
♣ 10 7 5

At our table East opened 1♠ over which South overcalled 2♥ and we sadly stopped in 4♠. South leads ♥6. Even in Swiss Pairs, overtricks are important, so how might the play go in 4,5 or 6♠?

To make 6♠ requires the ♠Q to be picked up – most likely playing North for Qxx. Best is go up with ♥A, hook spade J, draw trumps, pitch your little heart on the third round of clubs. If clubs are 3-3 you will make 13 tricks, otherwise just 12.

Another line in 6♠ is to run the heart around to the queen which works. Now if you cross to dummy in hearts, finesse the spade, you will make 13 tricks.

In 5♠, you can afford to lose a trump trick, so win ♥A at T1, cash A & K spades then clubs losing a diamond and a spade.

In 4♠, you might choose to assume

South has Qxx of spades, in which case the people in 6♠ will probably go off. Much food for thought on this hand!

2MX = RISKY BUSINESS

Australian National Swiss Pairs Session 5

N - S Vul; Dealer North

♠ 9
♥ K J 10 9 5 4
♦ 10 8 7 6
♣ 7 5

♠ Q J 5
♥ 7 6 3 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ 10 8 2

♠ A K 10 4
♥ A 8
♦ K 5 4
♣ J 9 4 3

♠ 8 7 6 3 2
♥ Q
♦ A 3 2
♣ A K Q 6

Sathi Moses from Perth passed as dealer. East opened 1♣, South 1♠, back to East who bid 1NT.

This was passed around to Sathi who bid 2♥, knowing her partner (Pauline Hammond) had to have some reasonable values for her Vulnerable overcall.

This was passed around to West who doubled knowing partner had an above average type hand. East chose to pass and Sathi had an easy 9 tricks for +870.

My own view on doubling the opponents for penalties in 2M (2 of a major) is don't. These contracts make suprisingly often and at imps scoring it is very expensive.

Peter Jamieson

Summer Festival 2001 Calendar of Events

Monday 29 NOT Final		Wednesday 17 NWT Seniors 0-149 Bridge Buffs	Thursday 18 NWT Seniors 0-149 Bridge Buffs	Friday 19 NWT Seniors 0-149 Bridge Buffs	Saturday 20 AOP Mixed Pairs	Sunday 21 AOP Swiss Pairs
Monday 22 SWPT	Tuesday 23 SWPT	Wednesday 24 SWPT	Thursday 25 SWPT	Friday 26 SWPT Vu Graph	Saturday 27 NOT Mixed Teams	Sunday 28 NOT Mixed Teams

ANSWER TO BIDDING PROBLEM

Australian Open Pairs Finals

Dealer North N/S Vul

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

Dealer South E/W Vul

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

I had popped into the Hyatt Hotel yesterday afternoon, to check out the scene and watch a few hands. Ashley Bach and Kieran Dyke, fresh from their victory in the Men's Pairs looked to be good value. On this board Ashley Bach held the West cards and after some thought elected to bid 4♠! This was passed around to South who doubled. A veil will be drawn over the defence which was less than accurate and Bach-Dyke were able to write down +590.

Sir Humphrey Appleby would probably describe the 4♠ bid as courageous" but I quite like the bid.

If you double and partner bids 5♦ you will be in a real pickle. And if partner leaves the double in it could very well make. If you double and partner bids 4♠, once the defence sees the dummy, the defenders are likely to figure out what to do whereas if you play the hand, they don't know about your hidden side suit. Ah...the excitement of matchpoint pairs!

For the record here are all the scores on this board in the final.

3NT S -2
4♥ N +4 (twice)
4♥ X N -3
4♠ E -2 (twice)
4♠ X W -2
4♠ X E (Bach-Dyke)
5♣ X E -4
5♠ X E -3

Two boards later, Bach - Dyke gave all those match points back to their opponents.

Ashley Bach (West) opened 1♦ Acol and Dyke bid 1♥. South interposed 2♣ and Bach doubled (support double showing 3 hearts). Dyke bid 2♥ and over Bach's 3♣ had a typical match point pairs decision. If south has AKxxx of clubs, 4♥ could run into A & K clubs cashed, then club ruff and maybe still a trick to lose. On the other hand, 3NT has appeal. On a low club lead you may have 9 or 10 tricks. Kieran Dyke chose to bid 3NT and after some reflection Ashley Bach passed. The defence took the first 5 tricks on a low club lead...bottom board. Six E/W pairs played in 4♥ making 10 tricks. Two pairs played 3NT making 10 tricks (presumably a strong NT opening, transfer to hearts, choice of games and West with 4-3-3-3 shape took a successful punt. One solitary pair languished in 3♥ for a second bottom.

Peter Jamieson

"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**.

DON'T FORGET

If you wish to make
a
KERI KLINGER
donation give your
envelope to the
friendly official at
your ABF desk.

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.

Australian Bridge Teachers Association

Two Seminars

Tuesday
18/1/00 9.30 am
George Jesner on defence

Wednesday
19/1/00 9.30 am
Paul Marston on defence to multi twos

Both in the Menzies Theatre at the National Convention Centre

Also, there will be a meeting at Bobby McGees Restaurant (Ground Floor Rydges Hotel) at 6pm on Tuesday to discuss teacher accreditation.

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 has 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.



COLUMN 8 (NOT)

Don't laugh this could be your job.

Reprinted from the Australian Financial Review 1999

What's it like working in the late 1990s? Well, amid the downsizing, rightsizing, outsourcing and the daily costs of "owning your own career", you need a sense of humour. And when the talk turns to "continuous improvement", you've gotta laugh.

The following wry observations, courtesy of a friend at the UK journal, *Management Today*, tell it as well or better than much "serious" commentary.

You knew you worked in the late 1990s if:

- You've sat in the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
- Your company welcome sign is attached with velcro.
- Your CV is on a diskette in your pocket.
- Contractors outnumber permanent staff and are more likely to get long-service leave
- You get really excited about a 1.7 per cent pay rise
- You learn about your redundancy on the late night news.
- Your supervisor doesn't have the ability to do your job.
- Board members' salaries are higher than the annual budgets of most Third World countries.
- It's dark when you drive to and from work, even in the summer.
- Interviewees, despite not having the relevant knowledge or experience, terminate the interview when told of the starting salary.
- You see a good looking, smart person and you know it must be a visitor.
- Free food leftover from meetings is your staple diet.
- The work experience person gets a brand-new state-of-the-art laptop with all the features, while you have time to go for lunch while yours powers up.
- Being sick is defined as you can't walk or you're in hospital.
- You're already late on the assignment you just got.
- There's no money in the budget for the five permanent staff your department is short of, but the organisation can afford four full-time management consultants advising your boss's boss on strategy.
- Your boss's favourite lines are: "When you've got a few minutes"; "Could you fit this in your spare time/when you're freed up"; "I know you're busy, but"; "I have an opportunity for you".
- Holidays are something you roll over to next year or a cheque you get in January.
- Every week another brown collection envelope comes round because someone you didn't know had started is leaving.
- You wonder who's going to be left to put into your "leaving" collection.
- Your relatives and family describe your job as "works with computers".
- The only reason you recognise your kids is because their pictures are on your desk.
- You only have makeup for fluorescent lighting.
- You read this entire list and keep nodding in recognition.

Enough of the frivolity, now, get back to work!

P.S. Aren't you glad you are here playing bridge. (This article titled "Work Relations" by Steven Long appeared in the Australian Financial Review last year).

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