



Spring Nationals Bulletin

No 2 Saturday 10 November 2001

Editor Nick Hughes

Don't forget to vote

You get an hour for lunch so duck into the Surf Life Saving Club on the beach if you're yet to vote. An alternative is Bondi Public School past the Swiss Grand on Campbell Pde.

It's fitting for an election that today's date (10-11-01) is two-faced, a palindrome.

A more important vote

The women's field were asked about the new session times and gave them a rousing thumbs up.

87 out 128 (68%) responded.

61(70%) prefer the new times.

Just 2 preferred the old times with evening sessions.

24 chose the alternative on offer (10.30, 2pm, 5pm)

One argument for delaying the first match till 10.30 is that a 10am start forces some drivers to battle through peak hour traffic to be at the table on time.

This brings up a curious anomaly in the Open schedule. Two days start at 10am but Day 1 starts at 1.15, which seems a bit silly. The idea of a compressed schedule is to leave evenings free for "relaxation".

The Open field will play 64 boards on

Monday, starting at 1.15. They're due back at 10am next morning.

The apparent reason for the late start is to give interstate players the chance to fly (or drive) in Monday morning and avoid a night's accommodation in Sydney.

If this is a good enough reason, then why treat the women differently?

Congrats

Frances Cufar writes: "The last time I played this event, it was dark, there were no restaurants, no parking, poor public transport. Congratulations to the conveners."

Sunday Congress Teams

At the end of the Swiss, there will be a small function with snacks and wine so stick around at the end of Round 9.

30 teams will miss the final, perhaps with a day to fill before the Open starts. This is a festival when too much bridge is barely enough, as Roy and HG would say, so keep an eye out for partners for tomorrow's Congress Teams. Frank Budai is running a partnership desk so have a word to him if you're looking for a partner or team mates.

SNWT after 6 of 9 Rnds

1st	26	Anderson	117
2nd	1	Bourke	115
3rd	4	Kaplan	114
4th	5	Hoffman	107
5th	10	Halvorsen	105
6th	7	King	101
7th	16	Blutstein	101
8th	13	Hutton	100
9th	8	Tucker	99
10th	14	Snow	98

Entry - 32 teams

Standings

The SNWT started off with a triangle, when a team dropped out late and the House team couldn't be cobbled together in time.

The 4th-seeded **Kaplan** team led at the end of Day One with 72 out of 75.

The top two seeds had slow starts. **Bourke** recovered to be near the lead on Friday night but **Cummings** are languishing mid-field and look out of it.

Surprise leaders with three matches to go are the local **Anderson** team from Hakoah. Some hands:

SNWT Match 6, Bd 19

S/EW	♠ Q10 9 3	♠ A 8 7 5
	♥ K 9 7 6 4	♥ 8 2
	♦ —	♦ A 8 7
	♣ K 7 5 3	♣ A 10 6 4
♠ J 6		♠ K 4 2
♥ 3		♥ A Q J 10 5
♦ K Q J 9 6 5 4 3		♦ 10 2
♣ J 2		♣ Q 9 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
3♦	4♥	?	

5♦ is a good save against 4♥, hard to find at the vulnerability. Lyn Kalmin was one who took the plunge and her partner, Elli Urbach, made 5♦.

When the defence led heart-heart, she ruffed, drew trumps and ran the ♣J for +600. Well done but good defence is for North to lead the ♥K then make the no-cost switch to a spade.

If North-South push on to 5♥, it's touch and go. It looks right to play East for the ♠J but you have no real play if East has ♠AJxx so play West

Spring National Women's Teams (SNWT) 9 x 20 bds

Sat 10th SNWT 7-9 10am, 1.30pm & 4.30pm.

Sun 11th 7 Round Congress Teams, 10am start. \$100 per team (SNWT final from 9am, start time to be confirmed)

Spring National Open Teams (SNOT) 12 x 16 bds

Mon 12th SNOT 1-4 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

Tue 13th SNOT 4-6 10am, 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm

Wed 14th SNOT 7-9 10am, 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm

Thur 15th Charity Pro-Am IMP Pairs 10am start (SNOT final from 9am, start time to be confirmed)

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Fri 16th Qual 10.30am - 11.30pm (some teams start with byes)

Sat 17th Qual 10am - 11.30 (80 boards!)

Sun 18th Semis from 9am (also Provincial Pairs)

Mon 19th GNOT final at Double Bay, from 9am

to have it.

More from the match at Table 1:

SNWT Rnd 6, Bd 7

S/Both ♠ 8 4
♥ J 9 7
♦ AK 10 8 6 3
♣ J 8

♠ Q 10 2 ♠ 9 6 5
♥ Q 10 5 3 ♥ AK 6 2
♦ J 5 2 ♦ Q 4
♣ 10 4 2 ♣ Q 9 7 6

♠ AK J 7 3
♥ 8 4
♦ 9 7
♣ AK 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Stewart		Shennan
			1♠
No	2♦	No	3♣
No	3♠	No	4♣
End			

4♠ is not a great spot but it made 10 tricks on a cross-ruff (though a heart lead and a trump switch shoots it). +620 less 130 at the other table gave **Anderson** 10 IMPs for a 20-10 win. They are unbeaten since Round 1 and play(ed) the unbeaten top seeds this morning.

The cards are definitely running North-South. Some Sydney clubs (no names!) are known to doctor their dealing programs to spread the points around but that's illegal of course, so tough luck. Here's a N-S grand:

SNWT Rd 6, Bd 10 (switched)

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

Datum was +1400 so very few got to 7♣ (or maybe a few tried 7NT?). After West opens a 15-17 notrump, East needs a gadget. Popular these days is 3♥/♠ to show minors with a singleton in the bid suit.

That might work here though there seems no way for East to track down 3rd round diamond control.

West's tasty hand is really too strong for 1NT, allowing a nice Jacoby cueing auction via:

1♠ 2NT
3♣ 3♦
3♥ 4♦ etc

You don't play Jacoby over a minor? Why ever not?

Datums

These continue to be controversial. Some at the top tables lament the imposition of filling out datum sheets. At the Canberra ANC, there were no datums for the teams events.

However, with Butler Pairs becoming ever more popular, people expect them. With datums, a teams event doubles as a pairs event, for better or worse ...

In the recent world championships, Butler scores were produced for each pair from Day 1. Some mathematicians went further, presenting weighted Butler scores, factored by the average of the Butlers of the opposing pairs. Thus we were able to see which pairs had been given an easy run. Sponsor pairs sometimes point to their own Butler results as evidence that they were pulling their weight. However, when the strength of their opponents is taken into account, a different story sometimes emerges. Enough rambling.

The Venice Cup final in Paris was fascinating, with both teams playing some great bridge.

Here is a hand from the final session, featuring German stars Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim. Germany started the 16-board set 47 IMPs adrift and won by 2 IMPs!

W/Both ♠ 8 4
♥ K 8 6
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ A 6 3 2

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

♠ A 10 2
♥ A J 9 7 2
♦ A 8
♣ J 9 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bessis	Auken	D'Ovidio	von Arnim
No	No	No	1♥
1♠	Dbf	2♠	Dbf
No	2NT	No	3♥
End			

Bessis led the ♣4 which von Arnim won in dummy with the ♣A. She now ducked the ♠10 to West's jack. Bessis returned the ♦J and Von Arnim ducked this to break up the defenders' communication. Bessis continued with the ♦9 won by Von



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Arnim's ♦A. The key to the hand was to guess the heart position. Von Arnim reasoned that West had at most the KJ of diamonds and no club honours. It seemed that West had to have the ♥Q to justify her overcall so after a lot of thought Daniela took the backwards heart finesse, leading the ♥J from her hand, and was rewarded when the hearts lay perfectly for this play.

After running the ♥J declarer had only to ruff a spade in dummy, cash the ♥K and guess the safe route off dummy by ruffing a diamond to draw the last trump. The partisan audience sportingly applauded this inspired play.

Curiously, some people have said that the performance of this pair is an argument for running the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup sequentially, rather than concurrently, so that they could also play in the German Open team! In 20 years, they could triple up in the Seniors as well ...

Charity Pro-Am IMP Pairs

for Mission Australia

This will be held next Thursday, 10am start, with 3 x 16-board matches. Scores will be IMPed against the Closed Room results from the SNOT final.

A pair can enter for \$50 or enter as an Amateur and bid for a professional partner.

What happened?

If you have a story of interest, the Editor will be here much of the time or contactable on 9365 9934 (Hakoah Bridge Club), or 0414 876 175 or nhughes@bigpond.net.au.

Or just fill out a *What Happened* form and drop it in the bulletin box or hand it to Frank, Chris or John.