



NOT NEWS

2005

Editor: Mark Horton

Production Team: Carly Sebestyen and Thomas Ellis

Yesterday everyone at the NOT paid homage to the victims of the Tsumani disaster with a minute's silence. At exactly 11.59, play was suspended until 12.00.



National Non-Life Masters Winners :

Ann Pettigrew, Adrienne Stephens, Ken Moschner, Peter Wells

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National 0 - 99ers Team Winners

Catherine Whiddon, Lynn Baker, Rodney Scotford, Sue Scotford, Young White, Penny Cockbill



National 0-149ers Team Winners

Vince Cariola, Lammie Barrett, Rosa Pang, Bruce Fox

TIMETABLE

Sat 15th - Sun 16th January

National Womens Teams final

Sat14-Sun 15 January
at Rydges Lakeside Canberra
Stage Two Session Times:
10:00, 12.00, 3:00, 5:00, 8.30
(Final starts Sunday 10:00)

National Seniors Teams final

Sat14-Sun 15 January
at Rydges Lakeside Canberra
Stage Two Session Times:
10:00, 12.00, 3:00, 5:00, 8.30
(Final starts Sunday 10:00)

Walk in Pairs

Sat 15th-Sun 16th January
at Rydges Lakeside Canberra
Session times:
Sat 11:00, 3:00, 7:30
Sun 1:30, 7:30

Australian Multi Pairs

Sat 15 January
at the National Convention Centre
Session times:
Sat 11.00, 3.00, 7.30

National Swiss Pairs

Sun 16th January
at the National Convention Centre
Session times:
Sun 11.00, 2.00, 7.30

Tim Bourke's Daily Quiz # 3

TAKING ADVANTAGE

Dealer South. EWVul.

NORTH

[J 7 4
] 8 5 2
{ A J 8 6 3
} 9 3

SOUTH

[A K Q 9 8 6 2
] A Q 3
{ 5
} A K

West North East South

Pass 2 { Pass 2 }
Pass 3 [Pass 4 NT
Pass 5 { Pass 5 NT
Pass 6 [All pass

West leads the } Q and you see you have eleven winners. Obviously if East has the] K, you have twelve tricks. Can you improve your chances of making the contract?

Standings: After Round 9 (Qualifiers In Bold)

TEAM	NAME	VPS
NATIONAL WOMENS TEAM		
1	BOURKE WOODS LUSK TULLY CORMACK NEUMANN	183
2	HAVAS STERN CLARK FEITELSON FULLER EVANS	182
12	HEWITT PERLEY BROWN FREEMAN-GREENE	162
10	HERRIES HENRY RUSSELL SIMPSON	162
14	TUCKER MILLAR BROAD MARTIN	161
5	WATTS FOLKARD HAY LOWRY	160
7	DEL PICCOLO SMITH GREENFELD DRISCOLL BOOTH SHIELS	157
6	NEALE RENTON KING WRIGHT	154
28	STACEY ANDERSON SCHOUTROP LUCK	149
17	ASHTON KAPLAN MCCARTNEY HADAWAY	148
8	MURRAY-WHITE SNASHALL, LACHMAN MILL	148
NATIONAL SENIORS TEAMS		
4	SCOTT SNASHALL LAVINGS KROCHMALIK	178
3	NOBLE BILSKI MALACZYNSKI HUGHES BROWN CHAN	173
2	WYTER HUGHES WALSH MCDONALD GUMBY CUMINGS V	169
16	CHRAPOT TENCER M TENCER B GASPAR GOLDBERG	169
6	NEWMAN BUCHEN CHRISTIE KALMIN MARKOVICS URBACH	168
1	NEILL KLINGER NAGY MIDDLETON LILLEY SMOLANKO	166
7	SUNDSTROM DOUGLAS PERRY SCHMIDT SMYTH VAUGHAN	166
8	DUDLEY POWELL JAMIESON JAMIESON ALI BROCKWELL	162
5	CHADWICK BLOOM ZINES MOSS	159
28	MASON ELSON SZABO MCGEARY	156
NATIONAL NON-LIFE TEAMS		
102	PETTIGREW STEPHENS MOSCHNER WELLS	154
135	PLUSH JOWETT KIDD SMITH T	146
110	CHIANG Y CHIANG K YOUNG M YOUNG R	145
121	ERSKINE MARSHALL ZUBER DEEVES	142
107	FERGUSON BOXALL MCALARY WIECZOREK	141
101	WOOLLEY C WOOLLEY C PEACH SLACK-SMITH	138
111	MIDGLEY WEDDELL TULPULE ALDONS	137
116	GOOLEY O'SULLIVAN BARKER BARLOW	132
113	STRACHAN PARKIN DAY STEWART	113
104	CARTER CARTER KELLY MURRAY	104
NATIONAL NOVICE TEAMS		
73	CARIOLA BARRETT PANG FOX	163
77	WHIDDON BAKER SCOTFORD SCOTFORD WHITE COCKBILL	148
80	ALLEN STEPHENSON GRIBBLE MILLAR	142
74	JACKSON KERSHAW COLLINS BUNWORTH	140
79	HIGGINS GREEN YATES SPECHLEY	129
78	PARKER DE VILLIERS PORTER PORTER	120
83	SOH DUNCAN LEE DYNAN	119
76	REYNOLDS GREAVES SMITH SIOW	115
84	BEDNARZ WILLIAMS HEIMER MACQUARRIE	114
86	BREDEN LOCKE GILDER NILSSON WOOD RENTON	113

Graded winners results will appear in tomorrows edition

]}{][[]{}{][[]}

]}{][[]{}{][[]}

]}{][[]{}{][[]}

Never a Dull Moment

I am often asked what I do if the boards I choose to watch are dull. I can't answer with certainty as it has never happened. In Round 7 I was camped at table two for the encounter between Havas and Bird.

Board 16
Dealer W, Vul EW

[9874] AQ653 { AQ98 } -	[K3] 4 { KJT65 } A9762	[J2] KT98 { 7432 } KQ4	[AQT65] J72 { - } JT853
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

West	North	East	South
McKinnon	Clarke	Tobin	Stern
Pass	1]	Pass	1[
Pass	3[	Pass	4[
All Pass			

West led the king of clubs and declarer ruffed and played a spade to the queen. When that passed off peacefully she played a heart to the queen and a second spade. A heart to the ace gave the bad news in that suit, but the contract was already secure. West won the next heart and exited with the queen of clubs and declarer ruffed and could claim eleven tricks by giving East a club trick. +450

West	North	East	South
Havas	Bird	Feitelson	Creet
Pass	1]	Pass	1[
Pass	3} *	Pass	4[
All Pass			

North's splinter raise saw West lead a slightly more challenging diamond. Declarer played the nine and ruffed in hand, played a heart to the queen, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. She now played a heart to the ace, but East ruffed and continued with the king of spades leaving declarer with no

route to ten tricks. -50 and a loss of 11 IMPs.

This is quite a tricky hand on any lead, but after the queen of hearts has held declarer might play the ace, intending to continue with a cross ruff. East ruffs and plays a trump (even if West has the spade king declarer can take the ace and cross ruff) but declarer has ten tricks, the losing heart going on the ace of diamonds.

Board 17.
Dealer N, Vul Nil

[J8532] Q842 { 5 } 962	[K9] KT763 { T982 } KQ	[QT64] 9 { AJ64 } T743	[A7] AJ5 { KQ73 } AJ85
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

West	North	East	South
McKinnon	Clark	Tobin	Stern
Dble*	3]	1{	1]
		3NT	All Pass

East preferred to try for game rather than look for a penalty (+300 would be the most likely outcome). South led the six of hearts and declarer took North's queen with the ace. She crossed to the jack of diamonds, unblocking the seven, and played a club to the jack and queen. At this point I think South should be able to foresee what will happen if she fails to clear the hearts, but even so declarer, aided by the bidding, might still take the winning view in clubs.

When South exited with a diamond declarer won in hand, played a diamond to the ace and ran the ten of clubs. South exited with a diamond and declarer won and cashed her winners before exiting with the jack of hearts. She guessed spades correctly for +400.

Once North discards on the second diamond you don't have the entries to pick up 4-1 clubs, so an alternative

is to take all the diamond winners ending in dummy before playing the second club. Then South will have to play a major and on a spade switch you can try dummy's ten, as the contract is secure as long as South has the king of spades

West	North	East	South
Havas	Bird	Feitelson	Creet
	Pass	1}	Pass
1[	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

As you can see the opening bid on this type of hand is a matter of style. Michael Rosenberg is one of many world class players who believe that you should be free to open either minor in this situation.

Once again a heart was led to the queen and ace, but remember this time declarer did not have the advantage of any opposition bidding. She played the same seven of diamonds, this time to the ace and ran the ten of clubs. South won and with no real idea of the heart position exited with a diamond. Declarer won with dummy's jack and played a club to the eight. South won and tried the nine of spades, covered by the ten, jack and ace. Now declarer cashed her winners before exiting with a spade, making the game going trick at the end with the jack of hearts. No swing.

Board 18
Dealer E, Vul NS

[A653] KJT873 { 2 } Q2	[QJ982] 94 { AJ } KJ86	[74] AQ5 { QT54 } A754	[KT] 62 { K98763 } T93
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

West	North	East	South
McKinnon	Clarke	Tobin	Stern
2] *	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2[	Pass

I may have misread the bidding bad, but I don't think North doubled Two Hearts. Mind you, that would not have troubled declarer on this layout, as 3NT is easy, even on a heart lead. South led a diamond and when the jack held declarer crossed to the ace of clubs and played a spade. South took the king and played another diamond. Declarer won perforce with dummy's ace, took the heart finesse and played a second spade. The appearance of the ten gave her nine tricks and when the queen of clubs obliged a few moments later she was up to eleven, +460.

West	North	East	South
Havas Bird	Feitelson	Creet	
1[3]	1{ Pass	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Three Hearts was described as weakish, but not ridiculous at the prevailing vulnerability.

For my money, if you feel you must bid then Two Hearts is plenty.

Now East/West had an excellent alternative to game and they were not slow to take it, East passing the reopening double.

Declarer won the opening spade lead in hand and tried a diamond to the king and ace. West switched to a trump and the defenders were not hard pressed to score two spades, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs for +800 and 8 IMPs.

Board 19
Dealer S, Vul EW

	[AKQ54	
	] 53	
	{ J7	
	} 9854	
[32		[J986
] AKJ		] Q972
{ A94		{ K82
} AQT72		} 63
	[T7	
	] T864	
	{ QT653	
	} KJ	

West	North	East	South
McKinnon	Clarke	Tobin	Stern
			Pass
1}	1[	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ten of spades and North played the four, declarer winning with the jack. Realising that (a) there was no rush to play clubs, and (b) that a losing club finesse would see North cash four spades, declarer unblocked dummy's hearts, North discarding a subsequently revealing seven of diamonds on the third round. The king of diamonds collected North's jack, and when she discarded a club on the next round of the suit declarer could see her way home. She took the ace of diamonds, cashed the queen of hearts and exited with the eight of spades. In due course the enforced club return meant a well merited +600. Even better if North had held the king of clubs! North's best chance to deflect declarer would be to discard clubs on the red suit winners hoping declarer might try to drop a singleton king.

West	North	East	South
Havas Bird	Feitelson	Creet	
1}	1[	Dble*	Pass
2[*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The play to trick one was identical, but East simply played a club at trick two, covering the jack with the queen. Ten tricks were now possible, but East did not take care of her entries and had to settle for nine, and a slightly fortuitous push.

Neither team made much of a fist of the next deal:

Important Bulletin

Team 89 rockets to 16th place!!!

Gassman, O'Toole, Strickland, Genocchio.

Board 20
Dealer W, Vul ALL

	[-	
	] QJ76	
	{ KJ965	
	} 9653	
[J7		[T6542
] T32		] AK85
{ T873		{ Q
} 8742		} KQT
	[AKQ983	
	] 94	
	{ A42	
	} AJ	

West	North	East	South
McKinnon	Clarke	Tobin	Stern
Pass	Pass	1[	All Pass

One has to sympathize with South on this deal, and she is still waiting for North's reopening double which should have been automatic.

The defenders dropped a trick in the play, so the contract was only two down, +200.

West	North	East	South
Havas Bird	Feitelson	Creet	
Pass	Pass	1[	1NT
All Pass			

North was also found wanting at this table, as facing a strong no trump overcall (albeit an unusual one) it is routine to try for game, which would roll home. Declarer made eight tricks, winning the spade lead and playing a diamond to the nine and queen, +120 but 2 more IMPs for Havas.

Board 1
Dealer N, Vul Nil

	[7	
	] 543	
	{ KJT832	
	} KQ5	
[T9		[QJ532
] K8		] QT962
{ Q97		{ A4
} AJT943		} 8
	[AK864	
	] AJ7	
	{ 65	
	} 762	

West	North	East	South
McKinnon	Clarke	Tobin	Stern
	3{	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4{*	Pass
5}	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

I have no idea what West was thinking of when she doubled Three Diamonds, and it led to a very inelegant result. With best defence even One Club is too high! (North leads a spade and South wins and switches to a diamond. If declarer wins and plays back the suit North wins, plays a heart to South's ace and a club switch gives the defenders seven tricks.) The defence was not that ferocious, South playing three rounds of spades, North ruffing as declarer discarded the nine of diamonds and switching to the king of diamonds, but even so the penalty was +800.

West	North	East	South
Havas	Bird	Feitelson	Creet
	1NT	2]*	All Pass

That 1NT was a mini, and doubtless an attempt to try a diversion on what was the first board of the match at her table. East showed the majors, and although she had to go one down it was another 12 IMPs for Havas.

Yet again I had witnessed a group of boards where one team gave away not a single IMP and Havas went on to run away with the match 91-13.

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Walk-In Pairs Tsunami Relief Appeal

The South Canberra Bridge Club is having a special Tsunami Fund-Raising Walk-In Pairs at the special time of **7:45pm** on Wednesday 19th January at the Southern Cross Club, 92-96 Corinna Street, Phillip (Woden Town Centre). Hand records will be provided.

Note: This walk-in corresponds with the "rest evening" in the new NOT schedule.

More information about the South Canberra Bridge Club is available on its website:

<http://www.southcanberrabc.org/>

This Christmas puzzle appeared in the Master Class section of the website (solution on another page):

Dummy
[5432
] JT98
{ KQJT9
} void

Declarer
[AKQJT98
] A32
{ 876
} void

You are declarer in 6[. The opening lead is the ace of clubs.

What is the best line of play?

Esquo ne credite, Teucri.
Quidquid id est,
Timeo Danaos et dona ferentis.

Virgil (70-19 B.C.)

'Do not trust the horse, Trojans.
Whatever it is,
I fear the Greeks even when they
bring gifts.'

Because the club ruff-and-sluff comes too early, the best trick one line is to ruff the ace of clubs in **both** hands, thus preserving maximum possibilities.

You draw trumps in one or two rounds. Then you play on diamonds. If an opponent has {Axx or longer, and holds up for the first two rounds of diamonds, you now run the jack of hearts. The contract still makes if:

- (a) RHO holds both heart honours without the ace of diamonds, or
- (b) RHO holds a singleton or doubleton heart honour with the ace of diamonds, as the fourth round of hearts will give a discard for declarer's third diamond.

The contract might make if:

- (c) LHO holds a singleton heart honour without the ace of diamonds, or
- (d) LHO holds doubleton]KQ without the ace of diamonds.

In case (c) LHO is compelled to give another ruff-and-sluff; this time South's diamond loser disappears as North ruffs and gains an entry for another heart finesse.

In case (d) LHO's best defence is to give a ruff-and-sluff, hoping that South plays on the restricted choice assumption of case (c).

Neither declarer nor dummy can afford to discard a red card at trick one without diminishing these chances. The theme of the problem is similar to the Robert Coup (deal 52 in the book "Right Through The Pack").

I discovered the deal in a 1974 Bridge World magazine. A letter from Scottish player, Nigel Guthrie, credited it to Scottish expert, John McLaren, although it is possible that McLaren in turn was given the problem by another source.

] [] { } [] [] { } [] [] { }

Oz Chronicles

One thing I had forgotten from my last trip to Australia was how difficult it is to read a written bid upside down – especially if the players use unsharpened pencils or tiny writing! Perhaps if I leave it another ten year before my next visit the bidding box will finally have taken over!

There are rumblings about the playing times, and rumours of a petition. Australia is not the only place to favour play until late in the evening (the USA and the UK are prime examples) but in North America a recent survey showed a significant majority in favour of ensuring that play is over by 20.00. That has been the norm in mainland Europe for some time, and entries at the major events are booming. As Bulletin Editor, in the finest Monty Python tradition I would prefer play to finish half an hour before it begins – if you see what I mean.

Despite the enormous hint dropped in Bulletin Number 1, we are still waiting for a bottle of Grange to be delivered to the Bulletin office. Although not quite in the same league, Tim Adams ClaireValley Shiraz 2002 is a decent bottle we are keen to try.

Be careful what you say on the shuttle bus. When discussing the boards from one session a player asked his partner what they might have done to improve their results. 'Stay at home,' was the enigmatic reply.

I have noticed there are an enormous number of waste paper baskets at the NCC. Perhaps in quiet moments the players should indulge in a game of Poubelle. Doubtless you are all familiar with

this classic game which involves you sitting on a chair around six feet from a basket and trying to throw cards into it one at a time. The classic match is between two players who each have a pack of 52 cards. Internet freaks can get an idea by going to:

www.big-boys.com/articles/throwpaper.html

Be warned, it can become addictive!

] [] { } [] [] { } [] [] { }

It Can Only Get Worse

Do you remember what I wrote in Tuesday's Bulletin? That players hope the first board of a match will give them the chance to settle down. No such luck when Board 1 of Round 3 of the Women's teams hit the table:

Dealer North. Love All

[A Q 9 4
] Q 10 9
{ K 8 6 4 3
} 10

West North East South

1[5} 5]
?

You can Pass or double as you wish, in either case it will then be your lead.

Having made your choice you may care to see the full deal:

Dealer North. Love All

[K 10 8 6 5
] 8
{ A Q J 10
} 9 8 4
[A Q 9 4 [J 7
] Q 10 9 [J 3
{ K 8 6 4 3 { -
} 10 } AKQJ76532
[3 2
] A K 7 6 5 4 2
{ 9 7 5 2
} -

Its hardly obvious to lead a diamond and if you lead a club (and of course the player who told me about the hand did) declarer will not be hard pressed to make eleven tricks. Needless to say at the other table East was allowed to make Five Clubs (best not to ask how.)

] [] { } [] [] { } [] [] { }

PERCENTAGE PLAY

by Tim Bourke

Unless there is a warning in the auction, I am a great believer in taking a straightforward approach to declarer play. Hand five from round six of the Seniors' and Womens' teams provided an example of one of the cases where the bidding suggested that there could be difficulties. Suppose the full deal had been:

Dealer North, NSVul

[K 7 3
] A J
{ A 9 8 4
} Q 9 7 6
[J 9 6 5 [-
] Q 9 4 [K 10 5 3 2
{ 10 7 6 { J 5 3 2
} J 8 5 } A K 4 3
[A Q 10 8 4 2
] 8 7 6
{ K Q
} 10 2

West North East South

1NT 2]* 4[
All pass

* five hearts and a side suit of at least four cards

West leads the] 4, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer cashes the ace of trumps next, discovering that West has a trump trick.

Despite this setback, this presents no problem for South as long as West has at least three diamonds!

Declarer cashes the {K-Q, crosses to dummy with the [K and a club loser discarded on the {A. No matter what happens now declarer makes his tenth trick either by ruffing a heart in dummy or by West squandering his trump trick.

That's all very well you may say but the full deal was:

```

      [ K 7 3
      ] A J
      { A 9 8 4
      } Q 9 7 6

[ -           ] J 9 6 5
] Q 9 4       ] K 10 5 3 2
{ 10 7 6 3 2 { J 5
} J 8 5 4 3   } A K
              [ A Q 10 8 4 2
              ] 8 7 6
              { K Q
              } 10 2
  
```

And how do I recover when it is West who discards on the ace of trumps? The answer is simple, once you realise you need to coup East's trumps. You begin by cashing the {K then overtaking the {Q with the ace to ruff a diamond. Next you give up a heart, allowing the defence to win and cash two clubs. These cards remain to be played:

```

      [ K 7
      ] -
      { 9
      } Q 9

[ -           ] J 9 6
] Q           ] 10 5
{ 10 7       { -
} J 8        } -

      [ Q 10 8 4
      ] 8
      { -
      } -
  
```

If East returns a trump, declarer wins this on table, ruffs a minor suit card back to hand then ruffs his last heart. Everyone is down to

twocards and the lead is in dummy. East has [J-9 left and South [Q-10, ensuring that declarer takes the last two tricks. cards and the lead is in dummy. East has [J-9 left and South [Q-10, ensuring that declarer takes the last two tricks.

On a heart exit, declarer ruffs with dummy's [7, ruffs a diamond in hand then crosses to dummy with the [K. Again everyone is down to two cards and as South has [Q-10 left he will make the last two tricks.

So what are the odds of success for cashing the [A at trick two compared to the simple line of winning the heart lead and playing for a heart ruff? Well, the recommended line succeeds in around 93% of cases compared to 88% for the simple approach and casinos would love to have such an advantage in all their games of chance.

So Near...and Yet So Far

Do you remember this deal from Round 4? It illustrates perfectly that concentration is paramount even when victory is within your grasp.

Board 16

Dealer W, Vul EW

```

      [ K 9
      ] 9 2
      { K Q J 6 4 3 2
      } J 6

[ Q T
] K 8 4 3
{ T 8
} A 8 5 3 2

      [ 7 6 5 3
      ] Q T 6 5
      { A 9
      } 9 7 4

      [ A J 8 4 2
      ] A J 7
      { 7 5
      } K Q T
  
```

I suggested that you can defeat 3NT in theory – a heart to the queen and when East gets in the ten of hearts – but not in practice, West's normal club lead giving declarer a route to eleven tricks, +460.

Well, Leonie Fuller and Sharon Evans of the Havas squad got very close to proving me wrong as West led a heart to the queen and ace. Declarer forced out the ace of diamonds and East was on the ball with the ten of hearts, pinning dummy's nine. West took the jack with the king, cashed the eight of hearts and played another heart followed by the ace of clubs.

Bravo, save for the small fact that it was East who had won the fourth round of hearts. Now declarer could bar a club lead and claim the rest.

'There's many a slip twixt cup and lip'
Anon

] [] {} [] [] {} [] [] {}

SOLUTION TO TIM BOURKE'S QUIZ #3

The only additional possibility for a twelfth trick is to set up a second trick in diamonds. If they are 4-3, generally you will need to three entries to ruff diamonds three times and a fourth to enjoy the long diamond. That's the case here:

[J 7 4	
] 8 5 2	
{ A J 8 6 3	
} 9 3	
[10	[5 3
] K J 9 6	] 10 7 4
{ K 10 7 4	{ Q 9 2
} Q J 10 6	} K 8 7 4 2
	[A K Q 9 8 6 2
	] A Q 3
	{ 5
	} A K

You begin cashing the {A and ruffing a diamond with the [Q, just in case the trumps are favourable. Now, how can you conjure three trump entries to the dummy? One possibility is to lead the [6 to dummy's [7. When West started with a doubleton ten in trumps, the [7 would give you your first entry. You could later lead the [9 to the [J and finally the [2 to the [4, achieving three entries in all.

There main difficulty with this is that when the finesse of the [7 fails you will lose an unnecessary trick in the trump suit, going down even when the]K is onside. Secondly, West might insert the [10 on the first round, which would kill one of the entries that you need.

A better idea is to lead the [9 to the [J on the first round of trumps. This allows benefits you when the [10 is singleton, without giving the defenders any extra chance in exchange. On the diagrammed deal, you win with dummy's [J and ruff another diamond high. You then lead the [6 to dummy's [7 and ruff another diamond high, setting up the suit. Finally you overtake your [2 with the [4 and enjoy a heart discard on the long diamond. You can even try for an overtrick by finessing the]Q (of course you will be more than happy when the finesse fails).

As the cards lay, your entry-creating play (leading the [9 on the first round of trumps) was necessary to make the slam. So, whenever three trump entries are available to dummy you can establish a diamond for a discard whenever the suit break 4-3.

If there are only two trump entries to the dummy, you can set up a discard (or two) on the diamonds only when a defender began with {K-Q doubleton or tripleton. Otherwise you must fall back on the heart finesse.

If trumps were 3-0 there would be only one trump entry to dummy and you would have to take the heart finesse immediately after the [J won.

Triskaidekaphopia

Do you consider yourself to be superstitious? I know some bridge players who are. For example, England's Nicola Smith once wore the same pair of tartan shorts for two weeks during a World Championship because she was convinced they were lucky. Nonsense of course, the team won because they played well. The result two years later, when Nicola forgot to pack the shorts should be disregarded.

Another England stalwart, Rita Oldroyd once made her partner chance her dress right before the start of a match. The dress was green – and England were about to play Ireland.

As I mentioned elsewhere, some players believe they cannot do well when the Editor is watching – if you doubt me just ask the world's finest, Germany's Sabine Auken.

Why do I mention this?

Well, by tradition (well, last year) we select a table to visit from time to time, irrespective of who is playing there. This year the Editor has decided to make that tale 13. So, if you fear the number 13 and suffer from Triskaidekaphopia, watch out!

By the way, I am not in any way superstitious – but don't try and borrow my pen!

HOW TO CONTACT THE STAFF OF THE 2005 NOT NEWS

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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/events/not/2005/info/index.htm>