

ABF YOUTH



BULLETIN

◆ Issue 01/2

August 2001 ♣

Edited by David Lusk

Australian Juniors Triumph at Pacific-Asia

Paul Brayshaw

SINGAPORE, JUNE 2001

Well - we've all heard the news. We all know the official stories. What about the unofficial stories? The anecdotes? The hands? Read on...

Singapore was certainly a most civilised place to hold the PABF championship. There was good, cheaper accommodation near the venue. There was an excellent food hall underneath the venue. This would already be enough to excite most bridge players, but wait, there's more! Beer was so expensive that the junior team had no choice but to play good bridge. It is not a coincidence that every time the PABF event is held in Singapore, the Australian Junior Team wins. Also, the city is very clean and neither bad food nor water was a problem: there were a few minor incidents (don't ask about "Lukewarm water" or Greg's "ring of fire") but nothing to really set the team back.

The first day was spent acclimatising (sweating) and getting in some practice - a few hours of that Crazy Russian game. Suitably rested, the team was more than ready the next day to tackle an excellent welcome lunch followed by some even tastier courses - Hong Kong and Thailand. The first four days were very relaxed with only two matches per day for Australia (the juniors had fewer scheduled matches and there was also a Bye). It wasn't until days 5, 6 and 7 that the pressure started to mount. By then, Australia had built a substantial lead. However, none of the team "knew" about it because of the captain's policy of not looking at the leaderboard. We could only guess from the results that we were doing OK. (Yeah, right... No really, this was correct.)

The last day (three matches) was spent trying to throw the lead away to someone else. Two mediocre wins against Singapore and Japan allowed China to get within 13 VPs of the lead. When the score-up of the final match against Thailand was complete (24-6 VP loss), much of the team felt positively sick. Why didn't those Chinese players just hurry up and score up, for Christ's sake? The wait was intolerable, and in a fit of self-sorrowful hysteria, no-one noticed the Chinese slink out to do the scoring thing. When one of their players came up, shook my hand tentatively and said "you win", I was still resigned to a possible second placing. A minute later, the team was swinging from the chandeliers. China had not managed to get the 20 VPs required to win and Australia instead had won by 6 VPs

Summary of Team Results

<u>Rd</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>IMP</u>	<u>VP</u>	<u>Op</u>	<u>Cl</u>
1-1	Hong Kong	33-26	16-14	RD	BB
1-2	Thailand	51-22	19-11	BB	CM
1-3	Japan	72-43	21 - 9	RD	CM
1-4	Bye				
1-5	China	51-51	15-15	BB	CM
1-6	Tai'pei	37-42	14-16	RD	BB
1-7	Singapore*	55-22	22 - 8	CM	RD
1-8	Indonesia	53-43	17-13	BB	CM
1-9	Philippines	69 - 9	25 - 3	RD	CM
2-1	China*	23-37	12-18	BB	RD
2-2	Tai'pei	74-16	25 - 4	BB	CM
2-3	Philippines	78-32	24 - 6	RD	CM
2-4	Bye				
2-5	Indonesia	43-36	16-14	BB	CM
2-6	Hong Kong	56-56	15-15	RD	CM
2-7	Singapore	57-43	18-12	BB	CM
2-8	Japan	82-65	19-11	RD	CM
2-9	Thailand	17-59	6 - 24	RD	CM

*Set Played on Vu-graph

Op = Open Room, Cl = Closed Room

BB = Brayshaw/Brayshaw

CM = Croft/Matthews

RD = Raisin/Dupont



The WA boys on comprehending that they'd won

Coupled with a second placing in the Women's section, this was an excellent PABF tournament for Australia. Western Australia in particular had a good showing with five team members and a captain shared between the two teams.

A final source of amusement was the victory dinner, of course, as who could not expect something to happen there? Let us first set the scene – there was no alcohol at the victory dinner. That's right, you read correctly. Two anonymous team members, Matt and Gregon, were more than a little disappointed at this minor technical glitch. The legendary Hong Kong youth captain S. S. Bux had gone around spiking everyone's drinks, but it was still not enough for the restless pair. They needed a drink badly. Well, why not just duck over to the supermarket quickly to get some? Surely there's no harm in that? The "harm" became apparent to them on their return when the victory dinner had basically packed up, all presentations having been made! But it was OK. The team agreed to have another "official" photograph taken with the trophy and the two defectors, and indeed this photograph appears at the end of the article.

Here are some of the hands which created the amusement, the frustration, and most importantly of all, the IMPs. Watch Luke in action against Thailand:

Croft

♠ 97

♥ 75

♦ KJ92

♣ QJ964

♠ 10643

♥ K6

♦ 103

♣ K8753

Dlr: W

Vul: Nil

♠ K852

♥ 108

♦ AQ654

♣ A2

Matthews

♠ AQJ

♥ AQJ9432

♦ 87

♣ 10

W	Croft	E	Matthews
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the ♦10 lead, 4♥ was destined to fail. But no-one told Luke that! He inserted the ♦J which lost to the queen. East now erred by switching to a spade, but it still wasn't fatal. Luke finessed, cashed ♠A and ruffed a spade in dummy to take the losing trump finesse. West now tapped with a fourth round of spades and Luke had to avoid losing a trick in each minor. Without so much as batting an eyelid, Luke rattled off in quick succession ♥A- J- 9 - ♦7. East, busily finding discards on the hearts, had ♦5 dislodged from his hand and he played it on the ♦7 without looking carefully enough! Luke, pleased to score the Beer Card in such a fashion, thus notched up +420, which was worth 10 IMPs when the Brayshaws shot 4♥ at the other table.

On the next round against Japan, Nic was in the hot seat:

♠ KJ3

♥ A1043

♦ 52

♣ A752

Croft

♠ Q107

♥ 72

♦ KQ1064

♣ KQJ

Dlr: E

Vul: EW

Matthews

♠ A986

♥ Q9

♦ AJ73

♣ 863

♠ 542

♥ KJ865

♦ 98

♣ 1094

“Colour Coup”!

<i>Croft</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Matthews</i>	<i>S</i>
		Pass	Pass
1NT	Db1 ¹	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♥ ²	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Opening hand or better (!!?)
2. Lebensohl (4♠, GF, no ♥ stopper).

After a rather forgettable auction all round, Nic declared 4♠ on the lead of ♦5. He won this in hand with the king and, with no real hope for the contract, tried ♠10. This went small-small-small. Thinking quickly, Nic now produced a sensational ♣Q, which North covered with ♠K! The director was called, and ♠K became a penalty card. Nic took great delight in dropping it underneath his ♠A, cashing ♠Q to draw the last trump, running diamonds to pitch a heart loser and giving up a club and a heart for +650! This was worth 13 IMPs IMPs when a 4th contract failed at the other table. These two hands, played early on in the tournament, caused a great amount of mirth and the play was promptly dubbed the “Colour Coup”!



The team deep in thought on a vital hand.

<i>Paul</i>		<i>Simon</i>	
♠ A862		♠ QJ93	
♥ A10763	Dlr: S	♥ K9542	
♦ 8	Vul: EW	♦ 105	
♣ Q96		♣ A2	
<i>Paul</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Simon</i>	<i>S</i>
			Pass
2♥ ¹	Pass	4♥	Db1 ²
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Against Indonesia, Paul was confronted with a difficult two-way problem on this deal. The 2♥ opening showed both majors and weak. South explained his double as “promising both

minors and some spades also.” The defence started with ♦K from North, followed by a diamond to South’s ace, ruffed. The contract looked easy enough, but even Paul realised that the trumps were going to be 3-0 on this bidding. Never mind, the third round of hearts could be the throw-in card! There were going to be two main lines, depending on the position of that all-too-vital card, the ♣K.

- 1) If North holds ♣K, then the hand is fairly straightforward. Presuming South has at least three spades to the king, then ♥AK are cashed and ♠Q led for a finesse. Two rounds of spades are played and the heart played to North, who must either lead away from ♣K or concede a ruff and discard. Making +790.
- 2) If South holds ♣K, then the play is slightly trickier. A club must be led immediately to the ace, followed by another club. South must rise, and his best return is another club. A spade is pitched from dummy and ♥AK are cashed followed by ♠Q from dummy for a finesse. Two rounds of spades are played, and if North doesn’t ruff, a third round of hearts endplays him for a ruff-sluff. +790.

Which line would you choose? Quite reasonably, Paul played for South to have ♣K for his bidding. When he led a club to the ace and another club, South followed small and Paul felt very, very sick. -200 was not that bad a score, however, as +130 in 4♦ NS was made at the other table.

Look out next issue for a complete (mis)analysis of the team’s efforts in the World Juniors in Brazil!



The victorious team accepting the trophy. L->R: Luke Matthews, Greg Dupont, Matt Raisin, Peter Smith (NPC), Nic Croft, Paul Brayshaw, Simon Brayshaw.

The Australian Colts in Hamilton

Deborah Moir

This year I had the fortune to captain a team of young (and yes I mean young) youth players for the Trans- Tasman youth clash held in Hamilton, New Zealand. The senior partnership at the ripe old age of 17 and 18 was Arian Lasocki from Melbourne and Daniel Krochmalik from Sydney. They teamed with two relatively new players, Michael Delivera and Robin Stevenson from ACT (just 16 years old).

The opposition was the seasoned team of Jillian Hay, Michelle Murphy, Christiaan Prent, John West and Mike Dollan, captained by npc Scott Smith.

The entire event was played in the friendliest environment with all players and captains getting on extremely well. Even in the dinner break the two teams could be seen enjoying each other's company at a local Hamilton restaurant.

As for the bridge Australia had a shaky start losing the first set 14-49. This was mainly due to good aggressive bidding on the New Zealanders side. However after this set the team soon settled down and got their bidding socks on too. The following hand is from the second session when Arian and Daniel bid an excellent tight 4♠ game.

Dealer: N		North		
Vul: All		♠ KQJ2		
		♥ AKJ98		
		♦ 2		
		♣ J43		
	West		East	
	♠ A7		♠ 83	
	♥ 1075		♥ Q64	
	♦ K984		♦ AQJ105	
	♣ A975		♣ 1086	
		South		
		♠ 109654		
		♥ 32		
		♦ 763		
		♣ KQ2		

This was ten imps to Australia when the other

other room played a partscore in spades only.

Two very low scoring sets in the third and fourth showed that both teams were quite capable of playing good tight bridge. It wasn't till after dinner that Australia really hit their stride, winning the fifth and sixth sets.

One hand from the fifth set showed how optimism however sometimes has its limits. Robin and Michael bid to the excellent 4♠ on the following hand and for their trouble were lucky enough to get doubled. To show they were not afraid, as a joke, Michael waved the xx card in front of Jillian but chickened out at the final second!

At the other table Daniel and Arian took a rather rosy view of their hands and bid up to 6♣. This went a quiet three down when neither East or West really didn't have a double.

Dealer: N		North		
Vul: All		♠ A6		
		♥ A84		
		♦ Q102		
		♣ A8432		
	West		East	
	♠ J854		♠ KQ109732	
	♥ 9		♥ KQ76	
	♦ AJ764		♦ 95	
	♣ Q106		♣ --	
		South		
		♠ --		
		♥ J10532		
		♦ K83		
		♣ KJ975		

West	North	East	South
--	1NT	2♠	X
4♠	X	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
--	1NT	4♠	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

The end result was a 17 imp win to New Zealand, congratulations to the winning side. As for the Australian side they put a great fight and were an absolute pleasure to captain, thanks as well to the coaches, Robert and Arjuna.

All the ANC Youth Results

Youth Pairs

JILLIAN HAY-JOHN MADDISON (ACT)	370
TIM LEE-KENNETH WAN (VIC)	346
LUKE MATTHEWS-MATT PORTER (SA)	343
MARC DEATON-JUSTIN WILLIAMS (SA)	325

Hay-Maddison established a substantial lead at the end of session 1, leaving the rest of the field to fight out second place over the second session. Despite scoring a shade under 50% in that second session, the ACT pair still finished more than two tops ahead.

Youth Teams Qualifying

VICTORIA (Kevin Chan, Leigh Gold, Tim Johnson, Arian Lasocki, Tim Lee, Kenneth Wan) **318.3**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Nic Croft, Marc Deaton, Luke Matthews, Matt Porter, Justin Williams, David Wiltshire) **135.6**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Paul Brayshaw, Simon Brayshaw, Greg Dupont, Oliver Mailes, Jonathon Pynt, Peter Wilsmore) **50.5**

With the rules of the competition invalidating results against the ABF Colts team, Western Australia were, in fact, second at the end of the triple round-robin, thus earning the right to play Victoria in the 40 board final.

Youth Team Final (40 Boards)

Western Australia defeated Victoria by 43 IMPs.

Open Pairs

Leigh Gold was an absentee from the Youth Pairs at the ANC. Why? He was playing with regular partner, Jamie Ebery in the Open pairs. This in itself is not remarkable but winning the event was a fine achievement!

Gold-Ebery led the Open Pairs after the first session and faced a tense few minutes at the final round score-up before discovering that they had prevailed by one match-point from top NSW pair, Pauline Gumby-Warren Lazer.

Griff Ware - Daniel Geromboux also played in the Open as top qualifiers for the ACT. They finished in a respectable mid-field position.

Youth News

2002 World University Championships

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

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

Players who are interested should contact David on david.lusk@chariot.net.au before December 31, 2001.

Australian Youth Championships

Provisional Programme, January 2002

Events to be conducted at Burton & Garran Hall, Australian National University.

Fri 11/Sat 12: International Youth Challenge.

Featuring about 2 Australian teams and invited teams from NZ and other countries.

Sat 12/ Sun 13: Australian Under 16 Youth Pairs and Teams

Sun 13/Mon 14: Australian Youth Pairs

Tues 15/Wed 16: Australian Youth Teams

Thurs 17 -- Sat 19: Australian Youth Butler plus other side events

Sunday 20th: Playoff for Australian Youth Team

This schedule may be subject to change. Keep in touch by looking up the Youth section of the ABF's Web page on:

www.abf.com.au

World Junior Pairs

DAVID WILTSHIRE-JOSHUA WYNER REPRESENT

The 4th World Junior Pairs Championship was held in Poland in early July. Australia was represented by our 2000 National Youth Pairs winners, David Wiltshire and Joshua Wyner who finished a creditable 33rd out of 220 pairs. The winners were the top seeded pair from Austria who also won the first World University Championship in Maastricht last year.

The event had a few unusual features, including a session which began at 11:20 pm and finished at 3:30 am. The venue was a basketball stadium and when the hooter sounded for the end of each round, the noise was loud enough to drown out a Real Madrid crowd.

After the Championship, there was an 8-day World Junior Camp in which it was required to play with a different partner each session, never playing with someone from the same country. It was great fun for the players as well as a good opportunity to meet many people from all over the world.

Australia's sole victory was in the 'Treasure Hunt', won by David Wiltshire.

Calendar of Youth Events 2001 - 2

NATIONAL EVENTS 2002

JANUARY 11-20 : Australian Youth Championships
Canberra

FEBRUARY 16 : Gold Coast Junior Individual
Surfers Paradise

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

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 2002

JANUARY 11-12 International Youth Challenge
Canberra

EARLY FEBRUARY Olympic Games Bridge
Exhibition Match
Salt Lake City

APRIL OKB Inter-Collegiate (on-line)
Generali Individual

MAY/JUNE PABF Championships, Bangkok

JULY Test Match, Z7, Hamilton NZ

ACBL Junior Bridge Camp
Washington DC

AUGUST 4-13 World University Teams
Bruges, Belgium

SEPTEMBER 20-24 World Junior Triathlon
Montreal

Further information on any of the above is available from Peter Gill. gillp@bigpond.com.

Friends of Junior Bridge

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

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

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

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

Keeping in Touch

David Lusk

Do We Know Who You Are?

Trying to stay in touch with a burgeoning population of young bridge players across an entire continent has had its own frustrations for both administrators and, no doubt, the young players themselves.

Whether you read this on the net, in your clubrooms or having acquired the copy from a friend, you should realise that we have been trying to get every young player their own copy of the bulletin via mail-outs and with assistance from state coordinators and associations.

If you are not receiving your copy it could be because your details are not recorded on a state or national database. If this is the case, contact your state coordinator or email me on david.lusk@chariot.net.au and the appropriate information will be recorded on the national register.

All young bridge players can be assured that all details kept by the ABF and state junior coordinators are treated as strictly confidential and are only used for purposes of keeping track of, and communicating with, junior bridge players.

The ABF Youth Club

The ABF Youth Club was inaugurated in 2000 and has been 'home' for over 40 young players since its inception -- and it continues to grow.

Bridge players under the age of 19 may join the ABF Youth Club at no cost. Whilst it is normal to have an application recommended by the player's state youth coordinator, this should not be seen as an obstacle. The purpose of the ABF Youth Club is to provide all the rights and privileges of ABF membership to junior players who may be unable to participate at a significant level in a mainstream club. There is no cost to join the club but players are advised that, once they turn 19, they will be encouraged to join a regular bridge club in order to maintain their masterpoint status.

Any young player wishing to become a member of the ABF Youth club is advised to contact their state coordinators or David Lusk

6 Vincent Crt,
Campbelltown, SA 5074
david.lusk@chariot.net.au

The Views of Young Players

Over the last couple of years, the ABF Youth Committee has determined that player feed-back is an integral part of policy consideration and decision-making. The opportunity to conduct meetings which take on a 'forum' complexion is limited to say the least. The only true forum meeting is held during the Australian Junior Championships in January. This is one of the few occasions where there is a significantly large number of junior players assembled at one location.

The opportunity for young players to provide input need not be restricted to these infrequent meetings. It is usually left to the higher-profile young players to gain the attention of committee members and coordinators in the interim. This does not need to be the case. I already receive about 70 emails a week on various topics and a few more won't hurt.

It is important to the current committee that all junior bridge players in Australia are given similar rights and recognition as exist for more senior players. With juniors as young as eight or nine around the country, this is not always easy to achieve. By way of compensation, we consider that by opening the channels of communication between ourselves and the younger bridge playing community, we can be responsive to the varying needs of our clientele.

Events

The number of events available to junior players is on the increase both nationally and internationally. Some of these are open to all players and quite a few are only available to the elite. We strive to keep players in touch with the events that might interest them and hope that the players themselves are taking that information on board. Often players rely on others to tell them about events for which they are eligible (usually too late!). You can keep in touch by looking for the Youth Section of the ABF website on <http://www.abf.com.au>

ABF OKbridge Accounts

Youth players are reminded that three OK Bridge accounts are available for the purpose of practice, challenge matches etc. Players may organise to use such an account for a negotiable period of time by contacting David Lusk on david.lusk@chariot.net.au.

Players will be given details of user name and password. If you know these details beforehand, please check first in case someone else has been cleared to use that account.

ABF Youth Committee

The ABF Youth Committee has undergone some revision, effective from July 1st.

Dorothy Jesner has decided to concentrate her efforts on the Canberra scene, so her withdrawal has been accepted with regret. Dorothy's contribution to junior bridge in the ACT has been an inspiration to others on the committee and her insight into junior recruitment has and will continue to be invaluable.

Kylie Robb has served on the ABF Youth Committee since its current-form inception in 1999. As the voice of youth players on the committee, Kylie has given us all valuable input and has made significant contributions. Kylie's bridge and work commitments leave her with little time and she has made way for a new contributor.

Michael Wilkinson has joined the ABF Youth Committee. As a current junior, we look forward to the youth perspective that Michael can offer the ABFYC. Amongst other things, Michael is an assistant director at the Double Bay Bridge Centre and a successful junior player.

Considerations are in place to appoint a further member(s) to the ABF Youth Committee to conform to the working guideline of a five member committee.

Current Members

David Stern: stern@mail.com
Peter Gill: gillp@bigpond.com
David Lusk: david.lusk@chariot.net.au
Michael Wilkinson: swilkin2@bigpond.net

World Youth Teams Championships

The World Youth Teams Championships were concluded on August 15th. Results for teams in the round-robin and their VP totals were:-

USA 1	324	VPs
THAILAND	290	
DENMARK	282.5	
ISRAEL	282	

FOLLOWED BY:

China	275
Norway	271
Canada	270
Netherlands	270
Argentina	266
France	256.8
AUSTRALIA	256
Brazil	251.5
USA2	235.2
Egypt	223
Chinese Taipei	208
CAC	190
NZ	159

In the Finals, **USA 1** defeated **Israel** to take the title.

Paul Brayshaw and Nic Croft finished 5th in the Swiss Pairs.

Australia's average of just above 15VPs was no doubt a disappointment to the team. Losses to teams around them on the ladder (France, Argentina and Brazil) were costly and the Aussies were unable to impact on the top four teams, their best result being a 13-17 loss to the leaders, USA 1. On the plus side, wins against China (23-7), Netherlands and Canada were noteworthy results.

If you would like a copy of Peter Gill's Daily Updates from the event, please email Peter on gillp@bigpond.com.

We look forward to another lively report from Paul Brayshaw when he writes up this event for the December issue of this bulletin.