

ABF Leadership - Setting the Direction for 2016 Onwards

The ABF Strategic Plan (originally prepared to cover the period 2013-2017) sets out our vision for the future. It is an aspirational statement describing our values and key challenges for the years ahead.

The ABF Council, effectively our 'Board of Directors' with appointees from each State and Territory Bridge Association, recently undertook a comprehensive review of this document (ably assisted by Ben Thompson as facilitator).

- ☐ As a result of this review, our organisational priorities for 2016 onwards have been identified and they are listed below.

An agreement to provide more resources in the areas of :

- Teaching and Marketing – we will build on the highly successful work already being done by our National Teaching Coordinator and National Marketing Officer
- Club support – we are looking to provide more support to club administrators - including provision of policies, procedures and guidelines to assist in the successful running of a club
- Directing – we will provide additional support and development opportunities for club directors and over time develop and provide experience for future directors at congress, State and National levels.
- We will develop our relationships with the World Bridge Federation and other bridge playing nations and continue our focus on improving the performance of our international representative teams.

☐ *Next steps?*

The ABF Management Committee will develop implementation plans based on the agreed priorities, ideally drawing on skills within the ABF community.

I look forward to saying more via the ABF website once the detail has been developed.

Bruce Neill
ABF President
December 2015



The Chennai Chronicles continued

The 2015 World Seniors Teams Quarter-finals

by Ron Klinger

In the qualifying rounds of the 2015 d'Orsi (Seniors) Bowl, *USA1* came first and chose *NORWAY* as their opponents for the quarter-finals. *AUSTRALIA*, Terry Brown – Avi Kanetkar, Peter Buchen – Henry Christie, Bill Haughie – Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, npc finished second and chose *SWEDEN* for the quarter-finals. In the qualifying, *AUSTRALIA* had beaten *SWEDEN* 40-20. That was over 16 boards. The quarter-finals were over 96 boards.

This is the first time in the Seniors' World Teams that Australia has finished second in the qualifying. Indeed, it is the first time, Australia has had a choice of opponent.

West deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	?	

What would you do as East with ♠---, ♥98642, ♦95, ♣KQ9874?

Board 1, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

Full marks to Terry Brown, East, who jumped to 5♣. Avi Kanetkar, West, bid 6♣. The play was routine for 12 tricks, +920.

West	North	East	South
	Buchen		Christie
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²	4♠
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	6♠
Dbl	All Pass		

1. 11-13 balanced or 16-17+, any

2. Artificial, 0-7 points

South lost to the three aces for two down, -300, but +12 IMPs.

Open: 5♠ doubled x 2, 6♠ doubled x 1, 5♣ x 1, 6♣ x 1, 6♣ doubled x 2, 7♣ doubled x 2;

Women: 5♠ doubled x 1; 7♣ doubled x 1; 6♥ doubled -100 x 1 (club ruff), 6♠ doubled x 1, 5♣ x 1, 6♣ x 2, 6♣ doubled x 1;

Seniors: 5♠ doubled -100 x 2, 6♠ doubled -300 x 4, 6♣ +920 x 1, 7♣ doubled -100 x 1.

AUSTRALIA won the first session by 45-37 and led 55-37, thanks to a 10-IMP carry-forward from the 40-20 win against *SWEDEN* in the qualifying rounds.

East deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	1NT
Pass	6NT	?	5♥ ²

1. Inviting 6NT

2. Accepting with two aces

What would you lead as West from ♠Q102, ♥108542, ♦76, ♣Q97?

Session 2, Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

“You should seek a passive lead against 6NT. Do not lead away from a king or queen. Prefer to lead from spot cards.” (*Winning Notrump Leads* by David Bird and Taf Anthias at page 193). Had the Swedish West heeded this and led a heart or preferably a diamond, 6NT would have failed. As it happens, a low club lead would also work. West chose ♠2 and Terry Brown made 12 tricks, +1440.

At the other table *SWEDEN* bid 1♣ : 3NT (13-18 balanced), 4NT (inviting) : 6NT, all pass. Bill Haughie, East, led ♦Q. West made both black queens, +100, +17 IMPs.

Open: 3NT 660 x 2, 6♥ -200 x 1, 6NT N 0/2, 6NT S 1/4, heart lead x 2, diamond lead x 1, ♠2 lead x 1.

Women: 3NT 660 x 1, 6♥ -200 x 1, 6NT N 0/1, 6NT S 0/5, heart lead x 4, diamond lead x 1.

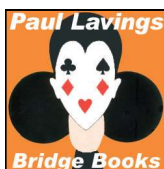
Seniors: 3NT 660 x 3, 6NT N 0/2, 6NT S 1/3 (heart lead x 2, ♠2 lead x 1).

The high point for the Australian Seniors came after Session 2. Australia won that session by 79-25 and were leading by 72 IMPs, 134-62. In that situation, you should not change your style of bidding. Whatever that style is, it is what gave you the lead you have.

North deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	2♦ ¹	Pass	?

1. 6-10 points, six hearts or six spades



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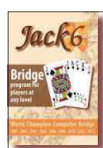
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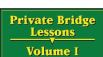
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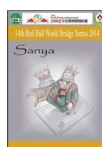
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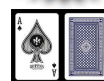
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What would you do as South with ♠A85, ♥75, ♦J985, ♣AKQ3?

Session 3, Board 39, North deals, all vulnerable

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

If you think points, you might say to yourself, "I have only 14 points. Partner's maximum is 10. The best we could have is 24 points, so game is unlikely to be a good bet." However, if you think tricks, you would reason, "A weak two usually has 5-6 playing tricks. I have four tricks. If partner has a maximum, six tricks, game should be viable." Therefore South is worth a game try. One sequence that would lead you to 4♥ is 2♦ : 2NT (inquiry), 3♣ (hearts) : 3♥ (inviting game), 4♥ : Pass. On the actual deal, 4♥ is a great spot.

North deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Christie		Buchen
	2♦	Pass	2♥ ¹

All Pass

1. Pass or correct

West led a top diamond and switched to ♥A and another trump. South thus made 11 tricks for +200.

North deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Haughie		Klinger	
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Lead ♠3 – ace – jack – four

Declarer played ♥5 to ♥K, followed by ♥Q. West took ♥A, ♦K, ♦Q, but North had the rest for +620 and 9 IMPs to SWEDEN.

There is a case for opening 1♥ rather than 2♦/2♥, not just because North is maximum, but rather because North is maximum and has three good spades. NS might have a fit in spades, but not in hearts.

Open: 4♥ x 7, two failing after a club lead, 3♠ +140 x 1;

Women: 4♥ x 8, one going two off after a spade lead;

Seniors: 4♥ x 5, one failing after a club lead, 2♥ x 2, 3NT +600 x 1.

Sweden won Session 3 by 44 IMPs to 18, but Australia still led by 152-106.

4

West deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²
Pass	4♣ ³	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ ⁴
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

1. Artificial, strong
2. 8+ points, 5+ spades
3. 4+ spades, 0-1 club
4. 1 or 4 Key Cards

What would you lead as West from ♠73, ♥105, ♦9743, ♣AQJ75?

Session 4, Board 6, West deals, all vulnerable

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

With EW silent, Buchen – Christie bid 1♦ : 1♠, 4♣ (splinter) : 4♠, all pass.

West led ♥10. East took two hearts and gave West a heart ruff, NS +620. At the other table, after the auction in the problem, Avi Kanetkar led ♣A, NS +1430 and 13 IMPs to Sweden.

On some layouts ♣A lead might work. This was not one of them. Only a heart lead beats 6♠. Five pairs bid 6♠, failing once on ♥10 lead and making on a club lead three times and a spade lead once.

Sweden won Session 4 by 36 IMPs to 13. Australia still led by 165-142, but the momentum was with Sweden.

With neither side vulnerable, South opens 2NT (20-22 points, balanced). What would you do as West with ♠J109863, ♥7, ♦---, ♣1098432?

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

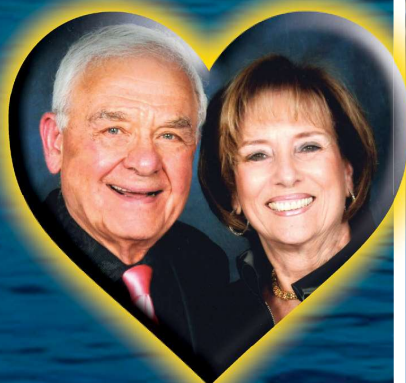
For Issue 178, March 2016, copy deadline is:

February 26, 2015

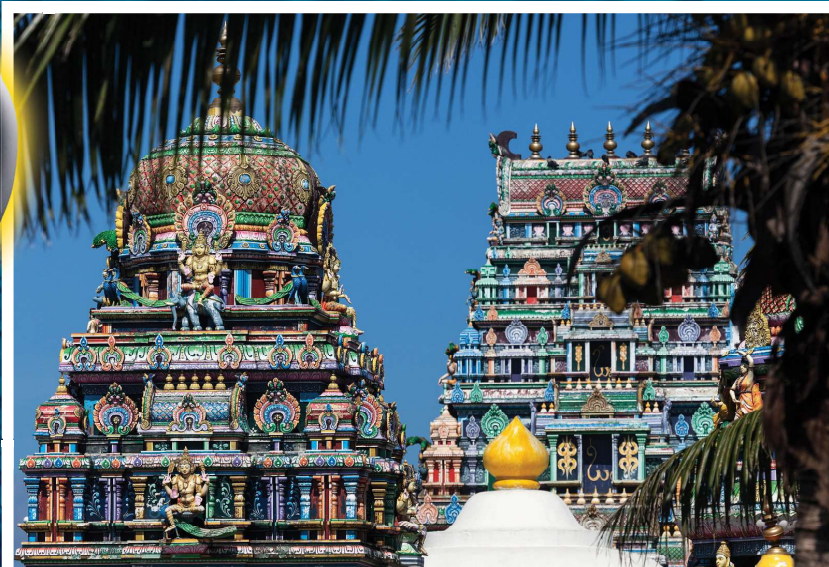
Late submissions will be held over until Issue 179, May 2016. Email: editor@abf.com.au

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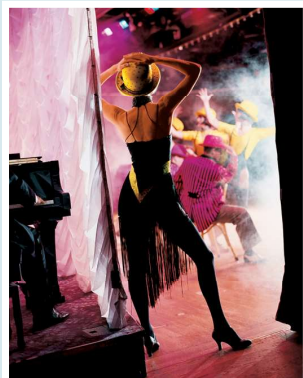
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Session 5, Board 65, South deals, nil vulnerable

		♠ A	
		♥ 6 5 4	
		♦ A K 9 7 6 2	
		♣ J 6 5	
♠ J 10 9 8 6 3		♠ Q 7 4 2	
♥ 7		♥ A 10 9 8 3 2	
♦ ---		♦ 10 8 3	
♣ 10 9 8 4 3 2		♣ ---	
		♠ K 5	
		♥ K Q J	
		♦ Q J 5 4	
		♣ A K Q 7	
West	North	East	South
	Brown		Kanetkar
3♠	4♦	4♠	5♦
5♠	6♦	6♠	Dbl
All Pass			

North led ♠A, followed by a top diamond. West ruffed and could set up the hearts for one down. NS +100. You can judge whether NS should have reached 6NT.

West	North	East	South
Haughie		Klinger	
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♦ ¹
Pass	6♦	Dbl	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	Pass

1. No major

West led ♠J, ace. Declarer played a heart. East took ♥A, but South had the rest for +990 and 13 IMPs to Sweden.

If you appreciate the power of extreme shape, 11+ cards in two suits, then the lack of points will not inhibit a 3♠ bid by West. As you can see EW have only 7 HCP, but 4♠ is unbeatable on any lead.

As for my double of 6♦, the conflict is whether to pass and hope partner leads a club or to double and ask partner to find your void, but risking a run to 6NT by the opponents.

Open: 6NT S 1020 x 3; 6♦ N -50 x 1, 6♠ doubled, -300 x 1, -100 x 1, 4♠ doubled +590, 5♠ doubled +650;

Women: 6NT S 990 x 1; 6♦ N 920 x 3, 6♦ doubled S 1090 x 1, 5♣ N -100, 6♠ doubled -300;

Seniors: 6NT S +1020 x 2, 990 x 1; 6♦ N 920 x 2, 5♦ x 1, 6♠ doubled -100 x 1, 5♠ doubled -100 x 1.

Sweden won Session 5 by 43 IMPs to 13 and led by 185-178.

At favourable vulnerability South deals and opens 2NT, 20-22, balanced. Pass by West. What do you do as North holding ♠954, ♥J2, ♦Q98762, ♣85?

Session 6, Board 82, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

The Swedish South opened 1♣ (11-13 balanced or 17+ any). North responded 1♦ (0-7 points, any). After South showed a balanced 20-22, North bid 3♣, asking, South bid 3♦, no five-card major, and North passed.

East led ♠K. Declarer won, drew trumps and played ♥A, ♥K and ♥10, queen, ruffed. A diamond to dummy let declarer discard a loser on ♥9 for 10 tricks and +130.

At the other table Bill Haughie, South, opened 2NT. Whether you take action as North depends on whether you are an optimist or a pessimist. A pessimist fears that South will have ♦A-x or ♦K-x and your diamonds will be worth next to nothing. An optimist hopes to find partner with strong diamonds or possibly five spades.

North bid 3♣ and when South denied a five-card major, NS ended in 3NT. West led a low heart and South also had 10 tricks, +430, +7 IMPs.

The scores were now level, 185-185, but that was the end of any good news. *SWEDEN* won the last set by 68-17. At the end of Session 5, *AUSTRALIA* was down by 7 IMPs.

To recover 7 IMPs is not a tough assignment, but *AUSTRALIA* was not up to it. From leading by 134-62 after Board 32, we lost the quarter final by 283-195. Over the last four sessions we were outscored 191-61.

How do you account for that? It is not ability, as the qualifying rounds showed. It might be a combination of lack of fitness, fatigue, after effects of alcohol, poor sleep, lack of experience, lack of focus and psychological issues.

Of the 66 teams, 24 had a coach. Maybe the Australian Bridge Federation could invest in a coach for its international teams. Such a coach is needed not so much for bridge issues, but for the psychological side of the game. Non-playing captains are not necessarily able to deal with this area.

Help Gippsland clubs

Gippsland bridge clubs are soon to celebrate 21 years of working together as ERBA (Eastern Region Bridge Association).

In 1995 Martin Willcox and Quentin Van Abbe from the VBA held a meeting with representatives of Gippsland bridge clubs with a view to forming a common association; Liz Steedman of Bairnsdale Bridge Club was appointed Interim President and ERBA was born.

All seven Gippsland clubs (Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Sale, Traralgon, South Gippsland and Phillip Island) have played a pivotal role over that time in ensuring that ERBA has fostered interest in, and promoted bridge through local, VBA and ABF events, teaching tours, interclub and regional competitions and the ERBA Regional Congress.

On February 13 and 14, 2016 the Eastern Region Bridge Association (ERBA) will be holding their ERBA congress in Sale

This Congress is normally restricted to current Gippsland Bridge Club members who reside and play most of their bridge within the region.

However, for 2016, in order to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution made by all members, both past and present, to the ongoing success and longevity of ERBA, all past members of the seven clubs are cordially invited to play in the 2016 ERBA Congress.

As well as a well-run congress hosted by Traralgon Bridge Club at the Sale Racecourse, ERBA will conduct a special dinner on the Saturday evening at the same venue providing the opportunity to have a "back-to"

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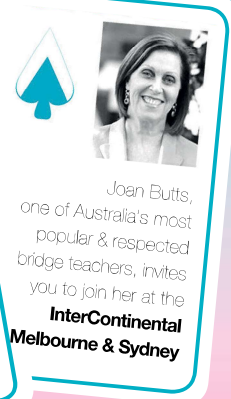
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A separate booking for the dinner is necessary. If you would like to come for the "back to" dinner only, you would be most welcome: please contact Terry Nadebaum tnadebaum47@gmail.com or call 0429146756. The cost of the dinner is \$25 pp.

Spring National Women's Teams

by Barbara Travis

Last year the (Spring National) Linda Stern Women's and Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams had 16 teams enter each event, which was too small a number for nine rounds of Swiss matches, but ideal for a format change which involved two sections of seven teams playing a complete round robin, followed by semi-finals and a final.

This year both events saw a combined 32 teams enter, but this time only 13 teams in the Women's and 19 in the Seniors'. Once again there was a different format, with the two events combined to make a workable field, but Rounds 1, 7, 8 and 9 being Women's teams v. Women's teams (where possible) and Seniors' v. Seniors'. For some teams this format was unsuccessful, with some Women's teams meeting top Seniors' teams and suffering big defeats (and equally some Seniors' teams suffered big losses to Women's teams). As it happened, the top two seeds in each field qualified for the final. (Meantime, the organisers are interested in feedback about the format and proposals for the future.) This year our team was Sue Lusk - Margaret Bourke, Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg, Jodi Tutty - Marianne Bookallil.

The first board we played was a textbook hand for 'safe v. danger' hands.

Match 1, Board 12 (rotated for convenience)

♠ A Q 10 9 5
♥ Q 10
♦ K 10 6
♣ K 4 3

♠ J 7
♥ A J 2
♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ A 9 6 5

Playing 3NT, you receive ♥6 lead, playing ♥Q which wins. This confirms West holds ♥K, and ♥6 seems like it could be from a five+ card suit. You have two heart tricks and two club tricks. Spades can provide four (or five) tricks and diamonds at least one trick.

On this particular layout you should ensure you create an extra diamond trick first. Should you cross to hand and take the spade finesse first, if East wins they can return a heart through your ♥AJ. If West holds ♦A now you will go down.

You should, instead, lead a small diamond from dummy first, either bringing out West's DA (the entry) or winning your ♦Q. If East wins ♦A immediately, then you



can duck the second heart and take the spade finesse to East when East is 'safe', having run out of hearts after three rounds.

So I led a diamond to ♦Q at trick two, and when that held I could now take the spade finesse, ensuring nine tricks. When the spade finesse worked *and* they were 3-3, I was just a little bit disappointed that my safety play was unnecessary. My opposing declarer had taken the spade finesse first and would have gone down if the East and West cards in spades and diamonds had been swapped.

Board 3 of Match 3 provided some entertaining chat at our table:

♠ A 7 4
♥ Q 6
♦ A K Q 10 3
♣ J 10 8

♠ 2
♥ A 7 5 2
♦ J 8
♣ A Q 9 8 3 2

South opened 1♣, North responded 1♦, South rebid 2♣ and North jumped to 3NT. On the spade lead, the contract relied on the club finesse. Declarer ducked two rounds of spades, but when ♣K was onside declarer made the rest of the tricks. The North declarer said, "When you opened, I felt like there would be a slam on this hand."

I couldn't help but reply, "There was – in clubs." After all, 7♣ is in fact the same as 3NT as a contract – they each need the club finesse. Sue and Margaret bid to a sensible 6♣, making 13 tricks on a spade lead.

The next hand has created some discussion in terms of North's rebid. As North, and playing two-over-one game forcing, you hold ♠AK109873, ♥J52, ♦AK, ♣10 You open 1♠ and partner responds 2♥. What is your rebid? Most people have recommended rebidding 2♠

to show the length and quality of the suit. At the table I chose to rebid 3♥ because I thought I would need to know about the quality of partner's hearts for slam.

Our auction was:

West	North Travis	East	South Ginsberg
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥ ¹
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

1. No club control, which means her hearts are better!

Partner held ♠QJ, ♥AKQ97, ♦7654, ♣96

Our opposition missed this (seemingly easy) slam, for a 13 IMP gain (Match 4, Board 4).

What you play at trick 1 can be critical to your defence.

One example I saw was –

dummy holds K1098x

and you hold Jxx over dummy.

Partner has led this suit against a suit contract, and declarer plays the eight from dummy. Assuming your partner has led fourth highest, and assuming declarer has the ace (partners are not supposed to lead low from aces against suit contracts), you should just contribute a small card rather than the Jack. Declarer has the ace singleton and is 'playing around' with you, hoping you cover the eight in order to create a finesse position.

Look at what happened on the following hand:

Match 4, Board 15, NS vulnerable (hand rotated)

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

East opened 1♥ and South overcalled 5♦. I would have led ♠K if I'd been on lead, but my opponent chose to lead partner's suit, ♥4. Since ♥4 is low, that marks declarer with ♥A, and probably another heart. If that other heart is ♥Q, you need to retain ♥J to stop declarer from taking three heart tricks (even by overtaking ♥Q, because ♥10 would become a winner); if the other heart is a small heart, once again you need to restrain yourself from playing ♥J at trick one, because otherwise declarer can finesse ♥10 on the next heart lead. If you play low at trick one, either ♥8 wins and the hearts are blocked or declarer wins ♥A but only has two heart tricks.

My opponent inserted ♥J at trick one and I won ♥A. The next step was to organise a way to dispose of my third loser (one spade, one diamond, one club).

The first attempt was to lead towards ♣K, in case ♣A was onside. When ♣K lost to ♣A that option had been eliminated. ♠8 was returned, won with ♠A.

After cashing ♦A, the second chance was to lead ♥6 and finesse ♥10, and that chance improved when West played ♥9. ♠J was discarded on ♥K. East then realised that if she had withheld her ♥J at trick one there were only two heart tricks, not three.

[By the way, there were an awful lot of eight-card suits during the Spring National Teams events. There were also way more solid diamond suits than would be 'normal' – solid six-card, seven-card and eight-card suits – solid being AKQJxx/x/x. It feels like there is something wrong with the dealing program to my untrained eye.]

Match 7 saw our team meet *SMART*, and after our 20-board match we had a 10-10 draw.

Given that we met *SMART*, Di Smart – Felicity Beale, Nevena Djurovic – Rena Kaplan in the final, this match was significant for carry-forward purposes.

On Board 13 Candice and I bid to a slam after the opposition's 1NT (12-14 HCP) opening bid, which is always a satisfying achievement.

I held ♠K, ♥A975, ♦A1086, 10982

West	North Travis	East	South Ginsberg
	Pass	1NT	2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	4♣ ³
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

1. Spades + a minor – given that we are vulnerable it is usually 5/5
2. Asks for the minor, showing a decent hand
3. Showing a very good hand and a 6-5 – admittedly I wasn't sure which way the 6-5 was

Any red suit cards were covered by ♥A and ♦A, and ♠K had to be a good card for Candice. I wanted to bid 4NT as RKCB on clubs, but we were in uncharted waters so I just 'bashed' 6♣ on the basis partner had to hold good black cards.

Candice's hand was ♠AQ10432, ♥K, ♦5, ♣KQJ53

Despite not winning a match on the last day of qualifying, our team sneaked into the final. Carry-forward this year was based on the difference in VPs between first and second place, factored dependent on whether your team won or lost any head-to-head match. Having a tied match meant that the difference was 5.1 (75% of the difference between our scores) in *SMART*'s favour. Slam bidding played a major role in the final, starting with:

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

West	North Travis	East	South Ginsberg
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Candice showed a lot of faith in my bidding, given that my 2♣ rebid was natural and non-forcing and then I looked for slam via 5♣. The 3♠ bid systemically showed a good opening hand (15+ HCP) with at least

a 3-5-1-4 shape. Cooperating by cuebidding ♣K with 6♣ was an excellent effort, because ♦K was known to be of not much use.

The play was interesting. ♣J was led and Candice considered various lines of play and the need for entries to her hand. Consequently she played ♣Q to trick one, only to have it ruffed. (As it happened, this ruff shortened East's trumps which helped declarer later in the play since trumps were now 2-2.)

♠10 was returned and Candice needed to win this in hand with ♠J. She now took the heart finesse successfully, cashed ♥A and trumped a heart in hand. A spade to dummy's ♠Q drew the last two trumps, then Candice trumped the fourth heart, making dummy's long heart a winner. Now she trumped a diamond and cashed the last heart. Whilst she discarded another diamond, West was starting to come under some pressure, discarding a club.

Candice crossed to her hand with ♣K and led her last spade in this position:

♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ A 6 5
 ♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ A
 ♣ 10 9
 ♠ K
 ♥ ---
 ♦ K
 ♣ 8
 ♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ irrelevant
 ♣ ---

♠K squeezed West in diamonds and clubs, for the 12th trick.

The other table played in 3NT, making 11 tricks, but we gained 11 IMPs.

In the first set, TRAVIS had two slam swings, to lead 40-19.

In the second set, I produced a 'creative' auction at the table and left Candice to solve the problem of what it meant. Here's the auction:

West	North Travis	East	South Ginsberg
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

The question was: why did I use Stayman, then rebid 3NT when partner showed four hearts. I must have four hearts myself, so what's going on?

My hand was ♠10874, ♥KQ62, ♦QJ8, ♣J6

My problem was whether 3NT or 4♥ was the 'best' contract, and that decision hinged very much on what partner's spade stopper was. It seemed very possible that West held a singleton spade, so if East held ♠A

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we needed to play in 3NT, but if Candice held ♠A we should play in 4♥. (For example, if Candice had ♠QJx then we needed to play 3NT to avoid the spade ruff.

We played in 3NT when Candice held ♠A63, ♥A943, ♦AK103, ♣Q2

Sad to say, West led a club and they took the first six club tricks. 4♥ made at the other table on the singleton spade lead (East held ♠KQJ92, but a club loser could be discarded on diamonds once hearts broke 3-2). As it happens, a club lead will defeat 4♥, but is totally unrealistic when holding a singleton in partner's suit.

In the second set, SMART gained one slam swing on a particularly lucky slam hand, and both sides missed a good slam. SMART won the set 42-24, leaving the running scoreline TRAVIS 64:SMART 66.1 at the halfway mark.

The third set had another two slam hands, both bid by Tutty and Bookallil but not by SMART.

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

West Tutty	North	East Bookallil	South
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥ ¹	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦ ²	Pass	4♣ ³	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	4♠ ³	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

1. Fourth suit game forcing
2. Setting diamonds, encouraging partner to cuebid for slam
3. Club control (not showing her spade void, given it was partner's first suit). Then: heart control Then: spade control

Marianne was always heading to slam once there was heart control opposite.

The lead of ♥A did not hurt her prospects. South switched to a trump and declarer won in dummy. Now she embarked on a cross-ruff, which means one should cash one's winners first then do the trumping (one club being discarded on ♠A). 11 IMPs to TRAVIS.

The next board was another slam, though this one had a much weirder auction (explained by one player mis-sorting her cards!)

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

Bidding and making 6♣ was worth another 13 IMPs. After the first three boards the rest of the set was rather flat, and the scoreline was 38 – 2 in TRAVIS's favour. With 16 board remaining the score was TRAVIS:

SMART 68.1.

The last set had three 'slam' hands. One was flat, making; one wasn't a great slam but failed when the trumps broke 4-0 so SMART gained 13 IMPs; and the last was a defensive error to allow SMART to make a slam that should fail, giving SMART 11 IMPs (instead of TRAVIS gaining 11 IMPs).

After those hands the margin had been reduced to a slender 3 IMPs lead to TRAVIS but the team stabilised and held on to win by a slender 5.9 IMPs, 119 to 113.1.

At the same time, the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams (BEST) final was being played between LORENTZ and NEILL.

NEILL led 86 to 77.8 with one set remaining. LORENTZ went in fighting, and after a landslide their way, 49-2, they won 126.8 to 88. Congratulations to LORENTZ – Gabi Lorentz - Stephen Burgess, Bill Haughie - Ron Klinger.

I enjoy the Sydney Spring Nationals with its spacious venue, easy parking, well-organised lunches, great organisation by Marcia Scudder and efficient directing by Matthew McManus. The e-Bulletins aren't proving very popular in terms of player-input, but are easy to access. The only issue that now needs 'fixing' is the format, in particular for the Women's Teams which has seen a critical decline in entries.

James O'Sullivan Foundation

The Trustees of the James O'Sullivan Foundation have agreed to reduce the interest rate from 5% to 4% on new and existing loans as of the 1st January 2016.

We welcome applications from Bridge clubs for funding for improvements, extensions or new premises. Further information can be found on the website: <http://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/james-osullivan-foundation/>

The James O'Sullivan Foundation was established in 1984 to commemorate the late President of the ABF, James de Courcy O'Sullivan who served in that office with great distinction from 1971 until his death in 1982.

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- Commemorate James O'Sullivan.
- Offer an opportunity to commemorate the names of people closely associated with bridge.
- To promote the intellectual sport of contract bridge and to assist bridge players and bridge organizations in bridge-related activities



by Barbara Travis

Women's World Championships

Our Women's Team – Sue Lusk and Margaret Bourke, Barbara Travis and Candice Ginsberg, Val Biltoft and Leone Fuller, with David Appleton as npc – would have to play well to qualify for the final eight places in the Venice Cup, held in Chennai in September/October.

We had a very tough first day, from which we never managed to recover. The next two matches were also tough, with a highlight being our big win against China (again) in Round 4.

The Chinese, amongst others, found bidding this grand slam difficult, but Candice and I had a good (though imperfect) auction to 7♥:

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

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg		Travis	
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
3♥ ³	Pass	4♣ ³	Pass
4♦ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass
5♦ ⁵	Pass	7♥ ⁶	All Pass

- 18-19 HCP
- Transfer to hearts, promising 5+ hearts
- Setting hearts, slam interest, 1st or 2nd round control of clubs / diamonds
- Roman Key Card Blackwood (I figured if she held no ♠A, I'd bid 6NT to protect her ♠K)
- 0 or 3 key card
- Here is the minor imperfection. We have a 'tool' available to check for 3rd round control of a suit, so I should have bid 6♣ here to ask partner for either ♣Q or ♣xx (when I can trump a club loser). Her response would have been 7♥, with ♣Qx for me.

That was a hand I could claim at trick 1, including stating 'drawing trumps'.

Another large gain was simply a difference in valuation after partner's overcall. You hold: ♠Q, ♥Q92, ♦976542, ♣1093

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♦ ³	2NT	5♦ ⁵	5♠
All Pass			

- Good passed hand four-card raise to 3♠

Despite the vulnerability (all vulnerable), with six-card support and therefore an 11-card fit) plus the singleton spade, this hand seemed better suited to an early sacri-

fice in 5♥, rather than bidding more slowly and having to make a decision later. There is a theory that your side shouldn't be the one guessing what to do at the five-level, so striking first and making the opponents guess is recommended.

Sue and Margaret were allowed to play in 4♠ when the Chinese 'guessed' wrongly about the five-level, making 10 tricks, whereas our opponents lost the first three tricks then had to pick the heart suit:

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

(This hand also reinforces the notion that you can overcall with 17 HCP, rather than doubling. The hand isn't that good for doubling then bidding diamonds; you do not have three+ hearts (you don't want your partner to bid hearts!); you get your suit into the auction immediately before being preempted out of your fit.)

5♠ doubled -1 gave us 200 to go with our teammates' +620, for 13 IMPs.

The following hand was a highlight of our match against Japan:

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

East played in 4♠ after West opened 1♦ and showed a heart shortage. Candice therefore decided to lead ♠A, and I encouraged. ♣2 went to my ♣K and I continued a club. Declarer was suitably deluded, and trumped with ♠Q. She now led a trump towards dummy and Candice flew with ♠A to lead her fourth club. My ♠10 was higher than declarer's trumps (and essentially 'known' since declarer used her ♠Q rather than a lower trump on the previous club). My delight with that defence had to wait to be shared with the team at score-up rather than at the table.

Our team finished 12th in the Venice Cup. The highlight for us was the performance of our Seniors' team which led for several days of the qualifying, ultimately qualifying in 2nd position. They met the Swedish Seniors in their quarter final match and led for four of the six sets (96-board match), eventually succumbing to both the greater experience of the players and also the length of the match itself.

The consolation event – Transnational Open Teams – comprised three days of 5 x 10 board matches qualifying, followed by knockouts for the top 16 teams. The Australian Women played with David Appleton and Julia Leung, replacing Val and Leone. We started well, with a highlight being our Round 2 match, where we defeated the defending title-holders. I particularly enjoyed this hand:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Ginsberg</i>		<i>Travis</i>	
1♣	1♠	3♦ ¹	Pass
3♠ ²	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	5♣	All Pass

1. Fit showing jump – showing 5+ diamonds (good suit) and 4+ clubs. Usually at least a limit raise, but I liked the look of the 6-4 shape.
2. Game forcing, so I showed a partial spade stopper
3. Having bid 3♠ game forcing, the 4♣ now says 'slam interest', so I showed NONE

5♣ made 12 tricks when ♣K fell singleton. The diamonds provided discards for any losers that couldn't be trumped.

At the other table, West opened 1NT (15-17), currently quite popular with six-card minors. (Personally, when I opt to open 1NT with a six-card minor, I make sure I have a totally minimum 1NT opening). Now East had little interest in game and simply wanted to play in a diamond partscore, so transferred to 3♦.

I found it amusing that we were hunting for slam when the opposition were looking for a safe partscore!

My final offering comes from our first Transnational Teams match, against a rather random bidder. Candice held ♠A1062, ♥82, ♦AQJ1085, ♣9

I opened 1♥ and her RHO overcalled 2♦! She wasn't convinced I would be able to re-open with a double, but that's what I did and she could pass 2♦ doubled for penalties. It's not ideal to make a re-opening double holding a void in the trump suit, since you can't lead trumps for your partner. Candice led a heart and we took the contract five down. However, we should take



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it six down – on a trump lead.

If you lead trumps with such a solid suit, then partner's long suits will act as a means of finessing declarer's trumps.

Here's the full hand (and you can determine why I think the 2♦ overcall is insane):

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

The bridge events were well-run, especially given the chaos in the lead-up with all the cheating allegations, but the WBF needs to start enforcing their regulations properly. They have created many policies, including penalties, but they simply do not police things like wearing of uniforms, not taking electronic devices into the playing area and such. I hope to see improvements when next I represent Australia.

Coffs Bridge Club Veterans



On Saturday, 26 September the Coffs Bridge Club decided to hold a special session of bridge to celebrate the fact we have 11 members who are over 90 or in their 90th year. We feel so privileged and humbled to have these players. We managed to get them all there apart from two. It was a great afternoon with cake and other goodies for afternoon tea.

Surfers Paradise BC new roof

The Surfers Paradise Bridge Club now has a new roof on our building. Sincere thanks to Councilor Lex Bell, Gold Coast City Council for his attention. We have been very fortunate to have a benefactor from the club pay a large portion of the cost. We give our thanks, and also to others for their contributions.



Grand National Open Teams

by Ron Klinger

Sixty-four teams qualified from clubs around Australia to contest the finals of the Grand National Open Teams. This was the 30th GNOT, held again in Tweed Heads, with John Brockwell Convener. The knock-out format consists of one 14-board match, followed by three 28-board matches and a 42-board match to qualify two teams for the semi-finals. Losers drop into a Swiss Teams. At the end of the Swiss the two leading teams play against the two losers in the Round of 4 to produce the other semi-finalists.

North deals, NS vulnerable

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

How would you play on ♣10 lead: three – two – jack? Suppose instead that North leads ♥2: six – queen – ace. How would you plan the play then? This arose in Match 2:

Board 15, North deals, NS vulnerable

	♠ 7 5		
	♥ 10 8 5 2		
	♦ K 10 7		
	♣ 10 9 7 6		
♠ Q 9 6 4 3		♠ A J 10 2	
♥ A K J		♥ 6	
♦ Q 8 2		♦ 9 6 5 4 3	
♣ A J		♣ K 4 3	
	♠ K 8		
	♥ Q 9 7 4 3		
	♦ A J		
	♣ Q 8 5 2		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Dbl	3♥ ¹	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1. Preemptive, 3-6 points, 4+ hearts

South led ♣2 and ♣J won. Declarer should cash ♣A, cross to ♠A, play ♣K to discard a diamond and then lead a spade. The same line applies if West is declarer and receives a heart lead. It would be an error to take the spade finesse at trick two. South wins and plays ♦A, ♦J. North overtakes and plays a third diamond for South to ruff, one down. *Continued on page 16*

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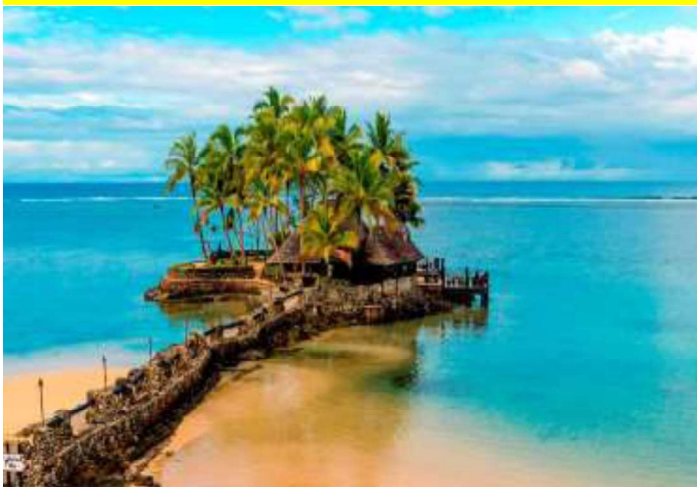


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Sydney 1, Ron Klinger, David Beauchamp, Terry Brown, Kim Morrison, Avi Kanetkar and Peter Buchen

There were 27 Wests in 4♠, with 19 successful. Peter Buchen of *Sydney 1* was one of those Wests making 4♠. He took ♥Q and played a low spade to the ace and a second spade, taken by the king. East switched to ♦A, followed by ♦J. South ducked. East reverted to a heart and declarer ruffed his winner in dummy, finessed ♣J and cashed ♣A. He ruffed his other heart winner and discarded ♦Q on ♣K. Well done. Kerry Wood of *Brisbane 3* produced the same line to make 4♠.

Of the eight teams in the knockout quarter-finals, five were from Sydney. The others were *Adelaide 1*, *Melbourne 1* and *Northern Rivers (NSW) 1*. The last four undefeated teams in the knockout rounds were *Adelaide 1*, *Sydney 1*, *Sydney 2* and *Sydney 3*. *Adelaide 1* defeated *Sydney 1* by 99-73 and went straight to the semi-finals. So did *Sydney 2*, who defeated *Sydney 3* by 92-88.

The repechage (over 20 boards) to select the other two teams for the semi-finals was *Canberra 1*, Stephen Mendick – Andrew Creet, Peter Grant – Tony Marinos, Margaret Bourke – Richard Hills vs *Sydney 1*, David Beauchamp – Kim Morrison, Terry Brown – Peter Buchen, Avinash Kanetkar – Ron Klinger and *Perth 2*, Francesca Mcgrath – Rhys Cooper, Chris Mulley – Simon Brayshaw vs *Sydney 3*, Martin Bloom – Tony Nunn, Mathew Vadas – Michael Wilkinson. The two Sydney teams prevailed, *Sydney 1* by 33-26 and *Sydney 3* by 33-31.

South deals, all vulnerable

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

1. 15-17 points

What would you lead as West from ♠84, ♥A106, ♦Q953, ♣A987?

A good principle in choosing an opening lead against 3NT when your side has not been in the bidding is to

give preference to an unbid major. Dave Beauchamp put that approach to good effect on Board 3 of the repechage semi-final. With hearts unappealing, he led ♠8 as West:

South deals, all vulnerable

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

South won and played ♦K, followed by ♦10, winning. He continued with a top club. That lost and spades were continued. South emerged with three spades, one heart, three diamonds and one club, one down, EW +50.

At the other table NS bid 1NT : 2♣, 2♠ : 2NT (does not promise a major), 3NT, all pass. West led ♣7: two – king – three and East returned ♣6. West took ♣A and played ♣9. South won and played ♦K, followed by ♦10, queen, ace. South could now set up a fourth diamond trick and had three spades, four diamonds and two clubs, +400 and +10 IMPs.

In the other match the contracts were 3♦ +110 and 1NT +120.

The semi-finals were *Adelaide 1*, Phil Markey – Justin Williams, Russell Harms – Jeff Travis vs *Sydney 3*, Martin Bloom – Tony Nunn, Mathew Vadas – Michael Wilkinson and *Sydney 1* vs *Sydney 2*, Brian Bedkober – Robert Krochmalik, Robert Grynberg – David Stern, Tom Moss – Dennis Zines.

On Board 3 Buchen deliberately stranded two winners in dummy at trick one in the hope of reaching dummy later. He was destined to fail, but the defence came to his rescue.



Adelaide 1, Russel Harms, Phil Markey, Justin Williams and Jeff Travis

North deals, NS vulnerable

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

NS bid Pass : 1♥, 2♥ : 4♥, all pass. West led ♠J: three – seven – queen. Hoping to reach ♥10 later, South played ♥J, ace. Had West switched to a diamond or a club, 4♥ would be defeated, but hoping East was short in spades, West continued with ♠10. Declarer discarded two clubs on ♠A, ♠K and played a club. He lost only two hearts and a club, +620.

At two other tables, declarer won trick one with ♠A and discarded a club on ♠K. Neither could avoid losing two clubs and two hearts. At the remaining table, Markey, North, opened 2♦ (weak with spades and diamonds). Williams, South bid 2♥, all pass

East deals, all vulnerable

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

What would you do as North with ♠10863, ♥10985, ♦10, ♣10653?

Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

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

South has shown a very strong hand and you have support. North should raise to 3♠, which is what Buchen did, despite having 0 HCP. Brown went to 4♠ and made +620 on ♥2 lead. At the other table NS stopped in 3♠ for –10 IMPs. In the other match, Markey – Williams and Wilkinson – Vadas bid to 4♠.

After 12 boards *Adelaide 1* led *Sydney 3* by 31-18 and *Sydney 1* led *Sydney 2* by 42-9.

South opens 1NT, 12-14 with ♠Q84, ♥106, ♦AKQ62, ♣J92. North bids 4NT, inviting slam. What would you do?

Board 13, South deals, all vulnerable

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

There is a current popular style to open all balanced hands 1♣. That accounts for South's opening here:

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

You can sell my rights to that approach for a defaced 5 cent coin. Still, North is top-heavy for the 3NT bid. If South opens a natural 1♦, North would be very keen on slam. There was no swing, as NS at the other table bid 1NT : 4NT, all pass. When partner invites a notrump slam, you should accept when holding a decent five-card suit. Such a suit is worth 2-3 extra points opposite a strong, balanced hand. South should jump to 6♦.

In the other match, Kanetkar – Klinger bid 1♦ : 2♦ (forcing), 3♦ (minimum) : 4♦ (asking), 5♣ (two key cards + ♦Q), 6♦. Dennis Zines – Tom Moss bid 1♦ : 2♦ (forcing), 2NT : 3♣, 3♦ : 3♥ (Double), Pass : 3NT, 4♠ (cue), 6♦. Both Souths won trick one with ♥A, drew trumps, eliminated spades and exited with ♥10. If need be, the club finesse was available.

At the halfway mark in the semi-finals *Adelaide 1* led *Sydney 3* by 51-30 and *Sydney 1* led *Sydney 2* by 64-19.

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North deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

What would you lead as West from ♠843, ♥10754, ♦K964, ♣A2?

Session 3 : Board 32, North deals, all vulnerable

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

David Stern led ♣2 against my 4♠. I ducked in dummy and Robert Grynberg won with ♣J. He returned a club to West's ace. Hoping for a club ruff, West switched to a heart, but no luck there. I should have made the rest of the tricks, but played ♣K next to discard a diamond. West ruffed and that meant NS +620.

At the other table Brian Bedkoher was North in 3NT on ♣Q lead. He made 11 tricks, +660, +1 IMP.

In the other match, Russell Harms, South, was in 4♠ on ♣A lead and scored 650. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Markey	Wilkinson	Williams	Vadas
	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠ ¹	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

1. Two key cards plus ♠Q

West led ♣A and switched to ♥7, king. ♠10 went to the ace, followed by ♦5 to ♦Q, then ♠K, ♠Q, ♦A, diamond ruff, ♥Q, diamond ruff. South made 12 tricks, +1430 and +13 IMPs. Had West played ♣2 at trick 2, 6♠ can still be made, but there are chances for declarer to go wrong.

Adelaide won Set 3 by 41-27 and Set 4 by 47-9 to win the match by 139-66.

Sydney 1 won Set 3 by 45-8 and led by 109-27. Sydney 2 conceded.

The final was over 64 boards between the usual contenders.

Of the previous 29 finals, Sydney had won 19, Adelaide 7, Canberra 2, Melbourne 1.

Adelaide 1 led 28-0 after five boards. By Board 11, the score had moved to 35-7. Over the next three boards, Sydney 1 collected 29 IMPs to 0 to hit the lead.

Board 12, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Harms	Brown	Travis	Buchen
		Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦ ²
Pass	3♦ ³	Pass	3NT ⁴
All Pass			

1. 15-17

2. No five-card major

3. Asking for four-card majors

4. None

Lead: ♥10 – four – queen – three

South ducked East's ♥2 return and won the next heart, discarding ♠8 from dummy. After ♦A, ♦K, ♦7 to ♦J, South played ♣5 to ♣K. West ducked. South switched to ♠Q: seven – ten – two and finessed ♠J. He had 10 tricks, +630.

To avoid competition, Peter Buchen had upgraded his hand to a strong 1NT. At the other table, Justin Williams, South, also opened 1NT, but the range here was 9-14 (if minimum and vulnerable it would include a five-card suit). Facing a 12-14 1NT, North would be worth a game-invitation. Opposite 9-14, Phil Markey, North, chose to pass. ♥J was led and South ducked hearts till the third round. He played ♠Q, king, ace, followed by ♦A, ♦K and claimed nine tricks, +150, but –10 IMPs.

Session 1 ended with Adelaide 1 leading 39-36. Sydney 1 had regained the lead by Board 23 and after Board 28 it was Sydney 58, Adelaide 41.

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

1. Weak, 4+ spades, 4+ clubs

What would you lead as West from ♠43, ♥AQJ9842, ♦KQ2, ♣3?

Board 29, East deals, all vulnerable

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

If you started with a spade, the defence can take eight tricks. Likewise, after a club lead or a top diamond. The standard lead would be ♥Q. That gives declarer ♥K, but sets up six heart tricks. Now the defence will take ♠A and six heart tricks for three down.

Figuring that East had the black suits and he had an entry in diamonds, Phil Markey led ♥A. That would have been triumphant had there been a singleton ♥K. It would also work on other layouts, but not on this one. Peter Buchen, South, won the second heart and crossed to ♣Q, followed by ♣5, seven, nine. He later knocked out ♠A and had three spades, four clubs, a heart and a diamond for +600.

West	North	East	South
Klinger	Travis	Kanetkar	Harms
		Pass	1NT ¹
2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ³	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

- 12-14
- Any single-suiter
- Pass or correct

North led ♠J. West ducked and South won with ♠K. He switched to ♦J, king, ace. West won the diamond return, crossed to ♠A and led ♥10, king, ace for nine tricks, +140, +12 IMPs.

West	North	East	South
			1NT ¹
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2♠
Dbl ²	Pass	?	

- 9-14
- Takeout

What would you as East with ♠A103, ♥K10643, ♦43, ♣AK6?

Markey – Williams play an uninhibited style (some would call it wild), which includes a 9-14 1NT and two-suited weak twos, which might be just 4-4 in the two suits (and occasionally 4-3). You might think these

methods work only against weak players, but experts also have considerable difficulty. Witness:

Board 12, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

With NS silent, Travis – Harms bid efficiently to 7♥ by East, +1510.

At the other table, after the auction in Problem 1, 2♠ doubled was passed out. Note the 1NT opening, 10 points at unfavourable vulnerability! After ♦A, ♦K, diamond ruff, ♣K, ♥4 to ♥Q, ♥A, ♣7 to ♣A and ♣6 to ♣Q, South played ♠K, queen, two, ace, and emerged with five tricks, –800, but +12 IMPs. Whether you agree with East's pass of the double of 2♠ or not, EW would be doing very well to reach 6♥ after this start and that would be 11 IMPs out anyway.

At halfway in the final *Sydney 1* led *Adelaide 1* by 70-54.

As the dealer, with both sides vulnerable, what would you do with ♠AKJ75, ♥5, ♦Q74, ♣10963?

Session 3 went to *Sydney 1*, 73-16. This was the largest swing in Session 3:

Board 39, East deals, all vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Williams	Morrison	Markey	Beauchamp
		1♠	2♥
3♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

In theory the defence could collect 1100 from 4♠ doubled: ♦6 lead to the ace, ♣2 to the ace, club ruff, low heart to the ace, club ruff, diamond through East

for four down. Certainly three down and +800 would be easy.

Against 5♥ West led ♣K. That marked all the significant high-card strength with East. South drew the missing trumps, ruffed a club and played ♦2 to ♦J. He ruffed his last club and continued diamonds for all the tricks, +710.

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Harms	Klinger	Travis
Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass	1♥
Pass	5♠ ²	Dbl	4NT
All Pass			6♥

1. Splinter

2. 2 Key Cards plus ♥Q

West led ♠3, eight, jack. East continued with ♠K, ruffed. After ♥K, ♣A, club ruff, ♥J, club ruff and ♠Q, ace, ruffed. East had shown up with eight points and only ♣J had turned up so far in the West hand. South played ♦K and ♦6 to ♦9 and queen, one off, EW +13 IMPs.

Should East open or pass? A sensible guide is the Rule of 22: If HCP + cards in your two long suits + quick tricks = 22+, you have a sound one-opening in first or second seat. Personally I follow the rule of 21.5. Here East has 10 HCP, 9 cards in the long suits and two quick tricks, total only 21 and so Pass is indicated.

With 16 boards to go *Sydney 1* led by 73 IMPs, 143-70. Many teams would concede at this point, but *Adelaide 1* play such an aggressive style, 9-14 1NT openings and Adelaide Twos (weak two-suiters, usually 4+ in each suit) that they could eradicate this margin in eight boards, let alone 16.

South deals, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
3♥	5♣	?	3♣

What would you do as East with ♠AK10976, ♥Q532, ♦KJ9, ♣---?

Adelaide 1's stocks rose when they collected bushels of IMPs on Board 50:

Board 50, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

Russell Harms, East, bid a practical 6♥ over 5♣, all pass. Jeff Travis made 12 tricks, +1430. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Klinger	Williams	Kanetkar	Markey
3♥	5♣	6♣	3♣
6♦	Pass	7♥	Pass
			All Pass

That was one down and 17 IMPs to *Adelaide 1*. East's actions are certainly reasonable. Would West have bid 7♥ over 6♣ with a hand like this: ♠Q4, ♥AK1084, ♦A873, ♣82?

Seeking miracles, Harms – Travis suffered two disasters later, 7♦ doubled, -300, -12 IMPs, and 3NT, -400 and -7 IMPs. Sydney 1 won the session by 27-20 and the final by 170-90.

Bouquets to John Brockwell, who has convened the GNOT for the past 30 years and is now stepping down (with Ray Ellaway, Brisbane, to take over). Well done, John.

What Should I bid?

We reproduce our feature from abf.com.au

The best submission for October came from Lavy Libman from the St George Budapest Bridge Club in Sydney. He wins a voucher of \$30 funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at *The Bridge Shop* or *Paul Lavings Bridge Books*.

The hand: ♠KQ, ♥AJ85, ♦AK94, ♣983

Vulnerability is favourable (green against red), but please do discuss if your answer is different for other vulnerabilities. Dealer is on your left, and it's your bid after:

(1♣) - Pass - (3♣) - ?

The opponents play a standardish system (five-card major/better minor openings so 1♣ is three+ cards, and 3♣ is a normal inverted raise, 6-9ish with probably five or more clubs).

This hand came up during a practice session and generated a lot of discussion with partner. I would be glad to hear your expert opinion! Do you take any action? If you pass, matters will rest there. If you double, what is your next step if partner responds 3♠? For what it's worth, my preliminary thinking was this: opponents have shown a minimum of 18 points or so between them (could be a little less if someone is shapely), and could have up to all the 23 you don't see (if partner is completely broke).

In the latter case, their contract will probably make (you'll take your four defensive tricks, as there won't be any ruffs without a partner entry).

On the other hand, partner is marked with a club shortage (so you're likely to have a fit – make that, guaranteed to have a fit if the opponents have nine clubs), and if he brings his 4-5 points you have very good chances of game. For example if his shape is 4-4-4-1 or 5-4-3-1, 4♥ is easy (against normal breaks) with as little as ♥K + any red queen, or ♥Q + ♦QJ, or, say, ♠A + ♥109xx; similarly 4♠ should be good with very little opposite if he is 6-3-3-1 or 6-2-4-1 (say, ♠Jxxxxx, ♥xx, ♦Qxxx, ♣x is a virtually cold 4♠, and he wouldn't bid with this over 1♣).

If you do double and partner bids 3♠, do you agree that your next bid is 3NT? Surely this can only mean a game-going hand with doubt about the strain (and not too happy about spades), so partner is expected to take it out to his other four-card suit if he has one. This should get you to 4♥ opposite any 5-4 in the majors. Of course this can go pear-shaped very badly if partner's hand is unsuitable.

So, in your opinion which is the greater risk – a pass or a double? And does the vulnerability matter to the answer? Would your answer be different if your heart suit was slightly better (♥AJ9x or ♥AJ10x)?\

(Spoiler: on this occasion partner's hand turned out to be ♠Jxxx, ♥Qxx, ♦J10xx, ♣xx; the opener had a minimum 1♣ opening with 4-3-3-3 shape, so doubling would get you in trouble while passing was the winning choice.

Andy's reply

Hi Lavy,

You have a good problem. Before I read anything past the auction that you gave, my first instinct was to pass. Then I thought the vulnerability doesn't affect my choice, but the form of game (IMPs vs. Pairs) may affect it, but probably not.

The first thing you have to take into account is of course, knowing partner's style of overcalls, particularly at favourable vulnerability, because this may eliminate a lot of the potential hand types that partner can have for his pass of 1♣ as we can predict he will have a doubleton club at best.

Having said that, the main reason I pass is that I think game is very unlikely. Whilst it's true that opposite some hands it can be cold, but I think the odds are heavily against it. Due to our doubleton spade (and our RHO not



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By Pete Hollands and Laura Ginnan

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responding in spades), partner is sure to hold 4-5 spades. Thus, if we make a takeout double, we can expect a 3♠ bid by partner for near 100% certainty. Now of course, the question is, do I do anything over 3♠?

If the answer is no, that leads to the next question – is it worth playing in 3♠, even if partner has a five-card suit, when we could have taken a potential likely plus score on defence against 3♣?

If the answer is yes to “Do I do anything over 3♠?”, then I have no idea what to do.

In this type of situation, I prefer not to try and guesstimate HCP around the table. The only hand I care about is partner's, and knowing partner did not make an overcall over 1♣, I would put him around <6HCP if he has five spades. Yes, he can have a bit more if he has a four-card spade suit, but that isn't really going to help us at all (since he won't have enough strength to do anything more than respond at the three-level).

Whilst it's true that our partnership can have up to 23 HCP, I wouldn't be so pessimistic about defeating 3♣. For example, partner could have a doubleton diamond and get a ruff, or partner may have ♥Q, or ♥K, or ♦Q, or ♣K, etc. to contribute an additional trick.

I do understand and concede that if partner does have a singleton club and around 4-6 HCP, we might be missing out on something good (but not always, for example if partner is 4-4-4-1 or 5-4-3-1, we may end up playing in the wrong spot). However, don't bank on the opponents having a nine-card club fit. Our LHO could

easily have three clubs and East could have five. In order for our side to miss something good, a lot of things need to be right.

- (1). Opponents must have a nine-card club fit, and
- (2). Partner is in the maximum range of 4-6 points, and
- (3). Those points must be perfect fitting points, and
- (4). If (1)-(3) are satisfied, we then need to have a fit in hearts, and
- (5). Assuming we have a heart fit, we need to somehow have a safe landing at the right spot (i.e. we need to bid over partner's 3♠).

This is a lot of conditions to satisfy, and if any of them are not satisfied, we're very very likely headed for a minus score when we might've had a relative easy time beating 3♣.

(Whilst it's true that partner can have a six-card spade suit, this wouldn't enter my train of thoughts at all, because I think partner having a six-card spade is very unlikely. There are tons of hand shapes where partner has a four- or a five-card spade suit, and that's what I should be focused on.

For example, it's similar to a situation where in a general auction you are thinking of making a slam try and partner has shown 10-12 points, but you "need partner to have the perfect 12 points for slam to be good". As you should almost never play partner for a "perfecta", you should not think about it, and this is the type of situation I'm relating to, in that it is very unlikely for partner to have a six-card spade suit.)

You mentioned: "If you do double and partner bids 3♠, do you agree that your next bid is 3NT? Surely this can only mean a game-going hand with doubt about the strain (and not too happy about spades), so partner is expected to take it out to his other four-card suit if he has one. This should get you to 4♥ opposite any 5-4 in the majors. Of course this can go pear-shaped very badly if partner's hand is unsuitable."

If I was forced to double, then over 3♠, I would definitely pass as I don't want to get into more trouble and hope that partner has a five-card suit! If partner were on the maximum side with some serious shape, he might've taken the aggressive approach and bid game (or possibly 4♣ as a choice of games). Since he didn't, he is now a (very) heavy favourite to just have four or five spades with a weak hand.

If you bid 3NT over 3♠, whilst I agree with the definition that it is a game-going hand with doubt about strain, it should almost invariably (1). promise a club stopper, and (2). shows three-card spade holding, happy for partner to convert 3NT to 4♠.

This is the type of sequence I would make if I had

something like a 3-4-4-2 shape with 19-21 points and Kx or Ax of clubs. Actually, I'm not convinced I would actually move over 3♠ with that shape as I would be nowhere near nine tricks if partner only has four spades and passed 3NT, so maybe if I had a 3-3-5-2 shape with potentially running diamonds and a club stopper.

Sure, if partner has a four-card heart suit, he is certainly invited to bid 4♥ over my 3NT rebid, but he is (should be) invited to correct to 4♠ with a five-card spade suit as well (because if I had a doubleton spade along with a club stopper, I would have probably overcalled 3NT instead of doubling). This is similar to the auction where your RHO opens 3♣, you double, and convert partner's 3M to 3NT, where you are showing a strong hand, a club stopper, and also just three-card support for partner's major and he is free to correct to 4M.

In conclusion, I would pass as I believe doubling carries a very big risk. More often than not, this would just be a partscore hand, and as I'm optimistic about beating 3♣ by one trick, I prefer to take that plus score. The vulnerability does not affect my decision, nor does the quality of my heart suit (i.e., we may never find our hearts anyway).

*Kind regards,
Andy*

Youngsters shine at Waverley



Teenagers Conor Hosking, 15, (left), and Patrick Clifford, 14 years, started learning bridge in early 2015 with Peter Hollands and Laura Ginnan as part of the Victorian Youth Club. They soon became addicted to the game. Conor is a pupil at Kilvington Grammar while Patrick goes to Caulfield Grammar.

They played on the Victorian Youth Team at the ANC Championships in Fremantle and in the Under 15 World championships in Croatia

Recently they won the Waverley Bridge Club Under 20 Masterpoint Congress event, The Nick Beaumont Memorial Shield.

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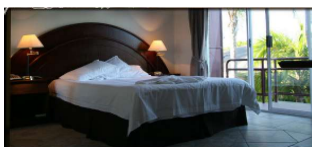
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7 New Year Resolutions for Better Bridge

by Kim Frazer



Many people like to make New Year's resolutions. If you are one of those that do and want to make a resolution about bridge - here are some key steps that might help you reach your bridge goals. Don't assume you're too old to make your dream of becoming an elite player come true. The oldest Olympic medallist was **72!**

1. Improve your physical condition

Good fitness is helpful for concentration and mental acuity. If your favourite activity is sitting on the couch with a six pack and a bag of chips, you might not be cut out for the rigours of competitive bridge at the elite level, and a social game might be more your thing.

However, if you find yourself flagging at the end of the competitive day, then some work on your general fitness might help.

A first step is to determine what shape you are currently in. This will help you to select the best training program you will need to follow. You can get an assessment of your current level of fitness by visiting a local gym and consulting a personal trainer. Start a regular program - even if it is just walking, and see if it helps your game.

2. Consider the type of bridge competition you (and your partner) are best suited to

In shooting, my main event was .22 rifle, however, I used to compete in air rifle as training to improve my main event.

As a bridge player, consider if you are interested in pairs or teams events. There are different strategies for competing in the different events. If you are a conservative steady player, teams might suit your game better than pairs. If you are more of a risk taker, then pairs might be your preference. You might like to excel at both, and choose to adopt different tactics for each type. Choosing which events you wish to focus on helps you keep sight of your overall goals.

3. Develop a training plan

Once you decide which event(s) to pursue, think about enhancing your skills. For shooting, I had an annual plan (actually a multi-year plan) with events, training and rest periods mapped out. The plan could include practise sessions at your club, online sessions and some specific practise against other pairs and/or teams. Make the effort to compete in good quality competitions whenever possible, particularly in the lead up to an important event. Success comes from the level of work you are prepared to put in over an extended period of time - unlike exams, in sport swotting for competition doesn't work!

4. Review your progress periodically

After every competition you play in, go through the hand records and think about what you and your partner did. Consider what you might do better. Use data-based analysis to see if you are getting better.

5. Get a coach or mentor

A good coach/mentor can help you develop your skills, so you can progress to the next level. A coach is a sounding board for you

to bounce your ideas off, and to give you advice on general system, play and other problems you encounter. In sport a coach usually works with the athlete to develop their training program, and this may make a huge difference to your results over time.

6. Read five good bridge books

If you don't already read bridge books, there are literally hundreds available for you to choose from. There are a much smaller number that are truly excellent. Ask one of the top players around what their favourite book is on a particular topic you are interested in, and try reading that one.

7. Set a major event goal

Most states run high quality Gold Point events, and the best players usually go to the ANC Butler Pairs or Canberra SWPT. Often there are short seminars at national events conducted by some of the top players that can be attended for a small cost. However, a national event might be beyond you at this stage, and you may just decide that trying to win your club's pairs or team's championship is your goal for the year.

THE REST..... IS UP TO YOU



Top 30 Masterpoint Earners for 2015 - as at 30 November, 2015

	NAME	ABF NO	HOME CLUB	RANK	TOTAL MP	2015
1	Lazer, Warren	35238	2-006	Emerald Grand	10,197.49	500.22
2	Gumby, Pauline	24732	2-006	Emerald Grand	11,639.31	495.53
3	Howard, Justin	476668	3-372	Silver Grand	2,922.04	420.41
4	Nunn, Tony	330167	2-006	Gold Grand	6,910.65	409.66
5	Francis, Neville	101109	4-555	Gold Grand	6,703.94	409.15
6	Gill, Peter	22381	2-006	Gold Grand	9,672.00	396.87
7	Brown, Terry	7226	2-006	Gold Grand	8,951.22	357.97
8	Bloom, Martin	5266	2-006	Gold Grand	5,727.21	354.46
9	Klinger, Ron	33642	2-006	Emerald Grand	10,452.84	346.98
10	Newman, John	759181	2-093	Gold Life	856.05	345.94
11	De Livera, Arjuna	196134	1-851	Gold Grand	8,868.84	338.32
12	Morrison, Kim	44318	2-006	Gold Grand	7,436.59	337.25
13	Bourke, Margaret	131792	1-851	Emerald Grand	10,650.39	335.86
14	Buchen, Peter	7765	2-006	Silver Grand	4,486.49	324.17
15	Hinge, Simon	138649	3-301	Gold Grand	9,065.47	315.45
16	Sebesfi, Robert	163260	2-006	Silver Grand	3,341.67	312.00
17	Hutton, Anthony	29750	4-555	Silver Grand	4,936.87	308.91
18	Kozakos, George	158291	1-851	Silver Grand	3,283.35	308.64
19	Peake, Andrew	291269	2-006	Gold Grand	6,454.43	296.91
20	Kanetkar, Avinash	232637	2-093	Gold Grand	5,495.30	293.97
21	Hans, Sartaj	561789	2-006	Gold Grand	5,090.21	293.92
22	Wood, Viv	324043	6-795	Grand	1,896.42	286.69
23	Harley, Dee	889237	3-368	Grand	1,887.30	286.01
24	Wallis, Richard	107931	4-528	Silver Grand	4,148.76	274.97
25	Beauchamp, David	3727	2-006	Gold Grand	8,136.97	274.67
26	Sharp, Toni	273600	2-112	Silver Grand	3,178.96	270.50
27	Bilski, George	242683	2-120	Gold Grand	6,203.69	265.07
28	Carter, Malcolm	155470	4-555	Grand	2,020.47	263.55
29	Williams, Justin	445002	5-701	Silver Grand	4,143.71	263.31
30	Markey, Philip	332471	5-701	Silver Grand	4,841.61	263.00



Join **ANDY HUNG's** HUNTER VALLEY BRIDGE HOLIDAY!

Sunday 10th – Thursday 14th April 2016 (5 Days 4 Nights)



Andy Hung invites you to enjoy a Bridge Holiday at the Tuscany Wine Estate Resort in the Hunter Valley. The beautiful Hunter Valley is the perfect destination for the wine connoisseur or anyone who is seeking a peaceful, relaxing getaway in a superb rural setting boasting an old world, rustic charm.

The Package includes:

- ♥ Return Bus Transfer (Sydney – Tuscany Resort, and subject to demand, Bus Transfer to/from Newcastle Airport at a small additional cost)
- ♥ Four nights at the award winning Tuscany Wine Estate Resort
- ♥ All bridge tournaments, seminars, and extensive bridge notes
- ♥ All meals (morning and afternoon tea, fully cooked breakfast, lunch, and fantastic dinners at Tuscany Resort with one fine dining at a nearby restaurant!)
- ♥ Winery and cheese store tour

Pricing: ♦ Single: \$1495 ♦ Double or T/S: \$1330 pp

The Bridge:

- ♣ Five professional seminars with Andy
- ♣ Topics include: Card Play Technique, Beating More Contracts on Defence, and Winning Competitive Bidding Battles (new topics)!
- ♣ For all standards of player incl. intermediate & advanced

Contact, or for the Brochure:

<p>♣ David Stern (Preferred) Email: david.stern.general@gmail.com Phone: 0411-111-655</p>	<p>♣ Andy Hung Email: hung.andy.p@gmail.com Phone: 0425-101-094</p>
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DOUBLETON LEADS

Leading from honours against suit contracts was considered the norm 30 years ago, but with the rise of the internet and BBO it became obvious that aggressive leads conceded too many tricks.



A 2012 book by David Bird and Taf Anthias, *Winning Suit Contract Leads*, has changed the way players lead and defend. The book analyses dozens of hands on lead with computer simulation 5000 times each situation, then plays out the hand to see which leads work best.

The main conclusion is that it is losing tactics to lead from honours, especially aces and kings, and good tactics to lead singletons and doubletons. Which of these would you prefer to hold:

65 opposite QJ72 or Q6 opposite J752

65 opposite KQ72 or Q6 opposite K752

Clearly the first holding in both layouts is a better chance to take more tricks. In the first example, by leading towards the QJ you will set up a trick when the ace and king are split. In the second example, you will set up two tricks when the ace is in front of the KQ.

This sort of situation is a frequent winner for doubleton leads. Players consider a weak doubleton in a strong notrump opening to be a serious flaw, but really a suit like xx opposite AQJxx could well take five tricks but Qx opposite AJxxx should never take five tricks.

Apart from the obvious chance of scoring a ruff or leading towards partner's strong honour holding, doubleton leads work well in other weird and wonderful ways. This trump suit illustrates how doubleton leads can create an extra trick in the trump suit:

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

In a large field most pairs played 4♥ from the strong hand, but four tables wandered into 5♣. Let's say South leads ♦K and continues to ♦A and East plays a third diamond. West can ruff this with ♣Q and when North overruffs with ♣K the defence magically has a trump trick with ♣1084.

This next deal is from a recent event at the NSWBA. EW were in the bidding with their diamonds but the final contract was 4♥ by South. It seems declarer will have no problems losing just a heart, a diamond and a club. Try it yourself and see if you can see if you can defeat 4♥:

South deals, nil vulnerable

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

After the round and we were looking at the hand record, and only Sartaj Hans could find the winning defence. The doubleton spade is the only winning lead and to prevent the imminent ruff, declarer must draw trumps. West ducks the first round of trumps but rises ♥A on the second trump and now plays ♦A and another diamond, which declarer ruffs. This is then the position:

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

Stuck in hand, there is no way to avoid losing two more tricks. If declarer draws the last trump, the defence can take ♣A and a diamond, and if declarer crosses to a spade to ruff the last diamond, then the defence scores a spade ruff when declarer tries to cross back to dummy to draw West's last trump. The doubleton lead is a winner by threatening a ruff!

Paul Lavings
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Saint Petersburg, Russia

SEP 30 – OCT 9, 2016
(9.5 DAYS & 9 NIGHTS)

Photo: Night View of The Hermitage

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Come and join us for the ultimate bridge-lover’s adventure: a holiday that improves your play!

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- Airport transfers
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 - The world-famous Hermitage Museum and more...

Price*: **\$2195**pp (twin share), **\$2445**pp (single)

**Airlines not included*

Non-bridge players are also very welcome (and receive a discounted rate)

THE BRIDGE:

- ♣ Professional seminars with Andy Hung
- ♣ Suitable for players of all standards
- ♣ Topics include: card play technique, beating more contracts on defence, and winning competitive bidding battles (new topics)!

CONTACT for more info (or full brochure):

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