



# Spring Nationals Bulletin

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Editor Nick Hughes

## Fast and Furious SNOT

The new 12 round format looks a winner, compared to 9 x 20 boards. The strong field needs the extra three rounds to sort itself out and 16 boards seems a good length.

The strength of the field caused some problems early on. The Australian team and top seeds, **Noble**, lost in Round 1 to Team 23, **Mottram**, doughty opponents to meet first up.

In fact the field seems to be seeded well past halfway, which gave all the top seeds tougher first rounds than they might feel they deserved.

No complaints but an alternative might be to start with 1 vs 48, 2 vs 47, etc. In England, the first round draw in these sort of events is totally random.

The event started with the dream of Butler scores for all pairs but the size of the field, the short breaks between matches and the fact that players were unprepared for the rigour required, meant that the experiment didn't last long.

Team 7, **Nagy**, were unbeaten after six rounds but got thrashed by **Cummings** then **Noble**.

The top two teams make the final. **Noble** found themselves below average after three rounds but recovered well to lead at two-thirds distance.

Joining them at the top are **Haffer** (Reynolds, Markey, Peake) and **Marston** (Del'Monte, Lester,

Lorenz), both looking solid with no results worse than 14-16.

## Play Bridge with Seres

Here's hand you're sure to see soon in a *Herald* column. This is Peter Buchen's report:

### SNOT Rd 3, Bd 7

S/Both ♠ A 8 6 5 3  
 ♥ A Q  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ AK 10 6 5

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Evans	Nagy	Buchen	Seres
No	1♠	No	2♦
No	3♣ *	No	3♦
No	3♥	No	4♦ *
No	4♠ *	No	5♣ *
No	5♦ *	No	5♥
No	6♥	End	

3♣ was 4SF so Bobby Evans led the ♣Q, to his eventual regret.

Tim won the ♠A, ran the ♦J, cashed the ♣A to pitch a spade, then ruffed a club as East pitched a spade. Then came the ♦A, ♠A and a spade, ruffed by East with the 10 and overruffed.

A diamond was ruffed in dummy, reducing East to ♥97632. After a club overruff, declarer ruffed a diamond

## SNOT after 8 of 12 Rds

1st	1	Noble	153
2nd	6	Haffer	152
3rd	2	Marston	149
4th	3	Cummings	146
5th	5	Hans	144
6th	10	Gaspar	142
7th	4	Kanetkar	142
8th	7	Nagy	138
9th	13	Antoff	138
10th	34	McCartney	136

Entry - 48 teams

with the ♥A to leave this position with dummy on lead:

♠ 8 6 5  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ —

♠ —  
 ♥ 7 6 3  
 ♦ —

♠ —  
 ♥ 8 5  
 ♦ Q

Buchen ruffed high and Seres discarded the ♦Q to be left with ♥85 over East's ♥73!

*To play like this, not only do you have to be able to work out these intricate positions; you also need the sort of nose that can pick up the scent of a 6-0 trump break.*

## Squeezy does it

Tim's team led comfortably early on, thanks to more thoughtful cardplay like this, reported by Ron Klinger:

### SNOT Rd 1, Bd 1

N/Nil ♠ Q 7 2  
 ♥ K 10 5 4  
 ♦ AK 3  
 ♣ A 9 6

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Nagy		Seres
	1NT	No	2♠ *
Dbl	No	No	3♦
No	3NT	End	

2♠ was a range enquiry.

West won the spade lead and returned a low spade to Zoli's queen. With eight likely tricks, declarer ex-

## Spring National Open Teams (SNOT) 12 x 16 bds

Wed 14th SNOT 9-12 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

ited with a spade, hoping West would cash the suit to put pressure on East.

And so it proved. The fourth spade caused no pain but the fifth inflicted the suicide squeeze.

After West exited with a heart to the 9-A, declarer cashed the  $\diamond$ A-K in this end position:

<p>♠ — ♥ K 10 ♦ K 3 ♣ A 9</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ Q 9 ♦ — ♣ Q 10 8 5</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ J 7 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ 4</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ 8 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 7 3</p>
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On the  $\diamond$ K, East had to pitch a heart. Then came three rounds of clubs, finessing, which squeezed West in the reds.

Just your average suicide non-simultaneous double squeeze. Nagy, Nagy, wink, wink.

*(To shoot it, West can switch to a heart instead of cashing the last spade)*

Another Round 1 hand. This is really a lead problem:

### SNT Rnd 1, Bd 5

N/NS	♠ 10 6 4 ♥ Q 10 7 ♦ K 10 6 4 3 ♣ 8 3	♠ K J 9 8 3 ♥ 5 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A K J 6 5	♠ 7 5 2 ♥ K J 9 8 4 ♦ Q 8 ♣ Q 10 2
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WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nunn		Beauchamp	
	No	1♠	No
2♦	No	3♣	No
3♠	No	4♣	No
4♦	No	4♠	No
6♣	End		

Tony Nunn did well to offer a choice of contracts with 6♣.

When South led the unbid suit, David Beauchamp won, cashed the  $\clubsuit$ A-K and was soon able to claim, eventually ruffing a diamond in

dummy. Maybe the  $\diamond$ Q put South off the winning diamond lead.

### Teamwork

It's feels good when each pair does something smart to earn a swing:

### SNOT Rd 3, Bd 2

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

At one table, West ended up as declarer in 4♥ by using Stayman over East's 2NT, then ripping 3NT to 4♥. With strength on his left, Bruce Neill led a low spade and the defence easily took the first three tricks with the trump ace to follow.

At the other table, Khokan Bagchi played 4♥ from East after a transfer sequence. South led a trump to the ace and North played another trump. Declarer drew the last trump then pulled a spade to the king. When the  $\spadesuit$ 10 appeared, Q-10 seemed likely so Bagchi went after diamonds, setting up the  $\diamond$ 8 to go with the  $\clubsuit$ K for spade pitches from dummy. This worked because the defence couldn't untangle their two spade tricks.

### The Inaugural Ted award

This will be devoted to blunders of the sort that Ted Chadwick would see fit to include in one of his articles for *Australian Bridge*. First prize is a session with Ted, second prize is .... Here's the first nomination:

### SNOT Rd 5, Bd 5

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



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WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	No	1NT
No	3♦	No	5♦
End			

East leads a heart to the ace and a heart back. What is the best technical line now?

Cash  $\spadesuit$ A-K and exit with a club. This gives you the best chance to reach dummy for the trump finesse. Most declarers didn't bother with that. They just led a club at trick 3, giving West a chance to shine. Many Wests thought "Maybe partner has the  $\spadesuit$ K" so they won the  $\clubsuit$ A and led a spade??? After that defence, there are maybe three declarers on the planet who would go down.

*Keep partner's pre-empts up to scratch! In Rd 8, Bd 31, I was on lead against 5♣ after partner had opened 3♦, vul vs not. I held:*

$\spadesuit$ KQ62 ♥J98 ♦AT7 ♣T98

*Naturally I led the ♦7 and dummy's king scored. That will teach him.*

### 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.