

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITOR: Stephen Lester

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Stop Press! Gold on its way home!

Ranking		
Rank	Team	VPs
1	Australia	210.76
2	China	204.20
3	Singapore	201.51
4	China Hong Kong	185.46
5	Chinese Taipei	175.99
6	Japan	171.67
7	Indonesia	151.36
8	Thailand	71.05
9	Philippines	66.40



Australian Youth Team wins the 19th Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Youth Championships

What a month it has been for our Youth Team. First, they represented Australia at the World Youth Championships in Atlanta, where they won silver in the main teams event as well as in the Board-a-match Teams, the final event in the Championships. They lost to a strong USA team in the first event, and to Turkey in the second event.

The team of Justin Howard, Peter Hollands, Nathan Howard, Maxim Henbest, Ellena Moskovsky, Lauren Travis was captained in Atlanta by Ishmael Del'Monte and coached by Alex Smirnov.

Now, the same team, with captain Grant Kilvington have done us proud by taking out gold at the Championships in Wuhan, China.

More exciting news in the next ABF Newsletter!

Youth trumps age at ANC Butler

by Justin Howard



The 2013 Australian National Championships or ANC was held from July 6 - 18 in Adelaide. The event is one of the longest events on the calendar for a number of players. It runs for 13 days with 60 hands of bridge most of those 13 days.

The event is split into two different events, the first event being the Interstate Championships, where each state plays one another, with 14 rounds of 20-board matches, followed by a 60-board final.

The second event, the Butler, is the longest pairs event in the bridge calendar, with 120 boards of qualifying which gets you to the top 20 pairs, then a round robin of 12-board matches (in reality a 228-board final). It is truly a gruelling event, especially if you are lucky enough to be representing your state in the Interstate as well as the Butler Championships.

There are four separate categories for the Interstate Championships – Open, Womens, Seniors and Youth. Here is a quick recap of how all the events finished up:

Open Final – South Australia 2 defeated New South Wales 187 – 131 (South Australia was allowed a second team as the Northern Territory did not field a team, and an even number was required for the movement).

Womens Final – Western Australia defeated South Australia 2 175 – 105

Seniors Final – Queensland defeated South Australia 106 – 94

Youth Final – Victoria defeated Western Australia 234 – 141

Congratulations to all teams!

The division that we will be focusing on is the youth. The youth field at this year's championships was a very different field to previous years, with 16 first time competitors in the event. The youth has a very different approach to most of the other fields, with the main focus being making sure every player has a really good week, and enjoys themselves. The Victorians got up to their usual antics with a nightly party being held at their house, where anybody was welcome. This is maybe not the best way to ensure you are in the best playing condition for the next day, but it does mean the players had somewhere to go, where they could meet and socialize with other players.

There were many interesting hands in the qualifying. Here is one where I was faced with a lead problem against a slam. The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT ¹	Pass
5♣ ¹	Pass	6♦	All Pass

1. Key Card ask and response: 1 Key Card

Your hand is: ♠K8763, ♥A985, ♦93, ♣73

There were many different choices of lead, but I decided to make the youthful lead of ♥8 (leading thirds and fifths).

The reason behind this was our side knew declarer did not have ♠AK or ♥AK, as they had skipped past them to cuebid 4♣. At this point, opener jumped straight into Key Card, meaning he had an unbalanced hand with long clubs and a good diamond fit. This meant that if partner had ♠Q, the opposition would simply win ♠A, draw trumps, then throw the losing spades on the good clubs. If your partner does not have ♠Q then you have given up your king.

This means a spade cannot work, a minor lead is not an option, so a heart lead is required. There is a big temptation to lead ♥A, hoping partner has ♥K, but if you think more, you will realise that dummy must have ♥K, as that hand jumped to slam knowing partner denied first or second round control of the suit.

Without appearing to give it much thought, as soon as they bid to slam, I placed ♥8 on the table.

This was the layout:

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

This was the perfect layout for the underlead of the ace, as declarer can never guess to play ♥K unless they are psychic. South cannot get it wrong when declarer plays low as they know declarer does not have ♥A or ♥K from the bidding. So Peter Hollands flew with ♥Q and played a heart straight back, leading to the slam failing by one trick. Tomer Libman and Natasha Jacobs did really well to bid a very nice slam (10 out of 30 pairs missed slam and one pair made it all the way to 7♦). However, unfortunately, it was not their lucky day, as I was the only person in any field to find the underlead of the ace to beat the slam - 14 IMPs to the Victorians.

There were 15 rounds of qualifying (a triple round robin) with the final standings in the Youth at the end of the qualifying shown in the table below.

Rhys Cooper and Michael Bausor spearheaded the Western Australian team, topping the datums for the qualifying, with the three Victorian pairs running second, third and fourth.

The finals were contested by *Western Australia* and *Victoria*. Representing Western Australia were Rhys Cooper, Renee Cooper, Michael Bausor, Kirstin Fuller, Thomas Peacock and Alisa Peacock.

Representing Victoria were Peter Hollands, Peter Bolling, Ellena Moskovsky, Ella Pattison, Justin Howard and Jamie Thompson.

This was set to be a very good contest, with Western Australia beating Victoria both times during the qualifying, and with the voodoo of the team who won the

ANC Youth Teams Results

	Teams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Imps	VPS	Placing
5	WA	7	-31	72	10	39	53	49	-20	18	13	20	57	11	75	0	373	743.5	1
1	VIC	58	81	-72	17	12	141	12	64	-18	9	-23	97	61	49	0	488	726.7	2
2	SA	81	31	40	-18	-12	-18	-46	-48	65	-9	23	56	-11	-8	-22	104	545.2	3
3	ACT	-7	-81	90	18	-16	-53	-12	48	17	36	-4	-97	-2	-75	22	-116	499.1	4
4	NSW	-58	-11	-40	-10	16	18	-2	-64	-17	-13	4	-57	-61	8	-1	-288	351	5
6	QLD	-81	11	-90	-17	-39	-141	8	20	-65	-36	-20	-56	2	-49	1	-552	265.5	6

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1. **slang** A focused program that will drill Bridge concepts into the deepest recesses of the participant's mind. A structured, entertaining routine is employed to attain said goals. Enjoyment, comfort and fun are the keys that facilitate the process.



Host: Gary Brown



Kangaroo Island 'Competitive Bidding'

Jan 6 - 11, 2014 **\$1,095** (twin-share)

This early part of the new year is usually quiet so you may find it a good time to slip away for a few days! Get 2014 off to a positive start with a 6 day Bridge Boot Camp. The Bridge program is full with morning clinics, an afternoon and evening duplicate. Play only when you want. We are staying at the lovely Aurora Resort in downtown Kingscote. Lots of cafes and local fare. Join us?

1

Cambodia 'Defence'

2 March 21-31, 2014 **\$1,995** (twin-share)

Cambodia is the emerging market with tourists world wide - and that is where we are going! We will be staying at one of the best resorts in Siem Reap, the **Victoria Angkor Resort and Spa**. You will love the venue! The countryside is stunning. The people are gentle. I spent 4 days there recently and want you to know that this is a ripper! What great value! 2 tours are included. We will visit the historic and famous Angkor Wat. We will also visit the Floating Villages...and more.



Vietnam 'Card Play'

May 21-31, 2014 **\$1,995** (twin-share)

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3



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Bill and Clare Handbury - Tasmania

"The experience with Gary and his sirens was impeccable, absolutely flawless. The accommodation and service was excellent - as was the Bridge tutorials that demonstrated that shape means so much in the evaluation of your hand."

Laurie Newman - Violet Town

"The thing about Oz Bridge Travel is this - they make it fun. I cannot imagine going with anyone else. The accommodation, the food, the Bridge - it is all top shelf and so affordable! Bravo!"

Jill McCormick - Halifax

round robin not losing the final since 2001, the pressure was on the Western Australian team. The finals started off with a rather swingy night of bridge where there were five slam swings in just 20 boards.

Below is the one of the five that Victoria was on the right side of.

Youth Finals Set 1 – Board 7, South deals, all vulnerable

♠ 3 2
♥ A 8 5 4 3
♦ 5 4 2
♣ K 10 3

♠ K Q 10 6
♥ J 7
♦ 10 6 3
♣ Q J 9 6

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

♠ A 9 4
♥ 2
♦ A K Q J 9 8 7
♣ A 8

West	North J. Howard	East	South Hollands
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦ ¹
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	4♦ ⁵	Pass	3NT ⁴
Pass	5♣ ⁶	Pass	4♠ ⁶
Pass	6♦ ⁸	All Pass	5♠ ⁷

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Natural or 18-19, balanced | 2. 6+ diamonds, 18+ HCP |
| 3. Asking what else | 4. Singleton heart |
| 5. Sets diamonds | 6. Cuebids |
| 7. Grand slam try | 8. Nothing extra |

Stop Press! New agreement for bridge

The ABF has just entered into an agreement with TBIB to purchase Voluntary Workers Insurance for all State associations and bridge clubs. Insured persons will include all voluntary workers, directors, committee members and auxiliary members of the Insured. This will take effect as of 26th August, 2013.

Peter Hollands drew one round of trumps and when they were 3-0, a spade was ducked and a spade ruffed, and 12 tricks claimed.

The slam swing clawed back some of the deficit, leaving the score at the end of the first 20 boards at 65 to 52 IMPs in *Western Australia's* favour. The match opened up a little bit in the third segment of the final, with *Victoria* winning the set by 47 IMPs, and from there it was clear sailing for the Victorians, claiming the match by 93 IMPs.

It was a seriously enjoyable first week, and at the end of the finals the youth showed true maturity and friendship, with both of the finals teams meeting up for drinks together before the Victory Dinner. The ANC Youth Championships is one of the best events on the calendar for a youth player, it was good to see so many new faces, and hopefully that will continue.

The second week of the event was the “serious bridge,” The Australian Open Butler. With one of the strongest fields attending a national event for some time, it was bound to be a tough event! The field has such depth that many top pairs missed out on the finals. The finals of the Butler is one of the hardest events to play in, mainly due to the fact that you are playing pairs, so no matches off, and 228 boards straight. The hands during the event were amazingly interesting, with many opportunities for cardplay to influence the outcome of the hand, and system to allow you to bid every close slam and game.

One of the most interesting boards to play was from the qualifying, where North was playing 2♠ on ♥9 lead (seeing all hands you could play on diamonds and then trump your losers, but not seeing all the hands, you must consider all options): *Continued on page 6*

Open Butler Results

Pair	C/fwd	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	IMPs	VPs	Place
Peter Hollands - Justin Howard	42.5	-14	-7	15	34	29	21	-4	35	31	199	384.5	1st
Ashley Bach - Michael Whibley	41.5	2	20	5	-13	10	20	13	1	35	199	381.5	2nd
Maxim Henbest - David Wiltshire	40.3	-7	7	-2	-4	-5	-9	56	1	14	163	366.25	3rd
Wayne Burrows - Pam Livingston	41.5	13	7	1	-16	-10	-15	11	15	4	66	344.5	4th
Richard Jedrychowski - Bruce Neill	39.0	7	-28	-31	17	24	-20	6	-10	-4	62	341	5th
Ron Klinger - Matthew Mullamphy	49.5	-6	-18	31	4	-10	-25	13	-35	15	19	340.5	6th
Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer	45.0	-13	-20	-3	25	10	18	-6	-18	39	29	337	7th
Stephen Burgess - Brad Coles	39.5	14	28	-28	13	11	-25	0	18	8	36	335.5	8th
Avinash Kanetkar - Matthew Thomson	44.3	24	-12	-1	-34	-18	17	-13	10	-8	18	334.25	9th
Elizabeth Adams - David Beauchamp	43.8	0	-7	26	-5	-11	23	8	-1	-31	1	332.75	10th
Ron & Rhys Cooper	41.5	-24	54	27	5	-29	25	-56	17	-3	12	326.5	11th
Sophie Ashton - Michael Wilkinson	39.8	0	12	28	-15	18	-21	23	-1	-39	-21	318.75	12th



Bridge weekend at Palm Cove with Joan Butts

8-10 November 2013

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♠ J 10 8 5
♥ A J 6 2
♦ K 10
♣ K 9 5

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

♠ 7 6 4 3 2
♥ K
♦ J 5 4 3
♣ A 7 6

♥9 lead was taken by ♥K, and a spade was played, West doing well by not splitting. East, in with ♠A, shifted to a club. I won with dummy's ace and played another trump, hoping for a 2-2 split. West won, cashed the other spade honour and then exited ♣Q. I won in hand, and there were a few very interesting things starting to happen. I decided it was best to cash ♥A, discarding dummy's losing club. Now there were a few options. I could trump a heart back to dummy, hoping for a short ♥Q, or I could trump a club and make sure I won a diamond trick later. I elected to trump a club to dummy and play a diamond toward my K-10. West ducked, and I played ♦K. I now exited ♦10, and West was endplayed in a very unusual situation:

♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ Q	♥ 8 5
♦ A 7	♦ 9
♣ ---	♣ ---

♠ 7
♥ ---
♦ J 5
♣ ---

No matter what suit West played, they were endplayed, and if West had risen with ♦A earlier, they would have just forced me into dropping ♦Q in the endgame, however this line would have worked no matter the number of cards West had in the red suits.

The final places in the Open Butler are shown at the top of the next page. This was a massive result for Victoria, with five of the top six players being Victorian, and four of those players being under 30.

The sixth player was David Wiltshire, one of the top Open players (born in South Australia but now a resident of New South Wales). Congratulations to all who did well, especially Maxim Henbest, 21, who played sensationally and finished in third spot.

Focus: 30 years on

by Di Brooks

Focus, the BAWA newsletter celebrates its 10th birthday, under the editorship of Linda Bedford Brown, past co-editor, Pam Beddow and the current co-editor, Beata Beiganski.

Take a look at the photo of the BAWA newsletter, Vol 1, #5, under the penmanship of P Hughes. How times have changed. Check out the format of the past and present. Changes in technique and spaceage technology, as well as in the incoming committees, over the years, have affected this metamorphosis, from the one-page newsletter, now emerging as a huge colorful edition, full of interesting articles and photographs.



I remember 11 years ago, when in conversation with the then editor of the newsletter, Terry Glover. Terry was trying to drum up interest from the state players, urging them to put together articles for the next edition. Very few people were prepared to help out. It was then I realised we all need to be party to supporting our great mind sport.

Grateful thanks to Linda, Pam, Beata and everyone who has put in their tuppence worth. Congratulations to them all for a job very well done.

Club Congresses

Bairnsdale Bridge Club 11th Annual Congress

Saturday, October 5: Swiss Pairs, 12pm, byo lunch.

Sunday October 6: Swiss Teams, 10am

Entries close Wednesday, October 2. Enter online or contact Phillip Goode on 0417 738 406. Email enquiries@tarahouse.com.au or bairnsdalebridgeclub@gmail.com.au

Commercial Club Albury Super Congress

11 - 13 October

Friday Evening - Pre Congress Pairs

Saturday - Swiss Pairs

Sunday - Swiss Teams

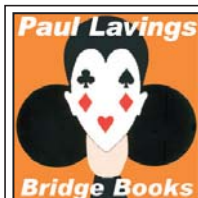
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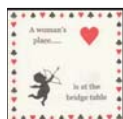
Pocket posh tips for bridge players
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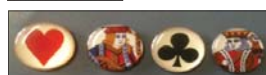
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Victor Champion Cup at Bayview Eden

by Kim Frazer

The 2013 VCC returned once again to the Bayview Eden in South Melbourne, which has proved to be a popular venue with players. Staying where you play is appreciated by many of our patrons, and the après bridge conviviality in the bar was enjoyable.

Despite the clash with the PABF Championships in Hong Kong, which saw some of our top players miss the event for the first time, the VCC was still a hotly contested event, with 66 teams in the open field. The result was eventually decided in the last round despite *HOLLANDS* having an apparent lock on the tournament going into the last day, with *MORRISON* staging a come from behind performance to take the title. It just goes to prove that in bridge, anything can happen and it ain't over until the proverbial fat lady sings! In the Restricted Teams event, which featured

12 teams, we had a wonderful group of youth players who also shared caddying duties for the event. They enjoyed themselves immensely, and I am sure will be back again next year.

On the Friday, players were stunned by the news of the death of Bobby Richman, which reached us during the second day of the pairs events. Hugh Grosvenor made a short tribute to Bobby, and players observed a minute's silence in his honour.

During the presentations on the Friday evening, tournament organiser Kim Frazer announced the naming of the Restricted Pairs event after the late Victor Muntz, and thanked Victor's daughter Kitty for her generous donation. Victor had made a long contribution to bridge in Victoria as the State Masterpoint Secretary for many years, as well as being one of our premier players, so it was a fitting tribute to him to have a perpetual trophy named in his honour.

Players were asked to raise their glasses in memory of not only Victor, but also Bobby Richman and Sara Tishler, all of whom had passed away in the last year. One player quipped that Sara was now telling Bobby what to do in the afterlife.

West deals, EW vulnerable

♠ J 10 9
♥ 10 7 4
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 7 6 5 2

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

One of the most memorable deals wasn't one with which we covered ourselves in glory. Sitting West, I opened a strong 2♣, and partner gave a negative response of 2♦. In our system, my next bid of 3NT shows a balanced hand with 25 - 27 HCP, but clearly 3♣ is a more descriptive forcing bid. Partner would now bid 3♦, showing a five-card suit, after which 6♦ is likely. I am not sure we would get to the making 7♦, which a couple of pairs did, but we wouldn't have given away 11 IMPs playing 3NT, when the EW opponents were in slam. We had lots of company, with the majority of the field languishing in 3NT, but unfortunately our opponents weren't in the majority and found 6NT.

The other board I liked was played in Round 4, when

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This year sees the introduction of the Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs. Ted was well known on the NSW Bridge scene as a Player, Director and Teacher. It is fitting that the new Restricted Pairs event will honour Ted.



OPEN TEAMS (Qualifying 23-25 October)

TWO MEN and a TRUCK RESTRICTED¹ TEAMS (23-24 October)

DICK CUMMINGS OPEN SWISS PAIRS (26-27 October)

TED CHADWICK RESTRICTED¹ SWISS PAIRS (26-27 October)

LINDA STERN WOMEN'S TEAMS (Qualifying 28-30 October)

BOBBY EVANS SENIORS' TEAMS (Qualifying 28-30 October)²

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- 1 each player holding fewer than 300 masterpoints at 30/6/2013
- 2 each player born before 1/1/1955

our team was doing quite well, and produced a 12 IMP swing for us. On this occasion, our conservative approach paid off. My opponents were a bit surprised that I managed to play *and* be tournament organiser as well. My partner, Bob Geyer and I subsided in 4NT, while the opponents played in the wrong slam of 6♣ (according to *Deep Finesse* 6♦ is a make, although it is no slam dunk - only one pair managed to make it and several other pairs were also in the 4-3 club fit at the six-level!) So our bidding was very scientific - 1NT: 4NT (quantitative), which I hastily passed with my 15-count:

South deals, all vulnerable

♠ 9 7 6 5
♥ K 10 7 4
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 10 8

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

My thanks to all the people who helped make the tournament a success. Sean Mullamphy did a super job as Chief Tournament Director, together with Peter Marley, Val Daly and Sandra Hughes, while David Anderson made sure everyone knew the results. Chris Heesom was once again a fantastic floor manager, and was ably assisted by several caddies, and Christina Macquarrie made sure everyone looking for a partner or teammates found them. Traian Chira and Sandra Hughes managed the Vugraph, whilst the venue staff did a fantastic job ensuring everyone was looked after

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during the event. Special mention to Neil Ewart for managing the event's finances, as well as doing a host of other things, and to Cathie Lachman and Laurie Kelso for pre-event support.

Victor Champion Cup

1. Simon Hinge, Kim Morrison, Richard Jedrychowski, Bruce Neill
2. Sartaj Hans, Michael Whibley, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard



3. Phillip Fent, Robert Gallus, Dennis Goldner, Stan Klofa, David Happell

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams

1. Penny Blankfield, Marina Darling, Christophe Leach, Sue Read
2. Patricia Afflick, Richard Bodell, Chris Fader, Richard Prickett
3. Michael Box, Glenda McNee, Roger McNee, Maurice Ripley

Wally Scott Open Pairs

1. Richard Jedrychowski - Bruce Neill
2. Jamie Ebery - Neil Ewart
3. Simon Hinge - Kim Morrison

Sara Tishler

Women's Pairs

1. Marilyn Chadwick - Toni Sharp
2. Dianne Marler - Beverley Stacey
3. Pauline Evans - Giselle Mundell



McCance

Seniors' Pairs

1. Eva Caplan - Rena Kaplan
2. Dee Harley - Stan Klofa
3. Robert Gallus - Dennis Goldner



Victor Muntz

Restricted Pairs

1. Leszek Kunc - Waldek Mroz
2. John Donovan - Alexander Hewat
3. Penny Blankfield - Sue Read

VCC Under 50 Pairs

1. Alice Green - Lee Opray
2. Jane Rennie - Anne Roberts
3. Patricia Hannigan - Shayne Wurf



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Still scoring well after a century

Star attraction in the photo at right is Marja Schutte. Marja turned 100 on June 29. Our club held a celebration on our regular Wednesday morning bridge session on July 3, at which the photo was taken (Marja is pictured in the centre). Marja was born Maria Veneseon in 1913 in Antwerp, Belgium.



She married Dutchman Ben Schutte in March, 1939, and the couple migrated to Australia in 1950. Ben died in 1990 and Marja moved to a retirement village in 1992, where she still lives. She looks after herself, is not a stay-at-home lady, does her own shopping and is always game to go to any function, or just out for a coffee. She plays bridge three times a week, twice at IBA and once at the Masters Builders Club.

On her celebration day at our club, with 15 tables playing, at 100 years of age, she had the audacity to finish first with a score of 67%, and that was genuine.

*Regards, Peter Graham,
Illawarra Bridge Association.*

ANC Interstate Teams

by Ron Klinger



South Australia 2

The Open Final

New South Wales: Andrew Markovics – Robert Sebesfi, Brad Coles – Stephen Hurley, Andrew Peake – Orlando Wu, Peter Gill (npc) vs.

South Australia: Phil Markey (c) – Justin Williams, Mike Doecke – George Smolanko, Jo Haffer – Howard Melbourne

Try this problem:

South deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with ♠KQJ94, ♥10, ♦A874, ♣J42?

Board 1, South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ A 10 7 6 3

♥ Q 9 8

♦ J 9

♣ A 7 5

♠ 8 5

♥ A 7 4 3 2

♦ Q 6 5

♣ 9 8 3

♠ K Q J 9 4

♥ 10

♦ A 8 7 4

♣ J 4 2

♠ 2

♥ K J 6 5

♦ K 10 3 2

♣ K Q 10 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurley</i>	<i>Smolanko</i>	<i>Coles</i>	<i>Doecke</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ ²	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠ ³	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

1. Showing spades
2. Artificial, puppet to 2♦
3. Inviting game

Many experts are using transfer responses to 1♣ (1♦ = 4+ hearts, 1♥ = 4+ spades, 1♠ = 4+ diamonds). One of the major benefits from this approach is that opener bids responder's major with three-card support. The transfer seems wasted if opener bids the major regardless of the length in that suit (as South's 1♠ bid in the above auction).

West led ♥2, won by the king, and South returned ♥5 to ♥9. Declarer could succeed now via a third heart (three hearts, four clubs and ♠A), but switched to ♦J, ducked to ♦Q. West switched to ♠8 and now declarer went one down, NSW +50.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Haffer</i>	<i>Peake</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Wu</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dbl ¹
All Pass			

1. For takeout

10,575

The number of Masterpoints attained by Australia's highest ranked player – *Pauline Gumby (Emerald Life Master)*



In standard methods, opener's 2♣ rebid is not forcing, but as it is wide-ranging, responder is expected to take another bid with 8+ points. Playing a strong 1♣ system, South's 2♣ rebid is below 15 HCP and can be dropped. East's 2♠ was a brave bid with only five spades, albeit strong ones. Recommended is to pass out 2♣.

♣K lead was followed by a club to the ace. North shifted to ♦J, won by the ace. In the fullness of time declarer lost three clubs, a diamond, two diamond ruffs and ♠A for two down, NSW +300 and +8 IMPs.

Results in other finals: 3♣ South +110; 2NT North +120; 3NT, doubled, South -100; 2♠ doubled, East -300; 3♣ South +110, 1NT South +120.

North deals, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	3♣	Pass	3NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with ♠AJ94, ♥65, ♦AK105, ♣KQ6?

After +8 IMPs on Board 1, NSW collected heaps more on Boards 3 and 4.

Board 3, North deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Hurley	Smolanko	Coles	Doecke
	Pass	Pass	1NT
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

The weaker the hand, the more attractive it is to lead a singleton. North began with ♠5 to the ace and ruffed the suit-preference ♠9 return. A diamond to the ace and another spade ruff meant one down. NSW -200.

West	North	East	South
Haffer	Peake	Melbourne	Wu
	3♣ ¹	Pass	3NT
Dbl	4♣	Dbl	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

1. Don't try this at home, folks.

The defence was identical and gave NSW four tricks, +500 and +7 IMPs.

At one table in the Youth Final, West played 4♥ doubled and made it on a diamond lead, Victoria +790. At the other table, after the auction in the problem, South passed 3NT doubled! West cashed eight hearts and switched to ♠K. South won and played ♦A, ♦K, six down, -1400.

That gave Western Australia +610 and +12 IMPs. The 3♣ opening was no thing of beauty and it would have been prudent for South to run to 4♣. That is unbeatable and, double dummy, South can make 11 tricks in clubs.

In the Women's Final WA made 4♥ for +12 IMPs, as SA was -100 in 4♥. In the Seniors' Final, SA picked up 11 IMPs for 5♣ -50 and 4♥ +620.

Board 4, East deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Hurley	Smolanko	Coles	Doecke
		1♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

Lead: ♣A - four - ten - six

North switched to ♠9, ducked to ♠Q. Declarer drew trumps and had 11 tricks to give NSW 600.

West	North	East	South
Haffer	Peake	Melbourne	Wu
		1♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Lead: ♠Q - king - ace - five

South discarded ♣2 on ♠2 return and played ♥10, ace. After cashing ♦A, East played a third spade. South ruffed high, drew trumps and had 10 tricks for +790 and +16 IMPs to NSW.

71%

The percentage of our membership who have **0 - 100 Masterpoints** as at 30/6/13.



In the Youth final, WA played in 5♦ doubled for +750. Victoria was in 4♥ on ♠Q lead, king, ace. A spade was returned and South ruffed with ♥9. A low heart to the ten lost and back came another spade. South ruffed with ♥J, drew trumps, but lost a club and a diamond for one down. That was -100, but still 12 IMPs to WA.

In the Women's, SA scored 7 IMPs for 3♥ +170 and 4♦ +130. In the Seniors, SA were +11 IMPs for 4♥ +620 and defeating 4♥ for +100.

Board 28 in the final of the Interstate Open Teams was an excellent grand slam. South Australia bid it, New South Wales stopped in 6♠.

Board 28, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

The cruel 5-0 trump break, less than a 4% chance, put paid to the grand slam. With spades 3-2 or 4-1, declarer would succeed with clubs 4-3 or with clubs 5-2 or 6-1 if ♣Q is short or if ♥Q is onside or perhaps with some squeeze options. All in all, 7♠ rates to make more than 80% of the time. That gave NSW 14 IMPs.

In the Women's final, SA stopped in 4♠, WA in 6♠ for +11 IMPs. In the Seniors, SA bid 7NT, two down, -100, while Queensland played in 6♠ for +14 IMPs. In the Youth, WA was in 7♠, two off. At the other table the WA East was in 3♦ doubled, going seven down for -1700 and -18 IMPs.

At the halfway mark in the final of the Interstate Open Teams, the scores between New South Wales and South Australia were level at 95 each. On the next deal from the fourth set the NSW defence faltered and a fatal discard allowed SA to make 3NT.

Board 36, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

Both sides were in 3NT, Michael Doecke for SA after (Pass) : 1NT : (2♣ any one-suiter) : 3♠, (Pass) : 3NT : All pass. West led ♥8: seven – queen – king. How would you continue?

Assuming spades behave, South can see eight tricks. The ninth can come from a successful finesse in clubs or in diamonds. As you can see, both finesses fail.

Doecke saw there was no rush to take either finesse. Running the long suit first might provide some clues and so he played off the spades, discarding ♣3, ♣5 and ♠J. East threw ♦8, ♦9, West ♦2, but what on the fifth spade? It should be clear that if South began with ♦Kxx, the hand is over. Therefore West should place East with ♦K and discard ♦7. A heart discard would also be all right. When West discarded ♣10, South played a club to the ace. If ♣K did not fall, the diamond finesse was next. When ♣K did drop, declarer cashed ♣Q, crossed to ♦A and played ♣9 for his tenth trick and +430.

At the other table, with EW silent, it went 1NT : 2♥ (transfer), 2♠ : 3♦, 3NT : Pass. Orlando Wu also received ♥8 lead, queen, king. At trick two he led ♦Q: two – ace – eight. He now based his success on ♣K onside. He ran the spades, discarding ♣3, ♣5, ♣Q. West threw ♣10, but with no second option, South finessed ♣J and finished two down for -100 and 11 IMPs to SA.

In the Women's Final, both declarers went down in 3NT. In the Seniors, the SA South was two off in 3NT, but the Queensland South made 4♠, +420, +11 IMPs. In the Youth, WA was +480 in 4♠, +12 IMPs, when Victoria was four down, -200, in 4♥ (best not to enquire how *that* contract was reached).

Board 46, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

264

The number of Youth Bridge members we have in Australia.



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27%

The percentage of our membership who have **0-5 Masterpoints** as at 30/6/13.



Both NS pairs bid to 7♠, SA after starting 1♦ : 1♠, 2♣ and NSW after South opened with a strong 1♣. In the Women's final SA gained 11 IMPs by bidding 7♠, while WA stopped in 6♠. In the Seniors, Queensland were +11 IMPs for 7♠ when SA stopped in 6♠. In the Youth Final, Michael Bausor – Rhys Cooper (WA) play a highly

complex system, based on a forcing pass. With such methods accidents can happen and they had a big oops when they landed in 6♥, down six, –300. At the other table, with EW silent, Peter Hollands – Justin Howard bid 2NT : 4♥ (transfer to spades), 4♠ : 4NT, 5♦ (0 or 3 Key Cards) : 7NT, Pass. This was successful, of course, for +1520 and +18 IMPs.

Bitter experience has taught me that in this auction it is wiser to bid 7♠ over 5♦. NS would not have been pleased in 7NT if South had opened an offbeat 2NT with ♠A singleton and the opening lead was a diamond.

Board 47, South deals, all vulnerable

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

There are 13 very easy tricks. With NS silent the NSW EW bid 1♠ : 2♦, 2♠ (forcing) : 4♠, 6♠ : Pass. If you are going to jump to 6♠ anyway, it costs nothing to bid 4NT first. You find two Key Cards plus ♠Q and continue with 5NT. Over that East would bid 7♠. At the other table SA bid to 7♠ for +13 IMPs.

In the Women's final the board was flat in 7♠ and 7NT. In the Seniors and in the Youth, both pairs played in 7♠.

At the end of the Open Final, SA2 had defeated NSW by 187 - 131 IMPs.

Final Interstate Women's Teams



WA Women: Annabel Booth, Lauren Shiels, Val Bilotft (sitting), Allison Stralow (npc), Sue Pynt, Leone Fuller, Heather Williams

In the Interstate Women's Teams, the final was between *South Australia* 2, Leonie Clark, Felicity Smyth, Rosemary Grund, Carmel Kain, Angela Norris, Anne Harris, Sue Lusk npc, and *Western Australia* (pictured in the previous column).

WA won the first four sessions 33-21, 23-8, 47-23, 18-3 to lead by 121-55. SA won session 5 by 31-0, but the last set went to WA by 58-15 to take the title by 175-105.

You are the dealer, both sides vulnerable. What do you open with ♠A, ♥Q4, ♦Q8542, ♣AKQJ2?

Board 23, South deals, EW vulnerable

♠ J 10 9 5 4 3
♥ 6 2
♦ K J 10 7
♣ 7

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

♠ A
♥ Q 4
♦ Q 8 5 4 2
♣ A K Q J 2

With SA NS:

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Lead: ♠K – three – six – ace

Declarer won and played ♣A, ♣K, ♣Q, discarding dummy's hearts. Declarer finished with 11 tricks for +400. On the auction, a heart, the unbid suit, looks like the normal opening lead and would have defeated 5♦.

At the other table, the WA South chose to open 1♣. North bid 2♠, showing six spades and 0-5 HCP, which became the final contract.

With a 5-5 pattern it is normal to open with the higher ranking suit despite the disparity in suit quality. North was one down for –50 and –10 IMPs.

Final Interstate Seniors' Teams



Queensland Seniors: Tony Hutton, Richard Wallis, Therese Tully, David McLeish (npc), Ian Afflick, Paul Collins, Tony Jackman

The final was between *Queensland* and *South Australia*, John Zollo [c], Ann Clarke, Attilio De Luca, Roger Januszke, Kevin Lange, Chris Lorimer.

SA began with a 9 IMP carry-forward and won the first two sets 25-15 and 16-8, to lead by 50-23. Queensland won the next two sessions 32-8 and 17-15 to trail 72-73. This deal arose in the fourth set.

Board 31, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

1. 6-9 points, 4+ spades

Lead: ♦4- two – ten – three

East returned ♦5 and West ruffed. West switched to ♣4: three – ace – eight and East played another diamond. South ruffed with ♠K and West overruffed. Declarer had the rest of the tricks for one down, –50.

As declarer has two diamond losers, two spade losers and a club loser, the defence slipped up. If East plays ♦A after ♦10, the defence will come to their five tricks. Also, if West does not overruff ♠K, West will collect two more trump tricks for two down.

You also have to wonder why South bid 4♠ with a balanced 13-count opposite a 6-9 point raise. South should pass 4♦ and collect two hearts, a heart ruff, a diamond trick and a club trick for two down and +100. Do not compete at the four-level with only partscore values.

West	North	East	South
Lorimer	Afflick	Clarke	Collins
		1♠	
Pass	3♣ ¹	3♦	3♠
		All Pass	

1. 6-9 points, 4+ spades

Lead: ♦4 – two – ten – nine

Declarer lost two spades, two diamonds and a club for –50, no swing, but SA could have picked up 4 IMPs at the other table.

Queensland won the fifth set 15-10 and the score had reached 94-94 with four boards remaining.

Board 57, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

Lead: ♠K – ace – five – four

With six losers, South was worth only 2♥. This already invites game, and North would have accepted anyway. With the bad breaks in the red suits, declarer finished two down, –100.

At the other table Therese Tully, South, ended in 3NT. North had opened a weak 2♦, Tully enquired with 2NT, and over the minimum response of 3♦ bid 3NT.

Curiously, West led ♣4, dummy's ♣10 winning. ♠10, top of a near-sequence, seems automatic and would have defeated 3NT. A low diamond went to the queen. Declarer continued with ♥A and brought in the heart suit for nine tricks, +400 and +11 IMPs.

Queensland won the final by 106-94. The total IMPs here was far less than the totals in the other finals: 318 (Open), 280 (Women) and 375 (Youth).

342

The number of ABF affiliated clubs in Australia.



Victorian Youth Team



WHY PUNISH ME?

Hi Coach,

I got to thinking the other day when my right hand opponent made the opening lead out of turn. After the sheriff arrived, I was given the usual myriad of options that become available when an opponent commits some kind of crime against his or her fellow human being.

The worst thing about so many choices is that getting it wrong means that I am going to be the one that gets punished, and if you get it right and the opponents get a really bad result, you feel like a heel.

So, what should you do when an opponent leads out of turn? Is there any approach that one should consistently take? Somebody once said “you should accept a lead out of turn because the ‘offender’ probably doesn’t know what’s going on.” Well, I tried that a week or two back, and it turns out it was the best lead for their side and we got a bottom.

Recently, someone bid when it wasn’t her turn and I accepted it. Apparently, this was a poor choice (according to all the ‘experts’).

Any hints?

Always the victim,

Cathy.

Hi Victim,

At least you are not alone. There are many out there who dread the director’s monologue in advising a player of their rights after an opening lead out of turn. I think that most players would benefit by getting their head around a number of rulings that arise reasonably frequently. Of all the games and sports I have been involved in, bridge is the one where the smallest percentage of participants possess even a modest understanding of the laws that apply to their favourite recreation.

There is no winning answer to the lead out of turn issue. Each option has to be judged on its merits according to the particular characteristics of the hand. Usually, the least helpful is the option where the correct leader gets a free choice, and the erroneous card turns into a penalty card. Whether or not you accept the lead will depend on which of your partnership is going to gain an advantage or disadvantage with the lead working around to strength or weakness.

The bottom line is that many players could take more trouble to read the Laws (not particularly riveting stuff), especially with respect to situations which come

up fairly frequently. A player who already understands his or her options in a particular situation is likely to be under less pressure after hearing the options, and having to decide on the basis of a confusing monologue. Although the list is not exhaustive, these situations from the Laws book are worth studying:

- **Lead out of turn** (Opening and during play).
- **Declarer’s lead from the wrong hand** – often seems to create arguments.
- **Insufficient bid**, although the options may differ according to the player’s ability to make a sufficient bid which conveys basically the same information.
- **Opening bid out of Turn** and the fact that the rules differ according to whose bid it really should be.
- **Pass out of turn.** Not the same as **Bid out of Turn**, above.

Learning the options are available in such situations is in no way a substitute for calling the director. As always, be wary of any player at the table who claims to know the rules in any given situation, and call the director anyway.

Cheers,
David

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The total number of ‘home club’ members of ABF affiliated clubs in Australia.



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GOLD COAST CONGRESS UPDATE AUGUST 2013

It is hard to believe that we are in the second half of the year already! I have been busy celebrating turning 60 – my birthday may have been earlier in the year but I was too busy to enjoy it so I postponed it ☺. Always things happening so I will fill you in on what's new for the Gold Coast Congress 2014.

TEAMS:

The Teams Championships (Open, Seniors, Intermediate Restricted and Novice) will all start at 10am instead of 10.30am. This will allow an earlier and more relaxed lunch break and an earlier finish.

IVY DAHLER:

There will be no night play for the Ivy Dahler Pairs. They will play 10 X 8 board matches over 3 sessions. Friday's sessions will start at 9.00 & end at 5.30pm in sync with the team's events. Saturdays' play starts at 10.30 am and finishes at 2pm.

We will now be running it as a single swiss field so there will no longer be a NS & an EW field. When the music stops the first 3 places will be in the money. We will also allow drop outs after Friday on notification to the Admin desk.

NEW NOVICE EVENT:

In addition to our Rookie events we will hold a 0 -50 MP pairs on Wednesday 26th February at 10.00 am. We see this as an opportunity for players to try out tournament play without committing for several days.

TRIVIA:

I am holding talks with the Oasis Shopping Centre and hope to hold it on the second floor at The Baby Grand - should be much better!

THEME: DENIM & LACE

We will be judging this based on Monday 24th afternoon session so it will encompass The Monday Butler players as well.

WALK IN PAIRS

Due to player requests we are going to put on an evening of bridge on the Friday night – 21st Friday HOWEVER everything that we hire e.g. water coolers, coffee machines does not arrive till Saturday morning so we are calling it a NO FRILLS Walk In session – starts at 7.00 pm and has to finish by 10.00 pm.

DATES AND 2015

2014 dates are Saturday 22nd February to Saturday 1st March inclusive

2015 dates are Saturday 21st February to Saturday 28th March inclusive.

NORTH TO ALASKA 2014:

Is a trip to Alaska on anyone's bucket list of things to do?

It has always been on my "to do" list and everyone who I know who has gone on this trip has loved it! This is why I chose it (besides being the shortest cruise ☺) when Cruise Traveller asked me to host a cruise in return for their

sponsorship of the Gold Coast Congress. I asked my sister in law Gay to co-host it with me - many of you will know her from running hospitality at the Gold Coast Congress. We will have a fantastic time and so will anyone travelling with us so please join us!

The Tour begins in Vancouver from 30/8/14 to 12/9/2014. The highlights are the 7 day Alaska Cruise Inside passage, Alaskan Train trip, Seaward 6 hour sightseeing cruise plus touring.

The flyer and itinerary can be viewed on <http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc/2014/QBAAlaskaitinerary.pdf>

The cost is from \$4990 per person twin share inside cabin (flights to Vancouver not included).

We are not competing with bridge tours - there will be no pre-arranged lessons or bridge sessions but I am sure there will be facilities on the ship we could utilise if required.

All non-playing bridge friends and family are very welcome – I am asking my friends who have never played cards.

I do know of people who would like to share (both male and female) so I can put you in touch if interested.

The QBA is not making any money from this trip – we have tried to keep the price as low as possible but will need 30 people or 15 cabins for it to go ahead.

If anyone is interested or would like more detail please contact Therese on gttully@bigpond.net.au 0733785374 or Cruise Traveller sales@cruisetraveller.com.au 0755758094

Kim gets seasick so no chance she was going! I have avoided cruises in the past but I think this is a great way to get started – or be like Richard Wallis who has had such a good time the last 2 times he has been that he is thinking of doing it again!

Bon Voyage ☺

Therese Tully and Kim Ellaway

Recent Results

2013 Coffs Coast Gold Congress

Open Swiss Pairs

Kathryn Yule - Ken Yule

Restricted Swiss Pairs

Bijan Assaee - Alex Ngan

Open Teams

Gabriella Bremner-Moore - Matthew Thomson -
Paul Gosney - Michael Whibley - Liam Milne

Restricted Teams

Denise Barnes - Peter Barnes - Judy Zhu - Henry
Chu

2013 Swan River Open Swiss Pairs

Henry Christie - Peter Buchen

Karol Miller - Gerry Daly

Wendy Driscoll - Shizue Futaesaku

Copy Deadline

for Issue 164, November 2013, the deadline is:

October 26, 2013

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RCO overcalls against strong 1♣ and 2♣ openings

Try this quiz at nil vulnerable. What do you bid when your RHO opens a game-forcing 2♣:



(2♣) ?

- 1). ♠ AK983, ♥ 72, ♦ 10875, ♣ 982.
- 2). ♠ Q10875, ♥ KJ6, ♦ Q65, ♣ A4
- 3). ♠ QJ10965, ♥ 2, ♦ K874, ♣ 73
- 4). ♠ 643, ♥ ---, ♦ 9872, ♣ AJ9854
- 5). ♠ 63, ♥ 2, ♦ J7, ♣ KQ1087643
- 6). ♠ A9874, ♥ AQJ65, ♦ 5, ♣ 73
- 7). ♠ A10853, ♥ 76, ♦ 2, ♣ KQ764
- 8). ♠ AK853, ♥ J1097, ♦ Q, ♣ K98
- 9). ♠ AK53, ♥ 8, ♦ 984, ♣ KJ982
- 10). ♠ A87, ♥ Q6, ♦ AK63, ♣ QJ106

1). **2♠**. When opponents open 1♣ playing Precision, they are vulnerable to preemption because they have not yet shown a suit. Naturally, you try to take advantage by taking away their bidding space whenever possible.

When opponents open 2♣ they are at a similar disadvantage, so good tactics is to get in early and limit their bidding space. It is important partner co-operates to make it even harder for the opponents, by raising your suit to the level of your trump fit. It is no small matter that a spade is also a good lead for your side.

2) **Pass**. You have a very defensive hand and a spade may not be a good lead, while another suit may well be an excellent lead. Despite the fact that you are considerably stronger than in hand 1 you should pass and defend.

3). **3♠**. This is about what your hand is worth, with your good shape and strong suit. Hopefully partner can bid 4♠ or more. Don't forget opponents haven't yet made a natural bid, so you want to take away space now.

Many pairs play double by the 2♣ opener's partner as either takeout or a weak hand, which makes 3♠ even more appealing. My style is to play penalty doubles after our side opens 2♣ because pass is forcing anyway.

4). **3♣**. Not many points, but it is still worthwhile to take the risk to disrupt their 2♣ auction. Maybe partner has a singleton spade and a good club fit, and your side finds a profitable save. Also, a club is a good lead for your side.

5). **4♣**. You might catch a very poor dummy but you still want to try to make life difficult for the opponents. When this hand came up 4♣ doubled failed by only two tricks for -300. The opponents could make 6♥ but not 6♠, so the less space they have available, the

better for you.

It would not be a good idea to bid 5♣. You take so much space from the opponents that they may have little choice but to double you and take the penalty.

6). **Double**. Over Precision 1♣ I like to play RCO overcalls (RANK-COLOUR-ODD) to show two-suiters. Double shows two suits of the same rank (majors or minors), 1♦ shows two suits of the same colour (reds or blacks) and 1NT shows the remaining two (spades/diamonds or hearts/clubs) of the six possible two-suiters.

It makes good sense to do the same thing over a strong 2♣ opening. RCO overcalls are normally 5/5 but can be a chunky 5/4, typically five minor - four major. That way you can compete effectively with any two-suiter.

You get to take away their space when partner replies as high as possible with a pass or correct bid, as after a multi 2♦ opening. If this form of germ warfare over their 2♣ opening is too high-powered, you could play double of 2♣ as majors and 2NT as minors.

7). **2♦**. Showing reds or blacks. If your side can find a fit you can make life very difficult for the opponents. Who knows, with very little opposite your side could find a profitable sacrifice, or even fluke a game in one of your suits. The most important thing is not to pass with a good hand like this.

8). **Double**. Two suits of the same rank, majors or minors. This hand from the 2011 Coffs Congress was a good lesson. Opponents' 2♣ was described as strong, so I did not come into the bidding. The opening 2♣ was ♠ J10, ♥ KQ, ♦ AKJ109874, ♣ 10 and with a near worthless hand opposite the opponents reached 3NT and made nine tricks when we were cold for 10 tricks in spades or 11 tricks in hearts.

A 2♣ opening is open to partnership interpretation so do not assume that the 2♣ opener has the same hand we would have to open 2♣. Beware - some pairs play 2♣ as eight or nine playing tricks but still call their 2♣ opening "strong".

9). **2♦**. Showing two suits of the same colour. Only 5-4, however you have a useful hand and you don't want to let go the opportunity to interrupt their auction. Holding two suits is much safer than one.

With five spades and four clubs prefer a 2♠ overcall. Partner should always be able to rely on you for five of the minor when you show an RCO hand.

10). **Pass**. You can't overcall 2NT as a natural bid, nor would you want to. Just pass for the moment and listen to the bidding.

Paul Lavings

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- ✓ You'll be able to book a trip to a local winery – organised by the SFOB (*details to be finalised so stay tuned*).

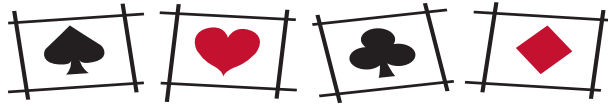
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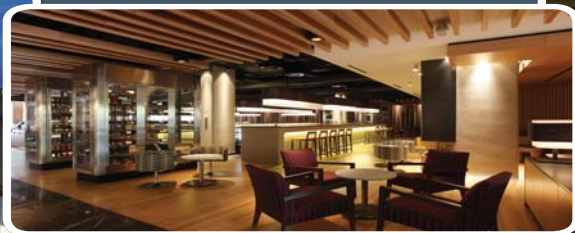
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