

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editor: Andy Hung

Co-Editor: Griff Ware

ISSUE 12

The 2014 Australian U25 Team



Congratulations to **Adam Edgton – Nabil Edgton, Justin Howard – Laura Ginnan, and Jamie Thompson – Stephen Williams** for making the 2014 Australian U25 Team!

Nabil Edgton, a former core member of the Milne team, has returned to playing bridge after taking a year off. Adam and Nabil (formerly known as T1 and T2) have not trialed together for the U25 Youth Team since 2007. Back together this year, they proceeded to win the Youth Butler Pairs.

In the second phase of the Australian Junior Team Selection, four pairs (who finished 2nd – 5th in the Butler) battled it out in a playoff that is scored against predetermined datums. The successful pairs joining Adam and Nabil were Justin Howard – Laura Ginnan, and Jamie Thompson – Stephen Williams.

There are two main international tournaments that the Australian Youth Team(s) will be participating in: (1) The Youth APBF Championships held in Taian, China, in June 2014, and (2) The World Junior Teams Championships held in Istanbul, Turkey, 13-23 August 2014. The actual U25 team that will be sent to either tournament is yet to be confirmed as some players may need to focus on studies due to date clashes.

Email suggestions or articles to youthbridge.au@gmail.com

THESE ARE CLICKABLE LINKS!

ABF PRE-ALERTS!

For 2014			
DATES		EVENT	WHERE
<u>FEB</u> 11 - 16	<u>FEB</u>	NEC Bridge Festival	Yokohama, Japan
<u>FEB</u> 22 - 1	<u>MAR</u>	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Gold Coast
<u>MAY</u> 1 - 5	<u>MAY</u>	ANOT	Adelaide
<u>JUN</u> 5 - 9	<u>JUN</u>	VCC	Melbourne
<u>JUL</u> 12 - 24	<u>JUL</u>	ANC	Sydney

TREATS

Pre-Alerts!.....	1
Checkback (Results).....	2
2013 Australian Youth Champs <i>By Andy Hung</i>	4
2013 Youth Awards.....	8
2014 NOT <i>By Andy Hung</i>	9
Thrill Seeker <i>By John Newman</i>	13
2013 Youth Triathlon <i>By Peter Hollands</i>	14
Kibitzer's Corner.....	18
Paul Lavings Bridge.....	19
Suit Combinations.....	21
Beefing Up Conventions.....	22
State Associations.....	23

CHECKBACK (Results)

2014 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

11 JAN – 19 JAN, 2014 (Canberra)

For more details, please visit the Championship website [here](#).

	Place	Pair
Youth Pairs (Final A)	1 ST	Adam Edgtton – Justin Howard
	2 ND	Renee Cooper – Paul Gosney
	3 RD	Leigh Matheson – Erin Tewes

	Place	Pair
Youth Pairs (Final B)	1 ST	Max Henbest – Anthony Edwards
	2 ND	Dominic Evans – Grace Evans
	3 RD	Shane Harrison – Sam Schulz

	Place	Pair
Youth Pairs (Final C)	1 ST	David Skipper – James Ferguson
	2 ND	Jessie De Garis – George Evans
	3 RD	Peter Bolling – Andrew Spooner

	Place	Team
Youth Teams	1 ST	HARRISON: Shane Harrison, Sam Schulz, Rhys Cooper, Ella Pattison
	2 ND	MILNE: Liam Milne, James Coutts, Andi Boughey, Matthew Smith
	3 RD	MOSKOVSKY: Ellena Moskovsky, Lauren Travis, Stephen Williams, Jamie Thompson

	Place	B-A-M	Team
Cliff Wake Playoff	1 ST	2.5	CLIFF WAKE CHALLENGERS – Griff Ware, Alex Smirnov, Liam Milne, James Coutts
	2 ND	1.5	YOUTH TEAM WINNERS – Shane Harrison, Sam Schulz, Rhys Cooper, Ella Pattison

	Place	Team
Speedball Teams	1 ST	<i>Sorry, speedball was so fast that I don't remember!</i>

	Place	Individual
Bridge Bingo	1 ST	Stephen Williams

	Place	Pair
Crazy Pairs	1 ST	(N/S) Rhys Cooper – Smirny (E/W) Dom Evans – Matt Brown

2014 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

For more details, please visit the Championship website [here](#).

Goulash Teams	Place	Team
	1 ST	Shane Harrison, Andi Boughey, Tim Munro, Nico Ranson
	2 ND	John Newman, Daniel Hunt, Erin Tewes, Richard McAuliffe
	3 RD	Dominic Evans, Gray Renwick, Grace Evans, Matthew Brown

Kiddies Teams Match	Place	IMPs	Team
	1 ST	22	Oli Anderson, Heath Watkins, Anthony Edwards, Paul Gosney
	2 ND	19	Ivy Anderson, Simon Smart, Renee Cooper, Shane Harrison

Goulash Pairs	Place	Pair
	1 ST	(N/S) Erin - Pieter (E/W) Alan - John

Youth Butler Pairs (U25 Team Selection Phase 1)	Place	Pair
	1 ST	Nabil Edgtton - Adam Edgtton
	2 ND	Justin Howard - Laura Ginnan
	3 RD	Stephen Williams - Jamie Thompson
	4 TH	Max Henbest - Renee Cooper
5 TH	Rhys Cooper - Ella Pattison	

U25 Team Selection Phase 2	Place	Pair
	1 ST	Justin Howard - Laura Ginnan
	2 ND	Stephen Williams - Jamie Thompson

Board-a-Match Teams	Place	B-A-M	Team
	1 ST	102	B.A.M.F. - Liam Milne, James Coutts, Andi Boughey, Matthew Smith
	=1 ST	102	GINGER +3 - Sam Coutts, Matthew Brown, Dominic Evans, Grace Evans
3 RD	99	C.A.K.E. - Jen McGowan, Gray Renwick, David Skipper, Pieter Vanderpoel	

Consolation Butler Pairs	Place	Pair
	1 ST	James Coutts - Glenn Coutts
	2 ND	Erin Tewews - Michael Gearing
3 RD	David Skipper - Sam Coutts	

NZ v OZ Test Match	Place	IMPs	Team
	1 ST	210	AUSTRALIA - Ellena Moskovsky, Lauren Travis, Ella Pattison, Shane Harrison, Laura Ginnan, Peter Hollands, Adam Edgtton
2 ND	175	NEW ZEALAND - Glenn Coutts, Nick Jacob, Matthew Brown, Vicki Bouton, Matthew Smith, Andi Boughey	

2014 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY ANDY HUNG, BRISBANE



This year's Australian Youth Bridge Championships were held at a new venue, the Warrambui Conference Centre, partly due to the change in ownership of our previous venue of the Rydges Resort. This did not deter the enjoyment and the excitement of Youth Week, and in fact, a new record high of about 78(!) participants was reached. A big shout-out across the Tasman Sea to Susan Humphries who did magnificent work to bring over 15 Kiwis to our Youth Week. And thank you to the State Coordinators around Australia for bringing (and supporting) the Youth players to Youth Week – it was great to see that there were at least 35 new fresh faces!



Kiddies...!

Unfortunately, the previous long-time Youth Week Convenor, the hard-working Griff Ware, had stepped down from the position and it was passed on to myself, with Dave Thompson as my co-convenor. Life was very tough as the new convenor (and the Bulletin Editor, as well as a Teacher!), but my appreciation goes out to everyone who was able to support me throughout the week, especially Dave, Griff, Mat, and Smirny. (Seriously good job Andy, wd – Co-Ed.)

Mat McManus, the most awesome Tournament Director in the world, who has been directing the Youth Week for the past 22 years, will sadly be leaving us as this Youth Week was his last. Mat has done a tremendous job over the years, and in our eyes, he will always be a youth player to us. Thank you Matty!

On to the results: the Youth Pairs Final was won by Justin Howard and Adam Edgton, the Youth Pairs Plate was won by Anthony Edwards and Max Henbest, and the Youth Consolation Pairs was won by David Skipper and James Ferguson.



2014 Youth Pairs Winners: Justin Howard and Adam Edgton

The Youth Teams Championship was won by the Harrison Team (Shane Harrison, Sam Schulz, Ella Pattison, and Rhys Cooper), with the Milne Team as the runner ups (Liam Milne, James Coutts, Andi Boughey, and Matthew Smith). The Youth Butler Pairs was won by

The Cliff Wake Playoff did not fail the suspenseful test. For the first time since the inaugural Cliff Wake Playoff in 2011, the format was changed from IMPs to Board-a-Match. This year, team Harrison faced off against the Challengers of Griff Ware, Alex Smirnov, Liam Milne, and James Coutts. For a full recount of the match, you can read about it [here](#). And finally, the Australian Youth Butler Pairs was won by Adam and Nabil Edgtton.

Here are some interesting hands that were played throughout the week:

A CRAZY SCORE

BY GRAY RENWICK, CHRISTCHURCH (NZ)

Board 10 from the Crazy Pairs produced the following auction to 6♦:

	Grace			
	W	N	E	S
Pass		2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass		2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass		4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass		6♦	X	Pass
Pass		XX	All	Pass

The instructions for the board were not to be opened until after the bidding was complete. Knowing this, East very reasonably doubled in anticipation of the craziness, and Grace as North fearlessly redoubled!

The instructions were then opened and it stated that after the sixth trick (of normal play), North and East must switch their hands and continue the play. West led a heart and dummy tracked with:

♠ AK6542
♥ -
♦ AKT
♣ AKT9
6♦XX/S, ♥5
♠ 3
♥ 632
♦ Q875432
♣ J5

The play was straightforward. The heart lead was ruffed in dummy with the ♦A, the ♦K was cashed, then ♠AK (discarding a Heart), then ♣AK, with everyone following suit. The dummy was now swapped with East's hand, leaving this position:

13 tricks were made for the crazy score of +2230! Even if the ♥A was played at trick 1, 6♦ is still unbeatable.

Good redouble Grace!

♠ -
♥ A9874
♦ J
♣ 4
6♦XX/S, ♥5
♠ -
♥ 6
♦ Q87543
♣ -



2014 Youth Team Winners: Shane Harrison, Ella Pattison, Rhys Cooper, and Sam Schulz

GOULASH PAIRS

BY JAMES FERGUSON, SYDNEY

Jess and I made up a quick system whereby we were only allowed one bid in the auction, with Pass to show a good hand. Here were some of the boards with that system in action. On Board 12, Jess held:

♠K6 ♥83 ♦AKQ1065 ♣A84

Sitting in 3rd seat at favourable vulnerability, she heard partner (me) Pass which showed a good hand. Jess's RHO then opened 1NT to deny any voids. Knowing that I (partner) had a good hand, Jess took a shot at 6♦!

Full deal:

			♠ 9		
			♥ KJT96542		
			♦ 743		
			♣ J		
♠ A82				♠ K6	
♥ AQ7				♥ 83	
♦ 9				♦ AKQT65	
♣ KQ9652				♣ A84	
				♠ QJT7543	
				♥ -	
				♦ J82	
				♣ T73	

With trumps breaking 3-3, 6♦ made an overtrick!

Continued on page 6

SMIRNY'S SUPERSTITION

BY ANDY HUNG



Smirny claims that every time he plays a board out of order (so if he plays Board 1, then 2, then 4 skipping Board 3), it ALWAYS brings him bad luck (hint hint people). Witness this deal. The boards to be played on Smirny's current round were Boards 1, 2, 3, but instead of starting at 1, Board 3 was first placed on the table:

		<i>Jack Tarlinton</i>			
		♠ 7 6 2			
		♥ A T 3			
		♦ -			
<i>Dave Thompson</i>	♣ A K Q 7 6 5 4	<i>Smirny</i>			
♠ K J 8	N	♠ A Q T 3			
♥ 4	W	♥ K Q 9 7 6 2			
♦ A Q T 9 8 6 5	E	♦ J 7			
♣ T 9	S	♣ J			
		♠ 9 5 4			
		♥ J 8 5			
		♦ K 4 3 2			
		♣ 8 3 2			
		<i>Angus Gray</i>			

Angus opened (psyched) a strong 1NT opening as South and Dave overcalled 2♦. Jack jumped to 3NT and Smirny, believing partner must be the one to have his bid, confidently doubled the contract. This was swiftly passed around to Jack, who also believed his partner was the one who had his bid, so he redoubled!



Jack Tarlinton and Angus Gray

Angus had absolutely no doubt about trusting his partner and passed the Redouble - and right he was! Dave Thompson not unreasonably led a diamond, which ran around to Angus' ♦K. Angus proceeded to claim nine tricks; one heart, one diamond, and seven clubs!!

3NTXX making was -800.

Note that on a spade lead the defence would take the first seven tricks for +1000!

Goulash Pairs continued from page 5



James Ferguson

Board 6 was a good one. I held:

♠K5 ♥J ♦Q10 ♣KQJ75432.

sitting in 3rd seat unfavourable. Jess opened 2♣, which showed a void in clubs. My RHO doubled, I passed (wanting to play in clubs), LHO

passed, and Jess redoubled. RHO passed, and so did I (still wanting to play in clubs) and this was passed out!

Full deal:

		♠ J T 9 6 3 2			
		♥ Q 9 7 5			
		♦ J 7 3			
		♣ -			
♠ K 5	N	♠ A Q 8 7 4			
♥ J	W	♥ A K 6 4 3 2			
♦ Q T	E	♦ 8 5			
♣ K Q J 7 5 4 3 2	S	♣ -			
		♠ -			
		♥ T 8			
		♦ A K 9 6 4 2			
		♣ A T 9 8 6			

2♣XX just made for +760!

Special Appearance

The Youth Week was lucky to have a very special guest who visited us. It made a lot people's dreams come true:



Katniss Everdeen

BEST BEER CARDED HAND OF THE WEEK:

(Prize: \$20 Wish Gift Card)

IVY ANDERSON

Reported by Nick Jacob

Board 27	♠ K8		
Dealer S	♥ 82		
Vul None	♦ 7542		
	♣ AQJ65		
♠ AQJT2		♠ 754	
♥ K76		♥ QJT94	
♦ 3		♦ JT	
♣ T832		♣ 974	

	♠ 963		
	♥ A53		
	♦ AKQ986		
	♣ K		

J. Newman	Ivy	D. Bell	Nick
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass (!)
1♠	2♣	2♥ (!)	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I led the ♦A, then switched to the ♣K, and went back to another top Diamond. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played the ♥K which won, and continued another Heart to the Jack and my Ace. I continued with the ♦Q to continue the forcing defence, as Ivy carefully preserved her ♦7.

Declarer ruffed, and played the ♠7-♠3-♠2(!)-♠8. Ivy now cashed two rounds of Clubs as I pitched the ♦98, and as Ivy played another Club, I discarded my final ♦6 (as declarer ruffed with his second last trump). Declarer now drew the last trump and here was the 2-card ending (next coloumn):



Ivy Anderson

Board 27	♠ K		
Dealer S	♥ -		
Vul None	♦ 7		
	♣ -		
♠ AQ		♠ 54	
♥ -		♥ -	
♦ -		♦ -	
♣ -		♣ -	

	♠ 96		
	♥ -		
	♦ -		
	♣ -		

Declarer, having lost 6 tricks already now took a Spade finesse. Ivy won with the ♠K and presented the Beer Coke Card as the eighth and final defensive trick! +1100.

QUIZ: AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM

BY PETE HOLLANDS

You hold: ♠KJx ♥KJ10xx ♦x ♣AQJx in 3rd seat with no one vulnerable. Partner opens a weak 2♥, pass on your right, you raise to 4♥ ending the auction. RHO leads a card, you put dummy down, and a minute later (30 seconds later?), partner claims for one off.

What does partner have? (There were no adverse distribution nor ruffs.)

Answer on page 21.

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THE HELMAN-KLINGER MASTERPOINT AWARD: ELLENA MOSKOVSKY

This award, worth \$200 annually and supplemented with a further \$100 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is awarded to the Australian Youth Player who earns the most masterpoints in the calendar year in question.

This year Ellena won with 144.73 masterpoints which included winning the ANC Youth Teams and several strong finishes in congresses and state events in Victoria (most notably making the final of the Victorian Pennant). Ellena was also the McCutcheon winner for 2013 in the Bronze Life Master category.



THE HILLS-HURLEY TROPHY: RHYS COOPER AND MICHAEL BAUSOR

This trophy, donated by Richard Hills and Steve Hurley, is intended to encourage talented young bridge players to form long-standing partnerships and reward a successful pair who has developed a well-organised partnership to harness their full potential.

Michael & Rhys have anchored the West Australian youth team for several years culminating with ANC round-robin victories in 2012 and 2013 and winning the ANC in 2012. Consistently at or near the top of the datums and playing virtually every match, Michael & Rhys play a forcing pass system necessitating a significant amount of system development, discussion and practice.

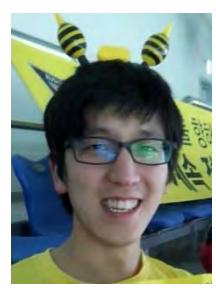


Michael Bausor absent

THE HELMAN-KLINGER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: JOHN YOON

This award, worth \$400 annually and supplemented with a further \$200 from the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund, is presented each year to the Australian Youth Bridge Player whose ability, achievements, sportsmanship, attitude, contribution and commitment during the calendar year are most deserving.

John has been active for several years in running the ANU Bridge Club and also organises the excellent annual Bateman's Bay Youth Weekend. A complete gentleman at and away from the table, John epitomises the six qualities required for this award.



Both Helman-Klinger Awards exist due to the generosity of the late Rabbi Leonard Helman, an American lawyer, prominent bridge enthusiast and philanthropist, who made a substantial donation to establish the prizes to honour Ron and Suzie Klinger's outstanding contribution to bridge in Australia.

THE ANDREW REINER TROPHY: JUSTIN HOWARD & PETER HOLLANDS

This recently established award is granted to the best performed pair in the primary target international event, taking account of performance in the event itself, commitment to preparation and contribution to team success.

Juzz and Pete anchored the Australian Under-25 team to its two silver medals in the World Youth Open Championships in Atlanta and the thrilling come-from-behind victory in the APBF Youth Championships in Wuhan, China.



BETTY'S STORY



Betty, aged 81, teaches bridge to young indigenous people in prison. What if learning to play bridge could change your life? You can find more information about it [here](#). You can also keep updated via Facebook by friending [People Who Play Bridge](#) You can also view the ABF article [here](#).



2014 NOT (That almost didn't happen)

By ANDY HUNG, BRISBANE

The MILNE team have finally achieved their goal – they (*Liam Milne, Nye Griffiths, Andy Hung, Adam Edgtton, Peter Hollands [Milne team new comer], and Ishmael Del'Monte [Milne team new comer]*) have claimed victory over the LORENTZ team (*Gabby Lorentz, Stephen Burgess, Pablo Lambardi, Matthew Thomson, Ashley Bach, and Paul Marston*) in the 2014 NOT Finals 161 to 139 IMPs. In addition, the MILNE team have accepted the offer and will participate in the [Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship](#) held in Glasgow, Scotland, in September.



2014 MILNE Team (L to R): Adam (Little Shipper) Edgtton, Nye (Mad) Griffiths, Liam (Get Em) Milne, Pete (Fatty) Hollands, Andy (Glue) Hung, and Ishmael (The Man) Del'Monte

Surprisingly, this team almost did not happen – if interested, you can have look [here](#) at the series of chat log events between Liam and Andy about the constant accumulation and dissipation of the team formation.

Here are some of the interesting hands from the Finals:

Final 1	♠ QT		
Brd 1	♥ A32		
N/Nil	♦ K873		
	♣ QT74		
♠ 654	N	♠ J	
♥ KQJ 654	W	♥ T9	
♦ J92	E	♦ AQ654	
♣ 8	S	♣ AKJ 93	
		♠ AK98732	
		♥ 87	
		♦ T	
		♣ 652	

Open Room				Closed Room			
Edgtton	Bach	Hung	Marston	Lorentz	Peter	Burgess	Ishmael
W	N	E	S	W	N	E	S
-	Pass	1♦	3♠	-	1♣	1♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	×	Pass	Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	5♦	×	All Pass	

In the Open Room, I had a choice between bidding 4♣ or doubling 3♠. The benefit of doubling no doubt is to either penalise the opponents in 3♠, or to play in 3NT. The downside of course is that partner might remove the double to 4♥ and there will be a guess between passing out 4♥ or bidding 5♣. Not being one to opt out of a penalty, I chose to double – and of course, partner bid

4♥. Rightly or wrongly, I passed and was glad to see Adam wrap up 10 tricks.

In hindsight, the decision to double or bid 4♣ probably depends on your opponents' preempting style. If they are aggressive preemptors, then it would be more attractive to double. But if they are solid citizens, then holding the singleton ♠J makes it unlikely that partner will have a penalty pass. A 4♣ bid would have fared much better here: Adam would then bid 4♥ and I would feel a lot happier passing that.

In the other room, Peter Hollands as North opened 1♣ and Ishmael jumped to 4♠ over Burgess's 1♦ overcall. 4♠ was a great bid as it applied maximum pressure to the opponents – and they guessed 'incorrectly' and ended up in 5♦x for one off.

Bach made a great lead on Board 12. Holding ♠K72 ♥9864 ♦Q72 ♣1096, you hear 1♣ on your right, 1♦ (showing ♥'s) on your left, 2NT (18-19) on your right, raised to 3NT. What do you lead? Bach probably thought that when partner didn't make a 1♠ overcall, a spade lead isn't as attractive, so it was down to diamonds or clubs. It was also possible for the 1♣ opener to have longer diamonds (i.e. he was told that a 4=3=4=2 shape would tend to be opened 1♣) so he chose to lead the ♣10. This was the killing lead as partner's hand was ♠9865 ♥A7 ♦43 ♣KQJ85.

Must be nice!

After a series of swingy boards, the score was 69-32 IMPs to MILNE after the first set. In the second set, MILNE added 38 more IMPs to their tally to 3 IMPs for LORENTZ. Ishmael made a very nice discovery play on Board 28, which turned out to be the biggest swing from the second set:

Final 2	♠ T3		♠ AK95
Brd 28	♥ AT74		♥ 2
W/N-S	♦ Q754		♦ K93
	♣ A83		♣ KJ542
	♠ QJ7	N	
	♥ Q98		E
	♦ 86		
	♣ QT976	S	
			♠ 8642
			♥ KJ653
			♦ AJT2
			♣ -

Thomson	Pete	Lambardi	Ishmael
W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♣	2NT*	3♠	4♦
4♠	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Milne	Bach	Griffiths	Marston
W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the Open Room, Peter's 2NT showed a 4-card limit raise. Ishmael's 4♦ bid over 3♠ was in preparation of a potential 4♠ bid by the opponents so he could let partner judge whether it's best to defend or declare. Whether 4♦ was a slam try or not, Peter cuebid with 5♣ and the contract rested in 5♥.

Matthew Thomson led the ♠Q which held the trick, and so did the ♠J. He then switched to the ♣6 on which Ishmael rose with the ace, discarding a spade. At this point, Ishmael had to assume that the ♦K was onside (for the contract to have any chance), and immediately placed East's hand shape to be either a 4=2=2=5 or a 4=1=3=5. Before committing himself to the heart suit, he decided to make a neat discovery play.

He now took a diamond finesse by leading dummy's ♦4 to his **jack**. (When Lambardi did not follow with the ♦K, Ish could discount his RHO having a shape of 4=3=1=5.) Ish now ruffed a spade in dummy and continued with another diamond finesse by leading dummy's ♦5 to his **ten**. When both opponents followed low to both diamonds, he could now claim his contract. As East was now marked with 4=1=3=5, he could simply lay down the ♥K and take the heart finesse.

You might say that East could have played the ♦K on the second round of diamonds to mask his shape to be 4=2=2=5, but Ish had this countered. On the first round of diamonds, Ish specifically took the diamond finesse with his **jack of diamonds**, thereby disguising the location of the ♦10. If West had ♦106, then on the second round of diamonds East could not afford to rise with the ♦K as that would sacrifice the natural diamond trick for the defence!

At the other table, Liam and Nye were playing MiniMeck and the 1♦ opening was nebulous. Surprisingly, they had the auction all to themselves and played in 2♣ making ten tricks for 13 IMPs. LORENTZ made a comeback in the third set, which was partially fuelled by a defensive misunderstanding by Adam and myself:

Final 2	♠ K		♠ AQJT7652
Brd 28	♥ JT85		♥ 7
N/E-W	♦ KQ43		♦ J86
	♣ Q864		♣ 3
	♠ 843	N	
	♥ Q32		E
	♦ T72		
	♣ AK72	S	
			♠ 9
			♥ AK964
			♦ A95
			♣ JT95

Thomson	Edgton	Lambardi	Hung
W	N	E	S
-	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Ishmael	Burgess	Pete	Lorentz
W	N	E	S
-	1♦	4♠	X
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Closed Room, the deal was over in a matter of seconds. Lorentz led the ♥A, which fetched the ♥8 from Burgess, and then switched to the ♦A and the ♦9, after which Burgess followed with a third round of diamonds.

At our table, I led the (unsystemmic) ♥K hoping to induce a reverse count card from partner. On this, Adam played an unusual ♥10. Thinking that Adam had an odd number of hearts or that declarer had the ♥J (if the ♥10 happened

to be reverse attitude), I thought there was no harm in cashing the ♥K before continuing with ace and another diamond.

Of course it's true that I could have continued with ace and another diamond at tricks 2 and 3, but what if Adam's hand was ♠K ♥JT5 ♦KJ843 ♣Q864 and declarer's was ♠AQJT7652 ♥87 ♦Q6 ♣3 – how would Adam know whether to continue with another round of diamonds (playing me for a 1=6=2=4 shape) or to continue with hearts?

It was clear to both sides that we needed to cash out our red suits in the right order (since dummy's visible hand makes it clear that declarer has ten tricks on top with eight spades and two clubs), and even if Adam had played the ♥J (discouraging) on the actual hand, would I still have continued with the ♥A or switched to the ♦A?

Regardless of who was at fault, we have now made the extra agreement that when we are defending a 5-level (or higher) contract or a 4-level contract with an opponent showing a 7+ suit, we will play Ace for Attitude, and King for Count. Cash out situations like these emphasises the importance of knowing the count (distribution) of the hands to cash out correctly.

What would happen if Adam had played the ♥5 as reverse count? Not knowing whether he has two or four hearts, I would probably switch to diamonds and he would be able to know what to do (i.e. if he had four hearts he could deduce that I had five as I was in fear of continuing hearts).

We lost the third set by 26 IMPs so the total was down to 129-83 IMPs. In the fourth and final set, LORENTZ had come close to our score after a series of boards where Pete and Ish reached not so optimal 4-Major contracts instead of 3NT that Bach and Marston had bid to. At the half way point, MILNE's lead had been reduced to 14 IMPs.

Pete then made a great bid on Board 26 from the final set. He had ♠9 ♥AKJ963 ♦T764 ♣T3 and heard his partner open 1♠. He responded 1NT, LHO overcalled 2♣ and his partner jumped to 3♠. Appreciating the ♥AK top tricks as well as the ♠9 (it could prove to be a useful intermediate card), he raised to 4♠ (even a 4♥ bid was possible). This made 10 tricks when partner showed up with ♠KQT8764 ♥Q ♦A8 ♣A92.

Board 28 was very wild:

Final 4	♠ KT8		
Brd 28	♥ AJ 76		
W/N-S	♦ 54		
	♣ AQ92		
♠ QJ62	N	♠ 97543	
♥ T		♥ Q53	
♦ AT9876	E	♦ KQJ32	
♣ 43	S	♣ -	
	♠ A		
	♥ K9842		
	♦ -		
	♣ KJT8765		

Open Room			
Milne	Bach	Griffiths	Marston
W	N	E	S
Pass	1NT	2♠	6♣
6♠	X	All Pass	

Closed Room			
Thomson	Pete	Lambardi	Ishmael
W	N	E	S
-	1♣	1♦	1♥
5♦	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	6♦	7♣
Pass	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	7♥	X	All Pass

In the Open Room, Liam and Nye saved in 6♠ against the making vulnerable slam of 6♣. Saving in 6♦ would have been better as it would be two off, but as it is 6♠X was three off when the defence tapped dummy with hearts and eventually the ♠10 was promoted to a trick.

The action was even hotter in the Closed Room. Lambardi reasonably chose to overcall in his better five-card diamond suit and Thomson was then able to jump to 5♦. Ishmael competed to 6♣ and this was passed around to Lambardi who now saved in 6♦. Ishmael was still more than determined and continued with 7♣ and Lambardi continued the save with 7♦.

Still not wanting to give up, Ishmael now made a forcing pass to which Pete was more than happy to accept with 7♥ with such important cards (i.e. the ♠K, ♥AJ, and ♣AQ). Lambardi now was able to make a Lightner Double, suggesting a void in a suit that his partner should lead to.

Matthew must have thought that Lambardi had doubled with the ♠A (i.e. the opponents have bid a grand slam missing a vital ace) and led the ♠Q. Ishmael won the lead, played a heart to the ace (noting the ♥10 on his left), cashed the ♠K, and led dummy's ♥6 to his ...

Now, this was Ishmael's thinking. His first gut instinct was to play the ♥4, finessing the queen but he gave the deal a little more thought (as you would, considering you are in a grand slam). If Lambardi had three hearts, that would give him a shape of 5=3=5=0 or 4=3=6=0. If Lambardi had a doubleton heart, that would give him a shape of 5=2=6=0 (or 4=2=7=0 but that would give Thomson five spades and four diamonds, unlikely for the 5♦ bid).

- If Lambardi had 5=3=5=0, that would give Thomson 4=1=6=2.
- If Lambardi had 4=3=6=0, that would give Thomson 5=1=5=2.
- If Lambardi had 5=2=6=0, that would give Thomson 4=2=5=2.

Ishmael had thought that if Thomson held either of the first two shapes (4162 or 5152) he would more likely have saved with either 6♦ or 7♦ (since he had the chance to bid before his partner). Therefore, Ish thought that Thomson must have the third case with a 4=2=5=2 shape. Jumping to 5♦ with that shape may be quite aggressive, but it might be fair enough given the favourable vulnerability. Ish then played the ♥K and the roof had fallen in! That's certainly what it felt like when Adam and I were sitting out on the last set!

After that board, there were four deals remaining and we were only up by 15 IMPs. We gained 9 IMPs on one of those boards, and there was no turning back. The victory was ours.

I would like to say thank you to Liam for rounding up the team despite the team falling in and out at various times of last year.

It is now time for us to work hard to bring the bacon home in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships.



Awesome banner, thanks Ella!

On an entertaining note, I would like to leave this article with a +2200 that Liam and Nye brought back during the SWPT Qualifying rounds:

N/N-S	♠ KQ	♠ J9						
	♥ 965	♥ T3						
	♦ 975	♦ KQ864						
	♣ T9852	♣ A763						
♠ A863	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	E			S		♠ T7542
N		E						
S								
♥ A872	♥ KQJ4							
♦ J2	♦ AT3							
♣ KJ4	♣ Q							

	Nye	Liam
	W	E
-	Pass	1NT*
X	Pass	2♣**
Pass	Pass	XX

1NT was 9-12 (Mini NT) and 2♣ showed both majors. Double by Nye showed penalty interest and South redoubled to say "you choose a suit partner" but unfortunately there was a misunderstanding and 2♣XX became the final contract.

Nye kicked off with the ♦J lead and declarer won with the ace. Declarer then played the ♥K which won the trick, and

the ♥Q was continued which Nye won.

A diamond was continued to Liam's ♦Q, after which he exited with a low club to the queen and king. A heart was played for Liam to ruff, ♦K cashed, spade to Nye's ace, heart ruffed by dummy's ♣10 to which Liam discarded his last spade. The ♣9 now was played to Liam's ace and here was the position:

With seven tricks in the bag, Liam now played a diamond for Nye to ruff with the ♣J, and a spade through promoted Liam's ♣7. +2200, get 'em!

N/N-S	♠ K	♠ -						
	♥ -	♥ -						
	♦ -	♦ 84						
	♣ 85	♣ 7						
♠ 86	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	E			S		♠ -
N		E						
S								
♥ -	♥ -							
♦ -	♦ 84							
♣ J	♣ 7							
	♠ T7							
	♥ J							
	♦ -							
	♣ -							

THRILL SEEKER

By JOHN NEWMAN, SYDNEY

One of the big thrills in bridge is committing to a line of play that could fail miserably. It's like jumping off a cliff and trusting that your parachute will open. I've suffered many fatal accidents. Once I absent-mindedly ruffed partner's winner with the singleton ace of trumps. Another time I "jettisoned" an ace in dummy to test a suit in my hand - turns out the suit split badly, and dummy's ace was an entry to winners that I'd forgotten about. Occasionally though, the kamikaze method works out, and it feels amazing.

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

	♠ A4
S/E-W	♥ AT952
	♦ J
	♣ AQ853
♠ 3	3NT/S, ♠ 3
	♠ KQ652
	♥ Q6
	♦ K54
	♣ K74

How would you tackle the hand playing matchpoints?

Have a think about it before reading on.

West seemed to have chosen an unattractive fourth highest spade lead, therefore East probably had at least five diamonds. Developing a spade trick seemed safe enough, but that only brought the total to ten tricks, presuming clubs would run. Judging overtrick chances in these situations is tough. What would you do?

I won the lead with dummy's ace to preserve an entry to my hand, then crossed to the ♣K and led the ♥Q. This held, East dropping the jack. Very interesting! This suddenly felt like one of my favourite positions in bridge was about to develop. I played a heart to dummy's nine and started running the clubs, imagining this ending:

	♠ 4									
S/E-W	♥ AT5									
	♦ J									
Hopefully	♣ -									
♠ J87	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>S</td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E			S
		N								
W			E							
			S							
♥ K87										
♦ -										
♣ -	♠ KQ65									
	♥ -									
	♦ K									
	♣ -									

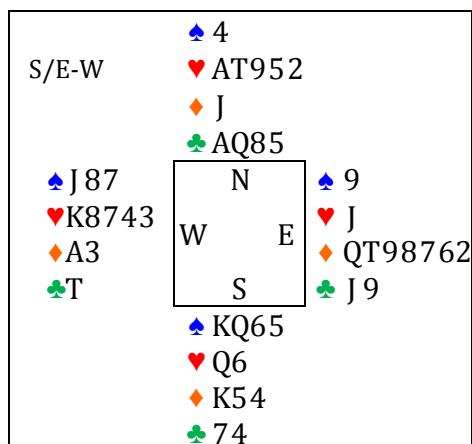
West has to make one more discard, so will presumably throw a heart. In that case, declarer plays three rounds of spades, forcing West to lead into the ace-ten of hearts at trick twelve!

However, as I played dummy's second last club, West unexpectedly pitched a spade. This was good and bad news. The good news was the spades were now established. The bad news was that the awesome "stepping stone" finish had vanished...

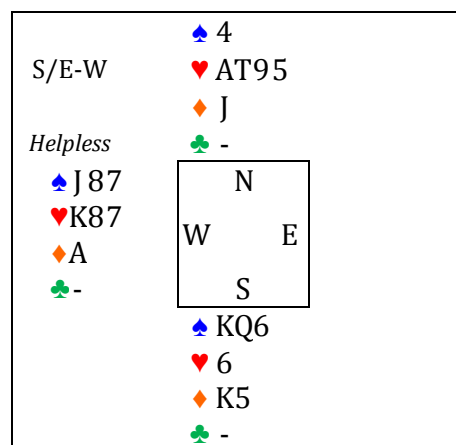
Or had it? I reasoned that to justify a spade pitch, West, a good player, must hold the ♦A. I threw a now-established spade on dummy's last club, to force myself to commit. Top spade, top spade, ♦K...

West won her ace, and provided a stepping stone to dummy's stranded ♥A for the twelfth trick! Thankfully my suicidal spade pitch didn't end up hurting. What a cool hand. Later that night though, I suspected I'd missed something. Can you figure out how to make all 13 tricks after a non-diamond lead?

Rewind to the point where ♥Q was lead from the South hand:



An expert showed me the true degree of coolness to this hand. If you leave the heart entry alone and run clubs, West is caught in a progressive three-suit squeeze. Have a look at what happens (West has to find one more discard):



If West pitches a diamond, you cross to hand and play your ♦K. West is squeezed again.

If West instead throws a heart, you can cash two spades, then make all the hearts.

If West discards a spade, you run the spades, squeezing West in diamonds and hearts.

Is that not amazing? What a game!

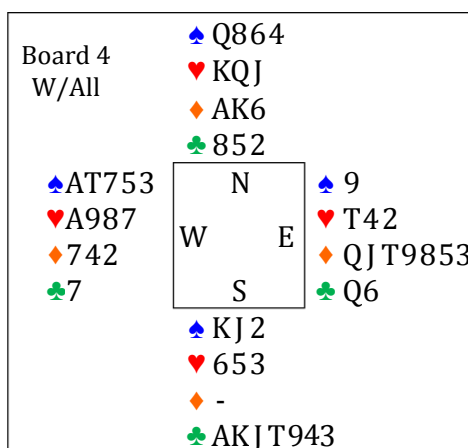
2013 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TRIATHLON

By PETER HOLLANDS, MELBOURNE

The Australian Youth Triathlon was held in Melbourne on the 6-8th of December and we had 4 tables of for most of the events. The triathlon is composed of 3 events; an imp teams, a match point pairs and this year a match point teams (BAM) instead of an individual.

It started with the BAM on the Friday night. I was lucky enough to be on The Gun Show team composed of Jamie ‘Guns’ Thompson, Jack Tarlinton, and Leigh Saunders. We started off with a gun win fight which saw a couple of interesting hands.

On board 4 sitting North I opened 1NT, East stretched to bid 3♦ which gave South a difficult bidding problem, what would you bid Andy? Jack made the reasonable decision of 5♣ which west promptly doubled holding two aces. After a diamond lead Jack comfortably made 5♣X for a winning board. What west could of considered was that 5♣ is not usually a good match point score and if they don’t double they keep their team mates in the hand which is always a good thing.



On Board 7 there was some fierce competition in diamonds from the opponents but I ended up in 5♣.

Board 7 S/All	♠ QJ ♥ AK3 ♦ Q ♣ AT98643								
♠ T942 ♥ QJ52 ♦ K7642 ♣ -	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>♠ 73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>♥ T4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>♦ AJT983</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>♣ KQ5</td> </tr> </table>	N	♠ 73	W	♥ T4	E	♦ AJT983	S	♣ KQ5
N	♠ 73								
W	♥ T4								
E	♦ AJT983								
S	♣ KQ5								
	♠ AK865 ♥ 9876 ♦ 5 ♣ J72								

East elected to lead the ten of hearts which I won and cashed the ace of clubs which West frustratingly didn't follow to.

I now played three rounds of spades (overtaking the 2nd spade) to discard my losing diamond. East ruffed and tried cashing the ace of diamonds which I ruffed. I now cashed my other top heart and exited with a club to East who was end played.

East missed two points on this hand. Firstly, if before you have led you can come up with a line of defence to beat the contract you should take it, here they can see from their hand that if the ace of clubs is with North then they have 3 defensive tricks if the diamond stands up, so they should try the lead of the unsupported diamond ace.

Secondly, when you hold the master trump and partner is out then it is usually a good idea to get rid of two of the opponents' trumps for your one trump; so when East ruffed the spade they should take their other top trump which also happens to stop them being end played.

We managed to go on and win the BAM with the Alco-boxers coming in 2nd.

The teams for Saturday (Imp teams) were selected by their captains. The captains

were the 4 youngest players in the room, Finn Rennie, Aiden Robertson, Liam Robertson, and Damon Flicker. My team was the Bearded Chelsea which was composed of Aiden, Shane Harrison, and Steven Williams. We started off slowly but recovered well except for one more hiccup. Here are a couple of interesting hands from the teams.

On board 13 Laura and Ellena bid to the good contract of 6♦ by east after west had shown good hearts.

Board 13 N/All	♠ J954 ♥ 8732 ♦ 54 ♣ J73								
♠ KQ6 ♥ AQJT5 ♦ 86 ♣ A52	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>♠ A82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>♥ 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>♦ KQJT97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>♣ KT4</td> </tr> </table>	N	♠ A82	W	♥ 6	E	♦ KQJT97	S	♣ KT4
N	♠ A82								
W	♥ 6								
E	♦ KQJT97								
S	♣ KT4								
	♠ T73 ♥ K94 ♦ A32 ♣ Q986								

I elected to lead the 9 of hearts. Looking at dummy Ellena had 3 options for 12 tricks: ruffing finesse in hearts, ruffing hearts good (or some combo of the 1st two), or taking the heart finesse.

After thinking about it for a while Ellena took the lower percentage line of the heart finesse because she backed her table feel. She had two hints: firstly, North (Aiden) was looking really disinterested in the hand with his near Yarborough and I had a big smile on my face for my good work on the deceptive lead. So when defending, even if you have nothing, make sure you look really interested in the hand and if you make a deceptive lead don't smile.

On board 17, playing with Shane Harrison with absolutely no agreements, sitting West I had quite an interesting bidding problem.

Board 17	♠ T7	♠ QJ842
N/Nil	♥ T52	♥ Q3
	♦ A86432	♦ K5
	♣ J7	♣ KQT9
♠ AK6	N	
♥ AKJ9864	W	E
♦ QJ9		S
♣ -		
	♠ 953	
	♥ 7	
	♦ T7	
	♣ A865432	

Shane opened 1♠, pass to me, thoughts Andy? I decided to take the non-scientific route and just punted grand, 7♠. We were missing two aces but luckily the person on lead had the non-cashing ace. After the club ace Shane promptly made. When you're in luck you better make sure you cash in.

We ended up coming in 2nd to 'Finnish Them' which consisted of Finn Rennie, Michael Whibley, Jack Tarlinton, and Jamie 'Guns' Thompson. After two events Jack and Guns were leading the Triathlon with Whibley in 3rd and me in 4th (4000 points behind the leaders).

The final event, the youth pairs, I was playing with Max Henbest. The other contenders for the triathlon were Jamie 'Guns' Thompson playing with Michael Whibley, and Jack Tarlinton playing with Leigh Saunders. Max and I started off with the critical round against Whibley and Guns where we started off well with 4 tops and a bottom.

At the halfway mark we were leading on 62% and Whibley and Guns on 54% and the others a bit behind. To win the triathlon I needed to win the event with both Guns and Jack finishing 3rd or lower, otherwise it was a tie. The tie breaker

method was that the winner was the person who wrote an article for the event, which I am fairly sure I would have lost.

The second session was also quite good for us: I felt comfortable that we had won the pairs, so I managed the first hurdle. Steven Williams and Finn Rennie had a great 2nd session scoring 62% and managed to jump Whibley and Guns into 2nd position by 1 matchpoint.

So I managed to take out the Australian Youth Triathlon. The overall standings are posted below with Guns in 2nd and Whibley and Finn (10 year old) in equal 3rd spot. I would like to thank Laura Ginnan for doing all the organising of the event, and all the interstate players who made it great fun.

The results can be seen [here](#).



The Bobby Richman Memorial Shield

For the Australian Youth Bridge Triathlon Winner.

Pete Hollands has the honour of being the trophy's first recipient.

Bobby was such a legend and such a supporter of youth bridge.



2013 Australian Youth Triathlon Participants

FREE ROBOTS For JUNIORS!



BBO is generously offering FREE leasing of GIB Robots for junior players on BBO from now till the end of 2013!

If you are an Australian youth player, and under 26 years of age (or 26 that year), simply send in your name, date of birth, and your BBO I.D. to Dave Thompson at dave@amontay.com and he should process that for you in no time. For any other junior players outside of Australia, simply send in an email to diana@bridgebase.com or rain@bridgebase.com with the same details along with some proof of your "juniorhood" such as a link to your junior masterpoints earned, or it could just be a photo of you with other juniors! (But do not send in photocopies of IDs.)

If you know someone who is a junior, or someone you know who knows a junior, or ... just spread the word!

For those who already have GIB, the robot's system notes can be found [here](#).

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]

S/All ♠ A 9 5
 ♡ 5 3
 ♦ K J 9 8
 ♣ K Q 9 8



♠ J 7 4 3
 ♡ A Q 6
 ♦ A 7 2
 ♣ A J 3

South to make 3NT (IMPs)

Opening lead is ♠6. You play low from dummy and East wins ♠Q and shifts to the ♡J.

Solution on Page 21



Do you have a bidding problem? Then ask our expert, Andy Hung at [What Should I Bid?](#)

Each month Andy will select the best enquiry and the winner will be presented a \$30 voucher (funded by [TBIB](#)) toward any purchase made at the [Bridge Shop](#) or at [Paul Lavings Bridge Books](#).



The ABF Youth Website is moving! The new relocated website will be www.youthbridge.com.au and we will also be creating a bridge forum to discuss anything from bridge problems to international events. This is currently under construction - send griff.bridge@me.com an email if you have any suggestions or want to help test the forum. Stay tuned ☺



KIBITZER'S CORNER - 2014 YOUTH WEEK



For more photos, or to simply view the photos from this bulletin in higher quality, click [here](#).





PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS



Paul Lavings is a frequent supporter of the Australian Youth Bridge scene and he generously donates bridge books as prizes for the Australian Youth Bridge Week. He has represented Australia in our Open Team many times, including his recent success in the winning team at the 2012 and 2013 Australian Open Team Playoffs, and the 2012 Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide. He also owns a bridge book and supplies company, so make sure to visit his website at www.bridgegear.com and contact him if you are in any need of a bridge book or CD. (P.S. Paul offers a good price on bridge books for youth players so be sure to check his website out!)

STRANDED

BY PAUL LAVINGS, SYDNEY

A recent spate of declarers stranding themselves in dummy by blocking the trump suit led me back to Eddie Kantar’s wonderful book *Eddie Kantar Teaches Topics in Declarer Play at Bridge*. I implore young players to study carefully the first chapter “A Transport of Delight”, on the art of creating extra entries and fluidity within a single suit. Eddie observes, “If all the contracts that were lost by overlooking entry problems (frequently at trick one) were laid end to end, there would be no end.”

Try your hand at two of the quizzes from the end of that first chapter:

- A42 opposite KQ8753 - How do you play this trump suit
- KQ42 (dummy) opposite AJ83 - You need three entries to dummy

(Answers on page 20)

This deal is from the text. It’s not nearly as simple as the two questions above. How do you make 13 tricks with clubs as trumps on a top diamond lead:

♠	QT9
♥	842
♦	T862
♣	J32
7♣/S, ♦A	
♠	AJ5
♥	AQ
♦	-
♣	AKQT8765

You need to take the spade finesse twice, and stay in dummy to then take the heart finesse.

That can only be done by drawing trumps ending in dummy with ♣J, and leading ♠Q and unblocking with ♠J. Now when you lead ♠10 you either stay in dummy, or can return to dummy with ♠9 if East covers. Nothing else does the job.

You can put that one in your bag of tricks, since it is a frequent situation that is never milked.

Experts make a point of automatically unblocking, and the crème de la crème of experts are a joy to watch, as they glide effortlessly from hand to hand. This hand is from a recent Monday night at the NSWBA:

N/N-S	♠	AQT4	N	♠	KJ3
	♥	KJ72		♥	A4
	♦	Q		♦	K8542
	♣	AJT6		♣	Q74
	♠	5		♠	98762
	♥	QT53		♥	986
	♦	AJ963		♦	T7
	♣	985		♣	K32

W	N	E	S
-	1♣	1♦	Pass
3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led ♦A and switched to ♣9-10-Q-K. Fearing ♣9 may be from a shortage, it seemed a good idea to hit the trumps quickly. Hence declarer played ♠6 to ♠A and ♠Q. Not good news, East won ♠K and cashed ♠J, under which declarer made the “expert” play of ♠9 and ♠10, while keeping ♠4 in dummy, retaining fluidity.

East exited a club. The situation was:





The lead was in the North hand and declarer could afford only one loser. There was only one chance and declarer cashed the two clubs pitching a diamond, crossed back with the carefully preserved ♠4 to hand, and ran ♥9, finessing against both Q and 10. Making nine tricks was a good result, and declarer's "trump technique" was right up there.

N/N-S	♠ 4	
	♥ KJ72	
	♦ -	
	♣ J6	
♠ -		♠ -
♥ QT53		♥ A4
♦ J9		♦ K854
♣ 8		♣ 4
	N	
	3♠/S, ♦A	
	♠ 72	
	♥ 986	
	♦ T	
	♣ 2	

Now try your hand at this deal from the Bridgemaster 2000 CD series of single dummy problems, highly recommended to improve your declarer play. What is the best line when you find yourself in 7♠ on the lead of ♥K:

♠ A987
♥ 85432
♦ Q32
♣ 2
7♠/S, ♥K
♠ KQT2
♥ -
♦ A5
♣ AKJT976

Have a think about it before looking at the answer at the bottom of the page.

Email: paul@bridgegear.com for all things bridge
Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies
www.bridgegear.com

Solution to Quiz

A42 opposite KQ8753 - How do you play this trump suit

Keep the 3, to maintain fluidity

KQ42 (dummy) opposite AJ83 - You need three entries to dummy

Play Ace, then 8 to K, and later overtake J with Q. Now the 3 is an entry to the 4.

You cannot afford to ruff a club to make the clubs good, since then you will have a diamond loser at the end so the club finesse is the better odds than playing for the drop. You can only make 7♠ via a heart ruff, four trumps, ♦A and seven club tricks.

Seeing you must draw all four trumps you should make the safety play of ruffing ♥K with ♠10. Now you can cope with trumps 4-1 inside. Maybe next time?

♠ A987
♥ 85432
♦ Q32
♣ 2
♠ J543
♥ KQJT
♦ JT9
♣ 53
N
7♠/S, ♥K
♠ KQT2
♥ -
♦ A5
♣ AKJT976
♠ 6
♥ A987
♦ K8764
♣ Q84





SUIT COMBINATION

THIS ISSUE	FOR NEXT ISSUE
<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>KT987</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 4 tricks</p> </div> <p>A6</p>	<p><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>AK964</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 4 tricks</p> </div> <p>J32</p> <p>Q543</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 1 trick</p> </div> <p>J762</p>
<p>Two options: (1) Cash AK, and (2) Ace, then finesse.</p> <p>(1) loses when Q-J-x-x is on your left (approx. 10% of the time).</p> <p>(2) loses when H-x (H=honour) is on your right (approx. 13% of the time).</p> <p>Every other combination either wins or loses for both options.</p> <p>Therefore, Line (1) comes out on top by a small margin.</p>	

<p>QT98</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Target: 3 tricks</p> </div> <p>A543</p>	<p>Best play is to take a double finesse from dummy. This is better than cashing the Ace then leading a low one towards dummy because if both opponents follow low to the ace, you will have a 50-50 guess whether to play the 10 or the Q (so not only do you lose to KJx(x) on your right, but you also lose to half of Kx and Jx on your right). By taking a double finesse from dummy, you will only lose to KJ, KJx(x) to your left. Also, when taking a double finesse, it's best to run the 10 first rather than the Q, to cater against the unlikely event that East is void (so you can change tack by winning the Ace).</p>
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SOLUTION: AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM

(From Page 7)

BY PETE HOLLANDS

Partner has ♠xxx ♥AQxx ♦xxx ♣xxx and all finesses were offside. SPEEDBALL!

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER

[DECLARER PLAY] SOLUTION

(Problem on page 17)

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

South to make 3NT (IMPs)
Opening lead is ♠6. You play low from dummy and East wins ♠Q and shifts to the ♥J.

With eight tricks on top, you have several chances for a ninth. When East shifts to the ♥J, you should ask yourself why East didn't return a spade? The most likely reason is that East is out of spades.

Applying the Rule of 11 can confirm that. Assuming the ♠6 is from fourth-best, 11-6 = 5, meaning there should be 5 cards higher than the ♠6. ♠A, 9, J, 7 and East's Q accounts for all 5.

Using this information, you now have a sure way of making this contract. Win the ♥A and lead a low spade intending to insert dummy's ♠9 if West plays low. If West plays the ♠10, win ace, and play the ♠9 to force out the ♠K. This way, you can establish your ninth trick without letting East (the danger hand) on lead.

Even if East wins the second spade trick (i.e. West did not lead fourth best), you can still survive if the ♥K is with East.



FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER - BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

SIMPLE STAYMAN WITH 5-4 IN THE MAJORS & GAME FORCE

Partner opens 1NT and you have 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors with enough values for game. How do you treat such hands?

One possible solution is to transfer to the 5-card Major suit and bid your other Major suit. The problem with this however is that responder might end up as the declarer with the 1NT opener's hand on the table.

For example, if the auction goes 1NT-2♦ ; 2♥-2♠ and a 4-4 spade fit exists, responder will be the one declaring the contract. Right-siding the contract may not be an issue for you, but it is certainly an issue that you shouldn't ignore.

So is there a better method? Well, if you play Simple Stayman, then the solution is quite simple. When responder has enough for game and holds 5-4 in the Major, you should simply go via 2♣ Simple Stayman.

If partner responds 2-Major, you're happy as you can raise to 4-Major. And if partner responds 2♦ saying no 4-card Major, you can now *jump* to your 4-card Major at the 3-level, to say that you have 5-cards in the *other*-Major, and enough values for game.

1NT 2♦	2♣	
	3♥	4♥5♠'s, Game-force
	3♠	4♠5♥'s, Game-force

The reason why you jump to your 4-card Major is so you can right-side the contract if a 5-3 fit exists in the other Major. Since opener has already denied a 4-card major with the 2♦ response, you can safely jump to your 4-card Major knowing that you won't have a 4-4 fit in that suit.


This solution is also known as **Smolen**, a convention that is frequently used as an extension of Simple Stayman.


Playing Smolen frees up the sequences of 1NT-2♦ ; 2♥-2♠ and 1NT-2♥ ; 2♠-3♥. What can you use them for? Whatever you and your partner want, but one suggestion might be that you can use the former auction to show 5♥4♠ and an invitational hand, and the latter auction to show 5+♠5+♥ and a game-forcing hand.


STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

	EVENT (QLD)	DATES
	QLD Youth Bridge Nights at QCBC For More INFO: http://www.qldbridge.com/	Fridays 7:30-9:30pm


	EVENT (NSW)	DATES
	After school bridge club @ NSWBA, held on Friday afternoons (during school term from 4pm-5:30pm) Email: fraserrew@gmail.com Web: http://www.nswba.com.au/	

	EVENT (ACT)	DATES
	ANU Bridge Club regular meetings at ANU Bar Email: youth@bfact.com.au Web: http://www.bfact.com.au/	Mondays 4:30pm during term

	EVENT (VIC)	DATES
	After school bridge club @ Waverly Bridge Club, held on Tuesday afternoons (during school term from 4:30pm-6:30pm) Contact: http://www.vba.asn.au/vbaHome.php	

	EVENT (SA)	DATES
	Contact: http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/	

	EVENT (WA)	DATES
	... Contact: http://www.bawa.asn.au/	...

	EVENT (NT)	DATES
	... Contact: http://www.ntba.com.au/	...

	EVENT (TAS)	DATES
	... Contact: http://www.tasbridge.com.au/	...