

THE SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS BULLETIN



No 4 Tuesday 15th November 2005 Ed: Anne Bates

Event 3: The Open Teams Qualifying

YOUTH BRIDGE NOW -- AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE OF THE FUTURE

The conventional wisdom has been that Australian Youth Bridge is in a sorry state with disappointing numbers of young people taking up the game. But dotted across the country are people and centres of interest that make everything look different.

These centres of interest have often developed at universities: for example at Sydney University, Gabby Feiler and Warren Lazer seem to have discovered a winning combination of teaching and running sessions. Larry Moses and Richard Touton in Queensland, Andrew and Catherine Mill in Melbourne are just some of the people who have devoted time to developing talented young players.

That the schools bridge program is unearthing rich veins of talent was made clear by David Lusk in his sorry tale, "Squeezed by an 8 Year-old!" - an account of a school lunch-time bridge session in which a clever young girl made 11 tricks against him in 1NT. (ABF Youth Bulletin, September 2005)

2005 has provided several good opportunities for young players to show off their talents. There was the PABFC in Seoul in which the Australian team, (Feiler, Porter, Geromboux, Ware and Roberts, (NPC) came second to Japan.

And in August, 7th – 17th, the World Youth Championships were run in Sydney. This was the first truly international youth event to be held in Australia. The organizers did a splendid

job and the Australian team improved its position to 7th out of 18. On this occasion the Australian team was Feiler-Porter, Geromboux-Ware, Krochmalik-Williams and Roberts (NPC).

At the end of September, the Trans Tasman event against New Zealand gave Nye Griffiths an opportunity to demonstrate his skills by winning the prize for the best-played hand of the tournament.

However, just when the future of Australian Youth Bridge, (and therefore Australian bridge in the future) was looking so promising, problems have arisen: several of the key organizers have had to step down.

So if you have any spare time at all, Australian Youth Bridge needs you. For information contact David Lusk: lusk@internode.on.net

Nye Griffiths receives his trophy





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Youth Bridge: Farewells and Future Opportunities

As two of the doyens of youth bridge retire, it is timely to review the Youth Bridge Committee's achievements of the last six years.

The prominent bridge identities about to retire from Youth Bridge administration are David Lusk, National Youth Co-Ordinator, and David Stern, ABF Youth Convenor.



David Lusk

Profession: Bridge Teacher/Director

Home: Adelaide

Family: Married, 1 child

Interests: Bridge, Aust. Wine, Sport

Favourite Bridge Achievements: Interstate championships for South Australia in 1971 &

2000

David Stern

Profession: Corporate Consultant

Home: Paddington, Sydney **Family**: Married, 2 children

Interests: Bridge Sports (as a spectator of

course)

Favourite Bridge Achievements: Winning Cavendish side event, Captaining Aust. Teams

Overseas

The list of just some of the achievements of the Youth Bridge Committee under the leadership of these men is impressive.

- Staged the World Youth Championship teams in Sydney in August, 2005.
- Established a fund to support youth bridge. The fund is currently \$25,000, despite a \$10,000 donation to the cost of running the WYT.
- Established 2 annual test matches against New Zealand and the Youth Triathlon as an annual event.
- Organised youth coaching clinics run by teaching gurus such as Eric Kokish.
- Produced 3 youth bulletins a year.
- Introduced and nurtured the ABF youth club that has more than 100 members.
- Ensured that each state or territory has a serious youth co-ordinator or equivalent. (Sadly missing before 2000).

The contribution the two Davids have made to Youth Bridge is widely acknowledged. However, they emphasise that their 'retirement' should be viewed as an opportunity to revitalize the committee with new people and new ideas.

'The time is right for somebody with a new and fresh approach to come to the position of Youth committee chairman.' (David Lusk)

'There is now an opportunity to join the team of people committed to fostering youth bridge.... Gabby Feiler, Mark Abraham, Brad Coles, Peter Gill and others......" (David Stern.)

Contact David Lusk: lusk@internode.on.net to express your interest in joining the Committee or being involved in Youth Bridge organization.



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ESTORIL - A perspective by Margaret Bourke

What stands out in my mind about the 2005 World Championships, held in the resort town of Estoril in Portugal, is the splendid organization and the way technology has taken over.

Estoril is a scenic town and very much a tourist resort with lots of accommodation and restaurants within easy walking distance of the venue. The Casino was next door and each afternoon there was a huge increase in the number of cars parking in the surrounds, which led to some very creative Portuguese parking.

The venue was spacious and well lit but we only just survived the chairs. Each table used electronic scorers so that results were entered and transmitted to the computer as soon as a deal was completed. This allowed for continuous, instant updating screened in the vu-graph auditorium. Mistakes were rare so it was easy to follow the highs and lows of each match, with a triumph or disaster indicated by a sudden change in the running VP results.

This data also allows comparisons with other teams as each hand record shows the contract, lead and score at each table. (This comprehensive information is available on the WBF web-site.)

The Australian women finished 11th with the now familiar pattern of starting slowly and then never quite being able to make the finals. Once again, slam decisions were crucial.

This was a very interesting hand for Multi-2 players:

Holding S: J732; H: void; D: A94; C: AK7543, the auction proceeds Pass - 2D (Multi) - 3D. Worried that partner held a weak two in hearts, our opponent passed and, with the NS cold for thirteen tricks in spades, I went a very satisfactory one down.

There were a variety of results on this hand because both West (the opening bidder) and North had opportunities to open a weak two bid. (The West hand is a dreadful weak two and my partner, Meredith Woods, correctly chose not to open).

The full hand was

		S AK1098	4		Our au	uction:		
		H Q 10 3		W	N	E	S	
		D 87		Pass	2D*	3D	Pass	
		C 92		Pass	Pass			
S	Q 5		S 6					
Н	J98654		H AK72	At the	other ta	other table:		
D	J 5		D K Q 10 6 3 2W	W	N	E	S	
C	Q 10 8		С Ј 6	2D*	Pass	2S*	3C	
		S J 7 3 2		Pass	3NT	//		
		Н						
		D A 9 4						
		C A K 7 5 4 3						

The auction is much easier if North opens or overcalls 2S. 6 pairs in the women's event reached 6 Spades. Would you have done as well?