



THE SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS BULLETIN



No 4 Thursday 10th November 2005 Ed: Anne Bates

Event 1: The Spring Nationals Women's Teams Qualifying

Youth Bridge - Adam & Nabil Edgtton

For regular Sunday congress players in Sydney, Adam and Nabil Edgtton (AKA 'The Two Terrorists'), are probably the face of youth bridge in 2005.

When they first appeared at congress tables they caused something of a stir – because, at 10 and 11, they looked *very* young and there weren't any other players as young as they. They also showed surprising skill and daring. (Some would say 'foolhardiness'.)

Now, some 6 years since Peter Gill taught them to play, they enter Sunday congresses perhaps every second week and practice a lot on the web. Once in a while they go to major competitions, interstate and overseas. On these trips, they attract sponsorship, from the ABF, the NSWBA or their adult team mates

They've had some very satisfying results: this year they won the ANC Youth Butler. They are almost certainly the youngest pair ever to win this event.

The rest of the time? They are in years 8 and 9, in different high schools in the southern suburbs. They enjoy going out with their friends to movies and playing tennis, squash and golf – just like other kids who don't play bridge.

Youth Bridge – the Wider Picture

Despite unspectacular numbers of new players, 2005 *had* been looking promising for youth bridge.

An Australian Youth team:

L-R M de Livera, Nye Griffiths, Paul Gasney, Andy Hung, Adam Edgtton, Paul Edgtton



Centres of interest had been nurturing talented young players. They were often focused on a university club or a youth bridge scheme. The Australian Youth Team came second in the PABFC in Seoul, and improved Australia's ranking to 7th out of 18 teams in the World Youth Teams Championships. (An event admirably organized in Sydney this August.)

But

Just when things were looking brightest, some of the organizers decided they must step down. Without organizers youth bridge will lose its new found energy.

So

If you are looking for a new interest, and he/she/it has not come along yet, why not help out with youth bridge.

For information contact David Lusk.
lusk@internode.on.net



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Why Women's Bridge?

In this age of (supposed) equality and well-educated women with wide life experience why are separate women's events still held?

One rationale for separate women's competitions is to select Australian representatives to compete in international tournaments run by the WBF? But why does the WBF continue to run separate competitions? For historical reasons? For religious reasons?

Are some women more comfortable in a totally female environment rather than in a mixed one?

Or is it because women feel they are not as good at the game as men – and therefore feel they will never be able to compete at the highest level in Open Bridge?

Could the existence of separate events mean that women who play chiefly in segregated events are ultimately disadvantaged because their skills are not honed by the toughest opponents?

If separate competitions are held, how can women's special needs (if any) be met? For example:

- By providing crèches for people with young children?
- By adapting the hours of play to make them less exhausting?
- By consciously catering for women's (supposed) preference for healthy refreshments, ergonomically designed seats, and proximity to shops, gyms, hairdressers/beauty parlours, and just good relaxing walks?

Anne Bates

Women in Bridge

The World Bridge Federation has a committee dedicated to the interests of women in bridge. This committee meets annually at the World Bridge Championships, which this year are being held in Estoril, Portugal. As the newly nominated representative for Zone 7, I have taken on the task of passing on details about the knowledge and experience of all female Zone 7 players to the WBF, as well as providing informed data to the ABF concerning female player preferences with respect to National (and filtering down from this) State competitions.

A site has been set up on the ABF web page seeking information from all female players in Australia. The details from the responses received will propagate a data base that will provide information to both the ABF and WBF - information that has not previously been gathered in any other form.

The positive feedback received from female players all across Australia to date is extremely encouraging. I am sure that we can all learn from each other. As female players in our country make up approximately 70% of the total number of players registered, it is in our interests to make this forum work.

I can be contacted at any time on email: dianne.marler@santos.com or mobile 0414 689 620 if like minded female bridge players wish to discuss the future of our sport and how women can impact this future.

DIANNE MARLER
Zone 7 Representative
WBF Women in Bridge Committee



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THE ENTREPRENEURIAL CLUBS

Good or Bad for Bridge as a Whole?

In the past fifteen years there has a proliferation of privately owned clubs. They have not always been welcomed uncritically by the bridge establishment.

To consider the merits of entrepreneurial clubs, two established clubs on Sydney's North Shore ,and a newcomer in the Eastern suburbs were chosen – arbitrarily. (So no offence to other bridge entrepreneurs).

FIRST, THE BRIDGE ENTREPRENEURS

Derrick Browne - Trumps



Home: Cremorne
Profession: Bridge teacher, director, writer and administrator
Background: UTS, Communications, Photojournalism
Interests: Travel, cycling, walking movies
Bridge Achievements: Doesn't actually play much now; proudest bridge achievement is the development of *Trumps* into a thriving club since he took it over in 1990.

John McIlrath - Club Willoughby and The Cove

Home: Cammeray
Work Background: Financial Controller of the Australian branch of a US company
Family: 4 adult children and a partner
Interests: Team sports eg cricket & rugby union; refereeing

Favourite Bridge Achievements: (Besides creating popular clubs) Being an A2 national director and being asked to work at the Festival of Bridge, and in Surfers. Is very pleased with the success of his monthly Play Bridge Sydney Harbour cruises which began a few months ago.

Worries: that there is too little co-operation between bridge clubs and too few economies of scale –eg. why should 2 clubs be giving lessons when one club could handle the numbers?



Ed Barnes - Kings and Queens

Home: Bondi
Profession: Caterer, bridge director
Interests: Bridge, cooking, bad movies

Ishmael Del'Monte - Kings and Queens

Home: Sydney
Family: 2 children aged 6 and 4
Interests: Family, cricket, rugby & watching sport
Profession: Australian international bridge rep, director & highly respected teacher

