

2009 ANC and Butler Championships "THANK YOU, PARTNER"

Having missed out by 2 VPs in qualifying for the New South Wales Women's Team this year, Nafi Bashar and I decided to take on the marathon that is the Women's Butler in Canberra.

442 hands in a week (if you make Stage 3) is enough to strain any partnership, but we were determined to give it our best shot, remain united, and above all else, to avoid "wussy"* bids.

We struggled through Stage 1, with a big win in the last match getting us there, and things began to get better in Stage 2. I can confirm our bidding was not "wussy"witness this hand in Session 4 where we were one of only three pairs in all fields to bid the "granny":



Inspired by our "bid'em up" philosophy, I interposed 1♠ with a four-card suit successfully in Stage 2, and repeated the effort also, with good results, early in Stage 3.

However, I went to the well once too often.

Nafi was supportive "Two out of three, ain't bad!" she remarked.

"It is when the 'three' costs -1400", I replied bitterly

Halfway through Stage 3, we were plugging along in fifth place, when strange things began to happen. I found myself making a series of mechanical errors (no doubt due to tiredness). Twice I opened out of turn, but fortunately neither episode cost. In fact, the

*"wussy" = feeble, inept, cowardly. Origin unknown, but perhaps from "pussycat" (Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary) second time, Nafi was barred from bidding a long spade suit, which, if introduced, may well have led to disaster

These, and some other good results actually saw us in the lead with two matches to go.



Kinga & Nafi, Women's Butler winners

But then, playing in a game contract, I led towards KJ in a suit, intending to finesse the jack, which I played, only to realise that a split second before, RHO had contributed the queen!! 13 IMPs out, and a match lost which should have been drawn.

"Never mind " said Nafi "We're still in it!"

And we were. A series of fortuitous result left us in the lead by 1VP over Margaret Bourke and Kathy Boardman, whom we were to play in the last match.

The hands were tight, and I felt we were slightly behind when this little number appeared:



One down, NS +200.

I decided to double, rather than bid my dubious heart suit at the two-level. Nafi, determined not to be "wussy", hit the spot with a 5 bid, a contract which actually makes.

Boardman did well to bid 5♠, but as no other NS pair had pushed EW past 4♠, Nafi's bid was worth 10 IMPs, a win in the match, a win in the tournament (Nafi's first Australian Championship) and a trip to Rome to represent Australia in an international women's event.

Kinga Moses

Open Butler

The Open Butler was won by Ian Robinson -Arjuna deLivera (pictured at right) from Peter Gill - Martin Bloom.



This popular event was won by Paula and David McLeish.

Open Interstate Teams

In the final, *South Australia*, George Smolanko (captain), David Anderson, Judy Hocking, Kevin Lange, David Lusk, Atillio De Luca defeated *Australian Capital Territory*, Stephen Fischer, Marianne Bookallil, Khokan Bagchi, Michael Smart, David Lilley, Richard Brightling by 134 - 115 IMPs.





Youth Interstate Teams

In the final, *Victoria*, Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Nathan Howard, Max Henbest, Angus Munro, Jeremy Rosen, npc Laurie Kelso defeated *New South Wales*, Adam Edgtton, Ally Morris, Ellena Moskovsky, Paul Gosney, Erin Tewes, Leigh Matheson, npc Nye Griffiths by 160 -120 IMPs.

Women's Interstate Teams

In the final, *Queensland*, Bev Stacey, Rosa Lachman, Therese Tully, Pele Rankin, Maureen Jakes, Rosemary Green defeated Northern Territory, Jodi Tutty (Captain), Cathy Warthold, Rosemary Mooney, Therese Demarco, Pam Nunn, Alison Maynard 133 - 83 IMPs.

Bridgemate[®] What should I bid?

The best June submission came from Nick Beaumont of Melbourne:

Dear Sartaj,

An issue that does not seem to be much discussed is the use of low-level cuebids, especially when there is a choice of cuebids. Having two cuebids available presumably enables more information to be conveyed. There are myriad possible sequences: here is one:

For once, $1 \clubsuit$ and $1 \blacklozenge$ are natural bids:

West	North	East	South
1 🛧	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♣/♦?		

I have heard three interpretations:

1. 2 (over) is to play: North has something like Axx, Vxx, Axx, KJ10xxxx, or a bit better. 2 (under) shows equal length in the majors, probably 4-4.

2. 2 \clubsuit and 2 \blacklozenge both show equal length in the majors, but respectively better hearts and better spades.

3. 2 \clubsuit and 2 \blacklozenge both show equal length in the majors but respectively weak (say, 0-8) and 9+ HCP hands.

There are quite a few sequences in which experts at least offer to play in a suit first bid by the opponents, but most average players, at least, would not have discussed sequences such as:

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

I think that some people would reckon that 2♥ was to play (♥KQJxxx or the like), but probably most play that it shows good support for spades. Sorry, this grew to become two questions.

Sartaj's Reply:

Hi Nick,

The principle we play in my partnership is two-way:

1. The impossible bid is a cue raise.

For example $(1\clubsuit)$ Pass $(1\heartsuit)$ 1 \bigstar ; (Pass); now 2 \heartsuit is the cue raise, since we cannot have hearts for the pass over 1 \bigstar . 2 \bigstar becomes natural here.

2. Bidding responder's suit by fourth hand is natural. For example, $(1\clubsuit)$ Pass $(1\heartsuit)$ 2 \heartsuit is natural; for us it would be natural even if second-hand overcalled 1 \diamondsuit .

On the second question, $(1 \lor)$ Pass (Pass) $1 \diamondsuit$; (Pass), we would play $2 \lor$ as a cue raise because there is no other cue raise available.

Cheers, Nick



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	2:30pm - 5:30pm Sun Pairs 1
	5:30pm - 6:15pm Drinks and treats
Monday 9	9:30am - 12pm Lesson 2 4:30pm - 7:30pm Sun Pairs 2
Tuesday 10	1:30pm - 4pm Lesson 3 7:30pm - 10:30pm Sun Pairs 3
Wednesday 11	7:30pm Dinner at <i>Trios on the river</i>
Thursday 12	9:30am - 12pm Lesson 4 4:30pm - 7:30pm Ivory Pairs 1
Friday 13	9:30am - 12pm Play 12 set deals related to the lessons followed by a discussion with Nigel and Paul. 4:30pm - 7:30pm Ivory Pairs 2
Saturday 14	9:30am - 12:30pm Ivory Pairs 3 1pm Prize giving BBQ lunch



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A late decision to play in the Mixed Teams at the European Championships in Sanremo, emerged after Espen Erichsen, the young Norwegian expert now resident in London 'pimped' me to an English threesome seeking an eligible male — hmm, perhaps I could have expressed that a little better.

It was interesting discussing system from afar, agreeing that we would keep it simple, and then watching 10 pages of notes develop before my eyes. I don't normally get nervous before bridge events, but playing with somebody you have never met, let alone played with, is quie a scary undertaking.

Anyway, all went extremely well, as we qualified in second place. Some hands from Day 1 follow.

Over the 15 years that I have been using *Deep* Finesse - yes, I do own a legitimate purchased copy - I don't recall ever seeing it produce an error. One thing it does very well is remedy blind spots, something I am prone to. Look at the following deal, and see if you can see how to make $6\clubsuit$ from the East hand, albeit double dummy.



To have any chance, you must divine that clubs are 3-1, otherwise you will lose a spade and a

club. My cursory analysis suggested that you could ruff one spade low and one spade high, and I focussed on trying to set up spades.

However, this ignores high card tricks, and the three discards you have from dummy on ♥K and ♦AK.

So the tricks you will make are one spade ruffed low, and one spade ruffed high, three hearts, two diamonds and five trumps in dummy, for a total of 12 tricks. Moral of the story is a cure for blindness.

It is interesting how the smallest afterthought can be so valuable at the time, and how easy it is to find when you think about it - usually too late.

Round 3, Board 30



I am not proud of my bidding on this hand, but I thought that if partner had one black ace and we had no heart loser, we may have had some chance, especially on a diamond lead.

When a club was led, I commented to partner that I did not like the lead, and how right I was!

As you can see, on any lead other than a club, the contract makes. West at our table 'guessed' to lead a club, taking the contract one down, but look how easy it was for East to bid $5 \clubsuit$ instead of $5 \blacklozenge$, painting a better picture for partner.

Paul Lavings

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These little nuances really do make the game easier, and take pressure off partnerships in key situations.

When Boye Brogeland gives a member of the press a hand, it is usually time to sit up and take notice.

See if you can outdo him on this one:

Boye Brogeland

Round 3, Board 2 Dealer: North Vul: Nil



You are playing $5\clubsuit$ from the North seat on $\forall K$ lead, after East has shown a two-suiter, 5+/4+. Clearly, you must win the opening lead, or a spade shift will doom the contract.

A club finesse loses to ♣K at trick two. If West lazily plays back a heart, and East continues the suit, declarer is in good shape in this ending:



Playing A first allows you to play the suit for no loser, but not enjoy any discards. Alternatively J is a sound and reasonable play when it seems that East has eight or nine points in the majors, and seemingly a singleton diamond. The only losing situation will be when East holds a singleton Q. Look at the effect if, however, West plays back a spade:



You can 'pick' the diamonds by running $\bigstar J$, but an alternative option now emerges on the hand. You can play a diamond to the ace and run $\bigstar J$, catering for East holding $\bigstar 10x$, and losing only to the actual layout — which is what Brogeland did to go one down. Fine defence by West.

My final offering from this first day is a wonderful squeeze hand — a progressive double squeeze.

How many pairs do you think played 3NT and made it on this deal?





Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs, Eric Laurant (npc) and Anton Maas (coach) Open Teams Gold Medallists - The Netherlands



North leads \bigstar 3. The defence take the first four spades with declarer discarding a club from hand and dummy, and South a diamond. North then exits with a passive diamond.

Declarer cashes three rounds of hearts, and two rounds of diamonds, leading to this ending:



Having squeezed North into discarding a club on the third heart in order to protect diamonds, declarer now turns his attention to South, by cashing \blacklozenge Q. Discarding either a club or a heart is fatal.

A spot check shows that of the 14 (of 30) times that North led a low spade, the contract made 11

times, and failed three times, probably being a good testament to the quality of the event.

Ciao...

David Stern

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Bridge into the 21st Century

OVERCALL OR DOUBLE?

Nil vulnerable, your RHO opens the bidding $1 \blacklozenge$.



What is your call with the following hands?

- 1). ♠ AKQ62, ♥ K1076, ♦ ---, ♣ A1053
- 2). ♠ AJ7, ♥ AK1095, ♦ 6, ♣ AJ76
- 3). ▲ AKJ987654, ♥ A8, ♦ 10, ♣ 4
- 4). ♠ AQ9753, ♥ AJ6, ♦ K, ♣ AJ5
- 5). ♠ A2, ♥ 2, ♦ A32, ♣ AKQ109643

1). 1♠. This hand is from the 2000 ANC Open Teams Final, between NSW and SA. Whether to overcall or make a takeout double, to show 16+ HCP, was already a hot topic of discussion among experts. It seemed to me that if ever there was a hand where it was better to start with a double, this was it. After my double LHO jumped to 3♦, partner passed, and RHO jumped to 5♦. I doubled again. Bidding 5♠ on a five-card suit didn't seem a realistic option. The good news was that 5♦ doubled made in comfort. The really bad news was that 5♠ was a make:



Whenever you double first and conceal your long suit, you expose yourself to preemption. Sure, not everyone would find 3 • on David Lusk's hand, and Joe Haffer's 5 • was a great bid, but, having doubled intending to bid my long suit, I then didn't bid it, because the bidding was too high. Nor could I blame partner, with his two jacks and a flattish hand.

Something was wrong, and the conclusion was obvious. My double of $1 \blacklozenge$ was indeed a very poor call.

2). 1♥. This was yet another poor result if you double first. After:

1♦ Dbl 3♦ Pass Pass ? what now? Clearly 3^{\clubsuit} . The trouble was that partner held \bigstar 9842, \bigstar 62 \bigstar QJ103 \bigstar 1074, and 3^{\clubsuit} failed by three tricks. If you overcall 1^{\bigstar} with 1^{\clubsuit} , and then double 3^{\bigstar} to show a good hand, partner passes for penalties with two trump tricks: (1^{\bigstar}) , 1^{\heartsuit} , (3^{\bigstar}) , Pass, (Pass), Dbl.

Now it is the opponents who fail by three tricks at the three-level. And doubled. When you get your suit in first, and later double, your partner has a choice of actions. When you double first and then bid your suit later, you are removing partner from the equation.

Worse still, against good opposition you may not even get to bid your suit later.

3. Dbl. By around 2005, I had revised my overcall/takeout double strategy. When you make a takeout double with a long suit, the bidding could get very high, very quickly. Logically, when you double at the one-level, concealing your long suit, you should be prepared to bid at the five-level. Otherwise, good opponents will bump the bidding to the four- or five-level, and you risk never bidding your long suit.

This hand is from Stage 1 of the recent ANC Butler Pairs. Those who jumped to 4♠ missed a slam. You could overcall 1♠, but that risks being passed out. Partner held, ♠ Q, ♥ KQJ1096, ♦AK532, ♣ 9. There were 19 tables in both the Open and Women's fields, and six tables only in each field played 6♠.

4. 1♠. Yes, you have 19 HCP, but your hand is full of holes, and you surely can't afford to double and bid 4♠ later if preempted. Those who double on this hand cry, "But if I bid 1♠ I might miss a game if partner passes". My thoughts are the opposite, "Even though my hand has a lot of points and a six-card suit, we might only make seven tricks".

At the table the 1♠ overcall was passed out. Partner had a poor hand with a singleton spade, and 1♠ failed by one trick. Minus 50 was a top score.

5. 2. Again, double would be a popular choice. The most likely game contract is 3NT, but it would be a pity to go minus on such a beautiful hand. Your first step should be to show your long suit economically, with a simple overcall. You take a risk, but if you survive (and you should, when you hold only three cards in the majors), you can now make a strong bid, or take a chance on 3NT if it sounds like partner has some hearts. Don't be afraid to make what you believe is the right call, and then take the opponents on later in the auction. Backing your judgment is an important part of improving your game.

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Book reviews



My Favorite 52 by Larry Cohen

In My Favorite 52, Larry Cohen presents his favourite hands from a long and successful playing and teaching career (in fact

he has just retired from tournament play to focus more on teaching and writing).

What makes this book particularly engaging is the use of the over-the-shoulder technique of bridge writing (developed by Terence Reese).

Using this style, Cohen presents a hand and discusses the merits or weaknesses of various options he considers, at each round of the bidding. Then, whether declarer or defender, he does the same during the course of the play. At critical junctures in the hand, he pauses to discuss what are the cards he is considering playing, and why, and why he rejects inferior possibilities.

The hands in this book aren't new – some of them are quite famous, and they first appeared in CD form (the CD won the prestigious American Bridge Teachers Association Software of the Year Award in 2005). In its book form, Cohen has added a few bonus deals.

What I liked about this book is that while the deals are entertaining and instructional, Cohen doesn't just focus on his successes. Many of the hands are where he, by self-admission, made monumental blunders (so it's nice to know that even superstars can make costly mistakes).

There's a lot of discussion and analysis on every hand; so much so that each deal takes about three to four pages to analyse. It's a meaty book, with loads of ideas and instructional value. Plus, you get a better idea of the thinking processes of one of the bridge world's great players.



Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand by Barbara Seagram and David Bird

This a book for the newcomer to bridge, perhaps someone who has just finished a series of introductory lessons, or someone to whom you may be teaching the fundamentals of bridge. However, there are even lessons for those among us who have been playing for a while, but are *still not sure* what to do when the opening lead is made and dummy is faced. The underlying theme presented here is *make a plan*. And haven't we all heard that before?

Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand looks at both suit contracts and notrump contracts, and stresses that while all deals are different, there are recurring themes and strategies that need to be considered when assessing the best way to go about the play of a hand. Should you draw trumps, setting up side-suits? Should you holdup, and for how many rounds? Should you be counting your winners, trying to avoid too many losers.

In the world of bridge authors, Barbara Seagram and David Bird are titans. Seagram is a Canadian teacher, behind the successful '25' series. (25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know is the most famous). David Bird is best known for his collaboration with Terence Reese on the Abbot books, but has independently written dozens of other books

Nick Fahrer

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Coffs Harbour Bridge Club

Coffs Harbour Super Congress Results

Open Teams

1. *OTVOSI*, Ervin Otvosi, Kennet Christiansen, Paul Gosney, Nabil Edgtton

2. *HANS*, Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Catherine Ritter, Nye Griffiths

Paul Gosney, Nabil Edgtton and Kennet Christiansen

3. *MILL*, Andrew Mill, Andrew Hegedus, Ishmael Del'Monte, Kim Del'Monte



Open Pairs:

 Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn
Ron Speiser, Paul Gosney
John Mottram, Elizabeth Ouittner



Restricted

Pairs: 1. Mary Allison and Cath Whiddon

A strong field in the Teams saw Ervin Otvosi's squad trailing by 7 VPs overnight. They came home with 24 VPs and 25 VPs to win the first prize - \$3.600 - comfortably.

Restricted Teams winners were Jan Rae, Kath Rooney, Joan Mills and Errol Miller.

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Swan River Results



2009 Swan River Open Swiss Pairs

August 22-23

West Australian Bridge Club, Swanbourne

- 1. Nigel Rosendorff Henry Christie
- 2. Anton Pol Andrew Swider
- 3. Pim Birss Dave Munro



IBPA Editorial

In the August 2009 editorial of the International Bridge Press Association newsletter, editor John Carruthers had this to say:



"Which country does the best job of running bridge tournaments? That is very difficult to say - many countries do some things well, but it is extraordinarily difficult to get everything right. If we first consider the ACBL, the aspect of their tournaments which is unique in its smooth operation, is the player registration process. With the exception of the major team events (Spingold, Reisinger and Vanderbilt), they accept player entries right up until game time. When you consider that they receive many hundreds of pairs and teams in their North American Bridge Championships, this is really quite efficient. Much of the rest of the world requires some sort of pre-registration for the tournament authorities to cope, sometimes days or weeks in advance

The recent Open European Championships in San Remo, Italy had many laudable aspects: for example, screens for every table in every event, live scoring through *BridgeMates*, every board pre-duplicated, and a wonderful playing schedule - starting time was 10.30 am, with play finishing in plenty of time (usually around 7.30 pm) to enjoy a relaxing dinner and a social evening

Contrast this with North America, where play for the major events begins at 1.00 pm, wasting half the day, and finishes at 11.00 in the evening, or later, often necessitating a hurried dinner between sessions rather than at the end of play.

No one does hospitality better than they do in Bermuda (the best in the ACBL), with afternoon tea, a gala closing dinner and prize-giving ceremony and many 'extracurricular' activities for the players. Indonesia's hospitality is also second-to-none.

Tournaments in Asia seem somehow more civilised and polite than they do elsewhere, with none of the misbehaviour and rancour sometimes evident in other environs. Invitational tournaments in Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, the Netherlands and other countries have been fantastic.

So which country comes closest to getting it all right? Although I have played bridge in about 30 countries, and there is a much larger number I have not played in, it seems to me that Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Japan get nearly everything right: superb organisation, magnificent playing sites and environs, friendly people, and good playing schedules. All this success is mainly due to the ability and hard work of their 'conveners' such as Arifin Halim, Denis Howard, Tadayoshi Nakatani, Ernesto d'Orsi, David Stern, Therese Tully, Tadashi Yoshida, and the late Amran Zamzani.

It seems evident that the most important aspect of any Championship is the person in charge. That is why the 1985 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup in São Paulo and the 1995 World Junior Championship in Bali were, in my experience, the best World Championship tournaments I've ever attended - Ernesto d'Orsi and Amran Zamzani, respectively, planned everything down to the last detail and had wonderful assistants to carry out those plans. Everything about those two events was top-drawer: organisation, hospitality, playing site, hotel. Size has been a factor as well - the smaller the tournament, the better.

For invitational tournaments, the Yeh Brothers Cup sets the current standard for excellence."

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Details about the club can be accessed on

http:www.saba.asn.au.

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Bridgemate is sold for over 14 years in 35+ countries worldwide and is in use by thousands of clubs and national bodies. The biggest event ever run with Bridgemate was the 2009 Gold Coast Congress with 450 tables. But also small clubs like Alice Springs with 6 tables are enjoying the benefits of Bridgemate. Since 2005 all WBF and EBL championships are scored with Bridgemate. The PABF in 2008 (Gold Coast) and several ACBL nationals recently joined the group of bodies who are using the reliable scoring system. Bridgemate was introduced in Australia at the Adelaide Bridge Centre in December 2005.

ANC Seniors' Teams

This year, the ANC seniors event attracted seven teams, with no clear favourite. South Australia, and particularly Roger Januszke, were trying for three wins in a row. However all other teams were contenders. It turned out that this event was the most exciting in determining which two teams would make the finals.



David Hoffman

After the first round robin the critical standings were

ACT	81
NSW	77.4
VIC	77.2
SA	43.4

After the next four rounds, when the top teams played the bottom teams, the standings were:

ACT	173
VIC	130.8
SA	108.3
NSW	84.7

with NSW losing twice to damage their chances.

With one round to play, it was

SA	151.3
ACT	143
VIC	119.8
NSW	82.7

NSW need to beat ACT by 32 IMPs, and see South Australia win to make the final.

However they lost by 34 IMPs. This left Victoria needing to beat South Australia by 16 IMPs to make the final.

However, it was South Australia winning by 16 IMPs, to finish second to the ACT, but close enough to have no carry forward to the final.

The final would be fought between *South Australia*, David Cherry - John Horowitz, Pentti Rasilainen - Maciek Zurawel, Roger Januszke - John Zollo and *Australian Capital Territory*, Anne Powell- Earl Dudley, Peter Grant - Tony Marinos, Margaret Bourke - David Hoffman.

After seven boards of the final, South Australia led by 6 IMPs to 4 IMPs.

Then on Board 8, Dudley - Powell had an understandable disaster in the Open Room, saving in 6♥ doubled on the EW cards below, after Januszke - Zollo, NS, bid to 6♦. This was likely to go at least one down.

The full deal:



In the Closed Room, Bourke - Hoffman came to rest in 4♠. For Rasilainen - Zurawel, East led ♦9.

Bourke won A, and led a spade to the jack. West failed to realise it was necessary to give partner a diamond ruff now, so the contract made, giving the ACT an unexpected 3 IMPs.

The next deal:



West's double showed a single-suited overcall. After ♥A lead, Hoffman drew trumps, eliminating hearts in the process, then cashed ♠AK. On the second spade, East played ♠J, indicating he had spades held.

However, this helped Hoffman read the distribution. Judging that West needed $\diamond Q$ to justify his double, he played $\diamond A,K,10$, forcing West to give a ruff-and-sluff to make the contract.

In the other room, declarer (along with five other declarers in the four finals) took the diamond finesse, going one down, and giving the ACT a 10 IMP swing.



Ishmael and Kim Del'Monte



Joanne and Gary Brown

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Day

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- 2 At Sea. Join in a morning clinic, followed by the afternoon Welcome Pairs.
- **3 Townsville** Group sightseeing tour. Afternoon Duplicate followed by **Welcome Cocktail party**.
- 4 Stunning **Port Douglas** Group tour of the Rain Forrest and the Sky Rail to the town of Kuranda.
- 5 At Sea. Two morning clinics. Join us in the afternoon for our first **Team Tournament** at Sea.
- 6. At Sea. Two morning clinics. Afternoon Championship Pairs duplicate.
- 7. Darwin. Group tour of the NT Capital...Chinese Temple, Crocodile Farm, EP Military Precinct..etc.
- 8. Kimberly Coast. Free day Cruising the incredible sights of the Kimberly Coast. Afternoon Duplicate.
- 9. At Sea. Full day of Bridge. Morning Clinics and Championship Pairs.
- **10. Broome**. Group Tour of Cable Beach.
- 11. At Sea. Full Bridge Schedule with morning clinics and Duplicate.
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The last hand of the first set was:



In the Closed Room, the bidding proceeded:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♠	Dbl	37
3♠	4♥	4♠	57
5♠	6♥	All Pass	

On ♣K lead, this made comfortably, for 1430.

In the Open Room, the contract was $4 \ge 4$ doubled, making for 790, and 19 IMPs to *ACT*, leaving *ACT* ahead 36 - 6 IMPs.

At the start of the second set, it was Dudley - Powell against Cherry - Horowitz in the Closed Room, and Grant - Marinos against Rasilainen - Zuralel in the Open Room.

On Board 11, *South Australia* missed a club slam which required trumps to play for one loser missing Q1097. 11 IMPs to *ACT* when the club suit behaved.

On Board 13, notrump contracts played poorly, but *ACT* were in 1NT, and *South Australia* were in 2NT, giving ACT another 3 IMPs.



Queensland Women's Team, ANC winners Back: Rosemary Green, Bev Stacey, Maureen Jakes, Therese Tully, Front: Greer Tucker, Pele Rankin, Rosa Lachman

On the next deal, ACT bid to 3NT making, while South Australia were in 5 \blacklozenge going two down, another 11 IMPs to ACT. Then South Australia missed another cold slam, 11 IMPs to ACT.

Two boards later, both ACT pairs judged better.



In the Closed Room, South, Tony Marinos, opened a Multi 2♦, and Pentti Rasilainen, West, bid 3♣, showing clubs and a major. Peter Grant, North, doubled, showing values. Maciek Zurawel, East, bid 3♥, raised to game. Grant bid 4♠, which became the final contract.

On a heart lead, Grant played a spade to the ace, after which the contract made for the loss of two trumps and A: 420 to *ACT*.

In the Open Room, South, David Cherry, opened 1 \bigstar . Anne Powell, West, bid 2 \bigstar , showing hearts and a minor. John Horowitz, North, doubled, and Earl Dudley, East, raised to 4 \heartsuit . Cherry bid 4 \bigstar , over which Powell judged well to save in 5 \heartsuit . Horowitz now bid 6 \bigstar , the final contract, which failed by two tricks, giving *ACT* 13 IMPs.

Finally on Board 19, *ACT* were in 3NT doubled, which could have been beaten on a heart lead, but made 10 tricks on the actual diamond lead. In the other room 5 went two off, another 15 IMPs to *ACT*.

ACT won the set 64-0 IMPs, making the score 100-6 IMPs, and for all intents finishing the match. Another 20 boards were played, with *ACT* picking up another 18 IMPs, before *South Australia* conceded, with 20 boards to play. This gives *ACT* its third win in the event, adding to wins in 2001 and 2006.

David Hoffman

First World Junior Congress

At the first World Junior Congress in Istanbul, Turkey, a Czech - Japanese team took out the final from Italy. Australia finished 21st out of 40 teams in the 13-round knockout phase.



Marion Rice, left, explains the finer points of bridge to Dr Olivier Piguet Sprightly centenarian player, Marion plays a mean game,



and she'll happily tell you it's bridge that keeps her "sharp". Nothing excites her more than outwitting her opponents. Marion was just one of more than 3,000 players across Australia who took part in the 6th Annual Bridge for Brain Research Challenge to raise funds for research into dementia.

The launch of the Challenge coincided with the announcement of new research findings which reversed the thinking about which part of the brain deteriorates faster with age.

"We have now discovered that the ageing process is far greater in the white matter of the brain, not the grey matter," said the Institute's Dr Olivier Piguet, "and clearly there is a need for greater emphasis on maintaining an active brain in old age."

"The brain is composed of an outer layer, the grey matter, and an inner layer, the white matter," explained Dr Piguet. The nerve cells in the grey matter allow us to think, reason, learn, feel and coordinate movements. In contrast, the white matter consists of connecting fibres which carry nerve impulses across different brain regions and down the spinal cord.

"These findings indicate that the source of 'brain power' is present throughout life in healthy adults and that decline tends to happen because of lost connections in the brain. This underlines the importance of using our brain capacity throughout life to maintain and create new connections."

The Institute's Executive Director, Professor Peter Schofield, said the research was important as it reversed current thinking about the ageing process. "Finding that nerve connections are vulnerable during ageing is an important outcome as it re-emphasises the need for people to remain mentally and physically active – whether it's playing a musical instrument, bridge, chess or reading," he said.



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More than 57,000 Australians will be diagnosed with some form of dementia over the next 12 months – around 1,000 a week. The annual community cost of managing dementia is estimated at \$6.6 billion.

The Institute would especially like to recognise the team at the Australian Bridge Federation, State Presidents and Secretaries and the following individuals: Keiran Crowe-Mai, Valerie Cummings, John Delaney, Richard Grenside, Ron Klinger, Keith McDonald, Matthew McManus, Jane Rasmussen and Martin Willcox for their tremendous support in ensuring another successful Challenge.

For bridge clubs who would like to participate in the 2010 Bridge For Brains Challenge, contact Suzy Randjelovic on (02) 9399 1075 or s.randjelovic@powmrl.edu.au

See also page 21 for further results.

Coaching Cathy at Contract

LEAD DIRECTION

Well, Helloo..

The other day, partner doubled the opponents' 3NT contract, and I just thought that he had a good hand. Anyway, after I had made my opening lead, I could tell from the squirms on the other side of the table that I hadn't done particularly well. Of course, there was another suit that I should have led, and yes, according to my partner, he had *asked* me to lead it. This was the auction, with the opponents playing some kind of four-card major system (Acol, I think):

West (me)	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass.

My hand was $\bigstar J10975$, $\checkmark 85$, $\bigstar 1064$, $\bigstar Q105$, so I thought $\bigstar J$ lead was obvious. But partner was clutching $\bigstar 64$, $\checkmark KQJ107$, $\bigstar A3$, $\bigstar 9742$. Apparently, I was supposed to lead a heart. Why would the double ask for a heart lead? Further discussions revealed that doubles by the player not on lead might be asking for the lead of something else. Are there some (more) rules that I have to learn?

Your Niece, Cathy

Dear Cathy,

Traditionally, against 3NT, a double by the player not on lead asks for a lead of dummy's first called suit. This idea has led to some messy results, but there will be times when you can see that you have an opportunity to develop or take enough tricks, only if partner can co-operate. If dummy has bid two suits, the rule still applies, but is open to partnership agreement.

In the event that your side has bid a suit, a double confirms that as the lead. If both partners have bid (unlikely), then the doubler's suit takes priority.

Many pairs also play the double of 1NT: 3NT as asking for a spade lead. This is not mandatory, although it doesn't hurt to have some agreement.

Another agreement is that after this auction, double demands a heart lead, and pass suggests a spade lead. This is on the basis that Stayman has not been used, so there may be a weakness in one or other major. Obviously none of this is foolproof.

As with all highly geared methods, lead-directing doubles should be used with appropriate wisdom, and are open to partnership modification. Understanding the generally accepted principles is important if you frequently play in irregular partnerships.

Cheers, David

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It's the Law!

Playing cards from Dummy

During the play of the hand, dummy is simply declarer's agent (Law 42A3). He detaches and places in a played position those cards nominated by declarer. This should be done without question,



comment or reaction. Dummy does not participate in the play, and hence he shouldn't touch or indicate any card without instruction from the declarer.

A card is defined as 'played' at the instant it is designated by declarer. Alternatively, declarer may elect to reach across and select the desired card from dummy. This usually only occurs if partner is absent from the table. A card once touched must be played, unless declarer was specifically rearranging dummy's cards, or if he accidentally touches another card, above or below the one he intends to select (*Laws 45B*, 45C3).

A famous 'played card' situation occurred during the 2003 World Championships. On the very last board of the event, an Italian declarer (dummy having already left the room) reached across and picked up \$7, only to discover to his horror that his American LHO had not made the expected return! Having touched dummy's card, it was ruled as 'played' and America won the championship by a single IMP.

There are times when dummy mishears declarer's instructions, and plays the card he thought he heard. When this occurs, the defender next in rotation sometimes also plays a card before the initial misplay can be corrected? For example, dummy may be a bit deaf and hear "eight" instead of "ace".

This is covered by *Law 45D*. "If dummy places in the played position a card that declarer did not name, the card must be withdrawn if attention is drawn to it before each side has played to the next trick, and a defender may withdraw and return to his hand a card played after the error but before attention was drawn to it."

So if the "eight" was detached from dummy and a defender follows with the king before dummy's error is pointed out, then the defender can return the king to hand after dummy has exchanged the "eight" for the "Ace". Sometimes we become a little lazy with how we designate cards from dummy, and say things like "diamond" or "low". Declarer "should clearly state both the suit and the rank of the desired card" (*Law 46A*). However, when the call is incomplete, these are the restrictions that apply:

- "High" means play the highest card in the suit led.
- "Win the trick", means use the lowest card that will win.
- "Low" means follow with the lowest card of the suit lead.
- Naming a suit and not a rank requires dummy to play the lowest card in that suit.
- When leading from dummy and nominating just a rank, the laws assume a continuation of the same suit that won the previous trick (providing, of course, there is a card of the required rank available).
- In all other cases, declarer must simply play a card of the rank designated, if one exists, and if two or more exist then declarer gets to decide which one.
- When declarer nominates a card not in dummy, the call is cancelled and declarer gets to try again.
- Finally, if declarer instructs dummy to play 'any card', then this is the only situation where either defender may designate which card is to be played!

Law seeks to provide a safety net with which to resolve any difficulty regarding an ambiguous designation. The safest approach, however, is to avoid the problem altogether by following correct procedure, and fully naming the card you wish to play (both rank and denomination). This avoids any potential misunderstanding as to which card was intended, as well as any subsequent claims of dummy involvement.

Laurie Kelso

Copy Deadline

for Issue No 140, November 2009, the deadline is: October 26, 2009

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 141 December 2009, at the discretion of the Editor Email: editor@abf.com.au

2009 Results

Highest percentage overall



Evans & Thompson, at Leeton Soldiers Bridge Club, 73.22% Sponsored by Mirvac Hotels and Resorts

Highest percentage over 75 years

White & Morris Newcastle Bridge Club, 69.38% Sponsored by The Bridge Shop

Highest Club Fundraiser

NSW Bridge Club Association - \$1070 Sponsored by Penguin Group

Highest Individual Fundraiser

Elizabeth Fanos, NSWBA - \$835 Sponsored by BridgeClimb Sydney and Vibe Hotels

"The Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute would like to thank all the bridge players and sponsors who participated in the 2009 Bridge for Brain Research Challenge.

The 2009 Challenge has raised over \$25,000 for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Dementia Research at the Institute. Without the support of bridge players, they would not be able to achieve this fabulous result!

The Challenge has raised over \$125,000 since starting six years ago, and is stronger than ever, with the ongoing support of the Australian Bridge Federation and volunteers. The 2009 Challenge saw 80 clubs participating, with over 2900 bridge players involved nation-wide.

The week-long Challenge also grabbed the media's attention, with coverage of the 'use it or lose it' message on ABC TV News, Channel Ten News, Nine late afternoon news, 2GB, 2SM and 2UE as well as local/regional and national newspapers throughout the month of May.



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National Top 10

- 1 Evans, Thompson, Leeton Soldiers Bridge Club, 73.22%
- 2 O'Dempsey, Li, Toowong Bridge Club, 72.26%
- 3 Rees, Beyer, Sale Bridge Club, 70.09%
- 4 Dods, Mann, Wodonga Bridge Club, 69.98%
- 5 White, Morris, Newcastle Bridge Club, 69.38%
- 6 Wilkinson, Foots, Toowong Bridge Club, 69.22%
- 7 Broad, Gough, Toowong Bridge Club, 69.16%
- 8 Hackett, Hackett, Yarrawonga Bridge Club, 68.24%
- 9 McAlpine, Marr, Yamba Bridge Club, 68.15%

10Perry, Logan, Nyngan Bridge Club, 68.04%



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September 20 - 21 Noosa Swiss Teams & Butler Pairs Email Kath McKay: noosabridge@bigpond.com

October 3 - 4 Gold Coast BC Butler Pairs & Swiss Teams Email: gcbc@winshop.com.au

October 17 - 18 Taree Pairs and Teams Congress Email: judithscott@bigpond.com

November 14 - 15 Tumbarumba Bridge Congress Margaret Horwitz, (02) 6948 8626 Email: snowgoose@bigpond.com

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The Beginning Intermediate Lounge (BIL) of Bridge Base Online (BBO) is urgently seeking volunteer mentors to teach students one-on-one in online learning sessions.

If you are able to volunteer just once a week to help someone learn this wonderful game, please contact Maureen Hall at admin@bilbridge.com. She can also answer your questions about the commitment and objectives involved.

Our Australian beginning players need your help! Thanks in advance!

Gold Coast Congress News

27 February - 6 March, 2010

The entry form for the 2010 Gold Coast Congress is available, and can be downloaded from the following link:

http://www.qldbridge.com/entryforms/gcc2010.pdf

Important information for you to note - this is also repeated in the entry form.

• Pairs start Saturday, 27th February, not Sunday as it has done in the past.

• New Intermediate Section for the Teams only players with less than 500 masterpoints are eligible to play in this section.

• Every player has Monday night off.

• Open Teams now has 12 matches, with play starting Tuesday 1.00 pm, and finishing at approximately 7.00 pm on Thursday. Finals as per 2009.

• Senior Teams is only 10 matches, with play starting Tuesday 1.00 pm, and finishing at 7.00 pm on Thursday, with the top two teams playing the final on Friday. There is no play for the Seniors on Wednesday evening. For those wishing to play on Wednesday evening, walk ins will be provided.

• Intermediate/Restricted and Novice Teams is only 10 matches, with play starting on Tuesday 1.00 pm and finishing 2.00 pm on Thursday. The top two teams from each section will play in a 28-board final, from 3.30 pm on Thursday, finishing around 7.00 pm. For those that want more bridge, walk ins will be provided.

• Direct Deposit available for online entries only.

• Scoring problems that occurred in 2009 have been addressed, and a Scoring Administrator has been appointed, specifically to rectify scoring errors made by players incorrectly inputting data. Correction Periods have also been addressed, and new correction periods will be listed in the supplementary regulations published prior to the start of the event.



2010 Summer Festival of Bridge Entry Form				
	The Last Tra	in Events - \$200 per pair		
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				-\$
	Australian	Multi Pairs - \$100 per pair		
Mixed Surname, Given Name	Men's ABF No	Women's Surname, Given Name	Seniors ABF No	Novice Amount \$
		iss Pairs - \$110 per pair	Seniors	Open
Surname, Given Name	ABF No	Surname, Given Name	ABF No	Amount \$
	South-West P	acific Teams - \$820 per team		• •
Surname, Given Name	ABF No	Surname, Given Name	ABF No	Amount
Sumane, Given Name		Sumane, Given Name		
				-\$
	National Flightee	d Swiss Pairs - \$140 per pair		_
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CANBERRA Summer





11 to 25 January 2010



www.summerfestivalofbridge.com has a detailed itinerary of dates and entry details





Call **0401 509 616** for further information or alternatively email **not@abf.com.au**