The Summer Festival of Bridge

Daily Bulletin 10

Rydges Lakeside, Canberra

January 25th 2013

Well, the last day of qualifying for the National Open Teams provided plenty of drama The Otvosi team had an excellent Thursday and were certain to qualify with one round to go. The other seven spots were very much up for grabs.

Just how tight it was can be seen from the scores of the top ten teams after twelve rounds.

Place	Team	Score
1	Otvosi	250
2	Thomson	233
3	Bloom	228
4	Ware	226
5	Klinger	219
6	Brown	218
7	Bojoh	216

Just 7 VPs covering second to fourth and 17 covering second to seventh. Otvosi alone had distanced the field in some comfort, managing almost 21 VPs a match for 12 rounds. The real drama, however, was the battle for that last, eighth qualifying spot. The scoreboard showed

Place	Team	Score
8=	De Livera	213
8=	Beauchamp	213
8=	Cartmell	213

And it doesn't come any tighter than that. The conditions of contest require a two board play-off In the event of a tie. The play-off saw the second seeded Beauchamp team enter the NOT via the back door. Particular commiserations to the Cartmell team who punched well above their seeded weight and spent much of the last day at the low numbered tables.

The quarter-finals will see:

Otvosi v Brown

Thomson v Bojoh

Bloom v Beauchamp

Ware v Klinger





Tim Bourke's Problem

10. BACKUP

Dealer South. Both Vul.

NORTH

- **♦** 5 3
- **7** 5 3 2
- ♦ K Q J 10
- ♣ Q 4 2

SOUTH

- **AK9862**
- **Y** A K Q 10
- A
- ♣ A 5

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	7♥
All pass			

How do you plan to play this adventurous grand slam after West leads the jack of clubs to your ace?

That Ancient Argument – Further Diaries of a Control Freak.

Michael.Courtney

In most disciplines there is a central question. Physicists ask "What is the smallest unit of Matter?" Chess-players seek to resolve the initial position "With perfect play will white win or will the game be drawn?"

Bridge was born around 1900, exactly because the central question at whist had been convincingly resolved after four hundred years of thought and play. The question of course was that of trump control. "Should a player seek ruffs or play to establish suits".

As early as 1723 the first law of good play at whist was laid down. It was "Do not inflict ruffs on your partner unless he plays for them". Indeed the dispute over the short-suit versus the long suit game continued until 1900, but after about 1820 the discredited short-suit men were regarded as romantics, eccentrics and certain losers.

Duplicate was invented around 1870 in order to demonstrate that the short suit game was a certain loser. Thanks to those familiar chaps Howell and Mitchell, by 1900 the short suit game was utterly discredited.

Yet all could see that on some deals the most tricks would be accrued by ruffing. There is little point in playing a game where the strategy is such an overriding factor. It is a better game if the player must choose between the strategies.

The resolution of the big question at tricks & trumps without prior knowledge of the other players holdings is a great achievement. To solve the game utterly destroys it. The introduction of the dummy and the auction made it possible for the players to recognise the rare occaissions when the short suit game is better. At bridge we know many cases where singleton should be led or even ruffs inflicted on partner.

Thus after a hundred years play that original conclusion is no longer even taught.

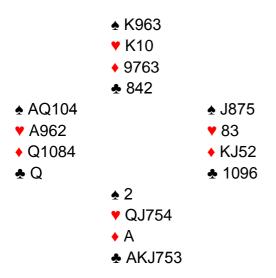
Compared to the average whist player most bridge players pay far too little attention to the vital matter of trump control. How many





really recognise that "To ruff or not to ruff" is as vital a question as "To duck or to win". How many realise that forcing declarer to take ruffs in a useful hand is ussually the strongest defence?

Several deals in match nine commented on my ancient theme. Where necessary, hands have been rotated to make South declarer.



The auction

West	North	East	South
Liz	Sue	Fordham	Courtney
Adams	Ingham		
			1♣
X	1♠	Р	2♥
P	3♣	Р	4♥

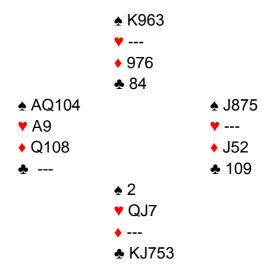
The first issue of control lies in North's preference over 4♥. Five clubs might look safer But an East who heard the auction might just lead a low heart and shoot you three tricks...

Against four hearts West rightly led the diamond to commence the forcing game. All, especially DeepFinesse can see that a player who smells club queens will take eleven easy tricks in either contract.

In four hearts declarer can win the diamond and play trumps. West may duck twice but declarer will cross the club ace and continue trumps. But West doubled a club and East, who already has the diamond king, could not even offer 2 over 1. For East a doubleton club is a better reason to bid than Qxx.

In four hearts I had no interest in an 11th trick – for trump control is at issue. I won the diamond lead that threatened my trump length, vital on this deal exactly because my side suit is so many winners. Remember if you lose trump control you lose your sidesuit with it. So I cashed the club ace at trick two. Had the doubler followed with a small card I would have played a trump to dummy and finessed the club. Had West won the doubleton Queen at least 3-3 hearts have grown more likely.

When the club Queen held I played a heart to the King, then the heart ten. Liz Adams found a fine duck leaving this position:



Dummy to play:

Clearly if West had won the last trick I could claim the balance. Now were I to play a spade or a diamond, the defence would play

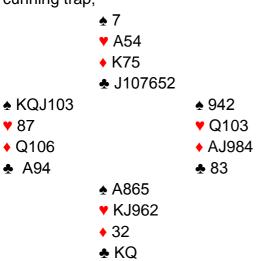




diamonds and the contract would fail. Therefore I played a club so West's fine duck had only saved the overtrick. Note how very dangerous it is for South not to have issue of trump control central to their thinking, especially on deals where the side suit contains many tricks.

Sometimes it is the short trump hand that must be forced off.

This is less familiar of course, but when the short trump hand has the big suit, all that hands entries must be removed, especially the trump entries. This was an intriguing deal on which a guileful declarer set a cunning trap;

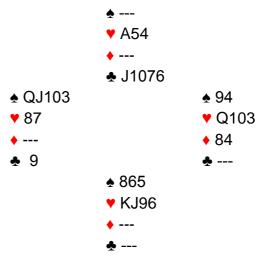


Dlr: N Vul:	EW	Bd.19
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West	North	East	South
MC	Liz	Sue	Peter
	Р	Р	1♥
3♠	3♥	3♠	4♥

Naturally I led the Spade King. Peter won and imediately set about the long side – suit. He rightly began with the Queen so I ducked – winning would at least keep the clubs blocked. He continued with club King... Ducking that can be right on such deals but not this one. I won the club and shifted to

the diamond Queen when that held we continued diamonds. Peter ruffed the third round:



If the lead were in dummy declarer could play a heart to the jack, then heart King, heart Ace, claiming. However, declarer is in hand and cannot trap the heart Queen and save the club suit. Declarer could play me for a doubleton heart Queen, Heart King, then heart Ace then run clubs over-ruffing at some point. At that point dummy will have more trumps than East.

Brer Fordham didn't like the odds on my holding the heart Queen in my weak jump overcall as well as the twelve points I've shown so he devised a devilish plan.

What could be more autiomatic than to ruff dummy's winner when declarer is about to discard and partner must impotently follow? He crossed to the heart Ace and drew the club Jack. Sue did not leap at the routine ruff. She considered, I had one more trump and Peter three. Ok, so if she ruffed he would over-ruff, draw the heart King and dummy would have a trump entry, the defenders out of trumps. Therefore she discarded a spade. Peter discarded a spade, then played another high club.. A player who was sick of this might have



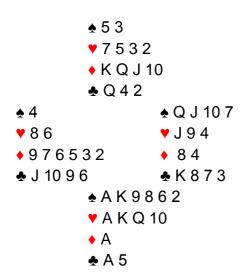


ruffed and suffered the familiar fate, but again Sue discarded a spade. I ruffed and a spade overuff was down two for +100. "That'll teach me" said Brer Fordham "Good on you Sue"..

Tim Bourke's Problem - Solution

If both spades and trumps are 3-2, it will be easy to make thirteen tricks. The best plan is to draw two rounds of trumps then cash the ace and king of spades. When all follow to the spades, draw the last trump, cash the ace of diamonds and ruff a spade. After throwing your remaining club on a good diamond, your hand will be high.

This approach may allow a recovery when East has four spades and three trumps:



When West shows out on the second spade but is unable to ruff in, the simplest plan is to ruff a spade, return to hand with the ace of diamonds and ruff another spade. Then you throw a club on the king of diamonds, ruff a club with the ten of trumps and cash the queen of trumps. Your last two cards will be high spades.

What will happen if trumps break 4-1? Then



you will need East to hold either four hearts and three spades or a singleton jack of hearts and two spades. In either eventuality, after cashing the ace of diamonds you will be able to ruff the spades good, throw a club on the king of diamonds, and if that holds, draw trumps and claim.



Mr. Rueful Rabbit QC

Peter Marley

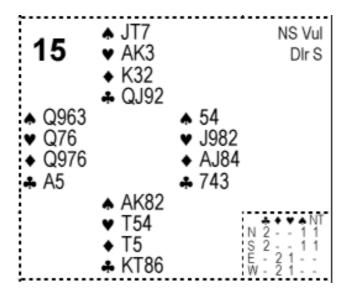
It was the best and the worst of times at the Club. The Director had contracted a severe illness (the rumour that she was sick of Bridge players was entirely unfounded) and had been away for several weeks.

The Secretary Bird (whose knowledge of the Laws was as legendary as was his rigorous application of them) had tired of shouldering the Directing duties while playing and was seeking an assistant to lighten the burden.

Despairing of ever matching the Hog in bidding, play, defence or rudeness, the Rabbit had decided to emulate the Secretary Bird in knowledge of the Laws and their application. He had taken to carrying a pile of volumes (in which his Lawbook took pride of place) with him when playing and was often distracted at the table by some point or question needing a reference.

On the hand below, the Rabbit was West, the Hog South, the Secretary Bird East and North remained anonymous and oblivious.





Despite having the Rabbit on his left (or on Lead if it could be arranged) the Hog did not open the South hand. The Rabbit was about to call when the PA system produced a noise like a gunshot and the Rabbit dropped his •Q on the table.

Anxious to put his skills to the test, the Rabbit began ferreting through his books to find the relevant Law. He was not immediately successful, since he was actually leafing through his copy of "War and Peace" – an understandable error in more respects than one.

"Law 24, the card remains on the table for the Auction and your partner must pass at his next turn to call" said SB wearily.

"And the card becomes a Penalty Card when...er, if you become a Defender" snarled the Hog. Flustered by events the Rabbit passed, North opened 1♣, SB passed as per Law and the Hog considered his call. Allowing for the likely gain of a trick from the Penalty Card and his matchless Dummy play, the Hog briefly considered 6NT, but cautiously settled for 3NT.

The ♠Q perforce was led and the Hog quickly wrapped up four tricks in that suit.

Two in Hearts and the three establishable in Clubs would see him home if the Defenders could not manage to garner four tricks in Diamonds – a certainty if SB held the ♣A and almost as certain if the Rabbit held that card.

Unfortunately, when the Club was led the PA repeated its indiscretion and this time the Rabbit dropped the •Q on the table, securing another Penalty Card before winning the Club with the Ace. Aware that another of the books he was carrying demanded he lead his fourth highest at all times, the Rabbit was distraught at having to play the •Q at his first opportunity.

Disturbed by this unwelcome turn of events, the Hog displayed his usual generosity by offering to let the Rabbit lead any card he wished – a clear advantage since any card actually chosen by the Rabbit must be to the Hog's benefit.

"No, the Law must be obeyed" said the Rabbit dolefully and SB with relish (a type of Defenders' Simultaneous Lead or Play). The Defenders quickly collected their four tricks in the suit and one down was entered into the Bridgemate while the Hog mused on his ill fortune – suckered into a contract by one Penalty Card and sunk by another.

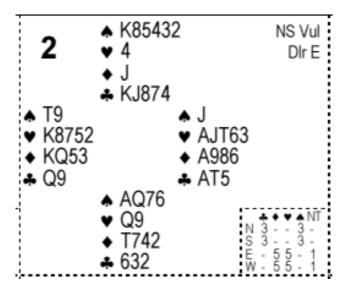
"I can't find my Lawbook" wailed the Rabbit, and no amount of searching could unearth it before he left the Hog's table. This was hardly surprising since the Hog had placed it under his ample backside with every intention of later using it to light cigars.





Points Of Law

Some interesting points arose with a claim in round 10 of the SWPT. The board was



♠A and played a second spade, ruffed by declarer. Declarer cashed the Ace of trumps and claimed saying words to the effect of "Drawing the trump and ruffing a club" — implying that he was conceding a club. Both defenders looked at the closed hand and were obviously concerned. Declarer sensed this and said that as the diamonds obviously weren't running — from defenders attitude — he must be one down. Then in accordance with Law 68D

After any claim or concession, play ceases (but see Law 70D3). If the claim or concession is agreed, Law 69 applies; if it is doubted by any player (dummy included), the Director must be summoned immediately and Law 70 applies. No action may be taken pending the Director's arrival.

The director arrived and started to ascertain the facts. Declarer repeated several times that he was one down, acknowledging his error.

There it was left. Subsequently there was



discussion amongst the directing staff. The discussion revolved around the diamond suit. Following declarer's statement of claim, he would play a heart, then two rounds of clubs and would regain the lead to ruff a club, He would then have to play on diamonds.

He cannot play Ace of diamonds and then take the "Restricted Choice" finesse against the 10 because

The Director shall not accept from claimer any unstated line of play the success of which depends upon finding one opponent rather than the other with a particular card

Law 70E1

But the Law continues

unless an opponent failed to follow to the suit of that card before the claim was made, or would subsequently fail to follow to that suit on any normal* line of play, or unless failure to adopt that line of play would be irrational.

How can he play the diamonds – obviously by starting in two ways

- With the Ace then small to the King. North shows out. Clearly it would be irrational for declarer not to cross back to hand and finesse against the 10
- 2) With the King then it would be irrational when North's Jack appears not to play to the Ace next time to protect against the actual layout

Thus it appears that declarer is conceding a trick which he can't lose and the Law says



The Director shall cancel a concession:

- 1. if a player conceded a trick his side had, in fact, won; or
- 2. if a player has conceded a trick that could not be lost by any normal* play of the remaining cards.
- * For the purposes of Laws 70 and 71, "normal" includes play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved.

Law 71 2 and footnote.

So what should the directors do? All four players have accepted one off but...

- C. Director's Duties and Powers
- 3. to rectify an error or irregularity of which he becomes aware in any manner, within the correction period

Law 81C3

The irregularity is the concession of a trick that cannot be lost with normal play.

The directors have a DUTY to correct this.

The score was corrected to 5♥ making and the players so informed.

Editor's Comment: As an observer of much of this process, I can only commend all four players for their attitudes. There was no rancour at the table when the claim was made and doubted. The declarer went out of his way to accept his error and concede. The defenders accepted the directors' explanations and adjusted score in an equally equable way. Don't I wish that all director calls and rulings were accepted with such great good grace?

Richard Grenside once told me that bridge players only have to know ONE law – if an irregularity occurs call the director. How often do we see acrimony when one or more players try to give their own rulings.



The players involved: Ian Robinson, Nick Fahrer, Nathan van Jole and Michael Cartmell

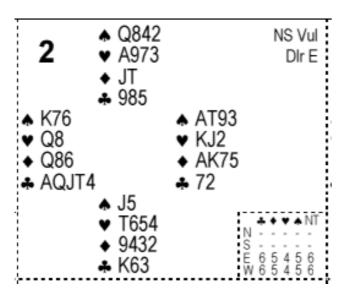






The Art Of Understatement

A couple of samples of the occasional benefits of an insufficient bid.



East opened 1NT and South passed. West opened 1NT!

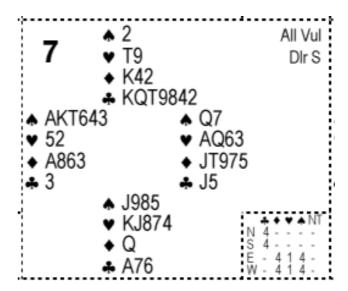
The Law is, essentially, that West can do what he likes but East must pass throughout the auction.

West corrected to 6NT!

Five clubs, three diamonds, two hearts and two spades makes twelve. How else could you bid the slam? Liz Quittner was the silenced East and John Mottram the bullish West.

The second was unsuccessful, not through the auction but because declarer had a wee whoopsie.





South opened 1♥ and West interposed 1♠.

North jumped to 3♠ and this was passed round to West who made a take-out double.

East dutifully took it out into

1♦!

South accepted this and took the opportunity to bid 3♣. North raised to game but East won the auction in 5♦.

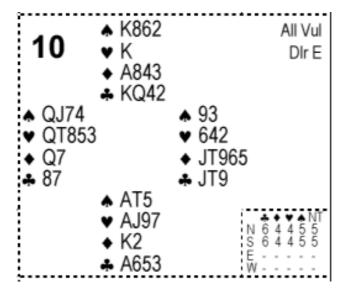
The defence began with the ♣A and another club, ruffed in dummy. The ♠A was cashed and a second diamond was passed to North's King. A heart was returned, taken by the Ace and declarer was virtually home. The spade position was pretty well marked by the auction so the rest of the tricks were coming.

Well, they were as long as declarer remembered to draw the last rump. Sadly, he didn't and the second spade was ruffed.

International players, David Appleton and peter Reynolds were the defenders on the above and they were most impressed by the line taken by their opponent in an earlier round.

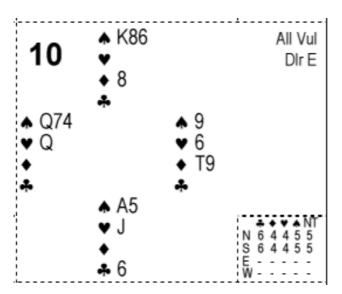






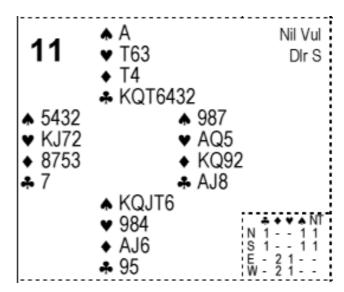
Stephen Fisher was in 6♣ from the North seat and received a diamond lead which he took with dummy's King. He drew two rounds of trumps with the King and Queen and then played a spade to the 10 and West's Jack. West returned a diamond, taken by the Ace.

Stephen drew the last trumps and cashed the ♥A before ruffing a heart. The position was



When Stephen led and ruffed the diamond, West was gone.

In the same set, Andy Braithwaite found himself in a position very reminiscent of a hand on the cover of one of Victor Mollo's textbooks on play.



Andy was playing 3♣ from the South hand and received a diamond lead. He ducked this and prayed that the suit would be continued.

It was. Andy took the Ace and spectacularly discarded the ♠A. Now, he could play three high spades and discard all the losing hearts in the North hand.

The Last Round Up

Going into the last round, with eight teams to qualify, Otvosi was reasonably comfortable with an eleven VP lead over second and more than a match ahead of ninth – they were through to the NOT. Any other team could, mathematically be overtaken. Eighth was Leibowitz on 200 and no fewer than 36 teams could overtake that score if Leibowitz suffered a 25-0 defeat.

Two of the teams in the middle of the top 8 were Bloom and Brown. Sixteen teams could, mathematically, overtake Bloom and 33 could overtake Brown.

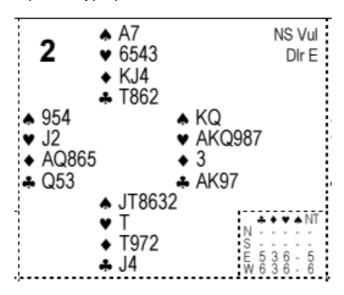
Terry Brown (East) and Avi Kanetkar took on Peter Gill (South) and Andrew Peake.





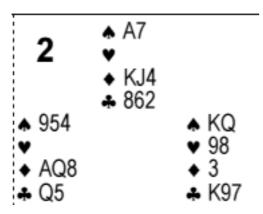
In all honesty, I don't know if the bridge was worthy of the occasion.

Terry and Avi got this one right when Andrew was caught in a rather unusual squeeze type position



Terry declared 6♥ and Peter led the ♣J.

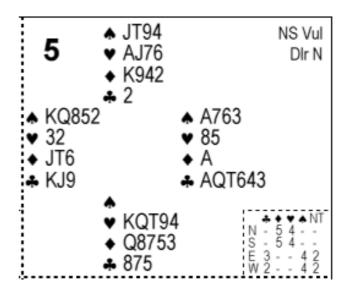
Terry took that and played four rounds of trumps. This left with South irrelevant:



Terry led another heart and Andrew had no good discard. He chose a club and Terry simply conceded a spade. In the diagram position, Terry always has enough tricks provided he picks the situation but Andrew's discard, whatever it may be, makes it much easier to pick.

Then Andrew and Peter got a competitive

sequence wrong:

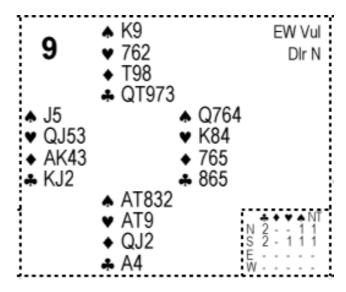


The auction:

West	North	East	South
	Р	1♣	1♥
1 	4♣	4♠	Р
P			

4♣ was a splinter and at this point Andrew doubled. Two rounds of hearts were taken by the defence but, when Avi's ♣K scored at trick three, he claimed for ten tricks.

This one contained a play which really puzzles me (which is probably a reflection on me rather than on declarer)

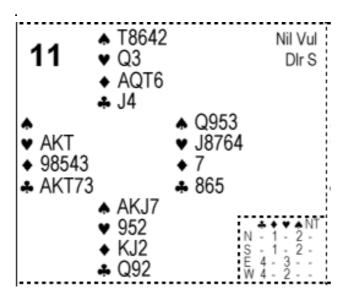






Peter was playing 1NT from South and Avi cashed the A before switching to a heart to the King and Ace. Peter now played the Q and Avi ducked. Declarer went to dummy via the K and played a spade to his 10 and Avi's Jack. Avi could now cash three hearts and two diamonds and Peter ended 2 down. Just why Peter got out of Avi's way in diamonds is beyond me.

Then Avi rubbed his lucky rabbit's foot and made a "Walter the Walrus" double.



Peter opened a no trump and Avi called 2NT for the minors. Andrew doubled and Terry settled for clubs. Back to Andrew who doubled again and Peter called 3. Andrew raised to game. Avi looked at his two AK's and his spade void and doubled. The AK's were worth four tricks but Terry's spade length wasn't worth anything. One off

Material for the Daily Bulletin can be left at the Congress Desk or emailed to me at

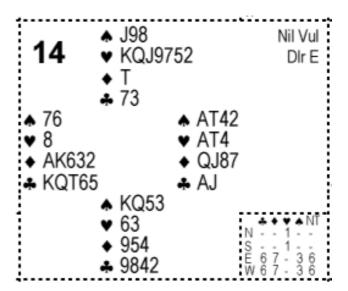
alan@tayl0rs.co.nz

The 0 is a zero not a letter



Peter, Avi, Andrew and Terry

Then Avi and Terry got one wrong and were punished severely by events in the other room.



Avi and Terry's auction:

West	North	East	South
		1NT	Р
2NT	3♥	3NT	Р
4♣	Р	4♥	Р
5♣	Р	5♦	

2NT was a transfer to diamonds and 3NT was a super-accept for diamonds.

Thereafter it petered out in contrast to Sartaj Hans and Tony Nunn in the other room

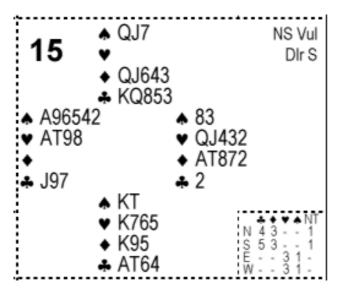
West	North	East	South
		1♦	Р
3♥	4♥	4NT	Р
5♠	Р	7♦	





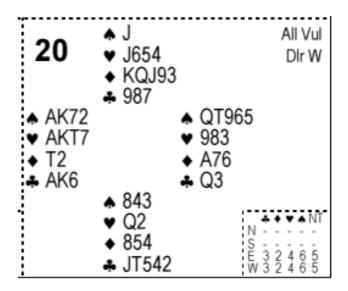
3♥ was a splinter and 5♠ showed two keycards and the ♠Q (awarded by West to himself because of the fifth diamond)

Then it was proved (again) that three aces don't always beat a 5 level contract



Peter opened 1♦ and Avi overcalled in spades. Andrew called 2♦ and terry passed. Peter bid 2♥ and Avi 3♥ - I'm afraid that I have no idea what that was. 4♣ from Andrew saw Terry bid 4♥ and Peter 5♣. Avi doubled. Andrew was not extended to make eleven tricks.

Onto the last and another good slam auction from Avi and Terry.



Avi opened 2NT and Terry called 3♥ transfer. Avi super-accepted with 4♣ and
they each cued a red suit. Keycard did the
rest and they settled in 6♠. The doubleton
♥Q meant that there were two discards
available for declarer's losing diamonds so
that was twelve tricks

Once again, I am unable to access the results. My apologies. You'll just have to look at them on the net. Good luck

Play the Double Bay Bridge Centre's

Swiss Teams Congress

Sunday 10 February 2013, 10am

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA.

Red masterpoints have been approved at the congress level (B4)

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WESTERN SENIORS PAIRS

25th & 26th May 2013

10 am start each day

For ABF Seniors Events players must be born before 1 January 1955

This is a Gold Point and PQP Selection Event

Venue: West Australian Bridge Club, 7 Odern Crescent, Swanbourne

Entries: Via the BAWA Website <u>www.bawa.asn.au</u>

Entry Fee: \$80 Per Player

(Collected at the table or Payable on Line: BAWA BSB 016464 Acc No 255674541

Description: Your name + WSP)

Tournament Director: Bill Kemp

Tournament Organiser: Kitty George kitty.george@bigpond.com 0408097881

Cocktail Party and Presentations on Sunday at 5pm after play