

Serious international cheating allegations

What's the issue?

The laws of bridge make clear: communication between partners during bidding and play shall be only via calls and plays. The gravest possible offence is for a partnership to exchange information through any other prearranged methods of communication.

Allegations have been made that some very successful international players have been breaching this rule to tell their partners what cards they hold or what action they want partner to take.

What happens now?

We expect hearings will be held in the jurisdictions in which the alleged breaches occurred. It is important to give the accused players a fair hearing. Any findings of guilt could involve serious consequences, given the nature of the allegations. Meanwhile, some countries have withdrawn teams from the World Bridge Teams championships in Chennai starting in late September.

At this stage, it is not appropriate for the ABF to comment on the specifics of the allegations. We will be monitoring the situation as events unfold.

What's the situation in Australia?

I firmly believe that the vast majority of top Australian players are very ethical, but it would only need one or two rotten apples from here or overseas to do serious harm, so we would be foolish to assume it couldn't happen here.

The ABF will do all we can to ensure that proper procedures are in place to detect cheating, deal with allegations, and protect the vast majority of players who respect and follow the rules. It is heartening that Australians appear to have had a big part in exposing the allegations that have come to light overseas, and I hope we can draw on that passion and expertise to help protect the integrity of the game here.

This is not just an issue at the national and international level. State and Territory bridge associations and individual clubs will also need to consider what measures they should take.

The ABF Management Committee will be reviewing our procedures for national events. We will also see

whether we help other parts of the Australian bridge community, for example by providing guidance on procedures, etc. for clubs to adopt if they wish.

We will say more later as things develop.

Bruce Neill, ABF President

Thanks from the Editor

Some readers may be aware that in late August, just before the last Newsletter was due to go out, I suffered a heart attack, which necessitated open heart surgery, a double bypass and a Pacemaker. This on top of the regular dialysis I undertake made things extremely precarious. I am happy to say I am now at home in recovery mode, and getting a little stronger each day.

This would not have been possible without the love and care of Jane Rasmussen of the ABF Secretariat, who drove from Canberra, and was waiting to nurse



me back to health on the day I arrived home from hospital. The ABF Secretariat was installed in my dining room, and as Jane carried out the myriad duties involved in running the ABF from out of office, she also made sure I was comfortable, fed and medicated me and helped me recover a little bit of strength. In addition, she encouraged me to do a little bit more work each day, so there is still a Newsletter under my editorship.

Jane's act of love and selflessness has been the most poignant reminder of the love we receive from our loved ones in times of trouble.

Halfway around the world in 70 days

by Andy Braithwaite

It sounds a bit like the Jules Verne novel, but our bridge escapade to the other side of the world fell short in two regards - we did not get the full 80 days, and came back to Australia the same way we went.

Early in June our team comprising Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Ian Robinson and myself (along with partners Chris Quail and Suzie Braithwaite) left for Scandinavia to play in the European Championships in Tromsø, Norway. The return journey also included playing in the Butler Pairs in Perth and finally the Coffs Congress at Coffs Harbour - “just down the road” from our normal residences in Sydney, Canberra and Coolangatta.

Ian, Chris, Suzie and I all flew direct to Oslo in southern Norway before journeying by car through Sweden to Stockholm and flying to Copenhagen in Denmark. These two interesting cities were well worth the visit in themselves, but the subsequent trip up the west coast of Norway was simply breathtaking. We visited the beautiful Geiranger Fjord, the dangerous Pulpit Rock and the extravagant Flåm Railway. Meanwhile, Pauline and Warren spent a week in Spain and a couple of days in London, before all six of us boarded the Hurtigruten ferry for several days, sailing to our final destination, Tromsø. In summer the sun shines for 24 hours on this island city, situated some 70 degrees north of the equator, and while the temperature is purported to reach 20 degrees at this time of year it barely got to double figures during our stay.

The Open Teams started with a two day qualifying event, with five 10-board matches per day behind screens. We were not the only “down-under” players in Tromsø - the most successful player was Justin Howard, who teamed up with ex-Aussie Kieran Dyke to get all the way to the semi finals, beating highly fancied *Monaco* on the way.

Our team started very well, with four good wins and a very narrow 2 IMP loss to Justin’s team on the first day, leaving us in third place overnight. We realised we were in for a tough second day against the best in Europe and so it proved, with a heavy loss to the runaway leaders, *Dutch Orange* in the penultimate round leaving us precariously placed going into the last round. Our small band of supporters were very despondent when we came out of the playing room to find we had dropped out of the qualification spots for the first time in the whole event, but then realised there were still two boards to be scored. They were very important for us.

First, Ian Robinson picked up ♠J9, ♥K3, ♦KQJT873, ♣K6. After I had opened 1♣ and opponents had both bid hearts, he chose 5♦ as his rebid, doubled quickly by his left hand opponent. I put down ♠AK62, ♥832, ♦---, ♣A109542 and the lead was a heart to the ace and a heart continuation. He was cold for the contract when the singleton ♦9 fortuitously fell. The Norwegian

declarer at the other table had a blind spot in 3NT, so this was 12 IMPs to the Aussies.

Then on the final hand Pauline and Warren played a quiet 3♣ contract making 10 tricks when our opponents bid more optimistically to 3NT. The defence had to be very accurate:

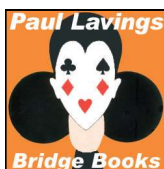
	♠ 8 7 2	
	♥ ---	
	♦ 10 8 7	
	♣ A K 10 8 5 4 3	
♠ K Q 10 9 5		♠ 6 3
♥ Q 7 5		♥ J 10 9 8
♦ A K 5 4		♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ J		♣ Q 9 2
	♠ A J 4	
	♥ A K 6 4 3 2	
	♦ Q J	
	♣ 7 6	

South opened 1♥, I bid 1♠, North bid 2♣ and Ian passed. South then bid 2♥ followed by 3♣ from North and 3NT from South. After some thought I led ♠Q, asking for low encouragement from partner. When Ian played ♠6 and South ducked, I could tell that another spade would be hopeless, so switched to ♦A.

When Ian encouraged and ♦J appeared from declarer, I continued with a low diamond, hoping Ian held either minor suit queen. Declarer won with ♦Q, but could not duck a club as he would have preferred, as now the defence had five tricks, so he played clubs from the top and ended up with only six tricks for -300.

Had I led ♦A and continued without first establishing a spade trick declarer would have made his contract by ducking a club to preserve an entry to dummy- six clubs and three top tricks in the majors. So this vital 10 IMPs to go with the previous 12 catapulted us from a 21 IMP defeat to a 1 IMP win and qualification for the knockout phase in ninth place. This Norwegian team also qualified in 16th place and went on to finish runners up so were far from an easy last round draw!

Our fairytale ride ended when we were picked to play our first knockout match against the red hot *Dutch Orange*, who had won the qualifying phase by a large margin and had defeated us by 30 IMPs in our 10 board clash. They went on to beat us by the same score over 28 boards, and then beat everyone else they played to win the whole event. Each of us had a board where we could have made a tight game but failed, either picking the wrong end position or misguessing, so we did not feel as if we had been outplayed, but to be fair they were a very professional team who made very few mistakes.



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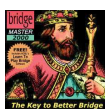
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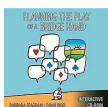
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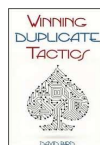
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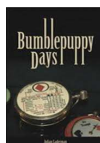
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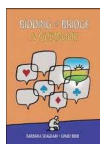
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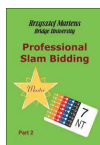
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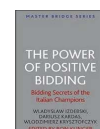
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While Pauline and Warren stayed on to do battle for five more days in the Open Pairs (where they made the final), Ian, Chris, Suzie and I were almost immediately on a plane to Svalbard, at 79° North the most northerly inhabited outpost on the planet. We were obviously disappointed not to have progressed further in the bridge, but would have also been bereft if we had not had the chance to explore this fascinating island just over 1000 km from the North Pole! Ian and Chris kayaked and climbed cliffs while Suzie and I chose a less challenging seven hour walk up the mountains - with an armed guard in case of attacks by polar bears.

The last stop was Oslo, a vibrant capital well worth a visit if you can afford it! The Opera House, Sculpture Park and Royal Palace were all stunning and the temperature was even acceptable at around 20 degrees!

We met up with Pauline and Warren again in Perth for the Butler Pairs, but now the effects of tough competition in Tromsø and jetlag kicked in and neither pair ever looked like placing in the event - in fact we both had to win our last match in the qualifying round to make the finals! We departed from Perth with our ever so slightly inflated egos in tatters!

The final stop in our bridge journey was a week later in Coffs Harbour - now very close to home. Another subpar performance in the Butler Pairs saw us both out of the top 10 at the end, and our number one seeding for the teams event looked decidedly ambitious. A 5 IMP win in the first match did little to inspire confidence, but a large win in the second match helped, largely the result of a double swing:

Board 21, North deals, NS vulnerable

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

Playing EW, Ian and I bid to a making 4♠ contract whereas our opponents decided to double Warren (South) in 3♥. Even with a 5-0 heart split this contract was hard to defeat, especially after the opening spade lead placed ♠A with East.

With ♦A and ♣A both onside, and some help from the defence, Warren was able to hold his losers to one in each suit. This was worth 15 IMPs.



Margaret Smith

MEMORIAL TEAMS 2015

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Another convincing win in Round 3 had us pitted against *Beauchamp* in Round 4. I was disappointed with my actions on Board 27 where declarer was in 4♥.

Board 27, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

Both Richard Wallis and I led ♠K, and he switched quickly to a low club, whereas I thought for a while before playing ace and another club. Against Richard, Pauline misguessed and went down quickly. At our table, dummy's ♣K won trick three, and Beauchamp played a trump, won by Ian's ace. Now when a club was played David ruffed high, drew trumps and claimed for 11 IMPs. On reflection, the best defence was to play a second spade, making declarer ruff in dummy. Now it is impossible to draw trumps and discard losers on diamonds without conceding four tricks.

With a narrow 5 IMP win we were now near the lead and took that position after a 40-0 win in round 5. Bidding slam on the next deal was worth 13 IMPs.

Board 4, West deals, all vulnerable

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

After Ian opened 1♦, I splintered 3♠ rather than the alternative 2♦ inverted chosen at the other table. After 3NT from Ian I cuebid 4♣ and when he cuebid 4♥ I could not be stopped below slam. A further win in Round 6 had us leading by 7 VPs going into the last two rounds.

A very quiet start to the bidding on the next deal in Round 7 suddenly went crazy:

Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

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

I passed as dealer and South opened 1♠. This was passed to me and I doubled. Ian chose 1NT and North now bid 2♠. I bid 2NT for takeout, showing at least 4-4 in the minors, and now Ian caught up with 5♦! At the other table the bidding ended at 1NT so this board gained us 11 IMPs with a diamond slam cold with our 23 combined points!

So we won this match and went into the last match needing just 12 VP to ensure victory. The last board felt like we had achieved a small victory at least.

Board 28, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

Ian, West opened 3♣, which was passed to South who bid 4♣. North bid 4♦ and I doubled. South corrected to 4♠ and I doubled that as well. Ian led his singleton diamond and I won and played a small diamond. Declarer discarded a small heart and Ian ruffed. Now Ian played ♣K, which was taken by the ace in dummy. Declarer played a heart and I won ♥K and played another small diamond. Declarer ruffed with ♠10 and then ruffed a heart in dummy and a club in hand. A further heart was ruffed in dummy but now when declarer played a club I ruffed with ♠J, overruffed by declarer. There was now a trump promotion for partner's ♠9, leading to two down, 500 and 7 IMPs. We won this match by 15 IMPs to give us an overall winning margin of 9 VPs.

So we had won an event at the last opportunity and could now contentedly return to our homes, Ian and Chris to their dogs and Suzie and I to the beach, Warren and Pauline to their computers in Sydney. We all had a great time and would recommend such a combined bridge and sightseeing voyage to anyone!

2015 Territory Gold

by Richard Wallis

I had the pleasure of playing in the Territory Gold in Alice Springs with Margaret Bourke this year, and she did me a big favour by learning the 2/1 system I normally play with Therese Tully, albeit with a few minor changes.



We started with the Matchpoint Pairs, played over a qualifying and semi-final on Wednesday and a final on Thursday morning. Alas, there was no carry-over and we saved our worst performance for the final, scoring 50% for ninth place. Next we teamed up with Mischa Solar - George Bilski for the Swiss Teams, consisting of eight matches played over Thursday night and Friday, where we managed a sixth place finish.

We saved our best until last, which was the Swiss Butler Pairs, contested over 11/10-board matches on Saturday and Sunday. A couple of small losses on the first day had us poised at Table 3 for the seventh match on Sunday morning against a top seed, where luckily for us our opponents had a couple of blind spots and we ended up with a good win to move to third place. A modest win against the leaders in Round 8 was not enough to displace them, but moved us up to second, and then a good win in Round 9 while they lost, got us to the top spot for the final two matches. A near maximum win in Round 10 gave us a 10.8 VP lead

for the last match, and thus only a draw was needed to ensure victory. EW had most of the cards for the last match, and it did not feel good to us at the end, but we emerged with a 1 IMP win to keep us in the lead and a very satisfying win.

Round 3, Board 25, North deals, EW vulnerable

<p> ♠ K Q 9 8 ♥ J 9 8 6 ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ 8 7 </p>			
♠ 10 3 ♥ 10 7 3 ♦ 4 3 ♣ J 10 9 6 3 2		♠ A 5 ♥ A K Q 5 ♦ A Q J 7 3 ♣ K Q	
<p> ♠ J 7 6 4 2 ♥ 4 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ A 5 4 </p>			
West	North	East	South
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

On this board from the third match, East showed 25-27 HCPs with the 3NT rebid, and West elected to pass and hope for the best, but this was not a success.

I led ♠4, and East was in trouble immediately, since there were now likely to be at least four spades and a club to lose, with no prospect of setting up the club suit in dummy.

East did not set up his best suit and hope for some confusion in the spade suit, instead leading out the top hearts before ♣K. I ducked ♣K and won the next, although ducking is the best move in case Margaret's ♣8 was a singleton, and exited with ♠J. Margaret overtook ♠J to cash her spades and ♥J before exiting with ♦10, allowing us to take seven tricks for +300 and 4 IMPs. West might have been lucky with the clubs in 3NT, but it is surely better odds to play in 5♣ rather than 3NT, and since East is declarer, this is cold unless I lead an unlikely spade!

Round 4, Board 7, South deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	2NT

North bid 2♠ as a transfer to clubs here, and the 2NT response was a super-accept showing good clubs and a maximum hand.

North now put all of her eggs in one basket by jumping to 6♣, but surely with such poor club pips, 6NT must be at least as good a chance as 6♣, and does not rely on a club break.

South could also have saved the day by opening 1♦, considering his hand too strong to open with a 15-17 1NT due to the good five-card suit, and then NS may have arrived in 6♦, which is cold without needing any finesses.

On the actual layout, the cards are well-placed for 12 tricks in 6NT, but when Margaret led ♠A and the clubs did not behave, 6♣ had no chance and finished one off for -100 and a massive 15 IMPs to us, instead of about 8 IMPs to NS in 6NT.

Round 5, Board 15, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

Lady luck was with us in a big way when North decided to open with a Multi-2♦, instead of 3♥ as did the rest of the field.

I was more intent on South's response rather than Margaret's bid, and I did not notice that she had doubled 2♦, showing a good hand.

When North passed the 2♥ response by South, I still had not noticed the original double when Margaret now bid 3♣, and therefore I passed, hoping for the best.

After the lead of ♥10 and subsequent ruff, followed by ♠A and ♠8, Margaret won ♠K, drew trumps and lost a diamond for 9 tricks and +110.



Seniors' Team, Bruce Neill, npc, Peter Buchen, Bill Haughie, Henry Christie, Ron Klinger, Terry Brown, Avi Kanetkar

by Ron Klinger

Part 1: The qualifying rounds

There were 22 teams in the Open, Women's and Seniors' divisions at the 2015 World Teams in Chennai, India, in September – October. After a round-robin of 21 16-board matches, the eight leading teams would enter the quarter-finals.

The Australian teams were:

Open: Michael Courtney – Paul Wyer, Nye Griffiths – Liam Milne, Griff Ware – Michael Wilkinson, Dave Thompson npc

Women: Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk, Candice Ginsberg – Barbara Travis, Val Biltoft – Leone Fuller, David Appleton npc; Julia Leung, coach

Seniors: Terry Brown – Avi Kanetkar, Peter Buchen – Henry Christie, Bill Haughie – Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill npc

Australia's results on Day 1: Open (7th): 28-29 loss to Egypt, 61-37 win vs Jordan and 40-38 win vs England; Women (19th): lost 14-34 to USA 2, 7-59 to Poland and 19-33 vs France; Seniors (16th) lost 33-38 to Tunisia, 36-37 to England and 20-33 to Austria.

West deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	?

What would you do as South with ♠8, ♥J854, ♦AQ10974, ♣74?

Decide on your answer before reading further. Suppose you opted for a 2♥ reply. The auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

What now?

On board 27 in the ninth match I should have opened 1♠ on my 5-2-2-4 hand, but upgraded it to a 1NT opening because of the five-card spade suit, wanting to be declarer in any notrump contract, to protect my red-suit holdings.

Margaret used Simple Stayman, and obviously raised to game, and North found himself on lead, end-played at trick one!

North led the top hearts, and with nothing better to do, continued the suit, which I ruffed to set up H9 for a discard.

Now a cross-ruff looked in order so I cashed ♠K and it looked hopeful for an overtrick when South played ♠10, but ♠Q did not fall under ♠A, so I cashed H9, discarding a diamond, and set about the cross-ruff by cashing DA and ruffing a diamond back to hand.

CA and a club ruff, followed by another diamond ruff, and when I led the next club from hand I had my 10th trick *en passant*, even if North was now void in clubs. +420 was a modest 1 IMP gain

Round 11, Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

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

This was literally the last board of the Territory Gold for 2015, and after a less than spectacular previous nine boards, I was not sure whether to balance with 1NT, or pass it out, thinking the result of this event could hang on this board.

Eventually pass won out, but we were off to a bad start when with nothing to guide her, Margaret led S2, giving declarer an easy trick. However, things picked up from there when declarer miss-picked everything and the contract went three down for +300.

Deep Finesse suggested that NS can make 3NT, but there was a lot of work to do and we were happy with our +300. The line for nine tricks is not obvious, even double-dummy, so I doubt if anyone found it.

As it turned out we picked up 4 IMPs for +300, just enough to finish up with a 1 IMP win and ensure a welcomed victory.

The auction continues:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	?

Do you want to go any further?

Round 1: Board 11 West deals, nil vulnerable

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

This was not a good auction:

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

In 6♥, win the spade lead, cross to ♦A and play a club. Whether West rises or ducks, the rest is easy.

South has only 7 HCP, but the hand has seven losers with a fit almost certain in one of the red suits. In reply to the double, South could jump to 3♥. North would then ask for aces and bid 6♥ when South shows one.

After 2♥ and North's 2♠, South should jump to 4♦ to show a strong hand. After North's jump to 4♥ over 3♦, South should bid again. South has shown no values yet and could have a hand with ♥J-x-x-x and ♥x-x-x-x. See how much better the actual hand is.



Women's, Leone Fuller, Candice Ginsberg, David Appleton npc, Sue Lusk, Margaret Bourke, Barbara Travis, Val Billoft

On BBO some Souths bid 2♠ in response to the double, effectively forcing to game because of the excellent shape. They naturally reached 6♥.

Open: 6♥ x 11; Women: 6♥ x 12 (one failing); Seniors: 6♥ x 10.

All Australian teams improved their position on Day 2: Open (5th): 26-32 loss to USA 1 (Nickell), 64-38 win vs South Africa and 65-17 win vs New Zealand (18th); Women (14th): beat China 61-10, lost 24-33 to Italy and beat South Africa 26-9; Seniors (10th) beat Norway 39-33, Ireland 43-14 and Sweden 40-20.

Round 5, Board 3, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

1. Artificial, forcing to game
2. Shows exactly two hearts
3. Sets hearts as trumps
4. 1st or 2nd round club control
5. Diamond control, minimum opening

West leads ♣4: two – ace – five. East switches to ♦5, ace. South plays ♥4: ace – two – six. What would you do now as West?

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

East's switch to a diamond at trick two is unusual. A club return would be likely unless East began with ♣A bare. South is known to have six hearts. You have to choose whether South began with six hearts – four clubs or six hearts - four diamonds.

South is known to have ♦AK. He would have finessed in diamonds without ♦K. If South is 1-6-2-4, with ♦AK, East would have returned ♦9, no diamond interest, at trick two. Therefore West should return a diamond.

In our match, the Irish West played a club at trick three and so South took ♣K, ♥K, ruffed a club, drew trumps and made 11 tricks, 650, +2 IMPs against 5♦, –600, at the other table. Note that if NS have a natural auction, starting with 1♥: 2♦, 3♦, and end in 4♥, the defence is routine.

Australia's results on Day 3: Open (6th): 42-74 loss to UAE, 18-28 loss to China and beat Japan 38-28; Women (14th): beat Egypt 57-47 and New Zealand (17th) 44-23 before losing 2-34 to England. Seniors (2nd) beat New Zealand (21st) 52-13, USA2 45-12 and China 48-2. That brought the Seniors' winning streak to six.

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	?

1. 4 spades, 0-1 club, 14-17 points

What would you do as South with ♠KQ1075, ♥97, ♦96, ♣J653?

The expectation for a 14-17 point hand with a singleton is six losers. South has eight losers. The LTC formula (24 – total losers, here 14) = the number of tricks expected. Since the answer is 10, South should bid 4♠.

The full deal:

Round 9: Board 13 North deals, EW vulnerable

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

Against 4♠, West led ♦J. South took ♦A and played ♥A, ♥K, ♥J. East discarded a diamond and so did declarer. Declarer lost to ♠A and ♣A, but had 10 tricks, +420.

At the other table NS stopped in 3♠, +170, –6 IMPs. Open: 12 pairs played in 4♠, all making; Women: 16 pairs made 4♠, two pairs were one off in 4♠; Seniors: 15 pairs made 4♠, one pair went one off. All three Australian teams bid and made 4♠.

The Australian Open Team had a horror Day 4 at the World Teams. They lost 16-38 to Guadeloupe, 4-44 to Poland and 24-50 to Argentina, thereby dropping from 6th to 14th, 22 Victory Points behind 8th.

The Women's team had three wins: 41-22 vs Brazil, 40-25 vs Chinese Taipei and 45-33 vs Guadeloupe to be 10th, but 28 VPs behind 8th.

The Seniors' team extended their winning streak to

nine matches via 30-19 vs India, 34-31 vs USA 1 and 52-13 vs Canada.

After Round 12 (of 21) the Seniors were leading, 3 VPs ahead of USA 1 and five ahead of Austria. Memory suggests that this is the first time an Australian Seniors' team has been in the lead in a world championship.

This deal from the Seniors' match against USA1 had its lighter side. Read the report and decide what was unusual.

Round 11, Board 6, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
		2♦ ¹	2♠
Db1 ²	4NT	Pass	5♥ ³
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Db1 ⁴	6NT	All Pass	

1. 5-8 HCP, weak with hearts or spades

2. Pass or correct

3. 2 Key Cards for spades, no ♠Q

4. Not a good idea

The double of 6♠ was not my finest hour. I should have passed 6♠ out. That would lead to one down on the normal ♣K lead. If North's diamonds had been headed by A-Q-J, 6NT would have made. Against 6NT, Bill Haughie led ♥J, ducked. He continued with ♥K, ace. Declarer finessed ♦Q, cashed ♦A and played a third diamond. East won and cashed five more hearts to take 6NT six down, EW +300 and +13 IMPs as Terry Brown – Avi Kanetkar, played in 4♠, +480, at the other table.

Have you spotted the unusual feature? The defence took seven tricks, all by the hand with five points. The hand with 13 points took no tricks.

Australia's results on Day 5: Open (13th): lost 31-48 to India and 26-47 to Sweden before beating France 66-17; Women (13th): lost 7-20 to Pakistan and 15-53 to Netherlands before beating USA 1 44-34. Seniors (1st): beat Brazil 60-5, Chile (64-24) and Guadeloupe 51-12. This extended the Seniors' winning streak to 12 matches. After Round 15 (of 21) the Seniors were leading on 219.53 Victory Points from USA 1 (200.12), Norway (195.07) and USA 2 (194.90).

You are in second seat with both sides vulnerable. After Pass on your right, what would you do with ♠104, ♥AK109654, ♦54, ♣K4?

Round 14, Board 29, North deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	3♥	3♠
		All Pass	

West led ♥Q, ruffed. After ♦2 to the ace and another heart ruff, South drew trumps and played ♦10: queen, king. ♦J was cashed and South lost only two clubs and a heart for +620.

East is too strong for a 3♥ opening. A 1♥ opening would be normal. If that does not appeal, then with a six-loser hand – seven playing tricks – open 4♥, following the Rule of Three.

With 3♥ showing six playing tricks, West is not keen to sacrifice in 5♥. Opposite seven playing tricks, the save in 5♥ doubled costs 500 and might encourage North to bid 5♠ (which might or might not make). If East opens 1♥, it is hard to tell where it might end.

Results: Open: 4♠ x 12, 5♠ x 2, making, 5♥ x 2 (–100 –200), 5♥ doubled x 2 (–500); Women: 4♠ x 8, failing once, 5♠ + 650 x 1, spade part-scores x 7, 4♥ x 5 (620 x 1, –100 x 4), 4♥ doubled, –200; Seniors: 4♠ x 13, failing once, doubled and +990 twice, 5♠ making x 2, 3♠ x 1, 4♥ –100 x 2, 5♥ x 3 (–100 x 1, –200 x 2), 5♥ doubled x 1 (–200).

Australia's results on Day 6: Open (12th): lost 26-27 to Brazil, beat Singapore 47-6 and lost 35-42 to USA 2; Women (13th): lost 30-55 to Denmark, 36-52 to Japan and beat India 52-36. The 12-game winning streak for the Seniors came to an end in Round 16 with a 30-36 loss to Indonesia. In Round 17 we beat Poland 36-10 and lost 14-46 to Bulgaria in Round 18. The team was then lying second, two Victory Points behind USA 1.

North deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
	?		

What would you rebid as North with ♠9, ♥10963, ♦KQJ84, ♣AK6?

For Issue 177, January 2016, copy deadline is:

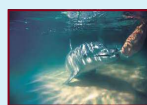
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Round 19, Board 17, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

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

1. 0-1 spades, four hearts, 14-17 points

In standard methods, most Norths would bid 2♥ and South would pass. Even if North bid 3♥, South might pass. South has only 6 HCP and a singleton in opener's suit.

North has only 13 HCP, but with six losers and a good side-suit, the 2♠ splinter is acceptable if that is part of

your methods. With eight losers and a good suit, South can then bid game.

In the Seniors, vs Indonesia, South bid 4♥ after North's 2♠ splinter. West led ♣J, ace. South played ♦K, ace. The next club was won by the king.

South discarded a club on ♦Q and played ♠9. Declarer eliminated the other spade losers for 10 tricks, +420. At the other table Terry Brown – Avi Kanetkar played 4♠ by West, two down undoubled for –100, but +8 IMPs. Results: Open: 4♥ x 12, all making, 3♥ x 1, 4♠ x 7, all failing, four doubled, 3♠ x 1, 2♦ x 1; Women: 4♥ x 8, all making, once doubled, 4♠ x 7, all failing, three doubled, 3♠ x 4, all failing, 3♥ x 1; Seniors: 4♥ x 8, six making; 4♠ doubled x 6, all –300, 4♠ undoubled x 5, all failing.

Australia's results, Day 7 at the World Teams: Open: lost 18-39 to Denmark, 41-57 to Bulgaria and beat Canada 44-28 to finish 13th; Women: beat Jordan 29-8, Canada 42-24 and Venezuela 46-26 to come 12th. When the Seniors beat Egypt 56-3 they regained the top spot, but a 26-39 loss to Pakistan dropped the team back to second. A 46-32 win against Japan in the last round was not enough to overhaul USA 1 for the top spot. Ireland were third and Poland fourth.

West deals, all vulnerable

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

What would you lead as West from ♠Q643, ♥952, ♦AJ104, ♣94?

Round 21, Board 7, West deals, all vulnerable

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

In Round 21 Australia vs Japan (Seniors), both Souths were in 3NT and both Wests led ♦10. Both Souths won and took the losing club finesse. East won, but the defence could take only three diamond tricks, no swing. Any lead other than a diamond can defeat 3NT, as long as East switches to a diamond when in with CQ. From 'Winning Notrump Leads' by David Bird and Taf Anthias in Chapter 7, page 112: 'It is rarely right to lead a suit that an opponent has bid.' That eliminates a spade and a club. 'A four-card suit headed by one or

two honours is rarely a good lead. Prefer to lead from a shorter holding in the other unbid suit.'

That suggests that West should lead a heart, preferably ♥9 to deny interest in hearts.

Results: Open: 6/20 made 3NT (five on a diamond lead, one on ♠4 lead), 5♣ x 0/2; Women: 10/17 made 3NT (nine on a diamond lead, one on ♥5 lead), 4♥ 2/2, 4♠ 0/1, 5♣ 0/1, 3♠ 1/1. Seniors: 10/17 made 3NT (seven times on a diamond lead, twice on a spade lead, once on a heart lead), 4♥ 2/2, 5♣ 0/1, 5♥ 0/1, 3♣ 1/1.

Second is the highest position any Australian team has achieved in the qualifying rounds of any of the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup or D'Orsi Seniors' World Championships. I think it is also the first time Australia has had choice for the finals stage in any of these events.

(To be continued)

Book reviews

Tips on Bidding

by Mike Lawrence (Master Point Press, Canada, 2014, soft cover, 288 pages) \$29.95 postfree from Paul Lavings Bridge Books

Tips on Competitive Bidding

by Mike Lawrence (Master Point Press, Canada, 2015, soft cover, 224 pages) \$29.95 postfree from Paul Lavings Bridge Books

Mike Lawrence wrote his first book "How to Read Your Opponents' Cards" in 1973 and it became an instant hit. Further successes followed and from 1990 -1992 Lawrence wrote six sets of five booklets which have now been revised and updated and made into three books of which *Tips on Bidding* and *Tips on Competitive Bidding* are the first two. The third book will be on play and defence.

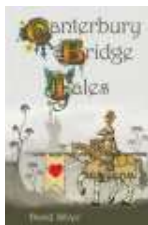
The "tips" are chapters of 20 to 40 pages each and cover their area thoroughly with all the whys and wherefores using examples and quizzes and also discusses defences to the various conventions and methods. His chapter on Drury is made even more interesting by the fact that Lawrence knew Doug Drury, the inventor, and he tells some amusing tales of Drury in his partnership with Eric Murray and their terrible third seat openings. These two hands illustrate the value of Drury:

♠ K 3 2		♠ Q 10 6 4	
♥ A Q J 7 3		♥ K 9 2	
♦ Q 6		♦ A 8 3	
♣ J 8 2		♣ Q 9 7	
West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

East has a pretty good hand and bids 2♣ Drury. The point of Drury is to allow you to stop at the two-level when opener has minimum or sub-minimum values. On this deal West has a full opening bid but it is still possible the partnership makes only seven tricks in hearts. That would be unlucky but it is important not to go past the two-level.

The Canterbury Bridge Tales by David Silver and Tim Bourke

(Master Point Press, Canada, 2015, soft cover, 128 pages) \$29.95 postfree from Paul Lavings Bridge Books



A group of players heading for the US Nationals in Canterbury, Florida put up overnight at a motel and exchange stories. Professor Silver returns in a new collection of eight short stories, in which literary parody is interwoven with Tim Bourke's brilliant bridge hands.

The last story, "The Protester's Tale" features this deal:

West deals, all vulnerable

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

West leads ♥K, taken by declarer with ♥A. Declarer cashed ♠A next, finding West started with three trumps.

After this development, declarer saw that his only chance was that West started with 3-7-2-1 shape. After cashing ♠K, declarer cashed ♦AK and ♣A, then exited with ♥J to ♥Q. (If instead declarer exits with a trump to the queen, West gets off play with a low heart, thereby leaving declarer with three minor-suit losers).

West cashed ♠Q next but then had only hearts left in his hand.

When the inevitable heart was played, declarer had to be careful: he discarded a diamond from dummy and a club from his hand. On the next heart declarer ruffed on table while throwing his remaining club from hand. This enabled him to crossruff the last four tricks, to make 4♠.

There are some witty lines:

"But he also has sixty years of experience, which is far more than the rest of us. That's an advantage and very unfair."

"No," says Mr. Gowdy, "he's had one year's experience sixty times."

*Reviews by Paul Lavings,
Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies*

So you want a new scoring method?

by Michael Courtney

I have just returned from this year's Bermuda Bowl. The playing conditions were splendid, the scoring swift and the output readily available. The one oddity (to Australian eyes at least) was the complete absence of a "Total IMPs" column and an absence during the event of the familiar "Datum" and "Modified Datum" columns we are used to seeing.

It is not hard to see why the organisers found it politic to remove these entries. They would make a mockery of the new scoring method (or vice-versa). Taking the first example to hand, in the Transnational Teams Paul Wyer and I played with John Wignall and Rose Don. We scored 0.27 IMP per board, while John and Rose scored 0.21. We were not close to qualifying. Erstwhile teammates Wilkinson - Ware scored 0.31 per board while Milne - Griffiths accrued 0.09. They qualified comfortably.

The idea of imposing a second logarithmic scale on the IMP scale is a very strange one. What makes the 15th IMP I take from you less valuable than the first? Especially in the Bermuda Bowl, which is a complete round-robin, it seems obvious to use simply IMP scoring with a cut-off (at 70) for the winners only.

Likewise, it is weird to have carryover based on earlier encounters in the event. After a complete round-robin carry-over should be based only on final scores.

Whist, like chess and backgammon used to make the proud boast "An evening to learn, a lifetime to try and master".

These attempts to modify large scores only make the game less accessible to the learning public.

Bridge has one guiding principle "Play to make or break the contract" Contract bridge has one new principle "The higher you bid, the more you earn"

All these deviations in the scoring move away from those three. On the facing page, I give the perfect scoring method to embrace all three and present a readily comprehensible game to the newcomer:



WHAT IS NEW FOR GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2016

We asked for feedback for our proposed changes and you responded. We are very pleased and think it will make Gold Coast Congress 2016 bigger and better than ever.

All changes listed in our last update will go ahead except we have decided to keep the Senior Pairs in its current format.

The changes were:

SERES MCMAHON MIXED TEAMS – two separate stand alone events

IVY DAHLER OPEN SWISS PAIRS – two fields – a North South and East West

IVY DAHLER INTERMEDIATE SWISS PAIRS – incorporated into programme alongside open and restricted

NO FRILLS WALK IN (FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT 19th FEBRUARY) – from 6.30 pm – staggered start

UNDER 50 MPS 2 SESSION – new event on Wednesday

DRESS UP DAY - "Emerald" – be it a Gem, a town, a colour, a MP ranking. The Emerald Isle or whatever you dream up! – Wednesday is dress up day.

Our saddest news is that Larry Norden has retired so *Cosmetics Plus* will no longer be a sponsor.

We wish Larry all the best and will be forever grateful for the support he gave us.

Kim Ellaway

Making:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Contract							
1♣♦♥♠NT	100	101	102	103	104	105	106
2any	-100	200	201	202	203	204	205
3any	-200	-100	400	401	402	403	404
4any	-300	-200	-100	800	801	802	803
5any	-400	-300	-200	-100	1600	1601	1602
6any	-500	-400	-300	-200	-100	3200	3201
7any	-600	-500	-400	-300	-200	-100	6400

Thus, even the novice knows they will get twice as much for bidding one level higher. Exact bidding will be repaid because the easy bookmaking of set levels for game bonuses has been removed. All the little mathematical tricks (play for 13 at IMP if you have missed small slam; bid game lightly at favourable at matchpoints; etc) will be forgotten forever. This will be exciting and understandable. This is the future of tricks and trumps.

Hans Rosendorff Women's Teams

There were only 10 teams in the event, which took place in Perth in early October.

1. *CLARK*, Alida Clark, Renee Cooper, Jane Reynolds, Viv Wood

2. *DRISCOLL*, Wendy Driscoll, Shizue Futaesaku, Kate Smith, Jill del Piccolo

3. *FRANKEL*, Deborah Frankel, Deidre Greenfeld, Joan Prince, Pauline Collett

Letters to the Editor

It's time bridge embraced handicaps

Bridge and golf are similar in that the results in both are determined by a rank ordered set of scores, bridge aiming for high scores and golf aiming for low scores.

Over a century back, it was realised that a golf competition would be fairer if players were handicapped so that all ability levels had a chance. Most golf competitions are played this way, while recognition of the best outright score is often done in conjunction.

The results in unhandicapped bridge provide little opportunity for new players and players with low to moderate ability to do anything but be near the bottom of the result list. Both matchpointed and handicap results should be produced in conjunction. The handicapped results provide both encouragement and pleasure for these players. The *May ABF Newsletter* indicates that 70% of players have less than 100 Masterpoints. For a great number of these, the accumulation of Masterpoints is both a rarity and an irrelevance. These players are there to enjoy the day, while expecting to be in the lower part of the field. They are, however, the life blood of all bridge clubs

There are many countries that use a uniform golf handicap system, and there is the possibility it will become global. Essentially it ranks all courses against one another according to their degree of difficulty; it then ranks each course internally for different playing conditions and then it uses the best eight of the last 20 scores that a player has had to determine their handicap.

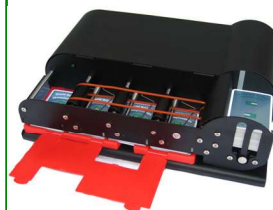
Golf handicaps are managed by a central computer system used by all clubs and handicaps are adjusted each time someone plays.

Bridge has similar criteria that could be used. The average Masterpoints of a club would provide a means of external ranking. Within each club, the various sessions can similarly be ranked by the average Masterpoints of players within the various sessions and finally the players' percentage scores can be used

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to get the player a handicap.

A centralised computer system would allow players to have their handicap recognised when they visit other clubs, as is done with golf handicaps.

At Bathurst and District Bridge Club, we started handicapping all club sessions in 2013. Since then, one night session has unfortunately closed down due to lack of attendance. However, overall player participation is up by about 30%, most of these relatively new players to the game. We introduced prizes (Aldi chocolate) for winners and an award for the best handicap score of the month (a free game voucher for these hot shots).

All levels of players are winning awards and the excitement shown by modest players when they win or do well certainly emphasises the success of handicapping.

Bob Dillon, Bathurst Bridge Club
rldillon@southernphone.com.au

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by Michael Courtney

Bob was an occasional player on the Australian duplicate scene. With his wife Audrey (nee Travis) Tony Ong and Dick Cummings, he won the Surfers Teams and, with his son John added, was second in the Grand National Teams. With Paul Lavings he twice won the NSW Open Pairs and once made the NSW Open Team.

At rubber bridge, however, Bob's deeds were legendary. He began with high stake matches, first against Gupta, then against Marovsky. For many years he played with Mel Watson, Olec Minc and me in a fixed foursome.



Here Bob's taste for very high stakes was serviced by a large sidebet with Olec.

Bob and Olec had many dramatic deals, but this was perhaps the finest:

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

West	North	East	South
Mel Watson	Unal Durmus	Bob Dalley	Olec Minc
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♥	Dbl	All Pass

West led ♠J. East knew that he could not overruff clubs so he rightly overtook and shifted to a trump. South won the trump and played a low club. West won the ace and played ♠10. Again, Minc played low from dummy and this time East could not overtake. Watson tried ♦10. Once more Minc refused to try dummy's king and once more Dalley overtook to play a trump, North winning as West discarded a club.

South ruffed a diamond; then cashed ♣K and ruffed a club. He ruffed a spade then ruffed a club high in dummy, leading to:

♠ ---	♠ K	♠ A
♥ ---	♣ ---	♥ 6
♦ Q 10		♦ A
♣ J		♣ ---
	♠ ---	
	♥ Q	
	♦ ---	
	♣ 9 6	

The true Sydney Squeeze revisited (or *Seres* or *Backwash*).

Minc has withheld dummy's doomed kings to great effect. He has reached the classic three-card ending to escape for one down in 4♥ doubled. East faces the usual dilemma: unguard a side suit and that suit will be played from dummy; underruff and the South hand is high.

Anytime someone threatening to overruff holds considerable side suit wealth, remember the high ruff in front of him may be the only answer. What to call these plays still seems to be an issue. It is a method of retaining trump control. Is it a squeeze. Seres, Sydney or Backwash?

The player, the place or the patent medicine?

Bob's first hobby was golf, at which he enjoyed great success. He first worked as a carpenter in New Zealand. He moved to Sydney with a contract to build wharves and went on to become a successful property developer.

Joan Butts was here again!

The door is open at Maitland Bridge Club (MBC) in the Hunter Region of NSW.

It is 9.30am on Tuesday, 14 July and Joan Butts is holding two sessions for experienced players today. Hot drinks and a wonderful vase of "Heart of Gold" roses beckons players inside and out of the cold.

There are MBC members chatting happily ... and who are these other people? We are delighted to welcome members from seven other clubs in our region - Cessnock, Dora Creek, Hawks Nest, Muswellbrook, Nelson Bay, Port Stephens and Tilligerry – a first for us to have so many visitors!

The first session is *Safety Plays*. Safety plays arise in a variety of situations, so the key to finding them when we are declarer is to ask what could possibly go wrong? Can the contract be defeated if the defenders' cards are distributed badly? Yes, it can with help from Joan.

The afternoon session *Introduction to Two Over One Game Force* was very exciting. What a revelation!



We could immediately see the benefits *Two Over One* will bring to our game and can't wait to learn more and practise.

Surprisingly, a number of our newer members, who were taught to play bridge 'the Joan Butts way' by our trainers within the last two years attended. They were able to keep up, and really enjoyed the day.

MBC trainers Jenny Coyle and Wendy Rissler will arrange some follow up lessons for our members – and of course any visitors who attended would be most welcome to take part. Definitely more instruction and practice is needed!

When Joan flew into Williamstown on Monday she staggered along with lots of handouts, paperwork and books. Her luggage is now much lighter as all the books she brought along on "*Two Over One*" were sold and we have orders for more.

Our share of the 2014 ABF Marketing grant financed Joan's first visit to our club last year. The benefits to our members were huge and we have used some of the remaining money from our grant to partly fund her visit this time.

A wonderful added, and unforeseen bonus, is the fact that members from other clubs attended today - and are able to benefit from the grant MBC received. We are making plans to strengthen closer ties with other bridge clubs and players in the Hunter Region.

We are very proud of our club house and every time I go into it I remember the fund raising antics we went through to get us where we are today. The BBQ's at Bunnings; the movie nights; the phone book delivery runs that were most successful due to fit golfing members, accurate maps and drivers and runners giving their all. We still have a debt. However, the more members we attract and keep, the quicker that debt is being paid off. What was going to take 25 years is now down to seven years.

Thank you ABF Marketing – as we can continue to encourage more people to enjoy playing bridge!

Miriam Officer
Maitland Bridge Club

Aussie youth stars plunder NZ Teams



Michael Whibley, Paul Gosney, Trevor Nunn, Matthew Brown, Peter Hollands and Laura Ginnan

by Laura Ginnan

The New Zealand Nationals is one of my favorite events on the bridge calendar. It is well organised, there is a game to be played at all hours, and most importantly, there is a great social atmosphere.

I was lucky to score some pretty amazing teammates who were wonderful to be around, had great team mentality, knew how to have some fun and weren't too bad at the game either.

I played the event with Paul Gosney. When Pete and I got married, Paul had said that we should all have a game together some time. After all the chaos and festivities inherent at the celebration I'm really glad I remembered this!

NZ 2015 seemed like the perfect time to make it happen, and Paul was in. The rest just seemed to fall into place. Trev hadn't arranged anything and Whibs and Matty B were rumored to be looking for teammates. There we had it, the team: Pete Hollands and Tony Nunn, Michael Whibley and Matt Brown with Paul Gosney and me.

The qualifying gave us enough time to nut out a few problems, and we qualified in first place (this would prove to be very important). From my understanding this was the first year that NZ have used the finals format that they did. The round of 16 was divided into four groups of four with the top two teams from each group moving through to the round of eight. Our pool was affectionately the Australian Pool, with Peake, Ellaway, Rew and ourselves.

After getting through the 48-board round of 16 in the daytime, the quarter finals are played the same night! This means 72 boards in the day behind screens. Our team was pretty nervous about the 24-board quarter final, because anything at all could happen over such a short match. We drew KER, but were lucky enough for

our carryforward from the qualifying to get us through. In the semifinals I played against a forcing pass pair for the first time ever! On the night before, we had defence discussions going around and around in circles, until it was decided that Paul was the man for the job, and he would write a defence up. When you play a FP pair, you are allowed a one page written defence to refer to at any time. Paul is a maths teacher, and came in the next morning with a piece of paper written out like a uni maths student's cheat sheet. After transcribing it into something legible, we were off!

I was quite nervous, and we had a few 'out there' auctions. One of the great things from the match was the sway of momentum. After the first of four sets we came out ahead 53-13. *DOLBEL* then hit back, winning the second stanza 41-6. One of the things I liked about playing forcing pass was how to use the information about point counts.

Often one defender would be defined as 8-11, balanced. This meant that if you became declarer, you could count down the points and make decisions based on what they could still have to be in that range. For instance, if that opponent had already shown up with 10 points they couldn't hold an outstanding queen.

In the end, we actually lost our semifinal by 2 IMPs, but again, our carryforward from the qualifying was there to save us and get us through to the final where we were to meet *REW*.

The final started that night - again another day with 72 boards behind screens. Our team was doing OK because as a six-person team, one pair was able to have matches off. Our opponents, on the other hand, were a team of four, and this was day 7/8 of non stop bridge.

The match was again very pleasant. Before the final, Brad Coles, the Convener of the Australian Youth Championships when I first attended as a 10-year old, mentioned that all those years ago, who would have expected we would be here playing against each other! I hadn't met Kathy Boardman or Pam Livingston before we played them in the round of 16, but they were very pleasant opponents, with a great attitude towards the game (and an enjoyment of the mini-NT).

There were some exciting boards in the final and we were probably able to sleep a bit easier than our opponents going into the last four sets, with a lead of about 55, including our carryforward. Luckily we didn't need our carryforward to win the final (although it would have made for a great story).

After the match we enjoyed a drink at the bar with our opponents and then it was time to head to the Salvos store up the road because three of us didn't bring any-

thing to wear to the Victory Dinner (note the picture of us taken at this event)..

Winning the NZ Teams was pretty exciting, because no one on our team had ever won it before and because it was the first international event that I (and I assume some of my teammates) had ever attended.

Special thanks to Gabby Feiler for delivering our speech.

The Editor: One of the great things about a major congress in New Zealand for Australians is that the time zone difference (NZ is two hours ahead of Australia) makes BBO watching ideal. I was settled in for the last few boards of the last stanza in the Final, when it looked likely that *GINNAN* would defeat *REW*.

I liked these two deals, the first for its efficiency, and the second for its sheer audacity but efficiency.

Match 5, Board 11, South deals, nil vulnerable

```

♠ 4
♥ 10 9 4 3 2
♦ Q J 5 4 3
♣ A 5

♠ A 6 2
♥ K 7
♦ A 2
♣ Q J 9 8 6 4

♠ K J 10 7
♥ J 8 5
♦ K 10 9 7 6
♣ 2

♠ Q 9 8 5 3
♥ A Q 6
♦ 8
♣ K 10 7 3

```

West	North	East	South
Ginnan	Livingston	Gosney	Boardman
1NT ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT ⁴	Pass	5♣ ⁴	All Pass

1. 15-17
2. Transfer
3. Natural
4. Key Card

Laura's thoughts on this deal:

Gos is a serious soul when he bids 3♣. We had even had a discussion about these exact auctions earlier in the week, where I hadn't taken his introduction of a new suit seriously enough. When he bid 3♣, I built a picture of his hand. How would he bid with ♠KQxxx, ♥Ax, ♦xx, ♣Kxxx, or a perfect hand with ♠KQxxx, ♥x, ♦xx, ♣Axxxx?

I had to choose between raising clubs or supporting spades. If I was less slam excited, I would have raised clubs, but I decided I would confirm a fit in spades and then try to play in clubs. I knew that Key Card in spades was crucial, because knowing about ♠K,Q was

important. (In clubs, we have a 10-11 card fit after all). After Gos bid 4♠ I was a little sad, but I decided my hand was still amazing! At this stage I figured Gos was probably going to have 2 Key Cards (after the sign off) and we would stop in 5♠, but I did want to be there for the magical day when he had 3 Key Cards (and play 6♠ because of my vulnerable ♥Kx). I also knew that if he only had one Key Card he would respond 5♣.

When he admitted to only one, I was disappointed and had to make a decision. I elected to pass because of our huge fit. Maybe I should have been less keen, passing 4♠ (it wouldn't have worked on this hand) but I fell in love with my hand!

At the other table, EW reached the pedestrian 4♠, only to be defeated by the bad spade break.

Match 5, Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Ginnan	Livingston	Gosney	Boardman
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbl
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Gosney's imaginative third in hand opening reaped a fine reward when NS were totally fixed. On a spade lead, 3NT by South would not make, and if North had essayed notrumps, pinpointing the spade situation, East would not have led a spade.

While it is true that neither North nor South can find the all-important ninth trick in notrumps on a passive lead, at the other table, West led low from his best suit, diamonds, and South eventually emerged with an overtrick for +630 and 11 IMPs.

The play in 2♠ doubled was not without interest. Boardman led ♣A, then switched to her spade, ducked to declarer's ♠J. Declarer played a heart to Boardman's ♥J, ducked in dummy. Boardman continued ♣K. Declarer ruffed, played a heart to the ace, and ruffed a third club. Now if he had gone all out, cashing ♦A,K and ruffing a heart, as North followed impotently, he would have been in a position to make eight tricks, as he would be in dummy to ruff a fourth club *en passant*

with his singleton ♠K, thereby scoring five trump tricks (one in dummy), ♥A and ♦A,K.

As it was, declarer played safely to make seven tricks, not attempting the heart ruff in dummy, which would be correct if South held four hearts.

The moral of the story: lead a trump (if you have one) when you have doubled the opponents through sheer power of numbers. On ♠10 lead (ducked), declarer needs to play on crossruff lines to make many tricks, and now North can get in with ♣Q to play ♠A, ♠Q.

Commiserations to our worthy final opponents, Kathy Boardman, Pam Livingston, Brad Coles and Fraser Rew in what was an enjoyable match.

Letter from New Zealand

Ed: The following letter was sent to the ABF by a longtime competitor on the New Zealand bridge scene. We applaud the sentiments voiced in the letter, and are very proud of Gabby.



Hi there,
As you will be well aware, we have just completed our National Congress.

In the current climate of scandals in the wider bridge world, I feel compelled to offset some of the negativity and write to your federation about one of your young players - Gabby Feiler.

My husband, Ian, and I played against Gabby and his partner in the final event, the Swiss Pairs, late on Friday night.

We have both been playing bridge for almost 40 years and I have to say Gabby is one of the most polite, courteous and pleasant young men we've ever encountered. We had not met him before, and he constantly referred to us by name throughout the match, which is quite unusual these days.

Also, my husband, who is normally a very good player, had some uncharacteristic 'tired' moments during the match and Gabby's tact throughout was extremely impressive.

I did pass on my compliments to Gabby personally at the dinner last night, but I thought it would be nice to also send this feedback to your Federation.

Kind regards, Cynthia Clayton

by Kim Frazer

Maintaining Focus, Part 2

In an earlier article on maintaining focus (May, 2014), I discussed some tactics that could be undertaken to cope with distractions that occur during bridge events.

These distractions could be external - noisy players, director calls, noisy room, etc; or internal to you such as when you have made an error and your mind cannot let that go.

In a later article on Visualisation (January, 2015), I described how mental rehearsal assists athletes in performing their routines.

When I was shooting, I mentally rehearsed every shot I made in practise and competition before firing the shot. The process became automatic, and only took a few seconds each time.

My mental program started after I loaded the rifle. I would run through in my mind the perfect shot sequence that I wanted to perform, then execute it (no pun intended!). At the end of the mental program I would think the word "Ten" and picture the sight centred on the target.

This cue word was the instruction to my mind to focus. After running my mental program and saying the cue word, I was at what is called the *point of initiation*, after which my mind was now focussed on firing the shot and not on anything else. Athletes in all types of sport use this type of process before executing their performance.

How might this type of mental program apply at the bridge table? How do we ensure we maintain focus during a hand? Or if we lose it, how do we regain focus?

I mentioned earlier the use of a cue word in my mental program for shooting. This cue word was a signal to my mind to focus and pay attention to the task at hand. I believe the same tactic could apply in bridge. Here is how I think it could work.

There are two parts to every hand.

- Part one is the bidding.
- Part two is the play, either as declarer or defender.

Between Part one and Part two there is a small break in concentration while you write the contract down on your scoresheet/enter it in the electronic scorer.

Before commencing Part one, you could use a cue word to get your mind on the job at the *point of initiation*. I



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suggest in bridge this is the point just before you take the cards out of the traveller.

The cue word could be anything that works for you, but it should be an action word. Something like *Attention*, *Focus*, *Count* or some other word to get your mind to wake up to the fact you are about to initiate the bidding sequence. The "*word*" is a signal to your mind to pay attention and stop worrying about distractions around the room, the last hand, etc. Say it every time you are about to pick up your cards to play a hand, and take a deep breath. It also helps if there is a routine to this part of the hand.

For example: *Check I am picking up my seat's cards*, *Count Cards*, *Check who's Dealer*, *Check Vulnerability*, *Sort Cards*; *Count points*; etc. (note this is not an exhaustive list, but it is a basic routine to get your mind on track). Just like an athlete rehearses the jump they are about to make, and I rehearsed the shot I was about to fire, the routine and focussing process will have the most impact if you run it mentally through your mind before saying the cue word and picking up the cards.

When the auction is finished, there is a short break in concentration while some housekeeping happens like entering the contract, notes on record sheets, and so on.

Before commencing Part 2, the play of the hand, you want to refocus. Use the same word to help get your mind back on track for this part of the game. I suggest avoiding a word like "*lead*" - it might make you lead out of turn!

It is a well known fact that the mind has a limited attention span before it needs a "*mental break*". Given matches are usually one to two hours in duration, planning mental breaks and using cue words to refocus your attention can ensure you maintain an appropriate level of focus during your whole competition and avoid those costly lapses in concentration that might occur without a mental management plan.

Bridge into the 21st Century

BART



Now that 2/1 Game Force is becoming more popular it is a good idea to employ conventions that work well with the method.

BART fits nicely with the forcing or semi-forcing 1NT response to one of a major and is simple and easy. The convention was invented by US player Les Bart in the 1970s when he observed that after 1♠:1NT, 2♣-2♠ the partnership could well miss a 5-3 heart fit since 1♠:1NT, 2♣-2♥ should be a six-card suit. His solution was to use 2♦ over 2♣ as a forcing enquiry to show a five-card heart suit as here:

	♠ A J 7 3 2		♠ 6 4
	♥ K 8 7		♥ A J 5 4 2
	♦ 7 6		♦ 5 4 2
	♣ A J 3		♣ Q 9 2
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♥ ³	All Pass		

1. Forcing for one round or semi-forcing
2. Could be three as per the forcing 1NT response
3. Over *BART* opener bids a three-card heart suit

East would normally return to 2♠ over 2♣ but by using *BART* the partnership is able to find the 5-3 heart fit when West bids 2♥ to show three hearts.

After *BART* 2♦ opener continues:

1♠ - 1NT	
2♣ - 2♦:	
2♥	3 hearts and most likely 5-3-2-3
2♠	less than 3 hearts and a minimum
2NT	Natural with extra values (16-17 HCP)
3♣	5 spades and 5 clubs, minimum
3♥	good hand (14-17) with 3 hearts, probably 5-3-1-4 shape

In the July 2000 edition of *US Bridge World* Marshall Schwartz added to the convention in an article entitled "*Extended Bart*". The author suggested that the 2♦ *Bart* enquiry also include a number 10-11 HCP hands and also be used after a 1♥ opening as well as a 1♠ opening:

1♠ - 1NT	
2♣ - 2♦	<i>BART</i> - either 5 hearts or some maximum hand
2♥	6+ hearts 6-9 HCP, with a maximum (10-11) bid 3♥
2♠	3 spades, 4-6 HCP or doubleton spade, 6-7 HCP
2NT	10-11 HCP natural

3♣	courtesy raise with 8-10 and 5+ clubs
3♦	6+ diamonds minimum, with a maximum bid 2♦, then 3♦
3♥	6+ hearts, 10-11 HCP
3♠	3 spades, 10-11 HCP with good trumps
3NT	6 clubs, 10-11 HCP

And after the opener's 2♥ to show three hearts responder continues:

1♠ - 1NT	
2♣ - 2♦	
2♥ - 2♠	8-10 HCP with doubleton spade support
2NT	10-11 HCP natural, likely 1-4-5-3 shape
3♣	10-11 HCP with 5 clubs
3♦	10-11 HCP with 6+ diamonds
3♥	9-11 HCP invitation with 5 hearts
3♠	10-11 with weak trumps

Observe that with *BART* responder can differentiate between 6-7, 8-10 and 10-11 HCP with a doubleton spade:

1♠ - 1NT	
2♣ - 2♠	3 spades 4-6 HCP or doubleton spade, 6-7 HCP

1♠ - 1NT	
2♣ - 2♦	
2♥ - 2♠	doubleton spade, 8-10 HCP

1♠ - 1NT	
2♣ - 2NT	singleton or doubleton spade, 10-11 HCP

On every deal a partnership must have at least either two seven-card fits or one eight-card fit. Using *BART* the partnership can jockey around to find one of their seven-card fits. On this deal the trick was to avoid the 3-3 club fit and find the 4-3 major fit:

	♠ A 9 7 3 2		♠ 5
	♥ A 6 3		♥ K J 9 2
	♦ 7 6		♦ Q J 5 4 2
	♣ A J 2		♣ Q 9 7
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♥ ³	All Pass		

Some partnerships play that opener's 2♣ rebid is 2+ and not 3+ with 5-3-3-2 or 3-5-3-2 shapes, so that now 1♠:1NT, 2♦ is always at least a four-card suit. With this method *BART* comes into its own.

Paul Lavings
Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies

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Worst played hand of the year candidate?

by Johnno Newman

East deals, NS vulnerable

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

Playing a Sunday congress, I landed in 3♣ by East. Most players would simply claim after a few tricks, but I found a more imaginative approach. South led ♦10 as payback for my ace-underlead a few boards earlier. I played low in dummy and dropped ♦8 from hand. He switched to a spade and I won dummy's ace



At this stage (having presuming ♦A was offside), I considered risks, and realised that entries to dummy were limited and complicated, so now was a good time to take the safety play in trumps, protecting against ♣QJ63 in the North hand. I thus led a low trump to ♣8, South winning the jack.

South played a second spade, I tried the ten, North covered and I went to ruff.

My thoughts were: "Maybe I can set up a spade to discard my diamond, so I should ruff with ♣10 to create a fast entry to dummy's ♣9". Reaching for ♣10 to ruff, I threw *the ace* on the table.

Realising my contract was now potentially in jeopardy, I figured "Now I need trumps 2-2, so I'll play ♣K to drop the queen", and thinking that, threw ♣5 on the table. South's eyebrows cocked up, and he faltered in his chair, before playing ♣6. I put on dummy's ♣7, *winning the trick(!)*. A club back to the king dropped South's queen, and his partner sat bolt upright. I'd overcome the ridiculous hurdle that should never have existed.

I then went back to my original plan – set up hearts, starting with ♥K (to retain the lead if the ace is ducked). Having decided this, I played ♥5:

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

North, who counts the hands, found a nice duck of dummy's ♥9. This left me in dummy, an entry short to establish my hearts. I'd now jeopardised the contract again, and had to fall back on ♠K dropping, so I ruffed a spade to hand and the king dropped. I now ran ♥K to North, who was endplayed, holding only red cards.

The final surprise came when South won ♦A, but thankfully by then dummy was high. "+110, 1 IMP out".

Spring Nationals under way

Latest results as we go to press:

Spring National Open Teams

1. NUNN, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Michael Ware, Tom Jacob, Nick Jacob
2. HORWITZ, Helen Horwitz, Peter Gill, David Beauchamp, Justin Howard, Peter Hollands

Dick Cummings Open Pairs

1. Avi Kanetkar – Ron Klinger
2. Adam Edgtton – Maxim Henbest

Two Men & A Truck Restricted Teams

CLIFT, Malcolm Clift, Kathy Clift, Sallie Quarles, Fran Campbell

Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs

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Spring National Novice Pairs

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World Bridge Games, Poland, 2016

The World Bridge Federation has announced some changes of format for the 2016 World Bridge Games. These Games are held every four years. The next Games will be in Wroclaw, Poland in September, 2016.

The first change is that the number of team categories will increase from three (Open, Women's and Seniors), with the addition of a fourth (Mixed Teams) category. Unlike usual Australian practice, every partnership in a mixed team must be mixed. Every WBF member country is able to send one representative team per category.

The second change is that there will no longer be a Transnational Teams event after the qualifying rounds of the four series of Teams. Instead there will be National Pairs Events in each of the above four categories. Unlimited numbers of pairs from each country can enter each pairs category.

The ABF does not have an established selection procedure for mixed teams. For 2016, we will invite mixed pairs to express interest in forming an Australian representative team. The closing date will be 31 March 2016. Players qualified for the 2016 Open, Women's or Senior teams will be ineligible.

The pairs expressing interest will be ranked based on a formula to be determined, but expected to be wholly or largely based on 2015 PQPs. The highest-ranked three pairs will be invited to form a team. The ABF will offer a subsidy of AU\$1,000 per player plus payment of entry fees.

Format for 2016 Australian Playoffs

Should the new format to select Australia's representative teams be adopted for the playoffs to select the 2016 teams?

Following player feedback on a proposal from the Tournament Committee, the ABF will change the format for the playoffs to select Australia's representative teams.

The new format will be used to select Australia's teams for the 2017 World Bridge Championships (the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Trophy). These playoffs will be held in November / December 2016.

The format – which will apply to the women's and seniors' playoffs as well as the open playoffs – is based on:

- 128-board knockout matches, each played over two days;
- teams ranked by PQPs for determining knockout brackets and tie breaking; and
- a maximum entry of eight teams.

Further details will be provided later. In particular player input will be invited on the specific ranking formula.

Player feedback strongly supported adopting this new format for the playoffs to be held in February / March 2016 to select Australia's teams for the World Bridge Games in 2016.

In the past the ABF has avoided making changes to formats once we have entered the period in which PQPs can be won, so as not to disadvantage potential playoff entrants.

Before adopting the new format for the February and March 2016 playoffs, the ABF is notifying all players with at least one PQP. The final decision will be taken as soon as possible after the end of the GNOT, which is the last 2015 PQP event.

If you believe you would be significantly disadvantaged by this proposed change or have any other comment, please contact the Tournament Committee (emails to playoffsdiscussion@abf.com.au) as soon as possible.

**ABF Management Committee,
16 October 2015.**

Australian Youth Bulletin online

The September - October edition of the Youth Bulletin is available online, and contains a wealth of material for players of all levels, not just our youth players.

Edited by Andy Hung - Lauren Travis, the address is www.abfevents.com.au/youth/bulletins/SepOct15.



Bridge for Brains Challenge

Clubs are urged to add this worthy event to their 2016 calendar: scheduled for the first week of May next year.





12-24 JANUARY 2016 CANBERRA

Summer Festival of Bridge



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For further information check out the website: <http://www.summerfestivalofbridge.com>

Event Inquiries: Sean Mullamphy not@abf.com.au

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2016 Program

Tuesday 12 January	Warm-up Pairs	1 session at 7.30pm. Cash prizes. The entry fee of \$22 per pair collected at the table.
Wednesday 13 January	Penline One-Day Swiss Pairs	6-round Swiss Butler Pairs. \$110 per pair. 10am start.
Wednesday - Friday 13-15 January	National Women's Teams Championship	9 x 20-Board qualifying sessions. Entry Fee \$600 per team. Session start 10.00am, each day. Finishes 7.00pm Friday. Trophies are awarded for the best Veteran & Country teams. Semi-Finals (4 teams) on Saturday 10.00am. Finals (2 teams) Sunday 9.00am. Finishes 6.30pm Sunday. Semi-final & Final - Entry fee is \$120 per team per day.
Wednesday - Friday 13-15 January	National Seniors' Teams Championship	9 x 20-Board qualifying sessions. Entry Fee \$600 per team. Sessions start 10.00am each day. Finishes 7.00pm Friday. All players must have been born before 1/1/1958. Trophies are awarded for the best Mixed, Veteran & Country teams. Semi-Finals (4 teams) on Saturday 10.00am. Finals (2 teams) Sunday 9.00am. Finishes 6.30pm Sunday. Semi-final & Final - Entry fee is \$120 per team per day.
Wednesday - Friday 13-15 January	National Red Plum Life Masters Teams Championship	9 x 20-Board sessions - Entry Fee \$600 per team. Sessions start 10.00am each day. Finishes 7.00pm Friday. Each player must not have achieved the rank of Grand Master as at 30/9/2015.
Wednesday - Friday 13-15 January	National Non-Life Masters Teams Championship	8 x 20-Board sessions - Entry Fee \$540 per team. Sessions start 10.00am each day. Finishes 4.00pm Friday. Each player must not have achieved the rank of Life Master as at 30/9/2015.
Wednesday - Friday 13-15 January	150 Novice Teams Championship	8 x 20-Board sessions - Entry fee \$540 per team. Sessions start 10.00am each day. Finishes 4.00pm Friday. Categories 0-99 & 0-149. All players in a team must have fewer than 100 and 150 MPs respectively at 30/9/2015. Grand Slam Members must have a rating under 58%. Matches may pair teams from different categories. Start 10am Thursday. Matchpoint Swiss pairs. Entry fee \$220 per pair.
Thursday - Friday 14-15 January	Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs	Each player must have 20MPs or less as at 30/9/2015. Start 10am. Sessions dependent on entries. Entry fee \$100 per pair.
Wednesday 13 January	0-20 Super Novice Pairs	Each player must have 50MPs or less as at 30/9/2015. Start 10am. Sessions dependent on entries. Entry fee \$100 per pair.
Wednesday 13 January	20-50 Rising Stars Pairs	Each player must have 50MPs or less as at 30/9/2015. Start 10am Thursday. Sessions dependent on entries. Entry fee \$260 per team. Finishes 4.00pm Friday.
Thursday - Friday 14-15 January	0-20 Super Novice Teams	Each player must have 50MPs or less as at 30/9/2015. Start 10am Thursday. Sessions dependent on entries. Entry fee \$260 per team. Finishes 4.00pm Friday.
Thursday - Friday 14-15 January	20-50 Rising Stars Teams	11 x 9 board matches. Session times both days 10.00am and 2.30pm. Entry Fee \$220 per pair. Category Winners: Seniors, Women, Men, Mixed, Youth, Country. Finishes 5.00pm Sunday.
Saturday - Sunday 16-17 January	TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs Championship	11 x 9 board matches. Session times both days 10.00am and 2.30pm. Entry Fee \$220 per pair. All players must have fewer than 500MPs at 30/9/2015. Finishes 5.00pm Sunday.
Saturday - Sunday 16-17 January	Penline 500 Swiss Pairs Championship (for players under 500 MPs)	Finals for the top 4 teams from National Women's Teams & National Seniors' Teams. Semi-Finals (4 teams) - Starts Saturday 10.00am. Final (2 teams) Starts Sunday 9.00am. Entry Fee \$120 per team per day. Finishes 6.30pm Sunday.
Saturday - Sunday 16-17 January	National Women's Teams & National Seniors' Teams Finals	12 x 20-Board matches. - Entry Fee \$870 per team. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10.00am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm, Thursday 9.30am, 1.00pm, 4.00pm (no evening sessions). Finish 6.30pm Thursday. The leading 8 teams at the end of play on Thursday qualify for the National Open Teams event starting at 10.00am on Friday. Trophies are awarded for the best Women's, Mixed, Senior, Veteran, Country, Youth and Novice teams that do not qualify for the NOT.
Monday - Thursday 18-21 January	South-West Pacific Teams Championship	Entry Fee \$120 per team per stage. Eight teams will have qualified for the NOT starting Friday morning 10.00am Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Meeting for Captains to exercise choice after correction/appeal period expiry - approximately 7.30pm on Thursday 21 January.
Friday - Sunday 22-24 January	National Open Teams Championship	10 x 10-board Matches - Entry Fee \$360 per team. At least one member of each gender must play in each match of this event. Finishes 4.00pm Saturday.
Friday - Saturday 22-23 January	Australian Mixed Teams Championship	10 x 10-board Matches - Entry Fee \$180 per pair. Session times Saturday 10.00am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm, Sunday 10am, 1.30pm. Finishes 4.00pm Saturday.
Friday - Saturday 22-23 January	National Flighted Swiss Pairs	One day teams event - 6 x 8-board matches. Starts 10.0am, finishes 5.00pm Sunday. Entry fee \$180 per team.
Sunday 24 January	Festival Teams Championship	