



# THE SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS BULLETIN



No 7 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Ed: Anne Bates

## Event 3: The Open Teams Qualifying

**OzOne** By Margaret Bourke

Australia has never been a major force in bridge. We have never reached the finals of an important international event and we haven't won a Far East Championship since 1970. When you consider that recent winners include Japan, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Indonesia, and none of these countries has ever been a world champion, it is clear that we are a third world country when it comes to bridge.

Yet we do have a large and prosperous bridge community with many talented players so you might wonder why we haven't done better. The problem is that the best players are usually spread over several teams and the pairs that do get together are rarely well prepared for the level of competition they encounter overseas.

OzOne is an initiative that is designed to change all that. The aim is to lift the standard of bridge in this country so that we finally become a contender at the highest level of the game. It has been made possible thanks to a generous anonymous donation that is expected to be in the order of one million dollars per year.

The committee is Peter Smith, Marcia Scudder, Warren Lazer, Arian Lasocki, Paul Marston (Chairman). Initially the focus is on open bridge but it is expected that special plans will be made for junior bridge to ensure an ongoing high standard followed by women's bridge.

Nine pairs have been selected: Bob Richman – Zoli Nagy, Phil Gue – Khokan Bagchi, Ron Klinger – Bruce Neill, Nigel Rosendorff – Avi Kanetkar, Adam and Nabil Edgtton, Ishmael Del'Monte – Robert Fruewirth, Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn, Kieran Dyke – David Wiltshire, Hugh Grosvenor – Paul Marston.

The players span all ages. There are seasoned campaigners of middle age, a new crop of experts in their 20s and 30s, and remarkably, even a pair that is 13 and 14.

The coach is Eric Kokish of Canada, who is widely regarded as the best in the world, and the coordinator is Margaret Bourke of Canberra. She is one of our all-time most successful women bridge players. The pairs will train from one to two days a week and they will form teams to play in major events both here and overseas. Players will have their expenses paid and they will earn significant bonuses when they achieve their goals.

The squad is not a closed shop. Pairs who catch the eye of the committee may still be invited to join. One way pairs might be noticed is on the basis of their rating. OzOne is installing a rating system that will objectively measure the performance of players all around the country, based on results that are supplied to OzOne. It will be very attractive for events to be able to link their results into the OzOne ratings and funds have been set aside to help clubs and tournaments do this.

We hope the project will attract the interest of many bridge players right across Australia. This support will be important in helping to motivate the players through the difficult times that they are sure to encounter as they fight their way to the top.

The OzOne website will have all the latest information on the project, including players' ratings. There is also a bulletin board where you are invited to have your say.

Log on now and become a part of OzOne - [forum](#)



# THE SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS BULLETIN



No 8 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Ed: Anne Bates

## Event 3: The Open Teams Qualifying

This hand came up in the Women's,  
Match 7  
Board 4 (Dir: West, ALL VUL)

	AKJ98653	
	Q 9	
	A Q	
	4	
----		Q107
K 872		54
K7		J 95432
KQ109832		J 6
	42	
	AJ1063	
	10 8 6	
	A 75	

West opens 5♣ N bids 5♠, East passes  
and  
South bids 6♠.

Opening lead J♣. Plan the play.  
(Solution in the next bulletin)

## 2006 Commonwealth of Nations Bridge Championship

The 2006 CNBC will be held on similar lines to the inaugural competition held in Manchester where there were 28 teams.

The plan is to hold this event at the Victorian Bridge Association (VBA) in Melbourne. To date 14 countries have expressed a desire to attend. Counting entries from Australia and NZ a total of 30 entrants are expected.

The event will be scheduled from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of March. (The Commonwealth Games begin on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March.)

The Sydney qualifying competition for this event will be held on the weekend of December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the NSWBA.

Enter as pairs. The top 3 pairs will form the NSW team.



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# THE SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS BULLETIN



No 9 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Ed: Anne Bates

## Event 3: The Open Teams Qualifying

### Solution to problem in Bulletin 8

AKJ98653  
Q9  
AQ  
4

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K872  
K7  
KQ 109832

Q107  
54  
J95432  
J6

42  
AJ1063  
1086  
A75



Contract 6S;  
Opening lead J♣

Win with A♣

Play AK of spades – give East her spade trick.  
Ruff the Club return.  
Run the Q of hearts and it holds! What next – bad luck therefore, run it again to pitch your losing diamond!  
Was the heart ducked on purpose or did West play too quickly?

