

ABF YOUTH



BULLETIN



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Edited by David Lusk

The Australian Juniors at the World Championship

Paul Brayshaw



The Australian Junior Team (Greg Dupont - Matt Raisin, Paul Brayshaw - Simon Brayshaw, Luke Matthews - Nic Croft, NPC Peter Smith) managed a great win in the PABF tournament in Singapore, reported the August bulletin. High hopes were held for the team as they participated in the World Junior Teams Championship in Brazil in August. However, it was not to be, and the team did not attain a placing in the semi-finals. The team's finishing position of 11th out of the 17 teams participating fell short of the team's potential.

Why did the team not perform up to the standards expected of them? Two of the teams Australia had beaten in the PABF tournament (China and Thailand) obtained higher placings than them, and Thailand made the semi-finals. Given the same conditions as the PABF tournament it would be expected that Australia would also make the semi-finals, but conditions were not the same and they apparently did not favour Australia.

First and foremost, there is a 12-hour difference (or so) between Australia and Brazil. Most of the team had "acclimatized" before going off to South America, but although sleep patterns adjust fairly quickly, the mind does not. For proof of this, one need look no further

than the first match, against Thailand. The 5-25 VP loss which Australia suffered, when analysed, showed a lot of "rust" and slow mental processing. The Thai opposition, on the other hand, were playing sharply and quickly. It is not known about the Thai methods of team preparation, nor for how long they had been in South America before the tournament began, but the indications are that their preparations were better than Australia's in some respect.

Try these defensive problems from the first match:

Board 3 ♠ A643
Dlr: S ♥ 10864
Vul: EW ♦ 86
 ♣ AJ6

♠ K10982
♥ J3
♦ 109
♣ 10942

After West overcalls 2♦ over South's 1♥ opening, South reaches 4♥. On West's lead of the ♠J, declarer plays low and your King scores. What next?

On this deal, Both Australian and Thai Wests led the ♠J. The contract can be made by rising with ♠A, drawing trumps and later taking the club finesse, but both declarers ducked, intending to throw a club later on the ♠A. Both defenders took ♠K. The Thai East now switched to ♦10 and the defence scored a trump upcut for down one. The Australian East returned a spade, and declarer drew trumps and claimed.

Why did our East not lead a diamond through? Simple - not thinking clearly. Even if partner is ruffing the spade it is not certain where the setting trick will come from, so the diamond through is the only hope.

The complete deal is shown overleaf.

Dealer: S
Vul: EW

	North	
	♠ A643	
	♥ 10864	
	♦ 86	
West	♣ AJ6	East
♠ J5		♠ K10982
♥ Q9		♥ J3
♦ AQJ543		♦ 109
♣ Q87	South	♣ 10942
	♠ Q7	
	♥ AK752	
	♦ K72	
	♣ K53	

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ 6	♦ J3
♣ A52	♣ K10

South led the last trump and threw a club from dummy. What should you discard as East?

If South holds ♦10 and ♣Q then there is nothing to be done. You will be thrown in to lead from ♣Kx. So you must play partner for one of those cards. Which one?

If partner holds ♦10 you must throw ♦J to avoid the endplay. If partner holds ♣Q then a small diamond discard is correct. You might think that you don't have enough information, and you'd be right. In the end, East played South for ♠Kxx ♥KQJxx ♦Kxx ♣Qx rather than ♠Kxx ♥KQJxx ♦K10x ♣Jx to compete to 3♥ vulnerable on the auction, and discarded ♦J to avert the throw-in.

Next...

♠ 105	♠ AJ92
♥ 109652	♥ A7
♦ 652	♦ AQJ3
♣ A52	♣ K106

With Australia EW, the following auction occurred (NS Vul):

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♥	X	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

West had a couple of opportunities to compete to 3♠, but that is neither here nor there. With the hands looking balanced and partner marked with nothing, it is understandable that West aimed for a plus score.

West led ♠4 and East won with the ace. Next came ♦A and West played ♦9, a high card being a discouraging signal. So the continuation was ♠J, won by South's king. South played ♥J, West following, and East won with the ace to return ♦Q, South winning with the king. A spade was ruffed in dummy, then the Thai declarer ran off three more rounds of trumps in quick succession.

The position was down to:

Without additional clues this would be a reasonable assumption. But West's discards are important, and West should have (and had) discarded a small diamond on the run of the hearts. Thus South could not hold the first mentioned hand, as his remaining diamond would be ♦10, if indeed he had one left. Therefore the only correct discard is a small diamond. Also, if partner had started with ♦109x he may have signalled discouragement with the ten rather than the nine.

Here's exhibit three:

	♠ A432		
	♥ 104		
	♦ 752		
	♣ Q984		
	♠ QJ107		
	♥ K765		
	♦ AJ86		
	♣ 5		
West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	1♠	2♦	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	All Pass

The Australian West, on lead, opted not to give away the spade position and instead led a small diamond. Partner produced the $\heartsuit 9$ and declarer won with the queen, marking him with KQ doubleton on the auction. The declarer now led $\clubsuit A$ and then a small club towards dummy. West pitched a heart and East won with the king. Back came $\heartsuit 3$ -K-A-5. How should West continue?

By the auction and play, South is fairly certain to have started with $\spadesuit Kxx$ $\heartsuit AQx$ $\diamondsuit KQ$ $\clubsuit AJxxx$, although the position of the $\clubsuit J$ is in doubt. In this case there are eight tricks on top once the diamonds have gone, and declarer, knowing the position, will have no choice but to play for a squeeze in the majors against West.

West can see well enough that this will succeed, so he must not rectify the count for declarer. Even one round of diamonds is fatal, as the squeeze becomes a strip-squeeze where West is stripped of his diamond winner on the run of the clubs, then thrown in with the third round of spades to lead into the $\heartsuit AQ$. West cannot break up the strip-squeeze himself, but East can. West must now lead a low diamond to East, who will switch to a heart. Now the declarer has no way to rectify the count for a true squeeze and West will take two more tricks with $\heartsuit K$ and a spade.

On the lead of the last club West might just as well have shuffled his cards quietly and put them back in the slot.

	\spadesuit A43
	\heartsuit 10
	\diamondsuit —
\spadesuit QJ10	\clubsuit —
\heartsuit K	
\diamondsuit —	
\clubsuit —	\spadesuit Kx
	\heartsuit Q
	\diamondsuit —
	\clubsuit 3

The Thai West, also on opening lead against 3NT, did not have a spade bid on his left during the auction and had an automatic $\spadesuit Q$ lead. This lead destroyed any chance of a squeeze and the Australian declarer went down.

Could West have found the defence? Most junior players in the World Junior Teams are

highly competent at technical cardplay, and defenders must always be extremely wary of the dangers. West's lapse was an example of typically Australian problem and one which is difficult to solve without dedicated personal and financial effort.

Let us move on to better things. Australia did not finish 17th, and thus managed many wins during the tournament. Most notable were the wins against the Netherlands and Canada, two of the stronger teams in the competition. Against Canada, one of the Oz juniors found a neat declarer play on the following cards: Plan your play in $4\heartsuit S$ on the following deal:

\spadesuit AJ93
\heartsuit A42
\diamondsuit 7
\clubsuit J10983
\spadesuit 85
\heartsuit QJ10983
\diamondsuit AKQ
\clubsuit 42

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 \heartsuit
2 \clubsuit	3 \clubsuit ¹	Pass	4 \heartsuit
All Pass			

1. Cue-Raise to 3 \heartsuit or more.

The Canadian West led the $\clubsuit A$ and East's queen dropped. West started planning the play if the obvious spade switch occurred, and it looked as if the trump finesse was the best chance. It was odds-on to work anyway. Just as South was thinking it through, West switched to a trump. Take over from here.

After a short huddle, our hero rose with the trump ace and led a club. East discarded, as hoped, and West won with the king. Now came a spade switch but it was too late.

Declarer rose with the ace and led a club. East could ruff this if he liked, but South would over-ruff, ruff a diamond in dummy and play another club, pitching the losing spade whilst East ruffed in with the winning trump if he had it. As it happened, East had only started with a doubleton Kx of trumps, and had to ruff the first time with the king whilst the spade was pitched.

+420 was 10 valuable IMPs when 4♥ failed at the other table, presumably after a spade switch. If South had taken the trump finesse instead, he would have gone down in the contract. The ability to change one's tack in the middle of the hand when something unexpected happens is an admirable and underrated bridge trait. The trump finesse is superior to South's line only if West had found an unlikely trump switch from Kx and East had the presence of mind to ruff the second club and switch to a spade. In this latter part of the tournament, South showed true match-fitness by spotting a defensive lapse and finding a line of play to take full advantage of it.

2002 International Youth Challenge

The 2002 International Youth Challenge retitles the former Trans-Tasman Youth Challenge. The event will be conducted on Jan 12th at Burton and Garran Hall on the ANU campus in Canberra.

For 2002 it is anticipated that there will be an Australian 'A' and 'B' team and a New Zealand team. The fourth team will be a composite, including two Tongan players and selected team-mates.

Competitors arriving for the rest of Youth Week are encouraged to come along and support the Aussie teams. Play starts at 12:00.

Teams:

Australia A:

Nic Croft - Arian Lasocki
Tony Nunn - David Wiltshire

Australia B:

Leigh Gold - Kenneth Wan
Allan Greenwood - Peter Willsmore

New Zealand:

Mike Dollan-Christiaan Prent,
Nick Fung - Darius Molloy

Oceania:

Allan Greenwood - Peter Willsmore (Aus),
Josh Heller - Jonathon Whyte (Canada/Tonga)

Australian teams were selected by the Youth Coordinators in consultation with the AYC.

ABF Youth Club

The ABF Youth Club membership is 50 at the time of writing.

With members residing in 7 of the 8 states and territories, it is unlikely that the full membership will ever be in one place at the same time.

This makes regular communication fairly difficult but members are more than welcome to make suggestions as to how the group can become more of a 'club' in the true sense. I have attempted to contact all ABF Youth Club players by letter or email during this year. If you missed out, contact me and complain!

It is easy to contact those on email and those who have recently come 'on-line' may wish to send David an email to say so.

David Lusk can be contacted on david.lusk@chariot.net.au

or by post at:

David Lusk
6 Vincent Crt
Campbelltown
SA 5074

Phone and Fax: 08 8336 3954

Please use the phone only in cases where it is urgent that you contact me.

I hope that I get the opportunity to meet many members of the ABF Youth Club in Canberra during the Youth Week and the Summer Festival of Bridge.

The Gold Coast Youth Individual

The Gold Coast Youth Individual will be conducted in conjunction with the GCC.

Convenor: Michael Wilkinson.

Queenslanders wishing to play may contact Joan Butts on joaneb@fox.uq.net.au

International Events

International Events – Expressions of Interest Sought

World University Bridge Championships

The ABF Youth Committee is seeking expressions of interest from university bridge players who have an interest in attending the World University Bridge Championships in Bruges, Belgium. Dates are August 4th - 13th, 2002. Funding for this event is extremely limited and interested parties will be encouraged to take advantage of possible subsidy arrangements available through their own university.

The ABF Youth Committee will undertake to select a team from those players who express interest.

Players who are interested should contact David on david.lusk@chariot.net.au before January 31, 2002. Players entering as partnerships should make that clear.

As at 12/12/01 the following have been in touch with David Lusk and have expressed interest in participating. If you are not on this list and wish to be, then contact David.

Jillian Hay (ANU)
Mark Abraham (ANU)
Arian Lasocki (Melbourne)
Leigh Gold
David Wiltshire (Adelaide)
Michael Wilkinson (US)
Ed Barnes (Sydney)

Eligibility:

A full statement of criteria of eligibility can be obtained from WBF Events page (link through ABF). In essence, players must be full-time students of a recognised institution or a graduate of 2001 and be over 17 but under 28 on January 1st, 2002.

Junior Bridge Triathlon

The World Junior Bridge Triathlon for players born after January 1, 1976 will be conducted in Montreal, Canada from September 20 – 24, 2002.

The ABF Youth Committee is seeking expressions of interest from players and pairs who may be interested in participating. Any subsidised funding for this event will be extremely limited.

Note that the ABF Youth Committee is not necessarily restricted to the approval of just one team.

Those who have an interest in competing should contact David Lusk on david.lusk@chariot.net.au before February 14, 2002.

Eligibility:

Players must meet World Junior age standards for this event. Players not yet 26 on January 1, 2002 will be eligible.

Meet Michael Wilkinson

Michael Wilkinson is the newest member of the ABF Youth Committee and at 23, still eligible for national and international youth events, he is also the youngest.

Michael, from Sydney, has been a member of the NSW Youth Team on a number of occasions and played in the Australian team in the first Trans-Tasman Challenge in 2000.

A qualified tournament director, Michael divides his time studying Computer Science and working at the Double Bay Bridge Centre.

Michael has brought to the committee a clear understanding of the needs of young players.

From the start of 2002, the personnel of the ABF Youth Committee will undergo some changes. The most dramatic will be the withdrawal of Peter Gill, who plans to spend more time on the NSW Youth Programme.

As at January 1, 2002, the ABF Youth Committee will be:

David Stern (Convenor)
David Lusk
Michael Wilkinson.

The committee normally functions with five, so there will no doubt be some new faces joining the AYC early in 2002.

Hard workers interested in becoming part of the AYC may express their interest by contacting:

David Lusk (david.lusk@chariot.net.au)
or David Stern (stern@mail.com)

Calendar of Youth Events 2002

NATIONAL EVENTS 2002

JANUARY 11-20 : Australian Youth Championships
Youth Pairs (U30 and U16)
Youth Teams (U30 and U16)
Teams Playoff (26 and under)
Youth Camp
Canberra

FEBRUARY 16 : Gold Coast Junior Individual
Surfers Paradise

JULY 27 - AUG 2 : ANC Interstate Teams
ANC Interstate Pairs
Hobart

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 2002

JANUARY 11-12: International Youth Challenge
Canberra

EARLY FEBRUARY: Olympic Games Bridge
Exhibition Match
Salt Lake City

APRIL 21 - 22: OKB Inter-Collegiate (on-line)
Generali Individual.

MAY/JUNE: PABF Championships,
Bangkok

JULY: Test Match, Zone 7,
Hamilton NZ

ACBL Junior Bridge Camp
Washington DC

AUGUST 4-13: World University Teams
Bruges, Belgium

SEPTEMBER 20-24: World Junior Triathlon
Montreal

Further information on any of the above is
available from David Lusk.
david.lusk@chariot.net.au

Friends of Junior Bridge

Friends of Junior Bridge is a fundraising and utilising initiative established by the ABF Youth Committee in order to provide opportunities for young players outside of the ambit of traditional ABF subsidies.

The generosity of individuals, small businesses and corporations is the key to building up this invaluable fund.

Donations are obviously most welcome and donors will be accorded appropriate **Gold**, **Silver** and **Bronze** recognition as *Friends of Junior Bridge* in Australia.

We would like to acknowledge all sponsors of *Friends of Junior Bridge* but will respect anonymity when requested.

ABF Youth Website

For those of you who are not yet in the habit of visiting the ABF Youth Website, there is often a lot of information posted that is of interest and value to young players.

With this bulletin being published only three times a year, the Website fills in the communication gaps. Much information is made available on the site before it appears in the ABF Newsletter or ABF Youth Bulletin.

The ABF Youth Committee is grateful to Catherine Cummings for taking responsibility for keeping the site up to date since early this year. To visit the site, locate

<http://www.abf.com.au>

and click on the appropriate heading to bring up the Youth Website.

Fine Play by Probst

This hand was declared by one of England's best junior players, Richard Probst.

Dealer: E		North													
Vul: EW		♠ J95													
		♥ AJ873													
		♦ A102													
	West	♣ Q8	East												
	♠ Q102		♠ 73												
	♥ 54		♥ Q1062												
	♦ 763		♦ QJ5												
	♣ J10972	South	♣ AK43												
		♠ AK864													
		♥ K9													
		♦ K984													
		♣ 65													
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT¹</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				West	North	East	South	--	--	1NT ¹	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass	
West	North	East	South												
--	--	1NT ¹	2♠												
Pass	4♠	All pass													

1. 12-14 hcp

Opening lead: ♣J

East took his 2 club tricks and switched to the ♠3. Probst ducked that to West's queen, and won the next trick with dummy's spade jack.

By now, West had shown up with 3 points, and Probst could accurately place all missing high cards in the East hand.

Probst thus called for the heart jack: queen, king, four. Declarer drew the missing trump, played his heart nine to dummy's ace, and continued with the heart eight, East playing low smoothly.

Reasoning that East was more likely to cover the ♥jack when holding the 10 and with only one remaining entry to dummy, Probst made the winning play, discarding a diamond.

2002 Youth Camp

The 1st National Youth Bridge Camp is a 3-day event aimed at children of women playing in the National Women's event, plus locals and any other interested youngsters born on or after January 1, 1986. Those born in 1985 or 1984 are welcome too, but are not eligible for trophies in the main events. Locals are welcome at all the events, but in particular at the two main bridge events at 1-30 pm on the Friday and Saturday.

Thursday Jan 17:

- 10-45am: Bridge Play including lessons, followed by lunch, or basketball/volleyball depending on weather.
- 1-30pm: Individual Bridge, playing with different partners.
- 4-00pm: Treasure Hunt
- 5-00pm: Basketball, or Cricket with tennis ball (optional)
- 6-00pm: Dinner provided for interstate visitors, costing about \$10, and for local players who want to join us.
- 7-45pm: More bridge until late (you can leave any time from 9pm on, play continues until almost 11).

Friday Jan 18:

- 10-45am: Bridge Play including lessons, followed by lunch.
- 1-30pm: National Under 16 Pairs, including afternoon tea break.
- 5-00pm: Cricket with tennis ball, or basketball (optional)
- 6-00pm: Dinner provided for interstate visitors, costing about \$10.
- 7-45pm: More bridge until late (11 pm).

Saturday Jan 19:

- 10-45am: Either Basketball, or Bridge Play including lessons, followed by lunch.
- 1-30pm: National Under 16 Teams, including afternoon tea break. Trophies, prizes and Certificates of Participation.
- 5-00pm: Prizegiving.
- 5-15pm: Barbecue and Party (\$10 per head).
- 7-45pm: More bridge until late (11pm).

Cost per person is \$30 for everything, or \$12 per day, or \$6 for a single afternoon session. This includes lunch and afternoon tea.

2002 Youth Week, Canberra, Jan 11 - 20

At Burton & Garran Hall, ANU

Programme:

Friday Jan 11:	8:00pm. Welcome Pairs (to be confirmed)
Saturday Jan 12:	12:00 noon. International Challenge 1:30 pm. Under 16 Warm-up Pairs
Sunday Jan 13:	1-30pm. Australian Youth Pairs (Continues on Monday.)
Tuesday, Jan 15:	1-30pm. Youth Teams. (Continues on Wednesday.)
Thurs Jan 17:	10-30am. Butler (10 pairs). (Continues Fri/Sat.)
Thursday – Saturday, Jan 17-19:	10:45 am daily. Youth Bridge Camp with bridge and sports.
Sunday Jan 20:	Playoff for Australian Team (2nd/3rd/4th/5th in Butler)

Notes

- (1) DO NOT RING BURTON AND GARRAN HALL ABOUT ACCOMMODATION.
All accommodation bookings for the venue must be via Peter Gill please. I have a block booking and urgently need to know everyone's plans: which day you arrive at B&G, which day you leave B&G, f/t student or not.

Non student \$129.50/week, \$18.50 extra or single nights.
Student \$109.00/week \$15.50 extra or single nights.

All rates are for a single room with shared bathroom facilities and no meals. We help provide breakfast etc. It is URGENT to contact Peter Gill with your booking details, as there are three conferences on simultaneously around B&G and accommodation will be limited.

For double rooms, we have overflow places nearby at similar rates. If you do not respond quickly to my request for your accommodation details, we may have to accommodate you at these other places up to 20 minutes' walk from the venue (it's very hot).

- (2) The qualifiers from the Youth Teams to the Butler will now be the top four (not 5) eligible teams plus the two leading pairs scored by "corrected Butler datums" (= 10 pairs). This means that any pair who play throughout in an 'ineligible team' will still be able to qualify for the Butler. All scores will count against all other teams, whether eligible or not.
- (3) If you have not yet obtained a brochure, they should be available from your local Youth Coordinator or can be obtained from Peter Gill or David Lusk.
- (4) Entry Fees:
Pairs/Teams/Butler: \$30 per person per event.
Full time students -- half price entry.

Walk-in events: \$5 per session.
Entry fees are payable at the start of each event.