

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

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ISSUE 17

Australia's Second Best World Open Pairs Result



Congratulations to Liam 'Get 'em' Milne and Nye 'Big Dawg' Griffiths (ex-youthies) for a fantastic result at the recent 14th Red Bull World Bridge Series in Sanya, China.

The Little Meck Team (Sartaj Hans, Michael Whibley, Liam Milne, Nye Griffiths, Alexander Smirmov, Josef Piekarek) finished equal 9th after knocking out Canadian team Macmullin in the Round of 16 but fell short in the Round of 8 against team Ventin.

In the World Open Pairs, Liam and Nye qualified for the Final and finished 9th overall! Liam has written up an account of the event and you can read it on Page 5.

PRE-ALERTS!

For 2015			
DATES	EVENT	WHERE	
<u>JAN</u> 10 - 18	<u>JAN</u> 2015 Australian Youth Week	Canberra	
<u>JAN</u> 19 - 25	<u>JAN</u> Australian Summer Festival	Canberra	
<u>FEB</u> 21 - 28	<u>FEB</u> 2015 Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Gold Coast	
2015 World Youth Tournaments			
<u>APR</u> 1 - 7	<u>APR</u> 2015 APBF Youth Team Champs.	Bangkok, Thailand	
<u>AUG</u> 20 - 29	<u>AUG</u> 2015 World Open Youth Congress	Opatija, Croatia	



AUS Youth Week

Sat 10th to Fri 16th Jan 2015

Open to all players born in 1985 or later. For more info, check out the website/brochure [here](#).

Entries and info:

youthweek2015@abf.com.au

LIVEBRIDGE.NET

BBO Vugraph Operators Needed
At Summer Bridge Festival (Canberra)



Jan 17: Women's/Seniors Semi Final
Jan 23/24/25: Open QF/SF/Final

Please contact Traian on Facebook, BBO (bebechira), or Andy Hung.

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

THESE ARE CLICKABLE LINKS!

CHECKBACK (Results)

2014 YOUTH TRIATHLON

5 DEC – 7 DEC, 2014 (Melbourne)

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

Place	Name	BAM	Pairs	Teams	Total
1 ST	Juzzy	120000	160067	80000	360067
2 ND	John Newman	120000	40000	200000	360000
3 RD	Pete	40000	120000	200000	360000
4 TH	Whibs	120000	200000	-	320000
5 TH	John Yoon	-	160000	140000	300000
6 TH	Shane	80000	120000.0001	80000	280000.0001
7 TH	Brauny	40000	40000	200000	280000
8 TH	Finn	120000	-	140000	260000
9 TH	Gigs	-	200000.0038	-	200000.0038
10 TH	Ivy	-	-	200000	200000
11 TH	Maxy	80000	-	80000	160000
12 TH	Daryl	-	-	140000	140000
13 TH	Other Max	-	-	140000	140000
14 TH	Spooner	-	80089	-	80089
15 TH	Liam	-	-	80000	80000
16 TH	Gussy	80000	-	-	80000
17 TH	Jennie	80000	-	-	80000
18 TH	Aiden	80000	-	-	80000
19 TH	PB	-	80000	-	80000
20 TH	Matt	40000	-	-	40000
21 ST	Chris	40000	-	-	40000
22 ND	Mitch	-	-	-	-
23 RD	Nat	-	-	-	-
24 TH	Thomas	-	-	-	-
25 TH	James	-	-	-	-
26 TH	Lakshmi	-	-	-	-
27 TH	Leonie	-	-	-	-

14TH RED BULL WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

10 OCT – 25 OCT, 2014 (Sanya, China)

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

	Place	Team
Open Teams Round of 16 Knockouts	1 ST	MAZURKIEWICZ (Poland) – Piotr Gawrys, Stanislaw Golebiowski, Krzysztof Jassem, Michal Klukowski, Marcin Mazurkiewicz, Wlodzimierz Starkowski
	2 ND	MONACO – Pierre Zimmermann, Franck Multon, Fulvio Fantoni, Claudio Nunes, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness
	= 9 TH	LITTLE MECK – Aneurin (Nye) Griffiths, Sartaj Hans, Liam Milne, Michael Whibley, Alex Smirnov, Joe Piekarek
	Place	Pair
Open Pairs Final	1 ST	Ehud Friedlander (ISR) – Inon Liran (ISR)
	2 ND	Jacek Kalita (POL) – Michal Nowosadzki (POL)
	9 TH	Aneurin (Nye) Griffiths (AUS) – Liam Milne (AUS)

SHIPPIN' IT WITH MOSKOVSKY-TRAVIS

BY LAUREN TRAVIS, ADELAIDE

After the last bulletin covered the saddest set of the tournament, I thought I'd share a few of my favourite hands from the World Championships in Istanbul.

The first occurred during the round robin, in our match against Turkey. In 3rd seat at unfavourable vulnerability, I held ♠Q ♥AT9632 ♦7652 ♣K6. After two passes to me, I opened a standard weak 2♥. The auction proceeded:

LT	North	El	South
-	-	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♥	X
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After our 1st and 2nd seat 2♥ openings, we play 2♠ as an inquiry. I wasn't sure if this still applied when we opened a weak two in 3rd seat, since most of the time partner won't have an inquiry. Then again, partner's also very unlikely to have spades, since she passed as dealer.

In any case, I bid 2NT, showing a minimum with a shortage (even though I have a 9 count, my suits are so bad my hand's definitely a dog), and figuring it'd work out fine if partner intended 2♠ to be natural. She now bid 3♣, and I was confident she was asking about my hand. I showed a spade shortage with 3♠, and she bid game. RHO doubled, and now I wasn't feeling too confident.

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

North led the ♣Q to her partner's ace, then South cashed the ♠K and returned a club. As South was a passed hand, I doubted she had the ♥K, so I played a heart to the queen and another to the ace.

Now I needed to play diamonds for no losers. My only real option was the double finesse, so I played a diamond to the ten, which held. Now I cashed the ♦AK, ruffed a spade back to hand, and exited a heart, pitching the ♦8 from dummy.

Then I claimed 10 tricks, including the ♦7 on the last trick for a doubled beer card.

Special thanks to my mate for inquiring on a balanced 9 count with 2 card support.

This one from the third set of the quarterfinal against France was nice:

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

Sitting West, after the auction started 1♦-Pass-Pass, I faced a bit of a problem. I obviously didn't want to pass this out, but I knew my partner had a good hand and would probably bid game if I balanced.

Eventually I decided to bid 2♦ showing both majors, and partner cued 3♦ then quickly bid 4♥ over my 3♠. Missing ♥AKxx and two outside aces, it wasn't looking very hopeful.

South led a diamond to her partner's king, after which North played ♣A then ♠7. Ellena won with the ace and played the ♥Q... and the trick continued ♥K, 2, A!

After South followed to a second round of spades, El drew trumps and claimed 10 tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs. Eeeeeee!

Another good hand was when we defended 2♠ in the last set of the quarterfinal:

Dlr: N	♠ K		
Vul: EW	♥ KQJ 8 4		
	♦ T 6 5		
	♣ AT 3 2		
♠ T 7 4 3		N	♠ A Q 2
♥ 9 6 3		W	♥ A 2
♦ 8 7 3 2			♦ A Q J 4
♣ K 7			♣ Q 9 8 4
		S	♠ J 9 8 6 5
			♥ T 7 5
			♦ K 9
			♣ J 6 5

West	El	East	LT
-	1♥	X	2♥
Pass	Pass	X	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

After East's first double, 2♥ showed a bad raise, so Ellena knew to pass and defend 2♠ rather than competing to 3♥. She led the ♥K, won in dummy, and declarer continued hearts. Ellena switched to the ♠K, again won in dummy, and declarer now played a club to the king and ace. Ellena returned a club, won in dummy, which was followed by a club ruff in declarer's hand.

The contract is cold so long as declarer now ruffs her last heart in dummy, then plays high cards then low cards. Instead, she decided to make the most of her entry to hand and take a diamond finesse. After that failed, I could return a trump, which she won in dummy before cashing the ♦A and playing another club towards her hand:

Dlr: N	♠ -		
Vul: EW	♥ Q J		
	♦ T		
	♣ T		
♠ T		N	♠ 2
♥ 9		W	♥ -
♦ 8 3			♦ J 4
♣ -			♣ 9
		S	♠ J 8 6
			♥ 5
			♦ -
			♣ -

I could now take the contract off in two ways - I could either pitch my last heart, let declarer trump the club with her ♠T, and claim the last three tricks with my top trumps, or I could ruff with the ♠J and lead a trump, winning the final two tricks with a spade and partner's top heart.

This allowed us to score +100 - a lot of work for a flat board when 2♥ made for 110 at the other table!

Other highlights included losing 15 IMPs on a board and immediately being interviewed by the media guys about how I felt about the set, and our opponents (now world champions) playing in 3♥ for +230 when our teammates bid the good slam.

All this shows that, despite the unfortunate high level decisions you've read about last issue, we did manage to play some decent bridge and although we were unlucky in the final set, we were just as lucky earlier on.

2015 Youth Week

More info [here](#), but note that the new venue is Bruce Hall, ANU, from Jan 10th to 16th 2015.

BIG DOGS IN THE BIG GAME

AUSTRALIA AT THE 2014 WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

BY LIAM MILNE, SYDNEY

Michael Whibley, Sartaj Hans, Nye Griffiths and I travelled to Sanya, China in October for the 2014 Red Bull World Bridge Series. At the last minute, we added our teammates for the Rosenblum Cup: Alex Smirnov – Josef Piekarek, a top German pair (many of you will know Alex from his many trips out to Australia). All three pairs would also contest the World Open Pairs.

Our team was called “Little Meck”, a reference to the strong club system both Australian pairs were playing. We were all very excited to be there as the Rosenblum and World Pairs are only held once every four years, and all the top players from around the world would be there. Sanya was very touristy with lots of resorts but it was nice and hot and right next to the beach – although those of you who have been to China know the food can be a little bit testing! Also there from Australia were youth players Justin Howard – Pete Hollands, as well as a Lorentz team along the same lines as the team we played this year in the NOT final.

We knew the bridge was going to be very tough, and Sanya did not disappoint. I have a vivid memory of walking into the MGM Grand on day 1 and seeing Eric Rodwell surrounded by Chinese fans all taking photos with him! Everywhere we looked were names and faces we recognized from the press and vugraph. We would have to knuckle down to even get through the first few days.

There were lots of interesting bidding decisions in the Pairs, but some of the most interesting card-play hands were in the teams event. Try this one on:

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

You open 1♣ (16+ any, Precision) with the South cards and West overcalls 1♦. Partner bids 2♦, you bid 3♣, partner bids 3♦, you have to bid 4♣ and partner raises you to 5♣.

West leads the ace of diamonds and follows with the king. You ruff and play a club to the ace, everyone following.

Your play?

I claimed! This hand looks like it is straight out of a textbook. There is no need to risk the heart finesse or guess the spades. You can just ruff another diamond to hand, eliminating the suit, then draw the last trump. Now you can play ace, king and another heart and whoever wins will be endplayed.

The heart queen was offside so good luck guessing the spades if you took the heart finesse! This wasn't the world's most exciting hand, but I was struck by how 'constructed' this hand looked – well done if you spotted the endplay.

Little Meck managed to cruise through the first two days, which cut the field of 123 down to 32. We qualified comfortably and got a (relatively) lucky draw, playing team Macmullin, the Canadian team that had beaten us by 0.1 IMP in the Commonwealth Bridge Nations Championships earlier this year. We were out for revenge and we knew what we were up against.

Sartaj had a complex hand which almost turned into a brilliancy in this match:

(Hands rotated for convenience)

Bd 22 (rot.)	♠ J T
Dlr: S	♥ A J 8 7 3
Vul: NS	♦ A 8 6
	♣ Q 8 3
♠ A 8 5 4 3	♠ Q 9 7
♥ 6 5	♥ T 4 2
♦ Q 5 4	♦ K T 9 2
♣ K 9 7	♣ 5 4 2
	♠ K 6 2
	♥ K Q 9
	♦ J 7 3
	♣ A J T 6

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	End	

Against 3NT, Sartaj received the ♠4 lead (fourths). RHO covered the jack with the queen and Sartaj won the king. What now?

Spades will often be 5-3, so if the club finesse isn't working it's hard to see what we can do. It is clear to run the heart suit first and see what develops – maybe they'll help us out and pitch a spade! Not in the Rosenblum, but if we watch their discards we'll often get a good feel for what they've got and can try to create an end position

On the hearts, LHO pitches ♦5 (discouraging), ♣7, ♦4, while RHO pitches ♣2 (encouraging), ♣4. What do you think?

Sartaj ignored the club signal – there is no need for the defenders to signal honestly here – and took the inference that the club king was offside for a few reasons. LHO pitched two diamonds when they could've afforded more than one club if they had just low cards in the suit, while RHO was happy to pitch two clubs which would not be attractive from e.g. ♣K942.

Assuming LHO hasn't pitched down to a singleton ♣K (possible but unlikely), he started with 5=2=3=3 and is down to a singleton diamond, four spades and ♣Kx. Sartaj cashed the ♦A to strip him of his diamond then played the ♠J off the dummy. RHO unblocked the ♠9 (co-operating with the endplay?) and LHO won the king and paused for thought.

Nye and I were screaming for him to play the ♠8 to cash out the spades, hoping he would endplay himself. Sartaj's RHO can always get in with a spade pip but the unblock of the ♠9 had given Sartaj a chance.

Sadly, LHO decided to pay off to Sartaj having started with ♠K72 and exited a low spade to their partner for down one. Well played by Sartaj anyway who almost created a big result out of nothing. Remember: run your winners and watch their discards!

We ended up beating McMullin by almost 100 IMPs (payback!) and drew team Ventin in the round of 16, a team of top European players as well as the famous Roy Welland from the US. They would give us a much tougher run for our money.

Lots of IMPs were on the line on the following hand. The match is looking shaky and you pick up this powerhouse:



Dlr: N **South**
 Vul: All
 ♠ K 5 3
 ♥ A Q 3
 ♦ A K Q J 9 5 2
 ♣ -

What would you bid with this collection after partner opens a weak 2♥ in first seat, with everyone vulnerable?

You could have a grand slam on, but you'll struggle to find out the information you need while you might allow the opponents to find a good sacrifice or the right lead if you take things slowly. Nye chose the practical 6♦ bid which I agree with (you need to protect the ♠K on the opening lead). This went pass, pass to Sabine Auken, who doubled (Lightner, asking for an unusual lead). Your bid?

Based on several factors, Nye gave that the blue card (redouble), sending it back. The full hand:

Bd 13	<i>Milne</i>		
Dlr: S	♠ 4		
Vul: All	♥ K J 9 8 6 2		
	♦ 4 3		
	♣ J T 8 2		
<i>Welland</i>			<i>Auken</i>
♠ A Q 8 7 6	N		♠ J T 9 2
♥ T 7 5 4	W	E	♥ -
♦ -			♦ T 8 7 6
♣ A Q 9 7		S	♣ K 6 5 4 3
	♠ K 5 3		
	♥ A Q 3		
	♦ A K Q J 9 5 2		
	♣ -		
	<i>Griffiths</i>		

W	N	E	S
-	2♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	X	XX
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Welland led the ♥5 for his partner to ruff, choosing a lower heart as he had fewer clubs than spades (making the ♣A more likely to stand up).

Time stood still after Sabine ruffed, but she eventually returned a ... trump. Should she get this right?

Hard to know, but Ish Del'monte and Brad Moss had an identical defence against 6♦X in a different match, so I certainly have sympathy for her trump return. Not this time however, as Nye wrapped up 12 tricks for a cool +1830.

Despite a few nice boards for us, Ventin ran out the winners and ended our run in the Rosenblum. Having made it this far, we had earned a direct spot to the World Pairs semi-finals, meaning we didn't have to risk the qualifying stage and would have a day off. After a relaxing day in the Yanoda rainforest, we were back to fight it out in the Pairs semi.

The fields in both the pairs semi-final and the final were very tough. From Australia, only Nye and I and Lorentz-Burgess managed to make it through the cut to the 54 pair final.

With no carry-over from previous stages, whoever could rustle up the most matchpoints in the World Pairs final would be crowned world champions.

No pressure, right?



Everyone is out for blood in a world-class pairs tournament and Sanya was no exception. This was a nice 'bread and butter' hand Nye and I had in the second session of the World Pairs final:

Bd 11)	♠ Q 9 7 3 2									
Dlr: S	♥ J 7 5 3									
Vul: Nil	♦ Q J 9									
	♣ A									
♠ J T 8 5										
♥ A Q T 6 4										
♦ -										
♣ 9 8 7 2										
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	N									
W		E								
	S									
	♠ 6									
	♥ K 9									
	♦ 8 7 6 5 4 2									
	♣ K J T 6									
	♠ A K 4									
	♥ 8 2									
	♦ A K T 3									
	♣ Q 5 4 3									

Nye opened 1NT (14-16) and West made the normal 2♣ overcall (showing both majors). I doubled showing values, East bid 2♥, and Nye was there for me with a takeout double. With a strong defensive hand and the opponents having a weak fit, I passed for penalties.

Against this type of auction, trump leads generally work best (your side has most of the points and they will often be trying to make tricks by ruffing).

Nye's lead of the ♥8 ran around to the 9 and declarer ruffed a diamond to lead a club to my Ace.

I had an easy trump return, and declarer ruffed another diamond to lead a second club. Now I had a decision. Dummy only had the ♥A left, and I had two trumps, and I had a pretty good count on the hand at this point. Normally it's wrong to ruff in front of declarer when they only have one winner (they can play low so you are ruffing a loser) but I knew we had almost all the rest of the tricks with declarer having no trumps left.

I ruffed and cashed our diamonds and spades, but partner had only started with four diamonds so we had to give dummy a spade trick in the ending. If partner had 3=2=5=3 we would have the rest of tricks apart from the Ace of trumps for down three - but down two for +300 was still a great result on the hand.

We had solid results throughout the first day of the final, coming 6th overnight. It's hard not to get your hopes up in this sort of situation, but realistically we knew the last few sessions would be extremely tough after a week's world-class bridge, with many pairs vying for medals.

We had a fairly solid second day with very few slip-ups and managed to finish 9th, Australia's second best ever result in this event. What an experience!

We always knew Sanya was going to be one of the toughest events we had ever played. Nevertheless, Little Meck had a great tournament with results in both the teams and the pairs.

Cheers to Sartaj without whom the team would never have come together. Ship it - we'll be back next time!



YOUTH TRIATHLON

By JOHN NEWMAN, SYDNEY

I remember a story Will Jenner-O'Shea told me about Mike Doecke overcalling 7♥ on an 8-5 without help from his partner at a youth triathlon. So when I picked up:

Dlr: E	South
Vul: NS	♠ -
	♥ AKJ 4 2
	♦ KJT 9 8 6 4 2
	♣ -

I recalled Will's 7♥ story and was highly suspicious. I figured they must put this hand in the Triathlon every year to see how people deal with it.

I decided not to stop short of 7♥, aiming to get doubled, because 7♥ would be common at a youth event.

The auction began:

Pass from East, 1♦ from me, 1♠ from West, and 2♥ from partner!!!

Now I knew the hand was rigged for sure. NO WAY partner has hearts in real life. Over partner's 2♥, RHO raised spades, which got LHO basically jumping out of his chair ready to bid some ridiculous number of spades.

I tried to think of a bid that might slow him down. I'll let the reader think of the best path to 7♥XX. I think it's purely about what might work against your opponents. What you really want is an opponent who's become murderous and stopped thinking – no such luck at our table. We managed to get doubled in 7♥, but I didn't have the guts to redouble, because LHO was intelligent and might have sacrificed in 7♠.

The hands:

Dlr: E	♠ 4		
Vul: NS	♥ QT 7 6 5		
	♦ A		
	♣ KT 8 7 4 3		
♠ AQJT 9 7 3 2	N	♠ K 8 6 5	
♥ 9	W	♥ 8 3	
♦ 5 3	E	♦ Q 7	
♣ AQ	S	♣ J 9 6 5 2	
	♠ -		
	♥ AKJ 4 2		
	♦ KJT 9 8 6 4 2		
	♣ -		

Of course a making-doubled-grand-slam-off-two-aces wasn't a top board: damn you Daryl & Andrew! :)

I came back to Sydney and told Will about it, he said "What are you talking about? Mike's 8-5 happened in *China*. That's not the same hand at all."

So I'd punted a grand on "unauthorised information" that didn't exist. Lunacy.

Other highlights involved watching instructional videos about re-roofing, and playing on a team captained by the adorable Ivy. It was good to see younger players and fresh faces.

Well done to Justin Howard for winning the triathlon!

Congratulations also to Ellena and Laura for putting on such an awesome event, and to Pete Hollands for being a generous host.



BRILLIANCIES

By MIKE WARE, NEW ZEALAND

I was asked earlier this year whether I had seen any “brilliances” lately? This got me thinking. I am pretty hard to impress. It is very rare for me to see a play that meets my criteria for a “brilliance”. Squeezes and endplays are ho-hum – good play – but not a “brilliance”. So, when I meet one, it should be recorded, and here are a few that have met my tough criteria.

Here is a defensive hand. The star on this occasion was my partner Bob Scott. He was West and held:

Dlr: S	West
Vul: All	♠ 7 5 2
	♥ AKQ3
	♦ Q
	♣ KT983

South (Bob’s RHO) opened 1♣ and Bob made a takeout double. North redoubled to show strength and I bid 2♥. North/South now bid uncontested to 4♠.

What do you lead?

There is a very large percentage of people who would lead a top heart. Not Bob. Out popped the queen of diamonds. This was what Bob could see:

Dlr: S	♠ T 9									
Vul: All	♥ J 9 7 6									
	♦ K J 9 4									
	♣ A Q									
West										
♠ 7 5 2										
♥ AKQ3										
♦ Q										
♣ KT983										
	<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>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									

Declarer won the ace and led the king of trumps. Bob played his highest spade indicating a desire to ruff and I won the ace.

I obediently gave Bob his ruff, but my having no entry and no sight of many other tricks was resigned to be -620. Bob of course had different ideas. With AKQ3 of hearts and J976 in dummy, out came a low heart at the speed of light.

The full hand:

Bd 7	♠ T 9											
Dlr: S	♥ J 9 7 6											
Vul: All	♦ K J 9 4 2											
	♣ A Q											
	♠ 7 5 2		♠ A 4									
	♥ AKQ3		♥ T 8 6 2									
	♦ Q		♦ 8 7 6 5									
	♣ KT983		♣ 7 4 2									
		<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>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ KQJ863											
	♥ 5											
	♦ AT3											
	♣ J65											

Looking at all the hands we can see that playing the jack of hearts is cost-free for declarer, but the reality is 99.9% of declarers would play low without thinking to put up the ♥J, it happened here.

I won my eight of hearts and gave Bob another diamond ruff for one off, +100 and 12 IMPs. In itself, underleading the AKQ of hearts might not meet my rigid criteria for a brilliance. The reason this hand does easily, is due to the tempo at which Bob executed this swindle. It was perfect – fast, and importantly, every card consistent.

The opening lead was top notch as well, but I think I was more impressed by the tempo than the underlead itself! Awesome.

The next hand was another witnessed by me at the table. My regular partner GeO Tislevoll managed to impress me with this one:

The auction proceeded, with GeO East:

Dlr: N	East
Vul: Nil	♠ 9 8 7 5
	♥ AK98
	♦ T
	♣ AT52

Me	N	Geo	S
-	1♦	X	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I lead the two of hearts playing 3rd/5th.

♠ A T	Dir: N
♥ Q T 3	Vul: Nil
♦ K J 9 7 5 3	
♣ K 8	East
	N
♥ 2	W
	E
	S
	♠ 9 8 7 5
	♥ A K 9 8
	♦ T
	♣ A T 5 2

Me	N	Geo	S
-	1♦	X	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer, a NZ international, played low from dummy and it was over to Geo. How do you plan the defence?
Have a think about it before reading on.

Geo played the eight of hearts playing me to have lead from jack-fifth **and** declarer to have only five trumps **and** to have misplayed by playing low from dummy! This was a risky proposition - I hadn't bid 2♥ so he didn't know whether I had three or five hearts. Declarer had a perfectly safe (and correct) ♥10 to play from dummy and hadn't. Yet he reasoned this was the best chance to beat the contract and indeed it was.

Having won the ♥8, the ace of hearts fatally tapped declarer. With the diamonds not running, the contract could no longer be made. Geo's ace of clubs and equal trump length with declarer doomed the contract.

Playing for a misplay and backing his analysis that this was the only way to beat the contract was superbly done!

It is possible to have a bidding brilliancy, but you have to be very imaginative to impress me! Try this one:

Dir: S	East
Vul: NS	♠ 4 3
	♥ 9 2
	♦ K J 8 6 5
	♣ A 4 3 2

Nickell	Nunes	Katz	Fantoni
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1♥
2♣	2NT	?	

1♥ = 14+ HCP, 5+♥
2♣ = Weak jump overcall
2NT = Good raise to 3♥

Your bid?

Current Bermuda Bowl World Champion Ralph Katz (USA) impressed me with the following. Not only was the bid imaginative (everyone else in the world would pass) and crucial, it just happened to be in the Bermuda Bowl final against Italy!

Katz found a great lead-directing bid of 3♦. The Italians bid on to the normal 4♥, which was the same contract at both tables.

Lauria at the other table had to find a lead from ♠AQ9876 ♥6 ♦Q73 ♣Q95 and guessed wrong. Only a diamond lead beats 4♥, which Nickell had no problem finding after Katz's courageous bid. Great stuff.

Hopefully I will have some more local examples to report soon.

FREE ROBOTS For JUNIORS!



BBO's generous offer of FREE leasing of GIB Robots on BBO is still available!

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. 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.)

2015 YOUTH BRIDGE WEEK

To be held in Canberra Saturday 10th January 2015 to Friday 16th January. Brochure attached on the last page.

Click [here](#) for the Youth Week website. Contact info can be found on the brochure.

FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER [DECLARER PLAY]

S/All ♠ A 7
 ♥ Q T 9 6
 ♦ 9 8 5
 ♣ A K Q T



♠ 6
 ♥ A K 8 7 4 3
 ♦ A Q 6
 ♣ 7 4 3

South to make 6♥ (IMPs)

Opening lead is ♠K. Trumps are 2-1.

Solution on Page 14



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

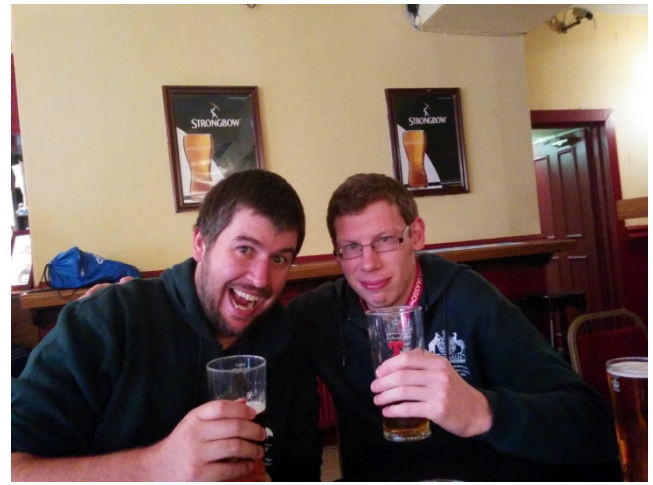
Each month Andy will select the best enquiry and the winner will be presented a \$30 voucher (funded by [TBIB](#)) toward any purchase made at the [Bridge Shop](#) or at [Paul Lavings Bridge Books](#).



The ABF Youth Website is moving (this time for sure)! 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



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





SUIT COMBINATIONS

THIS ISSUE	FOR NEXT ISSUE
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>J 10 8 4 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Target: 3 tricks</p> </div> <p>A 3</p> <p>The best play for three tricks is to start with the ace followed by a low one towards the 8 (assuming no important cards have appeared, which includes the 9). Disregarding the 3-3 breaks, this will win whenever either opponent has honour-doubleton.</p> <p>Compare this line to running the jack to begin with, the jack play will lose to too many 4-2 layouts with either opponent having honour-doubleton. Even if the trick goes J-Q-A-x, you will still need to guess whether to play the 10 or 8 when you next play low towards dummy, to guard against East having KQ or honour-9 doubleton (well, restricted choice says to play the 10).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Assume unlimited entries)</i></p> <p>A 10 8</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Target: 2 tricks</p> </div> <p>J 5 3</p> <p>K 10 8</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Target: 2 tricks</p> </div> <p>J 5 3</p>
<p>A 10 4 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Target: 4 tricks</p> </div> <p>Q J 7 6</p> <p>The addition of the 7 changes the problem! Now it's best to lead the queen for a finesse. Yes, you will lose to a singleton king with West, but now you will be able to pick up a 4-1 break if East has a singleton 9 or 8 (the queen pins the 9 (or 8), and you can now use the 7 and 6 to finesse West for the other intermediate card).</p>	

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 12)

S/All

♠ A 7
♥ Q T 9 6
♦ 9 8 5
♣ A K Q T

♠K



♠ 6
♥ A K 8 7 4 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ 7 4 3

South to make 6♥ (IMPs)
Opening lead is ♠K, trumps are 2-1.

Win the lead and draw two rounds of trumps. Next cash the ♣A. Assuming both opponents follow, cash the ♣K. If East shows out, you can take a marked club finesse. If West shows out, play the ♠7.

If East doesn't play a higher spade, discard a diamond from hand to endplay West. If East plays a higher spade, ruff it, cross back to dummy with a trump and run the ♦9.

Again, if East plays low, play the ♦6 to endplay West. If East covers with ♦10 or ♦J, insert the ♦Q. Assuming West wins and returns a diamond, you'll then need to guess whether to play the ♦8 or the ♦5 depending on where you think the other higher diamond is. If you don't think East will play the ♦10/♦J with ♦10xx(x) or ♦Jxx(x), then play the ♦5 and hope the ♦7 is with West!

Now let's go back. If both opponents follow to ♣AK, cash the ♣Q. If West shows out, follow the same line above. If East shows out, you can now guarantee the endplay. Ruff the spade, cross back to dummy with a trump and play the ♣10 to discard a diamond.



FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER - BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

MORE ON SIMPLE STAYMAN - Part 3

There is yet another neat little thing you can do with Simple Stayman (doesn't seem so 'simple' based on what we've seen from the previous issues!).

Some people play 1NT-4♦/4♥ as Texas Transfers (or alternatively, 1NT-4♣/4♦ as South African Texas Transfers). These force partner to bid 4♥/4♠ and are a neat convention to play: you get to use both 1NT-2♦-2♥-4NT as quantitative and 1NT-4♦-4♥-4NT as RKCB. A delayed use of Texas lets you put 6-4 Major hands into Stayman:

With 6-4 majors and a hand that only wants to play in game, you can either transfer and bid game in your long major suit, or you can bid 2♣ Stayman and bid 4-Major after a 2♦ response.

The question is, what if you have 6-4 majors and a slam try? If you're committed to play in your 6-card suit, you can transfer to your major and splinter. If you want to bring your other 4-card major into the picture, you can start with 2♣ Stayman. If partner bids a major, you can set that suit as trumps. If partner bids 2♦ (no major), then:

1NT 2♦	2♣	(2♣ = Simple Stayman)
	3m	5+m, 4M, game-force
	3M	Smolen (see Issue 12/13)
	4♣	Delayed Texas Transfer, 6♥4♠, slam try
	4♦	Delayed Texas Transfer, 6♠4♥, slam try
	4♥	6♥4♠, to play
	4♠	6♠4♥, to play
	4NT	Quantitative

As 1NT-2♣ ; 2♦-3m shows a game-forcing hand with 5+ of your minor, there is not much need for a *jump* to 4m to show that minor. In that case, you can employ the *Delayed Texas Transfer* by going via 2♣ and jumping to 4♣/4♦ over a 2♦ (no major) response, to show the respective 6-4 major hands with a slam try.

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!)


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

STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

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

	EVENT (NSW)	DATES
	After school bridge club @ NSWBA is on a break. Email: fraserrew@gmail.com Web: http://www.nswba.com.au/	

	EVENT (ACT)	DATES
	ANU Bridge Club regular meetings at ANU Bar Youth Week	Mondays 4:30pm during term 10 th - 17 th January 2015
Email: youth@bfact.com.au Web: http://www.bfact.com.au/		

	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/	