



NOT News

Wednesday January 17th 2007

Welcome to the 2007 Summer Festival of Bridge.

Venues for this year's events are Rydges Lakeside Hotel and the Hellenic Club in Woden. Woden is about 9 minutes drive from Rydges Lakeside and is a spacious venue with many eating facilities within the club.

This year each table will have 2 side tables to relieve the clutter on the tables and bidding boxes will be available for use on all tables. There are articles in this bulletin regarding the use of bidding boxes.

I am sure that everyone will enjoy the improvements to the event and happy bridging to all.

Sean Mullamphy

Convener, 2007 Summer Festival of Bridge



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TIM BOURKE'S PROBLEM

1. COUNTDOWN

Dealer East. NS Vul.

NORTH

♠ 6 4 2

♥ K 8 7

♦ Q J 6

♣ 8 6 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A 7

♥ A J 10 9 5

♦ 4 2

♣ A K J 4

West	North	East	South
		1 NT ¹	Double
2 ♠ ²	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

1. 12 to 14

2. Natural, promises a 5-card suit

West leads the king of spades against your contract of four hearts. How do you propose to make ten tricks?

Why Bidding Boxes?

This year the Summer Festival will be using bidding boxes rather than written bidding. There are a number of advantages to using boxes (as well as few drawbacks). Among the positives are the elimination of legibility issues and a reduction in the potential types of unauthorised information available from those unconscious variations in writing style. By not using written bidding we also avoid the generation of large amounts of untidy waste paper.

The Summer Festival attracts a sprinkling of overseas players whose first language is not English. While most of us would associate the club suit with the letter "C", in French it could just as easily be for hearts (*Coeur*)! The large-print suit symbols eliminate these types of issues and are also an aid to those with failing eyesight – that's most players over fifty!

While a number of players will have used bidding boxes before, we realise that a significant proportion of the field will be encountering them for the first time. Even if you are familiar with their use, you may still find some of the ABF procedures different from those that are in operation within your own club/locality.

Here are some basic guidelines:

- § Bidding boxes have a propensity to be knocked over, so place yours in a safe location, preferably on one of the side tables provided, rather than on the corner of a crowded card table.
- § If you normally place cards on the table using your left hand, then you will probably require a left-handed bidding box. These boxes are orange (the more common right-handed ones are red).
- § To make a bid you select the appropriate bidding card (together with those underneath it) and place that pile of cards on the table in front of you. The cards should be orientated such that the number and symbol of your selected call face your partner.
- § Your later calls are then placed so that they overlap neatly and evenly with the earlier ones - however every call in the sequence needs to remain visible.
- § Passes, doubles and redoubles can be found in a different part of the bidding box and are placed in the same manner as bids.
- § Don't touch any of the bidding cards until you have decided upon your call. Any obvious vacillation between different calls should also be avoided.
- § Alerts are made by saying, "Alert" and then placing the blue 'alert' card across the call in question. It is the alerter's responsibility to ensure that the opponents have seen (and acknowledge) the alert.
- § When the auction has concluded all the bidding cards should remain on the table until after the opening lead is faced. They can then be collected up and returned to their respective boxes.

The full Bidding Box Regulations for the Summer Festival may be viewed via the ABF Web Page at <http://www.abf.com.au/events/not/2007/index.html>.

Laurie Kelso

TIM BOURKE'S PROBLEM - SOLUTION

The first thing to observe is that the opening lead has marked West with the king and queen of spades. So, as the remaining twelve missing high card points will be on your right, the idea is to finesse East for the missing queens in hearts and clubs:

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

After winning the ace of spades, as a careless play of the five of hearts to the king will restrict you to only one of the finesses in hearts and club. You must play the jack of trumps to dummy's king and finesse East for the queen of trumps by running the eight of hearts when East plays low. (If he covers, you win the ace and cross back to dummy by playing the carefully preserved five of hearts to dummy's seven.) Once that finesse succeeds, you must finesse in clubs next, as there is no entry back to dummy. As both hearts and clubs are 3-2, you will make ten tricks.

The only question that remains is "How would you cope if East had four trumps to the queen instead of two or three?" The answer to that is based on how you judge the spades to be divided. You should exit with a spade after drawing trumps. If West has only five spades, then, on best defence, you will have to fall back on East having started with a doubleton queen in clubs. But when West has six spades you will make the contract when clubs are 3-2, as East will be endplayed when you lead a diamond to the jack.

Buses Between Venues

Wednesday 17/1/07

Pick up Address	Time:	Destination:
Saville Park Suites	9:45	Hellenic Club
James Court	9:50	
University House	10:00	
Crowne Plaza	10:05	
Rydges Lakeside	10:10	
Hellenic Club	22:50	Rydges Lakeside
		Crowne Plaza
		University House
		James Court
		Saville Park Suites

Thursday 18/1/07

Pick up Address	Time:	Destination:
Saville Park Suites	9:00	Hellenic Club
James Court	9:05	
University House	9:15	
Crowne Plaza	9:25	
Rydges Lakeside	9:30	
Hellenic Club	19:45	Rydges Lakeside
		Crowne Plaza
		University House
		James Court
		Saville Park Suites

Week One

The Women's & Seniors Last Train

15-16 January, Rydges Lakeside Canberra

Start 10.00am Monday. Sessions dependent on entries - Entries fee \$200 per pair

These (pairs) events provide final opportunities for players not already qualified by PQP, to win one place in the field for each of the 2007 Women's & Seniors Playoffs. Non-contending pairs, including those already qualified for the Seniors or Women's Playoffs may enter.

More details on the web site at www.abf.com.au



Warm-Up Pairs

16 January, 1 session at 7.30 pm, Rydges Lakeside Canberra

Cash prizes. The entry fee of \$20 per pair collected at the table.

National Womens Teams Championship

17-19 January, The Hellenic Club, Woden

9 x 20-Board qualifying sessions – Entry Fee \$480 per team.

Wed 11.00, 3.00, 8.00 Thurs & Fri 10.00, 1.30, 5.00.

Finishes 7.30pm Friday

Semi-Finals at Rydges Lakeside Canberra (4 teams) on Saturday 10.00.

Final starts on Sunday 10.00 am. Semi-final & Final - Entry fee is \$120 per team per day.

National Non-Life Masters Teams Championship

17-19 January, 8 sessions, The Hellenic Club, Woden

8 x 20-Board sessions – Entry Fee \$420 per team.

Wed 11.00, 3.00, 8.00, Thurs 10.00, 1.30, 5.00; Fri 10.00, 1.30. **Finishes 4.00pm Friday**

Each player must not have achieved the rank of Life Master as at 30/9/2006.

National Novice Teams Championship

17-19 January, 8 sessions The Hellenic Club, Woden

8 x 20-Board sessions – Entry fee \$420 per team.

Wed 11.00, 3.00, 8.00, Thurs 10.00, 1.30, 5.00; Fri 10.00, 1.30. **Finishes 4.00pm Friday**

Categories 0-49, 0-99 & 0-149. All players in a team must have not exceeded the appropriate masterpoint level as at 30/9/2006. Grand Slam Members must have a rating under 58%. Matches may pair teams from different categories.

National Seniors' Teams Championship

17-19 January, Rydges Lakeside Canberra

9 x 20-Board qualifying sessions – Entry fee \$480 per team.

Wed 11.00, 3.00, 8.00 Thurs & Fri 10.00, 1.30, 5.00.

Finishes 7.30pm Friday

All players in a team must have been born before 1/1/1950.

Stage 2 (6 teams) on Saturday 10.00, 12.00, 3.00, 5.00 & 8.30

Final starts on Sunday 10.00 am. Stage 2 & Final - Entry fee \$120 per team per day.

The Open Last Train

18-19 January, The Hellenic Club, Woden

Start 10.00am Thursday. Sessions dependent on entries - Entry fee \$200 per pair.

This (pairs) event provides a final opportunity for players not already qualified by PQP, to win one place in the field for the 2007 Open Playoff. Non-contending pairs, including those already qualified for the Open Playoff may enter.

More details on the web site at www.abf.com.au

Walk-In Pairs

20-21 January, sessions - Sat: 11.00, 3.00, 7.30. Sun: 1.30, 7.30, Rydges Lakeside

Canberra. Walk-In events with cash prizes. Entry fee is \$20 per pair collected at the table.

Australian Multi Pairs Championships

Saturday 20 January, The Hellenic Club, Woden

3 sessions at 11.00, 3.00, 7.30 - Entry Fee \$85 per pair

Five independent fields for Mens, Womens, Mixed, Seniors and Novice (<150MP) Pairs

Smile Sweetly

by Peter Gill

Last year, Peter suggested that a "My Most Memorable Hand" from a variety of experts could be particularly interesting. I thought this a very good idea indeed and tried to collect some. My efforts were not crowned with resounding success though the hands I did get certainly lived up to Peter's expectations. Peter, himself, starts the story.

This was the first board of a 20 board match in the 1992 Australian Open Teams Championship against the leading team, two great players whose big weakness was their temperament. I was playing with Zibi Zeb, who had played in the Polish Junior Team in the 1980s then moved to Australia. On our Convention Card, he wrote: "Smile Sweetly After Disaster" as one of our conventions. I was quite happy to try out this agreement.

Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ K 10 6		
	♥ 2		
	♦ 7 5		
	♣ Q J 10 8 7 5 4		
♠ J 9 7 4 2		♠ A 8 5	
♥ Q 9 5 4		♥ A K J 10 8 7 3	
♦ A J 6		♦ Q 10 3	
♣ K		♣	
	♠ Q 3		
	♥ 6		
	♦ K 9 8 4 2		
	♣ A 9 6 3 2		
West	North	East	South
	Zibi Zeb		Peter Gill
	2NT	4♥	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
All Pass			

Even by Australian standards, the bidding was pretty bad. Zibi, who had me playing a Krakow version of Polish Club, opened 2NT to show either a weak preempt in a minor or a good preempt in a major.

Luckily for you current youth players, regulations have largely eradicated such viruses from the modern bridge world.

East overcalled 4♥, and having no system notes to deal with interference over the Krakow 2NT, I bid 4♠ on the assumption that my shortage there indicated that partner would surely have spades. When West doubled, I started to worry a little bit, so I played safe by redoubling to ensure that partner would bid his suit. You might think that 4NT would have been more prudent, but the outcome was about to become strangely satisfying.

West led ♥4 to the King, East switched to ♦3 to my King and West's Ace. West switched to a spade to the Ace and another spade. I won the Queen and carefully exited with a diamond to the Jack. West played another heart, which I ruffed in dummy. Only now did I play clubs, playing ♣Q from dummy. East thought for a while, then discarded a heart and I won ♣A to

escape for a mere penalty of 4000. Had I not played the hand so carefully, I would have gone for 4600.

Zibi greeted me with a beaming smile and pulled out his hands for the next board as if nothing had happened. In return, I managed the best smile I could. Then it started.

East: "Why didn't you ruff the club? You blithering idiot, I've had a plus 4000 before, but 4600 would have been my highest score ever."

West: "But why didn't you exit a spade so that I knew what was going on? Or you could have ducked the diamond to my ten? And you blame ME?"

East: "You're just an imbecile. Even a moron could have seen what was going on."

And on and on it went, as they abused each other.

The datums for the 20 board match were 86 – 24 IMPs in our favour. Zibi and I outscored them by 86 to 0 on the remaining 19 boards, because they were so upset with each other. We won the match by a maximum.

At the other table, our team-mates had reached 6♥. The declarer, David Beauchamp, ruffed the club lead, played a heart to the Queen and then made the vital play of a spade to the Ace, before South realised that it was necessary to unblock ♠Q under the Ace. Now three rounds of diamonds, taking the finesse, followed by a spade exit endplayed South, who had to concede a ruff and discard. Plus 920 reduced the loss on the board to only 23 IMPs.

I recommend the Smile Sweetly agreement to all bridge players.

I think that this is a superb story and I have a couple more which are almost as good. If any of you experts have a truly memorable hand then please tell me the story. You don't have to write it, just give me the bones. PLEASE