



# NEWSLETTER

## AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

Editor: Barbara Travis (editor@abf.com.au)

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### COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Broadbeach, February 2018

On Tuesday evening 13th February, prior to the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships (CNBC), the Gold Coast Bridge Club decided to host a friendly session to welcome the international visitors, whilst also giving their members the opportunity to meet and play bridge against players from around the world. The club was filled to capacity (36 tables), and we played 24 boards, cross-IMPed.

The evening was the brainchild of the President of the GCBC, Phillip Roberts, with the Club decorated in an Australian theme, and a post-bridge feast of Australian food. Included in the fare were kangaroo sliders, wattle seed dip, lamb sausages and mango pavlova. The volunteers did themselves proud, and gave up the opportunity for a game against the visitors in order to cater to everyone's needs – well done to Di Hodges, Cheryl Hensel, Melanie Mills, Lesley Sutherland (left to right).



As the Club said, "It's a spirit like this that sees bridge clubs prosper or dwindle. The best game in the world is also a game of manners and friendship, as well as fierce competition." Certainly, this 'invitational pairs' event demonstrated the importance of friendship; smiles and conversation abounded, especially over food and drink after the game.

The results:

- 1st Jaggy Shivdasani – Rajeshwar Tiwari (India)
- 2nd Marjorie Askew – William Powell
- 3rd Paul Hackett – Derek Patterson (England)
- 4th Sue Spurway – Krystyna Homik

#### Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships

By David Wiltshire

The 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships were held at the Gold Coast in February, with 36 teams from 10 countries. I played on Australia Gold, our "Open Team" (Phil Markey - Joe Haffer, Max Henbest - David Wiltshire, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer).

The field struggled with getting to the right contract on this hand from the qualifying, with most pairs playing in Spades at the 4, 5 or 6 level, depending on the partnership's optimism.

West	East
♠ 8 7 6	♠ A J 9 4 3
♥ J	♥ A K Q 7 4
♦ A K Q 8 5 2	♦ 10 4
♣ A 4 3	♣ 7

Max Henbest and I were the only pair to find the best spot of 6♦:

	1♠
2♦ (1)	2♥
2♠ (2)	4♣ (3)
4NT	5♥ (4)
6♦ (5)	Pass
(1)	2 over 1 Game Forcing
(2)	3 card spade support
(3)	Splinter
(4)	2 key cards, no ♠Q
(5)	Choice of slam

(continued Page 3)



INDIA A: Commonwealth Nations winners and gold medallists (left to right); Rajeshwar Tiwari, B. Satyanranayana (Satya), Keyzad Anklesaria, Sunit Chokshi, Kiran Nadar (captain), Jaggy Shivdasani

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**ARTICLES: 24TH MAY 2018**



*Australia Gold (Open Team), silver medallists in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships: Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, Phil Markey (captain) - Joe Haffer, David Wiltshire - Maxim Henbest*

After Henbest showed 2 key cards but no ♠Q, the spade slam was out of the question (missing a key card and the trump Queen). Some pairs play that a 6 level bid after RKCB as a grand slam try, asking for third round control. The alternative treatment, choice of contract, worked better here.

♠ K 7 4 2  
♥ K 10 3  
♦ A J 8  
♣ K Q 10

♠ A J 9  
♥ A J 6  
♦ K 10  
♣ A J 7 4 2

This board was played in 6NT at almost all the tables. With 11 top tricks (5 Clubs, and the A-K of the other three suits), any lead but a club will give South their twelfth trick. After a club lead (both opponents following), how should South play?

There are choices of finesses in three suits, but only the Spade finesse will guarantee the contract with an end play if it loses. Cash four rounds of clubs to strip that suit (pitching a heart from dummy), cross to the ♥K, and play a spade to the ♠J. If West wins, they will have to lead in to our hand in this position:

♠ K 7 4  
♥ 10  
♦ A J 8  
♣ --

♠ A 9  
♥ A J  
♦ K 10  
♣ 7

Any return will give declarer the extra trick.

In the semi finals, Australia Gold played Scotland White, whilst India A played the President's Team. Barnet Shenkin did well in this 3NT contract to gain 11 IMPs for Scotland.

♠ 4 3 2  
♥ K Q J 7  
♦ Q J 10 8  
♣ 8 5

♠ Q 10  
♥ 9 8 6 4 3  
♦ 6 4  
♣ Q J 7 3

♠ K 9 8 7 5  
♥ A 5  
♦ A 5 3  
♣ 10 9 2

♠ A J 6  
♥ 10 2  
♦ K 9 7 2  
♣ A K 6 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On opening lead, I chose the ♥6 rather than a spade, so that I would be able to capture declarer's ♠J by having partner lead spades first. A spade lead does give declarer an extra trick in spades but gains a tempo for the defence, with the defence coming to three spade tricks and two Aces before declarer can take 9 tricks.

After a heart lead ducked to the ♥10, and another heart to the ♥A, Henbest switched to a spade. Declarer reasoned, correctly, that the passive heart lead meant West had a high spade honour and, rather than playing the ♠J, Shenkin rose ♠A, blocking the spade suit. A diamond to the ♦Q and ♦A followed, and the defence could only cash one spade trick before letting declarer in to cash his 9 (10) winners.

At the other table North upgraded his hand to open a mini 1NT, "10-14 HCP". The opening spade lead through the South hand led to a quick two down. Despite that hand, Australia Gold prevailed over Scotland and met India A in the final.

After hearing this uncontested auction, what would you lead from West?

♠ 7 3 2  
♥ A Q 2  
♦ K 5 4 3  
♣ A K 7

North	South	
1♦	1♠	
2♠	2NT *	* Forcing
4♣ **	4♣	** Splinter, 4 card spades

Henbest knew there was only one club to cash, and that he would find partner with very few points, if any, so led a trump. The whole hand was:

♠ K Q J 10  
♥ 9 6 5  
♦ A Q 10 7 6  
♣ 6

♠ 7 3 2  
♥ A Q 2  
♦ K 5 4 3  
♣ A K 7

♠ 9 4  
♥ 10 8 7 4  
♦ 9 2  
♣ 10 8 5 4 2

♠ A 8 6 5  
♥ K J 3  
♦ J 8  
♣ Q J 9 3

Double dummy declarer can still get home but, totally reasonably, they chose to lead hearts twice towards the King-Jack and when the Ace and Queen were offside they were down. In the other room on a less informative auction (there was no club splinter), Gumby received the ♣A lead. Even then careful play was required in order to make.

She won the trump shift in dummy and played another trump, overtaking with the Ace. The ♦J was finessed, followed by another diamond to the ♦Q. The last trump was drawn and then ♦A and another diamond were played, with Gumby pitching a heart and then a club, allowing West to win, but the forced heart or club return set up the tenth trick. West tried the ♠K, hoping partner had the Queen, but Gumby ruffed and with her preserved trump had an entry to cash the club winner.

In the final, India A were the stronger team, making fewer mistakes in the final and were deserving winners.

David Wiltshire

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**ABF NON-TARGET EVENT SELECTION**

From the ABF website:

**ABF Team Selection Policy for Non-Target Events**

*“ . . . this policy defines the method of team selection for these secondary events . . . For events where Pairs based Selection Trials were used for the most recent Selection Trials, the following prioritisation methodology will be adopted for:*

- a) Open Team invitations: i) The first three placed pairs from the Open Selection Trials will be offered the right to form a team. ii) Should one or more of the first three placed pairs decline, places will be offered to pairs in sequential order up to the 12th placed pair. If only 2 pairs accept the invitation, then ABF augmentation rules will apply if a team of 3 pairs is required;*
- b) Women Team invitations: i) As per the Open Team except that the Women's Selection Trials will be used;*
- c) Seniors Team invitations: i) As per the Open Team except that the Seniors' Selection Trials will be used;”*

In February, on the ABF website, the teams for the Asia Cup in Goa, India, in June were announced. For the Open Team, invitations were given, according to policy, to the pairs who placed first, second and third in the Open Playoff. For the Women's Team, invitations were given, according to policy, to the pairs who placed fourth, sixth and seventh in the Women's Playoff, after the invitations were declined by the pairs who came first, second, third and fifth. For the Seniors' Team, invitations were given, according to policy, to the pairs who came third and fifth in the Seniors' Playoff, after the invitations were declined by the pairs who came first, second and fourth. For the Seniors' Team, contrary to policy, no invitations were issued to the pairs who came sixth or lower in the Seniors' Playoff. The ABF Management Committee, contrary to policy, appointed a third pair to the Seniors' Team, a pair that had not competed in the Seniors' Playoff.

*Ron Klinger*

*The ABF Management Committee has provided a response to Ron's letter:*

Ron's letter raises some important issues which deserve a full response.

As background, it should be noted that Bangladesh, the original location of the Asia Cup, presented an unacceptable travel risk for players. The ABF received official notice on December 11th, 2018 (just after the Playoffs finished), that the Asia Cup would be relocated to Goa, India, and for reasons to do with inclusion of bridge in the Asian (Olympic) Games later this year, would only include Men's, Women's Mixed and "Super-Mixed" categories, not Seniors or Youth. We only received notice in January that Seniors would also be included.

As Ron indicates, the ABF does have a selection policy for non-target events. The policy was developed in 2017 to provide selectors with a guideline for use when the ABF received invitations to attend events which were not designated as target events for any particular playoff cycle.

However, the policy implicitly assumes that such invitations will be for Open, Women's, Senior or Youth events – those for which we run annual Playoffs. As a result, the ABF Management Committee (excluding Bruce Neill & Kim Frazer who recused themselves to avoid any possible conflict of interest), felt that the policy did not provide satisfactory guidance about which Asia Cup categories to support or how

to select teams. In effect, we needed to find a way to fit square pegs into round holes!

After consultation with the Tournament Committee, the MC agreed to form three subsidised teams – Men's, Women's and Seniors' – and to invite expressions of interest from players interested in forming self-funded Mixed or Super-Mixed teams.

Since the ABF does not conduct Men's playoffs the MC used the results of the ABF Open, Women's and Senior Playoffs as a guide. This was clearly not a perfect fit. In particular, the pair placed fifth in the Open Playoffs were a mixed partnership and so not eligible for a Men's team, but they were eligible as Seniors. However, the MC invited the men's pairs finishing in positions 1-4 in the Open Playoffs to form a Men's team, and likewise invited pairs 1-5 in the Women's and Senior Playoffs to form Women's and Senior teams.

After receiving only 2 acceptances for the Senior Team, the MC made a decision to offer the 5th Open pair a place in the Seniors' team. Had there been a women's pair which had contested the Open playoff and which had finished in the same or similar circumstances, the selection panel could have offered a place in the women's field to that pair, but since that did not occur, the offer was extended to lower places in the Women's Playoff. It is noted that the Senior pair in question is one of Australia's best performed pairs in recent years, and that other Senior pairs had an opportunity to form a second, self-funded team and none chose to do so.

In this unprecedented situation, the MC regards the approach it adopted as a reasonable and pragmatic decision, taking all of the circumstances into account and will not be revisiting that decision. However, we acknowledge that some stakeholders disagree strongly, and the MC undertakes to perform a full review of its selection policy in consultation with the Tournament Committee and interested players, to make it as clear, comprehensive and unambiguous as possible for the future, while recognising the need to allow for unforeseen situations.

*Ed: Since the pairs placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Open Playoff were 'men's pairs' and accepted their invitations, personally I cannot see the relevance of considering the pairs who finished 4th and 5th (or lower) in the Open Playoff for "other" teams.*

*The Women's Team for Goa comprises the pairs who finished 4th, 6th and 7th in the Playoffs. It seems unusual then that the ABF only invited the top five pairs from the Seniors' Playoffs. The 6th placed pair were Robert Krochmalik and Paul Lavings who certainly have plenty of experience.*



*9 year old Yasmine playing bridge with her mother, Therese Brockhurst (Gold Coast Congress)*

## THE 4-1 FIT

Reading about the 3-3 fit hand in the November Newsletter brought to mind an extraordinary hand that was played in the Barrier Reef Teams in Mackay in 2010:

Dealer South ♠ A 7 3  
 Nil Vul ♥ A  
 ♦ A K J 6  
 ♣ Q 6 5 4 2

♠ K 10 8 6 5 4 2  
 ♥ J 10 8  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ 9 3

♠ Q J  
 ♥ 9 7 6 4 2  
 ♦ 8 5 4  
 ♣ A J 8

♠ 9  
 ♥ K Q 5 3  
 ♦ Q 9 7 3 2  
 ♣ K 10 7

West Boardman	North Stubbs	East Beauchamp	South Bowden
3♠	Double	Pass	4♥
All Pass			Pass

Kathy Boardman led a spade to the ♠A. Declarer cashed the ♥A, ruffed a spade and played the ♥K and ♥Q. Thereafter, East could only make his two trumps and the ♣A. (Elsie Stubbs and Bruce Bowden are a Townsville pair.)

Personally, I would have got more satisfaction from making 4♥ in the 4-1 fit than from making 6♦ in the 5-4 fit, even at the cost of 11 IMPs.

*John Brockwell, Canberra*

*This hand reflects the need to make practical bids, especially over 3-level pre-empts. I would have bid 3NT as North, but then we would have no story! Ed.*

*And then we have...*

## THE MICRO MOYSIAN

Following the articles in the November edition on "no name" Moysian (3-3) and Sub-Moysian (4-2) fits, how about the Micro-Moysian (3-1) fit?

The hand below from the Men's Pairs at North Shore Bridge Club Willoughby on 25th January was opened by West with 2♣, followed by a negative 2♦ from East. This was doubled by South and redoubled by West. After some deliberation by East and South, this was passed out.

♠ 10 7 5 2  
 ♥ J 10 8  
 ♦ 10 9 5  
 ♣ Q 10 7

♠ A J  
 ♥ A K 9 4  
 ♦ A 8 2  
 ♣ A K 5 3

♠ Q 9 6 4 3  
 ♥ Q 6 3  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ 9 8 6 4

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

The ♦K was led and East quickly wrapped up 8 tricks (2 spades with the finesse, 3 hearts, 2 clubs, 1 diamonds) for a stone-cold top, 560 beating all other (not vulnerable) game scores!!

*Peter Robinson, North Shore BC*

## LACKING APPEAL

The time has come for the ABF to do away with appeals at national events, and State associations could follow suit. The World Bridge Federation has scrapped appeals at world championships. Instead, on matters of bridge judgment, the directors are required to consult a significant number of top players for their opinion and then make their ruling based on that.

In the past, panellists on Appeals Committee have been known to have a pecuniary interest in the outcome, panellists may have had personal conflicts with players involved in the appeal, panellists may not have had sufficient top-level bridge experience and other conflicts of interest can arise.

Many players have little confidence in the rulings of Appeals Committees. An example from a national event a while ago will not lift their level of satisfaction. In a Swiss Teams event with two rounds remaining, Team A was leading Team B by a narrow margin.

An appeal involving Team B was heard by a panel, which included a member of Team A. It was clearly in the interests of Team A that the ruling go against Team B. The Team A player should have voluntarily left the panel, given the clear conflict of interest. Obviously Team B should have objected to that player being on the panel but presumably did not do so. The Appeals Co-ordinator should have been aware of this and not nominated the panellist in the first place, or on learning of the issue should have removed that panellist. Regardless of the merits of the appeal (Team B lost 4+ VPs and dropped from 2nd to 5th place), the ruling was clearly tainted. What sort of organisation do we have where a member of a team that is leading can sit on an appeal involving the team that is coming second? Justice must not only be done, but be seen to have been done.

The following is suggested:

(a) The Appeals Co-ordinator should have been aware of the conflict of interest. Appeals Co-ordinators should be reminded of the potential for such conflicts and the necessity to avoid them by checking the positions in the field of any potential panellists. In the actual case, there were plenty of available competent and experienced panellists who could have sat on the appeal without any conflict of interest.

(b) The position of Appeals Co-ordinator should be eliminated. Appeals should be scrapped completely and, on matters of bridge judgment, directors should be required to seek the opinion of top players (who have no vested interest in the ruling) and then rule according to the majority of those opinions. It is good to see that Directors at the Gold Coast Congress are already doing that and full marks to them. Such rulings, by directors only, will not be stigmatised by conflict of interest.

*Ron Klinger  
 Matthew Mullamphy*

The WBF has recently announced that from 2019, a Mixed Teams Championship will be added, alongside the Open (Bermuda Bowl), Women's (Venice Cup) and Seniors (d'Orsi Trophy) at the World Bridge Teams Championships.

I do hope that the ABF holds a proper selection event, as expected by the WBF. I thought that the method used in 2016 was far from satisfactory.

*Barbara Travis, Editor*

# MAJOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

### NATIONAL YOUTH TEAMS

- 1st HENBEST: Max Henbest - Lucy Henbest - Nathan Mill  
- Justin Mill - Peter Hollands - Laura Ginnan
- 2nd RANSON: Nico Ranson - John McMahan  
Renee Cooper - Francesca McGrath
- 3rd GOSNEY: Paul Gosney - John Newman  
Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson

### NATIONAL YOUTH PAIRS

- 1st Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson
- 2nd Renee Cooper - Stephen Williams
- 3rd Francesca McGrath - Max Henbest

### AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION

Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson  
Andrew Spooner - Tomer Libman

### PLAYOFF (winners join the Australian Junior Team)

- Renee Cooper - Francesca McGrath 112  
*defeated*
- John McMahan - Nico Ranson 97.9

### YOUTH TEST

- AUSTRALIA 94  
Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson  
Andrew Spooner - Tomer Libman  
*defeated*
- NEW ZEALAND 34  
Matt Brown - Andi Boughey  
Zac Yan - Vincent He  
Jacob Kalma - Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin

## SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

### PENLINE ONE-DAY SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Jeanette & Denis Grahame
- 2nd David Farmer - Catherine Whiddon

### NATIONAL SUPER NOVICE PAIRS

- 1st Leonie Antill - Andrew Laurich
- 2nd B Rewers - Keith Pittaway

### 20-50 MPs RISING STARS PAIRS

- 1st Claire Hughes - Cathy Bywater
- 2nd Peter Boyland - Joy Stone

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS

#### QUALIFYING

- 1st BOURKE: Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk  
Jodi Tutty - Jessica Brake
- 2nd MUNDELL: Giselle Mundell - Avril Zets  
Helene Pitt - Ruth Tobin
- 3rd KAPLAN: Rena Kaplan - Anita Curtis  
Pauline Evans, Judy Osie, Viv Wood - Jane Reynolds
- 4th CHADWICK: Marilyn Chadwick - Toni Sharp  
Helen Lowry - Berri Folkard

#### SEMI FINALS

- |         |       |                 |          |     |
|---------|-------|-----------------|----------|-----|
| BOURKE  | 126.1 | <i>defeated</i> | CHADWICK | 64  |
| MUNDELL | 135.1 | <i>defeated</i> | KAPLAN   | 132 |

#### FINAL

- |        |       |                 |         |     |
|--------|-------|-----------------|---------|-----|
| BOURKE | 150.1 | <i>defeated</i> | MUNDELL | 128 |
|--------|-------|-----------------|---------|-----|

### NATIONAL SENIORS' TEAMS

#### QUALIFYING

- 1st KOZAKOS: George Kozakos - Ian Robinson  
David Anderson - George Smolanko
- 2nd KANETKAR: Avi Kanetkar - Bruce Neill  
Pauline Gumbly - Warren Lazer  
Arjuna Delivera - Andy Braithwaite
- 3rd FREE: Jonathan Free - Ron Klinger  
Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings  
Kim Morrison - Paul Wyer
- 4th DELUCA: Attilio Deluca - David Lusk  
Russel Harms - Peter Chan

#### SEMI FINALS

- |        |     |                 |          |       |
|--------|-----|-----------------|----------|-------|
| DELUCA | 152 | <i>defeated</i> | KOZAKOS  | 126.1 |
| FREE   | 145 | <i>defeated</i> | KANETKAR | 124.1 |

#### FINAL

- |      |       |                 |        |     |
|------|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|
| FREE | 182.1 | <i>defeated</i> | DELUCA | 144 |
|------|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|

### NATIONAL RED PLUM LIFE MASTERS TEAMS

- 1st SHEEDY: Terence Sheedy - Keith Blinco  
Eric Baker - Chris Stead
- 2nd DALZIELL: Ian Dalziell - Trever Berenger  
Terry Heming - John Donovan

### NATIONAL PIANOLA PLUS NON-LIFE MASTER and NOVICE TEAMS

#### NON-LIFE MASTER TEAMS

- 1st SOLDI: Lynne & Ken Soldi  
Philip Barker - Dave Gallagher
- 2nd SYLVESTER: Liz Sylvester - Lori Smith  
Gary Kembrey - Andrew Gob Grace

#### NOVICE TEAMS

- 1st BORTHWICK: Marieta Borthwick - Annegrete Kolding  
Louise & Michael Brassil
- 2nd ROOKE: Sandie Rooke - Susan Jensen  
Heidi Collenbrander - Ray Hurst

### NATIONAL RISING STARS TEAMS

- 1st COLLING: Mary & Steve Colling  
Barbara & Roger Love
- 2nd MCCORRISTON: Jeanette McCorriston - Annabelle  
Boag, Miklas Tifan - Gerdina Bryant

### SUPER NOVICE SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Lorna O'Leary - Sue Bochan
- 2nd Jann White - Sue Stacey

### CHRIS DIMENT MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Paul Dalley - Ashley Bach
- 2nd Martin Doran - Michael Polowan
- 3rd Joan Butts - GeO Tislevoll

### NATIONAL SUPER NOVICE TEAMS

- 1st YOUNG: Jane & Lilian Young  
Jann White - Sue Stacey

### TBIB NATIONAL OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Craig Gower - Alon Apteker
- 2nd Sophie Ashton - David Wiltshire
- 3rd Therese Tully - Richard Ward

## PENLINE 500 SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Alex Penklis - Rob Ward  
2nd Lisa Yoffa - James Thomas  
3rd Julia Zhu - Tony Jiang

## NOVICE SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Kit Meyers - Kerry Rymer  
2nd Marieta Borthwick - Annegrete Kolding  
3rd Anne & Bob Ternes

## CANBERRA REX UNDER 750/300 TEAMS

### QUALIFYING

- 1st ZUBER (U300): George Zuber - John Kelly  
Joy Bryant - Hilary Merritt, Geoff Hayes (sub)  
2nd COCKBILL (U750): Penny Cockbill - Gillian Richmond  
Patricia & Noreen Armstrong

### UNDER 750 FINAL

ZUBER *defeated* COCKBILL

### UNDER 300 FINAL

- PENKLIS: Alex Penklis - Rob Ward  
Phillip Halloran - Jacky Gruszka  
*defeated*  
YEATS: Jennifer & Brett Yeats  
Julia Zhu - Tony Jiang

## SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC / NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

### QUALIFYING

- 1st KANETKAR: Avi Kanetkar - Bruce Neill  
Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer  
Arjuna de Livera - Andy Braithwaite  
2nd CORNELL: Michael Cornell - Ashley Bach  
Michael Whibley - Matthew Brown  
David Beauchamp - Tony Leibowitz  
3rd APPLETON: David Appleton - Peter Reynolds  
Phil Markey - Joe Haffer,  
Justin Williams - Khokan Bagchi  
4th DALLEY: Paul Dalley - Ishmael Del'Monte  
Ella Pattison - Shane Harrison  
5th TRAVIS: Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg -  
Gareth Hyett - Bill Hirst - Alan Watson  
6th COURTNEY: Michael Courtney - Paul Wyrer  
Craig Gower - Alon Apteker  
7th BUTTS: Joan Butts - GeO Tislevoll  
Martin Doran - Michael Polowan  
8th GIURA: Nicoleta Giura - Nick Hughes  
Viv Wood - Jane Reynolds

### QUARTER FINALS

KANETKAR	138.1	<i>defeated</i>	GIURA	49
CORNELL	193.1	<i>defeated</i>	TRAVIS	138
APPLETON	107.1	<i>defeated</i>	BUTTS	99
COURTNEY	172	<i>defeated</i>	DALLEY	109.1

### SEMI FINALS

KANETKAR	200.1	<i>defeated</i>	COURTNEY	131
CORNELL	204.1	<i>defeated</i>	APPLETON	119

### FINAL

CORNELL	119	<i>defeated</i>	KANETKAR	89.1
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## NEURA TWO-DAY SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Ruth Neild - Colin Bale  
2nd Julia Zhu - Tony Jiang  
3rd Cathy Nichols - John Niven

## TWO MEN & A TRUCK PAIRS

### NORTH-SOUTH

- 1st Ross Crichton - Graham Wakefield  
2nd Brian Mace - Tom Jacob

### EAST-WEST

- 1st Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill  
2nd Steve Baron - Wayne Burrows

## COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE

### GOLD COAST INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL PAIRS

- 1st Jaggy Shivdasani - Rajeshwar Tiwari  
2nd Marjorie Askew - Bill Powell (best local pair)  
3rd Paul Hackett - Derek Patterson

## COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### QUALIFYING

- 1st PRESIDENT'S TEAM  
2nd AUSTRALIA SENIORS (non-representative)  
3rd AUSTRALIA GOLD  
4th SCOTLAND WHITE  
5th LEIBOWITZ (non-representative)  
6th INDIA A  
7th TASMANIA (non-representative)  
8th ENGLAND A

### QUARTER FINALS

AUSTRALIA GOLD	<i>def</i>	TASMANIA	86 - 55
SCOTLAND WHITE	<i>def</i>	ENGLAND A	91 - 81
INDIA A	<i>def</i>	LEIBOWITZ	112 - 75
PRESIDENT'S TEAM	<i>def</i>	AUST. SENIORS	109 - 59

### SEMI FINALS

AUSTRALIA GOLD	<i>def</i>	SCOTLAND WHITE	99 - 49
INDIA A	<i>def</i>	PRESIDENT'S TEAM	157 - 62

### FINAL

INDIA A	<i>def</i>	AUSTRALIA GOLD	
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### GOLD MEDAL

**INDIA A:** Kiran Nadar - B. Satayranayana, Sunit Chokshi - Keysad Anklesaria, Jaggy Shivdasani - Rajeshwar Tewari

### SILVER MEDAL

**AUSTRALIA GOLD:** Phil Markey - Joe Haffer, Max Henbest - David Wiltshire, Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

### BRONZE MEDAL

**SCOTLAND WHITE:** Iain Sime - John Murdoch, Derek Diamond - Victor Silverstone, Barnet Shenkin - Gerald Haase

## TASMANIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

### RESTRICTED PAIRS

- 1st Sue Martin - Haj Skilton  
2nd Tamara Cutcliffe - David Clarkson  
3rd Christine & Bob Harkness

### ROGER PENNY SENIOR SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer  
2nd Nigel Rosendorff - George Smolanko  
3rd David Chung - Nick Hardy

### THE ISLAND MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Sue Ingham - Michael Courtney  
2nd Marlene Watts - Michael Prescott

### TBIB AUSTRALIAN SWISS PAIRS

- 1st Elizabeth Havas - Neil Ewart  
2nd George Kozakos - Ian Robinson  
3rd Geoffrey Johnson - Rakesh Kumar

## GOLD COAST CONGRESS

### BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS

#### OPEN PAIRS

##### FINAL A

1st Matthew Brown - John Newman  
2nd Ross Harper - Michael Rosenberg  
3rd Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty

**FINAL B** JoAnn & Danny Sprung

**FINAL C** Zoli Nagy - David Middleton

**FINAL D** Herve Cheval - Gilles Josnin

**FINAL E** Karen McCallum - Victor King

**FINAL F** Marlene Watts - Michael Prescott

**FINAL G** Ewa Kowalczyk - Gheorghii Belonogoff

#### SENIORS' PAIRS

##### FINAL A

1st Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk  
2nd Robert Krochmalik - Paul Lavings

**FINAL B** Elizabeth Havas - Ron Cooper

#### INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

##### FINAL A

1st Mandy & David Johnson  
2nd Jan & Peter Randall

**FINAL B** Yolande Coroneo - Jacqui Fardoulis

**FINAL C** Lyn Mould - Erica Tie

**FINAL D** Ros Levin - Sue Finger

**FINAL E** Margaret Owen - Robin Devries

#### RESTRICTED PAIRS

##### FINAL A

1st Jody & Barry Whale  
2nd Hans Van Weeren - Peter Clarke

**FINAL B** Suzanne Cole - Delores Graves

**FINAL C** Vincia & Giles Martin

**FINAL D** Jolene Zink - Susan Brown

**FINAL E** Jane O'Brien - Chris Hagen

#### NOVICE PAIRS

##### FINAL A

1st Anita DeLorenzo - Liz Shonk  
2nd Camilla Gilder - Rose Price

**FINAL B** Lena & Dudley Darlington

**FINAL C** Lynn Kelly - Marie Buckley

**FINAL D** Peter Muller - Glenys Tipler

#### WEEKEND MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS OPEN

1st Justin Mill - Liam Milne  
2nd Avi Kanetkar - Bruce Neill  
3rd John Carruthers - Joey Silver

#### WEEKEND MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS 0-500 MPs

1st Judy Scholfield - Rod Binsted  
2nd Paul Carson - Bill Humphrey  
3rd Colin Payne - Robert Stick

#### MONDAY BUTLER SWISS PAIRS OPEN

1st Ron Klinger - Matt Mullamphy  
2nd Craig Gower - Di Rosslee  
3rd Helena Dawson - Richard Douglas

#### MONDAY BUTLER SWISS PAIRS 0-500 MPS

1st Dianne & Eddie Mullin  
2nd Linda Norman - Wendy Gibson  
3rd Denise Strain - Bob Stewart

## GOLD COAST TEAMS

### OPEN TEAMS

#### ROUND OF 4

HIRST: Gareth Hyett - Steve Eginton (UK), Bill Hirst (UK) - Phil Gue, Julian Foster - David Weston *defeated*

BOUTON: Vicki Bouton - Stephen Williams - Fraser Rew - Jessica Brake - Brad Johnston

BUCHEN: Michael Yuen - Nick Stock (Canada), Peter Buchen - Ian Thomson *defeated*

HACKETT: Paul Hackett - Jason Hackett - Justin Hackett - Roger O'Shea - John Sansom - Derek Patterson (UK)

#### SEMI-FINALS

HINDEN: Frances Hinden - Graham Osborne (UK), Renee Cooper - Kieran Dyke *defeated*

#### HIRST

BUCHEN *defeated*

THORPE: Katie Thorpe (NPC), John Carruthers - Joey Silver, Judith & Nick Gartaganis (all Canada), Matt Mullamphy - Ron Klinger

#### FINAL

HINDEN *defeated* BUCHEN

### SENIORS' TEAMS

1st NAGY: Zoli Nagy - David Middleton, Neil Ewart - David Smith *defeated*

2nd BRIGHTLING: Richard Brightling - David Hoffman, Robert Krockmalik - Paul Lavings

### INTERMEDIATE TEAMS

1st LOHMANN: Adrian Lohmann - Don Cameron, Jan & Peter Randall *defeated*

2nd HAJMASI: Kinga Hajmasi - Andrew Michi, Jody & Barry Whale

### RESTRICTED TEAMS

1st VAN WEEREN: Hans van Weeren - Peter Clarke, Jeff Conroy - Jill Blenkley *defeated*

2nd WALSH: Nick Walsh - Derek Poulton, Lisa Yoffa - James Thomas

### NOVICE TEAMS

= 1st DELORENZO: Anita DeLorenzo - Liz Shonk, Elizabeth Voveris - Johanna Thomas

= 1st MCAULIFFE: Diana McAuliffe - Paul Barnett, Martin Coote - James Harvey

### SERES-MCMAHON MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

1st David Appleton - Stephen Fischer  
2nd Tom Kiss - Alasdair Beck

### OPEN BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

#### NORTH-SOUTH

1st Mike Doecke - Will Jenner-O'Shea  
2nd John Sansom - Jason Hackett

#### EAST-WEST

1st Sue Ingham - Michael Courtney  
2nd Noriko Domichi - Subhash Gupta

### INTERMEDIATE BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

#### NORTH-SOUTH

1st Diane Nichols - Elizabeth Lawrence  
2nd John Stacey - Kevin Petrie

#### EAST-WEST

1st Ingrid Cooke - Bill Bradshaw  
2nd Anthea Gedge - Catherine Ng

## WINNING THE NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

by Matthew Brown

2018 started off with a bang as the Summer Festival of Bridge took place at the Canberra Rex Hotel. 122 teams took part in the South-West Pacific Teams Championship, and although this number was down in comparison to recent years, the field was no less deadly. We were to be team CORNELL (Michael Cornell – Ashley Bach, David Beauchamp – Tony Leibowitz, Matthew Brown – Michael Whibley), the same team that we had last year where we lost to Lavazza in the semi-finals. Our game plan was simple; qualify comfortably and don't get knocked out again. We had one big loss (to DOECKE) en route to the final.

First in to bat for our team was Cornell – Bach and Whibley – Brown, hoping to deal some early damage to KANETKAR (Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, Andrew Braithwaite – Arjuna de Livera, with Bruce Neill – Avi Kanetkar sitting out this set).

We were 21 IMPs up when board 4 hit the table:

Dealer West     ♠ Q 9 3 All Vul            ♥ K 5 ♦ 10 6 ♣ Q 9 7 5 3 2  ♠ A 10 7 2            ♠ 6 5 4 ♥ A Q J 2             ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ 9 7                    ♦ A K Q J 8 5 ♣ A K J                ♣ 4  ♠ K J 8 ♥ 10 9 7 3 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ 10 8 6	
--	--

It was a case of how high to bid with the East hand when partner opened 1♣ and rebid 2NT showing 18-19 HCP, balanced. I chose to take the relatively low road, showing a slam invitational hand with long diamonds. With poor support for diamonds Whibley chose to pass my 3NT bid and, when Gumby as North lead a club away from the Queen, Whibley was not hard-pressed to take 12 tricks. At the other table, de Livera effectively forced to slam and, when the heart finesse failed and they broke 4-2, he was down to the club finesse. 6♦ failed; another (lucky) 13 IMPs to our team.

In the second stanza we sent in Beauchamp – Leibowitz to play Neill – Kanetkar, and Whibley and I played Braithwaite – de Livera. The set started off with a bang, with this being the second board:

Board 18 Dealer East        ♠ A K 10 9 NS Vul             ♥ 9 2 ♦ void ♣ A K J 9 7 6 3  ♠ 6 2                    ♠ Q J 8 5 4 3 ♥ K Q 5                ♥ J 8 4 ♦ K 9 8 7 6 3        ♦ J 10 5 ♣ 5 4                    ♣ Q  ♠ 7 ♥ A 10 7 6 3 ♦ A Q 4 2 ♣ 10 8 2	
---	--

At Beauchamp – Leibowitz's table, East opened 2♠ and West upped the pre-empt with 3♣. Beauchamp leapt to 5♣ and Leibowitz elected to pass, giving partner some leeway for his bid - usually a good idea - but today it was not so good, as Beauchamp made all 13 tricks with relative ease for +640.

I opened East 3♠, in line with our aggressive philosophy of putting pressure on the opponents when we are not vulnerable and they are. De Livera found a tough (light) double of 3♠, and now the question seemed to be how many clubs Braithwaite, as North, would bid. However, fearing spade over-ruffs or two quick heart losers, Braithwaite passed, hoping to take the money. They defended accurately to score their 3 outside tricks and all 4 of Braithwaite's spades for +500, but this was not sufficient and we gained 4 IMPs from what looked like a very losing position. The remaining 14 boards were extremely quiet, with the biggest swing being 6 IMPs, and we managed to win 21-18 to be leading 79-43 at the halfway mark.

Leading by 27 IMPs, the first board caused us trouble:

Board 49 Dealer North      ♠ K 9 7 Nil Vul             ♥ A Q J 6 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ A K 4  ♠ 6                    ♠ A Q 8 5 3 ♥ 10 7 5 4 3        ♥ 8 2 ♦ K Q J 5            ♦ 10 3 ♣ 10 3 2             ♣ Q 7 6 5  ♠ J 10 4 2 ♥ K 9 ♦ A 8 6 2 ♣ J 9 8	
---	--



*Winners of the National Open Teams: (left to right)  
David Beauchamp, Michael Whibley, Tony Leibowitz, Michael Cornell, Matthew Brown, Ashley Bach*

At our table Lazer declared 3NT by South, after I had poked in a 1♠ overall. When Whibley led and continued diamonds, Lazer could safely set up 2 spade tricks to go with his 1 diamond, 4 hearts and 2 clubs for 9 tricks and +400.

At the other table, Cornell declared 3NT from the North hand (with no spade overall) on the lead of a low club. When he guessed to play the ♣8 and Kanetkar covered with the ♣10, Cornell was in trouble. He crossed to dummy with the ♥K to lead the ♠J, which ran to the ♠Q. Neill switched to ♦10, ducked, but correctly overtaken by Kanetkar to play another club through. Now the defence had 2 club tricks, 2 spades and 1 diamond for +50 and 10 IMPs to Kanetkar.

We struggled through more quiet boards until board 23:

Dealer South ♠ J 7 6  
 All Vul ♥ A  
 ♦ 10 9 4  
 ♣ A J 6 4 3 2

♠ K 8 4                      ♠ A 9 5 3  
 ♥ Q J 9 5 4 3 2            ♥ K 10 7 6  
 ♦ Q                              ♦ J 8 7 6  
 ♣ 10 8                         ♣ 5

♠ Q 10 2  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ A K 5 3 2  
 ♣ K Q 9 7

Both Lazer and Bach opened the South hand 1♦, and Whibley and Kanetkar both pre-empted with 3♥ as West. Here is where the paths diverged.

At our table, Gumby, North, bid 4♣ and I competed with 4♥. When Lazer bid 5♣ and this was passed back around to me,

I had a choice of whether or not to sacrifice. Opposite a typical (vulnerable) 3♥ pre-empt of A-Q-J-x-x-x and nothing else, we would hopefully take seven heart tricks, the ♠A and one or two club ruffs for -200 or -500. This was good enough for me, and so I bid 5♥ which was doubled. When the defence did not attack spades immediately, Whibley was able to set up a diamond for a spade discard and we went -1 for -200.

At the other table Cornell chose to double 3♥. When Neill followed with 4♥ and Bach doubled that, Cornell pulled to 5♣. Neill saw less reason to sacrifice over this as the auction sounded less confident, and so Cornell was left to play there. Cornell received a heart lead and could win, draw trumps and play the ♦A, noting the fall of the Queen. He switched to spades now and, when Kanetkar followed three rounds of spades, Cornell could count Kanetkar's entire shape. Thus, the diamond finesse was now almost a certainty, and he duly racked up +600 and 9 IMPs. The rest of the set went quietly, and we won the final stanza 26-23 to win 119-89 IMPs.

This was the first win for Leibowitz (who came 2nd in 2009), Whibley (who came 2nd in both 2010 and 2011) and me. My thanks go to the organisers and directors, and of course to my partner and teammates who all played superbly throughout.

*Matthew Brown*



*Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President of the WBF, attended the CNBC and I hope to have Liam Milne's interview available in June.*

## THE NATIONAL SENIORS' TEAMS

*by Ron Klinger*

At the end of the qualifying stage (9 x 20-board matches), the leaders were:

1. KOZAKOS (George Kozakos – Ian Robinson, David Anderson – George Smolanko) on 125.66 Victory Points
2. KANETKAR (Avi Kanetkar – Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna De Livera) on 122.84
3. FREE (Jon Free – Ron Klinger, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings, Kim Morrison – Paul Wyrer) on 114.84
4. DE LUCA (Peter Chan – Russel Harms, Attilio De Luca – David Lusk) on 112.42.

For the semi-finals, KOZAKOS chose DE LUCA, so KANETKAR played FREE.

Board 2

Dealer East ♠ 10 4  
 NS Vul ♥ K J 5 2  
 ♦ 10 9 8 7  
 ♣ Q 8 4

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

♠ void  
 ♥ A 10 7 6 4  
 ♦ A K J 5  
 ♣ 10 7 5 3

KOZAKOS vs DE LUCA

As you can see, despite East-West having only 22 HCP, 6♠ is unbeatable. Only De Luca – Lusk reached 6♠. Their auction:

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Smolanko	De Luca	Anderson
		1NT (1)	2♥ (2)
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦ (3)	Double (4)
6♠	All Pass		

- (1) 11-14 HCP
- (2) Hearts and a minor
- (3) 1 key card
- (4) Asking for a diamond lead

Had East's one key card been the ♥A, the slam would not have been a happy one. As it was, the ♠A, declarer had an easy road to 12 tricks and +980.

At the other table, Kozakos (East) passed, Chan (South) opened 1♥ and Robinson (West) bid 4♣, passed out. He scored 480, and lost 11 IMPs.

DE LUCA won the first 16-board segment by 61 IMPs to 22, while FREE led KANETKAR by 37-28. DE LUCA won Session 2 by 49-13 and led KOZAKOS by 110-35 at halfway. In the other semi-final, FREE won Session 2 by 44-26 and led KANETKAR 81-54.

What would you do as North with:

♠ Q 6 4 2  
 ♥ 6 2  
 ♦ Q 8 6 2  
 ♣ Q 6 4

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	?		

Board 36  
 Dealer North ♠ Q 6 4 2  
 Both Vul ♥ 6 2  
 ♦ Q 8 6 2  
 ♣ Q 6 4

♠ 10 9 7 5 3      ♠ K J 8  
 ♥ A J 10 3      ♥ Q  
 ♦ K 10 7      ♦ A 9 5 4 3  
 ♣ 10      ♣ J 9 8 7

♠ A  
 ♥ K 9 8 7 5 4  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ A K 5 3 2

After the auction above, Paul Lavings (North) passed 2♣. How sensible. You should give false preference to 2♥ only if there is some prospect for game (i.e., usually if you have 8-9 HCP). There is a strong case for passing 2♣, whether forcing or not.

In 2♣, Robert Krochmalik, South, received the ♣10 lead - Queen - Jack - 2. He played a heart to the ♥K and ♥A, won the spade switch and returned the ♥4. West took the ♥J and continued spades. South ruffed and played ♥5 - ♥10 - ♣4 - ♣7. He lost a diamond and another club, but had eight tricks, +90.

At the other table, Arjuna De Livera and Andy Braithwaite bid to 3♣ but declarer lost control of the hand on a diamond lead, ending down three, -300, for a 9 IMP loss.

DE LUCA defeated KOZAKOS by 152 IMPs to 126.1 and FREE defeated KANETKAR by 145-124.1.

### THE FINAL

FREE won Session 1 by 60 IMPs to 22. DE LUCA won Session 2 by 45-35 and trailed FREE by 67-95 at halfway.

Partner passes and RHO opens 3NT (long solid minor, no outside Ace or King). You are vulnerable versus not vulnerable, and next to speak. What do you do with:

♠ 6 5   ♥ A K Q J 10   ♦ J 8 5   ♣ 9 8 2

Board 38  
 Dealer West ♠ J 8  
 East-West Vul ♥ 8 6  
 ♦ A K Q 10 7 4 2  
 ♣ 7 6

♠ Q 9 7 4      ♠ 6 5  
 ♥ 9 5 2      ♥ A K Q J 10  
 ♦ 6 3      ♦ J 8 5  
 ♣ K Q 5 4      ♣ 9 8 2

♠ A K 10 3 2  
 ♥ 7 4 3  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣ A J 10 3

The best move is to pass 3NT. Since partner is a passed hand, it is unlikely that your side has a game available. In the Seniors' Final, 3NT was passed out at both tables and East took the first five tricks. Not so at one table in the Women's where East doubled 3NT and South jumped to 5♦, passed out. A heart lead can defeat 5♦, but West led a spade and South made 12 tricks, +420.

FREE won Session 3 by 26-11 and led De LUCA by 121 IMPs to 78 with 16 boards remaining.

West	North	East	South
1♥	3♣ (weak)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

What would you lead as West from:

♠ A 10 4 3  
 ♥ K 8 5 4 2  
 ♦ K 9 5 3  
 ♣ void

Board 54  
 Dealer West ♠ K 2  
 EW Vul ♥ A 9 3  
 ♦ 8 6  
 ♣ Q J 8 6 5 3

♠ A 10 4 3      ♠ J 9 6  
 ♥ K 8 5 4 2      ♥ J 6  
 ♦ K 9 5 3      ♦ Q J 10 7 2  
 ♣ void      ♣ 10 7 4

♠ Q 8 7 5  
 ♥ Q 10 7  
 ♦ A 4  
 ♣ A K 9 2

When the opponents are ready for the lead of a suit you have bid or shown, it can work well to lead an unbid suit. Jonathan Free, West, struck gold when he led a low diamond after the auction above. [Ed: He chose diamonds because the spade suit ensured a re-entry.] Russel Harms, South, took the ♦A and tried to steal a quick spade trick with the ♣5, but Free was quicker. He grabbed the ♣A and continued diamonds to take 3NT one down, East-West +50. At the other table, after a similar auction, West led the ♥4. Paul Lavings made 11 tricks, +460, +11 IMPs.

The last 16 board session was a slug-fest with 127 IMPs changing hands, almost 8 IMPs per board! There were eight double-figure swings, four apiece. DE LUCA won the last set by 66 Imps to 61, but FREE won the match by 182-144 - exactly the same margin as at the end of Session 1 (60-22).

Ron Klinger

Winners of the Intermediate Teams (Gold Coast Congress):  
 Adrian Lohmann, Don Cameron, Jan and Peter Randall



# THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS

by Jessica Brake

Having recently out-grown the exclusive youth club, this year I was very fortunate to be asked to join the experienced team of Margaret Bourke, Sue Lusk and Jodi Tutty for the National Women's Teams, as Jodi's regular partner was unavailable. I jumped at the opportunity!

Careful management of slam hands proved to be important throughout the event. This hand appeared in the qualifying rounds. Your partner opens 3♥, first seat favourable, and you hold:

♠ J 5  
♥ A K J 8 7  
♦ 7  
♣ J 10 9 8 7

Some players may try a sneaky 4♠ or 5♦, natural and to play, but more normal is to jump straight to 5♥ or 6♥.

Dealer East ♠ A 8 6 2  
NS Vul ♥ 5  
♦ A J 10 3  
♣ A K 5 2

♠ J 5	♠ K 4
♥ A K J 8 7	♥ Q 10 9 6 4 3 2
♦ 7	♦ Q 2
♣ J 10 9 8 7	♣ 4 3

♠ Q 10 9 7 3  
♥ void  
♦ K 9 8 6 5 4  
♣ Q 6

West Tutty	North Mundell	East Brake	South Zets
5♥	Double	3♥	Pass
All Pass		Pass	5♠

A few East-Wests were allowed to play in 5♥X, a great sacrifice, and only two tables reached the North-South slam. I think the South hand has enormous playing strength, despite its lack of HCP, and is worth bidding 5NT – pick a slam – planning on correcting 6♣ to 6♦ (showing a spade-diamond two-suiter) if necessary.

Against the KAPLAN team, we faced this hand. After West's 1♠ opening bid, followed by a reverse into diamonds, most Easts found themselves in 6NT. With 34 HCP, there is the potential to make many tricks, but declarer's fate rested on the choice of opening lead.

Dealer West ♠ 7 3 2  
All Vul ♥ J 8 7 6 2  
♦ 9 4 2  
♣ 10 3

♠ J	♠ K Q 10 8
♥ void	♥ A K Q 9 5 3
♦ K Q J 10 6	♦ A 3
♣ A J 9 8 6 4 2	♣ K

♠ A 9 6 5 4  
♥ 10 4  
♦ 8 7 5  
♣ Q 7 5

The ♠A was the most common lead, but unsupported aces are often an unwise choice against 6NT (as opposed to suit slams) and, on this hand, it allowed declarer to take an easy 12 tricks – 3 spades, 3 hearts, 5 diamonds, 1-2 clubs. A small spade led to the same result, with declarer winning the ♠J then able to cross to dummy's ♠K to force out the ♠A.

Judy Osie found a passive diamond lead against our 6NT contract, making things far more challenging. Declarer tried the ♠K, which was ducked, but the next spade was taken by the ♠A, and a diamond return cut communications between the two hands.

On the awkward diamond lead, the best line is to win the ♦A, cash the ♣K, and then cash all your diamonds and the ♣A, hoping the ♣Q falls. If the ♣Q doesn't fall,

lead the ♠J, overtaking with the ♠K, hoping that whoever holds the ♠A doesn't have the ♣Q, so has to return a heart or spade to your hand. On the actual hand, this line fails. Our 6NT contract failed, and this was a huge 17 IMP gain to KAPLAN, though we managed to win the match by 2 IMPs. [Ed: I tried this line and failed – I'm glad it is the 'best line' at the table.]

The outcome on the following hand was a matter of choice of opening bid:

♠ A K Q 6 5  
♥ 7 5  
♦ A J 4 3  
♣ A Q

Many players chose to open this hand as a strong balanced 2NT, leading to a 3NT contract after partner used Stayman. With my 5-4 shape and weak doubleton in hearts, I elected to open 1♠. This worked well as we were able to find our diamond fit, allowing us to be the only pair to reach the small slam in diamonds.

Dealer East ♠ 7 4 2  
Nil Vul ♥ K J 2  
♦ 6  
♣ K 9 8 7 5 3

♠ void	♠ A K Q 6 5
♥ A 10 9 6	♥ 7 5
♦ K 10 7 5 2	♦ A J 4 3
♣ J 10 6 2	♣ A Q

♠ J 10 9 8 3  
♥ Q 8 4 3  
♦ Q 9 8  
♣ 4

West Tutty	North	East Brake	South
		1♠	Pass
1NT (1)	Pass	2NT (2)	Pass
3♣ (3)	Pass	3♦ (4)	Pass
4♦ (5)	Pass	4♠ (6)	Pass
4NT (7)	Pass	5♦ (8)	Pass
5♥ (9)	Pass	6♦ (10)	All Pass

- (1) Semi-forcing (up to 12 HCP)
- (2) Game forcing, not a 5-5 shape
- (3) Asking
- (4) 4 diamonds, 5-6 spades
- (5) Setting diamonds, forward-going
- (6) 1st or 2nd round control, denying a heart control
- (7) RKCB in diamonds
- (8) 0 or 3 key cards
- (9) ♦Q ask
- (10) No ♦Q

Our team qualified in first place, and defeated CHADWICK in the semi-final, where this hand occurred.

Dealer East ♠ 10 4  
 NS Vul ♥ K J 5 2  
 ♦ 10 9 8 7  
 ♣ Q 8 4

♠ K Q J 9 7 6 3 2  
 ♥ void  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ A J 6 2

♠ A 8 5  
 ♥ Q 9 8 3  
 ♦ Q 4 3 2  
 ♣ K 9

♠ void  
 ♥ A 10 7 6 4  
 ♦ A K J 5  
 ♣ 10 7 5 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠ (5+ spades) ?	2♥	1♦ 2♣	1♥ Pass

Even though West has only 11 HCP, slam is definitely in the picture. Possible actions include 3♥ (hoping for a club cue bid), splintering with 4♥, or 5♥ (Exclusion RKCB). Even bashing 6♣ is reasonable. Picturing partner's hand helps. Partner has exactly 3 spades and at least 4 diamonds; it doesn't sound like the opponents have a 10-card heart fit, so they also rate to have 4 hearts. This leaves them with 2 clubs at most. It is possible to construct hands where slam doesn't make but, even here, where the 1♦ opener has 11 HCP including two useless Queens, slam is cold. West chose to rebid 4♥ but then passed her partner's 4♣ bid, which was an opportunity missed, but flat at all four tables.

The MUNDELL team (Giselle Mundell – Avril Zets, Helene Pitt – Ruth Tobin) defeated the KAPLAN team 135-132 IMPs in their semi-final, to join us in the final, where we prevailed 150-128 IMPs. Many thanks to my team-mates for taking a chance on a new player to the women's scene. It was a most enjoyable event, and certainly won't be my last.

*Jessica Brake*



*Margaret Bourke and Sue Lusk,  
 Jessica's team-mates in Canberra,  
 and winners of the Gold Coast Seniors' Pairs*

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What contract do you think the winners of the Gold Coast Pairs reached with these hands?

♠ A K Q J 8  
♥ Q 5  
♦ 8 7  
♣ Q 6 5 3

♠ 5 3  
♥ A 4  
♦ A K Q J 10 6 5 3  
♣ A

Matthew Brown (a.k.a. "Matty B") made a lasting impression on me a few years ago when some youth players were chatting in an apartment. I picked up a Rubik's Cube, then put it down on the couch next to him. Without diverting his gaze from a conversation he was having, he picked up the Rubik's Cube, then 10 seconds later it was back on the couch, all of its faces solved. Whenever I left the cube near him the same thing happened, and he never seemed to notice.

I was tempted to skip the Matchpoint Pairs events at the Gold Coast to hang out in the rainforest and only play IMPs events, but Matty B asked me to play the Bobby Richman Pairs, and he has stolen so many tricks from me over the years that I found myself saying 'Yes' immediately.

Matchpoints baffles me. Whereas IMPs strategy is deliciously simple (bid games, make contracts, defeat contracts), matchpoint strategy seems to be the perpetual analysis of gambles. I'm often not sure what to do, but I know that it matters. Here's a hand which I was very happy with at the time, but which I later realised I'd misjudged:

Dealer South	♠ 5 3	
Nil Vul	♥ Q J 5	
	♦ K 9 4	
	♣ A Q J 9 4	
♠ Q J 9 2		♠ A 10 6 4
♥ A 10 8		♥ 2
♦ J 7 5 2		♦ A Q 8 6
♣ 10 5		♣ K 7 3 2
	♠ K 8 7	
	♥ K 9 7 6 4 3	
	♦ 10 3	
	♣ 8 6	

South opened 2♥, which was passed to East, Matty B. He doubled for takeout, and I bid 2♠ as West. North competed to 3♥, and we both left it there. Would you have bid differently as East or West?

Sitting West, I led ♠Q, which Matty B ducked to South's ♠K. This was a thoughtful duck from Matty with the ♠A, because it meant that he could reach my hand later with the ♠J. Declarer played a heart (ducked), and another heart which I won, while Matty B signalled that he held ♣K. I drew dummy's last trump, then declarer tried a club finesse. Matty B won and underled his ♠A, for me to put a diamond through. I led the unsupported ♦J, imagining that partner might have ♦A-Q-10, where I'd need to play diamonds twice from my side (a dramatic play which achieved nothing). We ended up with two spades, ♥A, two diamonds and ♣K for two off.

I later learned from some experts that we underbid the hand. Nil vul at matchpoints is a time to bid. Neither of us was sure



*Matty Brown and John Newman*

that we were beating 3♥ and both of us had reasons to act. [+100 was not a good result when compared with the spade part-scores making. Ed.]

Dealer West	♠ J 10 5	
Nil Vul	♥ K J 10 7 3	
	♦ Q 6	
	♣ Q J 6	
♠ 6 3		♠ Q 9 4 2
♥ Q 8 2		♥ 5
♦ A K 10 5		♦ J 9 8 4
♣ K 10 7 5		♣ A 9 3 2
	♠ A K 8 7	
	♥ A 9 6 4	
	♦ 7 3 2	
	♣ 8 4	

Another hand that I felt confident about at the time, on closer inspection turned out to be a comedy of errors. The auction began Pass – Pass - Pass, and I ended up declaring 3♥ as North. When it came time to decide where the ♥Q was, I thought back to which cards East had shown up with: ♠Q, ♦K-J, ♣A, 10 HCPs. I decided that with the ♥Q as well East would surely have opened the bidding. Therefore, I confidently played West for the ♥Q. It turns out West had shown up with 10 points as a passed hand (♦A-K and ♣K - I was muddled about the location of the ♦K). I had spent two minutes coming to the wrong decision, and miraculously it worked, because West had passed their 12 HCP hand as dealer.

We had a small lead coming into the last session. I was aware that I may never have such a lucky run again, and resolved to strive for a respectable level of ineptitude.

Back to the grand slam pictured at the start of the article. Every pair bar one in the A Final bid a slam, and over 50% reached 7NT, to outscore 7♦. My partner and I were the only pair who stopped below slam. Matty B asked for keycards in diamonds, and my 5♣ response was doubled. Matty B bid 5♠, which he intended as a grand slam try. With an unambiguous 5NT available, I talked myself into believing his 5♠ bid was a retreat into the highest scoring game, and passed, soon claiming 15 tricks.

To Matty B's credit, he remained relaxed, didn't mention the disaster, and kept joking between rounds (take note everybody!). In the last round, our opponents did us some damage, so I was quite nervous waiting for the final scores. We held on by less than half a board. The most surreal moment was being congratulated by one my bridge heroes, Michael Rosenberg!

*John Newman*

# GOLD COAST CONGRESS TEAMS

The Gold Coast Teams had an international flavour as many of the Commonwealth Nations teams stayed on for more bridge and warm weather. The six teams to qualify were

**HINDEN:** Frances Hinden - Graham Osborne from England, Kieran Dyke (Australia/England) and Renee Cooper.

**BUCHEN:** Peter Buchen - Ian Thomson (Australia), with Michael Yuen - Nick Stock (Canada).

**HIRST:** 3 English players, 3 Australian players

**THORPE:** 4 Canadian players, 2 Australian players

**HACKETT:** all English

**BOUTON:** New Zealand/Australia 'youngsters'

In the Round of 4, BOUTON and HACKETT were eliminated. HINDEN then defeated HIRST in one semi-final, while BUCHEN defeated THORPE in the other.

The HINDEN team started strongly, but BUCHEN fought back during the third quarter, with the score standing at HINDEN 87.1 IMPs to BUCHEN 73 IMPs heading into the final segment.

The last set was swingy, though most of the IMPs went the way of HINDEN. Here are two examples:

Dealer North    ♠ J 10 6 5 4  
Both Vul        ♥ 9 2  
                    ♦ A K J 3 2  
                    ♣ J

♠ Q 9 8  
♥ A K Q 7 4  
♦ 10 6  
♣ 10 6 4

♠ A 3  
♥ J 6  
♦ 8 7  
♣ A K Q 9 7 5 3

♠ K 7 2  
♥ 10 8 5 3  
♦ Q 9 5 4  
♣ 8 2

West	North	East	South
	2 ♠ (1)	3NT	All Pass

(1) Spades + minor

Thomson, South, led a spade, partly because declarer could just have a strong hand, and partly because he didn't know

which minor his partner held. [Ed: It is likely that East has solid clubs, given South's diamonds.]

Hinden, South, unerringly led a diamond, gaining her team 13 IMPs.

On the following hand, Osborne, North, found the killing lead against 3NT, perhaps based on the notion that, when the opponents bid a confident 3NT after you have overcalled, it can pay to lead another suit.

His club lead against 3NT, after his 1♠ overcall, struck gold - both with his partner's clubs and also by removing the entry to dummy:

Dealer South	♠ K Q 10 3 2	
NS Vul	♥ 6	
	♦ 5 2	
	♣ Q 10 8 6 2	
♠ A J 4		♠ 9 8 7 5
♥ K 5		♥ A J 10 8 4
♦ A K J 4 3		♦ 8
♣ J 9 7		♣ A 4 3
	♠ 6	
	♥ Q 9 7 3 2	
	♦ Q 10 9 7 6	
	♣ K 5	

HINDEN defeated BUCHEN by 152.1 IMPs to 80 IMPs.

## GOLD COAST CONGRESS

### NOVICE EVENTS' RESULTS

#### SUNDAY ROOKIE PAIRS

NORTH-SOUTH: Jenny & Keith Sanders  
EAST-WEST: Daphne & Peter Leggo

#### THURSDAY ROOKIE PAIRS

NORTH-SOUTH: Yvonne Kergan - Maura Reilly  
EAST-WEST: Vesna & Voyko Markovic

#### UNDER 50 MPs PAIRS - TUESDAY

NORTH-SOUTH: Suzie Bucknell - Kym Batt  
EAST-WEST: Keith Cohen - John Kelly

#### UNDER 50 MPs PAIRS - WEDNESDAY

1st Mary & Steve Colling  
2nd Julie & Paul Stark

#### FRIDAY NOVICE PAIRS

1st Wendy Crombie - Julie Stockley  
2nd Laurelle & Neville McDonnell

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My time as ABF President is now nearly at its end and I will be standing down at the ABF AGM in late April.

I want to give a huge "thank you" to the Management Committee members and all the other members of the ABF "family" who have given me such good support during my time as ABF President. I'm confident the incoming President and Management Committee will do a great job and I wish them every success.

*Bruce Neill*

## BEN THOMPSON, ZONE 7 REP.

I was honoured and humbled to be elected President of the South Pacific Bridge Federation at our annual meeting at the Gold Coast Congress in February, and at the same time, as our zonal representative on the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.

Our region is both big and small - the South Pacific has a small population but some of our countries cover vast areas. Our bridge zone is also both big and small - we only have four member countries (at the moment) but we are many times bigger than the four smallest zones combined, in terms of number of bridge players.

Zone 7 has also been a huge contributor to world bridge. As just two examples, Denis Howard was WBF President from 1986 through 1991, and Laurie Kelso as well as being a senior international director was also secretary of the WBF Laws Committee for the recent update.

I would like to pay tribute to John Wignall, my predecessor as zonal president. John was a fine player for New Zealand at world level. He has been our zonal representative to the WBF for an incomprehensible 32 years, a number that I am determined not to reach! John has been a truly outstanding administrator, and will complete his innings in Orlando as WBF 1st Vice President. Thank you, John.

I have played bridge for more than 30 years, and I have also been an active bridge administrator at local and national levels for more than 25 years. As a frequent Australian representative, I dare say I am well-known in the expert community. Now I hope to become better known across our entire bridge zone, particularly since I would like to call on everyone to help us promote and develop our beautiful game across our beautiful South Pacific.

In fact, I'll start now! If you have bridge-playing contacts in the South Pacific island nations, I'd be very pleased to hear from you at [president.spbf@gmail.com](mailto:president.spbf@gmail.com).

I'm very much looking forward to representing our zone, and contributing to the global future of bridge.

*Ben Thompson*

## ABF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

The ABF Management Committee appointed Leigh Gold and Bianca Gold as Youth Development Officers, effective from 1st April 2018.

Full details of the announcement can be found at: <http://www.abf.com.au/abf-youth-development-officers-appointed/>

Leigh and Bianca can be contacted by email: [youth@abf.com.au](mailto:youth@abf.com.au)

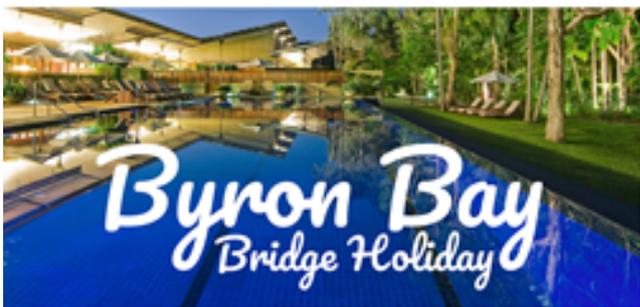


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## CONGRATULATIONS

To our Open team on winning the Silver Medal in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships held at the Gold Coast during February. The team of PHIL MARKEY - DAVID WILTSHIRE - JOACHIM HAFFER - MAX HENBEST - PAULINE GUMBY - WARREN LAZER lost in the final to India A. Also making the quarter-finals were the Seniors' Team of TERRY BROWN - AVI KANETKAR - BRUCE NEILL - IAN THOMSON - PETER BUCHEN - RON KLINGER, who lost to the President's Team. Well done to both teams on their performances.

## INTERNATIONAL PLAYER BIOGRAPHIES

As part of our continuing recognition of our international representatives, the International Player Committee has commenced a project to create and publish short biographies of all our current and former Australian international players on our website. We hope to have all our players' biographies in place by the end of the year. Thanks to Peter Gill for suggesting this project. You will find the player profiles at: <http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/player-profiles/>

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH

In 2018, the Australian Under 26 team of Jamie Thompson – Matt Smith, Tomer Libman – Andrew Spooner, and Renee Cooper – Francesca McGrath, with Mike Doecke (NPC) is entered in two important competitions

- APBF Open Youth Championships in Indonesia (April)
- World Youth Teams Championship in Suzhou China (August)

The team participated in a training camp, facilitated by John Newman, in Sydney during March, as preparation for their event in April, and we wish them success in their competitions this year.

## WOMEN'S SELECTION REVIEW

A review of women's team selection methods has been undertaken during the first quarter, and we thank everyone who has provided feedback on the discussion paper. The findings from this review will be considered by the International Performance Committee and the Tournament Committee, including in formulating future team selection regulations.



Kim Frazer

## AUSTRALIAN TEAMS FOR ASIA CUP

To be held in Goa, India in early June 2018

### MEN'S TEAM

Phil Markey - Joe Haffer  
Maxim Henbest - David Wiltshire  
Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung

### WOMEN'S TEAM

Sheila Bird - Karen Creet  
Jane Reynolds - Viv Wood  
Eva Caplan - Jenny Thompson

### SENIORS' TEAM

Avi Kanetkar - Bruce Neill  
Martin Bloom - Nigel Rosendorff  
Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer

### MIXED TEAM

Jodi Tutty - David Beauchamp  
Margaret Bourke - Stephen Fischer  
Cathryn Herden - Matthew Thomson

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## COUP 7: THE VIENNA COUP

Reproduced with the permission of Brian Senior.

The Vienna Coup is so named because it was first performed back in the heyday of Whist in Vienna in the 1860s. The coup is an unblocking play, the cashing of a winner, in preparation for a squeeze against one of the defenders.

To make the situation as clear as possible, we will look at only a partial hand diagram:

<p>♠ 5 ♥ 3 ♦ 6 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ A J ♥ A ♦ 5 ♣ ---</p>	<p>♠ K Q ♥ K 9 ♦ --- ♣ ---</p>
	<p>♠ 8 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A ♣ ---</p>	

Declarer in a no trump contract requires all the remaining tricks but has only three winners. However, East is guarding both the major suits so could come under some pressure.

Imagine that declarer cashes the ♦A at this point. West and North follow suit and East does indeed have to give up her stopper in one of the majors. However, she can afford to pitch a heart because declarer will have no way back to hand to cash the Queen after taking the ♥A. Though East was squeezed out of her heart stopper, this was of no benefit to declarer.

Now see the difference if, in the diagrammed position, declarer cashes the ♥A before leading to the ♦A. Now East is truly squeezed. If she unguards the heart, declarer is in the correct hand to cash the Queen while, if she instead discards a spade, the remaining honour falls under the ♠A, and the ♠J is a winner.

Cashing the ♥A was the Vienna Coup and would have been both necessary and successful whichever defender was guarding both major suits. If North's small diamond had actually been a heart, there would have been a positional squeeze against West even without cashing the ♥A, as long as declarer read the position correctly, but East would again not have been under pressure. The Vienna Coup would again have made the squeeze effective against either defender, the low heart being discarded from dummy when declarer cashes the ♦A.

*Brian Senior*



Winners of the Canberra Rex Under 750 Teams:  
George Zuber, John Kelly, Joy Bryant, Geoff Hayes, Hilary Merritt

## A RARE DEFENSIVE PLAY

From the IBPA Bulletin, June 2017, European Mixed Pairs.

To find boards where declarer executes an elimination and endplay is common stuff. It's rarer that you find one made by the defence.

Dealer North	♠ J 3 2	
EW Vul	♥ J	
	♦ A Q 7 5 4 3	
	♣ K 10 4	
	♠ K 8 7	♠ 10 6 4
	♥ A Q 7 3	♥ 9 8 5 4
	♦ K 10 9	♦ 8 2
	♣ 6 3 2	♣ Q J 9 5
	♠ A Q 9 5	
	♥ K 10 6 2	
	♦ J 6	
	♣ A 8 7	

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West, with most of the defence's assets, went for the most passive option by leading the ♣6. Declarer followed with the 4 – 9 – Ace. From declarer's perspective, she had two club tricks, five diamonds (most often), at least one heart and two spades. Game should have a pretty good chance to make.

However, it was Pairs, so declarer had to try to take as many tricks as she could. Indeed, 50 tables managed to make 10 tricks, and 10 tables even made 11 tricks! So 9 tricks would have been below average.

South went for diamonds by playing the ♦J and, when it was covered with the ♦K, she won with dummy's ♦A to continue with the ♦Q and a third round, to set up the suit. West continued with clubs: 3 – 10 – Jack – 7. East shifted to a heart. Declarer probably wished that she had played slightly differently when West won with the ♥Q to put a third club on the table. That reduced dummy to ♠J-3-2 and the remaining three diamonds.

Declarer could cash out her diamonds and then had to play a spade; when the finesse lost to West's ♠K, he still had the ♥A to cash, for one down.

What should declarer have done? She could have found a different line, double-dummy, but even that only helps her to make 9 tricks, which would still have been below average. Bridge sucks sometimes.

**RUSH HOUR**

Dealer South : North-South vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	All Pass	3♠

What would you lead as West from:

- ♠ J 8 2
- ♥ 10 9
- ♦ K J 10 7
- ♣ K 8 6 2

You have no attractive lead. In such cases, you should eliminate the leads, starting with the worst.

*Which would be the worst lead?*

To answer this, you should first deal with this question:

*How many hearts does South have?*

North's 2♥ showed five hearts and the 3♥ rebid showed six hearts. With two hearts, South would have supported hearts over 3♥. South figures to have a singleton or void in hearts. A heart lead has high risk, especially if South is void in hearts. Dummy might have ♥ K-Q-J-x-x in hearts and after ♥10 – King – Ace – ruff, you have set up two heart tricks for declarer. Likewise, if dummy has ♥A-Q-J-x-x and it goes ♥10 – Queen – King – ruff.

*What about a trump lead?*

That could see declarer taking all the tricks if declarer can draw trumps and set up the hearts, with an outside entry to dummy.

*If you intend to lead a minor, which one is preferable?*

If you lead a diamond and partner has the ♦Q, you might create two tricks there. If partner has the ♦A, you might take three diamond tricks. If you lead a club and partner has the ♣Q, you might produce only one trick there. If partner has the ♣A, that might give you only two club tricks.

Leading either minor is risky, but the diamond lead has more potential for upside than the club lead.

In the final of a National Open Teams, the bidding at both tables went as given and both Wests led the ♦J and this is what you see:

<i>North</i>
♠ 7 6
♥ A Q J 7 4 3
♦ A 8 4
♣ J 3

- West*
- ♠ J 8 2
  - ♥ 10 9
  - ♦ K J 10 7
  - ♣ K 8 6 2

Trick 1: ♦J – 4 – 6 – Queen. Hmm . . . maybe that lead was not the best after all. At trick 2 South plays the ♣4.

*What does declarer have in clubs?*

You cannot be sure of declarer's exact club holding, but you can be confident that declarer does not have ♣A-Q-x or ♣A-Q-x-x. With either of those holdings, declarer would cross to dummy and take the club finesse.

That means that partner has the ♣Q or the ♣A or both. There is no urgency for you to grab the ♣K. You should play low and let partner win the trick.

This was the actual deal:

♠ 7 6	♠ 9 3
♥ A Q J 7 4 3	♥ K 8 6 5 2
♦ A 8 4	♦ 6 5 3
♣ J 3	♣ A Q 9
♠ J 8 2	♠ A K Q 10 5 4
♥ 10 9	♥ void
♦ K J 10 7	♦ Q 9 2
♣ K 8 6 2	♣ 10 7 5 4

One West played low on the ♣4 switch. East captured the ♣J and played a spade. South won and played another club, won by the ♣9. East played a second spade. South now had to lose four clubs or three clubs and a diamond, one down.

The other West grabbed the ♣K at trick 2 and played the ♦K, Ace. South discarded the ♦9 on the ♥A and continued with a club. East took the ♣Q and played a spade. South won and ruffed a club, dropping the ♣A, for 11 tricks, +650, 13 IMPs.

Note that an initial spade lead works very well. So does a club lead. East wins and can switch to a trump.

*Ron Klinger*

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## GRANDLY PLAYED

The following hand comes from the ANC Interstate Teamss, held in Canberra in July 2017.

Margaret Bourke was one of two declarers in 7♦, and the only successful declarer.

Dealer North    ♠ A 9 6  
NS Vul         ♥ A K 8 7 2  
                   ♦ A 8 3  
                   ♣ A 6

♠ Q 3 2  
♥ Q 10 6 4 3  
♦ 10 5  
♣ Q J 9

♠ K 10 8  
♥ J  
♦ K Q J 9 6 4 2  
♣ 8 7

♠ J 7 5 4  
♥ 9 5  
♦ 7  
♣ K 10 5 4 3 2

♠ Q 3 2  
♥ Q 10  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

♠ A 9 6  
♥ K 8  
♦ ---  
♣ ---

♠ J 7 5 4  
♥ ---  
♦ ---  
♣ K

♠ K 10 8  
♥ ---  
♦ 6  
♣ 7

West led the ♣Q, taken by the ♣A. Margaret cashed the ♥A and ruffed a low heart with the ♦J. She crossed to the ♦A and played another low heart. East discarded a club and South ruffed. Then came five more rounds of trumps, leaving:

West had already had to discard his club protection, in order that his ♠Q not fall on the first round of the suit after all the diamonds had been played. That left East as the sole guardian of that suit. However, when South played the ♦6, West had to let go a spade, as did dummy and East. The ♠8 went to the ♠A and the ♥K finished off East in clubs and spades [he couldn't guard both suits]; the ♠K-10 took the last two tricks for +2140 and 13 IMPs (against 6♦ at the other table).



Winners of the Monday Butler Pairs, 0-500 MPs (Gold Coast): Eddie and Dianne Mullin



Winners of the Peline One-Day Swiss Pairs (Canberra): Denis and Jeanette Grahame



Winners of the Bobby Richman Pairs - Intermediate Pairs (Gold Coast): David and Mandy Johnson



1st place in the Red Plum Life Masters Teams, Canberra SFoB: (left to right): Keith Blinco, Eric Baker, Terrence Sheedy and Chris Stead

**SYBIL GILMORE**

Sybil Gilmore is the latest of the Toowong Bridge Club players to have received the congratulatory letter from the Queen. Sybil proudly displayed her prize at her "100 Candle Birthday Blaze" at Toowong Bridge Club, celebrating her 100th birthday on 30th July 2017. She continues to play bridge regularly, usually twice a week, and won on the day we celebrated her birthday!

Sybil was born and grew up in Childers. She was the second youngest of four children. The family spent school holidays at Woodgate, which was a quiet undeveloped beach and fishing village. Sybil's parents were very keen bridge players and, at Woodgate, taught the children to play bridge because there were no other bridge players!

Sybil left school during the Depression but was not allowed to take a job, because her father insisted that any available jobs should be given to unemployed men. However, during World War II, Sybil worked in Townsville as a driver for the American Army. When driving for an American General from Townsville to Cairns, she was the first car behind Mrs Roosevelt and was given her flowers.

Sybil was an American war bride and sailed to the US on a "brides' ship". She and her American husband lived in Albany, New York for four years before returning to Brisbane – and golf and bridge.

We are very proud of the example she sets for us all.

*Lena Darlington, Toowong Bridge Club*



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**RIGHTING THE AUCTION**

**BARBARA TRAVIS**

This is a hand from BridgeBase OnLine:

Dealer South	♠ 2		
	♥ K 10 9 8		
	♦ A K 4 2		
	♣ A 9 6 5		
♠ K Q J 9 6 4		♠ 8 7 5	
♥ 3		♥ 7 6 5 4	
♦ Q 10 9 7		♦ J 8 6 3	
♣ 4 3		♣ 8 7	
	<i>Barbara Travis</i>		
	♠ A 10 3		
	♥ A Q J 2		
	♦ 5		
	♣ K Q J 10 2		
West	North	East	South
			1♣
2♠	DBL	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥

There was nothing to the play really. We had one spade trick, four heart tricks, two diamond tricks and five club tricks, totalling 12 top tricks. It was just a matter of taking one spade ruff in dummy for the thirteenth trick, then drawing trumps.

The real test of the hand was in the bidding, and why I like this hand is that we started with a negative double to get our constructive auction back on track, then managed to use Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB) effectively to bid to our grand slam, despite the pre-emptive intervention.

In response to the negative double, I could have rebid 3♣ to establish a game force, but opted to jump to 4♥ to show my game-going hand. One has to remember that, after a negative double, minimum rebids show minimum opening hands – you are now in the second round of the bidding.

After that, it was easy for my partner to re-evaluate his hand and use RKCB. 5♠ showed 5 of the five key cards plus the trump Queen (♥Q). Now his 5NT bid confirmed that we had all the key cards. Many people play the 5NT bid as a 'straight' King ask. Others use it as a Specific King Ask (better). What one has to realise is that it doesn't start life purely as a King ask, rather it starts life as saying, "I'm still interested in a grand slam, if you are." So you can respond your Kings, but you can also bid a grand slam if you now have an undisclosed long solid suit (clubs in the above example). Therefore, with such solid clubs and hearts, I jumped to 7♥.

*Barbara Travis*



Winners of the Super Novice Teams (Canberra SFoB):  
Jann White - Sue Stacey, Jane & Lilian Young

The following hand comes from the Lyon Grand Prix de Bridge, a two-day event at the end of the 2017 World Championships. The scoring was Board-a-Match, where every trick counts.

Dealer East	♠ K Q 6 5 4		
EW Vul	♥ Q 6 4		
	♦ 7 6 3		
	♣ 10 4		
♠ J 8 7 2		♠ 3	
♥ 10		♥ A 7 5 2	
♦ 10 8 4 2		♦ K Q J 9 5	
♣ A Q 7 3		♣ 8 6 2	
	♠ A 10 9		
	♥ K J 9 8 3		
	♦ A		
	♣ K J 9 5		
West	North	East	South
	<i>Peter Hollands</i>	Pass	<i>Peter Gill</i>
Pass	2♥	3♦	1♥
Pass (pause)	All Pass		4♥

West led the ♦4 (3rd and 5th highest leads), to the ♦J and my ♦A. I played the ♥K – 10 – 4 – 2. Next, I crossed to dummy with a spade, to lead the ♠10 – 8 – 5 – Q (East-West playing upside-down count).

West returned the ♦2, which I trumped. As declarer, I could now count out the hand. East had 5 diamonds, not 6 (or West would have led the ♦2 at trick 1, and not 7 (then East would open 1♦ or 3♦). East seemed to have 4 hearts (A-x-x-x) or else West would not have played the ♥10 (with ♥A-10, West would win the ♥K with the Ace). East's count signal in clubs signified 3 clubs, giving East:

♠ x  
♥ A x x x  
♦ K Q J x x  
♣ 8 x x

This is consistent with West's long thought over my 4♥ bid. He was considering bidding 5♦. With all this knowledge, my aim was to go down one trick, for -50, trying to win the board.

I played the ♣9 to West's ♣A and, as expected, West played another diamond to shorten my trumps to fewer than East's. (Obtaining trump control by shortening declarer's trumps is commonly done by experts, but not done as much by other players.)

I cashed the ♣K, then played the ♠A, which East ruffed. He cashed the ♥A, on which I played dummy's ♥Q, to avoid being locked in dummy if another heart was led. East played a fourth diamond, on which I discarded a spade, trumping in dummy. I led the ♠Q, trumped by East and over-ruffed by me, leading to down one, -50.

At the other table, the Danish declarer in 4♥ won the ♦A then played a heart to the ♥Q in dummy, ending up down two, so we won the board.

[Board-a-Match scores each hand between the two teams, with 2 points going to the team with the better score, and 0 to the other team, or 1-1 if the outcome of the hand is identical. Even +430 v. +420 becomes a 2-0 scoreline. Ed.]

*Peter Gill*

## R - A - T - S by Betty Kaplan

This article, written by Betty Kaplan, appeared in *Australian Bridge*, April 1974. When she refers to Edgar, her husband Edgar Kaplan was an American EXPERT and one of the principal contributors to the game. His career spanned six decades and covered every aspect of bridge. He was a teacher, author, editor, administrator, champion player, theorist, expert Vugraph commentator, coach/captain and authority on the laws.

This is really three articles in one. The first part is a sort of matrimonial quiz, on how to defend with your husband. The second part is devoted to a marvellous new System I have devised – not one of your modern methods for getting to the perfect contract every time in only eight easy rounds of bidding, but a System with a truly important objective: defending yourself against your husband. The third part shows you the quiz answers, the System in action, and some interesting hands from the Bermuda Regional this January. First, the quiz.

In each of the four deals below you are East, behind the dummy. West, your husband, leads; you win your Ace. What is your play to trick two?

(1) *North (Dummy)*

♠ 10 7 6 4  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ A K J 8  
♣ Q J

*East(You)*

♠ A Q 8  
♥ 4 3  
♦ 9 6 5 4 3  
♣ A 7 2

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Edgar's lead: ♠3. Declarer plays the ♠5.

(2) *North (Dummy)*

♠ 5 4  
♥ K J 3  
♦ 10 7 4  
♣ A J 9 8 6

*East (You)*

♠ A 8 7  
♥ 9 8 7  
♦ K J 9 8  
♣ 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT (15-17)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Edgar's lead: ♠Q. Declarer plays the ♠6.

(3) *North (Dummy)*

♠ A 10 9 5  
♥ 7 6 5  
♦ K  
♣ K Q J 10 3

*East (You)*

♠ 4  
♥ J 4 2  
♦ Q 10 4 3  
♣ A 9 6 4

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	4♦ (splinter)	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

Edgar's lead: ♣5. Declarer plays the ♣7.

(4) *North (Dummy)*

♠ 10 3  
♥ 9 7 5  
♦ A Q J 10 5 4  
♣ A 2

*East (You)*

♠ A 9 2  
♥ A 6 3 2  
♦ 8 7 2  
♣ 10 9 5

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Edgar's lead: ♥Q. Declarer plays the ♥4.

Let me explain why I specify that you are playing with your husband – that is, I'll explain to the boys; the girls already know. You see, these are particularly dangerous positions for a wife. If you return the suit he led when a shift would work better, that's dumb – and you'll get bawled out. But if you switch and that's wrong, you'll get flayed alive. This isn't male chauvinist piggery – it's not men who are beastly, just husbands. When someone else makes a mistake with them, their sweetness can be cloying: "That was such a tough decision; how could you tell?" But with you, it's "For Christ's sake, what makes you think you're a genius? Can't you just..." Or, the sarcastic approach: "Sorry, dear, my fault. I know how you hate to return my suits, so I should have led a diamond, and then you'd have..." A great expert, normally the gentlest of men, once roared at his wife (and at the hundreds within earshot), "To think that this is the mother of my child!"

How wives hate it! It's not only that you are being publicly humiliated; it's almost as bad that he is making a public spectacle of himself. Worse still, it's a vicious cycle. You got screamed at on the last board, so you're all in a turmoil on this one, and you make a mistake, so the vitriol flows again, and ...

Now, that brings me to our trip to the Bermuda Regional. Bermuda is one of the most beautiful islands on earth. The hotel is magnificent, the weather is idyllic, and the tournament is marvellously scheduled, with most of the championships in the evenings so that the afternoons are free for sunning or swimming or shopping or sight-seeing. But how can you enjoy the afternoons if you spend the evenings being ridiculed in front of the opponents? I had a plan, my System for taming Edgar.

My method was not a total ban on post-mortem conversation – that just doesn't work. In the first place, it's almost as bad to sit there and watch him roll his eyes and making faces – then to have to listen to him later, oozing virtue, claiming that he "never said a word". In the second place, he'll get an ulcer if he has to hold it all in. No, he is entitled to vent his spleen – but only systemically, by using the code-words the System allows. If I commit an ordinary misdemeanour, he may style it **Reasonable**. If it is a felony, he may refer to my action as **Attractive**. If it is a heinous crime, he may call it **Thoughtful**.

Edgar gave his solemn promise, but raised one objection. Yes, those code-words would suffice for most occasions; however, for truly traumatic ones – not, dear, that he dreamed there would be any, but just in case – he wanted a word he could hiss. So, I gave him **Scintillating**. Four words, that was all: **Reasonable, Attractive, Thoughtful, Scintillating**. The mnemonic was **R-A-T-S**.

To show you the System in action, I return to my four hands from Bermuda.

(1) ♠ 10 7 6 4  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ A K J 8  
♣ Q J

*Edgar*  
♠ K J 9 3 2  
♥ 9 8 7 2  
♦ void  
♣ 10 8 6 4

*Betty*  
♠ A Q 8  
♥ 4 3  
♦ 9 6 5 4 3  
♣ A 7 2

♠ 5  
♥ A Q J 10  
♦ Q 10 7 2  
♣ K 9 5 3

This was early in our first session, the maiden voyage for RATS. Edgar led the ♠3 against 4♥. I won, and figured out from the auction that he was probably void in diamonds. So, I returned the ♦3; he ruffed, put me in with the ♣A, and ruffed again. Down one – I was tickled pink. But he wasn't – he looked like Mt Vesuvius glowering at Pompeii. Come to think of it, if I had continued spades...

"Am I an idiot? If I wanted a ruff I would have led a low..." – I glared my fiercest glare, and he subsided. "I guess the diamond return was *reasonable*," he said with a grin.

(2) ♠ 5 4  
♥ K J 3  
♦ 10 7 4  
♣ A J 9 8 6

*Edgar*  
♠ K Q 10 9 3 2  
♥ 10 2  
♦ 6 5 2  
♣ Q 4

*Betty*  
♠ A 8 7  
♥ 9 8 7  
♦ K J 9 8  
♣ 7 3 2

♠ J 6  
♥ A Q 6 5 4  
♦ A Q 3  
♣ K 10 5

RATS was purring along happily when we picked up these cards against a pair of young marrieds who, incidentally, sounded as though they needed our System. Against 3NT (why will people open such hands with 1NT?), Edgar led the spade Queen, which would ask me to drop the Jack if I had it. Unfortunately, I didn't have it, so I presumed that he had led from Queen-Jack. There were just enough points missing for him to hold the ♦A; therefore, I shifted hopefully to the jack of ♦J – not exactly double-dummy defense, as you will observe.

Luckily, declarer (the young wife) went up with her Ace, ran the hearts, and then finessed me for the ♣Q, correctly divining that the mercifully uncashed spade length was on her left. Down two anyway! Now, of course, the young husband lashed out with kind and helpful remarks about "12 top tricks". And Edgar smiled sweetly at me and said, "It was very *attractive* to switch to diamonds, dear."

"See!" said the wife to her husband. "She makes the wrong play, and listen to what he says to her!"

"I wonder," snarled her husband, "what he would be saying if you had had the brains to take your tricks." He didn't know the System, you see. But – I wonder too.

(3) ♠ A 10 9 5  
♥ 7 6 5  
♦ K  
♣ K Q J 10 3

*Edgar*  
♠ 8 6 3 2  
♥ Q 10  
♦ A 9 7 6 5 2  
♣ 5

*Betty*  
♠ 4  
♥ J 4 2  
♦ Q 10 8 4 3  
♣ A 9 6 4

♠ K Q J 7  
♥ A K 9 8 3  
♦ J  
♣ 8 7 2

Edgar led his singleton club against 4♣; we could have taken a club and a ruff, cashed the ♦A, and waited for our heart trick – down one. But how was I to know the five was a singleton? If declarer had a singleton, or if clubs were 2-2, we had to take a lot of tricks in an awful hurry. So, I switched to hearts, and made the expert lead of the Jack – I am an International Master, after all.

This time, declarer could have taken 13 of the last 12 tricks. However, he was under a tiny misapprehension about the hearts – Edgar had dropped the queen under South's king (a play that led me to suspect that this would be a perfect hand for our System), so declarer thought I had started with J-10-4-2. He draw all the trumps (I pitched diamonds), and started cashing dummy's clubs.

This was the position after nine tricks (8 to declarer, 1 to us), with dummy on lead:

♠ ---	♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ 7 6	♥ 7 6	♥ 4 2
♦ K	♦ K	♦ Q 8
♣ 3	♣ 3	♣ ---
♠ ---	♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ 10	♥ 10	♥ 4 2
♦ A 9 7	♦ A 9 7	♦ Q 8
♣ ---	♣ ---	♣ ---
♠ ---	♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ A 9 8 3	♥ A 9 8 3	♥ 4 2
♦ ---	♦ ---	♦ Q 8
♣ ---	♣ ---	♣ ---

Declarer, remember, thought I had the ♥10-4-2 left. So, he didn't want to cash dummy's last club, since it would squeeze his own hearts: if he pitched the ♥3, he could take only one finesse; if he pitched the ♥8, I could cover dummy's spot with 'my' ♥10, blocking the suit. The solution was obvious – he led the ♥7 and ran it. I unblocked my ♦Q on Edgar's ♦A (I told you, I'm an International Master) – down two!

"A *thoughtful* Jack of hearts, my sweet."



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(4) ♠ 10 3  
 ♥ 9 7 5  
 ♦ A Q J 10 5 4  
 ♣ A 2

*Edgar*  
 ♠ K J 8 4  
 ♥ Q J 10 8  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ J 7 6 3

*Betty*  
 ♠ A 9 2  
 ♥ A 6 3 2  
 ♦ 8 7 2  
 ♣ 10 9 5

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

Edgar led the ♥Q against 3NT; I took my ♥A and huddled. (And he scowrmgled at me – oh, he didn't exactly scowl or squirm or wiggle, but I knew, I just knew, he was saying to himself, "What in blazes can the woman be thinking about?").

Still, a heart return looked wrong – declarer certainly had to have the King this time, and diamonds were running. I made up my mind to switch to spade, and, as I was about to lead the deuce, it occurred to me that if I caught Edgar with two top honours my nine would block the suit. So, I led the ♠9. How about that for clear thinking? Late in the session too. What a triumph for RATS that my mind was on bridge instead of on my miseries!

Edgar won his ♠J, considered for a bit (he never pays any attention when I scowrmgle) – and placed his ♥J firmly on the table. Declarer took the balance, since the sixth diamond squeezed my dear love in hearts and clubs. Making five. Five!

There was electricity in the air; the storm was about to burst. "The nine of spades," Edgar began. "You had to lead..." And then he stopped short, for he realised that indeed I had to lead it – it was the only card in my hand that could defeat the contract. Into the sudden silence, I dropped the last word – "Sssscintillating."



Winners of the Bobby Richman Pairs - Restricted (Gold Coast): Barry Whale, Vanessa Brown (event sponsor), Jody Whale



Winners of the Weekend Swiss Matchpoint Pairs, 0-500 MPs: Rod Binsted and Judy Scholfield



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**KEEPING ACCOUNT**

*Me Again,*

I have two hands for your considered analysis. Both involved defensive mistakes, or at least missed opportunities. I would be grateful for your comments.

**MISSED DEFENCE #1**

*Dummy*  
 ♠ K J  
 ♥ A J 3  
 ♦ Q J 7 6  
 ♣ K Q 5 4

*Me*  
 ♠ 10 9 7  
 ♥ 10 3  
 ♦ K 5 3  
 ♣ A J 6 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Me</i>	<i>Dummy</i>		
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1NT was strong (obviously) and 2♥ was alerted as a transfer. I led the ♣A and, fortunately, it didn't get trumped. After that I didn't want to lead away from my ♦K, so I led a spade. Declarer won and discarded two small diamonds on the top clubs and made 11 tricks!

Declarer's hand was:

♠ A Q 8 6 5  
 ♥ K 8 6 5 4  
 ♦ 10 3  
 ♣ 9

Obviously, I should have shifted to a diamond but I thought that it was too dangerous.

**MISSED DEFENCE #2**

*Dummy*  
 ♠ 9 8  
 ♥ Q J 8 3  
 ♦ K 10 7  
 ♣ A J 8 5

*Me*  
 ♠ K Q J 4  
 ♥ 9 7  
 ♦ Q J 9  
 ♣ 9 7 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Me</i>	<i>Dummy</i>		
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥		

The opponents were playing Acol, and South showed one or four key cards. I led the ♠K.

South took that and played three rounds of hearts, to which East (Glenda) followed and I discarded a club.

Next South played four rounds of clubs, with Glenda showing out on the second round. I think she threw two spades and one diamond.

I had to throw away on the fourth club so I played my ♣4. Then I was stuck on lead when declarer gave me a spade trick, so I led another spade and declarer threw a diamond from dummy and trumped in hand. He then took the rest of the tricks. How could I have known that South only had two spades?

*Lost in Wonderland,*  
*Cathy.*

*Dear Lost,*

So many players underestimate the value of counting cards and tricks in defence. Accurate counting as a defender may well bring greater rewards than applying the same skills as declarer, but it can be easier because at least you are guaranteed of hearing some bidding from your opponents.

In the first example, you may have overlooked the information provided by the bidding. South's bidding strongly suggests a 5-5 pattern. This means that surrendering a diamond trick by leading away from the King is giving away a trick that declarer can't really use. Given that South is certain to discard any small diamond or diamonds on the top clubs, you are destined never to get your ♦K unless you lead the suit now.

In the second example, you are the victim of good declarer play and your own failure to look into the future.

South's hand is exposed as 4-4 in clubs and hearts. The only distribution which now gives any chance of defeating this slam is 2-4-3-4. If not, declarer has 5 trump tricks, 4 clubs and two top diamonds plus the ♠A. With your more-than-useful diamond holding, you must avoid being put on lead in the end game. If partner does not have the ♠10, you are cooked anyway, so you must throw a higher spade on the fourth club and low on any small spade lead from declarer, thereby allowing partner on lead to tackle diamonds safely from her side of the table.

After getting a basic count on obvious suits, the inferential count on other suits must be based on the premise that you can still defeat the contract, unless there is incontrovertible evidence to suggest otherwise.

*Cheers,*  
*David*

*David Lusk*



*Winners of the Penline 500 Swiss Pairs (SFoB, Canberra):  
 Rob Ward and Alex Penklis*

MIS-MANAGING YOUR ENTRIES

♠ J 6 5 3  
♥ 10 9 4 3  
♦ K 6 2  
♣ Q J

♠ A 10 4  
♥ 8 5  
♦ 9 7 4 3  
♣ A 4 3 2

♠ Q 2  
♥ A K Q 7 6  
♦ A Q J 10  
♣ 8 7

♠ K 9 8 7  
♥ J 2  
♦ 8 5  
♣ K 10 9 6 5

♠ K J 10  
♥ A 9 8 4  
♦ A K 5 4  
♣ A 2

♠ 9 8 7 6 5  
♥ K 6  
♦ 10 8  
♣ 7 6 5 4

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

♠ A 4  
♥ 10 3 2  
♦ 7 3 2  
♣ Q J 10 9 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦ 3NT	Pass All Pass	1NT

Sitting East, you are playing in 4♥ (no opposition bidding) on the lead of the ♣10.

You have a spade loser and a club loser. If hearts break, there will be no problem with this hand, but the percentages are against the hearts being 3-3. In that case, you will need the diamond finesse – as many times as possible. Since you have two entries to dummy, you should be aiming to take two diamond finesses, which means you have to take the first diamond finesse at trick two.

Lead a diamond and finesse, winning. Now lead three rounds of hearts, finding out about the 4-2 heart break. You still have another entry to dummy – the ♠A – to take a second diamond finesse. When that works and the diamonds break 3-2, you have your 10 tricks (4 trumps, 4 diamonds, ♣A and ♠A).

Before automatically drawing trumps, you need to think about your entries, and whether they need to be utilised in a more beneficial manner.

Entry management is also critical in No Trump contracts. This hand is a classic example:

West lead the ♠9, and you have to plan your play. You have 1 heart, 2 diamonds, and the lead gives you 3 spade tricks. That means you need at least 3 club tricks.

When it comes to establishing club tricks, you need to realise that the most valuable card in the South hand is the ♠A, the entry to the club winners. Given the lead of the ♠9 (or ♠8, as some would lead), you should be thinking that the ♠Q may be with East, in which case you must win the ♠K in dummy immediately. (If you play the ♠10 – Queen – you cannot duck effectively because a spade return still removes your ♠A entry.)

Win the ♠A, cash the ♣A to get it out of the way, then continue clubs until a defender wins the ♣K, and you have 1 heart, 2 diamonds, 2 spades (only) and 4 clubs, making nine tricks.

Barbara Travis



Winners of the Super Novice Swiss Pairs (Canberra):  
Lorna O'Leary and Sue Bochan



Winners of the Novice Swiss Pairs (Canberra):  
Kit Meyers and Kerry Rymer



Andrew Laurich and Leonie Antill, Super Novice Pairs winners



Winners of the Rising Stars Pairs (Canberra):  
Claire Hughes and Cathy Bywater

## RESPONSES TO QUANTITATIVE 4NT BIDS

Here are three hands for you, on each of which you open 1NT (15-17 HCP):

<b>HAND A</b> ♠ A 7 4 ♥ A Q 10 8 3 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ K 8	<b>HAND B</b> ♠ A 10 5 ♥ A Q ♦ K 10 3 ♣ K 9 8 7 4	<b>HAND C</b> ♠ Q 9 8 4 ♥ A 3 ♦ K Q J 2 ♣ K Q 5
---	---	---

You open 1NT, and your partner responds 4NT quantitative. What would you do?

It appears that you will want to accept the slam invite on all three hands. Although (A) and (B) only have 16 HCP, they both have a five-card suit, and also some useful 10s. In (C), you have a maximum so of course you would accept the slam invite.

However, 6NT may not be correct slam. Imagine partner holds

♠ K 6  
 ♥ K J 5  
 ♦ A 8 5 3  
 ♣ A J 5 2

Opposite (A), you want to be in 6♥. Although 6NT has some chances (diamonds 3-3 or a club finesse), 6♥ should be cold, with the twelfth trick coming from a spade ruff.

Opposite (B), 6NT requires the club suit coming in for five tricks. If clubs are 3-1 and the ♠Q is not singleton, then you would need a miracle to make 6NT. However, in 6♣ you can even handle a 4-0 club break, with your twelfth trick coming from a spade ruff.

Opposite (C), 6NT will require the heart finesse. 6♦ is a much better slam, with a spade ruff (in hand) being your twelfth trick.

As you can see, before committing yourself to 6NT, it is much better to search for an alternative strain. Here is a nice and easy method to adopt:

(Note: If opener bids over the 4NT quantitative bid, it is assumed that he is accepting the slam invite.)

1NT	4NT
?	
5-any	An average 5-card suit (no worse than Qxxxx)
5NT	No 5-card suit, but I have two 4-card suits (for ruffing values); bid your suits up-the-line
6-any	A good 5-card suit (with 2 of the top 3, or 3 of the top 5 honours)
6NT	Not interested in other strains

After searching for an alternative strain, if there is no fit in any suit, then you can fall back to 6NT.

Here are two example hands and their respective auctions:

♠ K 9 6 2 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ A K 9 3 ♣ A 5	♠ A 8 5 ♥ A 5 ♦ Q J 8 4 ♣ K Q 8 4
1NT	4NT
5NT (1)	6♣ (1) bid your suits up-the-line
6♦	Pass (fit found)
♠ A 9 3 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ A Q J 8 3 ♣ Q 4	♠ K 8 4 ♥ A Q 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A K 8 5 3
1NT	4NT
6♦ (1)	6NT (1) good 5 card suit
Pass	

Andy Hung



*Winners of the Canberra Rex Under 300 Teams:  
Phillip Halloran, Jacky Gruszka, Alex Penklis, Rob Ward*

During the regular social drink and a quick discussion after the Thursday night bridge session at our local club, Sarah came over to me and asked me whether there had been any interesting declarer play hands during my session. "Normally, you ask about a specific hand," I said, but she replied that she had an uneventful night and just was curious about what happened to me.

As a matter of fact, one opponent had played a hand thoughtfully against us and it cost us a part score swing of 6 IMPs. Our opponents at the other table had made nine tricks in 2♥ for +140 and their team mates at our table made 3♣ for +110. This was the layout.

Dealer South	♠ K 6 4 3
All Vul	♥ K 7 2
	♦ K Q 9 4 2
	♣ 7
♠ 10 9	♠ A J 8 5
♥ Q 3	♥ A 6 4
♦ J 7 5	♦ 10 8 6
♣ K J 10 4 3 2	♣ A 6 5
	♠ Q 7 2
	♥ J 10 9 8 5
	♦ A 3
	♣ Q 9 8

Sarah looked at the results sheet and said that declarer should only make 2♣. "Yes, that is true," I said, "but how many times have I told you, Sarah, that these solutions see all four hands, and reaching a par result on every hand is very difficult to achieve."

I was sitting in the South seat and I passed as dealer. The auction proceeded as follows:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Double	1♥
2♣	Double	Pass	2♥
3♣	All Pass		

East's take out double would not be everybody's cup of tea but he did have support for all the other suits. North's double on the second round was a 'support double' which showed exactly three hearts.

My partner made the unfortunate opening lead of the ♥2 which ran around to declarer's ♥Q. To make his contract, declarer had to solve the club position. Rather than play on clubs, declarer proceeded on a 'fact finding' mission.

At trick 2, he led the ♠10 around to my ♠Q (on which partner had played the ♠3 showing an even number, using reverse count). I played the ♦A and then the ♦3 and we took our three diamond tricks. I threw the ♥5 on the third diamond. Partner then led the ♥K (the card that he was known to hold from the play at trick 1).

Declarer was in dummy and 'debriefed himself' after his reconnaissance mission. What did he know from what had transpired in the bidding and the play? North had opened the bidding with 1♦ and made a 'support double' to show exactly three hearts. Therefore, it was safe to ruff another heart. So declarer ruffed his heart.

North had also opened the bidding and had shown up with the ♦K-Q and the ♥K (not the ♥J as he followed to the last trick with the ♥7). It was safe to assume that North had the ♠K for his opening bid. Since North had not opened 1♠, he didn't have five spades, so leading the ♠9 was safe as South could not have a singleton. Therefore, declarer lead a spade to the ♠A and ruffed a spade and the ♠K did not appear (North might have played the King, but that is another story).

The following was the layout of the remaining cards after the play had been completed to the above tricks:

	♠ K	
	♥ ---	
	♦ 9 4	
	♣ 7	
♠ ---		♠ J
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ K J 10 4		♣ A 6 5
	♠ ---	
	♥ J	
	♦ ---	
	♣ Q 9 8	

Declarer was in his hand and finally was forced to play a club. At this stage, North was known to hold 3 hearts, 5 diamonds and 4 spades (if the ♠3 count card earlier and the fact that the ♠K was still missing for North's opening bid were to be believed) and, thus, only 1 club. Therefore, he played a club to the ♣A and finessed on the way back. Nicely played.

Sarah gasped that that was an amazing amount of brain power to use for a part score. I replied, "From little things, big things grow."

*Chris Hughes*



*Winners of the Novice Teams in Canberra:  
Annegrete Kolding, Marieta Borthwick, Louise and Michael Brassil*

**ACTION IN FOURTH SEAT AFTER THREE PASSES**

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable:

(Pass) Pass (Pass) ?

1. ♠ K J 10 9 7 ♥ 4 3 ♦ A Q 6 5 ♣ 8 3
2. ♠ 2 ♥ A Q 7 6 ♦ K 6 3 2 ♣ A 10 8 6
3. ♠ 9 5 ♥ A 5 ♦ K 8 7 3 ♣ A 8 7 6 5
4. ♠ 10 9 5 3 ♥ A K 6 4 ♦ Q J 8 ♣ 7 2
5. ♠ 9 6 4 2 ♥ A K Q J 10 8 ♦ 3 ♣ 7 3
6. ♠ 3, ♥ A Q J 8 7 3 ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ 6 2
7. ♠ 2 ♥ A Q J 10 6 3 2 ♦ A J 6 ♣ K 3

1. 1♠. Some players still use the Pearson Count (after Don Pearson from the USA) or Cansino Count (after Jonathan Cansino from the UK) to decide whether or not to open in 4th seat. You add your points to the number of spades and if it comes to 15 you can open, so here you have a Pearson Count of 15 and so you open 1♠ in 4th seat.

In the 1950s, 60s and 70s it was quite OK to pass a 12-count or even a 13-count, so it was possible that if you opened light in 4th seat the opponents might come back in and even bid to game. Nowadays if there are three passes it is unlikely the opponents have missed anything. In fact, most experts would happily open 1♠ in any seat with such a strong spade suit, concentrated points and that little bit of shape.

2. 1♣. On this hand you only have 14 Pearson Points but it's an obvious opening and you will have easily the best hand at the table. Note that on the Pearson Count you should also pass in 4th seat with this amazing hand:  
♠ void ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ A ♣ void since the hand has only 14 Pearson Points.

3. 1♣. Most players open good 11-counts and some players open all 11-counts so you are likely to have more points and a better hand than any of the three other players at the table. This hand came up at the recent Gold Coast Congress and after 1♣, LHO overcalled 1♠, and partner bid 1NT making +120.

4. 1♦. Another hand from the Gold Coast Congress. No guarantees, but the odds are in favour of opening. Partner replied 1NT and scored +90.

Responder should keep the bidding low when partner opens in 4th seat. If an 11-count is not good enough to open then it is certainly not good enough to respond 2NT. Also, if you open 1♦ and partner replies 1♥ or 1♠, Pass is recommended. Only raise partner's major if the opponents balance.

As an aside, note this hand is a perfectly average hand in that it contains one of every card from Ace down to 2 (I have changed a few pips). Before 1994 professionals made their living in Sydney from rubber bridge by playing around 100 hands a day, five or six days a week. Before 1985 I played rubber full-time and I saw this rarity three or four times in 15 years. In the 24 years since 1994 professionals have made their living by playing with "sponsors" or "clients" in duplicate games or tournaments and often play only 100 hands a week. Since 1994 I have not seen one-of-each-card at all despite the odds of picking it up being only 9,462-1.

5. 1♥. Again from the Gold Coast Congress, this hand was opened 2♥ and partner took it out to 3♣ with six solid clubs and a singleton heart because 2♥ showed 5 hearts and 4 spades in their methods. The 2♥ opener declared with a sweep of his arm that, in 4th seat, 2♥ and 2♠ simply mean "partner, please pass", no matter what the system. I don't believe this is so; bids should be the same in all seats but I would open 1♥ in 4th seat on this fine hand, as I would in all seats.

6. 1♥. The temptation is to open a weak two. I disagree, because you have a good hand and may miss game. Also, if you open 2♥ and an opponent backs in with, say, 3♣ you are in a poor position since you underbid on the first round and now don't know whether to bid 3♥ or pass.

7. 1♥. Gamblers open 4♥ because partner only needs a couple of good cards to make 10 tricks. However, why gamble when you don't need to? How would you feel if you opened 1♥ and the hand was passed in? You'd be elated since you don't expect to make 4♥ when partner passes 1♥.

In the last session of a recent final, my RHO opened 4♠ and I held

♠ A 7 3 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A K J 8 5 4 ♣ A Q and overcalled 5♦.

This was doubled by the next hand holding

♠ void ♥ A K 8 7 ♦ Q 10 7 6 ♣ K J 8 7 6 for -1100.

If my partner had held the doubler's hand we would have 7♦ on. In this case I had to gamble, but on the hand in question you don't have to so just open 1♥ and get to the right contract when opponents are unlikely to come back into the bidding to disrupt you.

*Paul Lavings*



*Winners of the SFoB (Canberra) National Rising Stars Teams: Steve & Mary Colling, Barbara & Roger Love,*



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