

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITORS: David & Sue Lusk

NO. 91 SEPTEMBER 2001

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Opinion

I have been in a position to closely examine the Code for appeals which has been analysed by Richard Grenside (part 2 appearing in this issue).

Aspects of the Code make it clear that the Appeals Committee has an obligation to allow statements from both the appellant and respondent pair. In the interests of justice and fairness, this is an essential ingredient of procedure. My concern lies in the fact that there are no guidelines as to the nature of the evidence that is admissible by either party.

In some recent appeals, players have been able to argue eloquently about aspects of Law as apply to the case in hand. Effectively, rather than provide their impressions of the facts surrounding alleged infractions, they have gone on to argue how events at the table are related to the laws of the game. And what, you might ask, is wrong with that?

Appeals Committees do not convene courts of law. If we try to follow adversarial principles in appeals situations, we will be unwittingly providing players with the opportunity to act as their own advocates, thus increasing the chance that the outcome will rely much more on the eloquence of the contesting parties than it should. This may be a reasonably equal contest in cases where both appellant and respondent are members of quality, experienced teams but serious mismatches will occur in many events where distinct differences in experience levels are much more common. In such situations, if legal arguments are on the agenda, then it would be only fair to allow inexperienced teams to enter the hearing accompanied by an advocate. I doubt whether many would see that as a step in the right direction.

If we keep it simple, the task of the Appeals Committee is to determine the facts and establish how those facts impact on Law. Keeping it simple will restrict information from direct evidence to the events relating to alleged infractions, eliminating legal views of appellants and respondents from testimony.

David Lusk

The ANC Open Teams

HANDS FROM THE OPEN FINAL

NSW vs SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Teams:

NSW: Ishmael del'Monte - Kieran Dyke,
Matthew McManus - Tony Nunn,
Al Simpson - Theo Antoff.
NPC – Michael Prescott.

SA: Peter Chan - Roger Januszke,
Attilio De Luca - David Lusk,
Paul Hudson - John Zollo(c).
Team Manager – Philip Gue.

South Australia had to overcome a deficit of 7 IMPs and took 19 IMPs in the first of 6 10-board stanzas to lead by 12. It might have been more but for this wafer-thin slam from del'Monte - Dyke.

Board: 8

Dealer: W

Vul: Nil

North

♠ 94
♥ Q9532
♦ QJ9
♣ A106

West

♠ KJ63
♥ 4
♦ 7642
♣ QJ85

East

♠ 1085
♥ J106
♦ K1085
♣ 743

South

♠ AQ72
♥ AK87
♦ A3
♣ K92

In 6♥, the diamond finesse works but the spade finesse does not. However, declarer was able to isolate the fourth spade as a menace and, running trumps from hand, squeeze West in the black suits. Well played.

New South Wales had two very productive stanzas to lead at half time by a comfortable 55 IMPs. The third set was something of a nightmare for the South Australian N-S in the closed room:

Board: 2

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

North

♠ 109
♥ KQ106532
♦ K7
♣ 87

West

♠ 84
♥ 87
♦ J952
♣ AK943

East

♠ QJ7
♥ AJ94
♦ 104
♣ Q652

South

♠ AK6532
♥ —
♦ AQ863
♣ J10

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

Whether taking the auction more slowly would have resulted in the far superior spade contract is open to debate but North's unilateral action worked out extremely poorly and the outcome of three light presented NSW with a 14 IMP swing.

Board: 7

Dealer: S
Vul: All

North

♠ 873
♥ K32
♦ J73
♣ 9654

West

♠ Q6
♥ Q109765
♦ Q82
♣ J2

East

♠ K104
♥ A84
♦ AK106
♣ K83

South

♠ AJ952
♥ J
♦ 954
♣ AQ107

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

1. Balanced 16-19
2. Transfer

If North ever took a heart trick, there were two clubs and a spade available as well but South led the ♥J, cleaning up the heart suit for declarer. Suddenly East had 11 tricks and a 13 IMP swing.

Board: 17

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

North

♠ 10652
♥ J1032
♦ 4
♣ Q982

West

♠ AKQ9
♥ 7
♦ K10
♣ KJ10743

East

♠ —
♥ K9864
♦ AQ987653
♣ —

South

♠ J8743
♥ AQ5
♦ J2
♣ A65

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	X
All Pass			

South tried to cash the ♣A at trick one and the hand was over before it started. A trump lead puts declarer

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in considerable trouble. This was a rare windfall board for South Australia but there was some duplication when the result was 7♦, redoubled at the other table. 1090 + 600 equated to 17 IMPs in a stanza which saw South Australia recover 13 IMPs.

South Australia picked up another 9 in the penultimate stanza to reduce NSW's advantage to 33 prior to the final (VuGraph) stanza. This rather fortunate hand aided their cause.

Board: 10

Dealer: E

Vul: All

	North	
	♠ Q1054	
	♥ 8	
	♦ Q2	
	♣ QJ9832	
West		East
♠ 872		♠ AKJ6
♥ Q1092		♥ A543
♦ KJ7		♦ 106
♣ 764		♣ AK10
	South	
	♠ 93	
	♥ KJ76	
	♦ A98543	
	♣ 5	

The South Australian E-W avoided the heart game which was not bid at the other table and played 3NT(W) instead. With the diamond layout as it is, it is virtually impossible for the defenders to start diamonds without conceding two tricks to West. In the meantime, the spade finesse works and the hearts can be played for one loser. West got this one home and gained 10 IMPs for his team.

South Australia made no impact on their opponents in the final stanza and NSW increased their lead to 59 IMPs for a well-deserved victory. The final tale from this stanza revolves around a single suit.

	K105	
Q9762	□	AJ3
	84	

With West needing this trump suit without loss (after North opened 1NT, weak) for his contract, both Wests played the Queen covered by the King and Ace at the first opportunity. At one table, South followed with the four and later saw 9, 10, J, pinning his eight. Del'Monte, typically as alert as ever after two weeks of solid bridge dropped the 8 at the first play and declarer fell for it, playing him for 10-8 doubleton.

David Lusk

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Colts in Action

This year I had the fortune to captain a team of young (and, yes, I mean young) youth players for the Trans-Tasman youth clash held in Hamilton, New Zealand. The senior partnership was Arian Lasocki from Melbourne and Daniel Krochmalik from Sydney at the ripe old ages of 17 and 18. They teamed with two relatively new players, Michael Delivera and Robin Stevenson, from ACT (just 16 years old).

The opposition was the seasoned team of Jillian Hay, Michelle Murphy, Christiaan Prent, Martijn Prent, John West and Mike Dollan, captained by npc Scott Smith.

The entire event was played in the friendliest environment with all players and captains getting on extremely well. Even in the dinner break the two teams could be seen enjoying each other's company at a local Hamilton restaurant.

As for the bridge, Australia had a shaky start losing the first set 14-49. This was mainly due to good aggressive bidding on the New Zealanders' side. However after this set, the team soon settled down and got their bidding socks on too. The following hand is from the second session when Arian and Daniel bid an excellent tight 4♠ game.

		North		
		♠ KQJ2		
		♥ AKJ98		
		♦ 2		
West	♣ J43	East		
♠ A7		♠ 83		
♥ 1075		♥ Q64		
♦ K984		♦ AQJ105		
♣ A975	South	♣ 1086		
		♠ 109654		
		♥ 32		
		♦ 763		
		♣ KQ2		

This was 10 IMPs to Australia when the other room played a partscore in spades only.

Two very low scoring sets in the third and fourth showed that both teams were quite capable of playing good tight bridge. It wasn't till after dinner that Australia really hit their stride, winning the fifth and sixth sets.

One hand from the fifth set showed how optimism however sometimes has its limits. Robin and Michael bid to the excellent 4♠ on the following hand and for their trouble were lucky enough to get doubled. To show

they were not afraid, as a joke, Michael waved the XX card in front of Jillian but chickened out at the final second!

At the other table Daniel and Arian took a rather rosy view of their hands and bid up to 6♣ this went a quiet three down when EW didn't really have a double.

		North		
		♠ A6		
		♥ A84		
		♦ Q102		
West	♣ A8432	East		
♠ J854		♠ KQ109732		
♥ 9		♥ KQ76		
♦ AJ764		♦ 95		
♣ Q106	South	♣ —		
		♠ —		
		♥ J10532		
		♦ K83		
		♣ KJ975		

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2♠	X
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	X	All Pass	

Result making four

West	North	East	South
	1NT	4♠	5♣!
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

The end result was 17 IMP win to New Zealand, congratulations to the winning side. As for the Australian side they put a great fight and were an absolute pleasure to captain. Thanks as well to the coaches, Robert and Arjuna.

Deborah Moir

♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

Copy Deadline

For Issue No 92, November 2001

October 25, 2001

Late submissions will be held over till

Issue 93, January 2001

at the discretion of the Editors.

♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

Open Butler

Winter. Time for the ANC. This year – Canberra.

Short on playoff points? Want good tough competition? Better play the Butler.

You know – start in Stage I on Friday, hoping to still be playing in Stage III next Friday. Seven solid days of bridge: morning, noon and night. They used to call it the Trials. What happened to truth in labelling?

No major casualties in Stage I. Twenty-odd pairs move on to Stage II, to be joined by sundry fresh faces, qualified directly. Fresh is the word – for them, it’s a five day sprint!

This hand from Stage II featured one of my pet hates – a lead directing double when the opponents are heading for slam. The best result I can ever remember from one of these is where the opponents bid the same slam they would have reached anyway, make the cold overtrick and tell me later, “your partner’s double should have tipped me off to bid the grand!”

Anyway, how to take advantage of the tip-off here? Vulnerable against not, you hold: ♠AKQ872 ♥AJ ♦A7 ♣Q102. Not bad, eh? Partner opens (!) in second seat and the bidding goes:

	<i>Pard</i>		<i>You</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
X	5NT	Pass	?

Partner has shown six hearts and one key card (at 5♣). Your 5♦ asked for the trump queen. 5NT confirmed he had it, and showed one outside king. (Science!)

What now? Picture partner with ♥KQxxxx, the ♣K, the ♦Q and maybe a jack or two. Or ♥Qxxxxx of hearts, ♣AK and ♦Q.

Six hearts could be cold, but the diamond lead through your ace may be uncomfortable.

Got it yet? The winning action in the bidding was of course to pass 5NT!! But people who do well in Butlers aren’t the type to take negative punts like that!!

In fact, 6NT from your hand (another triumph for Blackwood!) is cold on a minor suit lead, and makeable on a major lead.

North		
♠	—	
♥	KQ9763	
♦	QJ32	
West	♣	East
♠	K76	♠ J10943
♥		♥ 108
♦		♦ 10965
♣		♣ 93
South		
♠	AKQ872	
♥	AJ	
♦	A7	
♣	Q102	

But no – Most pairs went down in slam. The datum in both Open and Women’s was 120 NS. And, of course – partner of the doubler had a stand-out diamond lead against 6♥ without the double!

Some casualties from Stage II. For the survivors – keep dancing, Maria. Leads and doubles also featured on this hand from Stage III.

All vulnerable, Paul Marston on my right deals and opens 4♠. I double for takeout holding ♠5 ♥AKJ96 ♦952 ♣AK74. All pass.

With a double figure swing riding on your choice, what do you lead?

I don’t think it’s close – like many others I led a high heart and quickly scored up minus 1390. Three overtricks!!

Dealer: E	North		
Vul: EW	♠	109	
	♥	Q1084	
	♦	AK643	
West	♣	East	
♠	J3	♠	Q3
♥		♥	7532
♦		♦	87
♣		♣	Q9852
South			
♠	AKJ87642		
♥	—		
♦	QJ10		
♣	106		

The datum was 1150 NS. A club lead turns a 6 IMP loss into a 6 IMP gain! Ah well – win some, lose some.

This clearly wasn’t Paul’s only good board. He and Matthew Thomson won easily, from John Roberts – Bruce Neill second, and Ish Del’Monte – Sartaj Hans third.

The other big winners of the week were all the people who found the Cornucopia Bakery – how can I have been to Canberra so often and not been there before now?

Bruce Neill

The ANC Pairs

HANDS FROM THE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ANC Pairs is contested over two sessions amongst five distinct fields: Open, Women's, Senior, Junior and Mixed. The event is conducted in 'barometer' style with scores being posted as promptly as possible after processing. This is a popular format which, at this year's ANC in Canberra, resulted in a mass exodus from the playing rooms to the lobby at the end of each round.

The Open Pairs resulted in a tense final moment for the winners, Jamie Ebery and Leigh Gold, who started the final round having been overhauled by Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer after leading from the early stages. A successful last round for the young Victorians pushed them over the line.

For winners in each category, refer to ANC results on page 10.

Board: 2

Dealer: E
Vul: N-S

North
♠ Q1095
♥ Q10
♦ 10872
♣ 732

West
♠ AJ74
♥ J86
♦ KQ3
♣ A84

East
♠ 62
♥ K9543
♦ AJ95
♣ Q9

South
♠ K83
♥ A72
♦ 64
♣ KJ1065

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

1. 15-18, Bal.
2. Enquiry
3. Min, with 3 hearts.

When South led a club, East was still alive but had to restrict the hearts to two losers. The first club ran to declarer's Queen and a heart played to dummy's 8 and 10. North switched to a spade and declarer's next heart from dummy tidied things up very nicely. Making game in hearts was worth 18 matchpoints out of 20.

Board: 25

Dealer: N
Vul: E-W

North
♠ Q765
♥ J82
♦ A5
♣ AQ82

West
♠ 942
♥ Q106543
♦ Q8
♣ J7

East
♠ J10
♥ A9
♦ J10963
♣ 9653

South
♠ AK83
♥ K7
♦ K742
♣ K104

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

There was no good reason to bid 6♠ on this auction, but that was what was required to beat average. East led the ♥A and shifted to a trump. The ♣J falls doubleton but the squeeze line for 12 tricks is prettier.

Draw trumps in three rounds, cash Ace, King of diamonds and ruff one to expose the 5-2 break and lead a heart to dummy. As declarer plays dummy's last trump, this is the position:

North
♠ —
♥ J
♦ —
♣ AQ82

West
♠ —
♥ Q106
♦ —
♣ J7

East
♠ —
♥ —
♦ 10
♣ 9653

South
♠ 8
♥ —
♦ 7
♣ K104

With West pretty much marked with the ♥Q, the ♠8 will squeeze the player with four clubs, in clubs and a red suit. East had to part with a club and declarer was good for the rest of the tricks.

Session 2, Board 1

Dealer: N

Vul: Nil

North

♠ AJ6
♥ K862
♦ AK86
♣ 53

West

♠ KQ74
♥ AQ4
♦ J1043
♣ 107

East

♠ 9832
♥ J103
♦ Q9752
♣ 8

South

♠ 105
♥ 975
♦ –
♣ AKQJ9642

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

With North secured as declarer, 6♣ is an attractive contract from South's viewpoint opposite the 15-17 1NT. The contract makes on any lead. Those who were greedy and tried 6NT, failed on a spade lead.

David Lusk

Brides At Last!

After being runners-up in almost every available Women's tournament in Australia over the last few years, Valerie Cummings and Candice Feitelson finally elevated themselves to the status of brides instead of bridesmaids. This occurred via winning the 2001 Australian Women's Butler Pairs Championship held in Canberra as part of the Australian National Championships.

They paced themselves well throughout this marathon event. Starting slowly, but not too much so, in Stage I, then picking up the pace in Stage II and building up to a fine finish in Stage III to clearly lead the rest of the field across the finish line.

Second through fifth was a closely packed bunch with less than 4 VPs separating these pairs. The judges examined the photos and declared Felicity Beale – Diana Smart

second. This pair must be Australia's longest standing top Women's partnership and have represented Australia on many occasions over the period.

Then came Rena Kaplan – Berri Folkard, Lynn Kalmins – Elli Urbach and Annabel Booth – Lauren Shiels. All these pairs were awarded Playoff Qualifying Points towards the 2002 Australian Team Playoff. The other pair to gain PQPs was Sue Lusk – Therese Tully, a distant sixth. This pair, originally the tournament favourites, looked good during Stage II, finishing with the highest qualifying score. However, they had peaked too soon and a disastrous start to Stage III left them out of contention after the first day.

In an event that was less than inspiring, there were still some notable highlights. On the following hand, we were pleased to reach the grand and pick up 10 IMPs when the average was 1760, partway between the grand and small slams.



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Session 6, Board: 28

Dealer: W

North

Vul: NS

♠ J9873

♥ AQ95

♦ A

West

♣ A86

East

♠ 1042

♠ KQ65

♥ 6

♥ 8

♦ K107432

♦ Q985

♣ 1054

South

♣ J732

♠ A

♥ KJ107432

♦ J6

♣ KQ9

West	North	East	South
	<i>Lusk</i>		<i>Tully</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♣ ³	Pass	7♥ ⁴
All Pass			

1. Splinter
2. Keycard
3. 0 or 3
4. That's all I need to know.

This hand from Stage I earned us full value for making 3NT - average was zero.

Dealer: S

North

Vul: EW

♠ AK109

♥ A74

♦ 764

West

♣ KQ3

East

♠ J63

♠ Q542

♥ Q85

♥ J1062

♦ Q103

♦ A95

♣ A1075

South

♣ 96

♠ 87

♥ K93

♦ KJ82

♣ J842

West	North	East	South
<i>Urbach</i>	<i>Tully</i>	<i>Kalmin</i>	<i>Lusk</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	1NT
All Pass			3NT

Elli Urbach chose to lead fourth highest from her longest and strongest. This was taken by dummy's ♣K. Next came a diamond to the Jack and Queen, followed by

another club to dummy's Queen. A second round of diamonds went to the nine and King.

At this stage, it looked as though the diamond suit was breaking bringing the trick total up to eight - two in each suit. The best chance for a ninth looked to be the spade suit. If so, it was time to play it now. Thus the next lead was a spade to dummy's nine. Lynn Kalmin took her ♠Q and returned a heart. This was won with dummy's ♥A and then came the third round of diamonds.

Lynn won the ♦A and led another heart. Declarer won this with the ♥K, cashed the ♦8 and took the spade finesse. When this held, the trick tally was 9-4.

Most players know how important it is to attack the entries to the opposition's long suit in notrump but this hand demonstrates that it can be equally important against suit contracts. After North opened 1♦ and East overcalled in hearts, South ended up declarer in 4♠ on the lead of the ♥4.

Dealer: N

North

Vul: EW

♠ 964

♥ K6

♦ AQ10743

West

♣ A2

East

♠ K87

♠ 5

♥ 42

♥ AQJ10985

♦ K82

♦ J5

♣ KJ1096

South

♣ Q73

♠ AQJ1032

♥ 73

♦ 96

♣ 854

East took the first two heart tricks and then had to decide what to continue. A third heart would allow declarer to ruff in hand with a highish spade whilst discarding the losing club from dummy. A diamond would be suicidal, so that leaves one of the black suits. A club looks best as this could remove the entry to the diamond suit and, at the same time, set up a club trick for the defence.

However, East chose to return a trump. South won, finessed the ♦Q, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond high. Now she conceded a spade. West can win the second round and try a club but declarer can draw the last trump with dummy's nine.

Sue Lusk

Letter to the Editors

Edmund Collingridge has written making the following suggestions as to the content of the ABF Newsletter. We would be more than happy to receive other constructive feedback.

Dear David and Sue,

Suggestions you may wish to consider:

1. I am at the stage of consolidating the basics and it is from this perspective that I make my first suggestion. Tips for beginners and improvers.
2. Provide profiles of the players and/or details of an interview held with them.
3. An article about the ABF itself. How is it structured? How are points determined? How many members does it have? And the like.
4. Provide a survey/feedback forum.

*Hope you find this useful,
Edmund Collingridge*

The Editors' response:

Currently, the newsletter is restricted to 24 pages. Consequently we often find that it is a matter of what we leave out rather than what can we find to put in. However, given that, we do try to provide a little something for everyone.

Tournament Reports, by ABF direction, are restricted to National and International events. The two series, 'Bidding into the 21st Century' and 'Coaching Cathy at Contract' are aimed at the beginner and improver. The book and software reviews are aimed at all levels of players.

'Letters to the Editors' and 'Have Your Say' are available for players to voice their opinions, to make suggestions to the ABF and to initiate discussions that may assist the ABF in its decision-making. Unfortunately, we have not had regular, nor even recent, contributions to 'Have Your Say'.

Player, and even administrator, profiles are a good suggestion - one that has been raised previously with a distinct lack of success. However, we will readdress the issue and hope for more cooperation from the interviewees.

Edmund's third suggestion is an excellent one and we will approach the ABF with the aim of producing a series of articles to address these topics.

Country Congress Calendar

Dates	Where/Event	Contact
October 2001		
7	Gympie Graded Pairs	Sherree Soanes PO Box 521 Gympie 4570 (07) 5482 2154
13-14	Cooma Pairs & Teams	Freda Kauflin Monaro Bridge Club PO Box 418 Cooma North 2630 (02) 6452 1030
25-28	East Jindabyne City Labor Bridge Club Bridge Holiday gjesner@pcug.org.au	George Jesner 134 Dexter Street Cook 2614 Ph/Fax: (02) 6251 3664
28	Maitland Teams Congress	Rosemary Pout (02) 4966 5376
November 2001		
11	Surfers Paradise Novice Teams Congress	Congress Convenor Surfers Paradise BC Gold Coast Mail Centre QLD 9726 Ph (07) 5597 0085 Fax (07) 5597 1172
11	Tweed Heads Birthday Teams	Joy Rennie Tweed Bridge Club PO Box 106 Tweed Heads 2485 Club (07) 5536 1570 Home (02) 6676 1792
December 2001		
29-31	Atherton Tablelands Tableland Bridge Club Pairs & Teams	Michael Suthers (07) 4095 8219 H Julie Wyburn (07) 4091 3512
March 2002		
3	Coffs Harbour Congress	Beth Chambers PO Box 6545 Park Beach Plaza Coffs Harbour 2450 (02) 6652 3951
May 2002		
25-26	Coffs Harbour Congress	Beth Chambers PO Box 6545 Park Beach Plaza Coffs Harbour 2450 (02) 6652 3951
October 2002		
20	Coffs Harbour Congress	Beth Chambers PO Box 6545 Park Beach Plaza Coffs Harbour 2450 (02) 6652 3951

Tournament Results

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

BUTLER PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN:

1	Paul Marston, Matthew Thomson	258.0
2	Bruce Neill, John Roberts	244.0
3	Ishmael Del'Monte, Sartaj Hans	239.7
4	George Gaspar, Bobby Richman	238.7
5	Simon Hinge, Cathy Chua	237.2
6	Tim Seres, Zoli Nagy	231.0

WOMEN'S :

1	Valerie Cummings, Candice Feitelson	255.7
2	Felicity Beale, Diana Smart	236.7
3	Berri Folkard, Rena Kaplan	238.5
4	Lyn Kalmin, Ellie Urbach	234.2
5	Annabel Booth, Lauren Shiels	233.0
6	Sue Lusk, Therese Tully	216.0

SENIORS' :

1	Bill Westwood, Roger Januszke	251.7
2	Margaret Bourke, Eric Ramshaw	248.7
3	Hashmat Ali, George Riszko	245.0
4	Carole Rothfield, Jessel Rothfield	238.2
5	Victor Muntz, Boris Tencer	234.2
6	Stan Klofa, Jeannette Collins	220.5

RESTRICTED:

1	David Sarten, Suzanne Sarten	167.0
2	G Ware, Daniel Geromboux	160.0
3	Marker, Struik	153.0

PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS:

OPEN:

1	Jamie Ebery, Leigh Gold
2	Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer
3	Magnus Moren, Terry Strong

WOMEN'S :

1	Shira Shilbury, Joan Touyz
2	Borman, Ginsberg
3	Lachman, Collins

SENIORS' :

1	Ann Ohlsen, Pauline Hammond
2	Tony Jackman, George Cuppaidge
3	Pat Garrett, Betty Priestley

YOUTH:

1	John Maddison, Jillian Hay
2	Tim Lee, Kenneth Wan
3	Luke Matthews, Matthew Porter

MIXED:

1	Lovelock, Dyke
2	Courtney, Ewart
3	Tishler, Fruewirth

TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS:

OPEN FINAL:

NSW 199 Theo Antoff, Al Simpson,
Ishmael Del'Monte, Kieran Dyke,
Matthew McManus, Tony Nunn

defeated

SA 140 Peter Chan, Roger Januszke,
Attilio De Luca, David Lusk,
Paul Hudson, John Zollo

WOMEN'S FINAL:

NSW 149 Inez Glanger, Marcia Scudder,
Rita Nailand, Helena Pitt,
Catherine Herden, Ruth Tobin

defeated

WA 129 Debbie Frankel, Rachel Krasenstein,
Shira Shilbury, Joan Touyz,
Annabel Booth, Lauren Shiels

SENIORS' FINAL:

ACT 152.5 Hashmat Ali, George Riszko,
John Brockwell, Len Dixon,
David Hoffman, R. Cumow

defeated

VIC 127 Robert Gallus, David White,
Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins,
George Pick, Richard Rozen

YOUTH FINAL:

WA 129 Paul Brayshaw, Simon Brayshaw,
Greg Dupont, Peter Wilshire,
Oliver Mailes, Jonathon Pynt

defeated

VIC 86 Leigh Gold, Kevin Chan,
Tim Lee, Kenneth Wan,
Arian Lasocki, Tim Johnson

NEW ZEALAND NATIONALS:

TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Cornell 228.5 Michael Cornell, Malcolm Mayer,
Peter Newell, Martin Reid,
Ryszard Jedrychowski, Tom Jacob

defeated

Westoby 154 Jonathan Westoby, Denis Humphries,
Richard Solomon, Dolbel

PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1	Deborah Moir, Scott Smith
2	Ishmael Del'Monte, Paul Marston
3	R. Grover, Richard Solomon

ABF Website

Each month David Beauchamp's selection for the best inquiry he received during the month is posted on the site, www.abf.com.au.

The winner receives a voucher for \$20, funded by the ABF, toward any purchase made at the Bridge Shop.

The best July submission came from **Chris Mulley**.

Hand: ♠ AK109xx ♠ —
♥ KQJ9xx ♥ A10x
♦ — ♦ AJxxx
♣ K ♣ Axxxx

Bidding: Dealer: N, Vul: All

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT

Comments: 2♥ was forcing to game. In response to this 3♥ would be a splinter and 4♥ would be a distributional minimum. 3♣ at responder's second turn would have been 4th suit forcing, and 2NT would have

been a pivot, asking for further clarification of distribution. Obviously, if partner bids 2NT at his second turn we get to the slam easily, but he was worried 2NT followed by 3NT might show extras (we have since confirmed that it does not).

Anyway, given the auction up to 3NT, what do you think I should bid next? For the record, my choice of 4♥ was a spectacular failure when I got to play there.

And David's Response:

Hi Chris,
Six-six shapes are not so easy to bid. Your auction seems to have been going smoothly till partner bid 3NT (often an insensitive bid). Partner should have bid 2NT if forcing or 3♣ (fourth suit forcing) and now you can develop the hand

Over 3NT I guess I would have bid 5♥ and partner would have bid 6. Looks like 7♥ is the top spot.

All the best,
David Beauchamp

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THE CONSOLATION BUTLER FOR 2002

After discussion following correspondence from a number of players, the Management Committee has decided to allow all drop-out players from Stage I and the Seniors A Butler to play in the Consolation Butler in any partnership arrangement at future ANCs. Masterpoints would be treated as if it were a continuing event. However, it is reiterated that the existing regulations were enforced correctly at the 2001 event in Canberra.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN 2002

Australia has accepted an invitation from the English Bridge Union to send a team to play in a teams event that will run parallel to the Commonwealth Games being held in Manchester from 15th to the 20th July 2002. Similar invitations have been offered to all Commonwealth countries.

All expenses, other than airfares, will be paid for by the EBU for a team of four players. The ABF has agreed to fund the airfares for the team, and it will be offered to the winners of the Australian Playoff.

Dennis Yovich

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2002

The 2002 Summer Festival will be held at Rydges Lakeside Hotel & Hyatt Hotel Canberra from Wednesday, 16th to Monday 28th of January, 2002. Actions have been taken by both the hotels and the ABF to reduce the heat input to the low ceiling rooms. The popular bus service will be organised by the same smiling gentleman as last year.

Regarding no evening play for teams events, the voluntary poll resulted in only 96 responses. This was not the overwhelming vote I needed to action the no evening play concept. However, as a result of the clear direction of players' opinions, I have decided to move the start of evening play forward 30 minutes to 8:00 pm for all teams events. To ensure that there is a sufficient dinner break, the session length has been reduced by 10 minutes to two and a half hours.

An additional category has been added to the Restricted teams, namely the National 0-299 Teams Championship; this event will be played from 16th to 18th January. For the 0-299ers there will be no limit on the rating of Grand Slam members. There will still be limits on the ratings of Grand Slam members for the 0-49, 0-99 & 0-149ers which will be announced in the brochure.

The brochure will be published in early November. If you want to be amongst the first to get it you can register your email address with the Festival by following the directions on the ABF's Website under Events (scroll down to Past Events and find the link to Join the Festival email address). As soon as the brochure goes to the printers, this list will be used to send out the brochure and entry forms to subscribers.

*John Scudder
Convener*

BRIDGE TEACHERS SEMINAR

A free Seminar for bridge teachers is being held at Cammeray Bridge Club in North Sydney on the weekend of October 6th and 7th. Activities, led by top teachers such as Ron Klinger, will begin after lunch on the Saturday and finish at about 3-30pm on the Sunday. The ABTA plans that this seminar will be the first of a series of nationwide seminars over the next few years.

The Seminar is being organised by the Australian Bridge Teachers Association with funding assistance from the ABF. Thanks to the generosity of our leading teachers, the seminar itself is free.

If you would like assistance with travel costs or with billeting or accomodation in Sydney, or for more details, please contact the ABTA Secretary at gillp@bigpond.com, phone (02) 9560 2704 or 0402 413 584.

Peter Gill

Youth News

WORLD YOUTH TEAMS

Australia (Paul and Simon Brayshaw, Nic Croft - Luke Matthews and Greg Dupont - Matt Raisin) completed the qualifying of the World Youth Teams Championships in 11th place on 256 VPs. The leaders after the round-robin were:

USA 1	324 VPs
Thailand	290
Denmark	282.5
Israel	282

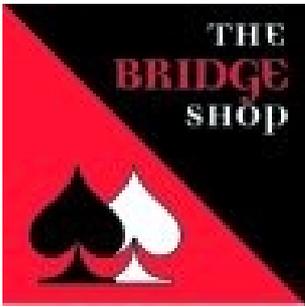
USA 1 defeated Israel in the final.

The ABF Youth Committee

The ABF Youth Committee for 2001-2 currently consists of:

David Stern (Convenor)
Peter Gill (ABF Coordinator)
David Lusk (ABF Coordinator)
Michael Wilkinson

David Lusk



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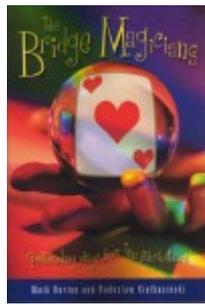
NEW BOOKS NEW BOOKS NEW BOOKS



Win the Bermuda Bowl With Me
by Jeff Meckstroth

Over-the-shoulder look at the thought processes of one of the world's best players. Jeff Meckstroth takes the reader through the highs and lows of winning the Bermuda Bowl. Written in the style of Terence Reese's classic *Play Bridge with Reese*, this book gives readers a chance to make their own decisions at critical stages in each deal, and compare their solutions with the authors.

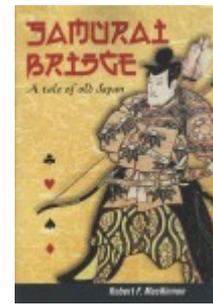
\$32.95



The Bridge Magicians
by Mark Horton and Kielbasinski

Over the last 10 years, a group of players from Poland has emerged on the world bridge stage to win world championships. Yet, apart from the fact that they are incredible card players and play incomprehensible bidding systems, we know little about them. In this book you will learn more about these new stars who have taken the bridge world by storm and yet, up until now, still remain enigmatic.

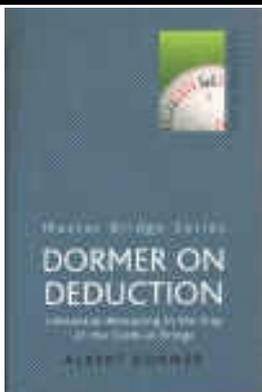
\$32.95



Samurai Bridge by Robert MacKinnon

Probably the most unusual piece of bridge fiction ever published, this book takes the reader to early 19th century Japan. While the characters may seem familiar - the heroic masterless samurai, the evil town magistrate, the downtrodden peasants, the tea-house madam with a heart of gold, and so forth, we realise that these people are different - they are all fanatical bridge players, and the climactic battle between the forces of good and evil will take place not at the card table.

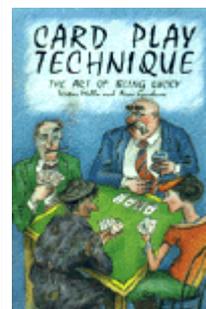
\$32.95



Dormer on Deduction
by Albert Dormer

(Re-release)
Not since the 1950s' classics *Reese on Play* and *The Expert Game* by Terence Reese has an author introduced new concepts of play and defence. Plenty of advice and hints about card-reading with around 80 complete hands...Read this book. Dormer highlights the way the expert players of the world think. Perhaps in doing so he narrows the gap between them and the average player, but to the latter's benefit.

\$26.25



Card Play Technique
By Victor Mollo and Nico Gardiner
(Re-release)

Bidding systems come and go but the mechanics of card play do not change. First published 40 years ago, *Card Play Technique* has triumphantly fulfilled the prediction of *Bridge Magazine* - 'a book which will be handed down to generations of players as the best possible approach to card play'.

\$34.95

All advertised prices include GST but not p&h

ABF Calendar

Date	Event/Contact	Location/Phone
October 2001		
13-14	Australian Swiss Pairs Barry Kelly kellybg@netspace.net.au	Hobart (03) 6228 5247
19 - 2 Nov	WBF Championships Val Brockwell	Bali, Indonesia (02) 6239 2265
25-31	Aust-Wide Spring Pairs Stephen Lester http://www.australianbridge.com	Australia-Wide (02) 9237 4599
November 2001		
8-10	Spring Nat. Women's Teams Frank Budai	Sydney
12-14	Spring Nat. Open Teams Frank Budai	Sydney
16-18	GNOT Final John Brockwell	Sydney (02) 6246 5093
January 2002		
12-20	Youth Championships Peter Gill	ANU, Canberra (02) 9560 2704
16-28	Summer Festival John Scudder	Canberra (02) 9344 5564
February 2002		
16-23	Gold Coast Congress Kim Ellaway	Surfers Paradise (07) 3855 3331
March 2002		
7-10	Open/Women's Playoffs Val Brockwell	TBA (02) 6239 2265
16-17	ABF AGM Val Brockwell	Canberra (02) 6239 2265
April 2002		
26-28	Senior Playoffs Val Brockwell	TBA (02) 6239 2265
May 2002		
TBA	Oceania Congress Val Brockwell	TBA (02) 6239 2265
17-20	Autumn National Teams SABridge Association	Adelaide (08) 8373 3995
June 2002		
TBA	World-Wide Bridge Contest John Hansen	Australia-Wide (08) 6239 2265
7-10	Barrier Reef Teams Kim Ellaway	Townsville (07) 3855 3331
8-10	McCance Trophy & VCC Jenny Thompson	Melbourne (02) 9885 0160
TBA	PABF Championships Val Brockwell	TBA (02) 6239 2265
29- 6 July	NZ Nationals Fran Jenkins	Hamilton +64 4 473 7748
July 2002		
19- 2 Aug	Australian National C'ships Margaret Whitehouse	Hobart (03) 6243 9319
August 2002		
16-31	WBF World Championships Val Brockwell	Montreal (02) 6239 2265

Book & Software Reviews

THE GOLDEN RULES OF DECLARER PLAY AND WHEN TO BREAK THEM BY JULIAN POTTAGE & MARC SMITH (VICTOR GOLLANCZ, LONDON, 2001, \$24.95)

This is the companion to "The Golden Rules of Defence, and when to break them", published a year ago. The author dissects 17 clichés, describing the logic behind them, and presenting hands where the clichés should be observed, and hands that are exceptions. Most of the deals in the first half of the book feature 3NT contracts, this one confirming the dictum to lead towards strength:

		North		
		♠ 872		
		♥ KQ72		
		♦ A732		
West	♣ K9	East		
♠ K104		♠ J963		
♥ A8		♥ 10954		
♦ 105		♦ J986		
♣ Q108542	South	♣ J		
		♠ AQ5		
		♥ J63		
		♦ KQ4		
		♣ A763		

South declared 3NT after a strong notrump and Stayman sequence, on the ♣5 lead. There are eight ready tricks, with one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. The ninth trick will come from either the spade finesse, a 3-3 diamond break, or hearts. As the first two can wait the question is how to play hearts. Leading towards strength is the solution. Win ♣A and play a heart up to the K-Q. West must duck, so come back to hand with a diamond, and play another heart towards dummy. Now the ♥A falls, winning only small opposition pips in the process, and giving declarer three tricks in hearts.

Dormer on Deduction BY ALBERT DORMER (VICTOR GOLLANCZ, LONDON, 2ND IMPRESSION 2001, \$24-95)

When Dormer on Deduction was published in 1995 it sold out instantly, and it has been unobtainable since. This superb book covers deductive reasoning in all areas of the game - opening leads, declarer play and defence, and even has a special chapter on deductions based on tempo and mannerism. Dormer introduces many new ideas through illustrative deals, frequently adding interest with stories of the personalities involved.

A summary of key points is provided at the end of each chapter, and the book is planned so that the description

of every hand is on the same page as the diagram (or on the RH page). The book is a revelation in how to establish a chain of logical thinking, from the smallest clues. Take this example:

Dealer: N **North**
 Vul: Nil ♠ K5
 ♥ KQ83
 ♦ A72
 ♣ QJ72

South
 ♠ 84
 ♥ AJ1096
 ♦ K543
 ♣ A4

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

West leads the ♠J, and East wins ♠A when you play the king. Then follows ♠Q and a trump exit. You draw a second trump and all follow. Everything depends on the position of the ♣K. If East has it, a simple club finesse will limit your losses to two spades and a diamond. If West has ♣K you must play ♣A and a club towards the QJ. If West takes ♣K there are two discards for the diamonds and if West ducks you have no club loser.

East has shown up with ♠A-Q, and East-West have nine spades between them. East would not overcall with only a four card spade suit, but chances are 50/50 that East does have five spades, and if so would certainly overcall 1♠ with ♣K as well. This is all the information you need to go with the odds, by playing West for ♣K, via ace and another club.

2002 DAILY BRIDGE CALENDAR (ASHLAR HOUSE, ONTARIO, \$24.95)

The Daily Bridge Calendar grows in popularity every year, and has become an indispensable item for the many players who need their daily bridge fix. The 365 challenging and instructive new problems and solutions were penned by 10 leading international experts, including our own Ron Klinger. Great value, with more hands than seven regular bridge books.

Paul Lavings
 Postfree Bridge Books
<http://www.postfree.cc>

WIN THE BERMUDA BOWL WITH ME BY JEFF MECKSTROTH AND MARC SMITH (MASTERPOINT PRESS, SC 188 PP)

Almost everyone must have heard of Jeff Meckstroth, one half of the highly successful “Meckwell” bridge pair (the other half being Eric Rodwell, who visited Australia some years ago). Marc Smith is a prolific bridge author.

It was with eager anticipation that I awaited the golden words in Jeff’s first book, which is about the USA team’s win in the 1995 Beijing Bermuda Bowl. It is written purely from Jeff’s perspective, and contains his thoughts and feelings away from the table as well as the actual play. The deals are generally quite “ordinary” in the sense that rarely is some esoteric squeeze or Devil’s Coup involved. However, the analysis of a bridge superstar reveals hidden wonders even in ordinary deals. As I read the book, I didn’t get the impression that it was just a book of bridge tips. Jeff expounds his thinking before, during and after the sessions in a relaxed style, and the reader can take from it what they will. For example, he likes to show team spirit by being there with his teammates at the scoring, even if he and Eric have not played that session. He regards many of the top players as friends – away from the table of course. He likes to relax by watching or playing golf – all very human characteristics.

There is a certain amount of the fabled “Meckwell” system and agreements expounded – just as much as is needed for the hands selected. More important is the “Meckwell” style – firstly, bid aggressively to put pressure on the opponents. Secondly, make as few errors as possible, and be ready to take advantage of the opponents’ errors.

Throughout the analysis, the reader is invited to take time to think about the problem before the answer is revealed, although that may be within the next few lines so it takes some discipline not to read on. The questions involve both bidding and play decisions. Here’s an example. All Vulnerable, you hold –

♠— ♥AKJ10853 ♦QJ9 ♣AQ5

West	North	East	South
			Us
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
1♠	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	??

(1) Artificial, 16+

Are you tempted to bid on? You should not be. Partner's 4♥ bid was his weakest option (he could cue bid the minors with a suitable hand). Also, his 1NT bid indicates spade values which will be wasted. A seemingly simple example, yet in a subtle way it highlights why this pair has been so successful – they don't miss any available nuance.

I have a couple of criticisms of this book. Firstly, although I like background material, I thought it was a bit overdone at times. Secondly, I didn't feel that some of the photos added much to the book, again taking up space that could have been better used for more hands. On the plus side, the bridge analysis was excellent, and will challenge players of varying skill levels. I'm sure every reader will get something out of this fascinating book.

John Hardy

Bidding Into The 21st Century

TEST YOUR RESPONDING TO PARTNER'S WEAK JUMP OVERCALL

How would you continue after the following sequence at pairs, nil vulnerable?

(1♣) 2♠ (Pass) ?

- 1) ♠J85 ♥K76 ♦K9873 ♣43
- 2) ♠KQ64 ♥A8 ♦J762 ♣862
- 3) ♠KJ53 ♥Q82 ♦K105 ♣J72
- 4) ♠Q5 ♥AJ543 ♦A3 ♣AJ92
- 5) ♠J94 ♥K864 ♦AK8 ♣A52
- 6) ♠4 ♥K76 ♦AQJ8754 ♣Q7
- 7) ♠7 ♥AKQ75 ♦AJ3 ♣KQ62
- 8) ♠KQ862 ♥2 ♦K9862 ♣83
- 9) ♠3 ♥K984 ♦AQJ2 ♣AJ83
- 10) ♠832 ♥J1065 ♦52 ♣Q874

- 1) 3♠. The Law of Total Tricks tells us to bid to the three level with nine trumps. Also our hand has considerable appeal, with a weak doubleton in their suit and a useful five card side suit, plus the opponents must have at least one eight card fit. The expectation is that 3♠ will fail by one or two tricks. The opponents may decide to play it safe and pass over 3♠, with the likelihood they could make +110 or +140.
- 2) 4♠. With ten trumps go to the four level. Your hand is suitable too, with good trumps and some shape. Your partner will not overcall 2♠ with a four-card heart suit,

so you know the opponents have at least an eight-card heart fit. With your ten trumps and their 8 or 9 card fit the Total Number of Trumps (TNT) is 18 or 19. If you make only eight tricks, they make 10 or 11.

- 3) 3♠. Again we have ten trumps, but this hand needs "adjustments". The 4-3-3-3 pattern is a negative, and we have too many minor honours, which are better in defence. You are happy if opponents choose to defend 3♠, and have chances if they manage to sort themselves out at the four level.
- 4) 4♠. Even though the weak jump overcall (WJO) is one of the most frequent, and profitable weapons in the game, there is very little literature on offer. What is the difference, for instance, between 2NT and 3♣? Here you don't care. Diamonds are simply too big a weakness for 3NT, so you bid 4♠.
- 5) 2NT. Forcing. Certainly nine tricks could be the limit, making 3NT the winner. If partner bids 3♦ or 3♥, showing a feature, try 4♠. Over 3NT or 3♠, pass, and abide by partner's decision.
- 6) 3♦. The WJO is typically a flattish hand, 6-3-2-2 or 6-3-3-1. 3♦ is bound to be a better contract, so you must be allowed to sign off by simply bidding your long suit.
- 7) 2NT. And then bid 3♥, forcing. Anything could be right, even 4♠, if opener's suit is solid or semi-solid. By bidding 2NT first you set up a forcing situation when you later bid a new suit.
- 8) 5♠. Yes, you have 11 trumps, so bid to the five level. But also your strength is concentrated, and the odds are that opponents can make 11 tricks, maybe 12. You want to give the opponents the last guess, so bid as high as you can afford at the first opportunity.
- 9) Pass. Your side may make 2♠, but probably little else. The important thing is not to tip off the opponents that you have something to think about. If your LHO is not sure whether to bid or pass, any hesitation by you will be a warning not to enter the bidding.
- 10) Pass. Common sense prevails. Despite your nine trumps the chances are you will suffer a double and a 500 penalty in 3♠. Also the opponents may not have an eight-card heart fit.

Paul Lavings
Postfree Bridge Books

Coaching Cathy at Contract

FINESSE FAILURES

Greetings Wise One,

FINESSES used to be great (something for nothing etc., etc.). I remember getting heaps of positives from my tutor in Supervised Play whenever I took a FINESSE, even when it didn't work. Anyway, I had no illusions that FINESSES worked only about half the time but, just lately, none of my FINESSES seem to work at all. I don't care so much when they are just for overtricks but some of those that really stick (and keep me awake at night etc. etc.) are the ones on which the hand either makes or falls down.

These have been spinning in my head for days and other players have given me solutions to some but not the guiding principles which might help in the future.

FAILED FINESSE #1:

♠ AJ75
♥ 76
♦ Q84
♣ 6432

♠ Q42
♥ AQ5
♦ AK2
♣ A875

Glenda	RHO	Me	LHO
	1♥	X	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass.		

West led the ♥J and I won with the Queen and played the ♠Q. Of course this lost to the King and the spades didn't break, so I only made 8 tricks. Somebody remarked that I should have expected that the FINESSE wouldn't work but playing one to the Jack wasn't any better. Was it?

FF#2:

♠ 763
♥ K10974
♦ A5
♣ K104

♠ 1062
♥ AJ532
♦ K3
♣ AJ2

Well, we got to 4♥ on this one and West led the ♦Q. I drew trumps OK in two rounds and then took a FINESSE in clubs, playing for the Queen to lie over the Jack (who told me that one?). It lost. Should I have taken it the other way?



John Hardy

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Jeff Meckstroth

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J.W. & S. Hardy (ABN 63 813 139 759)

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FF#3 (&4):

♠ KJ875
♥ A108
♦ 52
♣ 1076

♠ AQ2
♥ KJ9653
♦ K4
♣ K4

Glenda	RHO	Me	LHO
	3♦	3♥	4♦
4♥	All Pass.		

West played the ♦A and another and I won in hand. Well East had pre-empted and I thought that it should be correct to play the ♥K and then FINESSE against West for the Queen after they both followed. You can guess the rest. East had the ♥Q and sent a club through my King. That was another FINESSE that didn't work and I was one down. Was that unlucky?

Luckier in Love?
Cathy

Dear Luckier in Love,

It seems that bridge teachers spend a significant amount of time training their students on the art of taking finesses to improve their chances in play and then an eternity showing them why finesses are treated with suspicion by top players because 50% is generally considered as poor odds.

The main principle in your first example is *Avoid finesses that are bound to fail*. You RHO opened the bidding and is much more likely to have the King of spades than LHO. On this information, a finesse in spades will be well under 50%. You want 3 spade tricks for your contract and the key to success will be to concede the King of spades to East without sacrificing your Queen or Jack. On that basis, a spade to the Ace in dummy followed by a low spade towards your Queen will provide a much better chance. As long as East has no more than three spades you will collect three tricks from the suit. If East plays the King on the second round, you will have a temporary blockage but the diamond Queen will provide an entry when you need it.

The second example illustrates the principle of *Let the opponents take your finesses for you*. This is particularly apt with those each-way finesses against the Queen. You already had your good luck on this hand when West failed to lead a spade. Once you receive a diamond lead, your contract rises to 100% when the trump suit

behaves. Look at what happens if you draw your two rounds of trumps and cash the other diamond winner:

♠ 763
♥ 1097
♦ —
♣ K104

♠ 1062
♥ J53
♦ —
♣ AJ2

A spade exit will leave the opponents helpless. They can cash their three spades but will have to lead clubs thereafter or concede a ruff and discard by playing a diamond or a spade. The big problem with finesses is that players focus on how to take them rather than how to avoid them.

The third example illustrates the principle of *'Don't take a finesse if you don't need it'*. You are right to consider that the odds have changed once an opponent has pre-empted and, in a case where picking up the trump suit was crucial for your contract, your line of thinking would have been quite sound. In this case, the consequences of taking a losing finesse was too great a price to pay. Since you really couldn't afford to have East on lead, you should avoid finessing into that hand. The safest play on this hand was to take the finesse in the opposite direction (if necessary), thereby being well placed to make the contract in the (unlikely) event that East has Qxx in trumps. The principles of avoidance override all else on this deal because you must keep East out.

Knowing how to take finesses is obviously an essential skill for a competent bridge player. Knowing when to avoid taking them is a trademark of the top card players.

Aim for being lucky both ways?
David

David Lusk



2002 Playoffs

CONDITIONS FOR 2002 OPEN AND WOMEN'S PLAYOFFS

1. The Open and Women's Playoffs will be held concurrently from Thursday to Sunday 7-10 March 2002 at a location to be decided.
2. The closing date for (pairs) entries is 4.00 pm on Friday 14 December 2001. Entries must be addressed to the ABF Secretariat and must be accompanied by an electronic copy and a hard copy of a properly completed ABF standard system card with a maximum of two A4 pages of supplementary notes. (A WBF system card is no longer required at this time.) There will be immediate (provisional) announcement of the names of pairs whose entries have been accepted and of the names of reserve pairs in order.
3. Players whose system cards are deemed unsatisfactory must resubmit a satisfactory card to the ABF Secretariat by 4.00 pm on 1 February 2002. If this condition is not met, their entry to the 2002 Playoffs will be rejected without further consideration and their place will be offered to reserve pairs in order.

CONDITIONS FOR 2002 SENIORS PLAYOFFS

1. The Seniors Playoffs will be held from Friday to Sunday 26-28 April 2002.
2. The closing date for (pairs) entries is 4.00 pm on Friday 15 March 2002. Entries must be addressed to the ABF Secretariat and must be accompanied by a properly completed ABF standard system card with a maximum of two A4 pages of supplementary notes. (A WBF system card is no longer required at this point.) There will be immediate (provisional) announcement of the names of pairs whose entries have been accepted and of the names of reserve pairs in order.
3. Players whose system cards are deemed unsatisfactory must resubmit a satisfactory card to the ABF Secretariat by 4.00 pm on 5 April 2002. If this condition is not met, their entry to the 2002 Playoffs will be rejected without further consideration and their place will be offered to reserve pairs in order.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR THE 2002 PLAYOFFS

MOVEMENT:

A balanced Howell movement, will be used. Tables will be screened with bidding boxes and chariots. Open & Women's: 8 tables, Senior: 6 tables

SEEDING:

The field will be seeded and seated according to PQP ranking; no account of state of origin.

SCORING

Scoring by cross-imping. Details, including cut-off provisions, will be announced later.

TIME:

Time allowed is 8 minutes per board.

SUBSTITUTION:

Substitution allowed, at the discretion of the Chief Tournament Director, for 20% (rounded up) of matches, i.e. 3 matches for Open, Women's and Seniors. Players are reminded that substitution is a privilege, not a right, and will only be allowed for genuine cause. (Note that a work-related reason is not considered genuine cause.) Any pair in breach of this regulation will become ineligible but will continue to play in the event with its scores included in determination of results.

RESULTS:

- The top **three** pairs will form the Australian teams for 2002.
- The top **two** pairs in the Open will form the Australian teams to play in the Manchester tournament scheduled concurrently with the Commonwealth Games.
- In either case, should a pair or pairs withdraw, the next highest pair(s) will be the replacement(s).

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The Director's Chair

APPEALS COMMITTEE CODE OF PRACTICE - PART 2

All aspects of information arising are clarified in the Code. The section on authorised information is extensive; reinforcing the lawfulness of using information from both calls and plays, from opponents' mannerisms and known abilities and also from partner's style in spontaneous decisions rather than habit or system. Habit may well be considered as part of method and, whilst partner awareness is legitimate information, such method may be subject to regulations covering partnership agreement and disclosure. Not to disclose habits and practices is contrary to Law 40 (and thus illegal) when the call is made.

Unauthorised information occurs when a player has knowledge occurring either through an infraction or through a myriad of partner's actions that may suggest a call or play. These include: questions and answers to questions, emphasis, gesture or voice tones, looking at an opponent's system card and significant hesitation or haste.

In the determination of whether an accused player takes a course of action that could be suggested by unauthorised information, the Code recommends that the following set of questions would assist in determining whether an adjusted score would be in order:

1. Does the accused player have unauthorised information as a consequence of an action by his partner?
2. Could the unauthorised information be thought to demonstrably suggest the action taken by his partner?
3. Were there logical alternatives (or was there a logical alternative) that the player could have taken in place of the action that is questioned?
4. Have the opponents been damaged as a consequence of the player's action? Damage is assessed in terms of the score obtained.

Under question 3, a logical alternative is the consideration of a different action by a significant proportion of like players, taking into account the class of player involved and their methods.

If the answer to all four questions is "yes", then a score adjustment should be in order. Remember the 'offender' is the player who takes action on the unauthorised information, not the player who gave it. We are assuming that there was no intent to impart the information. If there was any suggestion that this was the case, the committee would consult with Chief Director concerning Law 73B2 'Prearranged Communication'.

The Code touches on ethics and makes the point that, in any given situation, a player cannot be subject to any criticism providing he has conformed to the laws and regulations. As an example, if a player misbids, there is no suggestion of impropriety or the requirement that the player inform his opponents even though he would be well aware of substantial damage in the offing.

Whilst many paragraphs in the Code relate to the use of screens, the general principles expounded are still relevant where screens are not in use. In the advice regarding discrepancies between explanations given and the related hands, the first part deals with differing explanations either side of the screen. Providing that both the explanation and the information on the system card concur, any material difference is referred to 'psyches'. If however, the members of the partnership offer differing explanations or if the convention card is in conflict, the non-offending side, if damaged, may well be entitled to an adjusted score. The director's role would be to rule under Law 75 and determine 'mistaken bid' (no infraction) or 'mistaken explanation' (infraction).

With respect to psychic calls, the first requirement is to define a psychic call. This is so put in Chapter 1 of the Laws under definitions: "A deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength or suit length."

The Committee carefully considered all of the aspects of psyches and, for the first time, has given guidance on the players' responsibilities and the director's role in dealing with both psychic awareness and partnership understandings. The basic principle of bridge is that one's opponents are entitled to full disclosure in advance and therefore to have the opportunity to have advance methods to deal with opponents' agreements. Sponsoring organisations play a part in categorising agreements and any pair with psychic awareness may well be in breach of the regulations.

Law 40A gives players the right to depart from their agreements but only if partner is equally as surprised as the opponents. Any suggestion of past experience or awareness contravenes this law and may well be considered as concealed partnership understanding. Players cannot defend themselves by taking normal bridge actions if there is any suggestion of the awareness of the possibility of a psyche.

The Code gives guidelines as to 'awareness' as being the occurrence of similar psychic action in the partnership either frequently or recently. Further advice refers to either habit, tendency or some significant external matter that helps recognition.

The Code recognises that in the play, false-carding is lawful provided that true disclosure is made of agreed meaning and expectations.

Whilst regulation with respect to action behind screens is foreign to most players, screens are mandatory in all WBF tournaments. Most countries use screens in their major events and therefore it is important for correct procedures to be formulated.

The intention of using screens is to reduce unauthorised information and to avoid, wherever possible, errors that can give windfall benefits to opponents. Players on the other side of the screen are not permitted to be aware of an irregularity if rectification can occur without the information passing through the screen. It is expressly forbidden to either accept the irregularity or to make the information available to the players on the other side of the screen.

In general, tempo sensitive areas are eliminated providing there is no clear indication as to who was considering. The Code suggests that a delay in the return of the bidding tray or pad of 15 seconds or less carries no implications and goes on to encourage random variation. Attention is also drawn to tempo expectations when players encounter highly unusual situations generated by unfamiliar conventions or treatments. Directors and appeals committees are encouraged to be sympathetic to any player having to contend with such situations.

The area of procedural penalties is a hot potato. Just because a player misbids or forgets the system is not to be considered as an automatic procedural situation. Only frequent misuse would incur such action. The Code suggests that score adjustment is the preferred way to redress damage. If a procedural penalty is imposed, both the director and committee should specify under which law or regulation such penalty is being applied.

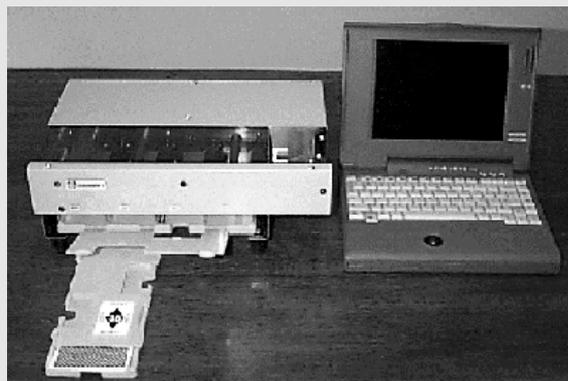
Before any report on an appeal is released for publication, the chairman should satisfy himself that the decision is referenced to law and reflects the finding of the committee. The Chief Director should be consulted to confirm the relevant law references.

Whilst the Code is aimed at the higher level of the game, even the smallest of clubs will find important areas that are pertinent to their club. Please feel free to let me know of any experiences in the adoption of these recommendations. (Email Rgrenside@ozemail.com.au)

Richard Grenside



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McCutcheon Trophy Standings - 31st August 2001

Best Performing: Of all Masters

DEL'MONTE, Ishmael	NSW	322.68
CHUA, Cathy	VIC	231.71
HINGE, Simon	VIC	229.47
NUNN, Tony	NSW	214.61
RICHMAN, Bob	NSW	193.08
DYKE, Kieran	NSW	193.07
KLOFA, Stan	VIC	183.48
PARKER, Ralph	QLD	176.04
LOWE, Leslie	NSW	173.36
GOLD, Leigh	VIC	172.14

Best Performing: Silver Grand Masters

DEL'MONTE, Ishmael	NSW	322.68
CHUA, Cathy	VIC	231.71
HINGE, Simon	VIC	229.47
RICHMAN, Bob	NSW	193.08
SCHWABEGGER, Charlie	VIC	166.57
MILL, Andrew	VIC	164.64
GUMBY, Pauline	NSW	160.70
LAZER, Warren	NSW	160.13
SMOLANKO, George	SA	157.26
KLINGER, Ron	NSW	156.76

Best Performing: Grand Masters

NUNN, Tony	NSW	214.61
DYKE, Kieran	NSW	193.07
KLOFA, Stan	VIC	183.48
PARKER, Ralph	QLD	176.04
LOWE, Leslie	NSW	173.36
GOLD, Leigh	VIC	172.14
COLLINS, Jeannette	VIC	172.06
GASPAR, George	VIC	161.91
PEAKE, Andrew	NSW	158.26
ROBB, Kylie	NSW	147.77

Best Performing: Gold Life Masters

DAVIS, Derrick	VIC	171.69
BACH, Ashley	QLD	147.83
MOIR, Deborah	NSW	142.25
DE LUCA, Chas	SA	130.20
WATTS, Marlene	NSW	122.03
DE LUCA, Attilio	SA	115.73
DE RAVIN, John	NSW	112.26
BRAYSHAW, Paul	WA	102.66
PRESCOTT, Michael	NSW	98.23
MILL, Cathy	VIC	94.34

Best Performing: Silver Life Masters

BAKER, Colin	NSW	130.99
WILKINSON, Michael	NSW	101.57
WOODS, Meredith	VIC	96.10
LINDSAY, Jack	NSW	95.71
SMALL, Anne	NSW	94.54
WILLIAMS, Heather	WA	91.45
CROFT, Denis	QLD	89.80
YANG, Kathy	VIC	86.40
WELLS, Tony	NSW	82.34
MALACZYNSKI, Wally	NSW	81.96

Best Performing: Bronze Life Masters

HAY, Jillian	ACT	91.05
LYONS, Frances	NSW	73.37
EUSTACE, Greg	NSW	71.61
GRUND, Rosemary	SA	63.72
TOOTELL, Peter	NSW	61.64
MALTBY, Diane	QLD	60.63
HARRIS, Anne	SA	59.95
LAWFORD, Prue	NSW	58.99
DALLY, Gordon	VIC	58.83
GRAEBNER, David	SA	57.81

Best Performing: Life Masters

COWAN, Richard	NSW	115.58
ABRAHAM, Mark	ACT	103.87
STRICKLAND, Trevor	QLD	87.98
LEACH, Jane	VIC	87.69
SKINNER, Tony	NSW	76.65
ATKINSON, Graham	VIC	75.97
ATKINSON, Jenny	VIC	74.88
LOVELOCK, Lynn	NSW	72.65
HART, Geoffrey	NSW	69.89
BEDFORD-BROWN, Linda	WA	65.00

Best Performing: **National Masters

LINDH, Eric	QLD	59.67
MORAWIECKI, Roman	QLD	57.04
PAK POY, Patricia	SA	55.55
TALLY, Jim	WA	53.09
FRANCO, Jackie	SA	51.16
FOSTER, Margaret	QLD	48.81
STONEMAN, Mac	QLD	48.68
WILLIAMS, Roger	SA	45.00
BARNETT, Philippa	QLD	42.21
HECKER, Robert	SA	39.37

Best Performing: *National Masters

FOSTER, Julian	NSW	143.05
EMERSON, Susan	SA	104.57
VAN JOLE, Nathan	QLD	98.61
DEAN, Sandy	QLD	80.91
CHIRA, Traian	VIC	77.56
KO, Kurt	QLD	73.77
JONSSON, Niclas	ACT	65.85
GOSS, Beverley	QLD	65.21
ZHANG, Renda	NSW	64.75
MCERLEAN, Paddy	SA	63.34

Best Performing: National Masters

NASH, Bill	SA	58.24
SQUIRE, Mary	NSW	53.87
HAVLICEK, Peter	VIC	52.67
SASSON, Clare	NSW	45.66
LOWRY, Helen	NSW	44.71
WAGNER, Norman	VIC	44.57
DUFFY, Marion	SA	43.07
KROST, Barbara	NSW	41.92
BROOKES, Ian	NSW	41.64
DAKIN, Keith	QLD	41.17

Best Performing: *State Masters

HANS, Sartaj	NSW	162.58
WILTSHIRE, David	SA	78.65
WOODHEAD, Damon	NSW	65.69
SUITOR, Patricia	QLD	59.71
FOREMAN, Carole	SA	56.31
ALLEN, Pat	QLD	55.20
HICKS, John	QLD	55.12
TURNER, Dawn	QLD	54.82
CHEN, Michael	NSW	53.99
WALFORD, Tony	QLD	52.28

Best Performing: State Masters

MEERBACH, Ferdi	SA	74.32
NEUMANN, Dagmar	NSW	72.17
GEDDES, Steve	SA	68.75
WOOD, Kerry	QLD	65.65
BADENOCH, Gwen	SA	53.11
THORN, Margaret	NSW	51.06
REGAN, Sandra	QLD	46.37
BIRCH, Robert	NSW	45.50
ZHANG, Gao Yang	NSW	45.18
MANTON, John	NSW	42.94

Best Performing: *Regional Masters

STRAW, June	NSW	30.10
EVANS, Glyn	SA	26.92
PILKINGTON, Leon	SA	26.19
WAIT, Marie	SA	23.43
HUGHES, Iris	SA	21.91
HENDERSON, Susan	QLD	21.05
WAKEHAM, Marcia	NSW	19.92
PUNTURIERO, Lidia	NSW	19.92
MALEY, Jenny	WA	19.79
BAARDA, Renk	QLD	19.63

Best Performing: Regional Masters

HARRIS, David	QLD	39.85
SFREDDO, Edi	SA	29.99
MCGINTY, Hugh	NSW	28.64
WING, Barbara	SA	28.01
NORMAN, Barbara	SA	27.01
KENNEDY, Peter	NSW	26.55
ALLEN, Sandra	QLD	25.94
FORREST, Don	NSW	25.25
NORMAN, Neville	WA	23.62
NORMAN, Daphne	WA	23.62

Best Performing: **Local Masters

PORTER, Matthew	SA	69.38
GREENWOOD, Allan	TAS	51.26
MANDERSON, Desmond	NSW	41.83
DENNIS, Jonathan	NSW	36.95
STEGGLES, Alan	NSW	36.47
AZZOPARDI, Paul	SA	33.09
GEROMBOUX, Daniel	ACT	31.50
HOOD, Jill	VIC	31.24
GLASS, Eric	ACT	30.01
LEUNG, Julia	QLD	28.60

Best Performing: *Local Masters

GINSBERG, Monica	NSW	48.24
OSMUND, James	QLD	46.05
ADCOCK, Jacqueline	NSW	37.62
MOIR, Shelley	NSW	37.17
CORLIS, Peter	NSW	37.10
HURD, Anthony	NSW	36.27
CLIFTON, John	NSW	36.02
MOLIERE, Robert	SA	34.42
FRANKLIN, Deirdre	NSW	34.27
FORAN, Leigh	NSW	23.76

Best Performing: Local Masters

MILLAR, John	QLD	25.56
ARORA, Santosh	NSW	22.49
LINES, Susan	VIC	22.02
DALY, John	ACT	20.91
LEE, Claire	VIC	19.73
EVANS, Val	NSW	19.55
YOUNG, Michael	NSW	16.11
SENDER, Sylvia	QLD	15.94
CHALMERS, Keith	QLD	15.85
WINDOWS, Alex	NSW	15.34

Best Performing: Club Masters

BARNES, Edward	NSW	39.57
MORGAN-KING, Pam	SA	36.68
MILLER, Don	NSW	34.35
KERI, Joseph	QLD	32.62
WISMER, Stuart	QLD	26.21
BRIFMAN, Maryanne	NSW	21.51
ZHAO, Yan	NSW	21.45
HU, Alan	VIC	21.12
GOVAN, Lance	QLD	17.76
SHAMEEM, Joseph	SA	17.10

Best Performing: Graduate Masters

LOPATA, Bessie	NSW	20.23
HAUER, Heidi	NSW	17.96
HILL, Richard	ACT	14.41
THOMAS, Jim	NSW	13.70
ASPINALL, Una	SA	13.41
SAMUELS, Tamara	NSW	13.15
BEILBY, Peter	VIC	10.60
MITCHELL, Judy	QLD	10.27
MITCHELL, Gary	QLD	10.27
SINDEL, Jeanne	QLD	10.25

Best Performing: Nil Masters

LI, Jin	NSW	36.09
EDWARDS, John	SA	33.31
JANZEKOVIC, Darko	QLD	32.65
EDWARDS, Margaret	SA	23.17
KNOWLES, Malcolm	SA	19.42
KNOWLES, Julie	SA	19.36
YU, Frank	VIC	15.01
GULLAN, Kate	ACT	12.24
FAULKNER, Liz	QLD	11.18



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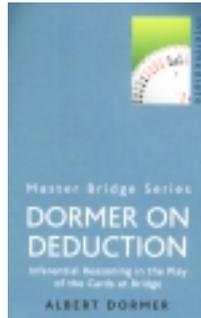
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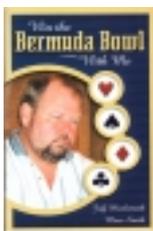
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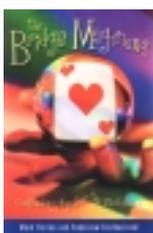
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