



# Spring Nationals Bulletin

No 2 Saturday 11 November 2000

Editor Nick Hughes

## Dick Cummings Pairs

A top field of 40+ tables will compete for the trophy and a \$4,000 prize pool, starting at 2 pm today at the Vista and Lindfield.

At the finish (Sunday around 5.45) there will be a special presentation.

## World's Largest?

This is the 15th GNOT, perhaps the largest bridge event in the world with a nation-wide entry of 1550.

Next year there are likely to be 46 or 48 teams. Convener John Brockwell acknowledged that this year's Thursday start was unpopular with some, necessitating an extra day off work.

## True to form

No real surprises on Thursday. Two provincial teams made it through to round 3, Darling Downs and Northern Rivers, who beat Melbourne 2.

On Friday, the defenders (Sydney 1) fell to Adelaide 2 but recovered to win the Swiss. Sydney 2 & 3 are unbeaten and get this morning off. In the repechage, the two Adelaide teams play(ed) each other while Sydney 1 take on Perth 1.

## Some hands

In the last Swiss round, Sydney 1 beat Adelaide 1 18-12, a result which suited them both nicely. The defending champs had to win, this hand didn't help:

### Seduced by shape again

GNOT Rd 10, Bd 27

S/Nil ♠ A Q J 4

♥ A Q 10 7

♦ J 4 2

♣ 10 3

♠ K

♥ K 8 6 4 3

♦ A 10 9 7 6 5 3

♣ —

♠ 7 6 3

♥ J 9 2

♦ Q

♣ A J 9 5 4 2

♠ 10 9 8 5 2

♥ 5

♦ K 8

♣ K Q 8 7 6

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Newman Thomson

3♦ 4♠ No 2♠

? No No

Pass leads to +50 on the ♦A lead but Peter Newman couldn't bring himself to do that. He tried the approved 4NT, correcting 5♣ to 5♦ to suggest hearts. 5♦ goes for -500 but Matthew Thomson reasonably

## GNOT Standings

In the last 2 knockout matches

**Sydney 2 def Perth 2**

**Sydney 3 def Adelaide 2**

Winners straight through to semi-finals around midday Saturday. Looking to kibitz or record? Semi-finals are in Rms 210, 213, 410 & 412 of the Vista.

Losers to repechage on Saturday morning vs top 2 in Swiss.

### Final Swiss standings

1= Sydney 1 177

1= Adelaide 1 177

(These 2 to repechage)

3rd Sydney 6 174

4th Canberra 172

5= Northern Rivers 171

5= Sydney 5 171

7th Perth 1 169

8th Melbourne 1 166

9th Sydney 4 161

10th Hunter 1 157

The top 10 finish to Northern Rivers (North Coast of NSW) is the best ever GNOT result for a country team.

converted to 5♥, which falls apart for -1100 on a trump lead. Oh well.

## A few slams

GNOT Rnd 7, Bd 14

E/Nil ♠ J 10 9 8 7

♥ 7 6

♦ 10 9 8 4

♣ 10 7

♠ Q 5 3 2

♥ K 2

♦ K J 7 3

♣ 9 5 4

♠ A K 4

♥ A Q 10 8 5 3

♦ —

♣ A K Q 2

♠ 6

♥ J 9 4

♦ A Q 6 5 2

♣ J 8 6 3

7♥ is an okay spot, which you might reach after West shows a positive. Anyway, South leads an non diamond, giving declarer an array of squeezes. Simplest is to cash the ♠AK and run the trumps, pitching minors from dummy. If South has the ♦A, it doesn't matter how the clubs break.

Our Forcing Pass system didn't hand the EW cards too well. In a competitive auction, East made a

## Dick Cummings Pairs

Sat 11th Dick Cummings Pairs Qualifying at Vista or Lindfield, 2pm start. \$160 per pair entry.

(GNOT semi-finals at Vista, 9am start)

Sun 12th Cummings Pairs Finals at Vista, 10am start

(GNOT final, 9am start)

## Spring National Open Teams (SNOT)

Mon 13th SNOT 1-3 at Vista, 11.30, 3pm & 8pm. \$420 per team

Tue 14th SNOT 4-6

Wed 15th SNOT 7-9

## Spring National Women's Teams (SNWT)

Thu 16th SNWT 1-3 at Vista, 11.30, 3pm & 8pm. \$380 per team

(SNOT final, 10am start)

Fri 17th SNWT 4-6

Sat 18th SNWT 7-9

Sun 19th 7 Round Swiss Teams at Vista, 10am start. \$100 per team

(SNWT final, 10am start)

forcing pass over North's 2♦ and was soon writing +150. Mind you, we gained on the board when our partners collected +50 against 7♣. Easy IMPs.

GNOT Rnd 6, Bd 29

N/Both ♠ A J 7 4

♥ K

♦ 8 6 5

♣ 10 8 6 3 2

♠ Q 9 5 3 2

♥ 10 7 6 4

♦ K 10 7 3

♣ —

♠ 6

♥ A Q J 9

♦ A

♣ AKQJ754

♠ K 10 8

♥ 8 5 3 2

♦ Q J 9 4 2

♣ 9

It's easy to overstep to slam here. 6♣ is poor, basically needing the stiff ♥K and a club break. One off is better than you deserve.

6♥ is better because South is likely to lead a "safe" diamond. You win, ruff a club, pitch your spade on the ♦K and call for the ♥10. An easy +1460. Perhaps South will learn to lead more aggressively against slams next time.

Against Margaret Drake, East opened 4♣. West bid 4♦ and East "retreated" to 5♣. This came round to Margaret who chanced a double. -1000 later it dawned that 4♣ had been an ace-ask. Sigh.

Our team was knocked unconscious by Perth 2, thanks in part to thoughtful cardplay like this:

GNOT Rnd 6, Bd 26

E/Both ♠ A 6

♥ 4

♦ A 10 9 5 4 2

♣ K J 4 2

♠ 7 4

♥ K J 7

♦ K Q J 7 6 3

♣ Q 10

♠ K 10 9 5 2

♥ 10 9 5 3 2

♦ 8

♣ 8 5

♠ Q J 8 3

♥ A Q 8 6

♦ —

♣ A 9 7 6 3

Paul Yovich played the bold 6♣ from North after West had overcalled 2♦. He ruffed the ♦8 lead then played ♣K-A, despite East's ♣10. (Looks right because a 3-1 break would be awkward) Then he ran the ♠Q to East's king. When the inevitable ♥2 came back he read the West hand well by rising ace to ruff out the king.

## Gallus again

Every year Bob tries to outdo himself. On this hand, the new Klinger 1NT structure also had a starring role:

GNOT 9, Bd 14

E/Nil ♠ 5

♥ K 9 4

♦ Q 4 2

♣ J 10 9 5 4 2

♠ —

♥ Q 10 8 6 5 2

♦ 10 8 6 3

♣ Q 8 7

♠ J 10 9 6

♥ A 7

♦ K J 7 5

♣ AK 3

♠ AKQ 8 7 4 3 2

♥ J 3

♦ A 9

♣ 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Dyke	Gallus

1NT

Dbl

2♥

No

3♠

No

4♥

No

4♠

End

The expected six off. Double supposedly showed a 2-suiter. Under the new Klinger structure, it's system on over most doubles so Keiran super-accepted.

At the other table, East went for -500 in 5♦x for an unexpected 5 IMP pickup.

Despite the result, Bob did the right thing because 4♠ has no real play and 5♦ should escape for -100.

Against David Horton's 4♠, West gave away a trick with a heart lead to East's ace. Not seeing the danger, East attempted to cash the ♣A-K. Horton ruffed, played the top trumps, then came a heart to the king for another club ruff. Put in with the ♠J, East had to lead away from the ♦K for -420. Neat!

## What makes here?

GNOT Rnd 5, Bd 10

E/Both ♠ A Q 9 6 3

♥ Q 10

♦ 10 8 4

♣ 10 6 5

♠ 8 7 4

♥ 9 3

♦ Q 7 3 2

♣ AK J 4

♠ J 10 2

♥ K 8 7 6

♦ 9 6

♣ 9 8 3 2

♠ K 5

♥ A J 5 4 2

♦ AK J 5

♣ Q 7

3NT looks okay with clubs and spades 4-4 and the ♥K onside, though a "brilliant" East might thwart

you. Say East wins the fourth club with the ♣9 and leads the ♥8. Then declarer might rise ace and rely on the spade break and diamond hook.

You can't go wrong in 4♠ but 4♥ is interesting. West cashes the ♣A-K then switches to a mild looking spade. If declarer wins the ♠K and leads a heart to the queen, East grabs the king and returns a spade. Curtains.

## The multi guessing game

GNOT Rnd 2, Bd 16

W/EW ♠ 10 5

♥ AK 10 8 6

♦ 9 6

♣ A J 8 4

♠ K 8 7 6 4 3

♥ J 3

♦ J 3

♣ 10 6 5

♠ A Q J 9 2

♥ Q

♦ A Q 8 4 2

♣ K 3

♠ —

♥ 9 7 5 4 2

♦ K 10 7 5

♣ Q 9 7 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
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2♦ ?!

2♥

?

2♦ was the usual Multi.

Les Varadi was South and waited while East consulted the ceiling. Eventually East convinced himself that partner must have hearts. The hand was a total misfit, so he passed! Les twigged and passed also, knowing 4♥ would beget a belated 4♠ by East.

+200 was par since EW can save for -200 in 5♠x over 5♥, but their partners sold out to 5♥ for -450 for 6 IMPs away.

You can order lunch at the kiosk. Cappuccinos are \$1.30

## Presentation

At close of play of the Dick Cummings Pairs on Sunday evening (around 5.45), stick around for the prize-giving.

Denis Howard will be MC and ABF President Keith McDonald will also say a few words.

*The Sydney Morning Herald*