

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

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ISSUE 11

FIRST NATIONAL WIN FOR YOUNG TOMER



Congratulations to Tomer Libman (14) from Sydney for winning the Spring Nationals Ted Chadwick Restricted Swiss Pairs with his dad, Lavy Libman. You can check out Tomer's recount of the tournament on page 7.

ABF PRE-ALERTS!

For 2013/2014

DATES	EVENT	WHERE
NOV 29 - DEC 2	2013 GNOT	Tweed Heads
DEC 6 - DEC 8	Australian Youth Triathlon	Melbourne
JAN 11 - JAN 19	Australian Youth Champs	Canberra-ish
* ENTER NOW! *		
- See flyer at end of bulletin		
JAN 14 - JAN 26	Summer Bridge Festival	Canberra
FEB 22 - MAR 1	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Gold Coast

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It's that time of the year again where youth players from around Australia come together for a week of bridge and fun and games. Be sure to check out the flyer at the end of the bulletin. A more detailed brochure is available on the tournament website:

www.abfevents.com.au/events/ayc/2014

The website will be kept up to date with all the relevant information. For any enquiries, feel free to send an email to youthweek@abf.com.au

In the meantime, check out some of the photos from the 2013 Australian Youth Bridge Week at Kibitzer's Corner on page 16.

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

THESE ARE CLICKABLE LINKS!

CHECKBACK (Results)

NEW ZEALAND YOUTH PROVINCIALS

27 SEP – 28 SEP, 2013 (Hamilton, New Zealand)

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

Teams	Place	Team
	1 ST	AUCKLAND
	2 ND	CANTERBURY
	3 RD	OTAGO / SOUTHLAND
	4 TH	WAIKATO BAYS
	5 TH	WELLINGTON
	6 TH	CENTRAL DISTRICTS

2013 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN U30s' CONGRESS

12 OCT – 13 OCT, 2013 (Adelaide)

Pairs	Place	Pair
	2 ND (1 ST Eligible)	Jessie De Garis – George Evans
Teams	Place	Team
	1 ST	Jessie De Garis, George Evans, David Gue, Angus Lum

2013 SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS

23 OCT – 31 OCT, 2013 (Sydney)

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

Open Teams Final	Place	IMPs	Team
	1 ST	145	WILKINSON – Michael Wilkinson, Griff Ware, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer
	2 ND	139	HANS – Sartaj Hans, Michael Whibley, Gabby Feiler, Justin Williams, Ishmael Del'Monte
Ted Chadwick Restricted Swiss Pairs	Place	Pair	
	1 ST	Tomer Libman – Lavy Libman	

MEANWHILE AROUND THE GLOBE...



1ST YOUTH PARIS OPEN BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

Paris, FRANCE 1 – 5 Nov 2013, For tournament website, [click here](#)

Youth Open Teams

1ST



FRANCE 2

Jennifer Mourgues (22), Baptise Combescure (17), Anne Rouanet Labe (22), Anne-Laure Huberschwiller (23), Gregoire Lafont (20), Thibaut Coudert (24)

2ND



BULGARIA

Mark Antonov Andonov (18), Zhivko Rumenov Dragonov (22), Dean Spasov (25), Todor Tiholov Tiholov (22)

3RD



FINLAND

Antti Aimala (22), Jusso Fagerland (25), Vesa Fagerland (22), Alma Koivu (20), Lauri Orkoneva (25)

The 1st Youth Paris Open Bridge Tournament gathered 26 teams from 19 countries for 5 days of competition, with all players under 26 years old. This project was created by the French Bridge Federation to link young people and to promote bridge image throughout the world. This friendly competition will take place every 2 years at the FFB headquarters.

French television relayed the information on the 1st Canal news (6.3 millions of viewers) and on sport news which gathers 2.8 millions of viewers each evening.

Although there was the serious side to the bridge event, there was a fun side to it as well. Published on the tournament website is a list of profiles of various players from each country that participated.

One of the questions was, “**What is your biggest failing at the bridge table?**” and here were some of the responses:

Lukáš Kolek (18, Czech Republic): *Once we played 6 hearts without A K Q in trumps.*

Emmanuel K. Mitlas, (22, Botswana): *Ruffing my partner's winner – twice.*

Robert Khomiakov, (21, Belgium): *First big one was at Channel Trophy. I opened a hand with 10 points and my partner bid 2♣ game-forcing, but because I thought I opened with too few points I should pass to compensate ... 2♣+5, the face of my partner was priceless...*

Giuliana Ölsinger, (19, Austria): *3NTX-7*

Frederk Hahn, (19, Germany): *Playing 3♦ in a 7-0 Fit. Luckily Trumps broke 6-0.*

Vemund Vikjord, (22, Germany): *Partner doubled opponents in 4 hearts and I *saved* him by bidding 4♠. I went for -2000 (4♥ is one off).*

“Most important attribute in a partner”:

Lukáš Barnet, (25, Czech Republic): *Love for beer... Like me :-)*

There is an article written by Vemund Vikjord from the Germany 1 team about the tournament on page 11.

If interested, the tournament website can be found [here](#).

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN U30s CONGRESS

BY JESSIE DE GARIS, ADELAIDE



Jessie De Garis

The South Australian Under 30s Congress was held at SABA on the weekend of the 12th and 13th of October, and was attended by ten youth players in total — as well as Tony Lusk, Darryl Couzner, David Lusk and Justin Williams, who kindly made up the numbers for the pairs event on the Saturday.

Twenty-eight boards were played in the pairs event, with David Lusk – Justin Williams winning the day, followed by George Evans – Jessie De Garis in second place and Tony Lusk – Darryl Couzner in third.

The teams event on the Sunday was sweetened by a cash prize of \$100 to the winning team, and attracted three teams. Thirty-four boards were played, with George Evans – Jessie De Garis and Angus Lum – David ‘Guey’ Gue eventually going home with fuller wallets.

The dedication of Youth Coordinator Tony Lusk has seen regular youth sessions held at SABA every month, and it's great to see some of the younger players returning to our club to play. However, infiltrating the youth scene proves to be more and more problematic — it may be time we traded our tea for beer and took the game to the universities in an attempt to ‘sweeten the deal’ for uni- and school-leaver- aged players.

The next youth project in SA will be the Schools Mini Bridge Challenge held on November 30th, with teams from three schools expected to participate.



George Evans

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Congress website located [here](http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc).

2013 NEW ZEALAND YOUTH INTER-PROVINCIALS

By ANDI BOUGHEY, AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND)



This year the New Zealand Youth Inter-Provincials (NZ Youth IPs) were held in Hamilton on the 27th and 28th of September with six teams participating: Central Districts, Wellington, Canterbury, Waikato Bays, Otago/Southland, and Auckland.

The format was a single round robin of 12 board matches, and the top two teams played a final of 24 boards. The competition started on the Friday morning and lasted the whole day, with the final being played on Saturday.

The Auckland team consisted of myself, Matthew Brown, Matthew Smith, Feitong Chen, and Nick Jacob. With five matches and five of us, it worked out that we all sat out one set each.

Every set provided interesting boards, and therefore some large swings. Here was one of them:

B21	♠T62				
N/N-S	♥T752				
	♦764				
	♣K74				
(Brown)				(Feitong)	
♠AQ83	N			♠K97	
♥J	W		E	♥AK93	
♦J8				♦AQT3	
♣AJT953	S			♣82	
	♠J54				
	♥Q864				
	♦K952				
	♣Q6				

Brown		Feitong		1 ¹ NT = 15-17
W	N	E	S	
-	Pass	1♦	Pass	
1♠	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass	
6♣	Pass	6♠	Pass	
Pass	Pass			

On this hand, every E/W pair bar one were in 3NT. At that one table, our teammates Matthew Brown and Feitong were in the juicy contract of 6♠.

With little bidding discussion beforehand, the bidding went 1♦ from Feitong, Matt replied 1♠, Feitong rebid 1NT to show 15-17 and Matt liked his hand opposite a

strong NT so bid 6♣! Feitong with his 3 card spade support corrected this to 6♠, which Matt made with relief after seeing the friendly 3-3 trump break, for 10 IMPs in to Auckland.

After the five qualifying matches, some cute bidding and the help of some lucky lies of the cards, Auckland had a total of 105 VPs and qualified first. There was a VP tie for second place between Canterbury and Otago/Southland, which ended up being broken by an IMP difference of 3, making Canterbury the other finalists.

In the Canterbury team were the brother/sister pair of Dominic and Grace Evans, and Jen McGowan and Gray Renwick. In the second match of the final, Matthew Brown and I played Jen and Gray, and “bad trump breaks” seemed to be my middle name.

One time I was in a contract with a 5-0 trump break and another time there was a 6-0 trump break! Ugh! The 5-0 trump break hand was the biggest swing of IMPs during the final: 15 IMPs out for Auckland. Here was the hand (next page):

B18 E/N-S		(Matt B)
		♠KQ95
		♥T
		♦98
		♣AKJ643
(Gray)		(Jen)
♠J8762	N	♠-
♥Q43	W	♥AJ8752
♦75	E	♦QJ643
♣Q72	S	♣85
		♠AT43
		♥K96
		♦AKT2
		♣T9
		(Andi)

Matt and I got to his favourite contract of the event – 6♠! The bidding started with Jen (East), who opened 2♥. With four spades and decent points, I made a takeout double. Gray bid 3♥ and Matt bid 4♥. Jen doubled this, and so I then bid 4♠. Matt keycarded, I showed him two, and he bid 6♠.

This went all pass and everyone lived happily ever after. Oh wait jokes, Gray doubled.

Gray	Matty B.	Jen	Andi
W	N	E	S
-	-	2♥	Dbl
3♥	4♥	Dbl	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Unfortunately for Auckland, this time trumps weren't so friendly and going two off doubled was worth +500 for the bad guys! That score combined with 4♠ making at the other table meant 15 IMPs out. Despite this, after an intense 24 board battle we managed to beat Canterbury 77-54 and hold on to first position for the third year in a row.

Overall it was a really enjoyable event, for some it was their first ever Youth IPs so I really hope they had a good time and are keen to represent their province again. Apart from the tremendous fun that was had AT the bridge table, there were heaps of board games played, some toads and cockroaches passed around, a bet lost (or won ... depending on whether you talk to me or Glenn), a delicious youth barbeque and plenty of laughs. Thanks to everyone who organised the event and those who continually support Youth Bridge in New Zealand, we all appreciate it.

P.S. I think quite a few of us are making the trip over for the Australian Youth Week so look out Aussies!



2013 Auckland Team (L to R): Matthew Smith, Queen Andi Boughey, Matthew Brown, Feitong Chen, Nick Jacob

2013 SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS

By TOMER LIBMAN, SYDNEY

The Sydney Spring Nationals were held between 23rd – 31st October, 2013. The events were fun (except for the gruelling amount of bridge that was being played) and the weather was nice and sunny (except for the stifling smoke and ash from the NSW bushfires).

My dad and I played on the weekend, the 26th and 27th of October, competing in the inaugural Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs (for pairs under 300 masterpoints). There were 60 pairs, and we were seeded last (I only have 20 or so masterpoints while dad has about 10). The scoring was matchpoints, so our goals were:

1. Bid the right partscores
2. Make lots of overtricks
3. Win MPs

Things started interestingly enough: while you are still rubbing your eyes from last night's sleep, you draw your first hand and see:

S/Nil	North
	♠ 103
	♥ 109652
	♦ QJ
	♣ K852

Partner opens a strong artificial 2♣. Assuming you respond 2♦, partner then bids 3NT (25-27 balanced).

Do you pass, or do you bid on – and if so, how?

You have about 2½ tricks in your own hand against nothing (♣K, half a diamond and a long heart). Partner has shown about nine tricks, so combined you have about 11½ tricks. Partner could possibly have 10 tricks if he is maximum (or if he has a source of tricks), therefore you should invite slam with a quantitative 4NT, in my opinion.

At the table, North (Dad) took the lazy road and passed, trusting me to get the matchpoints from making more overtricks than everyone else. Here was the full deal:

		(Dad)										
B13		♠T3										
N/All		♥T9652										
		♦QJ										
		♣K852										
♠98752			♠Q64									
♥74			♥KJ3									
♦T862			♦743									
♣Q3			♣9764									
		<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>			N		W		E		S	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠AKJ										
		♥AQ8										
		♦AK95										
		♣AJT										
		(Me)										

The hands fit well to make slam a very good prospect, and with the hearts breaking friendly, 13 tricks were made, +520.

This was worth 67%, so dad's reasoning was good after all. Six tables found slam (81% and 91% for 6♥ and 6NT respectively) and one table (no name mentioning) found East in 3♣ doubled for NS +2000.

We win this round 19-11, and are now ranked 18th.

The second round brings a couple of overtrick gifts and a doubled making game contract. We win 24-6 and are up to 4th place.

The third round was a rollercoaster, with a few challenging thin slams, such as this one below.

N/N-S	♠KJ653		
	♥AQ3		
	♦T95		
	♣A9		
♠QT8		N	♠92
♥K87542		W	♥96
♦3		E	♦A8642
♣T52		S	♣J863
	♠A74		
	♥JT8		
	♦KQJ7		
	♣KQ74		

W	N	E	S
-	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South (playing traditional strong jump-shifts) has shown a 16-19HCP and a balanced hand. North (obviously, having learnt a lesson from the first board of the day) decides that's enough to go on, and blasts a 5NT pick-a-slam. With 3 spades and a side shortage, South decides to bid 6♠.

Clearly, as the cards lie, 12 tricks are easy in NT. However, in spades, there is one tiny little problem in the diamond suit. We have a moment of suspense when the ♦A is put on the table and dummy is laid down. North doesn't have very much to do, and decides to waste the beer card. East, seeing the KQJ of diamonds, thinks for a moment and ... switches to a heart! North now successfully takes the trump finesse and claims the 12 tricks. +1430 and 98%.

Playing your own methods, would you be in the thin slam or, more sensibly, stop in game? Either way, would you end up in spades or no-trumps? Unfortunately, we had a few other silly/unlucky boards, dropping us into 12th place.

After this exciting round, we drove-thru KFC and hurriedly ate before the next round. Round 4 gave us something to think about with our bidding, reaching two horrible slams – one missing two top tricks in hearts (making 13 tricks on another lead, fortunately hearts were not the trumps), and another one, missing 2 aces with no void, shown here:

E/N-S	♠J3		
	♥T7		
	♦9642		
	♣QJ952		
(Me)		N	(Dad)
♠KT94		W	♠Q86
♥AKQJ843		E	♥6
♦K		S	♦AQT753
♣4			♣K87
	♠A752		
	♥952		
	♦J8		
	♣AT63		

Once partner (East) opened the bidding with 1♦, I decided I was never going to stop below 6♥ – though, for some reason, it didn't occur to me to check for aces first ...

The bidding is best left unmentioned, but, luckily, it convinced North to lead a small diamond. Barely catching my breath, I quickly discard a club on the AQ of diamonds.

To try to find out who might have the ace of clubs, I now play the King of clubs from the table. South covers, I ruff and draw trumps.

I now decide South probably has the ace of spades as well (North didn't lead it), and having seen the ♦J as well on trick 2, I deduce that ♠J is a little more likely to be with North (South could have doubled the 1♦ opening but didn't). Wonderfully, this proves to be correct so only one spade is lost, +980 and 98%. How would you have bid this hand?

This board contributes to a 25 VP win and we are up to 5th place. The next round sees four doubled contracts: 1 making an overtrick their way, 2 going down their way, and then, this one here ... Board 13, on the weekend before Halloween:

	(Dad)	
Brd 13	♠8642	
N/N-S	♥85	
	♦82	
	♣QT952	
♠AKQ95	N	♠T
♥A964	W	♥K32
♦-	E	♦QJT9764
♣AK83	S	♣J6
	♠J73	
	♥QJT7	
	♦AK53	
	♣74	
	(Me)	

With North as dealer and N-S vulnerable, the bidding proceeded: Pass from North, Pass (!) from East, I (South) opened 1♦, and West doubled. This was passed out.

W	N	E	S
-	Pass	Pass (!)	1♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

The A, K and another club were led to this doomed contract. East ruffs with the ♦4 and I say thanks (in my head) and overruff with the 5.

I now play the ♦A and think, "Board 13, typical." I play the ♦K and another diamond to try to get a heart trick, but they have running spades and diamonds, so 4 down

for -1100, 3%, not a complete bottom! (Another table was in 4♠xx/N, -1700.)

Unfortunately, E-W don't have a fit, so no slam can make (and I have the ♦AK, preventing 6♦ from being made).

Most people, I think, would open the East hand 3♦ (especially non-vul), and South would then heave a sigh of relief. As this was Board 13, East decided not to open and I got in big trouble (though some might say I was lucky to get the diamond ruff and two trumps from partner).

Despite this board, we still managed to squeeze (pun not intended) through for a 16-14 win, putting us down to 6th place.

The last round of the day was very good, giving us a max win and 3rd place. Good night, I'm done.

The next day, having thought about nothing else, come 6 more rounds of gruelling bridge.

Round 7 was a good start with a 24 VP win. Round 8 was a breather with no slams (well, there was a 5♥x+2 for the good guys) and this gave a 21 VP win, and an invitation to the top seat.

Round 9 went well and we remained in 1st place with a comfortable 16 VP lead. After a lunch at McDonald's came Round 10, where our soaring trajectory was rudely interrupted (I think we'll stick to KFC next time). It was one of those sets where the opponents seemed to make all the right decisions, with not much we could do about it. Here is a typical example:

	♠864	
S/E-W	♥QT7	
	♦Q75	
	♣T954	
♠T53	N	♠KQJ9
♥652	W	♥KJ84
♦J843	E	♦A96
♣KQ2	S	♣83
	♠A72	
	♥A93	
	♦KT2	
	♣AJ76	

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

¹2♣ = Majors

2♣ was both majors, 4-4 or more. Sounds dangerous to me at this vulnerability, after the strong 1NT opening, but here, as the cards lie, there is nothing that can be done to beat 2 of either major for -110.

At most tables, South was left in 1NT, going for +90 or -50. This gives us 9%.

We lose 6-24 in this round, but still remain in 1st because of that lead (I am beginning to come to a conclusion that a big lead can be very useful).

Round 11 gave us a missed slam and a doomed slam. There was also an unfortunate board for them shown below.

		(Dad)	
S/Nil	♠95		
	♥K732		
	♦Q9763		
	♣92		
♠8		N	♠KJT6432
♥54		W	♥QT
♦J8542		E	♦T
♣AKQ63		S	♣T85
		(Me)	
		♠AQ7	
		♥AJ986	
		♦AK	
		♣J74	

		Dad		Me	
W	N	E	S		
-	-	-	2NT		
3♣	Pass	3♠	Dbl		
4♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass		
Pass					

West decided to butt in with 3♣ with a 5-5 in both minors and a solid(ish) club suit, but East had other plans. South (Me) was happy to let them suffer for not letting us discover our nice heart fit.

(Un)Fortunately, West's clubs were his only tricks, other than a diamond ruff, giving us +800 and 90%.

On this board, most of the final contracts were 4♣x/W, 5♣x/W, 3♠x/E or 4♠x/E, and even a 3♠xx/E. This round was a 17 VP win and we were 1st by 7 VPs, meaning we had to get 19 VPs on the last round to secure our win.

The last round was very tense, but with the help of a 2NT+3 (which is supposed to make only 8 tricks) and a 1NTx+2, 19 VPs (exactly!) were there, for a total of 229 VPs. A good thing too, as the runners up (Sarah Carradine and Michael Young) managed a 25 VP win to finish with 228.

WOOHOO!!! First national tournament win! After I stopped shuddering, I thanked the gods for the end of the weekend.

Many thanks to the tournament organisers and all the participants, and special thanks to Marilyn Chadwick (Ted's widow) and Paul Lavings for sponsoring the event and the prize. All in all, this was a great weekend of bridge, and while it was good practice, everyone had plenty of fun (and cookies). Well, see ya folks, just another day of school tomorrow. Oh, and by the way ... thanks Dad!



A BRIDGE TRAMP ABROAD

By VEMUND VIKJORD, MUNICH (GERMANY)

Since a year ago I've had the privilege and pleasure of playing for Germany U25 in international youth bridge events. In sports, there's a lucky little thing called bona fides enabling athletes (in a broader sense ...) to represent more than one nation during a lifetime.

My own international bridge career started in 2009 when I played the European Youth Championship in Romania, back then under the Norwegian flag. Today I'm an expatriate student of Economics in Munich, Bavaria, and may continue to play bridge against the best youngsters from all world corners – including my old teammates from Norway (who look as perplexed as a Deutschmark taken out of circulation when I discuss the match strategy with my new team – in German). That's the beauty of the game: It shrinks the world to an intellectual battlefield the size of a table.

Most recently we were invited to France by the French Bridge Association to participate in the 1st Youth Paris Open Bridge Tournament that hosted 27 teams from countries around the world, including Peru, Egypt, Finland and Botswana. The event, which was an organisational success (not only due to the 35 minute long tram journey to the playing venue, giving us a close-up view of the proverbial city scenery), was won by a talented young French team.

Our team consisted of two wonderful girls, Katharina Brink and Marie Eggeling, my partner Paul Grünke (to some perhaps better known as thetaker), and myself. Paul is an excellent card (and chess) player, who through his calm and analytical nature also brings out my own best qualities at the bridge table. In the first match against Netherlands he gave declarer a seemingly non-existent losing option:

	(Grünke)	
B13	♠74	
N/All	♥A62	
	♦KJT8	
	♣J987	
(Bijsterveld)		(Kiljan)
♠AKT5	N	♠863
♥Q3	W	♥KJ984
♦A96	E	♦Q53
♣AQ32	S	♣T4
		♠QJ92
		♥T75
		♦742
		♣K65
		(Vikjord)

Bijsterveld	Grünke	Kiljan	Vikjord
W	N	E	S
-	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

13♣ = Checkback

Against 3NT the lead was ♦J, which went to the ace. Hearts were played and Paul took the third round with the ace. Now the two hearts in dummy were high, with the queen of diamonds as a potential entry.

However, when the cunning ♦8 was played on the fifth trick it just got too tempting for declarer to play low, thereby guaranteeing a diamond trick (since North most likely has the ♦T from the opening lead). After all, the location of the king is still uncertain (that I

discouragingly played the 7 on the lead doesn't rule out K7).

But the error of Bijsterveld is that of many (most?) bridge players: at a critical point in the board to not take a pause and (re)think. Indeed, there are two crucial facts that declarer should recognise: 1. North willingly played the eight of diamonds, something that obviously creates a free finesse situation for declarer. Such ventures usually have a mean ulterior motive.

2. Even with two certain diamond tricks, the contract won't make other than on a very lucky lie of the cards. Declarer needs to reap his crop in dummy, and ♦Q is the only gal for that job.

Our teammates made 10 tricks in 3NT by East, after a slip in defence at ... hold on ... trick one! The opening lead was the ♦7, which declarer unfortunately let pass towards her hand. Now all North has to do is duck the ♦K, prematurely forcing out the only entry to the will-be established heart suit. When, however, the king was played, the board was practically over.



Germany 1 (L to R): Paul Grünke, Marie Eggeling, Katharina Brink, Vemund Vikjord

The tournament in Paris ended modestly for Germany 1 after a flying start against two Dutch teams; we didn't bring any medals home but some great experiences and a couple of new friendships.

At the beginning of October, we played the 3rd European Universities Championship in Croatia. The playing venue was a hotel directly at the salty Adriatic Sea. The team constellation was almost like in Paris – I partnered Paul, and Marie was playing with Raffael Braun, another German junior with many years of international experience.

We played stable, made few errors and did not suffer any notable defeats in the first segments. By the last day of the tournament we had managed to outlast three Polish teams – which we reckoned to be the strongest opponents – and were ready to fight one of them once more in the final. The match would be BBO transmitted to hundreds, maybe a few thousands of keen kibitzers. Some years (and an uncountable number of deals) ago, I would get some serious performance anxiety from being at a BBO table. Knowing that bridge players with far more routine and

prestige than I would analyse and judge every single bid and every goddamn card played, others again just wanting to be entertained by spectacular endeavours, led me into stupid mistakes I'd never normally "find". Today I simply enjoy it and actually benefit from having an audience that isn't physically present, but psychologically very much so.

On the first board of the finals, it had already got exciting:

(Marcinowski)			
♠ Q82			
W/E-W	♥ QT865		
	♦ 754		
	♣ 93		
(Vikjord)		(Grünke)	
♠ AK73	N	♠ J96	
♥ AK74	W	♥ J92	
♦ AK86	E	♦ Q2	
♣ K	S	♣ AQT76	
	♠ T54		
	♥ 3		
	♦ JT93		
	♣ J8542		
(Jassem)			

Vikjord	Marcinowski	Grünke	Jassem
W	N	E	S
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass
3♦ ²	Pass	6NT	All Pass

¹3♣ = Puppet Stayman
²3♦ = No 5M, 1or2 4M

After a pretty standard auction, Paul and I reached 6NT with a combined total of 34 high card points. Due to the misfit of the honours, however, there are only 10 tricks on top, with some not overwhelming chances of another two. Marcinowski chose to lead the ♦5.

Dummy came down and it was time to evaluate the potential of this contract. A good idea is always to take an extra look at the lead – the one card that LHO elects to play from his holding of 13 cards before having

seen dummy. This one looked like a passive lead, and I do not usually expect the Poles to lead passively against such an optimistic auction without some sort of reason. What kind of major suit holding did North have ... ?

Anyway, it had to be won in hand since the madam would provide me with a vital entry later to the miserably blocked clubs. On the most favourable club break, i.e. ♣Jxx-xxxx, I would have twelve tricks without any effort. So I decided to do some preparatory work. On a seemingly harmless major suit ace, both opponents would give honest count I figured. So at trick two I played the ♠A, East and West following with spot cards that could indicate an even break.

King of clubs was followed by a diamond to the queen and another two top clubs, discarding a diamond and a heart from hand, whilst North discards a heart. Bad news.

Now, all of a sudden I needed five major suit tricks without letting the defence cash the setting trick. It seemed like only an endplay against the correct opponent – or an unlikely drop of some queen and an additional friendly break – would provide me with the contract. This was the current position :

		(Marcinowski)	
		♠Q8	
W/E-W		♥QT86	
		♦7	
		♣-	
(Vikjord)			(Grünke)
♠K73		N	♠J9
♥AK7		W	♥J92
♦K		E	♦-
♣-		S	♣T7
		♠T4	
		♥3	
		♦JT	
		♣J8	
		(Jassem)	

I crossed back to hand with a spade, both defenders following with spot cards. I had a strong feeling that North held both major queens (because of the lead) along with five hearts, due to the early heart discard (people tend to hastily discard from their 5-card suits), so I drew another round of diamonds, hopefully drawing North's last, and exited in spades.

I could almost feel the tension from the BBO audience; they knew by now if 6NT was making, but that declarer himself didn't. North won with his queen and – like in my dreams – continued with a heart! He was in fact born with only five minor suit cards, a necessary condition for the endplay. Now he just needed a heart honour, and I needed to make a good guess.

But before I came to the guesswork, South, another successful junior player, showed me his hand and congratulated me with a nice declarer play (South's only heart was the ♥3). Nice, and a bit lucky – you need both at the right moments to succeed. 6NT went one off at the other table, perhaps when declarer, disheartened by the club split, had given up?

Germany took the silver home from Croatia. We were four incredibly happy juniors afterwards, having achieved one of our greatest international results so far, and pleased to let an undeniably stronger Polish team win the gold. For me as a Norwegian in a foreign country, a bridge tramp abroad, these kinds of experiences mean something special. I really love competing in bridge against marvellous young heads from very different places, seeing how different cultures and approaches to the game can lead to success in their own unique ways. Maybe someday, my passion will take me to Australia?

(Eds: we certainly hope so – come to the Aussie Youth Week!)



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!

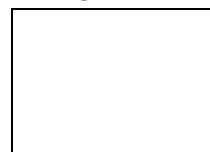
For those who already have GIB, the robot's system notes can be found [here](#).

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]

S/All

♠ K J 6
♥ K 7 5 3 2
♦ A J 9 4
♣ 3

♠10



♠ A Q 4
♥ A J
♦ K 10 5
♣ A K Q 4 2

South to make 6NT (IMPs)

Opening lead is ♠10

Solution on Page 19



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 ☺



Australian Youth
Bridge Triathlon

MELBOURNE

Fri Dec 6 - Sun Dec 8, 2013

Friday Night- BAM teams

Saturday- IMP Teams

Sunday- Matchpoint Pairs

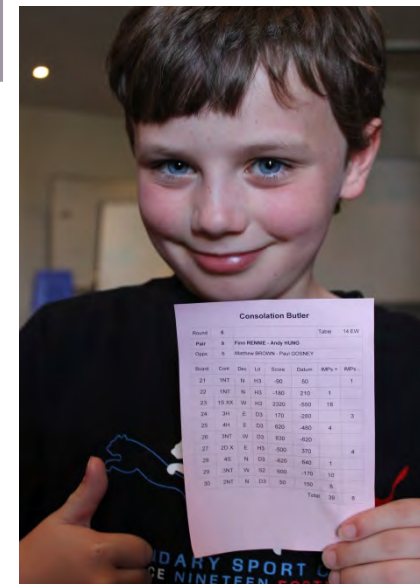
\$40 entry

Great Prizes and billets can be organised!

For more information contact Laura
at vicyouthbridge@gmail.com



KIBITZER's CORNER - 2013 YOUTH WEEK



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

VIDEOS



“L’open junior de bridge”
Report on French sport TV Show (in French)



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!)

ADVICE TO THE YOUNG BRIDGE PLAYER

BY PAUL LAVINGS, SYDNEY

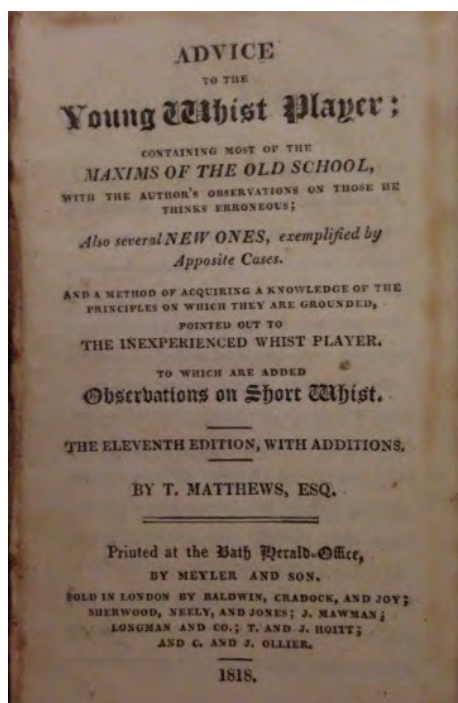
I re-discovered on my shelves an old whist book, *Advice to the Young Whist Player*, written in 1818. What a remarkable read. It reminded me that bridge players love tips so here are a few from me to make yourself a better player:

MAKE YOUR WEAKNESS YOUR STRENGTH

Ask yourself, what is your weakest area: declarer play, bidding or defence? You probably know already. Then work on this area until you make it your strength. Do the full bit, make a plan that will take between 3 to 6 months to fulfil. Then do it; you'll be twice the player.

A great way to improve is by reading books. Even though books are supposed to be on the way out, more than ever are being published. Plus there are lots of excellent books from the past (Kelsey is great) available in most bridge club libraries.

To lift your game you need to put time into it. Develop good habits. Go back through the sessions you play, and look at what happened in the cold light of day. Make decisions now about what you will do next time a particular situation occurs.



FOCUS ON DEFENCE

Thinking logically, the most important part of your game should be defence. If you can't defeat contracts you're in big trouble. Turning those minus 400s and minus 620s into plus scores is an easy way to add 30-40 IMPs on to your scorecard over a 20-board match or 8-10% onto your score in a pairs game. You should be spending more time discussing defence with your partner than bidding. And you should be spending more time thinking about defence than about declarer play or bidding. Try your hand on this one, from a few weeks ago:

N/N-S	♠AT98
	♥K6
	♦A6543
	♣72 (You)
	♠Q543
	♥8543
	♦Q97
	♣A3

W	N	You	S
-	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads ♣5-2-A-8. Your play.

Before you routinely return a club, do some thinking. Declarer has at least four clubs, and the three remaining clubs are higher than the 8. That could even be ♣QJ108. While a club return is unappealing, look at those decrepit diamond pips in dummy. Declarer could well have a singleton diamond. Yes, the diamond switch is the winner. The full hand:

In a 20-board match, defeating 3NT improved your score by 3 VPs.

DON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND

My (long-suffering) partner picked up:

♠QJ ♥J7642 ♦QJ ♣KQ53

Have you ever seen such an ugly 12-count, and it even has a five card suit? My dear partner passed in first seat. Bravo, it takes courage to pass a 12-count because if you're wrong everybody will laugh at you. The bidding then proceeded:

N	S
-	Pass
1♣	1♥
1NT	3NT

It was good judgment to pass these tram tickets in first seat, but nothing had happened to improve the hand. It was still bad news. Since the hopeless 3NT went two down, the winning action was to pass 1NT.

If you say an ace = 2 points and a king = 1 point, then there are 12 control points in the pack that rule the suits, and are likely to take tricks. Your hand contains only one of these 12 control points. It's not surprising that partner's 12-count opposite was not up to the task: ♠A87 ♥K10 ♦9632 ♣AJ82.

SHOW SOME EMOTION

Why is that sometimes, in a final, one side races away with the lead in the first set with a score something like 62-5, or 58-3? Adrenaline. Wikipedia tells us that adrenaline is a hormone which increases heart rate and blood flow and prepares the body to either defend itself or to run – what is often referred to as fight or flight.

You want to be pumped up at the start of a match, you need to be on edge and alert. Be ready for the challenge, and fire yourself up beforehand by thinking about how well you will play. And don't play bridge tired.

CONCENTRATION AS A WEAPON

Recently I played against one opponent who was reading a book, and another one who was doing a cryptic crossword. I once had a partner who used to bring his newspaper to the game. I said to him, "Who do you think is the likely winner, the player who brings his newspaper to the game, or the player who brings his total concentration?"

A game of bridge is not only a battle of wits, it is a battle of concentration. When your concentration is high, it makes it much harder for the opponents. They have to raise their concentration and confidence above yours to beat you.

Don't drift. Keep your head clear of distracting thoughts and don't suddenly change your mind in midstream without double-checking. Winning at bridge is mostly common sense, so throw out your anchor and keep a strong grip on reality.

N/N-S	♠AT98			
	♥K6			
	♦A6543			
	♣72			(You)
♠J7		N		♠Q543
♥A7				♥8543
♦KJ82		W	E	♦Q97
♣JT654				♣A3
		S		
	♠K62			
	♥QJT92			
	♦T			
	♣KQ98			

Email: paul@bridgegear.com for all things bridge

Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies

www.bridgegear.com

SUIT COMBINATION

THIS ISSUE

(Assume unlimited entries)

A K T 9 8

Target:
4 tricks

6 3

Two options: (1) Cash AK, and (2) Double finesse.

(1) loses when Q-J-x-x or Q-J-x-x-x is onside (approx. 15% of the time).

(2) loses to stiff Q or J offside (2.5%), Q-J doubleton offside (1.6%), and Q-J-x offside (7.1%).

Every other combination either wins or loses for both options.

Therefore, Line (2) comes out on top by a small margin.

FOR NEXT ISSUE

(Assume unlimited entries)

K T 9 8 7

Target:
4 tricks

A 6

Q T 9 8

Target:
3 tricks

A 5 4 3

A Q 9 8 7 6 3

Target:
6 tricks

5 2

With only 6 tricks needed, a safety play is called for.

Cash the ace first, then cross back to hand to lead a small card towards dummy's queen. This guards against a singleton king offside.

To collect the maximum amount of tricks, you would forgo the safety play and take an immediate finesse.

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](#).

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER

[DECLARER PLAY] SOLUTION

(Problem on page 14)

S/All

♠ K J 6
♥ K 7 5 3 2
♦ A J 9 4
♣ 3

♠10



♠ A Q 4
♥ A J
♦ K 10 5
♣ A K Q 4 2

South to make 6NT (IMPs)

Opening lead is ♠10

With ten tricks on top, there are various ways to obtain two additional tricks. For example, if you find the ♦Q then that will give you two extra diamond tricks, or if clubs break 4-3 you can set up a fourth club with two additional finesses available. But which suit should you play first?

You should win the opening lead with the ♠J in dummy and play a heart to your jack. This will give you the best chance to *combine* all of your options. If the heart finesse wins, cash the ♥A and if both opponents follow, you can set up a heart trick and claim your contract for 3♠+4♥+2♦+3♣.

If the heart finesse wins but the hearts break 5-1, then turn your attention diamonds by playing the ♦K and running the ♦10. Don't worry if that finesses loses, you'll have your contract. And finally, if the heart finesse loses, check if they break 3-3. If not, play on diamonds as mentioned above.

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER – BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

IMPROVING KING ASK AFTER RCKB

The standard follow-ups to RCKB are as follows (Assume trumps is hearts):

4♥	4NT	
5♣		
	5♦	Asking for ♥Q
	5♥	Sign off (i.e. not enough keycards present)
	5NT	Asking for kings, confirms all keycards
	New suit	Sign off (i.e. not enough keycards present)

The responses to 5NT “King Ask” depends on what you play with your partner. They might be:

Number of Kings		Specific Kings		Either-or-Specific Kings	
6♣	0 Kings	6♣	♣K	6♣	♣K or ♦K+♠K
6♦	1 King	6♦	♦K	6♦	♦K or ♣K+♠K
6♥	2 Kings	6♥	No Kings	6♥	No Kings
6♠	3 Kings	6♠	♠K	6♠	♠K or ♣K+♦K

(Maybe you play another form of king-ask, but these are the most widely used methods)

Can you see the underlying problem? In the first case of 6♦=1 king, there is not much room to manoeuvre or investigate a grand slam for third round controls.

In the second and third cases, in order to show the king of spades you must use your judgement (or guess) whether you should show your king of spades or not, as it goes beyond 6♥ which is most likely your last resting spot (i.e. if you do bid 6♠ showing the king of spades, the assumption is that you can count 12 top tricks and therefore partner can still sign off in 6NT with no grand interest). Often you prefer to play in 6♥ rather than 6NT since you can use your trumps or ruffs as additional tricks (i.e. you can ruff loser(s) or you can ruff a suit out to set up the suit).

A better solution is to use the *next cheapest bid* (5♠ here) as the “King Ask”, so:

4♥	4NT	
5♣		
	5♦	Asking for ♥Q
	5♥	Sign off (i.e. not enough keycards present)
	5♠	Asking for kings, confirms all keycards
	5NT	Like an original 5♠ bid (i.e. asking for third round spade control)
	New suit	Sign off (i.e. not enough keycards present)

By using the *next cheapest bid*, 5♠ (not 5♦ since that is ♥Q ask) as “Asking for kings”, you now have an additional step of 5NT to show the ♠K (this is also known as the Useful Space Principle). Your new responses to King Ask will now be:

Number of Kings		Specific Kings		Either-or-Specific Kings	
5NT	0 Kings	5NT	♠K	5NT	♠K or ♣K+♦K
6♣	1 King	6♣	♣K	6♣	♣K or ♦K+♠K
6♦	2 Kings	6♦	♦K	6♦	♦K or ♣K+♠K
6♥	3 Kings	6♥	No Kings	6♥	No Kings
6♠		6♠		6♠	

Now you don't need to worry about responding 6♠ to go beyond 6♥.

You can also apply the same principle if spades are trumps (or any other suit really).

STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

	EVENT (QLD)	DATES
	For More INFO: http://www.qldbridge.com/	

	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	Thursdays 1-2pm during term
	Email: youth@bfact.com.au Web: http://www.bfact.com.au/	

	EVENT (VIC)	DATES
	Australian Youth Bridge Triathlon	6-8 December 2013
	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
	Schools Mini Bridge Challenge	30 November 2013
	Contact: http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/	

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

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

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

The 46th annual

**New
Venue!**



Australian Youth Bridge Championships

Saturday 11th to Friday 17th January 2014
at

Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre
322 Greenwood Road, Murrumbateman (45 min from Canberra)



Open to players born in 1984 or later
International participants very welcome

Come for all or some of the events in our schedule:

Australian Youth Pairs:	11 th –12 th January
Australian Youth Teams:	13 th –14 th January
Minor Events:	15 th –17 th January
U25 Team Selection Butler:	14 th –17 th January
	(& 18 th –19 th for 2 nd –5 th pairs only)

Includes ALL Bridge, Meals and Accommodation

Cost per day and night: \$100 (full time students \$80)

Full week price: \$580 (full time students \$480) [†]

For more information please contact David and Andy:

youthweek@abf.com.au

www.abfevents.com.au/events/ayc/2014

[†] \$20 discount on full week if paid by 20/12/2013