

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

Editor: Stephen Lester editor@abf.com.au

NO. 174 JULY 2015

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Order of Australia Medal recipient

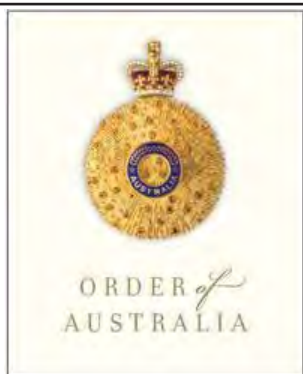
The entire bridge community congratulates David Lusk on his award of the Order of Australia Medal for service to the community and the game of bridge in the 2015 Queen's Birthday honours.

David was President of the South Australian Bridge Association (SABA) from 1982 - 1984 and was a professional bridge teacher for them from 1987 - 2014.

He was also on the SABA Committee from 1975 - 1980; the SABA representative to the ABF from 1985 - 1987; the SA State Youth Coordinator from 1990 - 2005 and the National Youth Coordinator from 1999 - 2006. His many personal triumphs can be seen via the SABA Honours Board pictured on this page.

Other achievements include:

- Editing a booklet titled 'A History of the South Australian Bridge Association 1933 - 1983'
- Being co-editor of the Australian Bridge Federation Newsletter from 1994 - 2006
- Involvement in the running of the first state junior pairs and teams events in the mid-sixties. David has maintained a passionate interest in youth bridge and spent a decade as the South Australian Bridge Association's Youth Coordinator. He was instrumental in maintaining South Australia's steady flow of quality junior players.
- Authoring 'Teaching Package for Youth Bridge Players'
- Writing a weekly article for the *Sunday Mail* in South Australia from 1991 - present; and

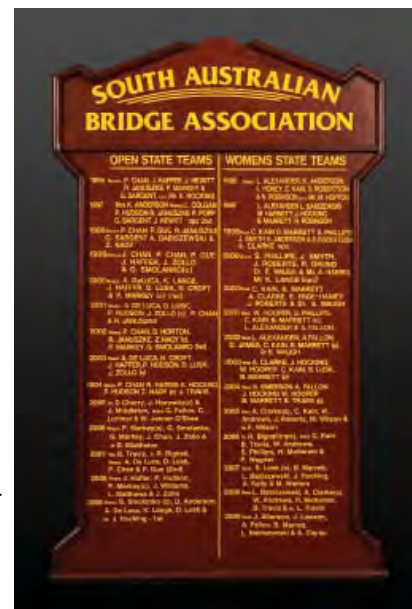


- Conducting workshops for young people on weekends and constantly endeavouring to stimulate greater interest in bridge in schools

- Continuing to contribute to the ABF Newsletter through his popular 'Coaching Cathy at Contract' series for the improving player

"I think there are a lot of people that have done more and are more deserving of an award like this" he says. "I had lots of support from so many people along the way. I would love to somehow break the award into tiny pieces and share it with all those who have helped and support me."

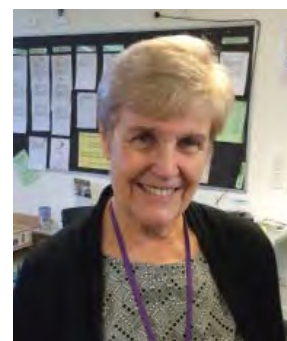
A well deserved honour.



Inaugural Awards for Excellence

In 2015 the Victorian Bridge Association launched an Awards for Excellence program designed to recognise the many people in our game who provide an outstanding contribution to its success in their club, region or state. Awards were presented in three categories - Teacher, Volunteer and Official - for contributions in the 2014 calendar year. The judging panel comprised the President of the VBA and the Presidents of Victoria's three regions. The panel had a range of outstanding nominations from clubs around the state, but the three winners were standout candidates.

The awards were presented at the 2015 Victor Champion Cup, and our inaugural



Mary Elson

winners -
Chris Heesom
(Bairnsdale
Bridge Club)
for Volunteer
of the Year;
Mary Elson
(Waverley
Bridge Club)
for Teacher of
the Year and Tim Woodley (Ballarat Bridge Club)
for Official of the Year were delighted to be hon-
oured by the VBA for their efforts.



*Chris Heesom being presented her award
by VBA President Ben Thompson*

The VBA thanks all clubs for participating in the awards, and we hope that other states will also introduce awards for outstanding contributions in their states, and that eventually a national award will be established whereby a national winner is selected from state finalists.

Our Women at the APBF Championships

by Sue Lusk

It is always an honour to represent Australia and this year we get to do it twice. Our first outing was at the 50th APBF Championships in Bangkok. For me it was a return to the city where I played my very first international tournament over 30 years ago. Our “Ladies” team consisted of our core four of Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg and Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk together with Leone Fuller – Val Biltoft, who were added after the Playoffs, plus npc David Appleton. The bonus in having David as our captain was that Julia Leong came too. She was very quickly added to our team as “Manager,” and a wonderful job she did; making sure that we always had snacks or lunch between sessions, running all sorts of odd jobs for us and generally being our “mum”.



Although it is an international tournament and at the table the competitions is always fierce, the APBF always has a welcome and friendly atmosphere away from the table. I have many friends from other countries over the years and it is always a pleasure to catch up with them. At the opening ceremony we were

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treated to a wonderful display of Thai dancing and the evening ended with the traditional “all-in” photo of the competitors.

Given that we were heading from wintery weather into the hot and humid, we made sure we gave ourselves time to acclimatise. It seems that this paid dividends, as we hit the ground running. The unbackable favourite in our section was China, and it would take a miracle to finish ahead of this professional team. Our realistic aim was to finish in at least second place but do our best to stay in touch with first. It very quickly became obvious what an impossible battle this would be...

During each of the three round robins, our team won more matches than China, and we won each of our head-to-head matches, but it was the size of the wins against other teams that counted in the end. China’s were much bigger than ours. This meant that by the time we met in the last match of the event, they were well and truly locked into first place, whilst we were locked into second. The final placings were:

1. China 399
2. Australia 348
3. Chinese Taipei 325

Some bridge:

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

This hand, against Thailand, resulted in a game swing to us when Margaret and I were the only pair in the Ladies field to bid and make 3NT. Margaret opened a 12-14 1NT fourth in hand. Given that I was a maximum pass and had a good suit, I just raised to 3NT. Maybe the lack of Stayman was why South chose to lead a spade rather than a club. Margaret, naturally, took the diamond finesse, which lost, but when North switched to a heart rather than a club, she easily came to nine tricks. Against Barbara and Candice, our Thai opponents stopped in 2♦.

Against the Chinese the hand on page 4 was a nice partscore swing in our favour:



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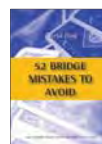
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- Counting at Bridge 2
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- Private Bridge Lessons 1
- Private Bridge Lessons 2
- Conventions



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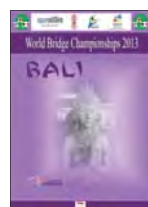
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West deals, all vulnerable

♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ 10 6
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ K 10 3

♠ K 8
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 9 7 5 2

♠ J 9 6 4
♥ A 9 7 4 2
♦ A 5
♣ Q 6

♠ A 7 3
♥ J 3
♦ K Q 7 2
♣ A J 8 4

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Zhang Yu	Bourke	Wang Hongli
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl
3♥	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Ran Jingrong	Travis	Gan Ling	Ginsberg
Pass	Pass	1♥	Dbl
2♥	2♠	All Pass	

South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ J 7 6 2
♥ J 8 2
♦ 9 6 5
♣ J 7 2

♠ Q 10 5
♥ 10 6 4
♦ A K 8 4 2
♣ 6 4

♠ 3
♥ A K Q 9 5 3
♦ J 10 3
♣ K 9 3

♠ A K 9 8 4
♥ 7
♦ Q 7
♣ A Q 10 8 5

West	North	East	South
Pelkman	Bourke	Wood	Lusk
2♦	Pass	2♥	1♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	3♣
Pass	Pass	5♥	4♠
			All Pass

After cashing ♠A, I switched to ♦7. Declarer can make 5♥, but she has to take the diamond finesse straight away. When she didn't, the suit now blocked, and since ♥J didn't drop, there was no entry back to the long diamonds. At the other table, NS bid on to 5♠ which Biltoft - Fuller doubled, and collected 500 for an 11 IMP swing to us.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable event, and we were proud to be up on the podium to collect our medals. Thank you, team!

Both contracts made for a 6 IMP swing to us.

Whilst the Zone 6 teams vied off for their chance to play in the World Championships, Australia and New Zealand played a Zone 7 Test Match. Trans-Tasman rivalry meant that we really wanted to win. The final result was 201 – 55 IMPs after 48 boards! There were a lot of distributional hands and we seemed to come out on the right side of most (but not all) of them.



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Royal Bluebell Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

Friday 2nd October

Open, Seniors, Country, Restricted & Novice divisions

Restricted eligibility: <300 masterpoints per player at 30th June 2015

Novice eligibility: <100 masterpoints per player at 30th June 2015

2 sessions, 54 boards as nine 6-board matches

Session 1: 10.00 – 1.15; Session 2: 2.00 – 5.55

Entry Fee \$80 per pair



Golden Wattle Open Teams

Saturday-Sunday 3rd-4th October

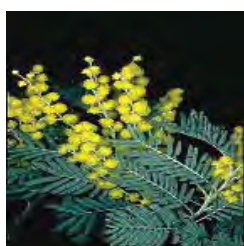
Open, Seniors & Country divisions

3 sessions, 99 boards as eleven 9-board matches

Session 1: Saturday 9.30 – 12.55; Session 2: 1.40 – 6.15;

Session 3: Sunday 9.30-2.05

Entry fee: \$280 per team



Silver Wattle Restricted & Novice Teams

Saturday-Sunday 3rd-4th October

Restricted eligibility: <300 masterpoints per player at 30th June 2015

Novice eligibility: <100 masterpoints per player at 30th June 2015

3 sessions, 90 boards as ten 9-board matches

Session 1: Saturday 9.30 – 12.55; Session 2: 1.40 – 5.05;

Session 3: Sunday 9.30-2.05

Entry fee \$280 per team



Canberra Bells Swiss Pairs

Sunday-Monday 4th-5th October

Open, Seniors & Country divisions

3 sessions, 77 boards as eleven 7-board matches

Session 1: Sunday 3.00 – 6.35;

Session 2: Monday 9.30 – 1.05; Session 3: 1.45 – 4.30

Entry fee: \$90 per pair



Federation Rose Restricted & Novice Swiss Pairs

Sunday-Monday 4th-5th October

Restricted eligibility: <300 masterpoints per player at 30th June 2015

Novice eligibility: <100 masterpoints per player at 30th June 2015

3 sessions, 70 boards as ten 7-board matches

Session 1: Sunday 3.00 – 5.40;

Session 2: Monday 9.30 – 1.05; Session 3: 1.45 – 4.30

Entry fee: \$90 per pair

Contact and Entries: John Brockwell jbrockwell@grapevine.net.au



The ABF Teacher Accreditation Program was launched at the 2014 Summer Festival of Bridge. To date, **6** teachers have attained accreditation status with many more almost there!

Bruce Neill, the ABF President, has now issued Certificates of Achievement in Teaching to **6** clubs to acknowledge their commitment to best practice in teaching.

ABF EDUCATION PROGRAM



Jenny Swanson and Jenny Coyle -
Maitland Bridge Club, New South Wales



Justine Wlodarczyk, Toowong Bridge Club
(Queensland) Secretary, proudly displays their
Certificate of Achievement in Teaching



President John Hetherington with teachers Ann Blue
and Narelle Kelly - **Kiama** Bridge Club, New South
Wales



Stuart Packington (Teacher) and Terry Wright
(President) of the **Randwick** Bridge Club, New South
Wales.



Peninsula Bridge Club, New South Wales - Vickie
Busted (VP) thanks Cath Whiddon (Director of
Bridge Education) and her education team .



*BAWA in association with the ABF
presents the*



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Travel Subsidy to 1st and 2nd placed WA based players (\$1000 & \$500/pr)

Saturday 29th August at 10.00 am

and

Sunday 30th August at 9.30 am

at the

West Australian Bridge Club, Odern Crescent, Swanbourne

Directing Team

Matthew McManus and Bill Kemp

Tournament Organiser

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***Entry Fee \$80 per player payable at the table or on the BAWA
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Tales from the NOT continued

by Warren Lazer

We continue the report on the winning team's journey (in the last newsletter we reported on their quarter final match) to the final of the 2015 National Open Teams. In one semi final LAZER played THOMPSON, Ben Thompson - Bill Jacobs - Philip Markey - Justin Williams, while the other semi final was between BLOOM and NEILL.



The semi final

This match could be described as a study in contrasting preempting styles. *Crunch* has its own built in 1♥ mini-preempt (7-10 HCP, any distribution), Lazer - Gumby preempts are quite traditional (good suit, bad hand), whilst Markey - Williams play two-level openings to show at least 4-4 in spades and another, and less than opening values.

The match got off to a good start for us on the very first board.

Board 1, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

In the Open Room, Braithwaite - Robinson had a standard auction to 1NT by East. This made an overtrick after ♦K lead. (Whatever happened to fourth best?)

Things took a Crunchy twist in the Closed Room. McManus opened the North hand 1♥ to show 7-10

HCP, East doubled and no one else had anything to say. This just made for +160, so first blood to LAZER: 7 IMPs.

Our lead didn't last long as THOMPSON found a good sacrifice on the next board.

Board 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Braithwaite	Jacobs	Robinson	Thompson
		3♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Markey	McManus	Williams	Ware
		5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

That was 8 IMPs to THOMPSON.

THOMPSON went further ahead on the next deal:

Board 4, West deals, all vulnerable

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

Both teams played 3NT by South on ♣Q lead. With nothing good happening in any suit, declarer should only ever make eight tricks.

For LAZER, Ware ducked the opening lead, then won ♣J continuation in hand. He continued with ♦A, ♦K and ♦J. Phil Markey won the queen, cashed ♦10 to avoid any chance of being endplayed with it and exited ♣5! Ware was able to win this with ♣9 in hand, but there was no entry to dummy's ♣A and he finished with eight tricks.

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Something went seriously wrong with the defensive signals in the Open Room. Ben Thompson won ♣K at trick one (West playing ♠8, discouraging) and played three rounds of diamonds. In at trick four with ♦10, Braithwaite exited ♣5. Thompson ran this to ♣7 in hand and that was his ninth trick.

Then LAZER struck back:

Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable

		♠ K 9 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ Q 8 7 4 ♣ 9 8 6 2	
♠ 6 5 4 ♥ K J 9 7 6 3 ♦ 5 ♣ 10 7 3		♠ Q J 8 ♥ A 2 ♦ A K J 10 9 2 ♣ A J	
		♠ A 10 7 3 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K Q 5 4	
West Braithwaite	North Jacobs	East Robinson	South Thompson
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass
West Markey	North McManus	East Williams	South Ware
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

In the Open Room, Braithwaite and Robinson bid quickly to 3NT. Robinson won ♣K lead and played diamonds from the top, making 11 tricks when the opponents failed to cash their two top spades.

In the Closed Room, Markey could have close to nothing for a 3♥ opening at this vulnerability. That encouraged McManus to find the scintillating (all or nothing?) lead of ♠K. When that held, he continued spades, got the spade ruff at trick three and exited with a club.

Double dummy, the contract can still be made at this point (trump to hand, finesse ♦J, ruff diamond and trump to the ace), but Markey played for ♦Q to come down in either two or three rounds - ♦A, ♦K and a diamond ruff. When the queen didn't appear he was down one. That was 11 IMPs to LAZER.

LAZER won a lucky 6 IMPs on Board 15 when Markey - Williams bid an aggressive 4♠ game which went down on the bad trump break, but then gave 7 IMPs straight back on the last board of the set with a system/memory stuff-up at one table and some overbidding at the other. THOMPSON won the first set 36 - 32 IMPs.

LAZER regained the lead on the first board of the second set and went further ahead on the second.

Conventional 2♦ openings were instrumental on both hands.

Board 17, North deals, nil vulnerable

		♠ A Q 10 7 5 4 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ 10 ♣ J 9 7	
		♠ 6 ♥ A K 9 6 5 ♦ A 9 7 5 4 2 ♣ 10	
		♠ 9 8 3 ♥ Q 10 ♦ K Q J ♣ Q 8 6 3 2	
		♠ K J 2 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ A K 5 4	
West Gumby	North Markey	East Lazer	South Williams
4NT	3♠	Pass	4♠
5♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
		All Pass	
West Thompson	North Robinson	East Jacobs	South Braithwaite
4♦	2♦	Pass	2♥
		All Pass	

Gumby's 4NT bid over the aggressive preemption of Markey - Williams showed a two-suited takeout and her subsequent 5♦ bid showed both red suits.

Less aggressive preemption in the Closed Room, combined with West's desire to keep NS from uncovering their spade fit, allowed the auction to stop below game. The red suits were friendly, so both tables made 11 tricks - 6 IMPs to LAZER.

Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

		♠ 10 5 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A J 10 9 3 ♣ A J 10 6	
		♠ K Q 6 ♥ K 10 8 6 ♦ 8 7 2 ♣ 9 4 3	
		♠ A 9 7 3 ♥ Q J 4 3 2 ♦ Q ♣ 8 7 5	
		♠ J 8 4 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ K Q 2	
West Gumby	North Markey	East Lazer	South Williams
2♥	All Pass	2♦	Pass
West Thompson	North Robinson	East Jacobs	South Braithwaite
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♦
All Pass			3♦

Continued on page 12

Platinum
Class



OZ Bridge Travel

presents another....

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The Mental Game - Switching off

by **Kim Frazer**

Recently I read an article about the leading golfer Rory McIlroy. In it, he described the circumstances around his implosion in the



US Masters Golf tournament, when he was well in the lead and poised to win his first major. He described how his thoughts on the night before were all about the round the next day and what might happen - what could go right and what could go wrong. He effectively said he couldn't relax and he was overly anxious.

Being relaxed in sport and allowing the natural technique learnt through hours of practise to occur naturally is important for successful performance. There is a huge difference between planning during practice sessions what you will do when something goes wrong, and thinking about what can go wrong on the night before your match.

Whilst leading an event brings its own set of challenges for players, this article also brought to mind comments made to me by many bridge players regarding their continued thoughts about hands played, or perhaps misplayed during the day or evening of bridge, and the difficulty they have in switching off the mind. Constantly regurgitating the events of the day where things went wrong can be detrimental to a relaxed night. Similarly, checking out who you are playing the next day can also be a negative.

For example, if you are an average player and are drawn to play the top seeded pair, or a pair you dislike playing against, in the next day's draw, how helpful is it for you to know that? Will you be more or less relaxed if you know the night before? Will you be better prepared knowing this? It could prey on your mind if you know about it the night before, and it might be better to just look up your draw an hour before play and give the matter some thought at that time.

Each pair is different and whilst some will be unaffected by this type of information, others should give careful consideration to what they need to know the night before a match.

Continued on page 15

With NS cold for nine tricks in notrump, Markey - Williams were uncharacteristically quiet, allowing Gumby - Lazer to settle in 2♥ after Lazer opened 2♦ showing at least 4-4 in the majors with 6-10 HCP.

In the Closed Room, Braithwaite - Robinson had a strong inverted minor sequence so Jacobs - Thomson understandably never entered the auction - that was a double part-score swing of 7 IMPs to LAZER.

THOMPSON regained the lead on the very next board when I made a sound, vulnerable 3♣ overcall, finding partner with virtually nothing and one of the opponents with five trumps.

The opponents at the other table found their 4-3 spade fit at the two-level and, with the trumps 3-3, no one doubled. Punished for bidding with a good hand, I failed to compete on the next board when the opponents settled in 2♠: another 6 IMPs lost as a result.

The rest of Set 2 was a series of boring partscores and flat games - until the last board of the set hit the table.

Board 32, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Gumby	Markey	Lazer	Williams
Pass	1♥	2♥	3♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Robinson	Jacobs	Braithwaite
Pass	1♥	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

The 2♥ cuebid in the Open Room was specific Michaels, showing at least 5-5 in spades and clubs. Unlike the players in the Closed Room, both South and West thought they had enough to venture a bid at the three-level. North and East now both had heaps in reserve to bid game opposite freely bidding partners.

On ♥A lead, Gumby managed to scramble seven tricks on crossruff lines before North managed to gain trump control and claim all but one of the remainder. Still, a score of -500 is no disaster if partners get to 4♥.

Alas, North took a very conservative view (game is a reasonable chance opposite three small trumps, needing little more than trumps 2-2).

THOMPSON won the set 29-20 to be leading by 13 IMPs at the half-way mark.

Set 3 saw Gumby - Lazer return to the NS seats in the Closed Room with McManus - Ware EW in the Open. Williams - Markey took on the task of battling *Crunch* and were soon in unfamiliar territory.

Board 34, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Ware	Markey	McManus	Williams
		1♥	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Thompson	Gumby	Jacobs	Lazer
		Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

A naturalish auction in the Closed Room (2NT was forcing) quickly had Gumby - Lazer in the best game contract, and with trumps behaving for once, Gumby had an easy 11 tricks.

In the Open Room, McManus opened 1♥ on the East cards to show 7-10 HCP and Williams overcalled 2♦. There was now some confusion about the meaning of Markey's 2♥ cuebid: North just meant it as forcing, South clearly took it as natural.

Against 5♦, Ware led ♣3, taken by McManus's ace. A completely passive defence (*i.e.* trump or spade return) will hold declarer to 10 tricks, but McManus returned ♣2. This allowed declarer to throw a heart from hand (loser on loser play) as East won ♣K. Declarer's last heart loser could now be thrown on the good ♣J for just a 2 IMP loss.

Luck and systemic differences worked in favour of THOMPSON on the next deal.

Board 35, South deals, EW vulnerable

```

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

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

      ♠ K J 5
      ♥ K 10 8 6 4
      ♦ 8 2
      ♣ Q 8 2
  
```

In the Open Room, Williams opened a 9-14 1NT as South and was raised to 3NT. West had a clearcut spade lead and declarer made 11 tricks when West discarded a heart on the run of dummy's clubs.

In the Closed Room, I passed as South and Gumby opened 1NT as North. This put the East hand on lead and the defence took the first seven tricks on a diamond lead. 12 IMPs to *THOMPSON*.

Nothing much happened for a while, but then the match started to swing in favour of *LAZER*, starting with the next deal.

Board 41, North deals, EW vulnerable

```

      ♠ ---
      ♥ K 10 4
      ♦ A 8 3 2
      ♣ J 9 8 4 3 2

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

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

West Ware	North Markey	East McManus	South Williams
	Pass	1♣	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		
West Thompson	North Gumby	East Jacobs	South Lazer
	Pass	1NT	2♥
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

In the Open Room, McManus's 1♣ opening showed hearts, so at favourable vulnerability and opposite a passed partner, Williams went for the maximum preempt. He was right in a way, as 3NT is a pretty easy make for EW - three clubs, four spades and two diamonds. Declarer's line in 4♠ doubled was to avoid

playing trumps and he should have gone for -800, but there was an uncharacteristic defensive error at trick 12!! and he got out for -500.

Things were much more sedate in the Closed Room, often the case when Gumby - Lazer are at the table. East opened a weak 1NT and I overcalled 2♥. This had a number of possible meanings, the main ones being a single suiter in spades or a good hand with 5/5 in the majors.

Over West's double, Gumby's pass showed a preference for hearts. I gave some thought to passing this out (would West have found the killing trump lead?), but eventually retreated to 2♠. I ruffed the opening club lead and led a small trump. This was won by West, who switched to a heart. I won in hand to play another trump. East won and played ♣Q, which I ruffed. ♥K (it does West no good to ruff in front of dummy) and ♦A gave me two entries to dummy allowing two more club ruffs, so I was able to escape for just -100. This was 9 IMPs to *LAZER*.

Two boards later there was another major swing to *LAZER*.

Board 43, South deals, nil vulnerable

```

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

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

      ♠ 9 8
      ♥ 10 9 8 7 2
      ♦ K J 10 6 5 2
      ♣ ---
  
```

West Ware	North Markey	East McManus	South Williams
1♥	2♠	3♣	3♠
4♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
West Thompson	North Gumby	East Jacobs	South Lazer
Pass	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♠	3♠	All Pass	Pass

All at the table thought McManus was taking a sacrifice when he bid 5♣, but both red suits were friendly so it actually made.

Maybe the four person team was beginning to show signs of tiredness after five and a half days of solid bridge, because they failed to beat 3♠ in the Closed Room.

♦4 lead was won by the queen, and West correctly switched to a trump. Gumby won in hand, ruffed a club and took the losing heart finesse. Any return is safe, but when Jacobs exited with a diamond, Thompson played a third round of the suit and one of Gumby's club losers went away. 12 IMPs to *LAZER*.

The very next board was a companion hand to Board 33, with both sides playing 3NT, one by East, one by West. This time it was *LAZER* who lucked out, with the opening club lead by North giving Ware his ninth trick. The spade lead by South at the other table was totally passive and Jacobs only made the eight tricks he had initially.

Board 47 was flat in our match when both Thompson - Jacobs and McManus - Ware got to the excellent 7♦ (missed by both teams in the other semi final).

Board 47, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

The set finished with yet another swing to *LAZER*.

Board 48, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Ware	Markey	McManus	Williams
1NT	2♥	3♣	4♥
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♥
Dbl	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Gumby	Jacobs	Lazer
1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

NS's silence in the Closed Room allowed EW to bid to the worst possible game and they duly went three down vulnerable on the heart lead. A 5 IMP pick-up became 9 IMPs when Williams took the phantom sacrifice in 5♥.

After a poor start, *LAZER* had won Set 3 by 46-21 IMPs and was now leading by 12 IMPs.

The final set saw the same eight players in the same seats. After a quiet start, there was action aplenty on the fourth board.

Board 52, West deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Ware	Markey	McManus	Williams
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dbl
2♦	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Gumby	Jacobs	Lazer
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Ware's 1♦ opening showed spades and the 1♥ response showed 0-6 or a balanced 7-10 HCP. After South's takeout double, Ware showed 5+ diamonds and then North forced to game with a 3♦ cuebid. A small diamond opening lead ran to South's jack: declarer's eighth trick. Later, after a discarding error on the hearts and clubs, West was thrown in with a spade at trick 11 and had to give declarer ♦K as well for +600.

This may have seemed to be a good board for *THOMPSON*, but it wasn't. Playing the *Fantunes* system, Thompson opened 2♠ (5+ spades, 10-13 HCP) and was soon in deep trouble. Gumby led her singleton diamond to the jack and queen. Thompson tried to cash ♦A at trick two, but Gumby ruffed it. When the smoke had cleared, declarer had made three trump tricks and ♦Q: -1100 translated into 11 IMPs to *LAZER*.

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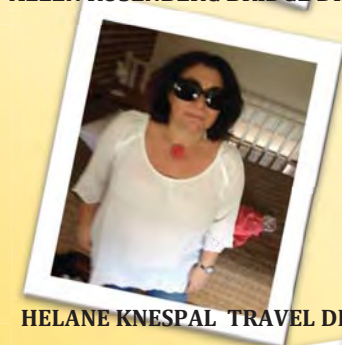
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3	25 Nov 2015	Milford Sound, New Zealand		
3	25 Nov 2015	Cruising Fiordland Natl Park	08:00 AM	06:00 PM
4	26 Nov 2015	Port Chalmers (Dunedin),	07:00 AM	06:00 PM
5	27 Nov 2015	Akaroa (Christchurch),	08:00 AM	04:00 PM
6	28 Nov 2015	Wellington,	07:00 AM	02:00 PM
7	29 Nov 2015	Napier,	10:00 AM	08:00 PM
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We have all heard comments like “Be Positive” or “Think Positively”. The reason for this is that the subconscious mind will move performance to whatever the conscious mind is thinking about.

In shooting I always pictured the target and sight image in my mind that I wanted to have. I didn't picture missing. A high jumper pictures themselves clearing the bar. A tennis player pictures hitting the shot to the corner. Having an image of the desired outcome is an important factor in success.

In bridge, the hand reviews often focus on the area where the pair lost the most points. Whilst the importance of review of hands with your partner where mistakes were made cannot be underestimated, consider how often you review and discuss the hands where things went right with your partner.

How much better will you feel going into your next match when you know you got lots of things right in

the last match you played?

I suggest you try to make sure you complete your match reviews with at least two hands where your results were great - whether it was a perfectly bid slam, or a good partscore result or a nice piece of defence doesn't matter. Finish your review on that note and enjoy your evening.

Taking this positive thought with you to bed is more likely to give you a better mindset for the next day of bridge, and a better night's sleep, than if you spent the evening worrying about a hand you messed up on. You cannot change the result of that hand, but compounding the error you made by dwelling on it is unlikely to lead to an improved performance the next day.

As in sport, having a picture of a good result, a good hand play or a good bidding sequence is more likely to lead to a good performance in your next day's matches than the converse.



Note the concentration on the faces of all the players in this match from the recent VCC, which features one of the winning members of the VCC Teams

The following deal just looked boring in the Closed Room, with a completely natural auction subsiding in 1NT.

Board 55, South deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Thompson	Gumby	Jacobs	Lazer
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

The defence had a number of chances to go wrong, none of which was taken. I led ♣J (underlead against notrumps). Gumby took ♣A and returned ♣9, which Jacobs ducked.

Gumby's play only made sense if declarer had 5+ clubs, so it was important for me to overtake so that she didn't play more clubs. I switched to ♥K, which Gumby discouraged, so I finally got the gag and played a diamond.

Gumby won the queen and played her small heart to Lazer's ten and another diamond set up the seventh defensive trick.

West	North	East	South
Ware	Markey	McManus	Williams
All Pass			2♠

In the Open Room, Williams had a 2♠ opening to show a weak hand with at least 4-4 in clubs and spades and decided to use it. No one else had anything more to say (excluding the BBO commentators and probably a kibitzer or two).

The defence began with ace and another diamond, won by the king. Declarer tried a trump, and another diamond saw dummy's queen ruffed by East. Declarer won the club return and tried another trump. West drew all the trumps and cashed the diamond suit for +300 and another 9 IMPs to LAZER.

Both Markey and Lazer demonstrated sound technique in 4♠ on the next example.

Board 58, East deals, all vulnerable

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

Trumps were drawn, a top diamond cashed, hearts eliminated followed by a diamond to the 10. When this lost, North was entered via ♦J and a club played to the nine, endplaying West and guaranteeing 10 tricks.

30 IMPs behind and with just four boards to play, MARKEY finally had a preempting success.

Board 61, North deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Ware	Markey	McManus	Williams
4♣	3♦	Dbl	Pass
	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Thompson	Gumby	Jacobs	Lazer
1NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

Judging he was too good to pass, McManus had to choose between entering the auction with a double or a 3♠ bid. He chose the former and was soon writing down -300.

At the other table Gumby passed: a side four-card major is a definite no-no in first or second seat for a Gumby - Lazer preempt.

That was 9 IMPs to THOMPSON, but it came back with interest on the very next board when McManus opened 1♥ (7-10 HCP) and both opponents slightly overbid, finally settling in 6♣ which had no play as the cards lay.



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LAZER won the last set by 36-16, for a final margin of 32 IMPs. In the other semi-final, NEILL had a huge first set (57-8) against BLOOM and never looked back, eventually winning by 74 IMPs.

For the Final, NEILL had seating rights in sets one and three, LAZER in two and four. Sticking with the same plan employed in the quarters and semis, LAZER started with McManus - Ware and Robinson - Braithwaite. The three pairs in NEILL, Bruce Neill - Arjuna Delivera, David Lilley - Zoli Nagy, Khokan Bagchi - George Smolanko all play natural five-card major type systems. Bagchi - Smolanko opted to play against Crunch.

McManus - Ware liked their defence here:

Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

<div> <div> <div>♠ J 3 2</div> <div>♥ A 10</div> <div>♦ A K 10 9 5</div> <div>♣ 10 7 4</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ ---</div> <div>♥ Q J 6 3</div> <div>♦ Q 7 4 3</div> <div>♣ A J 9 8 3</div> </div> <div> <div>♠ A Q 8 7 5 4</div> <div>♥ K</div> <div>♦ 8 6 2</div> <div>♣ K Q 2</div> </div> </div>			
<div> <div>♠ K 10 9 6</div> <div>♥ 9 8 7 5 4 2</div> <div>♦ J</div> <div>♣ 6 5</div> </div>			
West	North	East	South
Bagchi	McManus	Smolanko	Ware
1NT	2♦	1♠	Pass
		2♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Braithwaite	Neill	Robinson	DeLivera
2♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	4♠	Pass
		All Pass	

The auction in the Open Room didn't find the club fit, but it had the merit of staying at a low level. ♦J lead won the trick and the heart switch was won by North's ace. South pitched clubs on ♦A and ♦K and then got a club ruff. The heart exit was ruffed by declarer, who continued with the ace and queen of trumps. The defence then scored their last two trumps separately for +300.

In the Closed Room, Robinson - Braithwaite looked well placed to stop, but Robinson felt he was too good to simply bid 3♣. His 3♦ bid showed a good 3♠ bid, but Braithwaite had a memory lapse and thought it was natural. Things came seriously unstuck soon after. Neill, envisaging three red suit tricks and a diamond ruff, found the double. ♦J lead was not so clear at this table, so DeLivera led ♥9 and Robinson eventually scrambled 7 tricks. -800 and 11 IMPs to NEILL.

Most of these IMPs came back on the next example. Both Wests found the best spot of 3NT, but neither East was prepared to respect that decision. Admittedly, Robinson probably expected Braithwaite to have more than two cards in the majors for his takeout double.

Board 14, East deals, nil vulnerable

<div> <div>♠ K 8 4 3</div> <div>♥ 9 5 2</div> <div>♦ J 9 4 2</div> <div>♣ 9 8</div> </div>			
<div> <div>♠ ---</div> <div>♥ A Q</div> <div>♦ K 10 7 6 5</div> <div>♣ A K Q 10 7 3</div> </div>			
<div> <div>♠ A 6 5</div> <div>♥ K 8 4 3</div> <div>♦ A Q 3</div> <div>♣ 6 5 2</div> </div>			
West	North	East	South
Bagchi	McManus	Smolanko	Ware
2NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
		4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South
Braithwaite	Neill	Robinson	DeLivera
		Pass	1♦
Dbl	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

It was clear in the Closed Room that Braithwaite had a long solid club suit with a diamond stopper. A trump lead will beat this contract, but Neill led his partner's suit. DeLivera won ♦A and switched a club, but it was too late. Braithwaite won in hand, cashed ♦K, ruffed a diamond, took the heart finesse, drew trumps and conceded a diamond - 11 tricks.

The defence against 4♠ relies on cutting declarer off from the source of tricks in dummy. ♥4 lead was won by dummy's queen and Smolanko played a club to the jack and continued with a top trump. South won the ace and played another round of clubs - one entry gone. Another club was played, ruffed and overruffed. North won the next trump and played a heart - last entry gone. Declarer now lost a diamond and a heart, so was down one - 10 IMPs to LAZER.

There were two other big swings, shared one apiece, and the set finished locked at 27 IMPs each.

For the second set, LAZER chose to play Lilley - Nagy, with Braithwaite - Robinson facing off against Neill - DeLivera.

NEILL picked up a partscore swing on the first board of the set, but things swung dramatically in favour of LAZER a few boards later.

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Play 12 deals based on the lessons followed by a board by board discussion. Reinforcement!

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Saturday 10	2pm on - Check in
Sunday 11	10am - 12pm Lesson 1 1pm - 3:45pm, Sun Pairs 1 5:30pm - Sausage sizzle at Ivory Palms
Monday 12	10am - 12pm, Lesson 2 1pm - 3:45pm, Sun Pairs 2
Tuesday 13	10am - 12pm, Lesson 3 1pm - 3:45pm, Sun Pairs final 6pm - Victory dinner on Tewantin wharf
Wednesday 14	3pm - Talking point - The Mini Multi 4pm - 6:45pm Ivory Pairs 1
Thursday 15	10am - 12pm, Lesson 4 1pm - 2:45pm, Ivory Pairs 2
Friday 16	10am - 12:45pm, Ivory Pairs final 1pm - Gourmet BBQ at the Convention Centre 2pm - Talking point - inferences in defence
Saturday 17	10am - 12:30pm, Lesson 5 <i>Thanks for coming – safe journey home</i>



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Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Lilley	Gumby	Nagy	Lazer
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Braithwaite	Neill	Robinson	DeLivera
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

In the Open Room, Lilley's 2♦ opening showed a weak two in a major or any game forcing hand. When he turned up with the big balanced hand, Nagy bid 6♦, the practical approach just in case partner doesn't have ♦A or worse, has an off-shape hand including the singleton ♦A.

Lilley decided to bid one more - yes, he's got a nice hand, but he has promised 25+ balanced and doesn't really have any extras. Gumby, following the usual practice, led a safe trump against the grand slam.

Being able to see all four hands, the BBO commentators eventually found the winning line, a classic trump squeeze: draw trumps, cash the top spades and one club and then run four more rounds of trumps. The final position is:

♠ ---	♠ 5
♥ A K 8 4	♥ 2
♦ ---	♦ 8
♣ K	♣ 10 9

North has had to come down to five cards also. If North has discarded ♣Q or ♣J, cash ♣K, discard a spade on the top heart and ruff a heart back to hand to cash the good ♣10. If instead North keeps all her clubs, she has to unguard the hearts, so play ♥A, ♥K, heart ruff and use ♣K as the entry to cash ♥8.

The winning line requires one defender to hold 5+ hearts and also the queen and jack of clubs. There's also a compound squeeze that works if South holds 5+ hearts. If hearts are 4-4, no squeeze works. So many possibilities, and can declarer tell which one to play for at the critical moment?

In the end, Lilley went for the simplest line, play a club to the eight and hope South has both club honours. A potential 12 IMPs out had become 17 IMPs in.

LAZER won 10 more IMPs on the next board when 3NT made in one room on a club lead, and was defeated in the other on a heart lead. There were a few other swings in and out, but LAZER held on to win the set 50-23.

Crunch returned after lunch: Lilley - Nagy versus McManus - Ware, Gumby - Lazer versus Smolanko - Bagchi. As is often the case after a long week of bridge, some really bad play and bidding decisions were witnessed in this set. At least it kept the BBO audience entertained.

Gumby set the tone on the first board of the set when she forgot declarer had run out of trumps and let herself be endplayed. for 10 IMPs away.

On Board 36, both Souths were on lead against 6♠ with ♠76, ♥Q87652, ♦A76, ♣Q7. Both auctions were long and convoluted and not necessarily descriptive of what was actually held. Suffice it to say that ♦A or a heart are the losing options. Lilley and I both chose small hearts and were dismayed to see dummy track with AKJx in this suit opposite declarer's void. A finesse of the jack saw three club losers go away and our opponents make a vulnerable slam.

Chuffed with their +1430 on the board(?!), we lost 11 IMPs on Board 37 when McManus - Ware bid to yet another slam. This one needed too many finesses and friendly breaks and this time there was no semi-sane lead that could give it to them.

The match was almost even again when a series of boards started to go LAZER's way.

Board 38, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Bagchi	Gumby	Smolanko	Lazer
2♠		1♥	2♣
4♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Ware	Nagy	McManus	Lilley
		1♣ ¹	2♣
2♠	Pass	3♥	All Pass

1. Hearts

McManus - Ware found the right suit, but the wrong level. Bagchi - Smolanko correctly bid to game, but in the wrong suit. The defence took the first two club tricks and that was 7 IMPs to LAZER when the diamond finesse lost.

Board 39, South deals, all vulnerable

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

The auction in the Open Room was normal. Bagchi (West) opened a 15-17 1NT and played it there.

Not so in the Closed Room. Ware “opened” the West hand with a pass to show either 15-20 balanced or 0-6, any. North then opened (more traditionally) 1NT which went back to Ware, who doubled to show the strong variant. South ran to 2♦ (diamonds and a major), doubled by East.

This is a “spec” double really, as the opponents might be in an eight-card fit; at least it’s only –180 if it makes. But the upside can be huge, as subsequent events showed. North decided to run, but instead of choosing redouble for “what’s your major?” he tried 2♥. This also got doubled, and that’s where they rested. So instead of playing one of their 4-3 fits (both 2♦ and 2♠ can be made), they played in their 3-3 fit and went –500.

1NT was one down in the Open Room, so that was 12 IMPs to *LAZER*.

Board 40 involved high level preemption in diamonds by both EW pairs. Gumby - Lazer took the push to 5♠ whilst Lilley - Nagy guessed to try 6♠. There were only 11 tricks, so another 11 IMPs to *LAZER*.

There was more preemption in diamonds on Board 41, this time by the NS pairs. McManus - Ware took their sure positive in 5♦ doubled for + 300. Bagchi - Smolanko took the push to 5♥ and were down one. 9 more IMPs to *LAZER*.

On Board 44, McManus - Ware took a non-vulnerable 5♥ doubled sacrifice against the making vulnerable 4♠ game. Not one of their better decisions as it went for 1100: 10 IMPs to *NEILL*.

When the smoke had cleared at the end of a rather swingy set, *LAZER* had won it 45-39 for an overall three-quarter time lead of 33 IMPs.

The same eight players were at the table for the last set, but we exercised our seating rights and switched opponents. Things started well for *LAZER* with a 10 IMP pick-up on the first board.

Board 49, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Bagchi	McManus	Smolanko	Ware
	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♥	3♦	3♥	3NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Lazer	Nagy	Gumby	Lilley
	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

In the Open Room, North’s opening Pass was 0-6 or 15-20 without a major, and the 1♣ response was, amongst other options, an upgraded 10-18 balanced. Thereafter the auction was essentially natural.

Nagy - Lilley also investigated slam and were a bit unlucky that their final 5♦ contract went down when trumps broke 4-1 and the club finesse lost.

Major swings were traded in the Open Room when firstly Bagchi - Smolanko overbid to a slam on Board 53. It had chances, but didn’t make.

Then McManus - Ware returned the compliment by bidding a slam on Board 55 missing three aces, two of which were cashing. The Closed Room played both these boards at the game level.

The last big swing of the match occurred on the next deal.

Board 61, North deals, all vulnerable

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

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West Bagchi	North McManus	East Smolanko	South Ware
----------------	------------------	------------------	---------------

1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♥	2NT	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West Lazer	North Nagy	East Gumby	South Lilley
---------------	---------------	---------------	-----------------

2♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass	

A routine auction, if there is such a thing after a *Crunch* 1♥ opening, landed Bagchi - Smolanko in 3NT, where they made 11 tricks.

McManus had the option to open 2♠ to show 8-10 HCP with five or six spades, but wisely chose the less committal opening, as any of his suits could be their best fit.

The wisdom of this was demonstrated in the Closed Room where Nagy opened 2♠ to show exactly five spades and 8-11 HCP. Accurate defence held 2♠ doubled to three trump tricks for +1400.

LAZER won the final set 45-23 to run out comfortable winners by 55 IMPs. There was a small prizegiving (thanks to sponsors *TBIB* and *Penline*) attended by the finalists and tournament officials at the end of play.

Joy for us, but it wasn't all doom and gloom for *NEILL*. They were the top placed all-Australian team, so they won the right to represent Australia in the Yeh Brothers Cup in Shanghai in April. We wish them well in this event. (Ed: Australia finished 24th out of 28 teams in the qualifying).

I'd like to congratulate the organisers and all the support staff for the superb coverage of *all* the NOT matches on BBO. The detail in this report would certainly not have been possible without it.

The SWPT and NOT may be losing out to the Gold Coast Congress in the popularity stakes, but I believe the length of matches and depth of field still make it the strongest event on the Australian calendar. It's certainly my favourite, especially when you get to the final.

10 years ago, the format and timing were being decried because only officials were around when the NOT finished. Technology and BBO seem to have turned this around - players are now keen to return home to be entertained by exciting bridge, and if you're lucky, sometimes the standard is quite high too.

A big part of the BBO experience is the expertise of the commentators and operators, so a big thank you to all of them as well. I hope you were entertained - we all enjoyed being a part of it.

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Bridge into the 21st Century

by Paul Lavings

Slam Assists

Slam bidding is one of the more difficult areas of bridge and bidding a slam will almost always get you a good score. The strength of a bridge club can be gauged by its slam bidding. In the stronger clubs you need to bid the slam in a major or notrumps or bid a grand slam rather than just bid any slam at all.

A couple of recent hands show the value of slam bidding aids. Partner, North, opens 4♠, both vulnerable, and you hold ♠AK6, ♥A87, ♦654, ♣AK76

You know have at least 12 tricks, but what about the diamonds? You could easily have two or even three losers there before you make your 12 tricks. Unsure of how to proceed, South bid 5♠, which the 4♠ opener passed, holding ♠QJ1097543, ♥K4, ♦2, ♣Q5

6♠ was a laydown and made 13 tricks on a club lead. My solution is to play "one-under" slam tries in response to 4♥ and 4♠ openings, where you bid the suit under the suit where you have losers. The bidding would simply proceed 4♠ - 5♣ (my problem is diamonds), 6♠. With first round diamond control, an ace or void, the opener cues 5♦ over 5C.

We go forward in time to the last round of Seniors Pairs at the recent VCC.

North deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Leibowitz	Havas	Lavings	DeLivera
	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Here is Arjuna DeLivera's reply to my email request for information:

"In Liz's methods, after partner's opening preempt and responder's change of suit, then 3NT is showing 0/1card support, a raise of responder's suit shows doubleton support with no outside shortage, rebid of opener's suit shows doubleton support with a shortage

somewhere else, and a new suit by opener is a cuebid (1st/2nd round control), with three-card support for responder.

I now had a problem in that after 3♦ - 3♥ - 4♣, I really wanted 4♦ to be Minorwood on diamonds, and would have thought that to be the case, given I could have bid 4NT RKC on hearts. I didn't think, in context, I could have been cueing hoping partner could cue something again in either spades or hearts, given Liz had preempted and then cued clubs.

So if it is accepted 4♦ is now Minorwood, then responses were 1st step = don't like it/hand not particularly sharp, 2nd step = 1/4 KC, etc...

Liz meant her 4♠ response as another cue, presumably, but I thought it was one Keycard, ♦A, so I bid 6♦."

It's not much fun to lose 11 IMPs on a board when you pass throughout, but we had to admire opponents' bidding, even though there was some confusion over the meaning of 4♦.

Pre-empts to three of a minor, especially at green or nil vulnerable, are an integral part of competitive bidding tactics even with just a good six-card suit. Indeed, they are so frequent that you need to have continuations available when responder happens to have a strong hand. Treatments such as these are much easier to remember if they are simple and logical.

Paul Lavings

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ABF MARKETING – *National promotions*

As part of the promotional arm of ABF marketing, two National campaigns asking people to “**Challenge Yourself / Make New Friends / Have Fun**” were designed and developed for implementation in 2015. These are primarily designed to raise awareness of bridge within specific ‘target’ groups.

1

The **February** 2015 issue of **rotary DOWN UNDER** featured this one page promotion of our sport.

This magazine issues to 36,000 Rotarians around Australia. Many of their members are at the pre-retirement stage of their life – *ie seeking ideas for a successful transition to retirement.*

Clubs were encouraged to target Rotary clubs in their area to promote their upcoming bridge beginner classes.



The **August** 2015 issue of the Australian Teacher Magazine will include this full page promotion.

2

This magazine issues in both hard copy and digital format and has a readership of around 195,000.

The target audience for the magazine is principals, teachers, educators and decision makers in primary and secondary schools. Published monthly, it is distributed to every primary and secondary school Australia wide (*including metropolitan, regional and rural areas*).

To capitalise on this promotion, clubs have been encouraged to contact schools in their area to let them know when their beginner classes commence (*at times which would suit teachers hopefully*).

A full-page promotional poster for the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF). The top section has a green background with the text "LEARN BRIDGE" in large red letters and "WWW.ABF.COM.AU" below it. The middle section features a photograph of a group of people playing bridge. Below the photo, the text "THOUSANDS OF NEW FRIENDS ARE WAITING TO MEET YOU" is written. To the left, there are three icons with corresponding text: a group of people for "Make new friends", a person with a card for "Challenge yourself", and a smiley face for "Have fun!". To the right, there is a text box that reads: "Beginner classes offered at over 350 clubs around Australia - thousands of clubs around the world" and "37,500 Australian registered players - millions play world-wide". At the bottom, the ABF logo is shown next to the text "Exercise your brain AND have fun!".

The ABF – fostering interest in and promoting the game of bridge in Australia.

Victor Champion Cup Bridge Festival

by Kim Frazer

Victoria's most prestigious bridge event - the Victor Champion Cup - was held over the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend in June. Comprising two days of pairs events followed by the three-day teams event, the VCC saw strong competition in all fields.

In the Victor Champion Cup teams event, after many lead changes in a closely fought affair, our delighted victors were husband and wife duos Matthew Thomson - Cathryn Herden, Peter Buchen - Kathy Buchen.



Kathy and Peter Buchen

In the Open Pairs, Warren Lazer and Pauline Gumby continued their phenomenal run in National Swiss Pairs events this year, with another win in the Wally Scott Swiss Pairs, which once again attracted a record field.

Also delighted with their result were the Restricted Team winners Maurice Ripley, Michael Box, Roger McNee and Glenda McNee who recorded an emphatic victory in the Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams and who also win free entry to the 2016 ANOT.

In the Sara Tishler Women's Pairs, the trophy went across the Tasman to the New Zealand pairing of Anne Somerville - Anne-Marie Russell.

The McCance Senior Pairs was won by the Victorian pairing of Gary Ridgway - Arthur Robbins, whilst Victorians Michael Francis - Terry Dold took out the Victor Muntz Restricted Pairs event.

A new format event for players with a combined total of under 200 Masterpoints contested as two one-day Swiss Pairs events was taken out by Dell McNeil - Akiko Stark. This event has been named after Frank Power, who was instrumental in establishing a schools bridge program in Victoria.

The VCC would not be possible without the wonderful efforts of the directing and floor staff, who worked hard to ensure everything ran smoothly under the supervision of Chief Tournament Director Laurie Kelso. Traian Chira once again provided Vugraph coverage of the VCC Teams, with viewers from around the world watching the final sets - a great showcase for Australian bridge.

Our thanks also to our sponsors *TBIB* and *Paul Lavings Bridgegear* for their generous support.

The hands at the 2015 event certainly seemed to provide some challenges for players, with lots of opportunities for swings in every set. Every round seemed to have interesting boards. On the first day a large number of pairs were allowed to make 4♠ on the hand in the next column when the defence took the wrong approach. Here a forcing defence should prevail, as when the defence lead hearts at every opportunity, 4♠ is doomed.

Round 3, Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

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

Average: -90 NS

At our table ♥Q lead was ruffed in dummy and two spades played, followed by a low diamond towards the closed hand. West rose ♦A and exited a heart, but it was now a simple matter for declarer to win the heart continuation, draw two rounds of trumps and finesse in clubs. When this loses to ♣K, declarer now makes 10 tricks, losing a heart and taking a second club finesse. Note that East's play of ♣Q when declarer leads a club does not isolate dummy, as there is now a diamond entry.

On Day 2, after a super auction we reached 7♥ on the hand below and lost 17 IMPs when hearts broke 4-0 offside. We were not alone in suffering this fate as many pairs tried for the grand slam in hearts or notrumps.

Round 7, Board 7, South deals, all vulnerable

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

On the final day, the next board from the last round produced a huge variation in results across the field, with pairs reaching everything from 6♣ doubled EW to 5♥ doubled NS, and various permutations in between - in all, 12 different contract types were reached. No pairs who reached the non making game contracts of 4♥ or 5♣ were allowed to make, so the defence wasn't rocket science.

At our table, our opponents found their way to 3NT despite North opening and South responding, and we had little difficulty taking the first five tricks.

Round 10, Board 21, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

Average: -90 NS

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Next year's VCC will return to the Bayview Eden, and with the change in dates for the Barrier Reef Congress, (a clash this year) we expect the VCC to attract a full field of entries.

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