

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editors: Andy Hung, Laura Ginnan

ISSUE 1

Hi! Welcome to the first edition of the Australian Youth Bridge Bulletin. This is just the first of many bulletins which will be a way for you to keep up with the goss, keep aware of upcoming events and opportunities, and have your say about bridge in your State and Australia. All additions to the bulletin are greatly appreciated and also a way to ensure that it's not just us with the same old thing. Thanks for your support and we hope to keep you informed and entertained!

Happy Bridging! - The Bulletin Editors

PRE-ALERTS!

For 2012			
DATES	EVENT	WHERE	
<u>MAR</u> 31 - <u>APR</u> 5	Open Playoffs	Sydney	
<u>APR</u> 20 - <u>APR</u> 22	U21/U26 Training	Sydney	
<u>APR</u> 26 - <u>APR</u> 30	ANOT	Adelaide	
<u>MAY</u> 4 - <u>MAY</u> 6	U26 Training	Sydney	
<u>JUN</u> 7 - <u>JUN</u> 11	VCC	Melb.	
<u>JUL</u> 7 - <u>JUL</u> 19	ANC	Melb.	
<u>JUL</u> 25 - <u>AUG</u> 4	WYTC	China	

Get Em! Victory for Team MILNE

Team MILNE has finally clutched victory!



L to R: Nye Griffiths, Liam Milne, Fat Trophy, (front) Alexander Smirnov, Nabil Edgtton, Michael Whibley, and Andy Hung.

After consecutively finishing second in the NOT played at Canberra in 2010 and 2011, the semi-junior team have claimed victory in the 2012 Gold Coast Congress. The Milne team, captained by Liam 'Get Em' Milne, included the awesomeness of Nabil Edgtton, Nye Griffiths, Andy Hung, Alex Smirnov and Michael Whibley.

The team that was Milnified included Michael Ware, Fiona Brown, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Geo Tislevoll, and Jon Sveindal.

To find out more about the epic victory check out an written article by Phillip Alder (courtesy of The New York Times) on page 8 and an article by Liam Milne on page 4.

Without your help the Aussie Youth Bulletin will be full of all our random rants and raves. Have your say - Email pix or articles or any suggestions to youthbridge.au@gmail.com

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CHECKBACK (Results)

51st GOLD COAST CONGRESS

25 FEB - 3 MAR, 2012

Open Teams	Place	Players
	1st	Liam Milne, Michael Whibley, Alexander Smirnov, Nye Griffiths, Nabil Edgtton, Andy Hung

Open Pairs	Place	Players
	1st	Nabil Edgtton - Ashley Bach
	3rd	Pranjal Chakradeo - Ajit Chakradeo

Restricted Pairs	Place	Players
	1st	Garry Khemka - John Yoon

Restricted Teams	Place	Players
	2nd	Garry Khemka, John Yoon, Mary Tough, Yong White, David Grout, Justin Brown

3rd WORLD ONLINE UNIVERSITY BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1st JAN - ?, 2012

Group H	Place	University	VP	1	2	3	4
(P. Hollands, L. Ginnan, M. Henbest, L. Henbest)	1st	Singapore Hwa Chong	57		14	18	25
	2nd	Australia Monash UNI	52	16		11	25
	3rd	China California I.T.	28	0	19		9
	4th	UK Oxford UNI	26	5	0	21	

Round of 32 KO: Monash Uni vs Yokozuna Sweden (Monash lost 84-110 IMPs)

Group L	Place	University	VP	1	2	3	4
(S. Yuen, J. Yoon, J. Higgins, E. Moskovsky, L. Travis, S. Williams)	1st	Australia - ANU	75		25	25	25
	2nd	India	52	4		23	25
	3rd	Hong Kong DBS	31	4	7		20
	4th	USA UTK	14	0	4	10	

Round of 32 KO: ANU vs USA Uni of Pennsylvania (AUS ANU lost 38-91 IMPs)

CHECKBACK (Results)

44th Australian Youth Bridge Championships 14 JAN - 20 JAN, 2012

Youth Pairs Final	Place	Players
	1st	Adam Edgtton - Liam Milne
	2nd	Shane Harrison - Max Henbest

Consolation Pairs	Place	Players
	1st	Cathy Hui - Leigh Matheson
	2nd	Jack Tarlinton - John Yoon

Youth Teams (After four board Playoff)	Place	Players
	1st	L. Milne, A. Edgtton, N. Edgtton, A. Hung
	2nd	N. van Jole, J. Williams, J. Howard, P. Hollands
	3rd	S. Yuen, S. Williams, R. Cooper, D. Braun

Youth Butler (After Playoffs)	Place	Players
	1st	Nabil Edgtton - Andy Hung
	2nd	Peter Hollands - Justin Howard
	3rd	Adam Edgtton - Liam Milne
	4th	Stephen Williams - Sebastian Yuen
5th	Shane Harrison - Max Henbest	

Cliff Wake Challenge	Place	Players	IMPs
	1st	Nathan van Jole, Justin Williams, Ellena Moskovsky, Lauren Travis	16
	2nd	L. Milne, A. Edgtton, N. Edgtton, A. Hung	15

NZ vs. Barbarians	Place	Players	IMPs
	1st	Cathy Hui, Daryl Whitfield, Peter Bolling, John Yoon, Leigh Matheson, Erin Tewes	128
	2nd	Andi Boughey, Jennifer Black, Andrew James, Tim Grant, Pieter Vanderpoel	125

BRIDGE WITH THE MILNE TEAM

By Liam Milne

At the end of March, I was lucky enough to play in the Gold Coast Congress for the first time. As a recent arrival to the Australian bridge scene, I have only played in a few of the big tournaments on offer, such as the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra held after Youth Week each year. It was fantastic to go to the Gold Coast for the first time and see what an enjoyable and well-run tournament it is. It was also great to see a strong turn-out from the youth player contingents of Australia and New Zealand.

The first event was the Pairs Championship which I played with Michael Whibley, another ex-Kiwi who has migrated to Melbourne. Although we didn't succeed in qualifying for the final, we had a lot of fun playing in one of the consolation brackets. One particular hand has stuck in my memory, where a harmless psyche on my behalf led to an apparent disaster in the bidding. However, my fears turned out to be misplaced. The hand:

N/N-S	♠ K8642	
	♥ 96	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ 9875	

♠ 973		♠ T5
♥ A J 2		♥ T754
♦ T875432		♦ 96
♣ - - -		♣ AKQJ6

	♠ AQJ
	♥ KQ83
	♦ AK
	♣ T432

W	N	E	S
-	Pass	1NT*	2♣*
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Mike opened 1NT in second position, which we were playing as the aggressive "mini NT" - roughly 9-12 HCP (although we are flexible on those requirements!). South must not have had a penalty double available as they overcalled 2♣, showing the majors. Sitting West with not much in the way of anything, I decided to forgo 2♦ (too low), 3♦ game force (too much) and 5♦ (I hate sacrifices). After considering an implausible 3NT, I eventually chose to go with a value-showing double to try to talk the opponents out of their likely game. This was followed by everyone passing, which didn't please me much at all!

(Repeated for convenience)

N/N-S ♠ K8642
 ♥ 96
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ 9875

--

♠ 973 ♠ T5
 ♥ A J 2 ♥ T754
 ♦ T875432 ♦ 96
 ♣ - - - ♣ AKQJ6

♠ AQJ
 ♥ KQ83
 ♦ AK
 ♣ T432

W	N	E	S
-	Pass	1NT*	2♣*
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

I led a small diamond. Declarer won and attempted to draw trumps, which partner won and, unfortunately for declarer, continued drawing all the trumps (me pitching hearts) before leading his last diamond to set up the whole suit. On the third round of spades, partner ruffed in with the thirteenth trump and switched a heart to my ace. All I had left were my good diamonds including the carefully preserved doubled defensive beer card (♦7). This was good for +1100, and more importantly, 4 cold beers. Certainly not the result I was expecting!

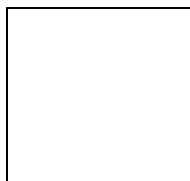
Following the pairs, I played the Teams Championship on a team of youth players (myself, Mike, Nabil Edgton, Andy Hung) and ex-youth players (Nye Griffiths and German international Alex Smirnov). My team-mates played very well, and we were fortunate enough to win the final against a strong team of Irish, Norwegian, New Zealand and English internationals.

Although a lot of the boards from the knock-out matches were interesting in a technical sense, the most exciting hands were from the qualifying rounds. A speculative double worked out much better than expected on this hand from round 10:



E/All
 ♠ 73
 ♥ J 9 7 4
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ AKQ98

♠ KQJ
 ♥ AQT
 ♦ AQT65
 ♣ 65



♠ A986
 ♥ K652
 ♦ J9
 ♣ JT7

♠ T542
 ♥ 83
 ♦ 7432
 ♣ 432

W	N	E	S
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
4♥	Dbl	All Pass	

I sat North. After two passes, my right-hand opponent opened a short 1♣ which could include any 17-19 balanced hand. I had to pass and East responded 1♦, a transfer showing 4+♥'s. West bid 1NT to show their strength and East transferred again with 2♥ showing spades. West showed heart support with 3♥ and East bid 3NT. When this came around, I ventured a double being on lead with a secret weapon and a likely entry in the king of diamonds. West unexpectedly ran to 4♥ when the double was passed around to him, and not being one to stand for such antics, I doubled this too without high hopes.

Partner led the expected club, and I played two more rounds to take the ten of hearts off dummy. After ruffing and draw two more rounds of trumps, declarer played dummy's king and queen of spades. To keep the result to one off, declarer has to cash all of dummy's top winners, but he erred by over-taking the second round of spades to try the king of hearts. After discovering that trumps weren't breaking, he tried a hopeful diamond finesse. I was able to win, draw declarer's last trump and cash two more clubs for +800. So much for pessimism!

Not only did the results work out well, I had a fantastic time playing on such a fun team. The importance of having awesome teammates and good team spirit cannot be underestimated. It was also wonderful to play at a great venue in such a well-organised and well-structured tournament (late starts every day, anyone?). I would recommend playing in next year's Gold Coast Congress to everyone, regardless of their experience or ability. I'll certainly be there.



Australian Youth Bridge Championships

By Andy Hung



L to R: Lauren Travis, Ellena Moskovsky, Nathan van Jole, Justin Williams

The 2012 Australian Youth Bridge week was held at Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort for the second time running and due to the continual positive responses of the venue from the players, it will most likely be the venue to stay for the Youth Week for the future.

There were at least 15 new faces and I highly encourage these people to continue to join the Youth weeks to come because it is without a doubt the best way to meet other junior bridge players from around Australia (not to mention the endless amount of fun to be had!) If you are a nerd like I am, some of us are thinking to hold a knockout tournament of Super Smash Brothers and/or Mario Kart 64 during the next Youth week! Before I move



Andrew James



L to R: Liam Robertson, Noah, Aiden Robertson

along to the results and the interesting hands I would like to welcome back the new players from 2011 and also a very special welcome to the three kiddies Liam (11) and Aiden (8) Robertson, and Noah (6) - not only is it great to see you guys starting bridge at such a young age, but you guys are the next generation of youth bridge!

Onto the results, the Youth Pairs Consolation Final was won by Cathy Hui - Leigh Matheson, and the winners of the Youth Pairs Championships Final was Adam Edgtton - Liam Milne with Shane Harrison - Max Henbest as the runner-ups. Congratulations guys!



Liam Robertson

The Youth Teams Championship was won by team MILNE (formerly known as team EDGTTON) consisting of Liam Milne, Adam Edgtton, Andy Hung and Nabil Edgtton, who went undefeated. Equal second went to team VAN JOLE (Nathan van Jole, Justin Williams, Justin Howard and Peter Hollands) and team YUEN (Sebastian Yuen, Stephen Williams, Rhys Cooper and Daniel Braun) but according to the rules they were required to play a four board playoff to determine the second and third placing. Team Van Jole won with a convincing score of 23-0 IMPs.



The winners, team Milne, also played in a four board playoff in a newly formed event called the Cliff Wake Challenge (it was first introduced last year). Team Milne would be facing off against the Cliff Wake team which would be composed of the top two pairs from the datums and that was Nathan van Jole - Justin Williams and Lauren Travis - Ellena Moskovsky. The victors went to the Cliff Wake team coming out narrowly 16-15 IMPs! For the match details you can read it on http://abf.com.au/events/results/2012/ayc/bulletins/Bulletin_05.pdf



Liam Milne, Adam Edgton



L to R: Liam Milne, Adam Edgton, Joe Grue, Justin Lall, Nabil Edgton, Andy Hung



Andy Hung, Joe Grue, Nabil Edgton, Justin Lall

Here are a few interesting hands from the week:

The first hands two consists of two opening bid problems (the hands have been rotated to make the dealer South).

S/All
IMPs
South
♠ A Q 4 3
♥ A Q J 7
♦ A T 2
♣ 7 2

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	?

S/All
IMPs
South
♠ A Q 7 4
♥ A Q 4 2
♦ 7 5
♣ A J 7

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	?

You may be wondering that both of these hands are within the 15-17NT range so what's the problem!? There are 2 major problems with opening 1NT:

1. Aces are undervalued in the 4-3-2-1 point system, and honour cards are more valuable when supported with another honour (E.g. KQTxx vs. KQxx)
2. You may miss a game! How? With the 4-4 majors staring at you, along with a small doubleton, it is not unlikely for partner to have 6-7HCP and a 4 card major in which game could be cold.

The first board was from the first round of the butler and the auction turned out favourably but in a way that I had not anticipated.

S/All

♠T 9 8 2
♥T 8 2
♦6 4
♣T 9 4 3

♠6
♥9 4
♦K Q J 8 3
♣K Q J 8 5

♠K J 7 5
♥K 6 5 3
♦9 7 5
♣A 6

♠A Q 4 3
♥A Q J 7
♦A T 2
♣7 2

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♣
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

1♣ = 2+♣

My double had asked for an unusual lead and in this case it is usually dummy's first bid suit, hearts. My partner led the ♥10, winning the trick. Without much to go on, he continued with another heart and the contract eventually went one off (double dummy we could take it three off). This earned us 14 double IMPs.

Lucky you say? Here is what happened on the second hand, which occurred in the ninth round of the butler:

S/All

♠K 6 5 3
♥9 7
♦A 9 8
♣T 9 8 4

♠9 8
♥T 8 5 3
♦J T 2
♣Q 6 5 2

♠J T 2
♥K J 6
♦K Q 6 4 3
♣K 3

♠A Q 7 4
♥A Q 4 2
♦7 5
♣A J 7

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♣ = 2+♣

East led the ♣K and my partner made 4♠ with an overtrick. This gained us 22 double IMPs - how? By opening South's hand 1NT you will see yourself playing in 1NT making 10 tricks.



Jamie Thompson, Pieter Vanderpoel, and Shannon Bowen



L to R at the Bridge Table: Ellena Moskovsky, Adam Edgton, Liam Milne, Lauren Travis

This last hand is a declarer play problem (possibly a bidding problem too) played by Liam Milne during the Youth Teams (hands rotated to make declarer as South).

<p>S/Nil</p> <p>♠T 4 3 2</p> <p>♥A Q 9 5 4</p> <p>♦---</p> <p>♣K Q J T</p>		<p>♠A K Q J 5</p> <p>♥J 3</p> <p>♦A 9 7 5</p> <p>♣9 7</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: red; color: white;"> <th style="padding: 2px;">W</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">N</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">E</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">7♥X</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	-	-	-	7♥X
W	N	E	S								
-	-	-	7♥X								
<p>♠9 7 6</p> <p>♥2</p> <p>♦Q T 6 3</p> <p>♣8 6 5 4 2</p>			<p>Bidding Auction omitted to prevent harm to the viewer.</p>								
<p>♠8</p> <p>♥K T 8 7 6</p> <p>♦K J 8 4 2</p> <p>♣A 3</p>			<p>Lead: ♣4</p>								

Yes, you are looking at a grand missing a couple of Aces. Given the fortunate lead how do you plan on making this hand? It appears you can pitch a spade and a diamond on the third and fourth clubs, and you need to ruff **four** diamonds (or three with the ♦A coming down). Liam correctly won the first trick in his hand, ruffed a diamond in dummy and cashed a top trump from dummy. Unfortunately Liam now erred by playing a second round of trumps to his hand and technically this is now off because with only 3 trumps available in dummy to ruff 3♦'s, it is not enough to set up the ♦K. Fortunately for Liam, his RHO erred more than he did by discarding an innocent looking diamond on the run of the clubs so Liam was able to write down his first ever +1770, but not in a triumphant way.

To legitimately make the contract, after cashing 1 round of trump Liam would now need to play on clubs. If his RHO ever ruffs in he can just overruff and still have enough trumps in dummy to ruff out the diamonds and if his RHO doesn't ruff Liam can now cross ruff the hand out assuming his RHO holds onto their diamonds (if not, then the ♦K will be set up).

Anyway, the 2012 Youth Week was a huge success and we even had the privilege of having Joe Grue and Justin Lall (they were in one of two USA teams that obtained Silver in the 2011 Bermuda Bowl) as guest speakers during the week! and we hope to see more of you in 2013!





PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS



Paul Lavings is a frequent supporter of the Australian Youth Bridge scene as 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 Australian Open Team Playoffs (his article on one of the hands from the Playoffs can be seen below). 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!) Paul will be a regular contributor to our newly revamped Youth Bridge Bulletin, so welcome and many thanks to you Paul!

ANATOMY OF A GRAND SLAM

By Paul Lavings, Sydney

This deal is from an early round of the recent Playoffs for the Australia Open and Womens Teams:

	♠ A 9 8 5 ♥ A Q J 5 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ A 9	
N/N-S ♠ T 7 6 4 ♥ 2 ♦ K T 5 4 3 ♣ Q 7 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ J 2 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ J 9 8 2 ♣ J 6 5 3
	♠ K Q 3 ♥ K T 9 8 7 ♦ 6 ♣ K T 8 4	

It was played at 10 tables in the Open and 4 tables in the Womens. As you can see, 7♥ makes around 99% of the time. A useful technique for bidding slams is to visualise partner holding the perfect minimum, say ♠A 6 4 3 ♥A Q J 4 ♦A 6 5 ♣A 3. Only 20 HCP, and though it fits like a glove, it's not too far-fetched since partner could also hold ♠A 6 3 ♥A Q 6 5 ♦A 6 4 ♣A Q 3.



Of the 14 times played, the grand was bid only three times. A frequent problem was that the South player just didn't picture the possibility of a grand slam:

Neill		Wiltshire	
N	S	N	S
2NT	3♦	4♣	4♦
4♥	6♣	4♥	Pass
6♥			

Ebery		Rosendorff	
N	S	N	S
2♦	2NT	3NT	4♦
3NT	4♦	4♥	4NT
4♥	6♥	5♦	
5♦		Pass	

N/N-S

♠ A 9 8 5
 ♥ A Q J 5
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ A 9

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

♠ K Q 3
 ♥ K T 9 8 7
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K T 8 4

Quite a few pairs sniffed the grand, but missed out on the last hurdle, North's third round club control:

Edgton		Gosney	
N	S	N	S
2NT	3♦	4♣	4♦
4♥	4♠	4NT	5♣
4NT	5♣	5NT	6♣
5NT	6♣	6♦	6♥
6♦		Pass	

Over the 3♦ transfer 3♠ would have shown any maximum with three trumps, a popular treatment. But why not 3NT for this? 4♦ was a re-transfer to hearts. The problem here was that the Keycard Asker couldn't figure out the jig saw, much better for the hand with the singleton to Keycard.

This auction is getting closer:

Gumby		Lazer	
N	S	N	S
2NT	3♦		
4♣	4♦		
4♥	4NT		
5♦	5♠		
6♣	7♥		
Pass			

In this auction 4♣ was any super accept with 4 trumps, 4♦ a re-transfer, 5♦ was 1 or 4 Keycards, 5♠ asked for the queen of trumps, and 6♣ said yes I have it. So the grand looks good, but there is no certainty.

N/N-S
 ♠ A 9 8 5
 ♥ A Q J 5
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ A 9

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

♠ K Q 3
 ♥ K T 9 8 7
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K T 8 4

The second pair to bid 7♥ received some help:

Ewart		Howe	
N	S	N	S
2♣	2♦		
2NT	3♦		
Rdbl	4♣		
4♠	6♣		
7♥	Pass		

(Dbl)

The double of 3♦ meant that the ♦Q was going to be a sure winner, and with partner jumping around everywhere 7♥ looks to be on for sure. But I get nervous without Keycard.

The third pair to bid 7♥ were also confident, but still guessing:

Brown	Jenner-O'shea
N	S
2NT	3♦
3♠	4NT
5♣	5♦
5♠	7♥
Pass	

I much prefer to have all bids available as cue-bids, so thumbs up to 3♠. And 4NT without further ado is great, ensuring the correct hand Keycards. 1430 is superior to 0314, here allowing 5♦ to ask for the trump queen. 5♠ simply said "yes I have ♥Q", so Jenner-O'shea would have been pretty confident. Nevertheless 7♥ could have been almost no play with ♣A x x opposite.

N/N-S

♠ A 9 8 5
♥ A Q J 5
♦ A Q 7
♣ A 9

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

♠ K Q 3
♥ K T 9 8 7
♦ 6
♣ K T 8 4

This simple auction looks about right. Maybe next time:

N	S
2NT	3♦
3♠	4♣
4♦	4NT
5♣	5♦
5NT	6♣
7♥	Pass

3♠ is a super-accept with four trumps, and a spade control, 4♣ and 4♦ are cuebids expressing slam interest, with first or second round control. 5♣ is 1 or 4 Keycards, 5♦ asks for ♥Q, and 5NT says I have it but no outside king. 6♣ is a "Direct Ask", asking for third round club control (you have already denied any outside kings). On this auction South can pretty well claim before the lead.

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Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies
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Youth Triumphs in Australia at Surfer's Paradise Congress

By Phillip Alder, Courtesy of The New York Times

The final of the Open Teams at the Surfer's Paradise Congress in Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia, on March 3 was between Liam Milne, Michael Whibley, Andy Hung, Nabil Edgtton and Nye Griffiths from Australia, and Alexander Smirnov from Germany; and Michael Ware from New Zealand, Fiona Brown from England, Jon Sveindal from Norway, Geo Tislevoll, a Norwegian now living in New Zealand, and Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann from Ireland.

The match was decided by three of the four boards in which one team played in three no-trump and the other in four of a major. On Board 3 Ware gained 1 international match point when both four spades and three no-trump made exactly. On Board 7 Edgtton and Hung reached an unbeatable three no-trump. Smirnov found the only lead to defeat four spades, giving Milne 12 imps. On Board 33 Milne and Whibley played in a laydown three no-trump, making with an overtrick. Brown and Ware reached four spades on a strong 5-2 fit, but Hung found the lethal lead to give Milne another 12 imps.

NORTH			
♠	K Q J 5		
♥	A 5 3		
♦	A 3		
♣	10 7 3 2		
WEST(D)		EAST	
♠	7 3	♠	9 8 6 4 2
♥	K 6 2	♥	10 9 7
♦	Q 9 7	♦	8 6 4
♣	K Q J 6 4	♣	A 9
		SOUTH	
		♠	A 10
		♥	Q J 8 4
		♦	K J 10 5 2
		♣	8 5

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Dbl.	1 ♠	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the club king.

The diagrammed deal was Board 9 (rotated to make South the declarer). At the first table, when North-South did not find an eight-card major-suit fit, Hanlon (North) bid three no-trump, hoping he had a club stopper. However, East started the defense with the ace and another club, taking the contract quickly down one. In the given auction Edgtton (South) cue-bid two clubs to show a strong hand. The two-spade rebid of Hung (North) was natural and denied four hearts. Three clubs asked for a club stopper for no-trump. Now surely Tislevoll (West) should have passed. But he doubled, allowing North to pass. Then South jumped to four hearts, expecting it to be the only game with play, even though he knew it was a 4-3 fit.

(Repeated for convenience)

NORTH			
♠	K Q J 5		
♥	A 5 3		
♦	A 3		
♣	10 7 3 2		
WEST(D)			EAST
♠	7 3	♠	9 8 6 4 2
♥	K 6 2	♥	10 9 7
♦	Q 9 7	♦	8 6 4
♣	K Q J 6 4	♣	A 9
SOUTH			
♠	A 10		
♥	Q J 8 4		
♦	K J 10 5 2		
♣	8 5		

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Dbl.	1 ♠	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the club king.

Note that five diamonds would have failed if the defenders had begun with three rounds of clubs and East had ruffed the last with his diamond six or eight. This would have uppercut South and promoted a trump trick for West. 4♥, though, with both red suits lying so favorably, was unbeatable.

West led the club king. East overtook with his ace and returned the suit, West winning and shifting to the spade seven. Since only 15 high-card points were missing and East had produced the ♣A, West was now marked with all of the other honors. Declarer won with his ten and led the ♥Q, covered by the king and ace. After a heart to his jack, South ran the diamond jack, played a diamond to dummy's ace and led a trump. East won with his ten and played a diamond, but declarer put up his king to drop West's queen and claimed.

Plus 100 and plus 620 was a third 12-imp swing to Milne. His team, with an average age of 25, gained 35 imps on these four boards and won by only 29.5 imps, 114.5 to 85.

KIBITZER'S CORNER



IMProving - HOW TO GO ABOUT IMPROVING YOUR BRIDGE!

How to get better at bridge

By Sartaj Hans

Improving at bridge is a lifelong task. If you are not improving at bridge, chances are you are sliding downwards. The challenge, however, is knowing what to do. At different stages of growth, there are different strategies but today, I'm aiming to pin down some consistent themes.

Analyse your mistakes : This is the best way to improve. At the end of a session of bridge, it is one thing to go through hands with your mates, showing off what you did and hearing their viewpoint. But a true analyst will look at a hand-record later with piercing eyes and a honest heart. Being **honest** and **objective** in one's own personal post-mortem is a really big challenge. It is a lot easier to justify something as "My partner's bid was insane" or "He pitched an encouraging club so I played one".

Seek input from stronger players : Bombard the stronger players with questions. Ask them not only about what they would bid/play but **why** so. Ask about hands you held at the table, don't ask them about partner's hand in an aim to blame the other half of the partnership. Ask the stronger players for a game.

If that's not possible, ask to play against them. The toughest schooling in bridge is tough opponents.

Use the internet : There are many resources on the internet where information is readily available. Top three suggestions are

<http://forums.bridgebase.com/>

<http://www.bridgewinners.com>

What do you bid? on www.abf.com.au

If you search hard enough you will find free articles by some great authors on the internet : Larry Cohen, Fred Gitelman, Grant Baze, Mike Lawrence, Ron Klinger etc.

Learn to be a good partner : There is an art to being a good partner, to bringing out the best in your partnership and your team. Improve on your **manner** at the table. Stop commenting on partner's mistakes. It is not helping them and it is not helping you.

Use BBO : Not only to play lots of bridge, but to watch the top players play, to watch **vugraph**, to ask stronger players questions.

SUIT COMBINATION

This Issue		For Next Issue
A x x x	Lead low towards Q-J, if you are allowed to win the first trick, return to dummy and lead another low card. If East has the King you will win three tricks no matter how the suit is divided.	K 9 6 2
Target: 3 tricks		Target: 4 tricks
Q J x		A J 5 3



STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES



EVENT	DATES
QLD Youth Trials	?

Contact:
<http://www.qldbridge.com/>



EVENT	DATES
NSW Youth Trials	May 6th 2012

Contact:
<http://www.nswba.com.au/>



EVENT	DATES
ACT Youth Trials	May 26/27th 2012

Contact:
<http://www.bfact.com.au/>



EVENT	DATES
VBA Youth Trials	May 26th 2012

Contact:
<http://www.vba.asn.au/vbaHome.php>





EVENT	DATES
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SA Youth Trials

Completed

SA Youth Team: Alex Dunbar, Lauren Travis, Shane Harrison, Jessie Glutard De Garis, Sam Thorpe, Jarrad Dunbar

Contact:

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



EVENT	DATES
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WA Youth Trials

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Contact:

<http://www.bawa.asn.au/>



EVENT	DATES
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NT Youth Trials

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Contact:

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



EVENT	DATES
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TBA Youth Trials

?

Contact:

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