

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



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

No. 193 October 2018

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STARS OF THE FUTURE



THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUTH

From the IPBA Bulletin, July 2018.

You are playing in a Swiss Teams in Turkey, and hold this hand:

♠ Q 8 5
♥ A
♦ J 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 7 5 4

The bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

What do you lead?

The killing lead was found by Tuana Altun, an 8-year-old girl playing with her brother, Toygar Tuncay Altun.

Tuana led a club. When she regained the lead with the ♥A, she led another club. Her brother ruffed the second club to put the contract one down.

This was the full deal:

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

That represented an 11 IMP gain for her team.

When her dad asked Tuana about her lead and continuation of a club, Tuana replied: "I knew from the bidding that the opponents held a lot of clubs. I thought my partner was likely to ruff the first trick. He didn't ruff the first trick, but I was sure he was going to ruff the second round, so I played another club without hesitation."

Good luck to the team contesting the Youth Test Match against New Zealand on 5th and 6th October:

Matt Smith - Andrew Spooner
John McMahon - Nico Ranson

9-year-olds, Alexis Wilsmore and Jade Wilkinson, from Canberra, who represented the ACT at the Hobart ANC. Just think how many Youth Teams they can play in before they turn 25!

Many of our young players have parents (and/or grandparents) who play bridge. The exceptions are those who come to bridge in other ways. It is notable that in North-West Tasmania some successful efforts have been made to introduce bridge into local schools. (See page 4.) It will be especially rewarding when Tasmania can field a Youth Team for the Interstate Teams at the ANC.

Alexis Wilsmore and Jade Wilkinson played for the ACT this year, both aged 9. Typically, both have bridge-playing parents.

Bianca and Leigh Gold are the ABF Youth Coordinators, and their son Taydon, also aged 9, played in the VCC, leading to some excellent publicity for the game.



Taydon Gold, whose parents Leigh and Bianca Gold are the ABF Youth Coordinators, is also 9 years old. He played in the VCC in Melbourne in June, and featured in an article in The Age: <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/young-taydon-proves-bridge-can-span-the-ages-20180610-p4zkns.html>

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Editor: Barbara Travis
Advertising Enquiries: editor@abf.com.au
Letters to the Editor and feedback: editor@abf.com.au



Dallas Cooper (ANC Convenor), Allison Stralow, and Alan Blow (Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania) who welcomed us to a function at Government House in Hobart

DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER 2018:
ADVERTISING: 20TH NOVEMBER 2018
ARTICLES: 24TH NOVEMBER 2018

One of the objectives of the ABF is to sponsor, promote and organise bridge tournaments including international championships and championships for players of different grades. I am delighted to announce that the ABF Management Committee has agreed to host the 2020 Asia Pacific Bridge Congress in Perth, Western Australia. Hosting this event will raise our profile in Asia and will give Australian players of all levels an opportunity to play in an international event. This event is not restricted to the teams that will represent their countries but open to all Australian bridge players. Please save the dates 15-22 April 2020. I look forward to seeing many of you in my home city.

The ANC was held in Hobart at the Tattersalls Park Function Centre. The highlight for a lot of players was attending the Welcome Function at Government House. Congratulations to Dallas Cooper, the TBA and the ANC Organising Committee for an excellent, well-run ANC. The idea of a Cocktail Party instead of a Victory Dinner was well received and it was a good opportunity for me to speak to a lot of players.

I am pleased to introduce you to Mark Guthrie and Jane Reynolds who have been appointed to new ABF Positions.

Mark is the ABF National Technology Officer who will oversee the design, development and implementation of a national technology strategy for 2019-2021. With over twenty years in IT management and consulting, Mark has worked with both small and large companies, and brings real world experience of designing and implementing strategies across all aspects of IT delivery.



He is also a keen bridge player, and a member of the North Shore Bridge Club in Sydney. Mark would be pleased to hear thoughts and suggestions on any aspect of the delivery of Technology for bridge in Australia:

Email: nto@abf.com.au
 Phone or SMS: 0423861767

Jane is the Assistant Tournament Organiser for the 2019 Summer Festival of Bridge. Jane brings a lot of experience to this role. For the past 7 years, she has been the BAWA Tournament Organiser for the ABF licensed event, Western Seniors Pairs. She gained a good understanding of the running of large events when she worked in 5 star hotels in London. Jane will work closely with the SFOB Tournament Organiser, Roy Nixon, to ensure the continued success of the tournament.

I am looking forward to playing in my first Spring Nationals in Sydney in October.

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

*Allison Stralow
 ABF President*

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Dear Editor,

Earlier this year I needed to replace my aging vehicle. Having determined the vehicle I wished to buy, I contacted Chris Lee, the managing director of Red Plum Automotive (07 3252 8865), a supporter of bridge with the ABF.

Not only did he source the best price for my new vehicle, he also organised to find a buyer for my 10-year-old car. For this, all I needed to do was provide about six pictures of the car.

Eventually he found a dealership which quoted a price almost 10% less than what I had been quoted, along with a dealership in Queensland which would take my old car.

When it came to the hand over, this occurred at my local agency, who provided a high level of service and were happy for me to leave my old car with them.

Based on my experience, I can strongly advise bridge players to support Red Plum, just as they support the ABF.

David Hoffman, Canberra

Dear Editor,

The review of "Demystifying Defence" has a reference to the Rule of 11.

Zia Mahmood, in "Ask Zia" (1996), says the rule is a "piece of magic that can turn a beginner into an expert". He also says that declarer can also use the Rule of 11.

Malcolm Aldons, Canberra Bridge Club

Dear Editor,

I always enjoy reading the ABF Newsletter as I owe it a special debt. It cannot have been easy for David and Sue Lusk to have printed a letter from an unknown Englishman commenting on the disappointing performance of the Australian and New Zealand teams in 2005, but at least I included the UK in the criticism (see issue March 2006, page 8, available in the archives).

It is interesting to consider the possible consequences for Australian bridge. The success of the threat of an "irregular" pre-emptive bid in the Cornell-Kanetkar match in the National Open Teams Final (April 2018 issue, page 9) is straight out of Terence Reese's 1962 work "Modern bidding and the Acol System", page 74, and in line with the sentiments expressed there. It is encouraging to see young bridge players like Matthew Brown and Michael Whibley using strategies/tactics that are similar to those suggested in my letter above and in my follow-up article "How to play against experts" (September 2007 issue, page 5).

Michael Akeroyd, UK



19th century walnut bridge table, Government House, Tasmania

Dear Editor,

A while back, an ABF Newsletter indicated that 70% of bridge players have fewer than 100 master points. For a great number of these, the accumulation of master points 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. However, a good handicap system can provide these people with a result that both encourages and rewards them. They are the life blood of all Bridge Clubs.

I think that if we asked people why they play bridge, camaraderie would rate highly by most people; love and challenge of the game next; good for the brain next and master points after that. What about fun, where would it rate? Wouldn't it be great if people came to bridge to have some fun? In bridge clubs, we frequently lament the lack of young (under 60?) people who play.

A question that should be asked by the hierarchy, whether it be National, State or Club, is "What does belonging to an affiliated club, as opposed to a non-affiliated club, do for these people?" In a non-affiliated club, the only thing they would miss are master points but there would be the financial benefit of not paying to belong to official bodies, for which they get next to nothing. In a letter some time back, I suggested that bridge should embrace handicapping.

Bridge, like golf, gets its results in a rank order of scores. Golf, with more than a century of successfully handicapping events, has fairly recently moved to a national handicapping system. It assesses players within a club against their own course, and then compares courses for difficulty with one another. Using these criteria, a national handicap is formed.

Bridge could make similar calculations by comparing players within their club and the clubs' relative strength based on master points, and a national handicap could be attained.

In an ABF Newsletter there was an item on the GNOT that dealt with the number of players and subsidies. Out of about 37,500 bridge players in Australia, in past years 64 teams participated. This year, 56 teams will participate.

Less than 1% of all registered players in Australia will qualify, and most of the rest will never qualify for this event. It begs the question "Is the GNOT a subsidised bridge playing holiday for elite players?"

I don't have anything against elite players competing with each other, as this is what sport is ultimately about. But bridge has the opportunity to do something for the rest of registered players - which brings me back to handicaps.

The GNOT could be run in both scratch and handicap divisions. This way, everyone has a chance to get a subsidised bridge playing holiday. Golf holds events like this.

Bob Dillon, Bathurst and District BC

The ABF Management Committee replies:

The GNOT has one of the largest starting fields in the world, open to all players in clubs across Australia. 60 teams, representing a broad cross-section from city and country clubs, will play the final in Tweed Heads in November this year.

Belonging to an affiliated club provides many benefits which were outlined in the ABF Newsletter, January 2017 (page 19), accessible in the Archives on the ABF website.

INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO PLAY BRIDGE IN TASMANIA

The Burnie Bridge Club (BBC) has initiated a project aimed at encouraging youth in the North West region to learn to play bridge. One of its new members, Cedric Parker, arrived here with his wife Felicity from Durban, South Africa in September last year and was looking for a way to contribute something to the community whilst Felicity fulfils a 3-year contract she has to work as an anaesthetist at the North West Regional Hospital.

The couple are enthusiastic bridge players and are burdened by the fact that very few younger people are taking up the game. So Cedric approached the BBC committee and asked for support in trying to establish bridge groups in local high schools. The President, Graham Brown, and his team were very positive and they provided Cedric with a kit of materials he could use to get started.

Cedric also contacted Hugh Grosvenor at the Tasmanian Bridge Association, and he agreed that the TBA would sponsor a computer and BridgeMates if BBC were able to establish bridge clubs at high schools in Burnie. He pointed out that Tasmania had not been able to field a Youth Team at the Australian National Bridge Championships for nearly 20 years, and he was keen to get more young people involved in the game.

One of the first people Cedric contacted was Catherine Woodberry at Marist Regional College, and she sounded out the student body and found a small group of young men who were interested in learning to play bridge.

The project got under way in March this year. Initially the students gave up their lunch break (30 minutes) to learn the basics. However, they started supplementing this with a one-hour session after school on Mondays as their appetite for the game increased. Cedric works with Sue Martin and Pam Lush from BBC in the Marist library each week, and the team are very encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the students.

"I arrived in the library to supervise a session after school this Monday and was delighted to find that the boys had arrived early - had brought their own pack of cards and made up some bidding sheets - and they were thoroughly enjoying playing the game," said Cedric. He is hoping to encourage other high schools in the area to set up similar sessions - and eventually stage inter-school bridge contests.

"Our sister club in Devonport has also started teaching bridge at a local high school there, and they are also keen to see the project gather momentum," said Cedric. Carol Whish-Wilson and Liz Sward are heading up the teaching team from the club there.

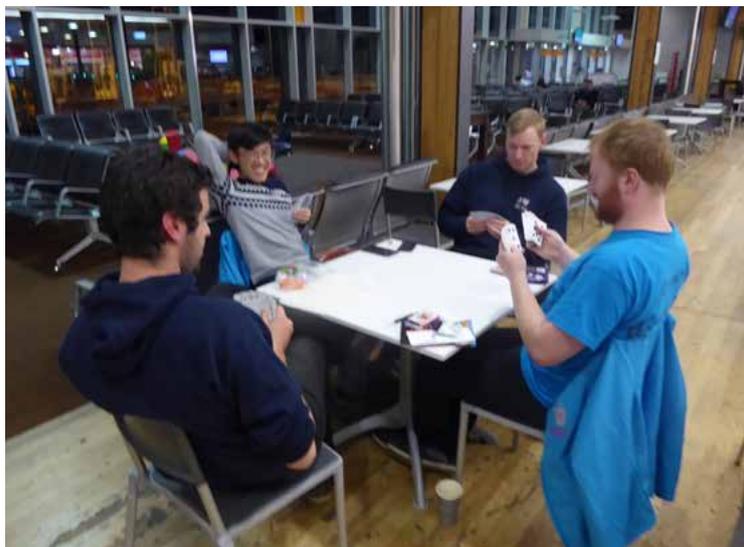
The photograph below shows (L to R) Aiden Dixon, Archer Garcia, Ethen Goulter and Taze Jackson enjoying the game.



OVER 90 AND STILL GOING STRONG

The Bairnsdale Bridge Club recently held an afternoon tea to celebrate Mal Robertson's 90th birthday. Mal's long time bridge partner, who was unable to be present, sent a lovely tribute that was read to all present. A special birthday card was signed by members of the local clubs wishing Mal a very happy birthday. Mal and her husband Geoff, who is 91, play several times each week.

Bairnsdale Bridge Club will be holding its 16th Annual Bridge Congress on the 20th and 21st October. For more details check out the website: www.bridgewebs.com/bairnsdale.



*What do youth bridge players do when waiting at an airport?
Play bridge, of course!*

*L to R: Nico, Edmond, John and Crispy
from the NSW Youth Team, at Hobart Airport.*



ABF MARKETING PLAN 2018-20

On appointment to the position of ABF Head of Marketing in October 2017, my first project was to analyse the state of the market both internationally and in Australia, examine competitive trends, the changes in consumer behaviour and the number of ABF registered players and tournament attendances. This is covered in my report "The Future of Bridge - The Need for Change" which I presented to the ABF Councillors, the Tournament Organisers, to the NSWBA and the VBA committees and to other people in the Australian bridge scene.

The second step was to build the ABF brand with tournament players including a Marketing stand at the Canberra, Gold Coast, ANOT, VCC and the ANC Congresses to demonstrate the services and benefits that the ABF provides to members and clubs.

This has given me the opportunity to meet many of Australia's leading players, teachers, directors, tournament organisers, club officials and ABF members and to hear their views on the strengths and weaknesses of bridge in Australia.

Next was to get an updated view from earlier market research in 2011 about the views of our competition members on a number of aspects of bridge. It was sent to 1,600 congress players and to we got a terrific response from over 500 members. This is included as the ABF Marketing Survey 2018 plus the raw comments and suggestions from 288 respondents.

I had the opportunity on the Gold Coast to make a two hour personal presentation to the President of the World Bridge, Gianarrigo Rona, of the above reports. He was surprised to come to Australia to find so many facts and research on Bridge.

All these discussions and research has been to provide an informed background for the ABF Marketing Plan 2018-2020. A major part of this work is to show that we need to take action to prevent our great game suffering the declines of other participant sports such as golf, tennis, rugby, cricket and bowls. The high attrition rate of our members who are now on average aged over 70 and increasing each year is a definite threat to our future.

The ABF council has been highly supportive both with input and addressing the need in the future for an advertising and media budget to maintain and grow our sport.

The ABF Marketing website has been redesigned and has all the above reports and lots of new material including great press coverage that we have received this year on television, newspapers and radio.

Finally, I welcome any input, suggestions and contributions from all bridge players. The future success of bridge can only be achieved with the support of our state bodies, 350 clubs and 36,000 members.

Peter J. Cox, Head of Marketing

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MAJOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hobart, 28 July – 9 August 2018

INTERSTATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN TEAMS

1st	NSW: Bob Sebesfi (NPC) Julian Foster - David Weston Nye Griffiths - John Newman Peter Buchen - Matthew Thomson <i>defeated</i>	146.0
2nd	ACT: David Lilley (PC) - George Kozakos Margaret Bourke - Brad Coles David Appleton - Peter Reynolds	132.65

WOMEN'S TEAMS

1st	WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Allison Stralow (NPC) Jane Reynolds - Viv Wood Leone Fuller - Marnie Leybourne Wendy Driscoll - Suzie Futaesaku <i>defeated</i>	121.16
2nd	NSW: Marcia Scudder (NPC) Sophie Ashton - Susan Humphries Heather Cusworth - Frances Lyons Lorna Ichilcik - Lynn Kalmin	113

SENIORS' TEAMS

1st	NSW: John McIlrath (NPC) David Beauchamp - Michael Hughes Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer Peter Gill - Elliott Kaplan <i>defeated</i>	166.14
2nd	ACT: Roy Nixon (NPC) Arjuna DeLivera - Sean Mullamphy Richard Brightling - David Hoffman Pam & Ross Crichton	98

YOUTH TEAMS

1st	NSW: Charles McMahon (NPC) John McMahon - Nico Ranson H. Edmond Lee - Crispy Rhodes Tomer Libman - Matt Smith <i>defeated</i>	139.31
2nd	SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Lauren Travis (PC) - David Gue George Bartley - Jarvis Dunsford Ben Curtis - Jamie Simpson	120

BUTLER PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN BUTLER

1st	Ron Cooper - Joe Haffer	240.75
2nd	Matthew McManus - Michael Ware	240.73
3rd	Tony Nunn - Matthew Vadas	239.91

WOMEN'S BUTLER

1st	Leone Fuller - Marnie Leybourne	113.48
2nd	Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty	112.72
3rd	Cathryn Herden - Judy Mott	105.28

SENIORS' BUTLER

1st	Doug Newlands - Arthur Robbins	111.52
2nd	Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer	109.06
3rd	Avi Kanetkar - R Limaye	108.70

RESTRICTED BUTLER

1st	Chris Depasquale - Jinsong Zhu
2nd	Rez Karim - Geza Sulykos
3rd	Kimberley Zhao - Clyde England

INTERSTATE PAIRS

SENIORS

1st Jane & Robert Tyson

OPEN

5th John Yang - Michael Gurfinkel

WOMEN'S

7th Cynthia Belonogoff - Deana Wilson

YOUTH

9th Zachary Neulinger - Andrew Spooner

CONGRESS EVENTS

KINGBOROUGH BC WELCOME SWISS PAIRS – OPEN

1st	Nico Ranson - John McMahon
2nd	Paul Brayshaw - Chris Mulley

KINGBOROUGH BC WELCOME SWISS PAIRS – RESTRICTED

1st	Judy Keating - Garry Hills
2nd	Tim Legge - Neville Cook

DEVONPORT BC MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1st	Darryl Smith - Guray Sunamak
2nd	Dave Munro - Chris Ingham

EASTERN SHORE BC FLIGHTED PAIRS – OPEN

1st	Felicity Smyth - Bob Cox
2nd	Jim Wallis - Bill Nash

EASTERN SHORE BC FLIGHTED PAIRS – RESTRICTED

1st	Anna Egan - Annie Bartlett
2nd	Michael Bratt - Richard Hughes

THALIA ECLECTIC PAIRS

1st	Bal Krishan - Phil Timmins
2nd	Merryl Darby - Lene Jansson

PENLINE TEAMS – OPEN

1st	SAMUEL: Eva Samuel - Peter Hollands, Andrew Hegedus - Justin Mill
2nd	FRAZER: Kim Frazer - Jamie Ebery, Michael Courtney - Sue Ingham

PENLINE TEAMS – RESTRICTED

1st	CHAN: Winny Chan - Aijun Yang, Lyn Tracey - Mick Fawcett
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LAUNCESTON BC ANC SWISS PAIRS

1st	Michael Courtney - Sue Ingham
2nd	Stephen Burgess - Simon Andrew
3rd	Kim Frazer - Jamie Ebery

SWAN RIVER OPEN SWISS PAIRS

Perth, 25 - 26 August 2018

1st	Peter Gill - Nabil Edgtton
2nd	David Matthews - Nick Cantatore
3rd	Vicky & Ian Lisle

AUSTRALIAN RESULTS AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
and RESULTS OF THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONALS
(both currently being played)
WILL APPEAR IN THE DECEMBER EDITION.

COFFS COAST GOLD CONGRESS

Coffs Harbour, 14 - 19 August 2018

INTERMEDIATE / RESTRICTED BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Chris Depasquale - Dimitri Hnaris
- 2nd Kathy Palmer - Meg Sharp
- 3rd Melissa Weber - Herold Rienstra

Top Pair both under 300 MPs: Nico Ranson - Crispy Rhodes

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Nye Griffiths - John Newman
- 2nd Martin Bloom - Tony Nunn
- 3rd Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

Top Pair both under 1000 MPs: Liz Sylvester - Yumin Li

INTERMEDIATE / RESTRICTED SWISS TEAMS

- 1st CORBETT: Rowan Corbett - Rob Hurst
Liz Shonk - Anita Delorenzo
- 2nd COCKBILL: Penny Cockbill - Gillian Richmond
Chris Duggan - Faye Carnovale

Top Team all under 300 MPs:

VOVERIS: Elizabeth Voveris - Johanna Thomas
Robyn Stanhope - Lydia Hockings

OPEN SWISS TEAMS

- 1st SEBESFI: Bob Sebesfi - Richard Douglas
Roy Nixon - David Weston
- 2nd SUNDERASAN: Nye Griffiths - John Newman
Liam Milne - James Coutts

Top Team all under 1000 MPs:

McAULIFFE: Mick McAuliffe - Colin Clifford
Helen Crisp - Carolyn Roxburgh

TERRITORY GOLD BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Darwin, 29 August - 2 September 2018

MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1st Chris Depasquale - Michael Courtney
- 2nd Andrew Hegedus - Justin Mill
- 3rd Martin Bloom - Tony Nunn

PLATE A Kathy & Phil Power

PLATE B Pepe Schwegler - Louise Taylor-Smith

SWISS TEAMS

- 1st LEACH: Christopher Leach - Peter Hollands
Andrew Hegedus - Justin Mill
- 2nd PERRIN: Murray Perrin - Neville Francis
Richard Ward - Lynette Vincent
- 3rd DEMARCO: Therese Demarco - Pam Morgan-King -
Attilio De Luca - Susan Emerson

SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Shane Harrison - Andrew Peake
- 2nd Murray Perrin - Neville Francis
- 3rd Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill

HGR MEMORIAL CONGRESS

Perth, 15 - 16 September 2018

HGR WOMEN'S SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Noelene Law - Julia Hoffman
- 2nd Pauline Collett - Joan Prince
- 3rd Viv Wood - Ann Paton

HGR RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Marion Bogre - Kate Nadebaum
- 2nd Joanne Payne - Catherine Gabites
- 3rd Donna Crossan-Peacock - Tom Peacock

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This year the ANC was held at the Tattersalls Function Centre, north of Hobart. The venue was excellent for access and parking. There was plenty of space, especially for scoring and free time. There were some issues with the afternoon/setting sun for the players - unexpected due to the great weather.

The function at Government House was much appreciated by those who attended.

I found the Cocktail Party prize-giving to be somewhat chaotic. The speeches were short and pithy, but the presentation was a shambles, although well-intentioned. Also, the provision of unlimited free drinks was open to abuse. It would be better if similar functions occur in the future to limit free drinks - perhaps by issuing two 'drink tickets' per person.

INTERSTATE TEAMS

The ABF's new format of the Interstate Teams was not successful. Firstly, the introduction of the Repechage between 2nd and 3rd placed qualifiers was universally unpopular. Because of the Repechage, the event was 'shortened', and therefore matches were shortened. There were now only seven teams (fewer than in past years), but there was, effectively, a Semi-Final, despite the smaller field.

Secondly, starting the Teams event on the Sunday afternoon was a poorly-considered change. Those teams who had the Bye on Day 1 now had only one match that day, leaving one pair unplayed on the first day. This also meant that participants travelled to a 5-6 day event, but may have had only 3 days of play, which is unacceptable.

INTERSTATE PAIRS

Despite being a good idea, the Interstate Pairs format didn't work. Primarily, the event lacked entries. Because of this, all categories were lumped together, with some categories being really poorly represented (e.g. the Youth had 4 pairs playing, with 3 being from South Australia).

The 'old' Interstate Pairs was a two-day (match point pairs) event on the weekend, after the completion of the Teams. In recent times, the Open Butler Stage 1 has been held over the weekend instead. While the Open Butler Stage 1 continues to be held over the weekend, there is little point in trying to have a 'top-level' Pairs event crammed into the program.

SCORING

The scoring was not of the standard we expect in Australia.

THE INTERSTATE TEAMS

The Interstate Teams comprises four separate events: Open, Seniors', Women's and Youth Teams, with each State plus the ACT allowed to provide one team for each category.

STRAIGHT TO THE POOL ROOM INTERSTATE YOUTH TEAMS

by Lauren Travis

The Interstate Youth Teams at the Hobart ANC was my last-ever tournament as a youth, and one of the best. It had been three long years between ANC appearances for me. SA won the last one I played, in Perth, despite my partner's hospitalisation with appendicitis on day 2. Before heading to Hobart, I proposed that my partner this year have his appendix removed as a precaution, which he refused to do. Luckily, we fared well this year - everyone returned to SA with all their body parts.

I still remember the first time I played with my partner, David Gue. It was years ago. Early in the session, I bid 6NT and at trick 2, led a low card from my hand towards four small in dummy to rectify the count for a squeeze. The look on his face was classic! Thankfully, he had more faith in my declarer play in Hobart, including in this 3NT against Victoria:

Dealer East	♠ A Q J 10 4		
EW Vul	♥ 4		
	♦ Q 10 4		
	♣ K 7 4 2		
	♠ K 9 8	♠ 7 6 5 3	
	♥ K 9 8 5	♥ A J 7	
	♦ K J 8 6 2	♦ A 3	
	♣ 8	♣ A Q J 3	
		♠ 2	
		♥ Q 10 6 3 2	
		♦ 9 7 5	
		♣ 10 9 6 5	
West	North	East	South
<i>D Gue</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>L Travis</i>	<i>D Flicker</i>
2♣	2♠	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
		3NT	All Pass



Interstate Youth Teams finalists (L to R):

George Bartley (SA), Charles McMahon (NPC, NSW), David Gue (SA), Matt Smith (NSW), Crispy Rhodes (NSW), Lauren Travis (SA), Jamie Simpson (SA), Jarvis Dunsford (SA), Ben Curtis (SA), Edmond Lee (NSW), Nico Ranson (rear, NSW), John McMahon (NSW) [absent: Tomer Libman, NSW]

South led the ♠2 to North's ♠10. Looking at dummy, North felt pessimistic about his chances of defeating the contract but decided to set up his spade tricks by continuing with the ♠Q. South discarded a discouraging ♦7, giving me some insight into the diamond suit, and I won in dummy then led a heart to the ♥J and ♥Q (in the safe hand). South returned a heart to dummy's ♥8, with North feeling the pressure and pitching ♣2. I finessed the club then cashed the ♥A, North discarding the ♠4. Now I took stock of the hand. North started with 5 spades and 1 heart, and I was pretty sure he had the ♦Q. He had discarded one club and followed to one, then refused to part with one. This suggested he only had ♣K-x left. The remaining cards had to be:

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

I cashed the ♦A to unblock the suit, then exited a spade to North. He could take his spade tricks, but then had to give me a finesse in a minor suit, providing my ninth trick.

I recovered from playing too quickly on this hand in the final to perform another end-play:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>J McMahon</i>	<i>D Gue</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>L Travis</i>
1♦	1NT	4♥	
All Pass			

McMahon led the ♣5 against 4♥, which should be easy to play since I can place every missing point with Ranson due to his 1NT overcall. A better line than mine would be to win the club in hand and play a diamond, planning to shorten my hearts and trump coup Ranson. However, I won the ♣K in dummy, cashed the ♥K, crossed to the ♣J and cashed the ♥A. I had guaranteed myself 2 heart losers to go with the diamond, so I couldn't afford to lose a trick to the ♠K, which I knew was off-side.

I cashed the ♣A to remove Ranson's potential exit card, then played a diamond to the ♦10 and his ♦Q. He led the ♦A, which I ruffed in hand, then I exited the ♥8 to his ♥10. There was no answer to this – he cashed the ♥Q but then had to lead ♦K, establishing dummy's diamonds, or a spade into dummy's ♠A-Q. It was a good thing I made – in the other room, Matt

Smith never bid his hearts as South, instead scoring up +500 against 2♠ X!

The young SA Youth Team put up an excellent fight, but at the end of the 60-board final, NSW were victors, scoring 139.31 IMPs to our 120. Congratulations to the 'Boys in Blue', who played in the right spirit and made it a highly enjoyable match. Watch out next year though – with this experience under their belts, SA look forward to going one better. As it is, I'm sure our (mostly) young team's silver medals will be going straight to the pool room.

THE INTERSTATE OPEN TEAMS 'DECIDER'

With two boards remaining, the teams were neck-and-neck, with ACT having a very small lead over NSW. This board landed on the table:

<p>Dealer North ♠ A Q 6 5 4 NS Vul ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ 5 ♣ K 9 7</p> <p>♠ void ♥ Q 10 8 3 ♦ Q J 8 7 6 4 3 ♣ 8 4</p> <p>♠ K J 10 7 3 2 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ A K 2 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 ♥ 9 4 ♦ 10 9 ♣ A Q J 10 6 5 2</p>
---	--

Those watching saw Julian Foster, North for NSW, make 6♠ after East had pre-empted with 3♣ and West bid diamonds. East led the ♦10, and North read the hand perfectly. He drew trumps, cashed the other high diamond, discarding a heart from hand, and ruffed a diamond. Now when the ♥A and ♥K didn't bring down the ♥Q, Foster crossed to dummy with a trump and led the ♣3. When West could only produce the ♣8, he covered with the ♣9 and end-played East. With only clubs left, East's ♣A made the ♣K into a winner for a heart discard.

When it was the ACT's turn to bid and play the North-South cards, Peter Buchen (East for NSW) remained quiet throughout. Apparently he had been told never to pre-empt with a 7-2-2-2. The ACT North-South also reached 6♠, but without the advantage of the East-West bidding at the other table. East led the ♥9, North won and drew trumps, ending in dummy. He now tried leading a club to the ♣K and East's ♣A. At this point, East has to lead a diamond to break up a red-suit squeeze on West (cutting the communications to dummy for the squeeze). However, he continued with the ♥4. If declarer had won the ♥K, ruffed a club in dummy, returned to his hand with a trump and ruffed another club, and then led trumps, West would have had problems discarding. Unfortunately for the ACT, when the ♥Q did not fall, declarer, thinking he was under time pressure, conceded one down. 17 IMPs to NSW, which was more than their winning margin.



View at the venue

THE RESTRICTED BUTLER PAIRS

by Chris Depasquale

You are on lead in the West seat with this hand against 6NT after the following bidding with NS vulnerable against not vulnerable:

♠ K 4 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ J 8 2
♣ 9 8 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	2♦ (weak)	2NT (invite)
Pass	4NT (Ace ask)	Pass	5♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Bridge is a difficult game, but the most difficult part of the game is the opening lead. It is the only card played where only one quarter of the layout has been seen. The task here fell to my partner, a larger than life Runyon-esque character known as "Jimmy the Zoo".

The leading final scores in the Restricted Butler held at the ANC in Hobart were:

Pair	IMPs	VPs
J Zhu - C Depasquale	125	124
R Karim - G Sulykos	93	114.19
K Zhao - C England	69	113.38
B Bradshaw - P Dieperink	68	112.54
W Chan - A Yang	51	106.97

The winning margin looks solid enough, but the 6NT contract was the final board in the final round on table 1 and a huge amount swung on the lead. Had the contract made, by my calculation we would have had 115.94 VPs while our direct opponents, Chan - Yang would climb to 115.57; a wafer-thin margin.

You can mount a case for a spade lead. Partner might have the ♠Q and an outside Ace, or even the ♠A. The "safe" lead for those who like to shore up their position in the post-mortem before trick 1 is a diamond, but what if declarer has ♦A-Q-10-x and dummy is void? Not only will you have given a free finesse at trick 1 which declarer could not engineer but partner will be obliged to rise King (in case you led from Q-x-x). Then 8(+) rounds of the 'round' suits will bring enormous pressure on West's pointy suit holdings in the endgame. As long as partner can be relied upon to have the 6-7 HCP suggested by the bidding then a passive lead will usually be best. That was certainly the reasoning Jimmy the Zoo applied. (I had to wait until the 108th board to learn that he trusted my bidding!). He led a club and this was the full layout:

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

I tend to switch off when people tell me the suit quality doesn't warrant my 2♦ bid. If I can tell my partner something about my shape and HCP range in one bid I will do it, because sometimes it will help partner cope with a difficult opening lead problem.

PLAYING THE PERCENTAGES

On board 11 of the first round, in fourth seat, I picked up

♠ A 9 3
♥ void
♦ K Q 10 8 4
♣ A Q 9 4 3

RHO opened 1♠ ahead of me; I overcalled 2♦, 2♣ on my left, 3♦ from Jimmy and 3♠ on my right. When assessing the trick value of my hand as declarer, I always add one trick for the opening lead and one trick for the endgame. Players in both the Open and Restricted Butlers know that the chance of an extra trick from a 3-3 break is 35% and from a finesse is 50%. But it is only those who have spent their entire bridge playing career in Darwin and Restricted events who know that the chances of generating an extra trick from any pseudo-squeeze is 95%! So, I seemed to have plenty to spare for my 5♦ bid, but a double and a two trick penalty ensued when partner put down

♠ J 2
♥ J 10 9 8 6 5 2
♦ J 7 3
♣ 7

TOO MANY GADGETS

I was surprised at how many pairs were playing complicated bidding systems in this level of competition; I am sure it cost them more than they gained from it. Our bidding system was very simple; apart from transferring to majors after NT openings, the only gadget we used was inverted minors. So, holding

♠ K 3 2
♥ K Q 5 2
♦ A 8 4
♣ Q 5 3

I opened 1♦ in second seat, saw 1♠ bid on my left and 3♦ from Jimmy - passed to me. I counted my hand, added Jimmy's 6 HCP, added a trick for the opening lead and one more for the endgame, but still came up short of game, bit my lip and passed. It turns out we were playing one gadget too many for Jimmy to remember, and he put down

♠ 9 8
♥ 8 3
♦ K J 7 6 5
♣ A K J 2

LHO had ♦Q-x-x and both 3NT and 5♦ were cold.

In the same match I picked up:

♠ 7 4
♥ 9 7 5
♦ 2
♣ A K J 10 7 5 4

and opened 3♣ as dealer. Jimmy responded 3♦ (natural and forcing) and, in the absence of a 4-card major, I bid 3NT, which Jimmy raised to 6NT. The ♠2 lead came as no surprise, but the dummy certainly did!

♠ A K J 8
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ A K Q J 8 6
 ♣ 8

♠ 7 4
 ♥ 9 7 5
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A K J 10 7 5 4

It is not completely hopeless, which it would have been on a heart lead! I won a top spade and ran six diamonds (which broke 3-3) but the only club discards were both on my right, which was discouraging. On a brighter note, each defender shed a small spade. I came off dummy with a club and sure enough RHO showed out, pitching hearts on both my top clubs. I led my remaining spade towards dummy and, when the ♠10 appeared on my left, I still thought I might squeak home. But the ♠Q gobbled up dummy's Jack and I got the same result as I would have on a heart lead – they were 4-4!

RAPID IMPROVEMENT

My overnight analysis told me we would need to improve our bidding substantially if we were to be competitive on day 2. Given the disparate nature of the examples cited above, you would think it would take a week of discussion, analysis and practice to get our bidding back on track. A week? Not for me, the master of pattern recognition! I found a sure-fire way to sort things out immediately. Before the start of each round on day 2, I surreptitiously removed from partner's bidding box the 3♦ card!!

Chris Depasquale

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS: MORE FROM THE RESTRICTED BUTLER

by *Bill Bradshaw*

Here is one of the more amusing hands from the ANC Restricted Pairs when Peter Dieperink and I played a very friendly Tasmanian pair. It deals with the question of when you should tell your opponents that your partner has given them incorrect information.

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

What would you think if I sang out of tune?

Cover the North-South hands and put yourself in Peter's position (West) after I have opened 1♣ Precision (16+ points) and North overcalled 1♥. Peter asked what the bid meant and was told it was weak with long hearts. Peter doubled, which systemically shows 5-7 HCP. I then bid 1NT showing a minimum 16-18 HCP with a balanced hand, which Peter passed, holding nothing in the black suits and one entry at

best. A small spade was led, and when dummy came down I was told by North that incorrect information had been given.

Would you stand up and walk out on me?

A brief discussion between the opposition pair took place on the meaning of bids and the partnership agreement. Not impressed, and thinking we had missed 4♥, I called the Director and asked if we had been damaged. The Director asked me to play out the hand before making a ruling (normal practice). I took the ♠K, 5 heart tricks and 4 diamond tricks for +180, and then we called the Director back.

Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song, and I'll try not to sing out of key.

The Director then proceeded to advise our opposition that (a) they should have known their system and (b) they should not have said anything until the conclusion of the hand.

This raises the point of when is the right time to say something about a bidding misunderstanding. Did South give us incorrect information or did North make the wrong bid and South gave us the systemically correct information?

[The situation is such that when the offenders are the declaring side, you must advise the opponents before the opening lead is made. However, when the offenders are defending, they must inform the opponents at the conclusion of play. What happened is that, as defenders, they now gave each other information that they should not have had while they were actively involved with defending the hand.]

Misinformation is different from a misbid. If a bid is incorrectly described, then the opposition is entitled to correct information as soon as legally possible (per above). However, if a misbid is made there is no redress because you have been given correct information.]

The Director's ruling was that we were not damaged by the incorrect bid (or explanation) and the score stood.

If we had been left alone in the bidding, or a correct bid was made (or a correct explanation of the bid was given), Peter would have bid 2♦ (transfer to hearts) after my 1NT rebid, and I would have bid 3♥ (super accept) which Peter would have raised to game. As fate would have it, 4♥ doesn't make, and on a club lead and spade return, 3NT makes only 4 tricks! Almost all the field were in 4♥ going one off (-50), so our +180 ended up a very good score.

I get by with a little help from my friends.

Bill Bradshaw



Dimitri Hnaris and Chris Depasquale, winners of the Coffs Coast Restricted Pairs. Chris also won the ANC Restricted Butler Pairs and the Territory Gold MP Pairs!

WINNING THE OPEN BUTLER PAIRS

Hands provided by Joe Haffer

In round 1, playing against Tony Nunn and Matthew Vadas, Joe guesstimated that they were about 25 IMPs down (it was actually 0-24) when this hand hit the table:

Dealer West	♠ A K J 9		
Nil Vul	♥ Q 8		
	♦ 10 9 5 3		
	♣ A 7 4		
		♠ Q 7 5	
♠ 10 8 4 3 2		♥ A 9 5	
♥ J 6 3		♦ Q 8 4	
♦ J		♣ Q 9 8 6	
♣ J 10 5 3			
	♠ 6		
	♥ K 10 7 4 2		
	♦ A K 7 6 2		
	♣ K 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	<i>Cooper</i>		<i>Haffer</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦ (1)
Pass	1♥ (2)	Pass	3♦ (3)
Pass	4♦ (4)	Pass	4♥ (5)
Pass	5♣ (6)	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- (1) hearts
- (2) equivalent of a weak 1NT hand
- (3) 5-5 reds, GF
- (4) maximum
- (5) RKCB for diamonds
- (6) 2 key cards, no trump Queen

After a spade lead, Haffer cashed the ♦A, then played for Restricted Choice – by crossing to dummy and finessing the ♦10 – before hoping that the ♥J fell in two or three rounds. Cooper-Haffer recovered 11 IMPs on this board, which started their recovery, getting a draw from the match.

Joe Haffer's favourite hand of the week came in round 8.

Dealer South	♠ K Q 7 2		
EW Vul	♥ A Q 8		
	♦ 9 6		
	♣ A 7 4 3		
		♠ A 9 8 4	
♠ 6 3		♥ J 7 4	
♥ K 10 5 2		♦ K 5	
♦ Q J 8 3 2		♣ K 10 8 5	
♣ 9 2			
	♠ J 10 5		
	♥ 9 6 3		
	♦ A 10 7 4		
	♣ Q J 6		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Haffer</i>		<i>Cooper</i>	
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣ (puppet)
All Pass			3NT

Haffer led the ♣8, 3rd/5th leads, with West contributing the ♣2 (reverse count) on South's ♣Q. Declarer played the ♠J, the ♠10, then another spade to the ♠Q. West's discard of the ♦3 (reverse count) gave Haffer a fairly accurate idea of declarer's hand shape, though not a good picture of the diamond honours. A diamond lead would defeat the contract, but Haffer was confident that a heart lead would guarantee the

contract's defeat, even if declarer had the ♦Q. Declarer had 9 tricks – 3 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 3 clubs – but was unable to untangle his entries to cash them all, failing by one trick.

Only three declarers managed to make this game, which was about coping with a bad trump break:

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

Playing 4♠, Ron (West) received a heart lead which he ducked to South, who returned a diamond. On winning the ♦Q, Ron played a small spade to the ♠10, finding out about the 5-0 break. North won the second spade lead and led the ♣10. Dummy won the club, cashed the ♦A and ♦K, discarding his club loser, then trumped a club. After cashing two top spades, declarer had taken eight tricks (3 spades, 3 diamonds, 2 clubs including the ruff), and this was the position with North holding three 'winners':

	♠ 9		
	♥ ---		
	♦ 10		
	♣ Q		
♠ 7		♠ ---	
♥ J 9		♥ A 10	
♦ ---		♦ 9	
♣ ---		♣ ---	

(Irrelevant)

When Ron led a heart towards dummy, North was helpless, and declarer could take two more tricks. If North ruffed, declarer had a trump winner and the ♥A. If North discarded a club, the ♥A would win and then declarer could trump the diamond. If North discarded his diamond, declarer could win the ♥A and lead the ♦9 from dummy, discarding his heart. [There are a number of ways to make this contract, but this is definitely the most impressive! Ed.]



Joe Haffer - Ron Cooper, winners of the ANC Open Butler Pairs in Hobart

INTERMEDIATE/RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS - COFFS COAST CONGRESS

At Coffs Harbour I was in harness with Dimitri "Jimmy the Greek" Hnaris at a major congress for the first time since 2013. Despite the rustiness we just squeaked home in the Intermediate/Restricted Butler Pairs:

1st	Dimitri Hnaris – Chris Depasquale	115.20
2nd	Meg Sharp – Kathy Palmer	114.82
3rd	Melissa Weber – Herold Rienstra	110.70

This was the first time either Dimitri or I had played the Coffs Congress and I would recommend it to anyone. Superb organisation, great venue; we will be back.

The main difference between Open and Restricted events is that in Restricted events you are constantly in time trouble. In Open events, time is gained by declarer claiming at the earliest opportunity; in the Restricted time is lost the same way!

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

West	North	East	South
Double	3♥	4♠	All Pass

The ♥A was led, followed by a club switch which I ruffed. I led a diamond to the King and Ace, and the diamond return was won by the Queen. I ruffed a heart in dummy and exited in diamonds (which split 3-3), won by South. I thought that even with a trump lead here I could get home if North started with ♥J-x-x and trumps were not 4-0. I would win in hand and advance the ♥Q, expecting this to be covered and ruffed in dummy, but pinning the Jack. With both my red suit cards

I would cash the trump Ace and Queen, ruff a club back to hand, draw the last trump and claim. If the ♥Q was not covered, I would discard from dummy, ruff my last heart high, draw trumps and get my tenth trick with the 13th diamond.

South led a club. I ruffed, led the ♥Q covered by the King, ruffed in dummy and dropping the Jack. I now ruffed a club with my ♠9, leaving this end-game:

♠ A Q	♠ K J
♥ ---	♥ 10
♦ ---	♦ 9
♣ J 8	♣ ---

To 'save' time, I claimed the last four tricks on a cross-ruff. Wrong! The defender with three spades insisted the defence must come to one more trick, not matter how hard the other three of us tried to explain it. Eventually we agreed that declarer could have tricks 10-13, and the defence the 14th!

The Harpo Marx Coup

As a chess player I loved time trouble. Before they brought in these new-fangled timers so you have a minimum of 30 seconds for each move, we would get a bank of 150 minutes for our first 40 moves, and I would regularly use 149 of those minutes on the first 20 moves.

In Restricted bridge events you can use time trouble to advantage. At the Restricted Butler in Hobart, with 6 minutes to play 3 hands I rattled off 13 tricks in my 5♣ contract so rapidly that neither defender noticed that I used the same Ace three times! (I have wanted to execute this coup ever since I saw it in the bridge scene from the Marx Brothers' movie *Animal Crackers*.)

Chris Depasquale



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THE HEAT IS ON

by Peter Gill

The weather was a glorious non-humid 27 degrees, Mindil Beach served up its usual tasty street food and amazing handcrafts and sunsets, new restaurants like Alfonsinos nestled with old favourites like Manolis and Hanuman, and I discovered wonderful gelato at John Johns where I fell in love with flavours like orange, fig and macadamia as well as the more traditional salty caramel.

There were 26 tables for the 2018 Territory Gold events, held in Darwin. The three events are three sessions of Match Point Pairs, four sessions of Teams, followed by the main event, four sessions of Swiss Pairs. Results can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. There were prizes galore - mostly cash, including Best Restricted.

A couple of hands appealed to me:

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

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

♠ A 8 4
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A K J 7 4
 ♣ A Q 7 2

At my table, East opened 2♠, Liz Sylvester doubled and West passed. Thinking my choices were 4♥, 5♥ or 6♥, I chose the middle ground - if 4♥ and 6♥ are both possible calls but are the extremities, then 5♥ (strongly inviting slam) must be reasonable. Because 5♠ might be looking for 7♥ with hearts agreed, Liz bid 5NT to suggest a non-heart slam such as 6♣ or 6♦. Not wanting to play in 6♦ with something like Q-10-x-x opposite A-x-x-x and perhaps two little hearts opposite my 8-card suit, I went for 6♥ rather than 6♦.

Pam Nunn led a spade to the Ace. I led the ♥Q to the Ace, plus 1430. Because the ♥Q might be covered by West with the K-J-x, in case my hearts are A-9-8-x-x-x, rising with ♥A seemed to be the best play. The datum or average was 850, so 1430 was an 11 IMP gain.

Not a single pair reached 7♦, which should be made by setting up the heart suit early, while there are trump entries to the long hearts. 7 pairs reached 6♥, with 3 pairs making the contract, and a similar number played in 6♦.

Dealer South ♠ K
 Nil Vul ♥ 8
 ♦ K 10 9 6 3
 ♣ K Q 10 9 8 7

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

♠ Q J 7 4 3
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ 8 7 2
 ♣ A J 2

Liz Sylvester, West, opened 1♥. Ian McKinnon overcalled 2NT showing both minors, I bid 3♣ to show a good heart raise, Virginia Dressler doubled and Liz terminated the auction by bidding 4♥. Ian led the ♣K, then the ♣10 to the Ace.

Virginia found the good switch to a low spade which Liz won with the Ace. Liz cashed one top heart then led the ♦Q – King – Ace. A low diamond was ruffed, then another heart played to dummy's Jack. The ♦J was cashed to pitch one spade. On the last diamond from dummy, Liz pitched another spade - a loser-on-loser play. Ian had to give away a ruff and discard by playing a minor card, which Liz ruffed in dummy as her fourth and last spade was discarded. Plus 620 was worth 3 IMPs, compared to the datum score of 520. We did not hear of anyone else who found the end-play, but we did hear of several Souths who switched to ♠Q at Trick 3 - hence the datum of 520.

This national event alternates between Darwin and Alice Springs, so in 2019 it will be held at Lasseters Hotel Casino in Alice Springs.

GOLD AT THE TERRITORY GOLD

by Chris Depasquale

THE MATCH POINT PAIRS

You are on lead in the North seat with this hand against 3♣ X, after the following bidding with North-South vulnerable against not vulnerable in the Match Point Pairs:

♠ K 4 2
 ♥ J 8 6 3
 ♦ K 8 6 5 2
 ♣ 3

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

Admit it, you wanted to lead a spade, didn't you? Michael Courtney worked out that the only way to defeat the contract was to scare declarer out of the diamond finesse, and he had the ♦8 flashing across the baize before you could blink. Michael's speed of thought and action is remarkable. Against Pam and Eric Nunn in the first session, he had his cards sorted and his first two(!) bids on the sheet before anyone else at the table could react to tell him he had taken Eric's cards from the board!

This was the full hand in 3♣ X:

♠ K 4 2
 ♥ J 8 6 3
 ♦ K 8 6 5 2
 ♣ 3

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

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

Declarer won the ♦Q in hand, led to the Jack and advanced the ♦A. A discard from South or ruffing with the top trump allows a spade discard and the defence will come to just two spade and two club tricks. Any other ruff is over-ruffed, dummy is entered with the ♣A, and the established ♦7 is led, on which declarer will pitch a spade whatever South does. As can be seen, the spade lead enables the defence to take three spades and two trumps. Nearly every East-West was -50 in a NT part-score; +100 NS would have been all the match points whereas -470 got us our only goose-egg in the final.

Curiously, the only time I ever achieved a satisfactory score in Match Points against Michael Courtney was on board 3 of the second session of the final of the 2013 Chris Diment Pairs in Canberra when he cost his side a trick by ... leading away from the ♦K! The point is that even though the mundane spade lead was superior this time, he gets these decisions correct so often that he regularly wins tournaments like this, with a wide range of partners.

THE SWISS PAIRS

I partnered Simon Hinge while the elite end of the event was bolstered by Harrison – Peake, flying in to chase Playoff Qualifying Points.

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

Would you get to 7♠ on these hands with your regular partner? Some good bidders did, but the really great bidders stopped in 6♠. North held the ♠J-10-9-x!

Against us, Peake (West), knowing every card in his partner's hand, was in the tank for some time before settling for the small slam.

I don't think Peake peeked (at my partner's trump holding); he simply made a percentage decision.

Half the field stopped in game on this one; that, combined with two pairs going down in the grand, meant that the safe 6♠ was still worth 9 IMPs. *[It is a percentage decision in a Butler event of mixed quality, because not everyone will be in slam. It is not a percentage decision in a world-class field, where one would bid the grand slam. Ed.]*

Simon Hinge had his declarer skills tested in a couple of 3NT contracts. Here is one, where he was North. East led the ♣2.

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

Most pairs played 4♥, which can fail on an unkind layout. 3NT needs nothing more than diamonds no worse than 5-1 (99%), until Martin Bloom, East, found the only lead to trouble declarer. One can play the ♣Q here and, if it holds, it is just a matter of how many overtricks but, if the finesse fails, a club return while the diamonds are still blocked leaves declarer in trouble. Simon played a small club from dummy. Tony Nunn won the ♣J and returned a club, but Hinge now won both dummy's club tricks, discarding the ♦A from hand! This line requires diamonds no worse than 4-2 (they were 3-3): an 84% chance – far superior to the finesse at trick 1.

Chris DePasquale



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COUP 10: THE CROCODILE COUP

Reproduced with the permission of Brian Senior.

A Crocodile Coup sees a defender rise with what appears to be an unnecessarily high honour to win the trick, the purpose of the play being to prevent partner winning in a situation where he will be end-played and forced to lead something beneficial to declarer's cause.

This deal from the 2006 World Championships saw many-time world champion, Bob Hamman of USA, in quite the wrong contract.

Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	1♣*
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			6♦

South's 1♣ opening was strong and artificial, showing 17+ HCP; the 1♥ response showing 8+ HCP with less than three controls (A=2, K=1). Somehow, the heart suit was lost in the shuffle and Hamman found himself in a much inferior slam. The lead was the ♠3 to the King and Ace. Hamman ruffed, drew the missing trumps with the aid of the finesse, and cashed his heart winners.

Then he led the ♣2 from hand. West played low so East's Jack won and he had nothing left but spades. The spade return picked up West's Jack and Hamman could throw his remaining club losers on the ♠Q-10 to make his slam. West could have defeated 6♦ by rising with the King and returning the ♣10 when Hamman led the club – a Crocodile Coup. Though declarer would now make the Ace and Queen of clubs, he would have to concede the last trick to West's ♣9 for one down.

West had a complete count of the hand at the key moment and should have got it right, but played low automatically.

Brian Senior



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AN OLD CROC

I promise: I am NOT calling Pauline Gumby an old croc!

Here is an example of Pauline Gumby handling a Crocodile Coup in the World Mixed Pairs in Miami in 1986 (the era leads to the usage of 'old').

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

West	North	East	South
	Fordham		Gumby
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♦	3♥	3♠	Double
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

3♥ was making, so East decided to bid on. After Pauline Gumby doubled the 3♠ bid, Peter Fordham doubled 4♦, looking for +200 at matchpoint pairs.

Pauline led two top hearts, declarer ruffing. He drew trumps in two rounds, then led a club to the ♣K and ♣A. Fordham returned the ♠Q, and declarer won the ♠A. The ♣Q was cashed, a club was led to dummy's ♣J, and the last club was ruffed. Declarer now exited with a small spade.

If declarer held ♠A-J-9-x, Pauline had to win the ♠10. However, Pauline gave this some thought, coming to the right conclusion. She rose with the ♠K to swallow her partner's ♠J, and could now cash the ♠10, for one off. If she had not won with the ♠K, Fordham would have won with the ♠J, and would have been forced to give a ruff and discard (of dummy's spade), so the contract would have made.



Winners of the Coffs Coast Intermediate Teams:
Rowan Corbett, Rob Hurst, Liz Shonk, Anita Delorenzo

LOW TO SHOW

Teams. West dealer. Both vulnerable

North

♠ K Q 4 3
♥ 8 7 5
♦ J 7 4 3
♣ 10 9

East

♠ J 9 6 2
♥ 9 3
♦ K 10 8
♣ J 6 5 2

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

West leads the ♠A. What card should East play on that?

Suppose West switches to the ♦2 – 3 – King – 5. What should East play next?

♠ K Q 4 3
♥ 8 7 5
♦ J 7 4 3
♣ 10 9

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

Contract: 4♥ by South
Lead: ♠A

Even though East had bid spades, the ♠A lead holds little appeal. A low club is at least as good and might be better. As a spade continuation is undesirable and West knows that as well as East, East should play the ♠9 or the ♠J, not as encouraging or discouraging, but as suit preference for diamonds.

At one table in a World Open Teams, West switched to the ♦A and a second diamond to the King. South made the rest for +420.

At the other table, West switched to the ♦2, hoping to find East with ♦K-x. The ♦K won and East shifted to a club. South made 11 tricks via ♣A, ♥A, ♥K, ♣K, club ruff, ♠K, ♠Q, +450, +1 IMP, the winning margin in the match.

There are two clues for East to return a diamond:

- A low card switch (the ♦2) asks partner to return that suit
- When the ♦K won, East can place West with the ♦A. If West had wanted a club switch, West would have played ♦A and then a low diamond to East.

Ron Klinger

Allison Stralow has already mentioned some of the recent ABF Management Committee decisions in her President's Report on page 2.

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHINA

Our Australian Under 26 Team finished in 10th place, with the top eight teams qualifying for the knockout stages. The final was won by Sweden, who defeated Singapore by 5 IMPs. (Singapore had knocked out the hot favourites, USA, in their quarter-final, then defeated the strong team from Poland in the semi-final. All their knockout matches were nail-biting finishes and winning margins!)

NEW POSITIONS

Mark Guthrie is the ABF's new National Technology Officer. Jane Reynolds is to take on the role of Summer Festival of Bridge Assistant Tournament Organiser.

NATIONAL YOUTH CO-ORDINATORS

Leigh and Bianca Gold have been offered a renewal of their contract, for two years, up to 30th September 2020.

UPDATED MARKETING PAGE ON ABF WEBSITE

Peter Cox, ABF Head of Marketing, has spent considerable time updating the marketing page on the ABF website: <http://www.abf.com.au/abf-marketing>

2020 ABPF CONGRESS

The ABF has agreed to host the 2020 Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress at the Perth Convention Centre, from 15th to 22nd April 2020. The organisational model will be similar to that of the Summer Festival of Bridge.

WOMEN'S TEAM SELECTION REVIEW

Following feedback from players, the Management Committee has agreed not to make any changes to the current selection process. To assist the 2019 team, a coaching program will be implemented.

MIXED TEAM PLAYOFF

Information on the Mixed Team Playoff can now be found at: <http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/playoffs/2019/mixed/> (There is no PQP requirement.)



The leading Restricted Team (all players under 300 MPs) at the Coffs Coast Intermediate Teams: Elizabeth Voveris, Johanna Thomas, Robyn Stanhope, Lydia Hockings

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

HAND 1

♠ J 10 9 6 4
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K 6 4
♣ 7 6

♠ A K Q
♥ A Q
♦ A 9 5 2
♣ A 8 5 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥ (transfer)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	4♣ (sets ♠)

West leads the ♠5, which you win with the ♠Q.
How would you play?

HAND 2

♠ 10 9 7 3 2
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ A 2
♣ J 3

♠ K Q J 8 4
♥ 8 7 5
♦ K 3
♣ A K 6

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

(1) Good raise in spades

West leads the ♥Q. You play low from dummy and East wins the ♥A. He returns the ♣10.
What is your plan?

HAND 3

♠ A Q J 9
♥ K Q
♦ K Q 4
♣ J 8 5 4

♠ K 10 8 6 4
♥ 9 3 2
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West leads the ♥4 (low from odd) to dummy's ♥Q and West's ♥A. West returns a heart to dummy's ♥K.
What is your plan?

MY FAVOURITE HAND by Liam Milne

At the Spring Nationals in Sydney, only four teams qualify for the semis. This means that there are often players hustling around on Friday night to find a partner for the Dick Cummings Open Pairs over the weekend. I was one of those such players in 2017, but I was lucky enough to get a game with Fraser Rew (who helped teach me bridge a bit over a decade ago). In the third round of the Pairs, we defended this deal and I had a chance to show my old teacher a few tricks I had learned along the way:

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

West	North	East	South
Yumin Li	F Rew	W Zhu	L Milne
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

The opponents had got too high, so we were defending a doomed contract but, at Matchpoints, you want to get all your tricks for the maximum result.

Fraser led the ♦J and dummy played low. I decided to play low too (an unclear decision), and declarer won the ♦K.

Bridge is a game of pattern recognition, and the pattern my mind fixated on from trick 1 was those bare trump honours. I decided that if I ever got the chance to give partner a trump promotion by leading a suit which partner and declarer were both out of, I had better not do it – if declarer could ruff high and partner couldn't overruff, this would immediately expose the trump situation.

At trick 2, declarer tried the ♣3 which ran to the 4 – 2 – 5. It looked like partner had the Ace, so I returned the ♣7 to partner, who continued with the ♣10. At this point I realised that if I were to play low on this trick, declarer would know I still had the King, and when I later won the first round of trumps, whether I played the ♣K or not, the whole hand would be revealed. Do you see what I mean? If I play the ♣K, declarer will ruff high with his (theoretical) ♥10 and then drop my other trump honour, while if I don't play the club, declarer will start wondering what I am up to and might reach the right conclusion! Therefore, on partner's ♣10, dummy played the ♣9 and I contributed the King, saving the Jack for later. Declarer ruffed and played a heart to the 6 – 8 – King, and I still couldn't play my last club, instead returning a passive spade. Declarer won and played a second heart to the 9 – Jack – Queen. Finally, I produced the ♣J.

What made this my favourite hand was declarer's reaction to seeing this unlikely card make an appearance. Not disappointment, disgust or shock, but simply delight: Yumin Li loves bridge, and to be taken in so comprehensively meant he could only grin and saw "Wow!" as he ruffed and was over-ruffed by partner's ♥10 for three down. Moments like this are what continue to give me joy from this game.

Liam Milne

IN SEARCH OF THE OVERTRICK

Written by Barry Rigal, and published in the IBPA Bulletin, January 2018.

Board-a-Match Teams is a cut-throat game. Sure, you can win a board in the auction, but all too often it's the overtrick that makes the difference.

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

When South led a top diamond, declarer won, led a club to the ♣A and merrily cross-ruffed the minors to reach this position:

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

At our table, East played the ♥K and ♥10. South played the ♥Q and now must take care: a diamond isn't good enough. Declarer ruffs, draws the last trump and leads a spade, playing South for honour-10 in the suit and squeezing the overtrick out of the spade spots. Instead of a diamond, South must play a spade at once, as he did, forcing declarer to win with the ♠A and breaking up the tension of the endgame. Declarer can get back to his hand only by forcing himself, and never scores the long club.

In exactly the same 7-card ending, our team-mate East led the fourth club. South won with the ♣K. North pitched a diamond and, trying to uppercut declarer, ruffed in with the ♥9 when South led a diamond. Instead of promoting a trump in his partner's hand, North attained the rare "trump demotion". Declarer overruffed, played the ♠A and ruffed a spade. In the 3-card ending, when he led the fifth club, South could only ruff with the ♥6. Because North had expended his precious ♥9, he could not overruff, so South was endplayed to lead a heart into declarer's tenace and concede the overtrick.

THE NORTH POLE REGIONAL

From the IBPA Bulletin, February 2018.

TOURNEY DOMINATED BY HOOVES AND ANTLERS

By Richard Pavlicek

At the 52nd Annual North Pole Regional, local reindeer are invited to attend. This has caused complaints from the Eskimos who cite 'hoofings' and 'antler gougings' as reasons for barring the reindeer, but the truth is that no Eskimo has won since the reindeer were admitted in 1976.

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

At one table Mush, the top Eskimo player, opened the South hand with 4NT, Blackwood. (Eskimo bidding left a lot to be desired.) His partner, Slush, showed no aces (what a surprise!) and Mush continued with 5NT to ask for kings. When Slush showed one king, Mush still had no idea what to bid and he took a stab at 6NT.

West led a spade and Mush was... well, in the slush. He had 10 top tricks in his hand and two in dummy, but there was no way to reach the dummy. He played skilfully (end-playing East) to escape for down one. After the session he asked some of the reindeer what they had done on this annoying deal.

"Oh, we bid 7♠," said Randolph, "and I made it on a trump coup. After ruffing three times in the North hand, I ended with South on lead and West's ♠J was trapped in the end position. Not much to it really."

"We bid 7♥," exclaimed Raymond. "West led a spade and I had to hope for miracles. I ruffed the third round of diamonds in dummy then, fearing a bad spade break, I led the ♣10 for a finesse. When this held, I took the heart finesse and then my hand was good. Making 7♥!"

"How about that!" echoed Ralph. "We bid 7♦ and I made it the same way!"

"Guess what?" chimed in Rudolph. "We bid 7♣... some kind of Gerber malfunction, as I recall. I won the spade lead, cashed all my red-nosed... er, red-suit winners, and ruffed a heart. The ♠K was ruffed and over-ruffed, then a diamond ruff gave me 13 tricks. Rather easy."

Richard Pavlicek

Catherine Harris (a journalist and newer bridge player) has written an article about The Biker King of Bridge, posted at the following website:

<https://verityla.com/2018/07/31/the-biker-king-of-contract-bridge-catherine-harris/>

KING CRISS-CROSS

This hand was written up by Nils Kvangraven in the IBPA Bulletin, April 2018.

Christian Bakke is still a junior in age, but he handles the cards like a grand champion; he was close to being selected for the Norwegian Open Team for the European Championships in June. The following deal shows why he is both a successful and a popular bridge player.

I was lucky enough to partner Bakke at a recent tournament. I gave him a difficult challenge with my too-aggressive bidding, but Christian's beautiful declarer play vindicated my bids. He was able to change what should have been a lost board into a winner, with a nice criss-cross squeeze.

Dealer South ♠ A Q J 10 9 4
EW Vul ♥ 8 7 6 5
 ♦ A 10 7
 ♣ void

♠ 7 6 5
♥ 9 2
♦ J 5
♣ A Q J 6 5 3

♠ K 8 3 2
♥ K Q 3
♦ Q 9
♣ K 9 7 2

♠ void
♥ A J 10 4
♦ K 8 6 4 3 2
♣ 10 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i> Kvangraven	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i> Bakke
Pass	1♥ (spades)	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♣ (splinter)	Pass	2♠ (4 spades)
Pass	6♠	All Pass	4♥ (cue bid)

I admit that my bidding was not too smart. I knew Bakke didn't have a control in diamonds and that he held a 12-14 notrump with four spades.

Therefore, I should have realised that chances for slam could not be too good.

West did not find his best lead, starting with the ♣A. Bakke ruffed with the ♠9 and continued with a low heart. East didn't do his best either when he grabbed the ace then played another heart to Bakke's ♥K.



Best Restricted Team at the Territory Gold Teams:
Gary Gibbards, Connie Chrstrup, Debbie Gibbards, Mike Butler

A club was ruffed with the ♠A and next came the ♠Q. The ♠J was overtaken with the ♠K and a third club was ruffed with the ♠10. Now, the perfectly saved spot – the ♠4 – proved its value when Bakke could enter his hand with the ♠8.

Declarer led the ♣3, West discarding a club, dummy and East a diamond each. Then the killer hit the table when Bakke pulled out the ♣K in this position.

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

On the ♣K, dummy discarded the ♦10, but what about East? He did his best, discarding a diamond, but Bakke made no mistake, continuing with a diamond to the ♦A. East had to follow with the ♦K. A heart to the ♥Q then gave Bakke the contract with the ♦Q.

What a day: a criss-cross squeeze for a slam after an early unblock at the first trick, and winning the last two tricks with the red Queens. That's just about how a king at the bridge table should be served.



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HAND 1

♠ J 10 9 6 4
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K 6 4
♣ 7 6

♠ 8 5
♥ K J 9 7 3
♦ J 8
♣ K J 9 3

♠ 7 3 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ Q 10 7 3
♣ Q 10 4

♠ A K Q
♥ A Q
♦ A 9 5 2
♣ A 8 5 2

West leads the ♠5, which you win with the ♠Q. How would you play?

This hand was written up by Paul Marston, in The Weekend Australian (28-29 October, 2017).

At trick 2, declarer crossed to the ♦K to take the heart finesse. West won with the ♥K and exited with a second trump. Declarer won in hand with the ♠K and played ♣A and another club. East won and played a third trump to declarer's ♠A.

Declarer now needed the diamonds to break 3-3 for his tenth trick. They didn't, so he went down one.

The ♥Q was an illusion. The winning play was to cash the ♥A at trick 2, and continue with the ♥Q. West can take the ♥K and exit with a spade but you would win with the ♠K and cross to the ♦K in dummy to trump the losing heart with the ♠A. Now you have the nine tricks you started with (5 spades, 1 heart, 2 diamonds, 1 club) plus a heart ruff, for 10 tricks.

[That ♦K was an all-important entry to dummy for your ruff. Ed.]

HAND 2

♠ 10 9 7 3 2
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ A 2
♣ J 3

♠ A
♥ Q J 10 9 2
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ Q 7 4

♠ 6 5
♥ A
♦ 9 8 7 5 4
♣ 10 9 8 5 2

♠ K Q J 8 4
♥ 8 7 5
♦ K 3
♣ A K 6

West leads the ♥Q. You play low from dummy and East wins the ♥A. He returns the ♣10. What is your plan?

As East won the first trick with the ♥A, declarer placed the ♠A on his left. Clearly there would not be a problem if West had at least two trumps, so declarer turned his thoughts to overcoming the problem of West having the singleton ♠A.

Declarer's plan was to strip the minor suits from the North-South hands, before playing a trump. If East could ruff the ♥K, he would then have no satisfactory exit card, and would have to give a ruff and discard.

So, after taking the club with the ♣A, declarer cashed the ♦A and ♦K, then crossed to his ♣K and trumped the ♣6 with the ♠7. Only then did he play a trump from dummy.

West won the ♠A and returned the predicted ♥J. Declarer covered with the ♥K and East ruffed with his remaining trump. Since East only had minor suit cards remaining, declarer was now able to discard his remaining heart loser (from the South hand) and ruff the lead in dummy, making it his tenth trick.

HAND 3

♠ A Q J 9
♥ K Q
♦ K Q 4
♣ J 8 5 4

♠ 5 2
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ 10 9 6 2

♠ 7 3
♥ A J 8 7 6
♦ A J 9
♣ K Q 3

♠ K 10 8 6 4
♥ 9 3 2
♦ 7 6 2
♣ A 7

West leads the ♥4 (low from odd) to dummy's ♥Q and West's ♥A. West returns a heart to dummy's ♥K. What is your plan?

The success or failure of the contract seems to hinge on the location of the ♦A. However, there is an extra chance.

After cashing the ♠A, declarer plays a club to the ♣A, and exits with a club, playing low from dummy. East wins the trick with the ♣Q and gets off play with a second trump. Win in dummy, and led another small club. If East holds the K-Q-x in clubs, declarer can trump the ♣K, and the ♣J has become the tenth trick.

You win 5 spade tricks, 1 heart, 1 heart ruff, 1 diamond and 2 club trick.

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Tel: (02) 9958-5589

Email: suzie@ronklingerbridge.com

SAND. BAGS OF IT

Written by Andrew Robson, and published in the IBPA Bulletin, May 2018.

This incredible deal comes from the 17th Chairman's Cup in Örebro, Sweden. It features the English team of Neil Rosen - Martin Jones, Heather Dhondy - Nevena Senior and Peter Crouch - Derek Patterson. They won no medals, but Jones (sitting South) and Rosen (North) certainly had a tale to tell.

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

West	North	East	South
	Rosen		Jones
1♣	2♣ (1)	Double (2)	2♦ (3)
3♣	Pass	4♣	4♦ (4)
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♦
6♣	6♦	Double	All Pass

- (1) Michaels: 5+/5+ in the majors
- (2) Showing clubs in East/West's methods
- (3) Sandbag #1
- (4) Sandbag #2

West made a good shot with 6♣ – he was not fooled by South's sandbagging – whereupon Rosen sprung to life, also aware that partner's unusual bidding was suggestive of sandbagging. Given that his solitary asset for partner was his minor-suit distribution, you'd have to say that this was also a great shot. I suspect he was more concerned that his complete lack of defence would mean that 6♣ was making and he was saving (indeed he would have had to lead a heart, for a ruff, to beat 6♣).

When you pick up a one-in-a million hand such as South's, you have various options. You can be entirely honest and bid the value of your hand straight away (here 5♦); maybe the opponents will let you play there (in your dreams). Alternatively, you can bid beyond the value of your hand (6♦). This has a number of ways to gain: the opponents may bid on, taking a phantom sacrifice of 7♣, whereas if you bid 5♦, then 6♦ over their 6♣, they will not then bid on to 7♣ (and you'd expect to go down one in 6♦); or they may let you play in 6♦ and if dummy hits with an unexpected trick, as here, you make. There is a third approach, the one taken by Martin Jones: the slow-play or sandbag. Popular in poker when you have the likely "nuts" (best hand), you underbid, 2♦, planning to work up slowly. The opponents do not believe you have such a good hand given your low start and let you play prematurely (doubled) when they should be bidding on. On the actual deal, with clubs bid at every level from 1-6 and diamonds from 2-6, West led the ♣K against 6♦ X. "I should have redoubled," said Jones as the paltry dummy was tabled. Rosen thought he had to be joking and you can only imagine his face as declarer was claiming 12 tricks two seconds later – his second club being ruffed in dummy.

THREE DUCKS IN A ROW

Written by Andrew Robson, and published in the IBPA Bulletin, May 2018.

Do you know how many collective nouns there are for ducks (of the feathered variety)? We have a bunch, a paddling, a raft, a safe, a skein, a sord, a string and a team.

The defence put up a veritable paddling (my favourite of the above list) of ducks on this deal from a Gold Cup match.

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

West	North	East	South
Crouch		Forrester	
			1♠
Double	2♠	All Pass	

West did well not to lead the ♦K against 2♠, preferring the top of his internal heart sequence. Declarer tried dummy's ♥J and now came Duck #1. East, Tony Forrester, was unwilling to use his only high card at trick one, before he knew what to do next. He ducked dummy's ♥J. At trick two, declarer played a trump to the ♠Q and now came Duck #2. West, Peter Crouch, let declarer's ♠Q hold the trick. He expected declarer to repeat the finesse and a cunning plan was beginning to form. Declarer, unaware of the danger that lurked, led a club towards dummy to repeat the trump finesse and now came Duck #3 – West played the ♣6 and allowed dummy's ♣Q to win.

At trick 4, declarer led a second trump to his ♠J and now the three ducks reaped dividends. West won his ♠K, then cashed his ♣A to void himself (on which East played the ♣10 as a suit preference signal for the higher-ranking side-suit: hearts).

West duly led the ♥Q, covered by the ♥K and ♥A, whereupon East led a third club for West to ruff. West now cashed the ♥9 and exited with the ♦K. Declarer won with the ♦A but there was no way he could get rid of his second diamond. West's ♦Q has to score and that was the sixth defensive trick. Down one.

[We can all see that an initial lead of the ♣A would lead to defeat more quickly, but this defence was an excellent thoughtful defence. Furthermore, doubleton honour leads are extremely dangerous, more often proving to be wrong than right – especially when you have the strong hand. Ed.]

TRIVIA 1

The person with the most GOLD masterpoints in Australia is Ron Klinger with 7,561.52 gold MPs.
Bob Richman (deceased) accrued 7,349.95 gold MPs.
Pauline Gumby has 7,088.52 gold MPs.

PERFECT PAIRS PLAY

This hand appeared in the IBPA Bulletin, March 2018.

David Stern wrote up the following hand from the Gold Coast Pairs, played to perfection by Nye Griffiths.

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

<i>West</i> <i>Griffiths</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Jacob</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♥ (splinter)	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣ (1 or 4)	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Nye Griffiths (West) did extremely well playing 6♣. Griffiths covered the ♦8 lead with the 9 – 10 – King. He drew trumps, then led a club to his ♣Q, knowing he could pitch his diamond on the ♣J if it lost. When it held, he was going for the all-important Pairs overtrick.

Griffiths cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart and ran all his trumps, reducing to the bare ♦A and the ♣J-4, with two diamonds and the ♣A in hand.

South had actually let go a diamond early, so Griffiths knew to play on whichever suit she discarded at trick 10. The only defence to give her side a chance would have been to bare the ♣K early and discard a diamond at trick 10, when declarer would probably play the opening leader for a doubleton, not a singleton, diamond.



Peter Gill (Perth) played against Peter Gill (Sydney) in the Swan River Swiss Pairs in Perth.

*Peter Gill (Perth) has this family set up:
 Barbara (oldest), John (middle), Peter.
 Peter Gill (Sydney) is one of three siblings too:
 John (oldest), Peter (middle), Barbara (me).
 How weird is that!*

SIMPLY PLAY CLUBS

This hand arose at our local club duplicate (bring your own brown bag lunch). Having read Nigel Rosendorff's article on page 15 of the August issue, I was struck by the similar theme. Unfortunately, Nigel didn't elaborate on his advice, 'simply play clubs'. On this hand the theme is the same - simply play clubs.

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

West plays 4♠ and North leads two top diamonds, forcing declarer to ruff. Two rounds of spades reveals the 4-1 split. Now it is clear that, if declarer draws trumps and then forces out the ♣A, the defence will be able to cash an enormous number of diamonds. So, just as in Nigel's hand, declarer must abandon trumps and get to work on clubs. Say North wins and forces declarer with a third diamond, leaving both declarer and dummy with a trump each while North has two. You might think that North is bound to make a trump trick but observe the effect of just 'playing clubs'. If North ruffs at any stage, declarer can over-ruff in dummy, return to hand with the ♥A, draw the last trump and run the clubs.

The key on this hand is to leave a trump in dummy which can over-trump North. If declarer draws three or four rounds of trumps he will not survive.

Hugh Kelsey referred to this technique as 'substitute trumps' in his books, while others refer to this as a 'trump coup'. I prefer Kelsey's description because the technique is in some way similar, yet clearly different to the standard trump coup which relies on a tenace position, with declarer and a defender having the same number of trumps. It's semantics, I guess.

Nick Hardy



*2nd place in the Coffs Coast Restricted Pairs:
 Meg Sharp and Kathy Palmer*

A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

Recently I have had a few games with friends, and some educational hands came up. I thought I'd like to share some of the more useful themes with you.

There were a couple of hands that our opponents did not bid optimally. Both involved using fourth suit forcing to show a big hand. Here's the first:

♠ K 9
♥ A K 10 8 6 3
♦ 9
♣ A J 10 4

Here's the auction at our table:

1♣	1♥
1♠	3♥ (forcing?)
3NT	Pass

Here is an improved auction, playing natural bidding:

Partner	You
1♣	1♥
1♠ (at least 4-4 blacks)	2♦ (fourth suit game forcing)
2NT (♦ stop, not 3♥s)	3♣ (setting clubs, good hand)
4♣ (cooperating)	4NT
5♠	6♣

These are the two hands:

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

Two hands later, your partner opens 1♠ and you hold:

♠ A 10 6
♥ 4
♦ A K Q 10 5
♣ A 10 4 2

At my table:

1♠	2♦
2♥	6♠

Hardly scientific! And it duly failed by two tricks.

At another table:

1♠	4NT (an overbid)
5♦ (0 key cards)	5♠
Pass	

Let's take a slower and more structured approach:

Partner	You
1♠	2♦
2♥	3♣ (fourth suit forcing)
3♥ (5-5 Majors)	3♠ (setting spades)
4♠ (NO interest at all)	Pass

This hand is really suited to 2 over 1, where you can respond 2♦ and you have already created a game force. Over partner's 2♥ rebid, you can bid 3♠, to demand cue bids, and partner would rebid 4♠ to show absolutely no interest with his disappointing hand:

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

There followed a series of hands which involved second round bidding accuracy.

♠ 5
♥ 6 2
♦ A K Q 10 7 3
♣ A J 10 9

1♦	(Pass)	1♥	(1♠)
?			

I rebid 2♣, trusting partner to make the right continuation, and offering her some choice. I know most people in my seat rebid either 2♦, offering partner no choice of suit, or 3♦, which was a straight overbid. When 2♣ was passed out, I was delighted with my rebid and with dummy:

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

What would be your rebid on this hand:

♠ K J 10
♥ A Q J 8 2
♦ 9
♣ K Q J 5

<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
1♥	1♠
?	

My partner rebid 3♣, which is an overbid, but did lead to an interesting auction:

1♥	1♠
3♣ (game force)	3♥ (false preference, 2♥s, 6-9 HCP)
4♥	

A better auction would have been:

1♥	1♠
2♣	2♥ (false preference, 2♥s, 6-9 HCP)
2♠	4♠

This sequence of bids shows a non-minimum opening hand, so about 16-18 HCP, with 5 hearts, 4 clubs and 3 spades. It invites game if partner has a decent hand, whether in spades or no trumps. The full hand was:

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

The initial 3♣ rebid was incorrect because it forced to game, even if responder had 6 HCP. However, having bid 3♣, over my 3♥ bid, opener could have bid 3♠ in case I held five of them.

And, finally, this hand appeared:

♠ A Q J 10 2
♥ A 9 8
♦ void
♣ A J 10 4 3

<i>You</i>	<i>Partner</i>
1♠	1NT
2♣	2♠ (false preference, 2♠s, 6-9 HCP)
?	

On this hand, you can now rebid 3♣, showing your non-minimum hand and the 5-5 shape. If you had a minimum hand with your 5-5, you should tend to pass 2♠, aiming for your plus score at Pairs.

The auction would go:

1♠	1NT
2♣	2♠
3♣ (5-5, 16-18 HCP)	3NT (accepting, with red suit values)

Here are the two hands:

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

Barbara Travis



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IS THIS A HOLD UP?

Dear Smartie,

Here are a couple of hands that I (mis)played recently. Lots of people give advice but it is hard to know whether it is just being wise after the event.

Anyway, here is the collection.

(MIS)PLAY #1

PUP

♠ 6 3
♥ K Q 9
♦ K Q J 5
♣ Q 9 3 2

Me

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ J 8 4
♦ 10 6 3
♣ A K 7

My pick-up partner opened 1♣ and we got to 3NT after East overcalled in 1♠. West led the ♠9, East playing the ♠J. I won the first trick knowing I had a second stopper with the ♠10. Anyway, I led diamonds next and West took the ♦A, to lead another spade. With East holding the ♥A, I lost three spades and two Aces to go one down. Should I have known to lead hearts first?

(MIS)PLAY #2

Glenda

♠ J 10 8
♥ A 3
♦ A 10 9 4 2
♣ K 3 2

Me

♠ K 9 7 6 4
♥ 6 4 2
♦ K 8 3
♣ A 4

Glenda opened 1♦ and RHO bid 1♥, I bid 1♠, West supported hearts and I finished up in 3♠. West led the ♥5. I took the ♥A and tried to draw trumps but West had both honours and unceremoniously played two more rounds of trumps back at me and I went one down because I had to lose another two heart tricks and a diamond.

(MIS)PLAY #3

Glenda

♠ 6 4 3
♥ A K 7 5
♦ K Q J 4
♣ Q 7

Me

♠ A 7 2
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A 9 5

Without opposition bidding, We got to 4♥. West led the ♠K. I won the first trick and drew trumps in three rounds. I couldn't see how I could make the contract unless one opponent got thrown in to lead me a club. Any suggestions?

Luv,
Miss Play

Dear M&M,

You probably suspect that there is a common theme to these hands and indeed there is. In each case, the answer is to hold up your Ace.

On Hand #1, you hope that East doesn't have two Aces but you absolutely know that he has ♠K-Q-J-x-x (x) in spades. Your second stopper is always there. So, if you hold up for one round, East has little choice but to lead a second spade. You can safely win that and still make the 'mistake' of playing diamonds first. West wins and cannot play another spade and you now have the time to set up your heart trick in comfort.

On Hand #2, when you have a shortage with the shorter trumps, it is frequently correct to play low on the first trick to keep your Ace for later. If you let East take the first trick, what damage can be done? If he leads another heart, you win and cash your minor winners before trumping a heart in dummy. With the first six tricks in your pocket, the defenders cannot stop you from getting three more tricks in spades. The only risk associated with this play is that an early round of diamonds gets trumped.

If he returns a trump instead, you still have the ♥A to control the heart suit. This means that you have time to establish the diamonds, instead of trumping your heart loser.

On Hand #3, it is hard to visualise a hand where the throw-in might work. However, the absence of any bidding from West gives you a glimmer of hope. What if West started with 5 spades and not much else? Once again, holding onto your Ace for one round has the same effect, as you would do playing in NT. If the player with the ♦A has only two spades, then the defence's third spade trick never comes because you can discard a spade on your fourth diamond, losing just the initial spade, one diamond and one club.

There is always a risk of a ruff in these situations, but 5-2 is more likely than 6-1, especially when the opponents are silent.

Hang in there!
David

David Lusk



Best Restricted Pair in the Territory Gold Swiss Pairs:
Wendy and Jim Smith

WHEN YOUR TRANSFER IS DOUBLED

Last edition, we looked at how you can take advantage of the situation if your opponent doubles your 2♣ Stayman bid over a 1NT opening. You can also apply it in a similar fashion if you have made a transfer bid 2♦ (hearts) or 2♥ (spades). Again, there are lots of variations in this situation, but here's a simple and practical one that doesn't require much memory strain:

OPENER'S CONTINUATIONS AFTER THE TRANSFER IS DOUBLED:

1NT	Pass	2♦	Double
?			

<i>Redouble</i>	<i>Strong suggestion to play in 2♦ XX (i.e. you have a good 5-card diamond holding)</i>
<i>2♥</i>	<i>Accepting the transfer means you have 3+ card heart support</i>
<i>Pass</i>	<i>Denies heart support (shows a doubleton)</i>

RESPONDER'S CONTINUATIONS AFTER A PASS (DENYING SUPPORT):

1NT	Pass	2♦	Double
Pass	Pass	?	

<i>Redouble</i>	<i>Re-transfer to hearts (may be weak or stronger)</i>
<i>2♥</i>	<i>"I want to play this hand in 2♥"</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>Generally do not exist, since you would start with the 're-transfer' Redouble</i>

It is useful to be able to distinguish between 2-card and 3-card support, as that alleviates some stress from responder when he holds a hand that is potentially invitational.

For example, if responder held

♠ Q 7 4
 ♥ Q 10 7 4 3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K 9 8 3

he can simply sign off in 2♥ if opener denies 3-card support, but can raise to 3♥ or 4♥ if opener shows 3+ card support. It can be more important to diagnose the degree of the Major suit fit, rather than look for stoppers, because you can check for stopper/s later.

Here's an example:

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

1NT	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass (1)	Pass	Redouble (2)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣ (3)	Pass
3♥ (4)	Pass	3♠ (5)	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

- (1) Denying 3-card spade support
- (2) Re-transfer to 2♠
- (3) Natural, game forcing, 4+ clubs
- (4) Asking for a heart stopper, unsure of the best game (West could also rebid 3♠ here, showing the H-x in spades)
- (5) Denying a heart stopper



If your 1NT opening range is weaker than 15-17 HCP (e.g. 12-14 HCP), then it is unlikely that the 1NT opener will have the right hand to Re-double, therefore you may want to tweak your responses as follows:

1NT	Pass	2♦	Double
?			

<i>Pass</i>	<i>Denying 3-card heart support (i.e. holding a doubleton)</i>
<i>2♥</i>	<i>3+ card support: "I want to play the hand"</i>
<i>Redouble</i>	<i>3+ card support: "I would prefer you (responder) to play the hand"</i>

Andy Hung

SQUEEZING EVERY TRICK OUT OF THE HAND

It was the first night of the annual club championship teams' event and it is generally regarded as the most important one on the calendar. During the regular social drink and a quick discussion after the Thursday night bridge session at our local club, Sarah and her partner, Peter, came over to me with very satisfied looks on their faces. I commented to Sarah that normally when she comes over at the end of a session, she doesn't look quite so content with life.

Sarah started to speak. "In the second match of the evening, we were drawn against the second seed. Peter and I decided to play against Shirley and Beverley. We believe that they are the stronger pair and that Shirley is one of the best players in our club. Do you agree?"

"They are a very good pair and Shirley, in particular, has been one of the club's best players for several years now," I agreed.

"Well," said Sarah, "we played 9 of the 10 boards against them and I thought we were behind in the match." Peter nodded his agreement with this assessment and allowed for Sarah to continue. "Of course, being behind in a match is a situation that I find myself in too frequently for my liking. Therefore, Peter and I had decided, before the match started, that if we were behind going into the last board, we would try and get the deficit back."

Peter interceded, "We both knew that we had one poor board so, without making any gestures to one another [that would be unethical], we were going to bid this hand to the hilt."

I interjected, "This kind of preordained strategy is not really a good idea as your partners might be having a good set, and you may lose heavily on a flat board by reaching for the sky instead of getting a second poor score."

Sarah seemed nonplussed. "I hate being negative at our table. Anyway, this was my hand as dealer."

♠ K Q 10 4 3
♥ K 4
♦ K 3
♣ A 7 4 3

Sarah spoke again. "I was thinking of opening 1NT, to show my 15-17 HCPs. Then I decided that I would treat my hand as 18+ points and open 1♠ and then jump at my next opportunity."

It was Peter's turn, holding the following hand:

♠ A 7 6 2
♥ A Q 7 6
♦ A
♣ K 6 5 2

Peter continued, "We play Jacoby 2NT, as you had previously recommended. So naturally, I bid 2NT showing four or more spades and 16+ HCP." *[Many treat play this as 13+ points. Ed]*

Sarah then took over the conversation. "I wasn't sure what to bid here but we had agreed that a bid of 3♠ by me was stronger than 4♠, and that Peter would cue bid if he was interested in slam. Therefore, because I had '18 HCPs or the equivalent thereof in the state of the match', I bid 3♠."

Sarah continued, "Peter then bid Blackwood and then asked for Kings, so I knew we had all the top controls. He then signed off in 6♠. Given the state of the match, I bid 7♠."

Naturally," I contributed.

"Beverley led the ♦Q."

♠ A 7 6 2
♥ A Q 7 6
♦ A
♣ K 6 5 2

♠ K Q 10 4 3
♥ K 4
♦ K 3
♣ A 7 4 3

"I could throw one of dummy's clubs on the ♦K and one of my clubs on the ♥Q but it still meant that we had a club loser in each hand. Suddenly my rush of blood looked like a bad idea. What could I do except say that I miscounted my points? So, I pulled trumps and discarded a club from each hand and then stopped to pray. Maybe I would get a mis-defence by playing off my long suit, even though it was trumps. This was the position after I played off my last spade, throwing a club from dummy."

♠ ---
♥ A Q 7 6
♦ ---
♣ K 6

♠ ---
♥ K 4
♦ --
♣ A 7 4 3

"The opponents had not thrown a heart or club yet, which was disappointing, but Shirley, on my right did not discard immediately. Eventually, she threw the ♣9. I cashed my hearts and then led the ♣K and a club to the ♣A, and my ♣7 took the last trick. Shirley had made a mistake and thrown a club, giving us a great score. I guess we all have bad days!"

I stated, "You gave yourself the only chance - so well done - although you may not be so lucky next time. In the position above, what do you suggest Shirley discards as she had the following cards before discarding the ♣9?"

♠ ---
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ --
♣ Q 10 9

"A heart discard gives you four heart tricks and the club gives you three club tricks. "Your contract depended on one opponent having both 4+ hearts and 3+ clubs."

Chris Hughes

TRIVIA 2

The person with the most RED masterpoints in Australia is Tim Seres (deceased) with 6,200.77 red MPs.
Paul Lavings lies in 2nd place with 5,799.05 red MPs.
Ian McCance has 5,776.97 red MPs.

**WHEN LHO'S OVERCALL IS PASSED
BACK TO THE OPENING BIDDER**

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable?

1♥ 2♣ Pass Pass
?

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



5. 2♦. Your hand has few quick tricks but lots of playing strength in hearts or diamonds. Even if partner has good clubs, you have little to offer in the way of defensive assets, but you have a great hand for hearts or diamonds.

6. 2♥. A minimum with good playing strength in hearts. If you had a defensive hand with Aces and Kings or tricks, you would double and give partner the opportunity to pass for penalties.

7. 3♦. You have a powerful hand in playing strength, so don't make the mistake of just bidding 2♦. Because you guarantee to reopen with a minimum and shortage in the opponent's suit, you have to bid 3♦ with a strong hand like this.

8. 2♣. You can be pretty certain that responder doesn't have a penalty pass of 2♣, so you have to make a decision whether to pass, double or bid 2♣. Your hand is too strong to pass, and double looks wrong because you don't want partner to get carried away and perhaps jump in diamonds.

9. Pass. You have a great hand but the 2♣ overcall means your string of clubs is a liability if playing in hearts. If responder can't rake up a bid over 2♣, you should pass and hopefully take your profit in 50s.

10. Pass. A tough one, with two choices: Pass or 2NT natural, 18-19 balanced. Responder could well have 6 or 7 points and no bid, and you could miss a game by passing. More likely partner has 2 or 3 points and your best shot for a positive is to pass 2♣ and hope responder has 3 or 4 clubs and you have sufficient defensive assets between you to defeat 2♣.

Paul Lavings

1. Double. Responder could have a reasonable hand and have to pass over 2♣, but would also pass with something like: ♠ A 4 3, ♥ 9 2, ♦ K 5 3, ♣ K J 9 7 5. With this hand you are unlikely to make a game, but you will do very well defending 2C X, probably collecting a penalty of 800 despite your minimum opening.

Low-level penalties are an important part of the game and, if you study the 2-level overcalls of most players, you will see they offer many opportunities for penalties. Partnerships should discuss this area and decide whether it is mandatory for opener to re-open. My preference is always to re-open with a double if possible, with 0-2 cards in the opponent's suit up to the level of 2♥ (but not over weak jump overcalls).

2. Double. You might be tempted to just rebid 2♥ but you have three tricks in defence and, if partner has a similar hand to that in Answer 1, say, ♠ 6 4 2, ♥ 9 2, ♦ A K 2, ♣ K J 9 7 5, the opponents will again concede 800 for 4 down in 2♣ X. Remember you can't score 500 or 800 by bidding 2♥, only by doubling. You've got to buy a ticket to win the lottery.

3. Double. If partner had responded 1NT, you would happily bid 3♥ but when the opponents overcall at the 2-level, it is cost free to investigate the possibility of penalties first. Give partner a good club holding, and you will score a juicy penalty, instead of just +420 or perhaps a minus score.

4. Double. You might be tempted to bid 2♦ or 3♦ but, if partner has a good club holding, you can get rich doubling 2♣ when partner passes for penalties. Your priority should be to give yourself a chance to score a large penalty against 2♣ X.



*Coffs Coast:
Best Pair in the
Open Swiss with
<1,000 MP each:
Yumin Li and
Liz Sylvester*

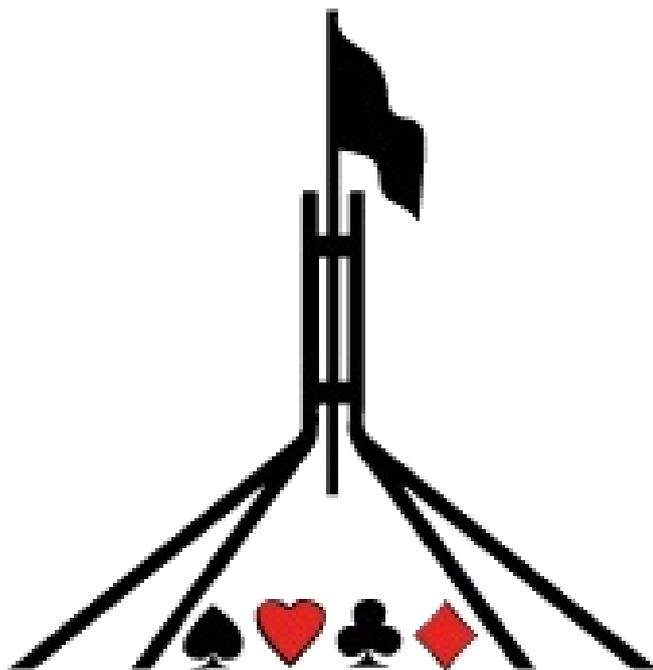
TRIVIA 3

The person with the most GREEN masterpoints in Australia is Thelma Charlesworth with 1,960.72 green MPs. Stan Pogacic has 1,880.35 green MPs, and Obbie Reiziger has accumulated 1,633.42 green MPs.



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