

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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Senator opens Summer Festival of Bridge

Senator Kate Lundy, Senator for the ACT and Patron of the SFOB, officially 'opened' the event on Wednesday, January 15.



During her speech, she commended the ABF for nurturing new players by creating a specific event to welcome them to competitive play and for providing access to free lessons to build their knowledge and skills. She commented that creating this type of environment is the right way to grow our sport within Australia.

Senator Lundy also spoke favourably of the ABF's use of technology. She noted we have a newish website, provide online results and that we initiated free wi-fi access for festival attendees and a SFOB app in 2014. In her opinion, we are democratising our sport by providing access for more people.

In concluding her speech, Senator Lundy welcomed everyone to the event and wished them all success in their endeavours. She also welcomed everyone to a very 'hot' Canberra!

Senior Teams in Canberra

by David Hoffman

The Seniors Teams, one of the first events at this year's Summer Festival, attracted 50 teams, up four from the previous year. With four teams to progress to the semi finals, the top seeds were:

NEILL, Bruce Neill, Arjuna DeLivera, David Lilley, Zolly Nagy, Simon Hinge, Kim Morrison

KLINGER, Ron Klinger, Bill Haughie, Robert Krochmalik, Paul Lavings, Chris Hughes, Paul Wyer

ROBINSON, Ian Robinson, npc, Andy Braithwaite, Chris Quail, Neil Ewart, Richard Brightling, David Hoffman

BLOOM, Martin Bloom, Nigel Rosendorff, Bernie Waters, Roy Nixon

Each day consisted of three 20-board matches, and at the end of Day 1 the leaders were **BROWN**, Terry Brown, Jeanette Reitzer, Marlene Watts, George Smolanko on 53.87 followed by **HAVAS**, Elizabeth Havas, Gordon Schmidt, Richard Douglas, Andrew Markovics on 51.35, then **LUSK**, David Lusk, Peter Chan, Atillio de Luca, Peter Colmer, Roger Januzske, John Zollo on 50.66, and **NEILL** on 48.81. This was the first time the new WBF Victory Point Scale had been used for an ABF event. The general consensus was that it was good in significantly reducing the number of tied scores, but that one decimal place would suffice.

At the end of Day 2, **HAVAS** was leading on 90.94, followed by **KLINGER** on 87.50, **MARINOS**, Tony Marinos, Peter Grant, Andy Creet, Stephen Mendick on 83.33, and **NEILL** on 83.31.

Slam hands are always interesting, and this event produced its share, with a number of them having instructive features. The first of these was:

Board 4, West deals, all vulnerable

♠ K J 9 7 4 2
♥ 10 6 5
♦ Q 8 5
♣ 10

♠ A 10 5 3
♥ K 3
♦ A K
♣ A K Q 9 5

With the 10-card fit, it is still important to play the hand from South, either in 6♠ or 6NT, to protect the heart position. Of the nine pairs who played from the North seat, five failed after ♥Q lead, while 14 pairs failed to bid slam.

Then in Round 7, these were the EW hands:

Board 8, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

This is not a good slam in isolation. However, at our table North had made a vulnerable weak jump overcall

in diamonds, suggesting that ♥A would be favourably placed. The slam was bid five times, making at four tables after ♦A lead. However, Martin Willcox received the more challenging ♥Q lead. He won ♥K, drew trumps, discarded one heart on the spades, gave up a heart and ruffed a heart. With hearts 3-3, the slam came home.

In the same match, the EW cards were:

Board 17, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

At our table, in 6♦, Richard Brightling received the most difficult lead, a spade. Needing to control a further spade, and South having ♦Q, he took an immediate diamond finesse. When the diamond position became exposed at trick three, with North holding queen to four, he played hearts through North, using them as surrogate trumps, and eventually making 10 pairs bid 6♦, all making, while seven pairs bid the inferior 6♥, also surviving.

The final hand of note was in Round 8:

Board 8, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

The bidding at our table was (Pass) 1♥ – 1♠; 2♣ – 2♦ (GF); 3♦ (0-5-4-4) – 4♠; 6♠, claiming 13 tricks on the opening lead. 6NT was bid five times, failing four times when ♣J was not an entry. The fifth player played it from South on a club lead, making 13 tricks. Five pairs bid 7♠, but reports suggest that in some instances it was South rescuing themselves from 6NT.

On Day 3, *HAVAS* suffered losses in the last two matches to fall out of contention, while *ROBINSON* had three wins to move into the top four. *NEILL*, while having a big loss in Round 7 to fall to 10th, recovered to leave the final qualification as *LUSK* 124.28, *KLINGER* 123.21, *ROBINSON* 121.44, *NEILL* 118.26, with a gap of about 4 VPs to fifth.

Not surprisingly *LUSK* selected *ROBINSON* as their opponents in the semi finals. However, this turned out badly when they lost the first set 10 – 52. Another

20 IMPs was lost in the second set, and *ROBINSON* eventually won comfortably by 71 IMPs.

In the other semifinal, *KLINGER* jumped out to a 22 IMP lead, reduced to only 2 IMPs at the halfway stage. *NEILL* then won the last two sets to record a 42 IMP win.

So on to the final, where *NEILL*, the top seed, and fielding three established partnerships, faced *ROBINSON*, the third seed, fielding one established partnership, and three players with little previous partnership experience, but at least the advantage of playing the same system. Obviously, *NEILL* were favourites, and the first two sets did nothing to alter this, as they won the first quarter 54-24, and the second quarter 57-31, to lead by 56 IMPs at the half. *ROBINSON* recovered 18 IMPs in the third set, but still trailed by 38 IMPs with only 16 boards to play.

And so to the last set.

Board 49, North deals, nil vulnerable

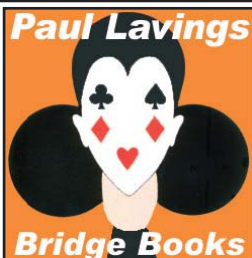
| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| ♠ A K 7 6 | ♠ J 5 3 |
| ♥ A 10 6 3 2 | ♥ Q |
| ♦ J 2 | ♦ A K 10 8 7 4 |
| ♣ 7 3 | ♣ A K J |
| ♠ Q 10 4 2 | ♠ 9 8 |
| ♥ J 9 | ♥ K 8 7 5 4 |
| ♦ 9 6 5 3 | ♦ Q |
| ♣ 9 8 5 | ♣ Q 10 6 4 2 |

In the Open Room, the bidding started 1♥ – Dbl – 4♦ – Pass – 4♥. Everybody passed for 420. However, in the Closed Room, Braithwaite overcalled 2♦, then doubled at his next turn, which led to West bidding 5♦. Neither opponent felt they could double, and the contract was two down for -100. *NEILL* by 30 IMPs.

Board 50, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

Both rooms started Pass -1♣ - 3♥ - 3NT. In the Closed



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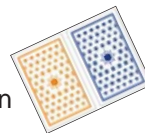
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Room, everybody passed. The contract failed by four vulnerable tricks when ♦K was offside. In the Open Room, East competed with 4♥, and Brightling bid 5♦ when the auction returned to him. There was nothing in the play, translating to 14 IMPs. *NEILL* by 16 IMPs.

Board 51, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

Both rooms started 1♠ - 2♦ - Db1 - Pass - 2♥ - Pass. In the Closed Room, North bid 2♠, the final contract for 140. In the Open Room, Brightling made a further try with 3♦, and then raised 3♠ to game. On the third diamond, East discarded a club, and Hoffman took full advantage, setting up two clubs to make 10 tricks for +420. *NEILL* by 9 IMPs. One overtrick IMP on Board 52. *NEILL* by 8 IMPs. Then on Board 53, *NEILL* was the only pair of the four tables (the Women's Final was being played concurrently) to miss game, giving Robinson another 6 IMPs. *NEILL* by 2 IMPs.

Board 54, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

In the Open Room East opened 1♦. Hoffman overcalled 1♠. EW eventually tried 5♦, but with both clubs offside the contract drifted two down for +200 to *ROBINSON*. In the Closed Room, South did not overcall, and Ewart responded 1♠ to the 1♦ opening with the West hand, eventually declaring 3NT. On ♣6 lead, he quickly wrapped up nine tricks for 13 IMPs to *ROBINSON*.

So after only six boards *ROBINSON* had taken the lead

by 11 IMPs, without doing anything outlandish. Rather, on three hands they had made aggressive decisions in the bidding, each time gaining IMPs. However, *NEILL* were not finished.

On Board 55, Brightling held ♠AJ95, ♥KJ53, ♦K, ♣AK87. After a 2♠ opening on his right, he elected to overcall 2NT, playing there for down one when partner turned up with a 1-4-5-3 distribution including ♦A. In the Closed Room, after a 1♠ opening, the extra room allowed NS to find their way to the making 4♥. *NEILL* back in front by 1 IMP.

The next board was flat. Then on Board 57, the club holding was AJ with North, K42 with South. Both played 3NT on a club lead, *ROBINSON* from North making, *NEILL* from South, failing. 10 IMPs, and *ROBINSON* was back in the lead by 9 IMPs. Then on the next board, both teams played 4♠. The *NEILL* declarer had a blind spot, gifting *ROBINSON* 13 IMPs.

The remaining boards were relatively flat, with *ROBINSON* picking up another 7 IMPs to run out winners by 29 IMPs. This is the first win in the event for Neil Ewart and Chris Quail, the other three having won it previously.

The only downside of the event was that since the top floor of the hotel was undergoing renovations, the playing conditions in the semifinals and finals were less than ideal. Hopefully this can be rectified for future years.

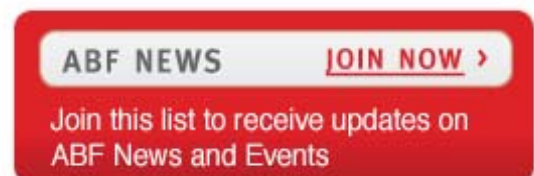


TIP

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Women representatives in the Open

In the last issue, in a "Letter to the Editor" from Peter Wilkinson, he stated that he thought Norma Borin was the only woman to represent Australia in the open bridge arena. This is patently wrong – so apologies to the women who have so ably represented us. A brief mention of these women follows.

The late Norma Borin did indeed play in the Australian Open Team, with husband Jim Borin. Norma represented Australia in 1971, 1972, 1979, 1982, 1987 and 1989, finishing third in the Bermuda Bowl in 1971 and 1979.



Carol Rothfield represented Australia, in partnership with Jessel Rothfield in 1982, 1997, 1999 and 2000.

Pauline Gumby represented Australia in 2006 and 2007 with Warren Lazer.



Barbara Travis represented Australia in 1998 (playing with Elizabeth Havas) and 2010.



Elizabeth Havas represented Australia in 1974 (playing with George Havas), 1982 and 1998.



Mary McMahon represented Australia in 1970, 1978 and 1982.

If I have neglected any of our Open women's representatives in world events, I apologise. This report was compiled from the WBF and ABF websites. Many of the women mentioned here also represented Australia at some time in Open Teams at Asia Pacific Bridge Federation events, as well as countless women's team events.

The Editor

2014 National Women's Teams

by Barbara Travis

The Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge starts each year with the National Women's Teams, and National Seniors' Teams as well as various restricted teams and pairs events. One of the changes this year was the introduction of prizes, including daily prizes. These daily prizes were awarded to the teams who scored the highest number of VPs (Victory Points) on any particular day. Whilst this is a great idea, I would like to see a modification where the prizes have more of an Encouragement Award focus; my view is that the daily prizes should go to the team or teams who have improved most on any given day. It is lovely for teams who are not in contention to feel that they have something to aspire to, whereas the top teams are more likely to reap the 'end prizes' anyway.

The NWT has been struggling to attract entries in recent years, with only 21 teams (plus a 'House' team to make an even number) in 2014. The Swiss format involved nine matches of 20 boards, and when the qualifying rounds ended the four semi finalists were:

1. *TRAVIS*, Barbara Travis, Candice Ginsberg, Sue Lusk, Margaret Bourke on 142.44 VPs
2. *KAPLAN*, Rena Kaplan, Paula McLeish, Lorna Ichilcik, Lynn Kalmin, Felicity Beale, Diana Smart on 126.71 VPs
3. *BIRD*, Sheila Bird, Karen Creet, Pele Rankin, Therese Tully, Julia Hoffman, Jenny Thompson on 119.73
4. *SCUDDER*, Marcia Scudder, Inez Glander, Sarah Amoils, Monica Ginsberg on 100.64 VPs

Two deals of similar interest arose during the qualifying rounds:

Match 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-------|
| ♠ A Q 8 5 3 2 | | ♠ K J | |
| ♥ J 6 2 | | ♥ K 9 | |
| ♦ J 5 | | ♦ A 10 8 6 | |
| ♣ A 2 | | ♣ K Q J 9 4 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Ginsberg | | Travis | |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1♣ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 4♣ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | 4♦ | Pass |

After the jump rebid to 2NT showing a (good 17) 18-19 HCP balanced hand, Candice Ginsberg's 3♥ bid showed 5+ spades, acting as a further transfer. When she bid 4♣, this seemed to be a cuebid for spades

which meant she had six spades. Now I knew my spade honours and club suit were 'gems', and planned to head to slam, so I also cuebid in return. Unfortunately for partner, once she denied a heart control I went to sleep and passed. What I had been planning was to bid 6NT in order to protect ♥K; I envisaged six spade tricks, five club tricks and ♦A, but I forgot to make the sensible bid.

On a heart lead through ♥K, South won two heart tricks, holding us to 11 tricks.

Only three Women's pairs managed to play either 6♠ or 6NT by East.

Match 6, Board 4, West deals, all vulnerable

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

Whether the long spade suit opened 2♠ (or a multi 2♦) or whether partner opened 2♣, you do not want the spade hand to be declarer. Your auction should reveal some potential heart weakness, so it is imperative to play from the strong hand and protect that ♥K again – whether you can manage to reach spades from that hand, or whether you have to correct to 6NT in order to ensure that the strong hand is declarer.

On this hand most of the field bid to slam, but about half the time the hand was played from the wrong side. I'm surprised that no defenders led ♥Q holding QJ7 and a pile of rubbish. That's what I led against 4♠, and it seems we were the only pair to hold declarer to 11 tricks. Everyone in slam made it. (And in the Seniors', only the Lusk team defeated the slam with ♥Q lead.)

Match 8, West deals nil vulnerable

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|-------|
| ♠ --- | | ♠ A K Q 10 8 7 5 2 | |
| ♥ A J 9 6 4 | | ♥ --- | |
| ♦ A K J 7 | | ♦ 9 6 4 | |
| ♣ A K 9 6 | | ♣ J 2 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Travis | | Ginsberg | |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 6♠ | Pass |
| 7♠ | All Pass | | |

Candice Ginsberg wanted this hand reported – for two reasons:

1. We found an interesting 'hole' in our system
2. She appreciated my faith in her bidding

In the Seniors' field quite a few pairs played in 4♠, so I can only guess that over 1♥ there was a 4♠ bid which left the big hand bidless!

2014 AUTUMN NATIONALS

Thursday 1st May to Monday May 5th 2014



The Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showgrounds,
Goodwood Road, Wayville, (2kms from the GPO)

Information for Players

When: Open, Seniors', Women's and Restricted Swiss Pairs: Thursday 1st May 2014 — 10.00am to 6.15pm and Friday 2nd May 2014 — 9.30am to 5.45pm finish

Pairs wishing to compete in the Restricted Pairs must be under Life Master as at January 1st 2014.

Senior players must be born before 1st January 1956

Open and Restricted Teams

Saturday 3rd May 2014 — 9.30am to 6.45pm

Sunday 4th May 2014 — 9.00am to 6.00pm

Open Grand Final

Monday 5th May 2014 — 9.00am to 5.00pm

Graded Swiss Pairs

Monday 5th May 2014 — 9.30am to 4.30pm

Restricted Teams —for players under Life Master as at 1st January 2014, one Life Master permitted per team.

For further information, including accommodation suggestions, visit our website at:

www.abf.com.au/events/anot/index.html

Entry fee discounts for early bird payments

Enquiries to:

The Tournament Secretary Margaret Walters

Email: anot@abf.com.au

Mobile: 0439 446 555 or 08 8431 4471

or

Tournament Organiser: Jinny Fuss

Email: ANOT.organiser@gmail.com

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WESTERN SENIORS PAIRS

17th and 18th May 2014

10 am start each day

For ABF Seniors Events players must be born before 1 January 1956

**This is a Gold Point and PQP
Selection Event**

Venue:

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Entries:

Via the BAWA Website:

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Once I had bid 3♣ (game forcing), Ginsberg was free to rebid her spades at the three-level without need for panic. However, over the 3NT bid we both realised that we had no sensible ace-asking bid; 4NT would be quantitative in our methods. [This hole has since been resolved by agreeing that we can use the unbid-suit at the four-level as Blackwood, i.e. 4♦ on this hand.] Instead, Ginsberg made the ‘practical’ bid of 6♠ and left me in a dilemma. I certainly wasn’t considering any contract but spades, given there was no guarantee of an entry to her long suit. It was simply a matter of determining exactly what her spade suit would be for this sequence... It would be better than a 4♠ bid which would probably be seven spades and two top honours. That meant she held either seven solid spades (that means AKQJxxx) or eight spades probably headed by the AKQ. If she only held seven spades, I felt confident that a sixth trick could be generated by one of my suits. After much thought, I bid 7♠ and my faith was justified!

Many people holding the big hand corrected the contract to 6NT or 7NT then faced a situation with no entry to dummy. One lucky declarer in 7NT (Women’s) and one in 6NT (Seniors’) received spade leads!

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As leading qualifiers, *TRAVIS* could choose their opposition (from the teams placed third and fourth) and duly selected *SCUDDER*.

SEMI FINAL A

| | Set 1 | Set 2 | Set 3 | Set 4 | Total |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>TRAVIS</i> | 39 | 45 | 39 | | 123 |
| <i>SCUDDER</i> | 29 | 18 | 26 | | 73 |

SEMI FINAL B

| | Set 1 | Set 2 | Set 3 | Set 4 | Total |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>KAPLAN</i> | 34 | 19 | 23 | 39 | 115 |
| <i>BIRD</i> | 35 | 35 | 73 | 18 | 161 |

TRAVIS gradually built the lead to 50 after three sets of 16 boards each, and *SCUDDER* decided to concede somewhat to our surprise, certainly with our gratitude for an early night. The other semi final was close through the first half and then *BIRD*’s big third set blew the match their way. *KAPLAN* were only willing to go down fighting (many a match has swung more than 66 IMPs in 16 boards) but fought back unsuccessfully.

Our match started with some classy results:

Set 1, Board 2, North deals, nil vulnerable

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|----------|
| ♠ A K Q 9 4 3 2 | | ♠ 5 | |
| ♥ --- | | ♥ A 5 3 | |
| ♦ A K J | | ♦ 10 8 7 5 | |
| ♣ Q 9 4 | | ♣ A K J 8 5 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Glanter</i> | | <i>Scudder</i> | |
| | Pass | 1♣ | 3♥ |
| 4♥ | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| 7♣ | 7♥ | 7NT | All Pass |

This contract, judged so well in the bidding by Marcia Scudder and Inez Glanger, looked excellent until spades broke 4-1, so Marcia Scudder now needed ♦Q onside, either Qx or Qxx. When this eventuated, my favourable vulnerability sacrifice had cost 2 IMPs. Sue Lusk and Margaret Bourke had bid to the excellent 7♣ contract; admittedly an Acol 1♣ opening bid helped way more than the ‘Better Minor’ 1♣ at other tables:

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Bourke</i> | | <i>Lusk</i> | |
| | Pass | 1♣ | 3♥ |
| 4NT | Pass | 6♣ (?) | Pass |
| 7♣ | All Pass | | |

7♣ is definitely the best grand slam to play in on these cards. In the other Women’s semi final, one pair bid to 7♠, failing, and the other made 6♠.

Set 2, Board 21, North deals, NS vulnerable

Many people fall in love with six-card suits, overlooking their secondary four-card suits. Lusk and Bourke did no such thing, bidding to an excellent 5♣ on the following cards, whilst our opponents jump rebid the

diamonds to languish in 3NT, failing by one trick.

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

So, to 9.00am Sunday, and the final. Just before departing my home-away-from-home, I had gone online to BBO and found the Irish Trials in progress. Regular visitor Hugh McGann was playing, and it was the second stanza of their final. With a bit of mathematical prowess I deduced that his team had won the first set by 102-0! I left home dreaming of such a start...

The first stanza was full of wild swings.

Set 1, Board 1, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|-------------|----------|
| <i>Bourke</i> | | <i>Lusk</i> | |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♥ | Pass | 5NT | Pass |
| 6♠ | Pass | 7♠ | All Pass |

Margaret's jump to 4♠ usually shows a big balanced hand, but the other option is some extremely distributional hand (perhaps 4-7 or 5-6). Once Sue bid 5NT to confirm all the Key Cards, and Margaret denied any kings, it became evident that it was the latter option – wild shape. Now Sue stopped and re-grouped, realising that her ♣KQx were gems, and that a grand slam was available.

The Fantunes system played by Jenny Thompson and Julia Hoffman did not really provide the opportunity for Jenny to describe her big two-suiter adequately, and they stopped in 6♠.

The next board provided some light-hearted relief at our table. I'm sure that we actually got the best score we could on the hand.

**Set 1, West deals, all vulnerable
(directions changed for convenience)**

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

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| <i>Travis</i> | | <i>Ginsberg</i> | |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | Dbl |
| All Pass | | | |

I must admit that redouble did not occur to me, not

until Jenny Thompson leant towards me and said, "1♥ doubled isn't game, is it?" At all vulnerable, she was looking for the cheapest way out, holding ♠9, ♥J10632, ♦32, ♣K8653

Julia Hoffman cashed ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q and gave Jenny a spade ruff. Jenny exited a trump and I simply embarked on an endplay for the overtrick. ♥A, ♥K, ♥Q, leaving Jenny with the top trump, and then I led spades. Whether Jenny trumped or waited for me to exit my trump to her, she was eventually endplayed into leading a club into dummy's tenace.

1♥ doubled with the overtrick was worth 360, together with the 100 from our teammates for defeating 4♠ one trick.

Candice was worried we had missed game, but I could see that no game was making. Even after the hand, I hadn't thought about any penalty we had missed, rather that we had arrived in a fine contract!

Then came two excellent 6♣ contracts, which I think each pair bid rather well:

Board 11

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|----------|------------------|-------|
| <i>Ginsberg</i> | | <i>Travis</i> | |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 3♥ ¹ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4NT ² | Pass |
| 6♣ | All Pass | | |

1. Forcing
2. Quantitative

Board 14

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Thompson</i> | | <i>Hoffman</i> | |
| Dbl | 2♦ | 1♣ | 2♣ ¹ |
| 6♣ | All Pass | 5♣ | Pass |

1. Majors

Jenny drew some very sound inferences (in particular that partner was very short in the majors) from Julia's 5♣ rebid, and made a practical raise with aces and a ruffing value.

The last hand of this stanza confirmed one of the les-

sons I had been giving prior to coming to Canberra, which had been all about balancing:

Set 1, Board 16, West deals, all vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♠ | Pass | Pass | ? |

What would you do holding ♠762, ♥---, ♦J98642, ♣AKQ7

My lesson included the suggestion that you should not balance when extremely short in either of the majors. All too often you balance the opponents into game. Here's what happened.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| 1♠ | Pass | Pass | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 3♦ | 4♥ | All Pass |

Our hands were:

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

Sue Lusk, sitting South, knew enough to leave 1♠ undisturbed for -110, to go with our +620. (Surprisingly 5♦ is cold for NS, but North wasn't heading there with a 3-3-3-4.)

At the end of Set 1 our scorecard read 100-28 IMPs, which meant *BIRD* faced an uphill battle to recover.

We still led by 63 IMPs heading into the final set but there wasn't enough in it for *BIRD*.

However, Karen Creet played this slam really well to make 6♥:

Set 4, Board 29, North deals, all vulnerable

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

Creet, South, received the lead of ♦5 – ♦2 – ♦K – ♦A. She now cashed ♥Q and ♥J, then started on clubs. I'm pretty sure she planned to trump her club loser, but unwisely I gave count, and she took note.

If Ginsberg held long clubs and the diamonds, there was scope to put her under enormous discard pressure, so Creet now drew my last two trumps, forcing another two discards from Ginsberg. Next she led ♦10 which Ginsberg had to win (or dummy's ♦J would also become a winner). Ginsberg could not remove both

entries to dummy, but tried a spade shift, won with ♠A. A spade ruff brought Karen to hand and brought Ginsberg to her knees – she could not guard both the clubs and the diamonds, so Ginsberg had her contract. This was a well thought through hand and nicely played, earning a well-deserved 12 IMPs.

| FINAL | Set 1 | Set 2 | Set 3 | Set 4 | Total |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| TRAVIS | 100 | 28 | 19 | 22 | 169 |
| BIRD | 28 | 27 | 29 | 54 | 138 |

This year the semi finals and final were played in Cahoots Bar. I think this was a vast improvement on the conditions under which we normally play these stages of the NWT, up on the 15th floor, with the sun shining directly into our faces. With a lot of additional lighting provided, and with large tables and excellent screens (at last) it was quiet and cool, and I think all the participants enjoyed themselves. Our opponents in both the semi final and final were truly gracious and a pleasure to play against (and one day I shall actually play against Sarah Amoils and Monica Ginsberg).

Thank you, also, to the organisers for the final improvement to the event – prize money!

Last but by no means least, congratulations to Margaret Bourke on becoming our newest (fourth) Emerald Grand Master during the NWT.



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2014 Open and Women's Team Playoffs

by Stephen Lester

The playoffs for the 2014 Australian Open and Women's Teams were held in Coogee, Sydney, at the beginning of February. There were 16 pairs in each field. Stage 1 consisted of a round robin of 10-board matches. Scoring was by IMPs against datum, and then the match result converted into Victory Points on the new WBF scale. At the end of Stage 1, the 10 leading pairs made it to Stage 2 for another round robin of 10-board matches.

Try this problem from Stage 1, Round 1:

Board 5, North deals, NS vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|------------------|------|-------|
| | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| 2♠ | 2NT ¹ | 4♠ | 6♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

1. 23-24 balanced

West to lead from ♠J10732, ♥---, ♦Q986, ♣10874

In both the Open and the Women's, 6♥ was bid six times on the deal. In each field it was made three times when played by South, and failed three times when played by North.

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

When North was declarer, ♣A was the obvious lead. When South was declarer West needed to find the club lead. George Bilski – Terry Brown bid 2♦:2♥; 2NT:5♥; 6♥:Pass. Ishmael Del'Monte – Tony Burke bid 2♣:2♦; 2NT:6♥; Pass. The auctions in the Women's were similar when South became declarer. Of the pairs in 6♥, only Ron Klinger – Andrew Peake had opposition bidding, as in the problem above. West led a spade and Peake had no problem making 12 tricks.

Could West have found the club lead after that auction? A Lightner Double normally asks for the first genuine suit bid by dummy. What if dummy has not bid a real suit? Would it make sense for the Lightner Double to ask for the first artificial suit bid by dummy? With such an agreement East could double 6♥.

Perhaps East should double 6♥ anyway, to ask partner to lead something other than a spade or a trump. That gives East a 50% chance



Australian Open Team

of receiving a club lead. As the datum was NS 480 (Open) and NS 470 (Women's), so that those with –1430 lost 14 IMPs, –1660 will cost an extra IMP, while a club lead will make a huge difference to EW.

After Day 1, five matches, the leaders were Griff Ware – Michael Wilkinson (Open) and Felicity Beale – Diana Smart (Women's).

Try this problem:

Round 6, Board 29, North deals, all vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | Pass | 1♣ | Dbl |
| Pass | 1♠ | ? | |

What would you do now as East, holding ♠3, ♥AKQ95, ♦---, ♣AKJ10974

There were three pairs in 5♣, one in 5♣ doubled, three in 6♣ and one in 6♣ doubled in the Open, datum EW 1080. In the Women's, two were in 5♣, four in 6♣ and two in 6♣ doubled, datum EW 1370.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------|------|----------|
| Wilkinson | Kanetkar | Ware | Nunn |
| | Pass | 1♣ | Dbl |
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♥ | Pass |
| 2NT ¹ | Pass | 6♣ | All Pass |

1. Good raise to 3♣ in context

Some jumped straight to 5♣ or 6♣ on the second round, and that attracted a double from South.

After Day 2, 10 matches, the leaders were George Bilski – Terry Brown (Open) and Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk (Women's).

Round 13, Board 3, East deals, NS vulnerable

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| | | 3♣ | Pass |
| 3NT | 4♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Dbl | Pass | Pass | 5♦ |
| Dbl | All Pass | | |

What would you lead as West from ♠A84, ♥K1073, ♦A4, ♣AKJ7?

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

In the Open, datum EW 730, six Easts opened 3♣ and two passed. The auction above was common, but some Norths reverted to 5♥ over 5♦ doubled. In the Women's, datum EW 430, two Easts opened 3♣ and six passed. If you lead ♠A or ♦A, you collect 800 from 5♦ doubled. ♣A lead brings in 500.

After Stage 1, the Open leaders were George Bilski – Terry Brown, Avi Kanetkar – Tony Nunn and Ron Klinger – Andrew Peake.



Diana Smart - Felicity Beale

In the Women's, Felicity Beale – Diana Smart, Pele Rankin – Therese Tully and Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk.

The carry-forward for Stage 2 was 75% of the VPs against the qualifiers and 25% of the VPs against the non-qualifiers. As a result of this, leaders at the start of Stage 2 were Kanetkar – Nunn (20.37), Peter Gill – Matthew Thompson (17.36) and Jamie Ebery – Leigh Gold (14.67) in the Open and Beale – Smart (38.56), Bourke – Lusk (24.50) and Rankin - Tully (21.32).

Next problem. You are dealer with neither side vulnerable.

What action would you take with ♠K85, ♥K7643, ♦QJ1085, ♣--- ?

On the first board of Stage 2, four different actions were chosen by the dealer: Pass, 1♥, 2♥ or 2♠.

South deals, nil vulnerable

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

Jamie Ebery, South, opened 2♠, two suits of the same colour, and came away with the top result for NS. Leigh Gold, North, bid 2NT, enquiry. South bid 3♦, the red suits, and North bid 4♥, passed out for NS +420. That was worth 11 IMPs as the datum was NS –100, with two pairs in 5♥ doubled, one off on a club lead, and one in 6♥ doubled, one off on ♠A lead.

Only one pair found 6S EW:

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Brown | | Bilski | |
| | | | Pass |
| 2♣ ¹ | 3♥ | Dbl ² | 5♥ |
| 5♠ | Pass | 6♠ | Dbl |
| All Pass | | | |

1. Any 3-suiter

2. Values

The lead was ♦9, and West made 12 tricks, +1210, +15 IMPs.

In the Women's, datum NS 400, three Souths opened 2♥, one opened 1♥ and one passed. Three Souths were in 5♥ doubled, making on ♠A lead. One North was in 5♥ doubled, –100 on ♣A lead and Inez Glanger – Marcia Scudder had the best EW result after 2♥:Double; 4♥:4♠; all pass, +480.

After Day 4, the leaders were Klinger - Peake (77.76), Ware - Wilkinson (76.02) and Gill - Thomson (75.78) in the Open and Beale - Smart (86.74), Lorna Ichilcik – Lynn Kalmin (85.99) and Nevena Djurovic – Giselle Mundell (73.66) in the Women's.

After Round 6, there was an 18 VP gap between the top five and the bottom five in the Open, with Bilski - Brown and Kanetkar - Nunn in the top group with the above leaders. In the Women's the contest was much closer right to the end.

With one match to go, the Open leaders were Ware - Wilkinson (114.21), Klinger - Peake (112.61), Gill - Thomson (109.56), Kanetkar - Nunn (101.04) and Bilski - Brown (98.16). In the Women's, Beale - Smart

(118.43), Ichilcik - Kalmin (114.24), Djurovic - Mundell (104.46), Bourke - Lusk (104.38) and Eileen Li - Greer Tucker (103.54).



Lorna Ichilcik - Lynn Kalmin

This was the final board of the event:

West deals, nil vulnerable

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| Brown | Gill | Bilski | Thomson |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♠ ¹ | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 5♥ | 5♠ |
| Dbl | All Pass | | |

1. Strong heart raise

East led ♥A, ruffed. North played ♠A, then ♠J and rose with ♠K for 13 tricks, +850 and +9 IMPs. Datum: NS 460.

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Peake | | Klinger |
| 2♥ ¹ | Dbl | 4♥ | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | All Pass |

1. 8-11, hearts and a minor

No doubt East expected West's second suit to be diamonds. Declarer ruffed ♥J lead and played ♠A, followed by ♠J, running it to ♠Q. West shifted to ♦Q and South had 12 tricks, +790, +8 IMPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|-----------------|----------|
| Ware | | Wilkinson | |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 3♦ ¹ | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 4NT | 5♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 6♥ | All Pass |

1. Heart raise

Declarer was two down, -100, but + 8 IMPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Nunn | | Kanetkar | |
| 1♥ | Dbl | 2NT ¹ | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♦ | Dbl | 5♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | All Pass | |

1. Heart raise

Declarer was one down, -100, +8 IMPs.

In the Women's the datum was EW 60.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|-------|----------|
| Smart | | Beale | |
| 1♥ | Dbl | Rdbl | 3♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

Declarer made 10 tricks, +420, +8 IMPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| Mundell | | Djurovic | |
| 1♥ | Dbl | 2NT | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 5♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | All Pass | |

Declarer was one down, -100, -4 IMPs.

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|-----------------|----------|
| Ichilcik | | Kalmin | |
| Pass | 1NT | 3♣ ¹ | All Pass |

1. Clubs and hearts

Declarer made 10 tricks, +130, +2 IMPs.

The final placings were:

Open:

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Andrew Peake - Ron Klinger | 124.66 |
| 2. | Matthew Thomson - Peter Gill | 123.95 |
| 3. | Michael Wilkinson - Griff Ware | 119.82 |
| 4. | Avi Kanetkar - Tony Nunn | 115.43 |
| 5. | Terry Brown - George Bilski | 103.77 |

Women's:

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Felicity Beale - Di Smart | 128.87 |
| 2. | Lorna Ichilcik - Lynn Kalmin | 127.69 |
| 3. | Nevena Djurovic - Giselle Mundell | 121.14 |
| 4. | Eileen Li - Greer Tucker | 114.81 |
| 5. | Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk | 110.93 |



Giselle Mundell - Nevena Djurovic



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Partnership Misunderstandings and Unauthorised Information

by Laurie Kelso



Recently I presented material at the Australian Bridge Director's Association (ABDA) annual seminar in Cairns.

One area of the Laws that we covered in some detail related to Law 16 (unauthorised and extraneous information). Not long afterwards a situation arose in a club competition that serves to illustrate quite well many of the key issues that often need to be addressed.

Board 15, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 2♠ | 2NT ¹ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♦ ² |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | 3NT |

1. Explained by South as strong and balanced
2. Intended as a transfer and alerted as such

At the end of the auction North called the Director in order to correct what he believed had been a mis-explanation by South of the 2NT bid. In the ensuing discussion it was determined that systemically 2NT was in fact natural, and that the North player had simply forgotten the system and thus made the wrong bid. This meant that the explanation provide by South (and the subsequent alert of the 3♦ bid) were both systemically correct, even though the actual hand held by North did not correspond to the description given. As such, everyone at the table quickly realised that there had been no misinformation and thus no infraction in respect to Law 21.

The Director instructed that the hand should be played out in 4♥. When 10 tricks were made, nobody thought there was a need to recall the director and they proceeded onto the next board.

What the players failed to realize was that, although the explanations given were not an issue in regard to the laws relating to misinformation, there did appear to be a problem in respect to North's potential use of

unauthorized information. This was because South's description of the 2NT bid, whilst systemically correct, had nevertheless alerted North to the fact that he and his partner were not on the same wavelength. This in turn meant that North was able to discern his partner's true intentions in regard to the 3♦ bid, thereby assisting NS in avoiding any sort of further misunderstanding.

Most players realise that the use of information arising from partner's grimaces, sighs and body language is illegal. The same is true of actions associated with a gratuitous comment made by partner, as well as things overhead from an adjacent table. Many are also aware that the Law prohibits the use of inferences drawn from partner's break intempo (i.e., a hesitation). The laws relating to unauthorized information are, however, much broader in their application than just the examples already quoted. Law 16 says that a player may only use information in the auction or play if "it derives from the legal calls and plays of the current board" or if it is "information that the player possessed before he took his hand from the board". This means that nearly every other source of information is 'unauthorised' (and this is especially so if the source happens be your partner).

Law 16B actually provides a non-exhaustive list of these sources, amongst which can be found, "a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert or failure to alert", all of which pertain to the situation described above. The Laws also make it clear that it is illegal to use any form of unauthorized (or extraneous) information.

On the hand under discussion, the Director correctly adjusted the result back to 3♦ by South, making nine tricks. If North had not heard his partner's explanation then he would have just interpreted South's 3♦ bid as giving preference between the minors, which would then have undoubtedly been passed out. Since the laws prohibit North from using the information acquired from his partner's explanation of the auction, he should still have passed the 3♦ bid, and because he did not, it then fell upon the Director to rectify the situation by returning the contract to where it would have rested without North's subsequent 3♥ and 4♥ actions.

As this example shows, the laws can be quite strict. Theoretically, a player should never gain via the illegal use of unauthorized information. Had NS failed in their precarious 4♥ contract, then the Director would not have adjusted the score. This is because the Law only requires the Director to award an adjusted score if the result obtained due to an infraction is advantageous for the offending side. Conversely, the Law usually allows a non-offending side to keep any windfall they might receive following an opponent's infraction.



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2013 Grand National Open Teams

by Howard Melbourne

At the end of November, players from around Australia arrived in Tweed Heads to do battle in the Grand National Open Teams. The event follows a knockout format, where the last four teams play for two places in the semi final, with the losing teams then meeting the top two teams from the repechage event (which involves all those teams who have lost matches). The winners of those two matches then re-enter the GNOT at the semi final stage.

This year the Semi Finalists were:

ADELAIDE 1, Mike Doecke, Joe Haffer, Howard Melbourne, George Smolanko

versus

MELBOURNE 1, Leigh Gold, Simon Hinge, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard

ADELAIDE 2, Peter Chan, Attilio De Luca, Phil Gue, David Lusk

versus

SYDNEY 2, Nye Griffiths, Pauline Gumby, Ron Klinger, Warren Lazer, Liam Milne, Bruce Neill

ADELAIDE 1 v. *MELBOURNE 1* was close throughout, with the sessional scores being:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| <i>ADELAIDE 1</i> | 36 | 6 | 27 | 15 | 84 |
| <i>MELBOURNE 1</i> | 17 | 21 | 19 | 25 | 82 |

ADELAIDE 2 v. *SYDNEY 2* was a swingy affair which still led to a close finish:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| <i>ADELAIDE 2</i> | 30 | 1 | 48 | 24 | 103 |
| <i>SYDNEY 2</i> | 29 | 38 | 2 | 20 | 89 |

One board, in particular, from our semi final comes to mind:



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Session 1, Board 5, North deals, nil vulnerable

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| <p> ♠ A 9 8 3 2 ♥ A 4 ♦ 9 6 3 ♣ 10 6 3 </p> | | | |
| <p> ♠ Q J 7 6 ♥ K 8 7 2 ♦ J ♣ 9 5 4 2 </p> | | <p> ♠ K 10 5 4 ♥ Q 10 6 5 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ Q 8 </p> | |
| <p> ♠ --- ♥ J 9 3 ♦ A K Q 8 5 2 ♣ A K J 7 </p> | | | |
| West | North Melbourne | East | South Haffer |
| 4♥ | Dbl | 2♥ ¹ | Dbl |
| All Pass | | Pass | 6♦ |

1. Both majors, weak

West led a spade won with ♠A, declarer discarding a heart. Now declarer had time to work on the clubs, possibly for a heart discard from dummy. At trick 2, Haffer led a club to ♣J, which won. He cashed ♦A and ♦K to check how the trumps were behaving, then cashed ♣A. When ♣Q dropped, the contract fell into the 'easy' category: draw the last trump, cash ♣10 and there were 12 tricks.

None of the other three tables bid to this slam, so one can only conclude that the off-centre 2♥ opening bid helped the auction along.



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Courtesy Tip: Say hello to people

The following hand from the semi final allowed us to use a 'new' gadget in our bidding system.

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-----------|----------|
| ♠ A K Q J 8 6 | | ♠ 10 3 | |
| ♥ 10 6 | | ♥ A K 7 3 | |
| ♦ 8 4 | | ♦ K Q 10 | |
| ♣ J 7 4 | | ♣ 9 8 5 3 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 3♦ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Prior to the event we had agreed that after our 1♣ opening bid, even with intervention, the 3♦ response showed a hand with a solid suit – either a solid six-card major or a solid seven-card minor. This led to a system victory, playing in 3NT with nine tricks rather than the failing 4♠ contract.

The semi final results led to the interesting situation where *ADELAIDE 1* played *ADELAIDE 2*, with an Adelaide Tournament Director, but with the event being on the New South Wales - Queensland border.



The second session was a landslide of IMPs to *ADELAIDE 1*, basically determining the outcome of the match:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| <i>ADELAIDE 1</i> | 10 | 79 | 28 | 45 | 162 |
| <i>ADELAIDE 2</i> | 23 | 11 | 32 | 43 | 109 |

This was the first board of that critical second session:

Session 2, Board 17, North deals, nil vulnerable

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| ♠ A K 8 7 | | ♠ Q 10 6 | |
| ♥ A J 10 8 3 | | ♥ 7 2 | |
| ♦ J 9 7 | | ♦ A Q 4 2 | |
| ♣ 7 | | ♣ A 5 3 2 | |
| ♠ 9 4 2 | | ♠ J 5 3 | |
| ♥ K Q 6 5 | | ♥ 9 4 | |
| ♦ 8 5 | | ♦ K 10 6 3 | |
| ♣ 9 8 6 4 | | ♣ K Q J 10 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Lusk | Melbourne | De Luca | Haffer |
| | 1♥ | DbI | RdbI |
| Pass | Pass | 1NT | DbI |
| 2♣ | Pass | Pass | DbI |
| All Pass | | | |

I led a club and partner's ♠10 won the trick. He continued with ♣J, won with ♣A (whilst I discarded a spade). Declarer now tried a heart to ♥K and ♥A. I tried a small spade, mispicked by declarer, so Haffer regained the lead with ♠J and was now able to draw the remaining trumps. When he continued with another heart, declarer could only make three tricks, leading to a penalty of 1100.

South at the other table bid 1NT over East's takeout double and played there for +180 and a healthy 14 IMP start to the set. The 16 board result was 79-11, and we had a 55 IMP lead, most of which we held on to for the remainder of the match.

I was only a last-minute substitute in the *ADELAIDE 1* team, so was pleased not to let the team down. I seem to do well in events that are held around the Gold Coast; perhaps it is the climate which appeals to my English blood? It was my first experience playing in the GNOT, and on behalf of my team I would like to thank the organisers putting together such an enjoyable tournament.

ABF Marketing 'Special Projects' Grant



Keith McDonald, the ABF National President, recently presented Julian Foster, Chairman of the New South Wales Bridge Association (NSWBA), with a cheque for funding under the grant program.

The NSWBA will be trialling a range of initiatives designed to attract and retain more people to our sport. Initiatives include holding an annual country carnival and specific lessons on team play for players prior to competitions.

A couple of affiliated clubs will focus on the acquisition of IT equipment to help provide an improved 'experience' for their existing members.

All activities associated with the grant funding will be evaluated and lessons will be shared with all ABF affiliated clubs via an issue of the *ABF Marketing Update to Club Administrators*.

Mini-Maxi Splinters

Some areas of standard bidding leave a lot to be desired. For example, 1♣ - 1♠ : 3♠, opener's jump raise, can be any of these hands:



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. ♠ AJ43 ♥ AK2 ♦ 3 ♣ Q9852 | 2. ♠ AJ43 ♥ 2 ♦ KQ42 ♣ A765 | 3. ♠ 5432 ♥ AK4 ♦ Q5 ♣ AQ4 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

How does responder know how to value their hand? In Example 1, values in diamonds should be discounted, as should heart values in Example 2. In Example 3, a decent spade suit should be ample for 10 tricks.

Using mini-splinters the bidding would be:

- 1♣ - 1♠ All jumps shifts by opener in response to a new suit are invitational values showing a shortage in that suit, or a maxi(super) splinter. Responder now judges by the diamond fit whether to carry on to game:

- ♠ Q652 Pass - the diamond values
♥ 873 aren't pulling their full weight
♦ KQ85
♣ J3

- ♠ Q1052 4♠ - only 6 HCP but all premium
♥ J108 values plus a few valuable tens
♦ 9872
♣ K10

- 1♣ - 1♠
3♥ Invitation with a shortage in hearts.

- ♠ Q652 Pass - the heart values
♥ AQ3 aren't pulling their weight and there will
♦ 852 be far too many losers elsewhere
♣ J32

- ♠ K1052 4♠ - only 7 HCP but all premium
♥ 965 values
♦ A653
♣ 83

- 1♣ - 1♠
3♠ 18-19 balanced with four spades.

In standard, 18-19 balanced with four spades is typically a 4♠ rebid. Responder sometimes fudges the 1♠ response for tactical reasons with short clubs, or a good fit in clubs, and does not want to be in 4♠ opposite 18-19 balanced. In this style responder can pass 3♠ with, say: ♠Q10986, ♥Q542, ♦872, ♣8 or 22

♠Q1096, ♥2, ♦8743, ♣J1052

With a stronger hand, the responder makes the normal game-force splinter bid:

1♣ - 1♠

4♦: game going values, short diamonds

♠ AJ43

♥ AK2

♦ 3

♣ KQ985

1♦ - 1♠

4♣: game going values, short clubs

♠AKJ4

♥A872

♦ AK42

♣ 2

Sometimes the opener is even stronger, and this is where the maxi-splinter comes into play. If you opened 1♣, what would you rebid if responder replied 1♠:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. ♠ AK43 ♥ A8 ♦ 3 ♣ AKQ985 | 2. ♠ AJ43 ♥ AK2 ♦ --- ♣ AK6542 | 3. ♠ A5432 ♥ A5 ♦ --- ♣ AK8764 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|

These are all powerful hands but you are better to open 1♣ rather than 2♣, where you will likely be awkwardly placed later in the auction. When partner replies 1♠ to your opening 1♣ you have an enormous hand, and if you make the normal splinter of 4♦ you may miss a slam when responder signs off in 4♠. Even opposite a sub-minimum response slam may be very close.

The solution is to make the mini-splinter bid of 3♦ for the moment. If responder signs off in 3♠ then carry on to 4♠, or even cuebid, showing the maxi-splinter. If responder accepts your invite by jumping to 4♠ over 3♦ then bid 4NT on Example 1, and cuebid 5♣ (inferring a diamond void) on Examples 2 and 3.

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Having talked with others over several years, of their experiences in Canberra in January, partner and I thought it was time to put our feet in the water. The website was found to be user-friendly, enabling us to enter online, and book accommodation at Rydges Lakeside Hotel.



Bob Coker, Ian Wright, Malcolm Lavender, Ron Crick

The drive from Melbourne was fairly easy and the GPS led us directly to Rydges. Our room was of a good size, with two single beds, two chairs and a desk. We emptied the contents of the refrigerator into a drawer and replaced it with bread and lunch fillings. Our first night out was to the Ainslie Football Club, which provided a reasonable meal, and a large choice of poker machines for those so inclined. Thereafter we enjoyed dinner at many venues about London Circuit, and particularly the Thai restaurants, as they welcomed BYO wine.

Like most Swiss events, we got smashed in the early rounds of the Restricted Pairs, but wound up with five wins overall, and being in the top half of the field, we were feeling pretty good. The SWPT event was an unmitigated disaster, however, resulting in a single victory. Towards the end of each match, the noise level was like a football match, making concentration difficult. Having two team members at various times overnight in hospital, did not help. Providing cumulative Gold Points earned on the results slip and the table numbers on show would certainly benefit all.

The Celebrity Speaker program was good value, and partner and I gained much from them, as well as some new books to study. We stayed for two extra days to see the War Memorial, the National Library and the Portrait Gallery.

We do not regret having gone to Canberra, but do question the reward for our five wins in the pairs compared to the solitary teams win. We may play in the pairs again, if we consider the reward for risk makes the trip worthwhile.

*Regards,
Bob Coker and Ian Wright*

by Kim Frazer

Often in sport, we see very good athletes lose a match after an error made in the early stages of their competition. This is particularly true in the “target” sports like shooting, golf, archery and so on, but other events like cycling, swimming, athletics, gymnastics are not immune. A number of factors can contribute to this phenomenon, but the most obvious is anxiety, which affects the athlete’s ability to perform at their normal level. The athlete afflicted by anxiety at the beginning of an event, or indeed during an event, often makes a costly mistake from which recovery is impossible. They finish below their best, pondering what might have been if they hadn’t messed up their match.



I have also observed this quite often in bridge, where an otherwise competent player will completely misplay or misbid a board(s) in their tournament, particularly early in the event, turning a potential win into a loss. It is possible to recover from an early loss, but it is better if you don’t have to. Whilst there are many techniques to help athletes relax and deal with nervous tension and match anxiety, a good first step is to be ready to go at the kick-off with good match preparation, and I would like to focus on some techniques to assist with this in this article.

In sport you know what to expect at the start of the match or race, and it is possible to make practicing starts very close to the reality. Athletes spend many hours practising this aspect, to ensure a good start to competition. In training for my shooting events, practising starting matches included a pre-match warm-up and preparation before every training session and match. It is therefore surprising to me that many bridge players enter the competition “cold” in sporting terms. Many of us will have experienced starting a tournament with a complicated hand at Board 1. If you aren’t prepared, and haven’t got your mind into gear, before you know it, you’ve gone off, or failed to bid, a game or slam you could have made! It is impossible to predict the hand you will get on Board 1, but it is possible to manage all the other aspects, and to ensure you are prepared for “the kick-off”.

To play well from the outset, I feel bridge players could improve their chances by doing a warm up - both mentally and physically in the same way that professional athletes warm up before their events. It is hard

to imagine a professional athlete walking out onto the field of play without having done a warm-up. Waking up the mind and body before you start your bridge tournament can also help with the early match nerves that some players experience. If you walk in for the first round, having warmed up properly, then you are more likely to play at your desired level, than if you are mentally “cold”.

Waking up the central nervous system is quite simple really - walking, some yoga or stretching in your hotel room, a swim or similar activity, is enough to get the blood flowing, and physically wake up the body. Your brain needs oxygen to function properly, so activating your body physically will help to wake up the central nervous system. You can do more vigorous exercise if you are younger and/or fitter, but for many bridge players, a 15-20 minute walk before or after breakfast is enough to help wake up the body, and get ready for action. It is also worth considering a walk during the lunch break before the afternoon session as well.

Waking up the mind may be managed in many ways.

Experiment to find out what works best for you and your partner/teammates, but the point is to become mentally alert before the first round. Juggling is often used by athletes - both for waking up the mind and the eye-hand co-ordination. This might also be effective for bridge players but not everyone has the dexterity to manage it, so here are a few other more “bridgey” ideas on waking up your mind before your first session.

- Have a hand record(s) from a recent competition and plan your bidding and/or play on half a dozen hands.
- Play a few hands of bridge, if you can find some other willing participants, or online/against the computer if you can't. Remember this is a warm-up designed to get your mind in gear, so a few hands is enough!
- Do a few problems from a bridge book suitable for your skill level.

Finally at the tournament, it is important to have a routine before play, as this gets your mind into its “bridge” zone. Doing the same thing every time ensures we reach our “match ready” state for the first board. In shooting I had a pre-match day and match day routine, and I also had an equipment checklist to make sure I remembered everything I was supposed to pack for the competition. It wasn't much use arriving at the competition to find that you had left a critical piece of equipment at home, several hours away. Similarly for bridge, it is an important part of preparation to be ready when play starts. Get to the table on time. Have



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your system card, pen, water bottle, headache tablets, or whatever else you normally require with you. Give yourself some time to review the opponents' system. The point here is to create a consistent environment that enables you (and your partner) to perform at your best, not one where you or partner are stressed out before you even play a hand.

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| Contr. | Ld. | Made | NS+ | EW+ | NS% | EW% |
|--------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| W 4 | - | -2 | 200 | | 95 | |
| W 4 | - | -2 | 200 | | 95 | |
| W 4 | - | -1 | 100 | | 71 | |
| W 4 | - | -1 | 100 | | 71 | |

| Hand | NS | EW | Score |
|------|----|----|-------|
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 200 |
| 2 | 3 | 2 | 200 |
| 3 | 3 | 2 | 200 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 200 |

FINESSE HOLIDAYS

XMAS in JULY – TERRIGAL – Star of the Sea - July 25 -28 \$ 665 pp Twin Share
Weekend Getaway. Add a 4th night for only \$60 more



Included in this Holiday is an entertainment evening plus all of the following

- 3 nights 5* accommodation. Add 1 night \$ 60
- All Lunches & dinners
- Dinner & movie evening at Avoca Beach
- All bridge fees. Red Points
- Workshops & Lesson Material
- Welcome drinks on first evening

21 night TRANSATLANTIC CRUISE - ST PETERSBURG to NEW YORK
& 5 nights PARIS & ST PETERSBURG SEPTEMBER 2015 \$ 8890 Singles add \$ 2890



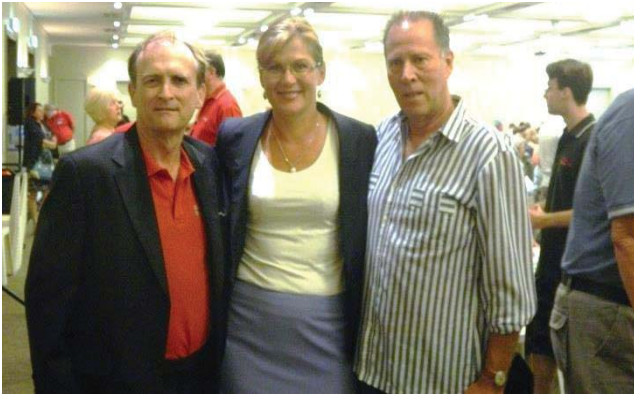
St Petersburg – New York

- * 21 night cruise - Royal Princess & 5 nights Paris & St Petersburg
- * All Breakfasts, Dinners
- * All bridge fees & Workshops
- * All group transfers
- * Numerous Tours

www.finessebridge.com.au E: director@finessebridge.com.au

P: 02 95961423

Mobile 0410 127 326



Our **Patron**, Senator Kate Lundy, officially opened the event on 15 January. Seen here with Sean Mullamphy, the Congress Organiser, and Simon Hinge from the ABF Management Committee. She mentioned that she was impressed with our use of technology as we were '*democratising our sport by making it accessible to all*'.



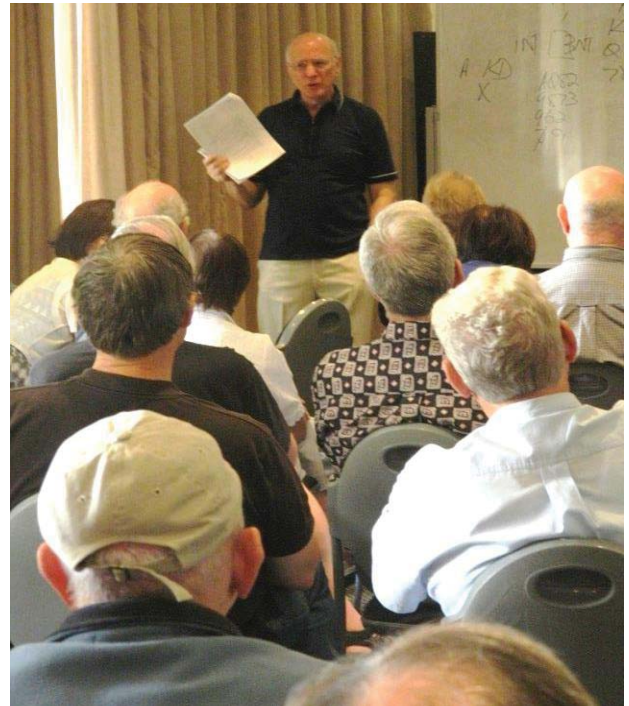
The ABF National Teaching Coordinator, Joan Butts, *kibitzing* Paul Wyer. *We never stop developing our skills and knowledge!*



Post-lunch stretching exercises conducted by Canberra's **Therapy Masters**. Designed to ensure players maintained peak condition and comfort throughout the competition.

CANBERRA Summer Festival OF BRIDGE

January 2014



One of our popular morning **celebrity speaker** sessions – with Ron Klinger



Helen Tait, Jenny Coyle, Wendy Rissler and Miriam Officer from the Maitland Bridge Club attending their first gold point event. They felt very welcome and particularly enjoyed Joan Butts' free lessons for novice players.

They also caught the action at the Prime Minister's XI vs England at Manuka Oval – but suffered from the heat as Canberra hit an unbelievable 41 degrees!

See you at the SFOB in 2015!

COFFS COAST GOLD CONGRESS 2014

Hosted by the Coffs Harbour Bridge Club in conjunction with the ABF



12-17 August 2014 - Venue Opal Cove

To register on line for this congress or book accommodation please visit:

www.coffsbridge.com.au and follow congress link.

Entries: Ian Doland ph 02 6654 1104 email: ian@australiawideconferences.com.au

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club: ph 02 6652 3951  coffsbridge@gmail.com

Programme of Events

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Tues 12 th Aug | 6pm | Welcome pairs Cocktail Party |
| | 7pm | Welcome Walk in Pairs |
| Wed 13 th Aug | 10am | Butler Swiss Pairs |
| | 2.30pm | Butler Swiss Pairs |
| Thu 14 th Aug | 10am | Butler Swiss Pairs |
| | 2.30pm | Butler Swiss Pairs |
| Fri 15 th Aug | 2.30pm | Swiss Teams |
| Sat 16 th Aug | 10am | Swiss Teams |
| | 2.30pm | Swiss Teams |
| Sun 17 th Aug | 10am | Swiss Teams |

- Now the biggest Bridge Congress in NSW
- Offering a prize pool of nearly \$16,000
- Complimentary workshop on Friday morning