



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

Editor: Barbara Travis (editor@abf.com.au)

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A WORLD CHAMPION IN OUR MIDST: KATE McCALLUM

Who is Kate McCallum?

Kate, aka Karen, has won six Women's World Championships and one Mixed World Championship, multiple National and Regional titles in her home country, USA, as well as European and National titles all over the world, including our own Gold Coast Teams.

From 1973 onwards, Kate's primary occupation has been as a professional bridge player. She is also a bridge teacher, mentor and coach.

Background:

Born in San Francisco, California, Kate grew up as daughter of a U.S. Air Force Colonel. She travelled throughout United States as a military "brat" before, in 1972, settling in New York City, where she was based until moving, in 1993, to an old white farmhouse in Exeter, New Hampshire, where she still resides. She has two daughters, Donna and Justine, two stepsons, Jamie and Rory, and six grandchildren.

Despite being one of the finest bridge players in the world and being obsessed by bridge, Kate is an eclectic individual with multiple passions – she is the darling of devout crime fiction readers after writing and publishing The Copperfield Collection of Mystery Checklists, and The Copperfield Collection of Mystery Authors. A prolific ghost-writer, Kate is also the author/editor of several best-selling books on bridge, but none under her own name. Together with her late husband Alex, she founded a financial public relations firm based in Manhattan, and served as Alex's editor for more than 40 years. Kate also operates a successful B&B in New Hampshire, USA, and owns a small jewellery design business called Eclectica.

What are you doing in Australia?

"The World Championships in 1989 were in Perth. It was the first time I represented the USA in a World Championship, and we won it. This began my love affair with Australia and I have been coming back ever since. I love the country and want to spend time here.

On my last visit I was attracted to a talented local player, Axel Johannsson. I feel Australia is good for me - something about it raises spirits. It is a healing environment and the people are upbeat and happy. This time, I am here for the Northern winter to see how things work out with Axel and to coach the Australian Women's Team and other aspiring international partnerships."

What is Kate's style of Bridge?

Kate is well known for her aggressive style, and likes to be a difficult opponent. She is a strong believer that points don't take tricks, fit is what counts, and suit quality is irrelevant when not vulnerable. At favourable vulnerability anything goes. She doesn't like to give the opponents a chance so nudges them into making mistakes.



Kate's primary claim to fame is an aggressive style of pre-empting. "Pre-empt any time you can", she says. Kate has been tracking weak twos at favourable vulnerability in National and International Tournaments for 30 years and discovered they have a winning margin of 1.28 IMPs. When you consider that the lifetime average winning margin per board is 0.58 for top players, it's evident that her pre-empting style has made the difference to Kate's winning in World Championships and Nationals. "It's a huge contribution. I don't believe I would have won a World Championship without them. Pre-empt means opponents have to guess. If top players only guess correctly 60% of the time I have a distinct advantage," she quips.

Kate is also an advocate of relay bidding. Relay is used after Strong Club or when you are in a Game Force. "Relay is the future," she assures me. "Did you know that it originated with Roy Kerr in New Zealand, who developed Symmetric Relay? Modern relay is based on this. The way it works is that one partner asks questions and the other responds to establish shape, then controls, then cue bidding until the exact hand is known. This is a far more accurate way to bid slams where many IMPs are to be gained."

As one would expect of a World Champion, Kate is also a skillful card player. Her 4♠ in the first session of the final of the World Championships in Orlando has been nominated as hand of the year where her table feel and card reading enabled her to make 4♠ when no one else did. The secret was not to draw trumps because of the 4-1 trump split. Her line of play also works for a 3-2 trump split.

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AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM

Peter Gill - Sartaj Hans
 Andy Hung - Nabil Edgtton
 Liam Milne - Tony Nunn
 David Thompson (NPC)

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S TEAM

Giselle Mundell - Avril Zets
 Helena Dawson - Helene Pitt
 Lorna Ichilcik - Rena Kaplan
 Peter Buchen (NPC)

AUSTRALIAN SENIORS' TEAM

Avi Kanetkar - Bruce Neill
 Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer
 Andy Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera
 Ian Thomson (NPC)

AUSTRALIAN MIXED TEAM

Renee Cooper - Ben Thompson
 Jodi Tutty - David Beauchamp
 Pending ratification, augmentation and an NPC

AUSTRALAN YOUTH TEAMS

See page 16

A Happy New Year to you all. Whether you have just learnt bridge, or are a seasoned player, I hope your New Year's Resolution is to play more bridge in 2019!

Technology development is one of the ABF priorities for 2019. The first step is to define and implement a three-year technology strategy to cover 2019-2021. The National Technology Coordinator, Mark Guthrie has written a draft of the strategy that includes all aspects of the game of bridge in Australia. After consultation with key stakeholders the strategy will be on the ABF Website and distributed to states, territories and clubs.

Thank you to Barbara Travis for her two years as ABF Newsletter Editor. The ABF Management Committee appreciates the significant effort that Barbara put into each addition, taking time to make the Newsletter appealing to the diverse Australian bridge community. I wish Barbara all the best at the bridge table and in her future endeavours.

Congratulations to Roy Nixon and his team for another successful Summer Festival of Bridge. I thank Roy for his three years as Tournament Organiser and the endless hours he spent to ensure the event ran smoothly.

At the Management Committee meeting in March a review of the ABF Strategic Plan will be undertaken. Key initiatives that resulted from the last strategic planning session were the implementation of resources and programs to support teaching, youth, directing, marketing and most recently technology. The 2019 review will ensure the organisation's priorities and resources are targeted towards ensuring the best outcomes for bridge in Australia. The Management Committee has sought feedback from states, territories and other key stakeholders and will welcome input from players who may wish to offer any suggestions.

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



Kate McCallum won the National Women's Teams with Vanessa Brown, Barbara Travis and Candice Ginsberg

Dealer West ♠ K J 8
 EW Vul ♥ A 5 4
 ♦ A 10 7 6 4 3
 ♣ 3

♠ 9 ♠ A 10 3 2
 ♥ Q 9 8 2 ♥ J 10 7 6
 ♦ 9 8 ♦ J 2
 ♣ A Q J 10 5 4 ♣ 9 7 6

♠ Q 7 6 5 4
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ K Q 5
 ♣ K 8 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Double	Redouble (1)	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

(1) Showing 3 spades

After a heart lead, when a spade to the King held, declarer immediately played three rounds of diamonds. East ruffed the third round, but now declarer was in control. After two rounds of clubs, Kate could simply ruff and play more diamonds through East, eventually losing just one club and two spades.

What do you see as the Role of a Professional in Bridge?

"Like every sport, Bridge needs its 'stars' to make the game more colourful and to inspire players," she tells me. "Professionals add to the enjoyment of the game for many and provide the opportunity for the average player to raise their standard. It opens their eyes to what is possible, something they could not achieve with their peers. The average player also gets the opportunity to compete against stars."

Kate enjoys her role as a professional because she likes to watch people improve and feels pride and great joy when her clients make a good play. Kate is a perfectionist who is completely devoted to her clients and brings absolute commitment and willingness to go the extra mile to help them improve. Her favourite clients are those who are interested in developing and progressing. Kate tells me the secret to her success is that she has the ability to express complicated concepts in a straightforward uncomplicated manner and of course, because "I teach them how to win".

What is your opinion of Women's Bridge?

"Women's Bridge teaches us that we can compete and how to win. You can take this learning with you into Open Bridge. For the most part women have not played as well as men - why is a vast topic and I have some ideas as to the why - but when you look at results that is what we see. Now we are seeing women have the ability to win some Open events though not the long knockouts. Without Women's Bridge this wouldn't have happened."

"I believe the future of Women's Bridge is up in the air. Behaviour in women's events can be very unpleasant. Sometimes it is nicknamed the 'viper pit' with normal players dropping out to reduce the numbers, leaving mainly the vipers.

"In addition Women's Bridge is diminishing because women are getting better - they have improved a great deal in recent times especially in Europe and North America. Women are finding they can compete effectively in Open events. Younger women don't believe in standard stereotypes and don't accept the limitations of the current generations.

In fact today many more women are playing Open Bridge than Women's Bridge."

What advice would you give Australian Bridge Players?

- Work hard.
- Bid more aggressively.
- Talk bridge with better players whenever possible (and listen).
- Bid your cards. Play with confidence and accept your mistakes. It's a game of mistakes. Winners are the people who make the fewest mistakes - accept them and move on.
- Don't be afraid to look stupid - look at your errors as learning opportunities.
- Slow down and think before you act especially at trick one. Many errors are avoidable if you take the time to construct the unseen hands.
- Play within your partnership - have what your partner expects you to have - EVERY time. Don't have solo flights of fancy.
- Focus on partnerships. Treat your partner as the best player in the world and your results will improve. Understand partner's point of view when there's a mistake.
- Build team spirit and take care of the weakest link; individuals don't win, partnerships don't win, a team does. Study team sports and how they win as a team.
- Enjoy bridge - it's only a card game!

What is Kate's most Unforgettable Bridge Memory?

Kate's most unforgettable Bridge memory and the most painful moment in her bridge career is the last board of the last match in the prestigious Sunday Times Invitational Swiss Pairs Event (then the Macallan).

Kate and Kerri Sanborn were invited as the token Womens' Pair during the 1st Gulf War. Due to the dangers of travel, Kerri was unable to get there and Kate formed a scratch partnership with Sally Brock - who became a dear friend - and they surprised everyone, having developed a strong One Club system overnight. Competing against the legends of bridge, they were never below 5th place. After 15 matches they were in 2nd place before the last board against Boris Shapiro and Irving Gordon. The opponents ended up in 7♣ after a bidding mix-up. Kate was on lead with a singleton ♣K. She led a spade, dummy's known void, to get into his hand. With no re-entry to his hand, declarer guessed to play a low club from 1064 to dummy's AQJxxx to capture her singleton ♣K. Just like that they went from 2nd to 10th in one board. Meckstroth-Rodwell won that year.

What makes Kate a winner?

"I play with confidence and work very, very hard. I'm not afraid to look stupid. I see mistakes as learning opportunities. I didn't fall in love with any conventions or systems - I just learned to use what works."



Ruth Frydman and Dan Craine, winners of the Two Day Novice Swiss Pairs, SFOB, Canberra

Liz Sylvester

ANDY HUNG BRIDGE HOLIDAYS

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The All-Inclusive Package:

- ♥ Five nights at the Ivory Palms Resort
- ♥ All bridge activities; professional seminars with a full set of notes, duplicate sessions
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- ♥ All breakfasts (fully cooked + continental) and dinners (Russian cuisine!), except for one night where you are free to roam around
- ♥ Many fantastic tours with our own private guide
(Not included: Airfare, visa, one dinner mentioned, personal items)

Pricing: SPECIAL: Early bird \$250 discount by 1/3/19

- ♦ Single: \$3395 ♦ Double or T/S: \$2995 pp
- *Non-bridge players welcome – cost is reduced by \$300

Contact: Andy Hung

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♠♥♦♣ www.andyhungbridge.com ♠♥♦♣

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ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE FEDERATION Open Event

The Joseph Greenfeld Congress

APRIL 15-22 2020

Perth Convention Centre
Western Australia



McCUTCHEON AWARDS

For Masterpoints accrued during 2018.

McCUTCHEON TROPHY (most Masterpoints)

1st	Peter Gill	515.35
2nd	Pauline Gumby	499.71
3rd	Warren Lazer	493.59

The awards for the different 'categories', i.e. the category in which you started 2018:

SILVER+ GRAND	Peter Gill	515.35
GRAND	John Newman	425.88
GOLD LIFE	Renee Cooper	240.81
SILVER LIFE	Matt Smith	284.45
BRONZE LIFE	Jessica Brake	260.86
LIFE	Christopher Leach	170.29
** NATIONAL	Mick Koziol	74.22
* NATIONAL	Paul Dalley	332.62
NATIONAL	Lori Smith	182.61
* STATE	David Gue	90.91
STATE	Kimberley Zhao	93.43
* REGIONAL	Alan Sims	60.19
REGIONAL	Dave Gallagher	56.29
** LOCAL	Yixiang Zhang	64.14
* LOCAL	Arlene Dalley	49.91
LOCAL	Liz Shonk	52.71
CLUB	Aijun Yang	64.00
GRADUATE	Alan Race	41.16
NIL	Charlie Georgees	53.32

MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS FOR 2018

1st	Paul Dalley
2nd	Lori Smith
3rd	Liz Sylvester
4th	Aijun Yang
5th	Robbie Feyder

AROUND THE CLUBS

ANN THOMPSON

Ann came to Australia from Banff, Scotland, in 1945 with the Royal Navy.

She lived in Bondi for a while where she met and married 'Tom', an Australian. They moved to Macksville where, at age of 40, she gave birth to her son, Malcolm.

Ann was one of the instigators of setting up the original Nambucca Valley Bridge Club where she was an active member for several years.

Ann and Tom moved to Coffs Harbour a few years ago to be nearer to Malcolm. Tom died a couple of years ago at the age of 99.

Ann became a grandmother for the first time when she was 97 and second grandchild is due later this year!

Barbara Herring, Coffs Harbour BC



FAREWELL

I have really enjoyed creating a Newsletter to appeal to most of the bridge players in Australia, but it is time for me to move on. Many of you have sent me emails, and I'd like to thank you for your comments, praise, suggestions and constructive criticisms. Your input is vital to the continued appeal and success of the Newsletter.

Barbara



McCUTCHEON awards: 2nd - Pauline Gumby, 3rd - Warren Lazer, 1st - Peter Gill, Most Improved - Paul Dalley

MAJOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS

GRAND NATIONAL KNOCKOUT TEAMS

UNDEFEATED TEAMS

SYDNEY 1: Peter Buchen - Terry Brown, Ron Klinger - Matt Mullamphy, Kim Morrison - Matthew Thomson

SYDNEY 2: Bruce Neill - Avi Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, John Newman - Nye Griffiths

GNOT REPECHAGE

SYDNEY 6: 85.1

Nico Ranson - John McMahon, Lavy & Tomer Libman
defeated

SYDNEY 4: 42

Robert & Daniel Krochmalik, Robert Grynberg - David Stern, Tom Moss - Michael Wilkinson

CANBERRA 2: 80

George Kozakos - Arjuna DeLivera, Jodi Tutty - Stephen Fischer
defeated

ADELAIDE 1: 33.1

Phil Markey - Russel Harms, Zolly Nagy - Justin Williams

SEMI-FINALS

CANBERRA 2: 70 *defeated* SYDNEY 1: 66.1

SYDNEY 2: 142.1 *defeated* SYDNEY 6: 61

FINAL

SYDNEY 2: 159 *defeated* CANBERRA 2 123

WOMEN'S PLAYOFF

SEMI-FINALS

TRAVIS: 321.1

Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke - Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty
defeated

BIRD: 215

Sheila Bird - Karen Creet, Cathryn Herden - Judy Mott, Anita Curtis - Pele Rankin

PITT: 294

Helene Pitt - Helena Dawson, Rena Kaplan - Lorna Ichilcik, Giselle Mundell - Avril Zets
defeated

LUSK: 267

Sue Lusk - Viv Wood, Paula McLeish - Diana Smart, Sophie Ashton - Laura Ginnan

FINAL

PITT 236 *defeated* TRAVIS 214.1

DAILY BRIDGE COLUMN

The Management Committee has agreed in principle to a proposal from Ron Klinger to run a daily bridge column accessible by subscription only. More information will be available once the technology to collect the subscription and distribute the daily columns has been set up.

ABF COOPERATIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGN

The Management Committee has approved the expansion of the experiment with Facebook and Instagram. The Head of Marketing will be seeking clubs that are interested in undertaking the test in their home markets with the support of the ABF, and sharing the cost. Details of this cooperative marketing campaign will be circulated shortly.

SENIORS' TEAM PLAYOFF

SEMI-FINALS

NEILL: 181.1

Bruce Neill - Avi Kanetkar, Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby, Arjuna De Livera - Andy Braithwaite
defeated

SMOLANKO: 171

George Smolanko - Nigel Rosendorff, Phil Gue - Ron Cooper

LAVINGS: 210

Paul Lavings - Robert Krochmalik, Kim Morrison - Paul Wyer, David Beauchamp - Mike Hughes
defeated

BUCHEN 194.1

Peter Buchen - Terry Brown, Ron Klinger - Ian Thomson, Ian Robinson - George Kozakos

FINAL

NEILL 177.1 *defeated* LAVINGS 160

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

PENLINE ONE-DAY SWISS PAIRS

1st Joan Butts - GeO Tislevoll

2nd Sue La Peyre - Bob Cox

3rd Murray Perrin - Neville Francis

ONE DAY WARM-UP NOVICE TEAMS

1st PEREIRA (Under 50): 80.22

Eugene Pereira - Rex Meadowcroft,

Vesna & Voyko Markovic

2nd ARDERN (Under 100): 72.78

Melissa Ardern - Stephen Smith, Claire Hughes - Cathi Bywater

3rd FOREMAN (Under 50): 72.03

Judith Foreman - John Royle, Jenny Bergin - Barbara Bialowas

8th GRANT (Under 20):

Michele & Simon Grant, Jann White - Jane Young

NATIONAL RED PLUM LIFE MASTERS TEAMS

1st SHEEDY: 144.52

Terrence Sheedy - Keith Blinco, Eric Baker - Chris Stead

2nd DALZIELL: 123.18

Ian Dalziell - Trevor Berenger, Terry Heming - John Donovan

3rd TOMLINSON: 111.31

Hope Tomlinson - Barry Foster, David Snow - Martin Johnson

NATIONAL PIANOLA PLUS NON-LIFE MASTERS TEAMS

1st GRACE (Under 100): 123.48

Andrew Grace - Gary Kembrey, Michael & Louise Brassil

2nd DOOLEY (Under 50): 90.85

Genevieve Dooley - Phil Creaser,

Rosemary Follett - Geraldine O'Brien, Bricet Kloren (sub)

NATIONAL NOVICE MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

1st Judith Foreman - John Royle (Under 50)

2nd Sara Lynch - Ross Cunningham (Under 100)

3rd Rex Meadowcroft - Eugene Pereira (Under 50)

10th Frances & Ian Hammond (Under 20)

CHRIS DIMENT MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

1st William Zhang - Tom Kiss

2nd Shane Harrison - Liam Milne

3rd Geoff Chettle - Greg Lewin

TBIB NATIONAL OPEN SWISS PAIRS

1st Andy Hung - Liam Milne
2nd Neil Ewart - David Beckett
3rd Mimi Packer - Jonathan Free

PENLINE 500 SWISS PAIRS

1st David & Nico Ranson
2nd Donna Crossan-Peacock - Lindsay Scandrett
3rd Michael Box - Maurice Ripley

NOVICE SWISS PAIRS

1st Ruth Frydman - Dan Craine
2nd Claire Hughes - Cathi Bywater
3rd Vesna & Voyko Markovic

NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS

QUALIFIERS

1st TRAVIS: 125.80
Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg,
Vanessa Brown - Karen (Kate) McCallum
2nd TUTTY: 117.22
Jodi Tutty - Marianne Bookallil,
Jessica Brake - Susan Humphries
3rd RICHARDSON: 112.81
Carol Richardson - Andi Boughey, Jenna & Christine Gibbons
4th LOWRY: 98.90
Helen Lowry - Berri Folkard, Heather Cusworth - Frances Lyons

SEMI-FINALS

TRAVIS 176.1 *defeated* LOWRY 163
TUTTY 111.1 *defeated* RICHARDSON 109

FINAL

TRAVIS 155.1 *defeated* TUTTY 104

NATIONAL SENIORS' TEAMS

QUALIFIERS

1st KANETKAR: 134.45
Avi Kanetkar - Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer,
Andy Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera
2nd HARMS: 122.01
Russel Harms - Jeff Travis, Judy Hocking - Kevin Lange
3rd SMOLANKO 119.45
George Smolanko - Nigel Rosendorff, Zolly Nagy - David Lilley,
Stephen Lester - Simon Hinge
4th DE LUCA 118.51
Attilio De Luca - Jon Hunt, Roger Januszke - John Zollo,
Peter Chan - Phil Gue

SEMI-FINALS

DE LUCA 121 *defeated* KANETKAR 113.1
SMOLANKO 129 *defeated* HARMS 82.1

FINAL

SMOLANKO 153.1 *defeated* DE LUCA 148

CANBERRA REX UNDER 750/300 MP TEAMS

QUALIFIERS

1st RANSON (Under 750): 133.49
Nico Ranson & David Ranson, Charles, Susan & Ken McMahon
2nd WILLIAMS (Under 300): 112.14
Neil Williams - Kevin Murray, Jane Biscoe - John Rogers
3rd PENKLIS (Under 300): 103.19
Alex Penklis - Libby Tonkin, Phillip Halloran - Rob Ward
4th CROSSAN-PEACOCK (Under 300): 102.20
Donna Crossan-Peacock - Lindsay Scandrett,
Louise & Michael Brassil

UNDER 750 FINAL

RANSON 122.1 *defeated* WILLIAMS 41

UNDER 300 FINAL

PENKLIS 70.1 *defeated* CROSSAN-PEACOCK 66

NEURA SWISS PAIRS

1st Ruth Neild - Colin Bale
2nd Susan & Ken McMahon (Under 300)
3rd Donna Crossan-Peacock - Lindsay Scandrett
(Under 300)

NEARLY PACK UP AND TIME TO GO HOME BUTLERPAIRS

1st Bill Nash - James Wallis
2nd Hugh Grosvenor - Martin Doran
3rd Pamela Nisbet - Richard Solomon

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC TEAMS

QUALIFIERS TO THE NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

1st MILNE: 172.04
Liam Milne - Andy Hung - Sartaj Hans - James Coutts,
Shane Harrison - Sophie Ashton
2nd BUCHEN: 164.10
Peter Buchen - Terry Brown, George Kozakos - Ian Robinson,
George Smolanko - Nigel Rosendorff
3rd KANETKAR: 162.69
Avi Kanetkar - Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer,
Andy Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera
4th APPLETON: 160.84
David Appleton - Peter Reynolds, David Morgan - Stephen
Fischer, Howard Melbourne - Joe Haffer
5th LEIBOWITZ: 160.13
Tony Leibowitz - Peter Gill, Ashley Bach - Michael Cornell,
Michael Whibley - Matthew Brown
6th WESTON: 152.93
David Weston - Julian Foster, Kim Morrison - Chris Hughes
7th WURTH: 151.89
David Wurth - Nick Fahrer, David Fryda - Michael Cartmell
8th EWART: 151.07
Neil Ewart - David Beckett, Simon Henbest - Dee Harley

NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

QUARTER-FINALS

MILNE 142.1 *defeated* WURTH 112
BUCHEN 162.1 *defeated* EWART 63
KANETKAR 153.1 *defeated* WESTON 114
LEIBOWITZ 207 *defeated* APPLETON 129.1

SEMI-FINALS

MILNE 139.1 *defeated* BUCHEN 137
LEIBOWITZ 131 *defeated* KANETKAR 116.1

FINAL

LEIBOWITZ 152 *defeated* MILNE 125.1



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HAND OF THE WEEK by Joel Martineau

Playing against sound opponents, with only their side vulnerable at matchpoints, you have this dicey auction to find yourself declaring 2♣:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣
All Pass			

A rather weak dummy comes down with a few trumps:

♠ 10 8
 ♥ 10 9 7 5 4
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ Q 7 5 2

♠ A K 7 6
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ 10 6 5
 ♣ A K 10 3

After West leads the ♠2, how would you plan the play of the hand in 2♣?

Joel Martineau's 'Hand of the Week' loosely covers the author's most instructive hand of each week during a year of his bridge play, often with his bridge students. Martineau writes in a style that turns each hand into a story (similar to the Terence Reese's classic 'Play These Hands with Me') rather than presenting each hand as a dry problem. Nevertheless, industrious readers will not find it hard to stop at the key point and take a moment to work out what the best play is, so the book also works well as a quiz book.

The focus is firmly on card play, both as declarer and defender. The bidding receives brief attention, but the commentary on the auction is always sensible. I found the auctions to be solid and always comprehensible; any deviations from 'standard' were usually justified.

What I enjoyed most about 'Hand of the Week' was the author's constant reinforcing of the 'bread and butter' skills that come easily to experts but are patchier amongst improving players. There is an emphasis on using all the available information to come up with the best play. Following his thought processes as he navigates each of the 52 deals is instructive, especially because of Martineau's career as a bridge coach.

The level of the problems will suit the majority of the readers: they are difficult enough that they do not solve themselves, yet there are always enough clues to find the winning play. Frequently, each story leads to a discussion about a wider theme in card play that can be applied to other hands. Although experts might find some of the hands too easy, I enjoyed reading Martineau's take on most of the 52 hands.

Usually, the highlighted play is more about 'practical' aspects of play (often card-reading) as opposed to pure technical knowledge. In the example problem above, the author shrewdly works out that for his opponents not to have competed further with their combined 23 HCP, diamonds must be 5-3 and the points are likely to be split 13-10 (otherwise each opponent might have bid again). With a reasonable hand, East's most likely reason for not competing over 2♣ was that he was a 4-3-3-3 shape.

With the objective of worrying the opponents about a potential cross-ruff, the right play is to win the lead and advance the ♥8. When East wins the ♥Q and switches to clubs, declarer wins in hand to lead another heart. After West wins the second heart and continues with a trump, dummy wins the ♣Q and leads a third heart, ruffed low. As expected, the hearts break 3-3 and declarer draws the last trump, claiming +110 and a great matchpoint score.

Finally, a bit of colour is provided by the author's sensible non-cardplay advice. Here's one quote that we should all follow: "No matter how unlikely your line, embark as though you have a solid plan and look for ways to increase your chances. A reminder: When partner tables dummy never, ever say anything except 'Thank you, partner!'"

Liam Milne



Liam Milne (right) with Andy Hung - winners of the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs in Canberra.

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 Sun 25 to Fri 30 August



6 days, \$1190 (sgle \$1335)
 Includes accommodation, breakfast, dinner, bridge.

6 days, from around \$900
 Enjoy games with the welcoming locals, and a trip to another town!

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When was the last time you went for -1100? Then again, when was the last time you saw a bid of partner's and asked yourself, "What on earth does that mean?"

At the beginning of the GNOT Semi-Final, I faced a bidding problem I had never seen before. See if you can do better:

West (You)	North	East	South
1♦ (4+♥)	2♠ (8-11pts)	1♣	Double
?		4♣	Pass

West (You)
 ♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ Q J 9 6 2
 ♦ 10 8 5 3
 ♣ A

What on earth is 4♣? What would you do? *Decide before reading on.*

I wasn't sure whether 4♣ was a natural slam try, gameforce with heart support (as it would have been had the auction been uncontested), or simply weak with clubs. Unfortunately, all the hands partner could have were consistent with the opponents' bidding. My 4♥ bid was not a success, it went for -1100:

Board 2	Dealer East	NS Vul	EW Vul
	♠ A Q 9 5	♥ 10 8 7	♦ A 7 2
	♣ 8 4 3		
♠ 8 7 2		♥ Q J 9 6 2	♦ 10 8 5 3
♥ Q J 9 6 2		♣ A	
♦ 10 8 5 3		♠ 10 6	♥ 5
♣ A		♦ K J 9	♠ K Q 10 9 7 6 2
	♠ K J 4 3	♥ A K 4 3	♦ Q 6 4
	♣ J 5		

After the set I asked my partner, Nye Griffiths, who has had a top 10 finish in the World Pairs, what he his bid meant. He said, "At favourable vulnerability, the 4♣ rebid shows a hand too strong for a 3♣ opening, suggesting a 5♣ sacrifice if you have a suitable hand." Whoops.

At that stage, my team-mate, Warren Lazer, decided not to kibitz the rest of the match on VuGraph, possibly to avoid a heart attack. Our young opponents John McMahon and Nico Ranson played aggressive and solid bridge and had the better of us with two boards to go.

We were running out of time, so I played the second-last hand in about 20 seconds and somehow survived a 5-0 trump break. The last hand was an extremely wild one, and again I was not sure what to do:

Board 10	Dealer East	Both Vul
	♠ A K Q J 10 3 2	♥ A 3 2
	♦ 2	♣ Q 6

Partner had opened 1♥, and I began with 1♠. My left hand opponent leapt to 3♣ (weak), and Nye volunteered 3♦, showing a shapely hand with good playing strength. John

McMahon, a sensible player, raised his partner to 4♣ after much deliberation. What would you bid over that?

I wanted to know if partner had a club control, good hearts and at least one minor suit ace - all of these things would add up to a good slam. In retrospect, a jump to 5♠ would have been practical. I used Key Card, then bid 6♣, which my RHO doubled. Nico led the ♠A and partner tabled great cards:

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

How would you play the hand? Why has your RHO doubled?

Eventually I twigged that John (my RHO) was making a Lightner double, asking for a lead of dummy's first bid suit, hearts. Nico's failure to lead a heart suggested that he was void, so I cashed ♦A-K throwing a heart, and set about ruffing both of my clubs without ever crossing to hand in hearts. Playing a heart to the Ace would have been a disaster!

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

On to the final. How would you and your partner bid these hands?

♠ A 4	♠ 10 9
♥ A 8 7 6	♥ K Q 2
♦ 2	♦ A 10 8 7
♣ A K Q 9 8 2	♣ J 6 4 3

Avi Kanetkar, my team-mate, suggested the auction could start:

1♣	1♦ (natural)
2♥ (GF)	2♣ (fourth suit forcing)
2NT	3♣ (setting clubs)

After Opener's game-forcing jump shift, responder can work out that a slam is likely - the ♥K-Q and ♣J-x-x-x are looking very useful, together with the ♦A too - covering Opener's singleton, but you need to find out that opener has a spade control. This was the first board of the final, and a missed opportunity for both teams, both playing in 3NT.

A few boards later, I went for 1100 again! This time I judged poorly to play in 1NT X, when any suit contract would have fared better.

The final was close throughout, which is a testament to Stephen Fischer - Jodi Tutty and George Kozakos - Arjuna De Livera (CANBERRA 2), who were playing their fourth consecutive day as a four-person team. Our team, Pauline Gumby-Warren Lazer, Bruce Neill-Avi Kanetkar and Nye Griffiths-me had the luxury of sets off, plus free time while the others played the Repechage. Even so, I find it a challenge to keep concentrating and putting the clues together.

Coming in to the last session, we had a small lead (13 IMPs). See if you can visualise partner's hand on this auction. You hold:

♠ A K 9 8
♥ K Q 6
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ Q J

and your RHO opens 1♦ (4+). Firstly what should you do? I've asked around, and various experts have advocated 1NT, double, 1♣ and pass. I chose double, thinking partner would be unlikely to choose clubs. Double had an unexpected advantage, when LHO raised to 2♦ (6-9 and 4+♦ in their methods). Partner doubled, showing 4+/4+ in the majors. I reached for a 2♣ bid, and then stopped to think first.

How many diamonds can partner hold, looking at the auction and your hand? What might partner's hand look like?

♠ Q 4 3 2
♥ A 10 3 2
♦ 2
♣ 10 9 3 2

That's what I imagined at the time. What contract would you like to be in opposite that dummy? I bashed 4♣, which turned out to be worth a lot of IMPs. The auction was harder for East-West at the other table, and they didn't reach game. North responded 1♥ not 2♦, which had the effect of concealing the diamond fit, and thus West couldn't picture East's perfectly-placed shortage.

Board 26

Dealer East ♠ 10 7
All Vul ♥ J 7 3 2
♦ A J 8 4
♣ 9 7 5

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

♠ Q J 3
♥ 8 5
♦ K Q 5 3
♣ A 8 4 2

If you are secretly ambitious about bridge, I'd like to encourage you. I'm convinced that intelligence is over-rated and psychology under-rated. If you can learn to focus on the big picture instead of a current mistake, you'll be on your way in no time. An error is just an opportunity to ask strong players a question. But I do sometimes wish that I wouldn't go for 1100 when I'm wrong!

John Newman



*Winners of the Red Plum Life Masters Teams:
Terry Sheedy, Keith Blinco, Eric Baker, Chris Stead*



*Winners of the Pianola Plus Non-Life Masters Teams:
Andrew Grace, Gary Kembrey, Louise & Michael Brassil*



*The Australian Women's Team for 2019 (left to right):
Helena Dawson, Lorna Ichilcik, Helene Pitt, Avril Zets, Giselle Mundell, Rena Kaplan*

WOMEN'S PLAYOFFS by Barbara Travis

One Quarter Final match went to the wire, with BIRD defeating HUMPHRIES by 9 IMPs over the 128 boards. The Semi Finals saw TRAVIS 321.1 defeat BIRD 215, with PITT and LUSK having a tight match. PITT prevailed over LUSK, 294 – 267.1 IMPs, winning the last set by 40-17 to widen a very narrow margin.

The final was between TRAVIS (Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke – Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil – Jodi Tutty) and PITT (Helene Pitt – Helena Dawson, Giselle Mundell – Avril Zets, Rena Kaplan – Lorna Ichilcik.)

PITT had a fantastic first set, scoring 37-0, giving TRAVIS the job of catching up this deficit. Here's one of their two slams from the first set:

	♠ Q 8 3		
	♥ 10 9 6 5 4 3		
	♦ Q 8 4		
	♣ 5		
♠ 4 2		♠ K 9 5	
♥ Q J 2		♥ 8	
♦ A 10 7 5 3 2		♦ K J 9 6	
♣ Q 3		♣ 9 8 6 4 2	
	♠ A J 10 7 6		
	♥ A K 7		
	♦ void		
	♣ A K J 10 7		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	<i>Pitt</i>		<i>Dawson</i>
			2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠ (1)	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦ (2)	Pass	5♥ (3)
Pass	5NT (4)	Pass	6♣

- (1) A better hand than a 4♠ bid, given the game force
- (2) 0 key cards
- (3) Ask for ♠Q
- (4) ♠Q, no Kings

The best contract on the North-South cards is actually 6♥, but nobody reached that. (Both Seniors' tables also played 6♠.) However, 6♣ was fine with the ♠Q being short and the spade finesse working. Helena Dawson just lost a heart trick.

Sitting North, you hold the following hand and see this auction:

	♠ K 7 6 5		
	♥ A K 2		
	♦ J 6 5 2		
	♣ A 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	1NT (15-17)	2♣ (majors)	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT (?)
3♠	All Pass		

(?) Given the lack of action on the first round, the delayed 2NT bid should indicate length in both minors.

What would you lead? West must now hold four spades, and is quite likely to be short in hearts, so it seemed 'right' to lead a trump. Here's the hand:

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

The trump ran around to West's ♠8, with South discarding an encouraging diamond. A small club was led, and it was important to rise with the ♣A to lead another trump. Declarer won the second spade to lead a heart, won with the ♥K. A third trump lead left declarer one trick short. In the Seniors' Final, 3♠ X made on a non-trump lead (the ♣A was led).

In the final set, there was a classic defensive hand. The opponents have reached 4♣: 1♠ - 1NT - 3♠ - 4♣. The lead was the ♣K, won by declarer with the ♠A.

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

Avril Zets cashed the ♠K and the ♠A then exited with a spade to the Queen, hoping for her only chance – a misdefence. Trying to convey to partner that there was a need to cash out because the diamonds were running, I discarded the ♦2, discouraging. Candice Ginsberg correctly led the ♥K before reverting to clubs, and Avril claimed the rest of the tricks.

In situations where you need to cash-out your winners, you should always be giving count on these critical honours. We give count on Kings, so I played the ♥3, thinking she would realise to keep leading hearts. I should have made life easier for partner with my discard on the spade. Since I had received a count card in clubs, I could have discarded the ♣2, to direct the focus to the heart suit. I think we both got this wrong and, between us, we should have continued hearts to defeat the contract. We lost a game swing, rather than gaining a part-score swing (for defeating the contract), but thankfully this swing did not cost the event.

The PITT team led all the way, and held on to win by 236 to 214.1 IMPs. It was a close and exciting final. We wish the PITT team the best of luck as the Australian Women's Team, heading to the APBF Championships and Zonal match against New Zealand in Singapore, and then the Venice Cup in China.

Barbara Travis





Winners of the National Open Teams (defending their title from 2018):
Peter Gill, Michael Cornell, Tony Leibowitz, Michael Whibley, Ashley Bach, Matthew Brown

A GRAND FINAL: NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

The #1 seeded LEIBOWITZ Team included four members of the 2019 NZ Open team and one member of the 2019 Australian Open team. The #2 seeded MILNE team included three members of the 2019 Australian Open team. We met in the Final after six days of bridge - a grand match was expected.

Tony Leibowitz had me playing 2 over 1, with a couple of unusual slam bidding agreements which were new to me. One was: after responder uses a 2-minor Inverted Minor Raise or Jacoby 2NT, opener shows strength then shape. For example, 1♦ - 2♦, opener bids 2♥ (11-13 HCP, any minimum hand) or 2♣ (14-16 HCP) or 2NT (17-19 HCP). Responder then bids the next step and opener replies in steps - no shortage, lowest shortage, heart shortage, spade shortage. Therefore, our auction on the following hand was:

- ♠ Q
- ♥ Q 9 4 3
- ♦ A Q 9 4 3
- ♣ K Q 5
- ♠ A 8 7
- ♥ A K J
- ♦ K 10 8 5
- ♣ 7 6 3

<i>Leibowitz</i>	<i>Gill</i>
1♦	2♦ (inverted minor raise)
2♣ (14-16 HCP)	2NT (relay)
3♣ (short ♣)	4NT RKCB
5♦ (1 keycard)	6♦

Tony had told me everything that I needed to know to bid the slam confidently. +920 was a 10 IMP gain against 430 at the other table. That took LEIBOWITZ to a lead of 41 IMPs.

By the time Bd 63 (of 64) arrived, LEIBOWITZ led by 27 IMPs. Sartaj Hans (East) produced some imaginative bidding in an attempt to catch up.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| ♠ A K Q 9 | ♠ 7 6 2 |
| ♥ void | ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 6 |
| ♦ A K Q 10 8 3 | ♦ 4 |
| ♣ A 7 3 | ♣ Q |
| ♠ J 5 | ♠ 10 8 4 3 |
| ♥ 4 3 2 | ♥ 7 5 |
| ♦ 7 6 2 | ♦ J 9 5 |
| ♣ J 8 5 4 2 | ♣ K 10 9 6 |

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	3♦	Pass
Pass	Double	4♣	Double
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Sartaj tried a distraction by psyching - bidding his two singletons! North would bid 5♥ over 4♥ holding a 5-5 in spades and a minor, so his sequence to 6♦ (5NT was forcing - pick a slam) showed a slam-going hand with interest in higher things, probably with 4 spades and 6 diamonds. At the other table, North-South reached 6♣, so Sartaj's flight of fancy gained 3 IMPs.

LEIBOWITZ went on to win the match by 27 IMPs, successfully defending the title with one personnel change.

Peter Gill

SIMILAR BUT DIFFERENT

This hand came from the last round of the SWPT qualifying. Your RHO is dealer and opens 4♣. What would you bid?

- ♠ A Q 8
- ♥ A J 7 5 2
- ♦ void
- ♣ A K 10 6 2

Your correct bid is 4NT, which should say you have two places to play. Partner is supposed to bid their lowest suit in which they are willing to play (opposite your assumed 5 card suit). If partner responds with 5♣, you should bid 6♣ (or can pass 5♣). If partner responds 5♦, they reveal that they don't like clubs (or are happy to play at the 6-level in clubs), and you should correct to 5♥. If partner should bid 5♥, they are indicating that they like both minors, so you would correct to 6♣!

Partner responds 5♦, so you 'correct' to 5♥, showing clubs and hearts. Much to your delight, partner raises to 6♥.

The point is: why guess, when you can consult your partner? 7♥ would only fail because the 4♣ bidder can make a Lightner double, and should receive a club lead. These were our hands:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| ♠ A Q 8 | ♠ 5 |
| ♥ A J 7 5 2 | ♥ K Q 10 8 6 4 |
| ♦ void | ♦ K 8 3 2 |
| ♣ A K 10 6 2 | ♣ Q 4 |

Barbara Travis

SLAM DUNK: NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS

In 1985, my brother Peter's team won the National Open Teams, my team won the Women's and our oldest brother, John, won the Youth. Obviously he'd have to play Seniors' now to achieve the equivalent, but he was holidaying in Jindabyne instead.

Three Semi Finals in the Women's and Seniors' Teams were close, with come-from-behind wins for Tutty and De Luca (Seniors). In the Seniors' Final, De Luca recovered 39 IMPs in the final stanza, losing by a mere 5.1 IMPs.

Both Finals had some very interesting slam hands to play.

Candice Ginsberg excelled on the first hand:

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

West	North	East	South
Brake	Travis	Humphries	Ginsberg
Pass	3♣ (enquiry)	Pass	3♦ (4c M)
Pass	3♠ (4♥)	Pass	3NT (4♠)
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

The lead was a very dangerous ♦2. The diamond spots are such that declarer CAN just finesse the ♦J on the third round, but who leads from J-x-x-x against a slam? Candice Ginsberg found a much better line...

She won the ♦K and led a spade to dummy's Queen. When that held, hopefully indicating that West held the ♠A, either the diamonds were breaking or West would get squeezed when the hearts and clubs were cashed.

Candice now cashed four heart winners, with West discarding a small club. Candice next cashed three rounds of clubs, finishing in hand, and West had to find a discard. West was gone! To discard a diamond would give away the suit. To discard a spade, it would have to be the ♠J which would give away the spade suit, since declarer still held the ♦A.

At the table, West discarded a diamond and the slam rolled in.

David Lilley, in the Seniors', also made the slam on similar lines, but West discarded the ♠J, so he led the ♦9, ducked all round, then exited with a spade to West's Ace. West had to lead his last diamond to dummy's ♦Q.

Jessica Brake played a slam very nicely in the final stanza.

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

West, Jess Brake, played in 6♦. Sitting North, I knew I had to find the 'right' lead, but didn't succeed. A club lead stops the strip and end-play on South. I eventually decided to lead a spade. Jess won the ♠A, drew trumps, crossed to dummy's ♥K to cash the ♠K, discarding a club, then led both her other hearts. The scene was now set, with these East-West cards:

♦ J 9	♦ 7
♣ 9 6 4	♣ A J 10 2

She led a club and finessed the ♣10. South won the ♣Q but had to concede the last four tricks. A club return eliminated the club loser and a Major suit lead would allow West to discard her club loser whilst dummy could trump.

Our team only formed about a month before the event, when Kate McCallum contacted me. Vanessa Brown agreed to play with Kate and the outcome was Vanessa's first gold medal in a national event. Our team was incredibly harmonious and supportive - keys to success at teams.

Congratulations to the organisers, Roy and Jane, for a very well-run Summer Festival of Bridge. The introduction of water bottles and re-usable coffee cups was an excellent innovation, although some players still need to be encouraged to use the cups the next day. There were also loads of prizes, particularly for newcomers to the SFoB, and I thought this was a lovely touch.

Barbara Travis



*National Seniors' Teams winners:
Stephen Lester (who also edited the Daily Bulletins), George Smolanko, Nigel Rosendorff, Simon Hinge
Absent: Zolly Nagy and David Lilley*

A WINNING ACTION IN THE OPEN PAIRS

Limited space prevents a lengthy report, so I asked Liam Milne for a hand from the TBIB National Open Swiss pairs.

This was his hand:

♠ A K Q 9 8 7
♥ void
♦ 7 3
♣ K 8 7 5 2

He was sitting West, and North was dealer.

"I like to bid my suits in competition, even if there is danger. It's about taking a positive approach. However, I managed to hold myself back on this hand, leading to a great result.

West Milne	North	East Hung	South
	1♥	Pass	1NT
2♠	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass (slowly)	Pass	Double	All Pass

"I really did want to bid 4♣ and in most situations I would just keep bidding, but on this hand it doesn't make sense if you stop and think about it. North has 5-6 hearts and South probably only has 2 hearts and possibly no fit for diamonds either. Therefore, partner is marked with 5 or 6 hearts, meaning either (a) they want to defend and/or (b) their fit for us will not be good.

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

"I passed and Andy doubled, obviously for penalties given my heart void (and the rest of the auction). We managed to hold declarer to two top hearts, two diamonds, the ♣A and a deep heart, scoring +500 and 10 IMPs against the datum."

Liam finished his contribution by making an interesting observation that I think many players would overlook:

"In my opinion, South's 3♥ bid was erroneous. It sounds like partner is 5-5 rather than 6-4 – North might double with a 6-4 hand shape, then correct clubs to diamonds, suggesting flexibility – so correcting to hearts is dangerous, and has little upside."

Liam Milne

SOME RESTRICTED TALES

Nico Ranson, one of our youth players, decided to drag his father, David, to Nico's first Summer Festival of Bridge and David's first-ever bridge congress. At the start of the SFoB, David had the grand total of 1.92 masterpoints (surprisingly, all red points)! He now has a lot more, this lot being gold points. So, to date, David has zero green points... David carried Nico to 1st place in the Penline 500 Swiss Pairs.

Two families then joined forces to play in the Canberra Rex Under 750 Teams – the Ransons and the McMahons. Nico played with David on the first day, and Charles McMahon played with his mother, Susan. From day two onwards, Susan and Ken McMahon played together, with Nico and John joining forces. Susan and Ken have four bridge-playing children (of seven), with John and Charles being the most prominent.

Given that my family all play bridge, I love hearing about parent-child partnerships. This year's Summer Festival seemed to have several family pairings. In the National Women's Teams we had the Richardson team, comprising Carol Richardson (mother) playing with Andi Boughey (daughter) and Christine Gibbons (mother) with her daughter Jenna. Several years ago, my brother Peter played the (now TBIB) Open Pairs with our mother, helping mum to acquire the gold points she needed to become a Life Master.

There were only four teams in the Under 750 category, and 12 teams in the Under 300 MP field. The Ranson-McMahon team won the qualifying, with three Under 300 MP teams filling the other placings. From where I sat in the SWPT, everyone seemed to be very compatible, with Jane Biscoe showing me Charles' and Nico's auction below. Congratulations to Neil Williams and Kevin Murray for bidding the grand slam – probably with far fewer bids!



Nico and Charles' auction during the Restricted Teams Final (Under 750 MPs): when asked whether the grand slam was cold, they replied that it was and their counterparts bid it - well done.



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 Derofo by email: maryo@penline.com.au



During the qualifying rounds, Nico excitedly showed me the following hand from Round 8:

♠ 9
♥ Q J 2
♦ 10 7 4 2
♣ 10 9 7 6 5

♠ A 6 5 4 3
♥ A K 10 6
♦ Q 6 3
♣ J

♠ Q 10 7
♥ 7 3
♦ A 9
♣ A K Q 8 4 3

♠ K J 8 2
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ K J 8 5
♣ 2

West	North Charles	East	South Nico
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
		4♣	All Pass

The ♣6 was led around to the Jack. Declarer now cashed the ♠A, then led a spade to the Queen and King. Nico now drew East's remaining trump with the ♠J, and exited with the ♦K! With that club suit in dummy, he realised he needed to remove the ♦A – the entry to dummy's long clubs. Now, when the ♣A was led from dummy, Nico ruffed with the ♠8 and dummy was no longer reachable. Nico had just executed a Merrimac Coup, although he had never heard the term!

All this hard work gained 2 IMPs. They took 4♣ down two tricks, with their team-mates going down one trick in 6♣.

(Ed: By the way, the best way to play the spade suit combination is to lead towards the Q-10-7 first, then finesse again on the way back.)

Barbara Travis

YOUTH AWARDS

Andrew Reiner Trophy:

TOMER LIBMAN - ANDREW SPOONER

This award is granted to the best performed pair in international competition, taking account of performance in the events themselves, commitment to preparation and contribution to team success.

In the view of the NPC, all 3 pairs played well. What was noted was that while Tomer and Andrew were the least experienced at this level, the amount of work they put into preparing themselves for the event and the way they played gave their team every chance of success.

Hills-Hurley Trophy: NICO RANSON - JOHN MCMAHON

This trophy, donated by Richard Hills and Steve Hurley, is to encourage talented young bridge players in forming long-standing partnerships and to reward successful pairs who have developed a well-organised partnership to harness their full potential.

John and Nico started the year on a sad note, just missing out on making the 2018 Youth Team, losing by 15 IMPs in the 3rd place playoff.

Over the next six months, Nico & John qualified for both the GNOT final and NSW Interstate Youth Team. After winning the Interstate Youth Teams, they were offered the chance to represent Australia in the Australia v NZ test match. The idea was for this pair to play the teams and the side events and prepare for the test match, but John and Nico had other ideas. Not only did they make the NZ Teams finals, they easily won their round of 16 and quarter-final match. They were neck and neck with one session remaining in the semi-final and, if they had won that match, Australia would have had to forfeit the test which they went on to win by a substantial margin.

To top off a great year, the pair qualified for the semi-final of the GNOT - a great result for the 12th seeds.

Helman-Klinger Masterpoint Award: ELLA PATTISON

This award, worth \$200 annually and supplemented with a further \$100 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is awarded to the Australian Youth Player who earns the most masterpoints in the calendar year in question. This year's winner is Ella Pattison with 169.48 masterpoints.

Helman-Klinger Achievement Award: MATT SMITH

This award, worth \$400 annually and supplemented with a further \$200 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is presented each year to the Australian Youth Bridge Player whose ability, achievements, sportsmanship, attitude, contribution and commitment during the calendar year are most deserving. Matt started the year in the best possible way by finishing 1st in the Youth Butler, guaranteeing a spot on the 2018 Youth Team. A run of decent results early in the year got him in perfect form to take out both the ANOT Swiss Pairs and the VCC Teams, playing with Jamie Thompson. Matt was also a member of the winning NSW Youth Team at the ANC before traveling to NZ where he played with Andrew Spooner. They went on to make the semi-finals of the NZ Teams before winning the Australia vs NZ test match.

Over several years, Matt has demonstrated a great attitude both at and away from the table. Matt runs youth bridge nights in Sydney and takes an interest in improving not only his own bridge but the bridge of those around him by giving up his time to improve other youth players' games.

Matt was also the recipient of the IPBA award for Junior Deal of the Year for his declarer play in the Youth ANC in 2017.

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YOUTH PAIRS

- 1st Tomer Libman - Andrew Spooner
- =2nd Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson
- =2nd Renee Cooper - Sam Coutts

YOUTH TEAMS

- 1st Nico Ranson - John McMahon,
Charles McMahon - Jarrad Dunbar
- 2nd Renee Cooper - Ella Pattison,
Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson

BUTLER

- 1st Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson
- 2nd Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin - Ryan Song
- 3rd George Bartley - Matt Brown
- 4th Jamie Simpson - Lauren Travis

QUALIFIERS TO AUSTRALIAN YOUTH SQUAD

- 1st Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson
- 2nd Andrew Spooner - Tomer Libman
- 3rd Renee Cooper - Ella Pattison
- 4th John McMahon - Nico Ranson
- 5th David Gue - Rebecca O'Reilly
- 6th Edmond Lee - Crispy Rhodes



Tomer Libman and Andrew Spooner, winners of the Youth Pairs

AUSTRALIAN UNDER 26 TEAMS

2019 WHITE HOUSE JUNIORS, NETHERLANDS

Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson
Renee Cooper - Ella Pattison

2019 APBF, THAILAND

Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson
Andrew Spooner - Tomer Libman
John McMahon - Nico Ranson
Ian Thomson (NPC) for both events

THE OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL...

Renee Cooper and Ella Pattison bid this hand beautifully:

♠ 8 7	♠ A J
♥ K 9	♥ A J 8 4 3
♦ A K Q 8 3 2	♦ J 10 7
♣ K 3 2	♣ A J 4
<i>Renee Cooper</i>	<i>Ella Pattison</i>
1♦	1♥
3♦(inviting)	4♦ (forcing - or you pass or bid 5♦)
4♥ (cue)	4NT (RKCB)
5♠ (2 + ♦Q)	5NT (we have all key cards)
6♣ (♣K)	7♦

The heart cue bid showed the ♥K, with their agreement being not to cue bid a shortage in partner's first suit.

This is an excellent grand slam, needing either the ♥Q to be doubleton or hearts to be 3-3, or if hearts break 4-2 you need the ♣Q onside. Sad to say, it failed.



Youth Teams champions (L to R):
(back) John McMahon, Nico Ranson, Charles McMahon
(front) Jarrad Dunbar

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THE OVERTAKING LANE

Teams: Dealer South : Nil vulnerable

North
 ♠ 9 8 7
 ♥ A J 7 5
 ♦ 9 8 2
 ♣ 9 5 2

West
 ♠ 10 5 3
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K Q J 6 5 4 3
 ♣ K Q

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3♦ (1)	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	Double (2)

- (1) Intermediate jump-overcall, 6+ diamonds, 11-14 HCP
- (2) Takeout double

West leads the ♦K – 2 – 10 – 7. What next?

♠ 9 8 7
 ♥ A J 7 5
 ♦ 9 8 2
 ♣ 9 5 2

♠ 10 5 3
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K Q J 6 5 4 3
 ♣ K Q

♠ J 6 4
 ♥ 8 6 3
 ♦ A 10
 ♣ A J 10 6 3

♠ A K Q 2
 ♥ K Q 9 4 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 8 7 4

Contract: 4♥ by South.
 Lead: ♦K.

West knows that a second diamond is futile. South will simply ruff. With one trick in, the defence needs three more tricks. It is highly unlikely that East has ♠A-K, the only way to collect two tricks from the spades. Smaller prayers are easier to have answered. You do not need partner to have ♠A-K. The ♣A-J will do.

West should switch to the ♣K at trick 2. East plays an encouraging signal and West continues with the ♣Q. East overtakes and cashes the ♣J to take 4♥ one down.

The defence should also work if East began with ♣A-10-x-x-x. Realising that there will only be two club tricks for the defence if West began with ♣K-Q-x, East should overtake the ♣Q and return the ♣10, hoping West can ruff the third round. If South ruffs the third club, the defence has not lost a trick.

Note that South succeeds if West continues diamonds at trick 2 or if East does not overtake the ♣Q to cash the ♣J. South can then draw trumps and pitch a club loser from dummy on the thirteenth spade.

Ron Klinger

COUP OF THE MONTH #8 (June 2018) was the Devil's Coup, described by Brian Senior as "a rare play – so rare, in fact, that I don't recall ever having brought it off in all my years of bridge."

The following hand was written up in the IBPA Bulletin, January 2016, having been played at the European Championships in 2015.

I present a Devil's Coup, executed by Geir Brekka:

Dealer East	♠ A 8 7	
EW Vul	♥ A 9 5	
	♦ Q 6	
	♣ A 8 6 3 2	
♠ Q 6 5		♠ J 3
♥ 8 6 4		♥ K 7 2
♦ 9 7 5		♦ 10 4 3 2
♣ K J 10 7		♣ Q 9 5 4
	♠ K 10 9 4 2	
	♥ Q J 10 3	
	♦ A K J 8	
	♣ void	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2NT (J2NT)	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♣ (short ♣)
All Pass		Pass	6♣

West led a heart. Brekka took dummy's ♥A and played the ♣A (discarding a heart), club ruff, diamond to the ♦Q and another club ruff. He then played high diamonds (discarding a heart from dummy on the third round) and, on the last one, West wrongly elected to discard a heart, so dummy's last heart was thrown. Declarer trumped a heart, then a club (trumping low) to reach this position:

	♠ A 8	
	♥ ---	
	♦ ---	
	♣ 8	
♠ Q 6 5		♠ J 3
♥ ---		♥ K
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ ---		♣ ---
	♠ K 10	
	♥ J	
	♦ ---	
	♣ ---	

On the ♥J, West had no adequate answer. If he trumped high, Brekka would overtrump, then finesse the ♠J (or even trump the club). If he trumped low, dummy over-ruffs, and declarer makes the last two tricks on a high cross-ruff. With a trump loser and the heart finesse failing, he had made all 13 tricks!

DEADLINES FOR APRIL EDITION
ADVERTISING: 20TH MARCH 2019
ARTICLES: 24TH MARCH 2019

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

HAND 1

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ K 2
♦ K Q 6 5
♣ J 10 2

♠ A 8 2
♥ A 6 3
♦ A J 9 2
♣ A 6 5

West North East South
All Pass 3♣ 3NT

West leads the ♥Q. What is your plan?

HAND 2

♠ A 10
♥ A J 10 3
♦ K J 8 7 5
♣ A 2

♠ 8 7 4
♥ 9 6 2
♦ A 4
♣ K J 10 7 4

West North East South
Pass 1♦ Pass 1NT
Pass 3NT All Pass

West leads the ♠3 (fourth-highest) – 10 – King, winning. East returns the ♠J to dummy's ♠A, suggesting the suit was originally 5-3. What is your plan?

HAND 3

♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ 9
♦ A K
♣ K 9 7 5 4 2

♠ A Q 6
♥ A 3
♦ Q 9 5 2
♣ A Q 6 3

West North East South
2♣ (Majors) 2♥* 4♥ 4♣
Pass 6♣ All Pass

(North's 2♥ showed a good raise in clubs - limit raise or better.)

West leads the ♥K. What is your plan?

Barbara Travis

(Solutions on page 21.)

PICKING A WINNER

At the 15th World Bridge Series in Orlando, September 2018, Barry Rigal wrote up a hand that his team played:

What a difference a lead makes. In our third round match, both tables bid to 3NT in almost exactly the same fashion. The difference was that at one table North doubled in the pass-out seat. "I have 6 HCP and my partner opened the bidding; they can't make game!" Whether or not Walter the Walrus would approve, South was in the hot seat in both rooms, and had to find the best lead.

Dealer East	♠ Q 7 3	
EW Vul	♥ 10 6 4	
	♦ A 10 8	
	♣ 10 4 3 2	
♠ 8		♠ A 10 9 6 5 2
♥ K 7 2		♥ J 8 3
♦ J 7 6		♦ K 4
♣ A K 8 7 6 5		♣ Q J
	♠ K J 4	
	♥ A Q 9 5	
	♦ Q 9 5 3 2	
	♣ 9	

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	2♠	1♦
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
			All Pass

Of course, a low diamond beats the game outright – but who would lead a suit partner never raised? When our teammates, Craig Gower and Alon Apteker, sat East-West the opening lead was a low heart from South. Declarer ran this to his ♥J and unblocked clubs, then led a heart towards dummy, ending with 10 tricks.

In the other room, where North doubled showing values, Glenn Milgrim started with the ♥A to have a look at dummy, then continued with the ♥Q – a Merrimac Coup, to dislodge the ♥K from dummy. Declarer could have cashed out for seven tricks by overtaking her clubs when the suit did not behave. When she didn't, she ended up -800, a mere 16 IMP swing.



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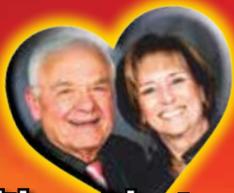
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HOW WOULD YOU PLAY Solutions

HAND 1 ♠ 10 7 6 3
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ K Q 6 5
 ♣ J 10 2

♠ K J 9 5 4
 ♥ Q J 10 8 7 5
 ♦ 10 7
 ♣ void

♠ Q
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ 8 4 3
 ♣ K Q 9 8 7 4 3

♠ A 8 2
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ A J 9 2
 ♣ A 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		3♣	3NT

All Pass

West leads the ♥Q.

Count your winners – 1 spade, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds, 1 club.

Your plan should revolve around making your extra trick from clubs. It should involve removing East's non-club cards, then end-playing him with clubs.

Assuming that East holds all seven clubs (more so because of the heart lead), this plan will work if East has at most two spades, at most three hearts, and therefore at least one diamond.

Duck the first heart, then win the heart continuation with dummy's ♥K. Now you duck a spade, with West overtaking East's ♠Q with his ♠K to remove your last heart stopper. (You now know that East started with only two hearts.) Cash three diamonds (you now know East started with three diamonds), then the ♠A (confirming East held only one spade). All this has clarified that East definitely holds all the clubs.

You can now cross to the ♦K in dummy and lead the ♣J. East covers and you duck. East now has to lead a club from his ♣Q-9, with dummy holding the ♣10-2 and declarer holding the ♣A-6 – giving you two club tricks.

HAND 2 ♠ A 10
 ♥ A J 10 3
 ♦ K J 8 7 5
 ♣ A 2

♠ Q 6 5 3 2
 ♥ 7 5 4
 ♦ 10 9 2
 ♣ Q 8

♠ K J 9
 ♥ K Q 8
 ♦ Q 6 3
 ♣ 9 6 5 3

♠ 8 7 4
 ♥ 9 6 2
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ K J 10 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♠3 (fourth-highest) – 10 – King, winning. East returns the ♠J to dummy's ♠A, suggesting the suit was originally 5-3.

At one table, declarer decided that his best chance for nine tricks lay in clubs rather than diamonds. At trick 3, he cashed the ♠A, then led a club to the ♣J. West took this with the ♣Q and cashed three spade tricks, defeating the contract.

The declarer at the other table was a more experienced operator. He knew that in this type of situation it is superior to cash the Ace-King of one of the minors and, if the relevant Queen did not appear, to use the fall-back position of working on the other minor for five tricks. Since a doubleton ♦Q would only yield one extra trick compared to three tricks if there was a doubleton ♣Q, declarer cashed the ♣A and ♣K. When the ♣Q, he had nine tricks – the ♠A, ♥A, 2 diamonds and 5 clubs.

What are the odds of the plays chosen by the declarers? On the assumption that spades are 5-3, the first line has a little less than a 1-in-4 chance of success. The second declarer's 'combination play' raised his chance of making nine tricks to nearly 1-in-3.

HAND 3 ♠ 7 5 4 2
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A K
 ♣ K 9 7 5 4 2

♠ K J 10 8 3
 ♥ K Q J 6 2
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ void

♠ 9
 ♥ 10 8 7 5 4
 ♦ 10 7 6 4
 ♣ J 10 8

♠ A Q 6
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ Q 9 5 2
 ♣ A Q 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♣
2♣ (Majors) Pass	2♥ (LR+ ♣) 6♣	4♥ All Pass	4♣

West leads the ♥K. What is your plan?

Declarer could count 11 tricks and saw that, as the spades were undoubtedly 5-1, the twelfth would have to come from an elimination and end-play.

So, declarer won the first trick with the ♥A and ruffed the ♥3 at trick 2.

Declarer continued with a low trump to the Ace. After West discarded a heart, declarer continued by cashing dummy's ♦A and ♦K. (This was a safe manoeuvre as, from the auction, West had at least 10 cards in the majors so, at most three diamonds, giving East at least four diamonds.)

Next, declarer drew East's remaining trumps with dummy's King and his Queen. After cashing the ♦Q, throwing a spade from the table, declarer ruffed the ♦9 in dummy, eliminating that suit. Once West had three diamonds, his original shape had to be 5-5-3-0. Declarer led a spade from dummy and, when East played the ♠9, he played the ♠6 from his hand. This gave the defenders no winning option.

If West won the ♠10, he would have to return a spade into declarer's ♠A-Q or give a ruff-and-discard. If East's ♠9 held, then he had only hearts left, so declarer could discard the ♠Q from hand and ruff in dummy, leaving his hand with the ♠A and a trump.

There was, in fact, an alternative end-play. Declarer could have cashed the ♠A earlier, then led the ♦Q, discarding a spade from dummy, before exiting with the ♦9 to East's ♦10. Once again, East would have been end-played into giving a ruff-and-discard to deal with the spade loser.

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE WINNERS



*Novice Pairs 1st overall & Under 50 MPs:
Judith Foreman - John Royle*



*Sarah Lynch - Ross Cunningham,
2nd in the Novice Pairs (Under 100 MPs)*



*Best Under 20 MPs in Novice Pairs:
Frances & Ian Hammond*



*SFoB first-timer Mimi Packer placed 3rd
in the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs
with Jonathan Free*



*1st overall in the Novice Teams (and Best Under 50 MPs):
Rex Meadowcroft, Eugene Pereira, Vesna & Voyko Markovic*



*The team with the oldest competitor -
Len Dixon, aged 97 - played against the
team with the youngest player -
Ryan Song, aged 14.*



*2nd in the Novice Teams (and Best Under 100 MPs):
Melissa Ardern, Stephen Smith, Claire Hughes, Cathi Bywater*



*Susan, Ken and Charles McMahon:
1st in the Canberra Rex Under 750 MP Teams.
Susan and Ken also finished 2nd in the
Neura Swiss Pairs (best Under 300).*



*David and Nico Ranson:
This was David's first congress!
He and Nico won the Novice Matchpoint
Swiss Pairs, then backed up to win the
Canberra Rex Under 750 MP Teams
with the McMahons (pictured left).*



*1st in the Chris Diment Pairs:
William Zhang - Tom Kiss*

A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

Each time I play at the Club, I encounter interesting hands!

Firstly, what does this auction mean to you?

West	North	East	South
	1NT (15-17)	Pass	2♣
Double	2♦?		

South had read and adopted Andy Hung's excellent advice (ABFN August 2018, page 29) that bidding after the double of 2♣ shows a stopper in clubs. Without a stopper, you should pass the double around to your partner, who can redouble to restart the Stayman structure, but with the additional knowledge that opener has no club control. So South bid 3NT, and we duly cashed the first five club tricks. Only two pairs bid to 6♦, but most played in the more sensible 5♦ game.

Yes, South could have rebid 3♣ as a double-check on partner's club stopper, but it is a lot easier if you have a good structure after the opponents double Stayman or transfers. Andy Hung discussed these in the August and October 2018 editions of the ABF Newsletter. I recommend you AND your partner read and adopt these methods.

Here is the hand – mind you, North's 1NT opening was somewhat off-shape, so definitely contributed to the outcome:

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

Why did I double? It's great to help partner to find their best opening lead. Without the double, East will lead a spade and 3NT makes 12 or 13 tricks.

(Mind you, doubles of Stayman and transfers after a weak 1NT opening bid show strong hands, unless you have already passed.)

As usual, I saw an auction I had never seen before:

West	North	East (me)	South
Pass	4NT (?)	2♣	Double
Pass	6♥	Pass	5♥
		All Pass	

Firstly, yes, I had changed direction – the earlier board was placed on the table upside-down!

I guess 4NT had to be straight Blackwood. With big hands opposite partner's takeout double, it is better to cue-bid the opening suit first. 3♠ would create a game force, and then you can bid strongly but naturally, over whatever the doubler bids. 4NT would now become Roman Key Card Blackwood for their suit. Suffice to say, 6♥ went down one, despite the 5-3 fit.

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

South can make the contract with careful play. He needs to draw only two rounds of trumps, and can then take a ruffing finesse in spades.

At the table, declarer drew trumps and relied on the club finesse working. However, he failed to allow for clubs to be 4-1. Note that it is important that West duck the ♣J lead, then cover the ♠10, to ensure that the ♣9 becomes a winner (given declarer had no re-entry to hand). One of the 'rules' about covering honours with honours is that you cover the last of the sequence of honours – meaning that you should duck the Jack lead, assuming declarer has the 10, then cover the 10.

Our opponents had a perfect hand and auction playing inverted minors:

♠ 8 6 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ A K 6 5	♠ A 10 ♥ A J 9 3 ♦ A 9 8 4 2 ♣ 8	
North Pass 2♦ (10+ HCP) 3♦ (min) 4♣ (cue bid)	South 1♦ 2♥ (natural) 3♠ (cue bid) ?	

Now South just had to determine whether to play in 5♦ or 6♦. He decided that, at Pairs, he should take the 'plus' score but, on seeing dummy, realised that they'd missed a 23 HCP slam. One of the factors that deterred him was his partner's original pass. That pass meant that he needed not just the critical black King (either spades or clubs), but a doubleton heart. However, given that North was being so cooperative in the auction, perhaps he could have kept going. It didn't matter much to our score because many people missed game; we scored 25% for their 5♦ making 12 tricks, although a slam would have been zero.

My partner enjoyed watching the play of this hand. We were in 4♥, East, on the lead of the ♠7:

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

I was pleasantly surprised when North had to win the club lead with the ♠A. She returned a club, which I ran to dummy's King.

Now it was time for the critical play – ducking a heart all round. I had to assume trumps were breaking, but I wanted to draw exactly two rounds of trumps. That meant I could not afford to cash the ♥A, then duck a heart, because South could draw two trumps, and now my opportunity to score four ruffs, plus the ♥A would have gone. South won the heart but I was now in control. I won the return, cashed the ♥A, then used the diamonds to discard dummy's spades. Now I could embark on my cross-ruff, making 10 tricks – losing the ♠A and two heart tricks only. It's worth thinking about this sort of ducking play in trumps when you want to draw a specific number of rounds, then use your remaining trumps separately.

Barbara Travis

A STEP AHEAD ON DEFENCE (1)

Jos Jacobs wrote up this hand, in the IBPA Bulletin, July 2018.

On the following board, the issue was how to defeat the (almost) unbeatable 4♥.

Dealer West	♠ K J 9 7 6	
Both Vul	♥ A 4	
	♦ J 3 2	
	♣ A K 5	
♠ 8 4		♠ A Q 10 5 3
♥ J 10 9		♥ K 8
♦ K 10 9 5 4		♦ A 8 7 6
♣ 10 4 3		♣ 9 7
	♠ 2	
	♥ Q 7 6 5 3 2	
	♦ Q	
	♣ Q J 8 6 2	

Declarer's losers are a spade, a diamond and a trump trick so, in the Open Room, it looked like a routine +620 to Sweden when East led a club.

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Verbeek	Upmark	Molenaar
Pass	1NT	2♦ (1)	4♦ (hearts)
Double	4♥	All Pass	

(1) Shows a major/minor 2-suiter

The auction (the double of 4♦) enabled East to underlead his ♦A. West won with his King and shift to the ♠8, which held the trick. The next spade was ruffed in dummy and declarer played the ♥A and another heart. East won with the King and led yet another spade. West's ♥J scored the setting trick. Nicely done!

It looks to me that the lead of the ♦A, followed by the ♠A and another spade leads to the same trump promotion. Ed.

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A STEP AHEAD ON DEFENCE (2)

From the European Open Teams Championships 2018, written up by David Bird in the IBPA Bulletin, July 2018.

Russia exceeded expectations, occupying a position on or near the summit of the table for several days.

Dealer East	♠ K 7	
Nil Vul	♥ 9 7 4 2	
	♦ 9	
	♣ A Q J 9 8 2	
♠ 9 8 3 2		♠ A 10 6
♥ Q 6 3		♥ A K 10
♦ A 8 6 4		♦ K Q J 10 7 3 2
♣ 10 6		♣ void
	♠ Q J 5 4	
	♥ J 8 5	
	♦ 5	
	♣ K 7 5 4 3	

West	North	East	South
Nystrom	Matushko	Upmark	Kokhlov
1♦ (0-7 HCP)	2♣	1♣ (17+ HCP)	Pass
4♦	Pass	2♦	4♣
5♣ (1 key card)	Pass	4NT	Pass
		6♦	All Pass

Matushko led the ♣A, ruffed in dummy. We could see that declarer could easily eliminate the hearts and clubs. He would then need to endplay a defender in spades, forcing him to give a ruff-and-discard. If a defender held two honours-doubleton in spades, he would not be able to avoid the endplay. If he held doubleton King, he would have to unblock his King on the first round to avoid this indignity.

Textbooks explain that declarer should not make the endplay obvious by starting the elimination process before playing the ♠A. Nystrom decided to play the ♠A at trick 2. It drew the 5 – 2 – and... oh no (groans from the Russian supporters) – 7! Declarer then drew trumps, eliminated the hearts, ruffed the last club and exited with a spade to the bare King. North had to concede a ruff-and-discard and the slam made.

West	North	East	South
Khiuppenen	O. Rimstedt	Kholomeev	M. Rimstedt
1♠	2♣	1♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	3♣	5♣
		6♦	All Pass

Mikael Rimstedt led the ♣3 to the Ace, ruffed by declarer. A trump to the Ace was followed by a low spade from dummy. Ola Rimstedt played the King. Brilliant! Declarer won the trick and eliminated the hearts and clubs. South was then able to claim two spade tricks with his Queen-Jack and the slam was one down. Even the Queen-10 with South would have been good enough after North's unblock.

14 IMPs to Sweden. I checked the results from other tables, to assess the current European standard of unblocking. 6♦ was bid 14 times. It was made seven times and beaten seven times. The unblock of the ♠K was perhaps trickier to find when West was declarer, and a spade led towards the A-10-6 on display.

WHAT DOES THE LAST DOUBLE IN THESE AUCTIONS MEAN:

Nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1. 1♣	1♥	Double	
2. 1♣ Double	Pass	1♠	2♥
3. 1♥ 2♥	1♠ Double	Pass	2♣
4. 1♥	Double	2♥	Double
5. 1♠	2♣	Double	
6. 1♠ Double	2♣	Double	3♥
7. 1♥ Double	Pass	2♥	3♦
8. 1♥ Pass	Pass 3♦	2♥ Double	Pass
9. 1♦ 5♦	1♥ Double	3♦	4♦
10. 1♣ Double	3♥	3♠	4♥

1. This Negative Double shows exactly 4 spades whereas bidding 1♠ shows 5+ spades. The most important thing in competitive bidding is knowing how many trumps your side has, and a 9+ card fit is a lot better than an 8-card fit. In the recent playoffs for the Australian Open Team, East bid 1♠ so West knew his side held at least 9 trumps and, over South's jump to 4♥, he bid 4♠ holding K975, K, K52, A10853. This gained 14 IMPs when 4♥ made at one table and 4♠ at the other.
2. This is a Support Double, invented in 1974 by Eric Rodwell, showing exactly 3-card support. Bidding 2♣ promises 4-card support. If opener's raise to 2♠ showed either 3 or 4 spades then responder would not know how many trumps his side held, 7 or 8, or 8 or 9. Make Support Doubles and Redoubles a key weapon in your arsenal.
3. If Support Double and Redoubles are so effective, then why not use them in other situations as well? Here double is best used to show a 3-card raise while 3♣ should be 4-card support. There is a big difference between a 5-3 and a 5-4 fit, and between a 6-3 and a 6-4 fit, and this knowledge could well tip the scales when it comes to making a 5-level decision.

4. You are much better to show something tangible with your doubles, rather than "10+ HCP" or "competitive". This double and similar ones at the 1-, 3- and 4-level are best used to show exactly four cards in the other major, meaning a 2♠ bid would show 5+ spades. Now your side knows exactly how many trumps you have and you are far more likely to judge the auction correctly.

5. Doubles like these traditionally mean, "I can penalise at least one of their suits" so your side should be on the lookout for penalties.

Similar situations would be:

1♠ (2NT)	Double
1♣ (2♣)	Double
1♥ (Double)	Redouble

6. My preference is that, after the initial penalty-interest double, all doubles are for takeout. If you have a penalty of 3♥ then pass and wait for partner to double for takeout, then pass. The difference is that with a takeout hand you can double rather relying on partner to re-open.

7. This is a game invitation, called a Maximal Double. 3♥ would be purely competitive and there is no space to make a game try, so double here substitutes for the game try.

8. This Double should be for penalties. This is a lot different to the previous question in that opener has passed your raise to 2♥, so is not interested in game. As a result, North visualises his partner with some values and "balances" back into the bidding.

Such re-opening actions are highly speculative (it is better to bid immediately over 1♥), and therefore double of such balancing bids is recommended as punitive.

9. South's 4♦ creates a forcing situation, telling North that his side must either win the auction or double the opponents for penalty. When this situation arose in the recent Open Team Playoffs, North passed which said he wasn't sure whether to pass or double. In fact, North had overcalled with a poor 6 HCP, so should double to warn partner not to carry on. Taking the pass at face value, South jumped to 6♥, down 4.

10. A useful meaning for double here is that you have a good raise to 4♠ rather than just the expected 11-14 HCP balanced hand with spade support. So double with something like AQ4, 4, QJ876, AK4, where responder needs very little extra for slam. The point is to use double to show frequently occurring hands, rather than something vague or undefined.

Paul Lavings



In 2018, Eric Ramshaw stood down from his membership of the ABF's Tournament Committee. This ended more than 50 years' involvement in the running and organisation of tournament bridge in Australia. I asked Eric to reflect on how bridge had changed in that time.

Eric migrated to Australia in 1960. He was recruited by the CSIRO to work on organic chemistry, focusing on corrosion. Eric was already a bridge player. He learnt auction bridge at home, then was introduced to contract bridge at Cambridge. There he played both rubber and duplicate, as well as matches against visiting teams such as the one led by leading England and Great Britain international Dimmie Fleming. One of Eric's partners from Cambridge had also been recruited by the CSIRO so they started playing at the Victorian Bridge Association in Melbourne.

Bridge was different then. Many players smoked at the table. Players dressed more formally: men wore jackets and ties, women dresses. Systems were often less well-developed; players used fewer conventions; there was less emphasis on competitive bidding.

Also, bridge was organised differently. Congresses – which were infrequent – consisted of pairs events in the afternoon and teams events in the evening. Qualifying was on Saturday with finals on Sunday. Boards were all hand dealt, with different boards played in each teams match. There were no hand records except those written by hand. Scoring was all done by hand. There were no Swiss events. Movements were not standardised. The newly introduced IMPs were used for the teams events and there were experiments with a variety of victory point scales. (For those of a technical bent, Eric noted that the Zirinsky formula was a good method when different matches used different boards as it took into account the number of IMPs turned over, addressing a concern about swingy boards in one match and flat boards in another.)

Eric's involvement in the organisation and administration of bridge began when he directed the Women's Pairs at a Victorian ANC, which was held in a nurses' home. He was asked because of his knowledge of movements, and ran a Howell, then an uncommon movement. It was at the ANC dinner when he first met Tim Seres, who was already recognised as Australia's leading player. The rapport he developed with Tim Seres led to his appointment as the non-playing captain of the 1972 Australian Open Team at both the Far East (as the Asia Pacific Bridge Championship was then called) and then the Olympiad. Subsequently, Eric captained many Australian teams in the 1970s and later decades. He wrote a series of insightful reports about Australia's performance in world championships for Australian Bridge. He also captained Victorian teams (both Open and Women's) in the ANC. Eric became more involved in tournament matters as the ABF changed from an organisation that met once a year at the ANC to one that supported a growing number of national events.

Tim Seres was the best player Eric ever saw. He was highly respected internationally, especially for his card play. Three times, Eric saw him find plays at the table that eluded the expert VuGraph commentators who could see all 52 cards.

Australia's international success owed a lot, in Eric's opinion, to the drive of Denis Howard. While not as talented as his teammates in the so-called "Big Four" (Seres, Dick Cummings and Roelof Smilde), Denis was the person who did a lot of work to modernise and formalise the NSW system, and to get the team to work to improve their game to an international standard.

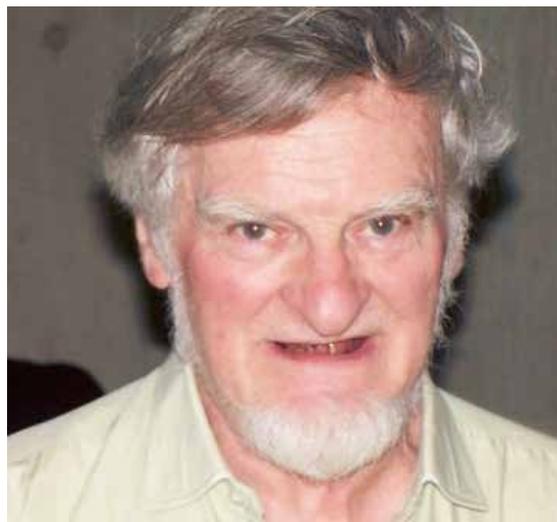
On cheating, Eric noted that there had been suspicions for decades about different players and teams. He noted that there had been some instances in Australia, mostly about individuals not partnerships. He said that modern tournament practices reduced the opportunities for "sharp practices", such as looking at the opponents' cards. He said that knowing one card in an opponent's hand was a significant advantage – a complicated system was not required to cheat.

In addition to his extensive activities in tournament matters Eric was no slouch as a player and played regularly. He loved playing, especially finding a way to mislead or deflect an opponent. He won the ANC Interstate Teams in 1968 and the Open Pairs in 1970, and represented Victoria on a number of other occasions.

Eric has some reservations about the way bridge is played today. Electronic scoring means too few players understand how to calculate the score on a deal, which leads them not to understand when to sacrifice or compete for the part-score. As well, the inclusion of double-dummy results on hand records was unhelpful because, in Eric's estimation, about 20% of the results were impossible to replicate at the table, and this misleads players about what they should be doing.

Despite standing down from his ABF activities, Eric continues to play regularly at his local club and intends to do so for many more boards.

David Morgan



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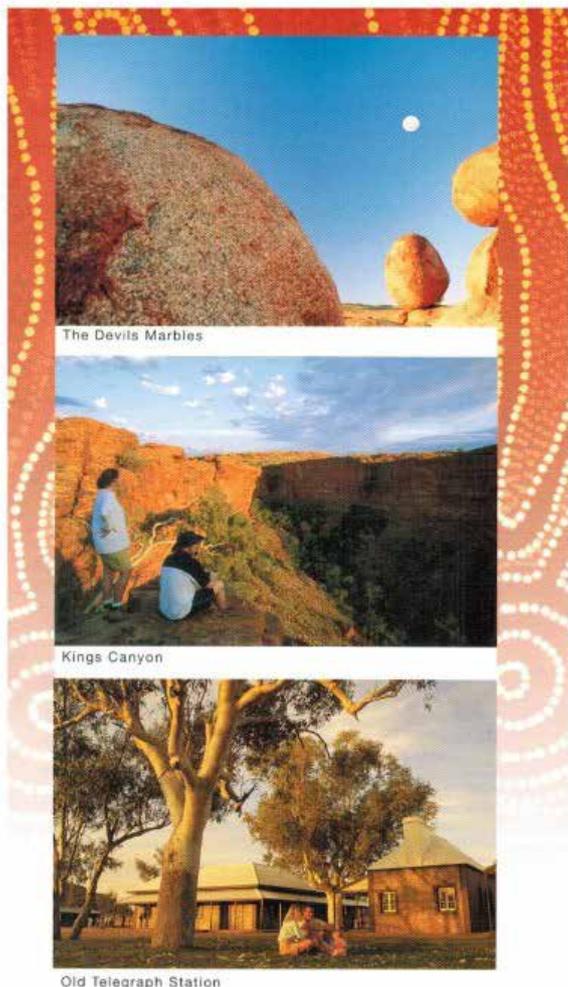
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