



NOT NEWS

2001

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TALES OF BAL - PART 1

by Bronek Burza

I always enjoy playing in the NOT. Good organization, superb venue, interesting hands and friendly atmosphere makes this tournament such an experience! For me and my team mates, it often has an additional 'incentive' to participate. It gives us the opportunity to kibitz top international bridge champions who often play in the NOT, especially when they come from our old country – Poland. Then, we can 'hang around', bombard them with countless bridge problems and questions and then use them as 'the highest authority' in any bridge dispute with our own partners.

But the most interesting time occurs every evening after the last match when we get together for a glass of wine. Then we can hear some of the bridge gossip from the world bridge scene and listen to their bridge stories that are often funny and educational. This year once again, one of the top world bridge partnerships (Balicki and Zmudzinski) is playing in the NOT. The following is one such story.

One evening when we kept arguing among ourselves about the merits of claiming (after we lost 10 imps because of a silly claim by one of our team mates), Bal (bridge nickname of Cezary Balicki) interrupted:

"Well, you can claim but you have to explain how you going to play".

Then he said, "Imagine you are playing in the final of Spingold in USA on Bridgerama. You are sitting South holding ♠ xx ♥ AQT87xx ♦ Ax ♣ xx. You are vulnerable against not and three passes come to you. You decide to open 3♥ and your partner raises you to 4♥.

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NOT RESULTS

Round of Sixteen

Team Name	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	Total
LAVAZZA	43	51	40	42	176
PRENT	17	0	0	25	42
BRAITHWAITE	44	10	25	2	81
NOBLE	8	17	10	16	51
THOMPSON	33	4	9	20	66
BEAUCHAMP	9	20	34	17	80
CARTER	12	5	--	--	17
MARSTON	25	51	--	--	76
WILSMORE	28	21	7	23	79
ROTHFIELD	16	29	15	6	66
HINGE	10	50	18	22	100
SMITH	10	1	19	2	32
ZIGGY	12	14	13	22	61
REINER	7	30	7	16	60
NUNN	29	1	25	0	55
BURGAY	28	41	13	42	124

Quarter-Finals

Team Name	1-12	13-24	25-36	37-48	Total
LAVAZZA	45	34	43	48	170
BRAITHWAITE	7	11	37	26	81
BEAUCHAMP	8	31	6	43	88
MARSTON	19	18	39	34	110
WILSMORE	21	18	40	44	123
HINGE	35	16	42	36	129
ZIGGY	33	6	32	20	91
BURGAY	22	66	24	56	168

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The lead is DJ and your partner puts on the table: ♠ KJxx ♥ KJ9 ♦ xx ♣ KJxx. As soon as RHO played ♦Q, I was able to claim”.

“Why?”, he asks us. We kept guessing for a while investigating the different possibilities of end-playing the opponents but we always found ourselves in the position where we had to guess the position of ace and queen in each black suit.

“It’s simple”, he said. “The commentators on Bridgerama didn’t know either why I successfully claimed and between the sets I was invited to Bridgerama to explain how I knew the position of the honour cards in the black suits”, he continued.

“When I claimed I said that I will draw trumps and then play for both Aces in the black suits to be on side. The opponents just put their cards into the box and I wrote +620 on my score sheet” he said.

“But how did you know this?”, we yelled.

“Well, remember you are playing against very strong players and RHO has shown King, Queen of diamonds and most likely some length in this suit. Can you imagine that if he had any of the aces he wouldn’t open the bidding in third position at favourable vulnerability? Not likely”, he explained.

Amazing how ‘little’ information real experts need to ‘guess’ those finesses !!!

♠♥♠♥♠♥♠♥♠♥♠♥♠♥

GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2001

For those intending to play at the Gold Coast this year, Tony Jackman, the Convener, has advised us that you will need to get your entries in as early as possible. This year there are possible size constraints on the event and so they may not be able to accept late entries.

WHEN A GADGET SHORT CIRCUITS

by Eva Hardy

Mixed Teams, Round 3, Board 3
Dealer S, Vul EW

♠ AJ9732	♠ Q864
♥ 3	♥ T752
♦ K	♦ 875
♣ AKJ83	♣ 76
♠ 5	♠ KT
♥ Q4	♥ AKJ986
♦ AJT43	♦ Q962
♣ QT942	♣ 5

As we all know any electrical appliance which is faultily wired can cause a short circuit and explode!

The bidding at our table went:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2NT!	X	3♦	X
All pass			

(1) for Minors

Lead: ♥A

South cashed ♥AK and at trick three played ♥6 indicating a club switch. This trick was ruffed by North with ♦K, declarer throwing the singleton ♠5 from the table. The ♣A, ♣K were cashed by North, a third club was ruffed by declarer with the ♦7 and over-ruffed by South with the ♦9. The ♠K was led and ruffed low on the table and the ♠T led. North covered with the ♣J, declarer ruffing with the ♦8 and South over-ruffing with the ♦Q. The final result after the smoke cleared was that the contract had failed by four tricks and so E/W were –1100 for 12 IMPs, when 3NT made ten tricks at the other table.

Postscript: The diamonds were really hostile to the Allgood’s Team mates!

Editor’s comment: *Eva provides a moral to this story, which is to beware of bidding 2NT at adverse vulnerability with weak suits. Fair comment but E/W were somewhat unlucky to encounter such a hostile distribution and there would be good support for a 2NT overcall on West’s cards, regardless of the risk.*

BID BETTER, MUCH BETTER

By Clone Ringer
(Alias Richard Hills)

The cricket saying is “catches win matches”. One of the reasons that the Australian Cricket Team have been so dominant for so long is that they continually work on the basics, such as having regular catching practice sessions.

It was instructive to see the world champion Italian team play the New Zealand Youth Team on vu-graph. Due to their great experience, the Italians out-pointed the New Zealanders in declarer play and defence.

However, “bidding wins matches”. Many think that this means that adopting the right laundry list on conventions will lead to glory. The world champions, however, adopt a winning bidding philosophy. They use a system where it is easy to open light – putting pressure on the opponents – rather than balance later.

This world champion philosophy gained a big swing on the following hand:

NOT, Round of Sixteen, Board 13
Dealer N, Vul All

♠ J4	♠ T92
♥ KJ9	♥ AT872
♦ Q97	♦ 852
♣ AT873	♣ 92
♠ KQ63	♠ A875
♥ Q3	♥ 654
♦ J3	♦ AKT64
♣ KQJ42	♣ 6

At both tables the action commenced with two passes. In one room the New Zealand South also passed and then later balanced with 2♦, scoring +130. In the other room, The Italian South opened 1♦ and the New Zealand West could not be crimed for overcalling 2♣. This was passed back to the Italian South. Even though Italy had twice passed the North cards, South continued to bid better much better by doubling for take-out which North converted to penalties, and justly earned +800.

EXTRA UNDERTRICK?

By Richard Hills

I was kibitzing Tony Nunn in the third segment of the Round of Sixteen knockout matches. Board 9 was intriguing.

Round of Sixteen, Board 29
Dealer N, Vul EW

♠ T2	
♥ AQJ642	
♦ K4	
♣ AJ3	
♠ K94	♠ A3
♥ 985	♥ T73
♦ AT973	♦ J82
♣ 62	♣ K8754
	♠ QJ8765
	♥ K
	♦ Q65
	♣ QT9

West	North	East	South
Mariani	Robb	Burgay	Nunn
	1♥	P	1♠
P	3♥	P	3♠
P	4♠	All pass	

Kylie Robb opened 1♥, Tony responded 1♠ and Kylie jump rebid 3♥. Tony had a difficult choice of rebids now. With his hand I would have bid 4♥, but Tony reasonably selected 3♠ instead, raised to 4♠ by Kylie and all passed.

Mariani led a club, and Tony chose the percentage line of finessing. Burgay won the ♣K and returned ♦J. Mariani considered ducking this trick to dummy's King, which would have allowed Tony to throw his two remaining diamonds on Kylie's heart suit.

Eventually Mariani decided to grab his ♦A before the mice could get at it. 4♠ was now certain to fail, but the play still had to determine, "One lump or two?"

Mariani returned his remaining club won by dummy's Jack. Suspecting from the opponents' carding that West started with a doubleton club, Tony carefully cashed ♥AQ to discard his ♣Q. Tony then equally carefully led the ♠2 (not the Ten of trumps) from dummy.

Burgay rose with ♠A, and returned another club. Tony ruffed high, and Mariani carefully discarded his remaining heart, reaching this position:

♠ T	
♥ J642	
♦ K	
♣ —	
♠ K9	♠ 3
♥ —	♥ T
♦ T973	♦ 82
♣ —	♣ 87
	♠ J876
	♥ —
	♦ Q6
	♣ —

Tony failed at the last hurdle by impatiently leading another trump. Mariani won the King, returned a diamond, and the forced heart lead from dummy completed the trump promotion. Tony had to cash the ♦K first to receive only one lump.

KIDDING FORUM

By Hilda Lirsch

On Board 5 of the Quarter-Finals, Leandro Burgay picked up:

♠ AQJT763
♥ 62
♦ T
♣ JT8

At favourable vulnerability, RHO, Bobby Richman, dealt and opened with a transfer 1♠ (9-14, diamonds or both minors). Burgay doubled to show an overcall in spades. Now LHO, Stephen Burgess, leapt to 5♦. Partner (Mariani) tried 5♠, which was passed back to Burgay on your left, who now advanced to 6♦. Stephen is at adverse vulnerability and so must have some hope of making the slam. Should Burgay take what is sure to be cheap insurance by saving in 6♠?

While considering that question, have a look at another high-level decision that Colin Baker faced playing at table one of the Mixed Teams in Match 3:

With all vulnerable, Colin Baker picked up as dealer:

♠ A32
♥ JT
♦ A7
♣ JT9832

Colin elected to pass. LHO, Stephen Mendick, opened 1♠. Now partner, Karen Cumpstone bid a Michaels Cuebid 2♠. RHO, Hashmat Ali, raised

to 3♠. This was passed back to Karen, who emerged with 4♦. What should Colin do now?

Pass, 4♥ and 5♦ are all reasonable choices. Eventually Colin chose 5♦. The complete hand:

Mixed Teams, Match 3, Board 4
Dealer W, Vul ALL

♠ K9765	
♥ 932	
♦ KQ	
♣ AQ7	
♠ A32	♠ J
♥ JT	♥ AQ8764
♦ A7	♦ J98652
♣ JT9832	♣ —
	♠ QT84
	♥ K5
	♦ T43
	♣ K654

5♦ was a lucky make, with the friendly defensive trumps, but the single dummy par contract is 4♥.

Back to Burgay's decision. -500 instead of -1370 gains 13 IMPs. However, Burgay also knew that a phantom save (-500 instead of +100) loses 12 IMPs. Given that Burgess had been pushed into slam, Burgay judged that the chance of the slam failing was sufficiently high to make the save false insurance. Burgay's logic was duly rewarded with +100, when the complete hand was:

NOT, Quarter Final, Board 5
Dealer N, Vul NS

♠ 42	
♥ 53	
♦ AKJ96	
♣ K963	
♠ K985	♠ AQJT763
♥ KQJT74	♥ 62
♦ 7	♦ T
♣ Q4	♣ JT8
	♠ —
	♥ A98
	♦ Q85432
	♣ A752

TABLE TALLY

as of Midnight 27/1/01

6759

THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN

by Tim Bourke

If ever Bridge had to supply someone to central casting for the role of a distinguished gentleman there would be unanimity of opinion that New Zealand's John Wignall would be a perfect match for the character. He has been an urbane administrator extraordinaire for so long, filling many senior roles for the NZCBA and acting as the Zone 7 representative to the World Bridge Federation since 1986 as well as currently being its senior vice-president. It almost overshadows his wonderfully successful playing career (he has been New Zealand champion and representative so many times that even the Bridge Encyclopedia cannot list them all).

In Round 12, he demonstrated that none of his formidable technical skills as a player had been blunted by his heavy business and bridge-organisational commitments:

Board 11 (Rotated for convenience)
Dealer West, Nil Vulnerable

♠ J94	♠ AKQ652
♥ 854	♥ 763
♦ K965	♦ 4
♣ Q82	♣ T75
♠ T8	♠ 73
♥ 2	♥ AKQJT9
♦ QJT873	♦ A2
♣ AJ43	♣ K96

West	North	East	South
	Scott		Wignall
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
All pass			

West led the ♦Q and John could only count nine tricks - six hearts, two diamonds and a club. The tenth would have to come from either finding a defender with a doubleton ♠A or a minor-suit squeeze against West.

John won in hand with the Ace, drew three rounds of trumps and, to gain more information about the distribution of the hand, led a spade from hand. East took dummy's ♠9 with the Queen and cashed ♠A before advancing ♠K.

John ruffed with nine of trumps and,

National Mixed Teams

Top Ten

after 6 Rounds

1st	MOIR (Moir, Haffer, Robb, Croft, Reynolds)	130
2nd	PETTITT (Pettitt, Pettitt, Hutton, Hutton)	113
3rd	FOSTER (Foster, Hans, Moir, Woodhead, Griffin)	112
3rd	MARKS (Marks, Green, Rutkowski, Anderson)	112
5th	APPLETON (Appleton, Coles, Atkinson, Carter, Neumann, Scott)	111
6th	BOURKE (Bourke, Delivera, Ramshaw, Baker, Cumpstone, Oshlag)	110
6th	KNIGHT (Knight, Woodfield, Freeman-Greene, Dravitzki)	110
8th	MORRIS (Morris, Bradshaw, Bedford-Brown, Williams)	108
9th	FINIKIOTIS (Finikiotis, Chan, Chan, Coleman)	107
10th	PIETERSE (Pieterse, Duxbury, Rabey, Lawford)	106

from West's discard as well as his opening bid, correctly calculated West's distribution to be 2-1-6-4. Now the only hope was that West held the ♠A too.

These cards remained with South to play:

♠ —	♠ 652
♥ —	♥ —
♦ K96	♦ —
♣ Q82	♣ T75
♠ —	♠ 983
♥ —	♥ 732
♦ JT8	♦ 64
♣ AJ4	♣ J8652
♠ —	♠ AJ65
♥ JT	♥ KQT54
♦ 2	♦ 873
♣ K96	♣ 4

When John played the ♥J, West had no answer. If he discarded a diamond, dummy would throw a club. Then a diamond to the king and a diamond ruff would set up dummy's ♦9 with the ♣Q as an entry to enjoy it. If West threw a club instead, dummy would throw a diamond and John would establish a second club trick by playing West for a doubleton ♠A.

Needless to say John was quietly chuffed by making ten tricks. Trump development squeezes don't come up every day. His BEECH teammates were similarly satisfied as the declarer at the other table failed to find the winning line, all be it after a less-revealing original pass by West, for they gained a crucial 10 imp swing.

Finally, note that a club shift by North, instead of playing ♠K, would not be

good enough. John would have prevailed by assuming that the ♠J and ♠T were in different hands.

DAZZLED BY DIAMONDS OR BEWARE OF THIEVES!

by Guess Who?

Mixed Teams, Match 2, Board 22
Dealer E, Vul ALL

♠ 983	♠ K42
♥ 732	♥ J9
♦ 64	♦ AKJ52
♣ J8652	♣ AK7
♠ AJ65	
♥ KQT54	
♦ 873	
♣ 4	

West	North	East	South
		1♦ ¹	1♥ ²
P ³	2♥	3♦ ⁴	All pass

- (1) I don't like opening 2NT with less than 20 HCP.
- (2) Obviously!
- (3) Just as obviously!
- (4) Let them play in 2♥? Never!!

After losing two hearts and three spades, I had to suffer the indignity of losing even the ♦Q and ♠Q!!

Editor: At least you weren't doubled Lilli!