NEWSLETTER AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC. Editor: Brad Coles (editor@abf.com.au) No. 200 December 2019

ABN 70 053 651 666

2019 BOBBY EVANS SENIOR TEAMS by Peter Buchen

Approved for Print Post S65001/00163

The Bobby Evans Seniors at the Spring Nationals attracted a relatively small entry of only 16 teams, divided into two fields of eight. The top two qualifiers in Section-A were BUCHEN (Peter Buchen, George Smolanko, Ron Klinger, Ian Thomson, David Beauchamp, Mike Hughes) and MORRISON (Kim Morrison, Chris Hughes, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer). Section-B qualifiers were HINGE (Simon Hinge, Stephen Lester, Ian Robinson, George Kozakos) and BURGESS (Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, Jonathan Free, Ron Cooper). BUCHEN defeated BURGESS 89 to 50 imps in one semi-final, while HINGE defeated MORRISON 80 to 62 imps in the other. So it would be BUCHEN versus HINGE in the final.

The following deal generated a 12-imp swing to BUCHEN in the first of four 14-board stanzas.



Both Souths (Smolanko for BUCHEN and Robinson for HINGE) declared 4♥ on a low spade lead. Smolanko ruffed in hand and led a heart to the king. When East took the ace and continued hearts, declarer was in control. He simply drew trumps and conceded the two minor suit aces. The **\K** provided a parking spot for his long spade loser. Robinson in the other room also got a

low spade lead. He won that in dummy and advanced the $\forall K$, ducked by Thomson, then the ♥Q, also ducked. Now the defence was in control so declarer had to go one down. The deal illustrated the importance of not giving up trump control too early.

Although BUCHEN won all four sets, it was not entirely one way traffic. On the deal below from Set 2, HINGE managed a great result, if a little fortunate.



Mike Hughes for BUCHEN opened the South hand with a prosaic 4 bid, as many would. That drifted two down for -200 when Lester - Hinge defended accurately. At the other table, Ian Robinson deemed his hand too good for a 4 bid and risked a 1 opening. Ron Klinger sitting West bid an intermediate strength 3, passed round to South, who now doubled to show his strong hand. George Kozakos, North, found the winning Pass. Not everyone might agree with that choice, but 3 had to go one down for another 200 and 9 imps to HINGE. The final result was BUCHEN 138, HINGE 82.

And what a pleasant surprise to have Bobby Evans' son Michael present the shield and medals.

Peter Buchen



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Mid-Term meeting of the ABF Council was held in Sydney in November. Council meetings are very important as the Council, which consists of two Councillors appointed by each State and Territory, jointly supervise the activities of the ABF and monitor the progress of our strategic activities. I take this opportunity to thank retiring NSW Councillor



Richard Douglas, for his two years of service and I wish him well in his future endeavours.

The ABF Strategic Review outlined a national initiative to recognise volunteers at Club, State and National level. The Management Committee has agreed that an unlimited number of certificates will be presented, as the objective is recognition of their contributions to bridge. The Head of Marketing has asked clubs for nominations, and I am pleased that the response from some

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Articles

Spring National Seniors' Teams: Peter Buchen	1
President's Report: Allison Stralow	2
Workshops With Will: William Jenner-O'Shea	3
ABF Marketing Report: Peter Cox	4
ABF Education: Joan Butts	6
Bridge Vid: Peter Hollands	8
The Value Of Four Trumps: Mike Lawrence	10
Coaching Cathy At Contract: David Lusk	11
Tournament Results	12
A Game At The Club: Barbara Travis	14
Australian Open Playoff: Sartaj Hans	15
Spring Nationals: Liam Milne & Ron Klinger	16
Dick Cummings Pairs: Brad Coles	18
Improve Your Defence: Ron Klinger	7, 19
Suit Combinations: Brad Coles	20
Bridge Into The 21st Century: Paul Lavings	21
How Would You Play? Barbara Travis	7, 22
A Thoughtful Defence: Dennis Zines	23
ABF Youth Initiatives: Leigh Gold	24
Letters To The Editor	25
Behind The Matchpoints: Brad Coles	25
Around The Clubs	26

Advertising enquiries: editor@abf.com.au Letters to the Editor and feedback: editor@abf.com.au

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY EDITION ADVERTISING: 17 JANUARY 2020 ARTICLES: 17 JANUARY 2020

States has been overwhelming. Clubs will present certificates during National Volunteers week 18-24 May 2020. Nominations of volunteers must be made via the form on the ABF website

http://abfevents.com.au/volunteerweek/

I am pleased to announce progress has been made on establishing the ABF Foundation. Therese Tully, Andrew Richman, Mimi Packer, Simon Hinge and the ABF Treasurer have agreed to be Trustees. Once the deed is formalised, further information will be on the website.

The WBF has notified us that the World Youth Teams Championship will be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy at the end of July 2020, although the exact dates are not confirmed. A new category for players under the age of 31 has been included, entries will only be by invitation. The ABF will need to consider this announcement as we did for the Mixed Teams in 2016.

The ABF has agreed to support the Asia Pacific Bridge Congress by sponsoring the following teams; Open, Women's, Seniors', Mixed, Under 16, Under 21 and Under 26. The method of selection for choosing the Australian representative teams will be via the selection policy for non-target events.

Australian players will receive gold points at the National Championship rate (Grade A) for the APBF pairs and teams, as it is a major international competition. Entries for the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Open Congress 2020 can be submitted online, using our secure site:

www.entries.bridgeaustralia.org/onlineentries.php?id=55

Bill Gates once said, "Bridge is a game you can play at any age. If you take it up young, you have fun doing it the rest of your life. A lot of games don't have that depth. This one does." The Super Vets, an ABF Licensed event in Western Australia, is an example of this depth. This year 112 over-75-year-olds entered, many of who started playing bridge when they were young and are still enjoying the challenge of the game. This event celebrates the valuable contribution these players have made to bridge over many years. A special certificate was presented to Maggie Sacks, the only centenarian who entered. She finished the tournament in the top 25% of the field, which was a remarkable result. Congratulations to the Tournament Organiser, John Acquino, whose idea it was to introduce this event in 2012.

On behalf of the ABF Council and Management Committee, I wish you a very Merry Christmas if you celebrate Christmas. For those who do not, I wish you the very best during this holiday season. To all of you, I hope you have a very Happy New Year filled with good health and success at the bridge table.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me, or the ABF Management Committee, please email:

abf.pres@gmail.com

Allison Stralow, ABF President

The ABF has agreed to waive all masterpoint fees for clubs, States and Territories that hold fund raising events to support the victims of the recent bushfires. Masterpoints will be awarded at the congress rate, and are subject to the approval of the local State or Territory MP Secretary.

Thank you in advance to all the clubs, State and Territories intending to run bridge sessions in aid of this particularly worthy cause.

The Masterpoint Secretary will inform the States of the cutoff date.

WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

HIGH LEVEL JUDGEMENT

This month's workshop at Sydney Bridge Centre was all about Competitive Bidding Decisions.

This hand from the lesson has several instructive points for both sides, and on this hand neither team is vulnerable. Your opponent is dealer and opens the

bidding 1^{\heartsuit} . Your partner jumps to 3^{\diamondsuit} , and the next opponent bids 3^{\heartsuit} . This is your hand, what do you bid?

♠ K 10 9 6 3 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ A 6 5 4 ♣ 2

The first comment is that partner's 3 preempt might be a six- or seven-card suit as an overcaller, since she couldn't jump a Weak Jump Overcall to the two-level. However, you have at least ten trumps, a weak hand, and a singleton. You have very little defence, so you should bid straight to 5. Sometimes players bid 4, thinking that they will get another chance to bid 5, but this allows the opponents more chances to bid. When preempting, or raising a preempt, bid has high as you feel comfortable, and just bid once.

You bid 5, now let's put ourselves back in the opener's shoes!

You open 1^{\clubsuit} , and your opponent preempts 3^{\clubsuit} , your partner raises to 3^{\clubsuit} and the next opponent bids 5^{\clubsuit} . What now?

♠ A Q 5 ♥ K Q 9 8 5 ♦ J ♣ A K 6 5

Although your partner bid to 3♥, they had to bid at that level to bid over the preempt. Partner is only competing, and is not necessarily inviting game. Partner has roughly 8-11 points,

maybe a little more or less, and could have three or four trumps. Now that the opponents have bid to 5 you appear to have three options: bid 5 , double, or pass.

Although you have a very strong hand, you potentially have one or two losers in spades and clubs, and the two red aces. It is not clear that you will make 5♥. People occasionally make a mistake in thinking that going one or two off could be a good sacrifice. A good tip is that the team with the most HCP (usually the opening team) should not sacrifice. The stronger team should aim to get a positive score, either by defeating the opponents or making what they bid.

It's not obvious that you have enough tricks to defeat 5, especially when you don't have any possible diamond winners. Everyone has had their aces trumped before!

You can't be sure of making 5♥ or of defeating 5♦, which leaves pass. Many players chose to pass, however, a great tip in a high-level competitive auction is: if you think that you can make your game (4♥) and the opponents bid over you, don't pass. Either bid, or double. Your game would be worth a large score, at least 420, and defeating your opponents won't be a very good score. Since bidding 5♥ might be too high, the best choice on this hand is to double your opponents and try to defeat them.

On the actual hand, 5♥ probably goes down by one, and 5♦ goes down by two tricks. The best outcome for you would be to make 4♥, but once the opponents outbid you, the best option is to double and defend.

Will Jenner-O'Shea



Your New Year's Resolution



Participation in these fun-filled bridge groups is available only by booking direct with Bridge Holidays, LLC

SIGNATURE

ABF MARKETING REPORT by Peter Cox

GROWING YOUR BRIDGE CLUB IN 2020 – FIVE POINT PLAN FOR THE NEW YEAR



In this last month before the Summer Holidays it is the time for setting in place your plans for how you are going to grow your bridge club in 2020.

January/February is always a very busy time with the Summer Festival Of Bridge in January and the mighty Gold Coast Congress in February.

It is also the busiest time of the year for many clubs with people relaxing after the busy Xmas period with their families and wanting to have personal time playing bridge in their clubs and practicing for the congresses.



Further, it is a time for new year resolutions and taking up new hobbies and pastimes hence most bridge clubs have their biggest classes for beginners in February-April.

Therefore, now is the perfect time to plan your bridge classes and how you are going to advertise to get new players to replace those lost during the year and hopefully to grow your club.

1. Setting Goals – Your responsibility



"Ask not what your club can do for you – ask what you can do for your club" with apologies to JFK.

Yes, your club committee needs to lead the way in setting targets for intakes of new players, writing and producing leaflets, devising teaching schedules and perhaps even being braver and trying some advertising.

However, the greatest asset we have in bridge is YOU – our 36,000 members. If every member could introduce one new aspiring player imagine how we could revolutionise our game. As Di Brooks from the Rockingham Club in WA wrote, "a dream to encourage people to come and join us and reap the benefits."

So rather than trying to keep table money to a minimum of \$5-\$7 for a great three hours of competition, enjoyment and being with your friends, agree to a slightly higher fee to help your club advertise to attract new players and provide better facilities and equipment.

Instead of watching session numbers fall and, in the short or longer term, the demise of your club, "ask what you can do" to contribute to this great game and lifestyle. In many clubs the volunteers have for years: dealt the boards, put out the tables, provided the afternoon tea, put in the masterpoint returns and worked on the committees. They are now getting older and often want to retire. We need a younger generation to step up to the plate and learn how to run the clubs for the future. Finally, if your committee are not taking up the some of the suggestions of ABF Marketing, then ask why not, and encourage them to improve your club.

2. Bridge ON DEMAND

Some of you will have read my writings that if you want to take up one of many other leisure activities or sports such as golf, tennis, bowls, skiing, dancing or book clubs, they all offer instant teaching or participation and some are for free. In bridge, most clubs offer about two classes a year, which means that people who are interested in learning are asked to wait for up to 6 months to commence. This is totally unsatisfactory in the highly competitive leisure and sports markets. We need to be able to provide teaching bridge NOW.

The ACBL recently conducted research on "Understanding Players and Non-Players in the U.S." using a 45+ year-old group. The results were very interesting and the Non-Players who were interested in learning answered their favoured methods were: Computer App 20%, Teacher 14%, Educational Videos (You Tube) 10%, and Books only 5%.

Cath Whiddon has suggested the term "Bridge On Demand" for the Peninsula Bridge Club, which I think is an excellent title following in the path of Video On Demand.

Joan Butts, who has the excellent Joan Butts Online School of Bridge is writing a course to help with play for beginners that will work with the Bridge On Demand concept.

Most bridge clubs have either qualified teachers or experienced players who could teach the beginners stages particularly with playing the cards, trick taking and basic bidding.

3. The Buddy System

I have written before about the low level of retention from beginners' classes of about 30% and the concept of the Buddy System. This is where experienced players provide support in a mentoring role (not teaching) to beginners particularly at the two crucial stages of moving from beginners' classes to supervised and then when introducing them into the more competitive Open field. This is something that every club should incorporate.

4. Local Promotion

Nothing beats word of mouth, and that includes all members doing their bit as I discussed earlier. It also includes producing leaflets on your upcoming classes to local businesses, homes, senior citizens centres, sporting clubs, RSL clubs, libraries and at local street fairs. Also providing interesting stories to your local newspapers, not just 100th birthday celebrations, promotes the value of bridge in the surrounding communities.

5. ABF Marketing Grants for Facebook Advertising

The ABF is inviting the clubs to apply for a grant from the ABF for up to \$500 to share the costs of a Facebook Advertising campaign. The Canberra Bridge Club recently undertook a Facebook Advertising trial and got 12 new beginners. Even if only half the class survive the beginner's classes and the supervised stage and become full members, this is a great result. If they average one game per week at \$10 table money, this will give the club an annual increase in income of \$3,600, less masterpoint fees, for an outlay of only \$250.

The Canberra Bridge Club has set a great example of how to create a Facebook campaign. After creating an account on Facebook the major steps are:

1. Target Market

Age, Gender, Location (Radius or Post Codes) and Interests



Outline of Canberra Audience definition:

Canberra + 30km; Queanbeyan.

Age: 40-65+

Language: English (UK) or English (US)

"People who match": Interests: Crossword, Memory, Baby boomers, Travel + Leisure, Puzzle, Learning, Ageing, Contract bridge, Pensioner, Independent living, Social group, Brain fitness, Brain Age: Train Your Brain in Minutes a Day!, Retirement, Logic puzzles, Card games or Retirement age, Behaviours: Frequent travellers

300,000 Potential Audience Size

2. Content

Choose slides, or a video would be even better. Canberra had three themes or slides that appealed to people who:

- played games such as Sudoku, but you could also use Trivia, Crosswords, Word Games,
- had active minds, with a focus on concentration, memory, logic and mental health,
- were looking for a game for all ages (fun, exciting, make friendships forever).

Also notice how Canberra have offered a special deal - everyone loves a discount.

Canberra Facebook Slides – Three Themes



Or if you need further information contact Peter Cox directly on 0413 676 326



There are now 100 Accredited teachers throughout Australia. This is a huge milestone for the ABF, and is a testament to the support and commitment of many teachers to the programme.

We will be extending the program in 2020 with two new CPD Days (Continuing Professional Development Days) and two new teacher trainers have been appointed. They are Ed Barnes and Sue Falkingham.



Ed learned the game as an eight-year-old from his mother and began taking it seriously as a university student. He has won various national titles and has introduced the game to thousands of students as a teacher in Sydney. He has written two books: one for beginners (Bridge for Newbies) and one for improving players (Bidding for Bunnies). He has published teaching-focused

articles in various publications nationally and internationally. Ed has been directing and teaching bridge for 25 years.

With Ish Del'Monte, he founded Kings and Queens Bridge Club, and next, with Matthew McManus, created the first live-display scoring program in Australia. Ed was a part of the team that brought Bridgemates to Australian tournaments, as the IT officer, and a member of the organising committee at the Gold Coast Congress during the last ten years.

Away from the bridge world, Ed teaches ethics in NSW primary schools, and also has a passion for home-grown produce. He recently began a business sourcing honey from beekeepers around the world, particularly those with unique connections to their land. Ed lives in Sydney and Oberon, where he tends to his ducks and vegetables.

IT'S ALL IN THE GAME

Once in a while you'll go down, But it's all in the game. Partner gives you a frown, And does exactly the same. But you both raise a smile, When you win by a mile, And agree that it's all in the game.

Greg Quittner

Sue Falkingham taught many people bridge at Peninsula Bridge Club in Sydney before relocating to Hobart. She likens her self

to "a bit of a zealot" spreading the joy, as she has such a love of the game.

Her first beginners course at the Tasmania Bridge Association (TBA) in June this year, attracted thirty students, and since finishing, 90% have joined the TBA and continued to play. Her aim is to bring bridge to more people in Hobart and keep growing the club.



The ABF is offering an even wider range of education programmes in 2020, particularly to clubs in country areas, who may not have the same opportunities as in the city.

Joan Butts, ABF National Teaching Coordinator

All upcoming ABF Accreditation workshops may be viewed at https://www.abf.com.au/education/



Learn, practise and play bridge online



Access the Lesson Library with more than 100 bridge lessons and hundreds of bridge hands to play. Each lesson includes videos, notes and hands you can play online. There are also review videos that explain how to play the hand. Put your new bridge skills to the test by playing unlimited bridge hands online at anytime against the computer.

"I have just started the OSOB ten days ago and, referring to the lesson and practising every day, I am already feeling an improvement in my bridge. Thank you, Joan!"

- Gold Member

The Online School of Bridge is a place to learn, practise and develop new skills to use at the bridge table. Featuring more than 100 bridge lessons covering bidding, play and defence, the Online School of Bridge offers the most modern approach to learning to play bridge.

The course curriculum draws on Joan's many years of experience as a bridge teacher and offers lessons from beginner to advanced levels. Each lesson has been designed to build on the ones before it, so you can start from the beginning or revise topics of interest.

A new lesson, complete with four new bridge hands to play, is added each week so you will never run out of things to learn. Gold Members can also play the hands from Joan Butts' books online or play unlimited bridge hands each day.

Become a Gold Member today and enjoy a 7 day free trial: joanbuttsbridge.com/join



HOW WOULD YOU PLAY

SEE PAGE 22 FOR ANSWERS HAND 1



North's cue bid of 4 suggested a good raise in hearts, so South made a practical bid of 6♥.

West led the +10. How would you play?

HAND 2	 ▲ A Q ♥ A K ◆ 10 7 ♣ A 7 	4 3 10 8 6	
	♠ K J 1 ♥ 7 4 ♥ Q 5 ♣ J 6	l0 9 6 2 2	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	south 2 ♠
pass	4♠	all pass	
West leads the	♣K. How will y	ou play?	
	 ♥ 10 2 ♦ A J 2 ♣ A K ♦ A K ♥ A K ♥ A K ♥ 4 ♣ 8 4 	5 2 10 6 3 J 10 8 6 5 3	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH 1♥
pass	2♦	pass	2♠
pass	3♠	pass	4♥
pass	4NT RKCB	pass	5• ⁰ or 3
pass	5NT	pass	6♥ ^{king} of he
pass	6♠	all pass	
West led the * your plan if plat	Q. What is you ying Pairs/Dup	r plan if playir licate?	ng Teams? Wha

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE – QUESTION

SEE PAGE 19 FOR ANSWER



2. For takeout. 3. Pass or correct.

You, West, lead the \$5: ten - jack - ace. South plays the \$J. How do you defend?

See page 19 for the solution



A NINE-CARD FIT VS AN EIGHT-CARD FIT

When you are evaluating a hand for play in a suit contract, you routinely add your high cards and your distribution. Then you make some adjustments. You deduct something if you have a balanced hand. You adjust your estimate for high cards in the suits the opponents are bidding. And, you adjust your estimate for high cards in the suit or suits your partner is bidding.

If you do all these things accurately, you should be able to make a decent decision about your next bid. Note that I did not say a perfect decision. No one makes perfect decisions. It is impossible, due to the vagaries of bridge, to avoid looking like a loony every now and then.

Here are some evaluation questions for you. Put your sliding scale to work on them. You are South.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	pass	?

What are these two hands worth in support of hearts?



▲ Q 9 8 3 ♥ J 10 6 3 ◆ A 8 7 ♣ 10 4.

If you follow traditional evaluation, both hands are worth eight Total Points. Seven in high cards and one in distribution. Do you agree with that?

Neither do I. There is a difference. Let's ignore how many points these hands are worth. Instead, decide how much difference there is between the two hands. Which hand is better, and by how much? We'll come back momentarily.

Here's another auction.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
3♥	?		

What are these two hands worth in support of spades?

♠ A K 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ K 8 7 6 2 ♣ 10 7 4 ,

▲ A K 3 2 ♥ 5 3 ◆ K 8 7 6 ♣ 10 7 4.

Again, an initial evaluation suggests both hands are worth 11 Total Points. But are they? Which is the better hand, and by how much?



www. michaelslawrence .com



In this layout, South is in 4♠. Can he make it on the ♥K lead? You can fiddle

with this for a while – click the PLAY button, and play through all four hands, using the GIB feature to help to identify the winning and losing lines. Then, take a look at the next layout:



In this layout, South is also in 4. Can he make it with \forall K lead? Doesn't take much fiddling, does it? You win the heart lead, draw trumps, and play on clubs to see if you have one or two club losers to go with your heart loser. On this hand, you make ten tricks. Even if spades divide three-one, you take ten tricks without effort.

What is the difference between the two hands? The difference is that on the second hand, dummy had four trumps instead of three. This brings us to the theme of this article. Traditional point count has both of the possible dummy hands valued at eleven points. Yet one of the dummies gave you little play for game while the other gave you a 99% play for game plus a comfortable play for an overtrick. Scary. Adding the three of trumps to dummy changed a terrible contract into a great one. So what do you think the value of the fourth trump was? One point? Three points? More? Less? I don't know exactly how to measure it, but it seems to be worth lots.

Going back to the first pair of hands, it is clear to me that the second hand with its fourth trump is worth more than its companion hand. The amount that it is worth is not possible to determine, but it must be a value that you consider when making your decisions.

Larry Cohen wrote a book called The Law of Total Tricks. It is an elegant book that says, in effect, that the more trumps your side has, the better off you are. I agree. It says a lot more too, but I won't give any more secrets away here.

Previously published in Australian Bridge Novice Edition. See page 10 for more about the Law of Total Tricks.

DISCLAIMER: It is ABF policy not to accept advertising from persons or organisations believed to be unreliable or financially irresponsible. We are not responsible for the performance of advertisers, the delivery or quality of the merchandise or services, or the legality of any particular program. The ABF reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to refuse any advertisement.

SUPPORT DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES

Esteemed Uncle,

It seems that quite a lot of players at my club are using support doubles. I have had trouble finding information about these in print, so I was hoping that you might enlighten me on how they work.

For that matter, did someone recently mention support redoubles? Should we be using these as well, if there is such a thing? Your lovin' niece,

Cathy

Dear Cathy,

If you would like to find a brief outline of any commonly used convention, there are a number of free websites that can help.

Support doubles are most comonly used in situations where RHO has overcalled after a major suit response to your opening.

Say you hold:

♠ K J 4 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ A J 7 5 3 ♣ 7 4.

You open $1 \blacklozenge$ and partner responds $1 \clubsuit$. Whether RHO overcalls or not, you can and will support spades happily. Let's change the hand a little:

♠ K J 4 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ A J 7 5 3 ♣ 7 4.

In the same auction, under normal circumstances, you would probably bid 2♠ if RHO chipped in with a 2♣ or 2♥ overcall.

However, if you play support doubles, you can double the overcall to show precisely three-card support. This provides a valuable distinction between three and four cards in partner's major.

Support redoubles work in the same situation. For example, if you open 1, and your partner responded 1, if RHO doubles for takeout, you can redouble to show three hearts and raise immediately with four.

Obviously, if you adopt these methods, you lose the penalty double option over unwise overcalls but you can reconstruct this option by requesting that partner reopen with a double in the event that you pass. You will also lose the ability to show good hands over the takeout double, which is probably no great loss.

As to strength, you can work on lower to middle ranges for both bids (say 12-16 or 17) as your double is forcing but you will probably have other options on maximum hands.

For starters, stay within the parameters above. You may have an opportunity to extend the use of these calls as you become more comfortable with the idea.

Yours,

David

FINESSE HOLIDAYS (www.finessebridge.com director@finessebridge.com.au)

With Greg Eustace & Gaye Allen 02 95961423 or 0415 816919



7 Nights ISLAND RESORT THAILAND Koh Yao Yai Resort & Spa 5* Aug 06-13 AMAZING VALUE @ \$ 1395 T/S

Stylish Thai Luxury Hotel with amazing sea views.

* 7 nights excellent accommodation - Great views

- * Hotel & Island Transfers
- * All Breakfasts, 4 dinners. Free Cocktails 3 nights
- * All Bridge Fees B4Red & Notes

Add 3 nights to your stay in Luxury Villas in Phuket

4 Nights HUNTER VALLEY - LUXURY Thistle Hill Guesthouse 5* Mar 30 – Apr 03

\$ 950 T/S_SINGLES ENQUIRE

Due to its popularity we are returning within 6 months

- * 7 nights quality accommodation
- * 3 Restaurant lunches nearby
- * All Breakfasts, 4 light dinners
- * All Bridge Fees B4Red & Notes
- * All drinks supplied for welcome and farewell dinners

BRIDGE VID with Peter Hollands

THE LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS

Today I'd like to do a lesson on the Law of Total Tricks: what it is, how it actually works, and why it doesn't always work.

The Law of Total Tricks (known as The Law) was first discovered by Jean Rene Vernes in the 1950s, but it was popularised by Larry Cohen and Marty Bergen in 1992 when Larry Cohen wrote a



book called To Bid Or Not To Bid. The Law is all about competitive bidding: when should you bid over the opponents, and when should you let them play the hand.

First of all, what is the Law of Total Tricks? Imagine that a hand was played twice – once in your best fit, and once in the opponents' best fit. Count up the number of tricks that your side will take in your contract, as well as the number of tricks that the opponents would have taken in their contract. Add the two together, and that is the "**total number of tricks**" available on the deal.

Next, count up the total number of trumps that your side had in your contract, and the total number of trumps that the opponents would have had in their contract. Add those two together, and that is the "**total number of trumps**".

The Law says that the total number of tricks will be approximately equal to the total number of trumps.

So, how often is this actually right? Even though it is referred to as "The Law", it is only exactly right about 40% of the time, so it is really just a rule of thumb, or a guide. It's not always spot-on, but it's a helpful way to approach a problem when you're in some doubt about whether you actually want to bid on. It works best in competitive situations, such as partscore battles and sacrifice decisions, where both sides have enough points to be in the auction.

Let's look at how you use this rule when making a decision. Imagine that your side has eight spades, and the opponents have eight hearts, so the total number of trumps is 8+8=16. The opponents have bid to 2, and you need to decide whether to bid 2. The following table shows each of the possible outcomes (assume neither side is vulnerable).

BIDDING 2♠ OVER 2♥ WITH 16 TRUMPS:

Opponents declare 2♥			
Tricks taken	7	8	9
Our score	+50	-110	-140
We declare 2♠			
Tricks taken	9	8	7
Our score	+140	+110	-50

Should we bid 2♠ over their 2♥, or should we let them play 2♥?

If we conclude that they have eight hearts and we have eight spades, for a total of 16 trumps, then we expect about 16 tricks on the deal. If they have seven tricks, then we will have nine. If they have nine, we will have seven. Note that The Law does not suggest that we will have exactly eight tricks each; just that the total will be 16.

The table indicates our score in each scenario. If they have seven tricks in 2^{\heartsuit} , giving us +50, then we will expect to make +140 if we play in 2. If they were making 2^{\heartsuit} , giving us -110, then we will expect +110 in 2. In all of these situations, it's better for us to be bidding, so we should bid 2. As a general rule:

- Bid two-over-two.
- Bid three-over-two.
- Do not bid three-over-three unless you have an extra trump.
- Do not bid four-over-three.
- Do not bid five-over-five.

If we have an extra trump, for a total of 17 trumps, then there should be an extra trick available, so it is safe to compete one level higher (bidding 3♠ over 3♥, for example). The more trumps everyone has, the higher you are allowed to compete. However, it is hardly ever right to bid five-over-five.

You might think that all of this depends on how the cards are distributed, but that is not the case. Let's look at one specific suit, to see how this theory works:



In this suit, with the \bigstar K sitting favourably for NS, NS have three tricks in the suit and EW have none (assuming East's fourth diamond does not play an important role in the play). However, swap the East and West hands so that the \bigstar K is sitting favourably for EW:



Now NS have two tricks, and EW have one. Note that the position of the \bigstar K does not alter the total number of tricks. Total tricks are conserved when you change a finesse from working to not working – it just means the finesse is now working for your opponents.

Disclaimer: sometimes this conservation of tricks does not work out in practice...



With the $\blacklozenge Q$ dropping in two rounds, NS have three tricks and EW have none. However, if NS are declaring the hand, and they cannot see the $\blacklozenge Q$, they will take a losing finesse. This means that in real life, NS will make only two tricks when they declare, and EW will still have none when they declare. So on this particular layout, the total number of tricks will be one fewer than expected.

Here is a common example of The Law in action:

♠ K J 10	94	♥ J 5	• 9 8 4	🗚 Q 5 2
WEST	NOR	ГН	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥	pass
27	pass		pass	?

You only have 7 HCP, so you choose to pass on the first round (although there's nothing wrong with bidding 1. West raises to 2, and this is passed back to you.

The opponents seem to have an eight-card fit, which means we are very likely to also have an eight-card fit. They have stopped at the two-level, so their point range is probably between 17 and 23, so partner has some values. This is a partscore battle, and I would bid 24 here. If we look at the above table, we see that bidding 24 will turn +50 into +140 (if we make nine tricks), or -110 into +110 (if we make eight tricks), or -140 into -50 (if we make seven tricks). Let's see how it would actually play out after we bid 24:

Australian Bridge Federation Inc. Newsletter: December 2019



Partner has a reasonable hand, and $2 \triangleq$ makes. We'll lose the $\clubsuit AK$, $\blacklozenge K$, $\blacktriangledown K$, and $\clubsuit A$ (finessing against the $\clubsuit Q$). The opponents would have made $2 \clubsuit$, so it's a good thing we did not let them play there.

Now let's change seats, and we'll look at the same hand from East's point of view, after South has bid 2.

♠ Q 6 5	♥ K Q 10 .	3 2 🔶 K 2	♣ A 10 3
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♥	pass
2♥	pass	pass	2
pass	pass	?	

Here is the scoring table for bidding three-over-two (and to be on the safe side, this time we will assume we are vulnerable).

BIDDING 3♥ OVER 2♠ WITH 16 TRUMPS:

Opponents declare 2A			
Tricks taken	7	8	9
Our score	+100	-110	-140
We declare 3♥			
Tricks taken	9	8	7
Our score	+140	-100	-200

When we're vulnerable, it's not as clear-cut as in the previous example, but let's look at what we have available. First of all, if we're making $3\heartsuit$, The Law says that the opponents are only making seven tricks in $2\clubsuit$. That means bidding $3\heartsuit$ turns our +100 into +140, which is good. What about if both sides are only making eight tricks? We are going down in $3\clubsuit$, but that turns -110 into -100, which is still good for us. In the final column of the table, we see them making nine tricks in $2\clubsuit$, leaving only seven tricks for us. That would be -200, for a bad score.

So when we are vulnerable, there's no guarantee that bidding 3♥ will always be correct, but it's probably still the right thing to do. If we had not been vulnerable, then bidding would have been the winner in all three cases.

Let's look at another example:

♠ A J 7 4	3	♥ A 9	• 6 4	🗚 9 8 2
WEST	NO	RTH	EAST	SOUTH 1♠
2♦	2♠		3♦	?

This time we have a nice 13-count with lots of aces. Partner raises to 2, and I have to decide whether to compete to 3 or defend 3. My "go to rule" is don't bid three over three

unless you have an extra trump, so let's look at what the chart would say in this particular case (neither side vulnerable).

BIDDING 3 OVER 3 WITH 16 TRUMPS:

Opponents declare 3			
Tricks taken	7	8	9
Our score	+100	+50	-110
We declare 3♠			
Tricks taken	9	8	7
Our score	+140	-50	-100

16 trumps means 16 tricks, so if we are making 3^{A} , they are probably going two off. In this case, at this vulnerability, bidding 3^{A} will give us a small win. Similarly, if they are making 3^{A} , they will get -110, and we can convert that into minus 100 most of the time (if they don't double us).

However, the most frequent situation here is reflected in the middle column of the table: both sides going one down. This happens a lot, and bidding would turn +50 into -50.

If either side had been vulnerable, bidding would have been even more dangerous. When the opponents are vulnerable, we can get +200 when they go two off, which is better than we would get from bidding 3. When we are vulnerable, we can lose 200 if we go two off, so again we are better off defending (getting -110 in this case).

Vulnerability aside, the scenario where both sides make eight tricks is the common one (especially when the points are evenly distributed) so it's best to avoid bidding three over three unless there is an extra trump.

To compete at higher levels, you need more trumps. Bidding four over three requires two extra trumps. Four over four is slightly different, as you need to consider the game bonus, but bidding five over five is nearly always wrong.

SUMMARY

It can be tempting to think, "I have lots of high cards, so I should compete," but high cards are not the important factor in a competitive decision. Your high-card points will take tricks regardless of whether you choose to declare or defend. Your long trumps will only take tricks if you declare, so your trump length should be the deciding factor when you are thinking of competing.

Some of the time you won't know exactly how many trumps the opponents have, so if you can't tell from the bidding, just assume that they have the same number as you. In short, bidding three over two is usually a good idea, bidding two over two is a fantastic idea, but bidding three over three requires a ninth trump.

Finally, remember that the Law Of Total Tricks is just a guideline. It's not always right, but it is usually close, so it is something you can fall back on when you don't have any other clues.

Peter Hollands

https://bridgevid.com

Click <u>here</u> for the video version of this article. Peter uploads new videos to his Bridge Vid channel every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Spring Nationals

TBIB OPEN TEAMS

Semi-Finals

Nunn 174.4 def Weston (David Weston, Tony Hutton, David Morgan, Brad Coles) 85

Thomson 101.5 def Burgess (Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, George Smolanko, George Kozakos) 98

Final

Thomson (Ian Thomson, Ashley Bach, Paul Dalley, Ron Klinger) 164 def Nunn (Tony Nunn, Mathew Vadas, Liam Milne, Pauline Potts, Michael Whibley) 93.6

TWO MEN & A TRUCK RESTRICTED TEAMS

- 1 Kevin Murray, Rob Holgate, Margaret Stevens, Lydia Gibbs 83.06
- 2 C Newbery, A Scott, N Edginton, R Graham 80.05
- 3 K Meyers, F Fawcett, K Rymer, J Barnes 73.26
- 4 B Hobson, C Hobson, S Colling, M Colling 68.21
- 5 D McAuliffe, T White, M Coote, J Harvey 66.89

TED CHADWICK RESTRICTED PAIRS



John Rogers - Colin Clifford 167.53
 Rex Meadowcroft - Eugene Pereira 146.81
 David Burton - Bob Lygo 143.23
 Christine Newbery - Annette Scott 140.38
 Michael Brassil - Louise Brassil 139.62
 Tony Franklin - Jamal Yazdanparast 138.41
 Alex Zhang - Irene Guo 137.75
 Peter Bardos - David Emmerson 134.26
 Ken Cahill - Paul Roach 130.76

10 Tony Matthews - Charles Case 127.74

SPRING NATIONAL NOVICE PAIRS

- 1 Patrick Jiang Henry Tan 155.69
- 2 Paul Barnett Neil Melvin 151.24
- 3 Mary Poynten Tony White 138.96
- 4 Sally Morton Derek Ponsford 138.90
- 5 Jodie Gudaitis Colin Speller 136.20

PENLINE MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1 W Przewozniak - Dave Mahadevan 131.11 2 Bina Kassam - Joseph So 118.44 3 Marina Darling - Sue Read 116.22

DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS

- 1 Sartaj Hans Avinash Kanetkar 170.54 2 Yixiang Zhang - Wayne Zhu 170.32 3 Justin Williams - James Coutts 165.68 4 Nabil Edgtton - Tony Leibowitz 160.62 5 Andrew Peake - Kim Morrison 156.79 6 Stephen Sharp - Danny Sharp 152.69 7 Matthew Thomson - Peter Buchen 152.02 8 Jarrad Dunbar - Charles Mcmahon 150.97 9 Jodi Tutty - David Beauchamp 149.55 10 Joachim Haffer - Leigh Gold 149.41 11 David Appleton - Peter Reynolds 147.03 12 Vanessa Brown - Shane Harrison 146.48 13 Lavy Libman - Tomer Libman 145.33 14 Ingrid Cooke - Sue Lusk 143.89 15 Edward Barnes - David Wiltshire 142.89 16 Terry Brown - Jeanette Reitzer 141.92 17 Philip Markey - Johnno Newman 141.83 18 Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer 141.71 19 Peter Gill - Tracey Lewis 140.44
- 20 Charlie Lu Zhuqiang Tian 140.21

LINDA STERN WOMEN'S TEAMS



Bookallil (Marianne Bookallil, Lauren Travis, Sophie Ashton, Jodi Tutty) 181.1 def Pitt (Helene Pitt, Ruth Tobin, Sue Lusk, Viv Wood) 100

BOBBY EVANS SENIORS' TEAMS

Semi-Finals

Buchen 89 def Burgess (Ron Cooper, Jonathan Free, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, Stephen Burgess, Gabi Lorentz) 50 Hinge 80 def Morrison (Kim Morrison, Chris Hughes, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby) 62

Final

Buchen (Peter Buchen, George Smolanko, David Beauchamp, Mike Hughes, Ian Thomson, Ron Klinger) 138 def Hinge (Simon Hinge, Stephen Lester, Ian Robinson, George Kozakos) 82

Australian Open Playoff

SEMI-FINAL

Hans 264.1 def Thomson (Arjuna De Livera, Andrew Braithwaite, Ian Thomson, Ron Klinger, Renee Cooper, Ben Thompson) 256 Coutts 307 def Harrison (Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Shane Harrison, Andrew Peake, Joachim Haffer, Leigh Gold) 276.1

FINAL

Hans (Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill, Nabil Edgtton, Andy Hung) 274 def Coutts (James Coutts, Liam Milne, Justin Mill, T Nunn) 228

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Golden West Swiss Pairs

- 1 Catherine Hood Pauline Collett 131.33
- 2 Paul Hooykaas Martin Doran 124.41 3 Pim Birss - Dave Munro 118.8
- 4 Gerry Daly Viv Wood 118.8
- 5 Kaiping Chen Fiske Warren 118
- 6 Tad Bieganski Andrew Swider 113.39
- 7 Stella Steer James Steer 111.99
- 8 Mitchell Garbutt Jonathan Pynt 111.8
- 9 Christophe Leach Renee Cooper 111.3
- 10 Sheila Pryce Gordon Brown 111.11
- 11 Beata Bieganski Lauren Shiels 109.28
- 12 Arianna Yusof Jonathan Free 109.03 13 Marnie Leybourne - Don Allen 108.47
- 14 Chris Mulley Simon Brayshaw 108.18
- 15 Karol Miller Jan Kochmanski 108.15
- 16 Mark Doust Belinda Taranto 106.72
- 17 Kirstyn Fuller Pele Rankin 106.27
- 18 Vivian Zotti Jan Blight 105.99
- 19 Florence Maltby Andrew Marsh 105.84
- 20 Cynthia Belonogoff Anton Pol 105.71

Canberra In Bloom

ROYAL BLUEBELL MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Ian Robinson Neil Ewart 86.7
- 2 Stephen Mendick Bernard Waters 83.9
- 3 Liz Sylvester Peter Gill 80.62
- 4 Michael Cullen John Brockwell 80.47
- 5 Julia Hoffman Christophe Quail 78.94
- 6 Pauline Evans Jan Clarke 77.56
- 7 Subhash Mohindra Shane Woodburn 74.87
- 8 David Lilley George Kozakos 73.77
- 9 Richard Brightling David Hoffman 72.64
- 10 Di Coats Helen Milward 71.33

SPIDER ORCHID MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Brenda Reynell Roy Quill 96.51
- 2 Dan Danton Colin Davidson 77.81
- 3 Edith Blumenthal Leonie Della 65.03
- 4 Sue Stacey Annabelle Boag 63.53
- 5 Maeve Doyle Robyn Rogers 62

GOLDEN WATTLE OPEN TEAMS

1 Stephen Mendick, Bernard Waters, Richard Brightling, David Hoffman 133.75

2 Chris Stead, Richard Hills, John Brockwell, Michael Cullen 124

3 David Lilley, George Kozakos, Neil Ewart, Ian Robinson 117 4 Bob Cox, Sue la Peyre, Denis & Jeanette Grahame 108.51 5 Sean Mullamphy, Matt Mullamphy, Ron Klinger, Ian Thomson 108.2

VAL & JOHN BROCKWELL MIXED TEAMS

Liz Sylvester, Peter Gill, Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum 160 def Julia Hoffman, Christopher Quail, Sally & Garry Clarke 52

CANBERRA BELLS SWISS PAIRS

- 1 George Kozakos David Lilley 106.87
- 2 John Donovan Terry Heming 104.29
- 3 Lynne Moss Shane Woodburn 103.19
- 4 Ian Robinson Neil Ewart 101.99
- 5 Richard Hills Chris Stead 98.29
- 6 Stephen Mendick Bernard Waters 96.78
- 7 Michael Johnson Bas Bolt 92.36
- 8 Heath Henn Mitch Dowling 92.2
- 9 Stephen Hurley Liz Hurley 91.82
- 10 Colin Clifford Robbie Feyder 86.02

FEDERATION ROSE SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Patricia Mulcahy Geoff Hooper 105.3
- 2 John Shield Tony Matthews 105.13
- 3 Imogen von Muenchhausen Ian Wright 100.59
- 4 Pamela McKittrick Malcolm Wood 93.68
- 5 Patricia Evans Maureen Copping 91.58
- 6 Sue O'Connor Wendy Nagy 90.2
- 7 Maeve Doyle Robyn Rogers 89.07
- 8 George McLean Tim Mather 88.38
- 9 Robyn Stanhope Mandy Lalor 86.7
- 10 Anka Saundry Peter Saundry 83.42

New Zealand Nationals

NZ PAIRS

- 1 Shane Harrison James Coutts 59.43%
- 2 Charles Ker Anthony Ker 58.52%
- 3 William Zhang Paul Dalley 57.18%
- 4 Karl Hayes Nigel Kearney 57.40%
- 5 Malcolm Mayer Rachelle Pelkman 55.63%
- 6 Patrick d'Arcy Graeme Norman 54.53%
- 7 Herman Yuan Andrew Liu 54.48%
- 8 Scott Smith David Ackerley 53.47%
- 9 Julie Atkinson Patrick Carter 53.06%
- 10 Tania Lloyd Hugh Grosvenor 53.59%

NS TEAMS

Semi-Finals

Bach 120 def Del'Monte (Ishmael Del'Monte, Moss Wylie, Paul Dalley, William Zhang) 70

Grosvenor 118 def Skipper (David Skipper, Jan Alabaster, Pamela Livingston, Timothy Schumacher) 64

Final

Bach (Ashley Bach, Brian Mace, Matt Brown, Michael Cornell, Michael Ware, Tom Jacob) 211 def Grosvenor (Tania Lloyd, Rose Don, Chris Depasquale, Hugh Grosvenor, Michael Courtney) 161



A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

This article relates to hands from a championship session. My partner and I were bidding as much as we could with very poor cards (usually), then watching as the opponents tried to sort out their auctions.



Firstly, sitting East, you hold this hand and the auction has started:

A Q	♥ K 6 5	♦ A 6 4	♣Q9864
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	pass	2♣	pass
2♥	pass	?	

What bid should you make? Several options come to mind, but the first thing to realise is that your partner has reversed, showing extra values. Since you have bid 2⁺ (Standard), showing 10+ HCP, your partner's reverse is game forcing. Therefore, you can take your time in this auction. My action would be to rebid 2NT, protecting my A-Q. Now partner still has plenty of space to define their hand further.

At the table, East bid 2^A, fourth suit forcing. This gave me, as South, the opportunity to double, should partner be on lead. Our opponents had a Minorwood accident (one thought they were responding to 4NT), leading to a potentially-missed slam. Mind you, you need to play in 6NT by East – protecting the hand from a spade lead.

▲ J 4	🔺 A Q
🕈 A Q J 3	💙 K 6 5
🔶 K Q 10 9 8	🔶 A 6 4
♣ A 10	🐥 Q 9 8 6 4

If you are playing in 6NT, you should start by trying the club suit – probably leading small towards your queen (since you will go down if you cash the ace first, and South holds the king and jack). If you fail to pick the clubs (North held both king and jack) then you can try the spade finesse.

The next hand involves a multi-two opening bid. Vulnerable, East opened 2Ψ , which systemically showed 5-5 with hearts and another suit. West held:

▲ A K 8 6 5 ♥ K 9 5 ◆ J 7 2 ♣ K 8 South overcalled 3. Now West has to gauge the value of their hand. It now becomes like a response to a Michaels Cue Bid (or Unusual 2NT) because you know partner is a 5-5. Given South's overcall, East is unlikely to have diamonds. So does your hand qualify as a 3♥ bid or a 4♥ bid? West thought she needed more points to head to game opposite a weak opening bid, but points are not the relevant issue here. It's how well your points work for your partner's suits/hand. West's hand has become much better – if East holds hearts and spades (a possibility), then you should think you have only three minor losers. On the other hand, if East has hearts and a minor, that minor will be clubs, and your A-K are good, and your doubleton &K is excellent. The hand qualifies as a raise to 4♥.

East had a 'normal' 2♥ opening bid, and 11 tricks were easy after a non-diamond lead.

A K 8 6 5	▲ 3
♥ K 9 5	💙 A Q 10 8 4
♦ J 7 2	10 8
♣ K 8	♣ Q J 10 7 5

I wasn't playing multi-twos, so later in the session when I held a 0-5-3-5 shape with 9 HCP I opened 1^{\heartsuit} , bearing in mind the missed game on the previous hand. What did that lead to? We were the only pair to reach 6^{\heartsuit} , making! My hand was not as good as East's on the earlier hand, being:

♠ – ♥ Q J 10 x x ◆ A 10 x ♣ Q 9 8 x x

I opened because it is important to get into an auction when you can, and my suits had some good spot cards. The void was an additional strength on the hand.

The following hand (neither side vulnerable) proved difficult for East-West to manage:



At our table, East bid 5 and the slam was missed. Our East teammate tried a double. West now bid 5 , but she could have bid 4NT, which should show long diamonds (six cards) and four clubs. Now East would be able to jump to 6 . (Similarly, if you have opened or bid clubs, then the later 4NT bid shows four diamonds and six clubs.)

These are the sorts of useful bids/information that you need to be told about, to solve awkward bidding situations. This is a use for 4NT that should be added to your bidding weaponry, provided you and your partner agree to such a use. It shouldn't be any form of ace ask, because you haven't agreed a suit.

Finally, you are favourable (i.e. not vulnerable vs vulnerable). Would you preempt on this East hand?

♠ K 10 8 6 5 4 2
♥ 7 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 9

When you are favourable, you should be trying to preempt as often as possible. I think this qualifies as a 3^A opening bid (though I would not open 3^A if the suit was only headed by the ten, and that king was elsewhere). Additionally, a 3^A preempt is the best preempt of the lot; the opponents will have to start the bidding at the four-level, should it be their hand.

On this hand, it was actually partner who had the decisions to make. After your pass, LHO opened 4♥ and West doubled. You duly bid 4♠ but partner drew inferences, mostly based on the fact that your hand had not opened in first seat: neither 2♠ (spades and a minor), multi-2♦ (weak two in a major), nor 3♠. Reasonable conclusions would be that your hand may have six spades but, if so, they must be extremely poor quality. As it happened, after the 4♥ opening bid (or overcall if you open 3♠), 6♠ is an excellent contract:

🛦 A Q 9	🛦 K 10 8 6 5 4 2
♥ K 10	7 3
🔶 A K J	♦ 8 5 2
🐥 A J 8 5 4	4 9

Keep those preempts coming!

Barbara Travis

A BIT OF FUN IN THE OPEN PLAYOFF FINAL by Sartaj Hans

The following hands, taken from Sartaj's article on the Open Playoff in Australian Bridge Magazine, show a side of expert bridge with which many players will be unfamiliar. Advanced club players can subscribe to Australian Bridge, \$59 per year, by calling Brad on 0412335840. We also have an online magazine for less experienced players, for \$25 per year.

A top level competitor needs to adapt to the occasional piece of obstruction thrown their way. People are bidding more and more at favourable vulnerability and these days, some are starting to psyche more often at this tempting vulnerability too. The following hand, Liam Milne created enough diversion that he won a slam swing for his efforts:



We had a decent chance of overcoming the psychic 1NT, but saw some ghosts along the way to stop short. Even if we did land in slam, the best contract of $6 \forall$ was out of reach, given our start. Liam earned his points.

Earlier, in the semi-finals, Andy and Nabil also unleashed a psychic missile:



East-West were on unfamiliar ground around the nature of East's possible double of 4♥. The modern trend is to play such doubles as takeout. However, the best way is to specify that the double is takeout of diamonds (the only known real suit) and not of hearts. When Peter and I made 4♥ EW for +620, Andy and Nabil's 4♥ "sacrifice" down seven was worth 7 imps.

Sartaj Hans

Forgotten to buy a Christmas present

It's not too late... buy a friend a gift subscription to Australian Bridge Magazine, and we will have a welcome message from you in their Inbox on Christmas morning (or Christmas Eve if you prefer).

Australian Bridge also makes a great gift for a birthday, or any other occasion.

For experienced players: Australian Bridge is mailed by regular mail every two months, \$59 per year For most club players, our online Novice magazine will be more suitable. Published online every two months, \$25 per year

Call us on 0412 335 840 or email mail@australianbridge.com to discuss our gift options or any other questions, or click here to subscribe.

Aurtralian Bridge

SPRING FEVER by Ron Klinger and Liam Milne

There were 68 entries in the 2019 TBIB Spring National Open Teams, up from 62 teams in 2017 and 60 in 2018. After nine qualifying rounds, Swiss method, the four leading teams were:

1. Tony NUNN, Pauline Potts, Liam Milne, Matthew Vadas, Michael Whibley 138.66 VP.

Ian THOMSON, Ron Klinger, Ashley Bach, Paul Dalley 133.48
 Stephen BURGESS, Gabi Lorentz, Ron Cooper, Jon Free,

Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings 123.96. 4. David WESTON, Tony Hutton, Brad Coles, David Morgan 121.81 What would you lead as West, holding:



Against 3NT, it is 'normal' to lead from honour sequences, five-card suits, and suits that haven't been bid. Here, clubs tick all three boxes. Is there any reason not to lead clubs here? The auction suggests the A-Q will be on your right, and it looks like every suit is sitting poorly for declarer. There is an argument for a passive lead, seeking to avoid giving away a trick and hoping that partner can lead clubs from their side.



Liam Milne tried the \bigstar 7: J, Q, K. Declarer played a heart to the queen and a heart to ten and jack. A second spade was won by dummy, and a third heart was taken by West's nine (East discarding a club). When West cashed the \clubsuit A, dummy threw a club and East threw a second club, having high-lowed to show a doubleton.

West exited with the jack of diamonds, and declarer won on the dummy before playing a second round to his ace, leaving the following cards still to play:



A third round of diamonds revealed the break as West threw the \$9. When the \$10 was cashed, West had to continue the unblock with the \$10. Now when dummy's club was played

and East showed out, declarer with AQ5 had no answer: the ace was obviously not going to work, and the queen would allow West to win and return the king to force out the ace to beat the five with the six on the last trick.

What about running the *8 from dummy when East shows out? This would be good enough if West were down to KJ109 and forced to win the trick, endplaying themselves. At the table declarer tried running the *8, but West refused to win the trick by underplaying with the six! With dummy still on lead, East could take the last two tricks to beat 3NT by one trick.

For the semi-finals, NUNN, with 8.4 imps carry-forward, chose WESTON and won the match by 174.4 imps to 85.

With only East-West vulnerable, there are two passes to you, South. What would you do with this hand?

♠ A K 6 4 ♥ 4 ● A K Q 7 5 ♣ A Q 5

Surprisingly, three Souths opened 1♦. That is the biggest 1♦ opening you are ever likely to see. Put us down for a 2♣ opening and forcing to game.



West led the ♥7. East won and switched to the ♣9, queen, king. South could not avoid a club loser later, one down, EW +50.

WEST Weston	NORTH Whibley	EAST	SOUTH Milne
Weston	whibley	$2 \land 1$	dhl
	pass		ubi
2♥	pass	pass	dbl
pass	2NT	pass	3♥ ²
pass	3NT	all pass	
		<u> </u>	

1. Weak, both majors. 2. Very strong, stopper ask.

3NT made for 10 imps to NUNN.

In the other semi, $1 \blacklozenge$ was passed out at one table, NS +130. At the other table:

WEST Klinger	NORTH Lavings	EAST Thomson	SOUTH Krochmalik
	pass	pass	1♦
pass	pass	dbl	rdbl
1 v	1NT	pass	3NT
all pass		-	

1NT was a nice bid by Lavings, and +430 was worth 7 imps. As East was a passed hand and so North-South were highly likely to reach game, given the 4-count as West, Klinger might have bid 2♣ instead of 1♥ (despite majors first always), since the club lead would be more attractive. That could have made it tougher to reach 3NT.

In the second semi-final, THOMSON, with 9.5 imps carryforward, defeated BURGESS by just 3.5 imps (34-18, 25-21, 21-10, 12-49). Although down by 49-89.5 with 14 boards to go, BURGESS hit the front by 3.5 imps on the second last. This was the last board:



Although no fan of showing a two-suiter as a one-suiter, Klinger opened 4**A**. North doubled (penalties), all pass. The outcome was eight tricks, NS +300.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lavings	Dach	NIOCHIHAIIK	Dalley
1♠	1NT	2♣	3♦
4♠	pass!	pass	5♦
all pass			

Lavings' 1 \triangleq could have been so right. Swap North and East and you make 6 \triangleq or 6 \checkmark . Dalley made twelve tricks, +620, +8 imps and a win by 3.5 imps. In the other semi, West opened 4 \triangleq , all pass, -100. At the other table, West opened 1 \triangleq and South ended in 5 \blacklozenge , +620, +11 imps.

THE FINAL

NUNN began with 2.6 imps carry-forward.



What would you do as East (favourable vulnerability) with:



East has two tricks. Given the preemptive 3♠ opposite, it is unlikely West will provide two defensive tricks. Hence, in the problem above, Klinger bid 4♠, which was passed to North and doubled. West was one off, NS +100.

WEST Nunn	NORTH Bach	EAST Whibley	SOUTH Dalley 2♥
2 ▲	2NT	dbl	rdbl
3 ▲	4♥	all pass	

South would succeed after any lead other than a diamond, but Nunn led the \blacklozenge 3 to the \blacklozenge K. Whibley shifted to a spade. South finished one down, EW +100 and +5 imps.

THOMSON won Session 1 by 51-15 and led by 51-17.6.

The biggest swing of the second set was on the following deal:



Both Souths declared 4**A** after similar auctions, and both Wests led the **•**7. Each declarer ducked a trump to East, who switched to a (perhaps helpful) heart: low, jack, ace. Here the play diverged. Thomson cashed the **•**A which reduced his control of the hand. When he next played a heart, West could win and play a fatal third round of trumps. With neither long suit set up and only one trump left in each hand, declarer drifted two off; North-South -200.

At the other table, Milne did not cash the ace of trumps at trick four, preferring to play a second heart to the queen and king, West winning to play another diamond. Only now did declarer cash the ace of trumps, cash dummy's heart winner and then proceed to cross-ruff. After a diamond ruff in hand, ace of clubs and a club ruff, declarer ruffed dummy's penultimate diamond to establish the suit. West could either overruff and concede the last two tricks to dummy, or discard and allow declarer to make all their low trumps: North-South +620.

Despite NUNN winning the second set 22-19, the rest of the final went THOMSON's way, winning the third set 56-34 and

the last set 38-20 to win the match 164 to 93.6. This was Klinger's fifth win in the Spring Nationals, Thomson's second, and the first for each of Bach and Dalley; indeed, this was Dalley's first win in any national open event.



DICK CUMMINGS PAIRS by Brad Coles

The Dick Cummings Matchpoint Swiss Pairs, at the Spring Nationals Festival in Sydney, was won by Avi Kanetkar and Sartaj Hans. Sartaj sent us some of his favourite hands from the event.

After hitting the lead with a 77% score in the opening round, they played Justin Williams and James Coutts for a small loss. In the ten-board match, Sartaj and Avi reached three slams: 6♥ failing, 7♦ making, and this aggressive effort:



Most of the 6◆ bidders capitalised on the favourable club layout to make twelve tricks. Here, Williams' 6♠ was a great save, but couldn't prevent EW from scoring 88% on the board. However, Coutts and Williams won the match, and eventually finished third in the event (leading after rounds 10 and 11, but falling from first place with a large loss in the final round).

Sartaj and Avi recovered with a 70% match against Phil Markey and Johnno Newman, and 64% against Yixiang Zhang and Wayne Zhu (who ultimately finished second in the event):



Avi made a nice Matchpoint double, ensuring a good score on the board. He led the \blacklozenge 10, and declarer ruffed the second round to play \clubsuit A, \clubsuit K and another club to East's \clubsuit J. Sartaj ruffed his partner's trick here, thinking he needed to be on lead for an urgent heart switch; this cost a trick, but 100 was still a fine score. Next, a 60% match against Ann and Colin Baker, featuring more good play from Avi:



The bidding ran off the rails, with Sartaj intending 4* as a cueraise, but the final contract was a decent one. Avi won the *A at trick one, and played a spade to the *Q and *K. North deceptively exited with a small diamond away from the ace; Avi ruffed, cashed the *A, and ruffed the spades good. He then crossed to the *A and ruffed a club; then diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff (high), and he could draw trumps and claim. That match placed them in the lead, where they remained for most of the event. A large loss against Jodi Tutty and David Beauchamp in Round 10 saw them drop to second at the wrong moment, but Rounds 11 and 12 provided just enough matchpoints to regain the lead, with some help from this crucial board. All vulnerable, what do you bid with:

1064	♥ Q 10 3 2	♦ K 9 4	♣ A 6 3
WEST Dunbar	NORTH Kanetkar	EAST McMahon	SOUTH Hans
	1♣	pass	1♥
pass	2♣	pass	pass
dbl	pass	2♦	?

Sartaj bid 2NT, making exactly on a diamond lead for +120:



This was just enough to win the event; taking 100 from 2◆, or scoring 110 in 3♣, would not have been sufficient. Brad Coles

AUSTRALIA-WIDE RESTRICTED PAIRS

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE – SOLUTION

The Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs is held every year in clubs around Australia in the week of 25-31 October. This year's winning pairs were:

- 1 Hans Haan & Jane Stokes Gawler 68.2
- 2 Sonja Ramsund & Debra Peters Malanda 68.1
- 3 Donna Fitch & Di Garside Townsville 67.8
- 4 Kay Lehmann & Chris Tweddell Townsville 67.7
- 5 Philip Hassall & Gerard Waterford Alice Springs 67.4

The next Australia-Wide event is the Novice Pairs, 25-31 May.



2019 Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs winners, Hans Haan and Jane Stokes, being presented with their prizes at the Gawler Bridge Club



Learn to play with Joan Butts Bridge books



Play Bridge 1: A Workbook for the Absolute Beginner \$20.00

the Pla

Managing the Play

Workbook

\$15.00



y Bridge: A Guide Play Bridge 2: by Your Side A Workbook for Help with Play \$13.50 \$20.00



brid

Introduction to Two

Over One Game Force

Strong Hand Bidding Workbook \$15.00 \$15.00 \$15.00

Bridge teacher resources, deal records and gift vouchers are also available.

Order your books online: shop.joanbuttsbridge.com

Teachers and Bridge Club Discounts Buy 10 or more copies to receive a 10% discount. Buy 50+ copies to receive a 25% discount. Bulk discounts will automatically be applied to eligible orders.

RISE AND SHINE



pass 3NT all pass

1. 10-13, long clubs, or weak, both majors.

2. For takeout.

3. Pass or correct.

You, West, lead the ♠5: ten - jack - ace. South plays the ♣J. How do you defend?

SOLUTION



West led the \$5 against South's 3NT. Declarer played the \$10, jack, ace. Next came the \$J and the spotlight was on West.

In practice West played low and the 4J won. Next came the 410 and West ducked again. With two club tricks in, South crossed to the AQ and led a heart to the king for nine tricks and +600, which was also the datum.

To defeat 3NT, West needs to take the first club and continue spades. If South wins and plays another club, West must again win and play the third spade. This restricts declarer to one club trick only and there is no reasonable prospect of a ninth trick for declarer.

West can see that by winning the first two clubs, his remaining *8-5 will stop dummy's club suit if South began with a doubleton club or *J-10-9. In the latter case the clubs will be blocked when the third spade is led. If South began with *J-10-6, there is no defence if South has such strong diamonds and a double stopper in hearts. Therefore West should defend on the basis that South started with two clubs or *J-10-9.

Ron Klinger

SUIT COMBINATIONS with Brad Coles

Assuming you are declaring 3NT, and need to take five heart tricks, how would you approach this suit combination?

♥ K Q 10 9 3 2

♥ 5

For the sake of the problem, let's imagine that you have only one side-suit entry to the North hand, which you can use whenever you like. What is your first move?

You have two basic options: play a small heart to the king, or a small heart to the ten. If you play low to the king, you are in trouble whether or not the king wins. The VJ is still outstanding, and unless it drops doubleton on the next round, your opponents will eventually take a trick with that card. With unlimited time and entries, you could eventually knock out the ♥A and **V** and set up four tricks, but with only one dummy entry, the $\forall K$ (or $\forall Q$) will be your only heart trick on this line of play.

Your only chance to get any value from this suit is to play a heart to the ten. If West started with ♥Jxx or ♥Jx, the ♥10 will force out the ace and the rest of the suit will run. Even if the VJ does not fall in three rounds, once the ♥A has gone you will at least score the \forall K and \forall Q, which is one trick more than you would have had on the previous line.

Overall, your chances of taking five heart tricks by finessing the ♥10 are a little over 30% – not great odds, but you have to do the best you can with the assets dummy provides. Next time, tell partner to have a better suit.

Disclaimer: if the $\forall 10$ loses to the jack (which will happen 50%) of the time) you may emerge from this hand with no heart tricks at all. If you're not prepared to take that risk, you might decide to just rise with the $\forall K$, securing at least one trick, and give up. *Every deal comes with its own set of priorities – you should* always decide what your trick target is before choosing your line of play. In most cases it is best to try to make your contract.

Seeing this suit combination in its most basic form, you might have seen the answer quickly, but sometimes people miss these positions when they are buried in the middle of a real deal - especially when the crucial card is a nine instead of a jack. Here is a real-life hand where an expert player went wrong in a similar position:

	♠ K 6 ♥ J 10 ● L 8 5	872	
♥ 4	♣ A 9	8	
•	♠ J 4 3 ♥ A 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ K Q	8 2 9 J 4	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH 1 NT
pass	3NT	all pass	7141

In the June issue of this newsletter we published an article called No Invitations, suggesting the benefits of bidding quickly to game on borderline hands. North was a disciple of that style of bidding. North's 3NT bid was a huge success; the only making game is 3NT, and it only makes on a heart lead (or a low diamond away from the \diamond KQ). A cooperative auction, with North describing his hand, would have warned West against the fatal heart lead.

So, how do you play 3NT on the lead of the four of hearts? The full deal:



At the table, North followed with the ♥J from dummy, and the contract could no longer be made. East covered with the $\forall K$, won by declarer's ace, and declarer continued with a heart to the dummy's ♥8. The ♥8 won, but the suit was dead:



West was left with two stoppers in the suit. The winning line, of course, was to insert the **V**7 on the first round. Now, after declarer plays a heart to the ♥8 on the second round, dummy will be left with ♥J102 instead of ♥1072.

Brad Coles



THE MEANING OF REDOUBLE

How would you interpret redouble in the following auctions, nil vulnerable:

1.	1♥	(dbl)	rdbl	
2.	(1♣)	1♠	(dbl)	rdbl
3.	1 ♣ rdbl	(dbl)	pass	(pass)
4.	1♥ rdbl	(pass)	pass	(dbl)
5.	(1♥) (pass)	1 ∧ rdbl	(dbl)	pass
6.	1 ♣ rdbl	(pass)	1♥	(dbl)
7.	3♣	(dbl)	rdbl	
8.	1NT	(dbl)	rdbl	
9.	1NT rdbl	(pass)	2*	(dbl)
10.	1 ▲ rdbl	(pass)	4 ♣	(dbl)

1. Penalty. Best used as a penalty seeking double saying you can double at least two of their suits or perhaps all three if you hold something like

♠ A K 6 2 ♥ 2 ♦ Q J 9 7 ♣ J 10 9 3

2. Showing a top honour in partner's suit (ace, king or gueen). This is a Rosenkranz Redouble. If the opponents play the hand, and you can tell your partner what to lead or what not to lead, you can consider your side to have won the auction.

3. SOS, for rescue. The takeout double has been passed for penalties, and often the opener will want to look for a better spot than 14 doubled holding something like

▲ A O 10 8 ♥KQ76 ♦32 ♣J54.

Responder's pass over the double simply showed a lack of points with any number of clubs, so playing in 14 doubled looks unappealing.



make your contract, you would surely pass and take the sure profit. Redouble here should be rescue with something like

▲ J 8 5 3 2 ♥— ♦ K Q 10 5 ♣ O J 10 7

6. Support redouble, showing three-card support. Support doubles and redoubles are an invaluable weapon that tells your side how many trumps you have and therefore to how high you should compete.

7. Penalty. If partner opens a preempt at the three-level, they should have a good suit so you wouldn't want to be rescuing them. If you thought you could make 3th doubled, you could pass and collect 470, but you might think you could score more by redoubling with something like

▲ A K 10 9 ♥ A K 10 3 ◆ 2 A 1 10 8

3. redoubled making ten tricks would score 840, but if the opponents run and you double them they are likely to suffer a penalty of 1100 or more.

8. Penalty. Many partnerships have an artificial agreement here for redouble, but I am happy to play it as penalties. My thinking is that if you have a poor hand, you are going to suffer a penalty, so if you have a good hand you should earn an extra good penalty.

9. Penalty. Sometimes the opener will have a hand such as



where 2^{*} redoubled looks like a great spot. Opposite two aces in partner's hand you are already up to nine tricks in clubs. If a transfer of 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ are doubled, redouble likewise is penalties.

10. First round control with slam interest. 4. here is normally played as a splinter with around 8-11 HCP. There is not much use for redouble except to show first round club control with the ace, while pass would show interest in slam but no first round club control.

Paul Lavings



For those bridge players who care about the environment, the ABF's sponsor, PENLINE, makes Reusable Coffee cups and Water Bottles, as part of its "War on Waste". If you are interested in more information, please contact Maryo Derofe by email: maryo@penline.com.au



Australian Bridge Federation Inc. Newsletter: December 2019

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY? – SOLUTIONS by Barbara Travis



West led the ♣10 against 6♥. How would you play?

The best option is to try to avoid the spade finesse. There is a way to do so, involving eliminating the minor suits and putting West on lead.

Win the club lead. Draw the trump by leading a small heart to dummy, then ruff a small diamond with a high trump.

Cash the remaining top club and return to dummy with a club ruff. Trump dummy's remaining low diamond with another high trump.

Now lead your remaining small heart to dummy. Lead the \blacklozenge K, discarding your small spade. West will now be on lead:



What can West do? If he leads a diamond, declarer ruffs in dummy and discards the AQ. If he leads a spade, it is into declarer's AQ, giving declarer 12 tricks.

West must hope that his partner holds the AQ, and should lead a spade, but the contract now makes.



West leads the *****K against 4*****. How will you play?

You have nine winners, and it is likely that you have four losers in the minors. One possibility is that West has the $\mathbf{P}Q$ and $\mathbf{V}J$,

but that is poor odds. The other option is to make an opponent lead diamonds, and hope that East holds the \blacklozenge J.

Win the A at trick one, playing the 6 from hand. You should draw trumps with the king and ace, then cash the A and K. Ruff a heart, then cross back to dummy with the Q, and ruff the last heart.

Now exit with the \clubsuit J, giving West the lead (which is known from the opening lead of the \clubsuit K).

West will have to lead a diamond (or else he gives you a ruff and discard), and East wins with the A. When East returns a diamond, you should play low – hoping he has the J. (If he had held both the ace and king, he may have played and/or discarded differently).

This sort of suit is a combination which you do not want to lead yourself, so whenever possible find a way to make the opponents lead the suit for you.

HAND 3



West led the &Q against your 6. What is your plan if playing Teams? What is your plan if playing Pairs/Duplicate?

TEAMS

Teams (or Butler Pairs) is about ensuring the safety of your contract first and foremost. Making an overtrick is secondary to making your contract. At Teams, you would play this hand differently from Pairs/Duplicate.

Declarer realises that drawing two rounds of trumps may be wrong if both majors break 4-1, as on the hand.

If you draw only one trump, then cash two top hearts and someone ruffs, then returns a trump, you will go down, since then you cannot trump two hearts.

The key to this hand is to lead one top heart, then duck a heart completely. West wins the second heart and plays a diamond, but you can win the A, cross to hand with a trump, and lead another low heart, ruffing with the AQ.

Now the hearts are established, so you can cross back to hand by drawing all the trumps, and cash your hearts.

PAIRS

Pairs is about making as many tricks as possible on a hand, which may involve taking more risks than at Teams.

If you think that everyone will be in the same contract as you are (on this hand, slam), then you want to make the overtrick to outscore the other pairs. On the other hand, if you think that you have reached a contract that others will miss, then safety comes first.

It is likely that others will reach this slam, so then you might play for as many tricks as possible – and go down. However, others will go down too, playing the same line.

A THOUGHTFUL DEFENCE by Dennis Zines

As East, you observe the following bidding:				
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
pass	1♥	pass	2♣	
pass	27	pass	2NT	25
pass	3♦	pass	3NT	Parto
all pass	5			
Playing fourth best leads, West (your				
partner) leads the A 6 and this is what you see:				
♠ K 2				
♥ K J 10 5 4 3				
♦ A Q 3				
* 10 3				

Ν

S

W E

As East you win dummy's AK with the A and play the A, which also wins. Declarer follows with the four and eight, and partner showing five spades by playing the A. You hope for two extra heart tricks, bringing you to four, and so need one more. What do you do now? You could lead the third spade now in the hope that partner has the AQ. This will lead to a quick three down (five spades and two hearts), but is that right? If you recall the bidding, South bid 3NT after three suits were bid, so he must have the AQ (if he held only AJ84, he would have played low from dummy at trick one). As well as the AQ, declarer should have most of the hidden points; establishing the spade suit for partner will be of no use, since he will have

▲ A 9 5

• 10 2

🕈 A Q 7 6

♣ O 9 5 2

no entry later to cash his established winning spades. So, is there a defence?

Yes, there is. All you want from partner is the **\$**J, which is not a lot to hope for. Switch to the **\$**2 at trick three. If declarer ducks, partner will win, and you will have your five tricks. Have a look at the actual deal:



In practice, declarer will likely win the club switch and hope for the heart queen onside. You will win the first heart and continue with the \$5. This beats the contract by two tricks.

Note that playing a spade at trick three gives declarer the tempo to set up nine tricks before you can get five. Also, it's lucky they didn't bid the making 4.

Success for defence on this deal came about by considering the bidding and imagining South's likely high card holding, a necessary activity if you want to succeed at this tough game.

Dennis Zines



YOUTH BRIDGE NEWS by Leigh and Bianca Gold

We are proud to present to you: Youth Week 2020, from Saturday 4 January to Friday 10 January.

Youth Week has long been the most exciting event on the calendar for young Aussies and Kiwis, filled with both serious and fun events. Don't worry if you don't have a partner or teammates, we will get you sorted. During



the week, you will make a lot of new friends, play games and chat lots of bridge.

This year will be accompanied with a two-day "Learn to Play Bridge" school camp. The camp will be held on Monday 6th to Tuesday 7th of January. The camp will be hosted by experienced bridge teachers and is the best opportunity for anyone to start learning bridge! Bring your friends.

Towards the end of the week, a trial will be held to select the Australian Youth Squad. Members of the squad will have the opportunity to be selected and sent across the globe to compete in international events. Most excitingly, the team will be selected to represent Australia in the 2020 APBF in Perth.

Register at:

www.abfevents.com.au/events/ayc/2020/

Youth week will also host a NZ Test Match, which hopefully will atone for the 304-107 defeat Australia suffered in our previous clash at the NZ congress.

Leigh and Bianca Gold

Keep up with all the news at the Australian Youth Bridge page on Facebook



YOUTH WEEK SCHEDULE

Date	Event
Saturday 4 January	Youth Pairs
Sunday 5 January	Youth Pairs Finals
Monday 6 January	Youth Teams
Tueday 7 January	Youth Teams Finals
Wednesday 8 January	Australian Junior Selection International Butler
Thursday 9 January	Australian Junior Selection International Butler
Friday 10 January	Australian Junior Selection Side event

WHEN YOUR CONTRACT IS DOOMED...



Matt Smith was sitting East and opened 1NT, which I raised to 3NT. Sadly, the opponents had five spades and the ♥A to cash, and Matt had no legitimate chance to build nine tricks in time.

South led the ♥2, which Matt won in the dummy with the ♥5. At this point Matt and I gave each other a high-five. Get it?

Yes, we're nerds.

Matt knew that if he knocked out the \blacktriangleleft A, North's discard at trick two would ask for a spade, so Matt tried to throw his opponents off the scent by playing a spade to his queen. South won her \bigstar K, and after some pondering, tried the \blacklozenge 5.

Matt played the queen from dummy (to hide his jack), which was covered by the king and his ace.

Next Matt ran off all of his clubs (throwing a heart), then played a heart to the king, and a heart back to the queen, which South took with her ace. South played another diamond, hoping North held the rest of the suit. This allowed Matt to win in hand and cash hearts for an overtrick!

When your contract is doomed, consider how things might look to your opponents. If your inspired move doesn't pay out, who cares? You tried. If it does succeed, you can bask discretely in your own magnificence. Or brag. Whatever floats your boat. Matt is humbler than most, so I have to tell his story for him.

John Newman

BEHIND THE MATCHPOINTS with Brad Coles

As the long-time convenor of the Australia-Wide Pairs events, I spend a lot of time talking to players about Matchpoint scoring. The results booklets from those events are designed to encourage people to think about how their scores are calculated, which often leads to a lot of emails and phone calls.

Over the next few months, I will publish a series of short articles addressing some of the common questions and misconceptions that have crossed my path. Today's article will discuss field strength.

WHO ARE YOUR OPPONENTS?

Have you ever been to the races, or placed a bet on the Melbourne Cup? Many people think that when they bet on a race, they are competing against the bookie (or the TAB).

The truth is, when you win money on a horse race, you are not winning it from the bookmaker. The bookie will find a way to make a profit whatever happens. When you win a bet on a race, your profit is being funded by the other (losing) punters.

How does this apply to bridge? Well, who are your opponents at the bridge table? It may seem like the players to the left and right are the opponents, but at Matchpoints this isn't true.

The players at your table are not the ultimate factor in determining your matchpoint score. Your actual opponents are the players sitting in your seat at all the other tables. They are the ones you need to out-perform if you want a good score.

FIELD STRENGTH

Keeping the above point in mind, imagine you turn up to a game and find all the top players sitting North-South, and all the weak players sitting East-West. Where would you prefer to sit?

If you want to score well, you will sit in the same direction as the weaker players. You'll be in for a challenging evening, playing all the strong pairs, and by the end of the session you may feel you haven't scored very well.

But your score will be determined by comparison against all the East-West players, not the strong North-South players you met at the table. All of the other East-West players also had to play against the strong North-South pairs, and their night will have been just as hard as yours.

The alternative option, sitting parallel to the strong players, would mean you play against weak players all night, which is no way to expand your bridge horizons. Worse, at the end of the night you would be matchpointed against all the strong players sitting in the same direction as you.

Many years ago when I was a Novice at the Chatswood Bridge Club, I found it intimidating playing against the club champions, North-South residents at Table 1. They usually won the session, and they played funny two-bids which I didn't understand! I used to try to sit North-South so that I wouldn't have to play against them.

A funny thing happened: after the game, my name always appeared lower than theirs on the result sheet.

Eventually I worked out that I was better off sitting East-West. I got some valuable experience (and advice) from playing against the expert pair, and even managed to top the East-West results myself occasionally.

One of the things that separates bridge from other sports is the opportunity for aspiring players to share a table with experts. When you play against a stronger pair, whether in a club or a congress, it's a good idea to try to learn something from them. Most experts will be very happy to explain where you went wrong on a board, if asked. Brad Coles

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In his report on the Tamworth Congress in the October Newsletter, Ian McKinnon was highly critical of the NSWBA's scheduling of congresses. He implied that no effort is put into scheduling these events and that they are just thrown onto any weekend without any consultation with or between the clubs involved. Little could be further from the truth!

The process of allocating congress dates generally begins around May in the preceding year, when all affiliated clubs are asked to complete an online application form. Requesting a date does not guarantee a club will get that date, as well established congresses have priority. As applications are received and processed a draft calendar is produced and continually updated. This calendar is available via the NSWBA website in several formats for all to see. Congress Organisers are told to check it regularly until it is finalised in December.

Most clubs use the NSWBA's online congress entry system to manage their entries. One advantage of that is it allows congress organisers to compare the entries of any two congresses that have been held in the preceding two years. Whenever clubs within a three-hour drive of each other request the same date, the NSWBA Congress Coordinator routinely compares entries. If there is a significant overlap of players, a dialogue involving the clubs is initiated to resolve the clash.

Ian also suggests that bridge administrators should do more promotion of congresses. The NSWBA has an online calendar in which all congresses are listed and from which the brochure (checked by the Congress Coordinator) can be downloaded and online entries submitted. Links to upcoming congresses are on the front page of the NSWBA website, as are the names of the winners and links to the full results for the most recently held congresses. The NSWBA publishes the eCongress News about nine times a year. The September issue contained a report from the Tamworth Pairs Organiser and pictures of the winners, similar coverage of all recently held NSW congresses, and much more besides. What more promotion does Ian seriously expect the NSWBA to do?

John Scudder Chairman, NSW Bridge Association

VP SCALE CALCULATOR

Ian McKinnon has just republished the WBF VP scale calculator for android phones on the Amazon Appstore.

W.B.F.

VP calculator No. of Boards 16 IMP difference 0 Max IMPs 60

OK

VP type

10

Discrete

10

Continuous

Anyone wanting it will need to install the Amazon Appstore app before it can be installed.

> Search for WBFVPs in the App store. It is free, and free of advertisements.

AROUND THE CLUBS

BALLINA OVER NINETIES

You would think that the Ballina Massed Choir singing you Happy Birthday might be a little distracting. It didn't seem to distract 90-year-old Marie Ferguson on this board.





Lead AK. The auction was straight to the point, and the AK hit the table as the last strains of the birthday anthem still hung in the air. West followed with the AQ and the AJ, ruffed by our hero.

Surveying the prospects Marie counted the two spade tricks already lost and the prospect of two possible losers in the

minors. There was a complication, however. If the diamond finesse works then there is still a loser in the suit. So, three definite losers and a club problem. Finesses are for young folk. Nonagenarians can do better.

Action stations! The queen of trumps was cashed followed by a trump to the ace and the king to clear the suit. Finesse time, and Marie is in the right hand. Small diamond from the table to the queen wins. Now Marie could take advantage of the loser that was still present in the diamond suit. The ace was cashed and a diamond to the jack forced East to win his king. The hapless East is now forced to give a ruff and discard or lead a club around to the ace-jack.

East led a club and applauded the neat endplay.

Tweed Heads Bridge Club recently lauded their Venerable Aged Members. Ballina is building a good cohort of Ballina Over Nineties.

RAMPING UP NONAGENARIAN MEMBERS

The celebratory ribbon to the recently completed club access ramp was cut by Herb Hill, Cleveland Bay Bridge Club's most senior nonagenarian, aided by Margaret Davis, a Foundation Member, marking the official opening of the long awaited disability access ramp to this small but popular Townsville Club. The celebratory cake was cut by another nonagenarian Francis Huntington and the Parish Priest Fr Joshi, representing the Diocese of Townsville who are the lessors of the bridge club premises.

Having relocated to these new premises in 2017, the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club found their senior and other physically challenged members having to breach new levels of physical activity in the name of bridge. Their bridging skill set, quietly complemented by individuality of character, has contributed significantly over the years to the club's friendly and vibrant atmosphere. There was a need to maintain these characteristics, and we set about achieving this by applying for a grant to improve general club access.

Club members gathered to develop and prepare the time constrained grant application, as required by the state government of Queensland, for the installation of a disabled ramp to our new venue. Owner approval, design and building quotes and application wording were significant milestones necessary for this project to proceed. This was not a hurdle for our members, as young and old contributed equally to the project, and now it was time for the wheels of fortune to roll as the midnight deadline for submission approached.

Bingo – (or should we say GRAND SLAM!) – approval was received on 1 February this year.

On 14th October, 2019, with construction finalised, we celebrated the opening of our new access with members of all ages and physical abilities "ramping their way up to the Sunday Session of bridge." Is this "RAMP-AGE" at Bridge?

Kim Ellaway



Australian Bridge Federation Inc. Newsletter: December 2019

A GAME FOR LIFE by Di Brooks

As the ex-Promotions Officer for Western Australia, I would like to share one of my projects. I produced a survey, which was sent out to all the clubs in WA. The basis of this survey was to ask BAWA members for their comments on their bridge experiences. Of the 600 copies I sent out, I received approximately 165 replies.

Here are some of the aspects of the answers:

When did they learn to play bridge?

People who started learning at a very young age, learned from their parents.

Ladies learnt bridge in their mid-forties when their children went to school.

Gentlemen learnt in their late teens to early twenties when either they were in the Armed Forces or at University.

The bulk of players took up bridge when they retired. But here's the bottom line: they all wished they had learnt at an earlier age. What better proof that Bridge is a Game for Life.

Di Brooks, Rockingham Bridge Club

MELBOURNE CUP DAY



The Gold Coast Bridge Club is noted for its social events, and this team of willing decorators for Melbourne Cup day comprised players of every standard, from Grand Master to Novice. Photo by Di Morris, GCBC official photographer.

OBITUARIES

JUDI WRIGHT

The Nambucca Valley Bridge Club advises the passing of its Life Member Judi Wright (nee McKee) on 30 October 2019 at the age of 77.

Judi was born in Melbourne and commenced playing bridge at the Frankston Bridge Club in her early 30s. She loved playing bridge and ultimately earned the status of Grand Master.

Judi moved to Nambucca Heads in the early 80s and started her own Bridge Club, which later merged with Nambucca Valley. She commenced teaching bridge and developed a close association with Coffs Harbour Bridge Club, where she also played.

Judi became a Congress Director and later a NSW State Director. She directed tournaments from Taree to Lismore. In 1995 she directed the ABF's National Championships in Darwin. Judi credits her mentor Roger Penny, a National Director, with her successful development as a director.

In 1995 Judi started masterpointing all Club Red Point sessions on behalf of the NSW Bridge Association and was later appointed State Masterpoint Secretary, a position she held until the end of 2004.

Also in 1995 Judi wrote the *Bridge Director's Handbook of* Movements & Scoring, which was distributed by the ABF to all Australian Bridge Clubs and which is still available for purchase through The Bridge Shop in Sydney.

Judi married in 1996 and moved to South West Rocks, NSW, deciding to return with her husband Bill to Nambucca Heads five years later. She was invited and took on the position of Principal Director of the Nambucca Valley Bridge Club, a position she held for eight years. In 2006 she was awarded Life Membership of the club.

Judi started to suffer from dementia from her late 60s. She played her last game of bridge on 22 August 2017. Judi had other interests. She was a 9-handicap golfer, a bird watcher and photographer, a card maker, she wrote cooking books, was a Life Member of Combined Nambucca Probus and enjoyed social Lawn Bowls. Her favourite holiday destination was Airlie Beach in Queensland.

Rest in peace Judi.

Stephen Fox

PETER ANDERSSON 1927-2019

I would think that at least 50 members of the Canberra Bridge Club have played bridge with Peter Andersson. Many would have played a hundred or more.

Peter died on 1 October aged 91 at St Andrews Village. He started playing bridge in the 1960s. By the time I began in the late 70s he was already a stalwart of the club.

He worked in the Australian Bureau of Statistics in IT and later for a while in the office of the club. He had two children, Paul and Carole, but sadly Carole died far too young from cancer.

Besides bridge, Peter loved the theatre and musicals. He was always travelling to Sydney and Melbourne for the latest productions. He also travelled regularly on the high seas for bridge or just for fun.

Dining and drinking wine were also high on the priority list. A lot of us have spent many late nights enjoying a few fine wines with our darling friend.

Peter's popularity was shown by the number of club members who visited him regularly in his last months. The staff often asked us who we all were!

Janet Kahler



For all your professional and personal insurance needs, including travel insurance.

Check out their website at www.tbib.com.au

TONY BEMROSE INSURANCE BROKERS

OPEN TO ALL LEVELS + CASH PRIZES TO BE WON

59TH INTERNATIONAL **2020 GOLD COAST** BRIDGE CONGRESS

Gold Coast Convention Centre Broadbeach 21st – 29th February

Learn more at 🗲 qldbridge.com.au/gcc

Kim Ellaway • manager@qldbridge.com.au • +61 412 064 903 • +61 7 3351 8602





