

Golden pair take home first prize!

As this issue goes to press, the Gold Coast Congress is in its dying hours, with the final of the Gold Coast Teams on BBO, and the remainder of the loyal bridge players who are still on the Gold Coast either playing bridge or getting ready for the Victory Dinner.

Another successful year for Therese Tully and her team, with the news that Therese will hand over the baton in 2018 to a new Convener, Tim Runting. More on that in a subsequent Newsletter.

The big news, of course is the win of the coveted Bobby Richman Open Pairs Championship by husband and wife combination Barbara Travis - Howard Melbourne. On the very last board, they overtook the leaders Michael Cornell - Ashley Bach to emerge winners.

The last board:

Board 27, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Kowalski	Travis	Zatorski	Melbourne
Pass	1NT ¹	2♣ ²	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf ³
All Pass			2NT

- 15-17
- Majors
- 7+, 3+, 3+ majors



Cornell - Bach, sitting EW, played 2♠ and made the obvious nine tricks for +140. That was worth 17 out of 26 matchpoints. Travis - Melbourne, four matchpoints behind going into the last board, would have to get more than 20 matchpoints to win the event.

Barbara revealed to me that she suspected Board 25, which they played two boards before against Kowalski - Zatorski, influenced their thinking. Zatorski had overreached to 4♥, and playing unsafely, had scored -200, the 'kiss of death' at pairs.

She continues: "Systemically, Howard's double of 2♣ showed at least 3-3 in the majors. Once I couldn't double 2♠ (penalty), then he had little interest in the hand, with 2NT being natural. Of course, his actions also implied that EW only had a 4-4 spade fit! So they sold out to 2NT with 3♠ cold."

"On the spade lead, I just cashed the six top tricks, for -100 and another big board (88%) – just enough to win by 0.04% (and apparently 0.28 of a matchpoint!). If our Polish opponents had played 2♠ or 3♠ we would have scored just 35%, and finished second instead."

It was Howard's fifth win of the Pairs, but the first four were with different partners, so this broke his "jinx".

Teams: The Qualifying was won by *KANETKAR*, Avi Kanetkar, Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, from *NUNN*, Tony Nunn, Michael Ware, Geo Tislevoll, David Appleton, Hugh McGann, Matthew Thomson. They rested on the Friday while *ZIGGY* played *GOLD* and *MILNE* played *COOPER* in the Round of Four. *GOLD* defeated *ZIGGY* 77 - 39.1, while *COOPER* defeated *MILNE* 70 - 53.1.

In the Semi Finals, *KANETKAR* defeated *COOPER* soundly, while *GOLD* despatched *NUNN*.

The final was thus between *KANETKAR* and *GOLD*, Leigh Gold, Vanessa Brown, Joachim Haffer, Mike Doecke, William Jenner-O'Shea.

KANETKAR ended victors by 134.1 - 63.

National Seniors' Teams Slam Dunk

by Peter Buchen

Preamble: 46 teams lined up for the 2016 National Seniors Teams in Canberra. Most of the usual suspects were in attendance and a few newbies who recently made the senior's grade, including one Stephen Burgess, playing on LORENTZ. Four teams would make it to the finals and in their wisdom, the powers-that-be suggested the seeding below:

1. *NEILL*: Bruce Neill, Richard Jedrychowski, Avi Kanetkar, Terry Brown, Peter Buchen, Henry Christie
2. *LORENTZ*: Gabby Lorentz, Stephen Burgess, Ron Klinger, Bill Haughie, David Hoffman, Richard Brightling
3. *HAVAS*: Elizabeth Havas, Arjuna de Livera, Richard Douglas, Robert Sebesfi, Ron Cooper, Simon Hinge
4. *HUGHES*: Chris Hughes, Alex Czapnik, Kim Morrison, Peter Fordham

But there were many other teams who were genuine contenders for a finals spot. At the end of the qualifying rounds, seed numbers 8, 3, 1 and 6 emerged in that order. *ZOLLO* did very well to win the qualifying race, while *HENBEST* were no bunch of slouchers.

8. *ZOLLO*: John Zollo, Richard Januszek, Peter Chan, Russell Harms, David Lusk, Attilio de Luca

6. *HENBEST*: Simon Henbest, Neil Ewart, Robbie Van Riel, David Smith

So it would be *ZOLLO* versus *HENBEST* and *NEILL* versus *HAVAS* in the semis with the luckless *LORENTZ* (6th) confined to the sidelines. Actually *HUGHES* (5th) had the real hard-luck story missing out by only 0.52 VPs when a last board slam went begging after the percentage technical line failed in practise. The Great Shuffler often moves in cruel ways.

Both 64-board semis were run-away wins to *ZOLLO* (113 to 47 IMPs) and *NEILL* (144 to 38 IMPs). Thus the all-Adelaide team of *ZOLLO* would meet the mostly-Sydney team of *NEILL* (Christie is from Perth) in the final. Members of both teams have met several times before in national finals, and the record shows that neither team could boast bragging rights. Early signs pointed to a very close encounter when Sydney led 36 to 35 IMPs after the first set. But this portent proved false as Sydney won the three remaining 16-board sets to triumph 190 to 109 IMPs.

The big difference between the two teams was the outcome of the five slams reported in this article. How often have you heard that plaintive cry: "we were killed

by the slams"? and *ZOLLO* had good reason to bemoan their slam misfortunes in this final. *NEILL* bid three slams not bid by *ZOLLO*, all making, while *ZOLLO* bid two slams not bid by *NEILL*, both failing. It doesn't get much worse than that, especially as there was a sizeable luck factor involved.



What bridge representatives do after tournaments - Peter Buchen and Terry Brown

Here are the culprit deals which cost *ZOLLO* 61 of the 81 IMP losing margin.

Slam 1: Lusk picked up this lovely collection: ♠AK92, ♥A83, ♦AQ, ♣AQ63 and while he was contemplating his opening he found the bidding had sky-rocketed to 4♣ before he could say "stone the crows". He doubled to hear 4♣ from opener and 5♣ from partner. To protect the lead, he bid what looked a sensible 6NT. Unfortunately, this had no play on the spade lead, and soon drifted one off, though with some spectacular unblocking of ♥KQ it could have been defeated by two tricks.

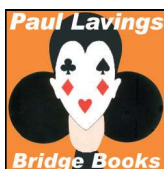
Board 11, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

No doubt he expected more from De Luca's 5♣ bid. The full auction:

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Buchen	de Luca	Christie
	3NT	Pass	4♣
Dbl	4♦	5♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Not everyone's choice holding a good four-card major, the 3NT opening showed a four-level minor preempt and 4♣ was correctible. Perhaps EW should have taken a positive by doubling 4♦? Double dummy this could be beaten two tricks, but in practise it would probably



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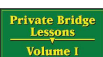
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go only one down, due to the guaranteed heart entry for the diamond finesse.

At the other table, North (Harms) tried the slow approach of opening 1♦ and after partner (Chan) bid a weak 2♠, West (Jedi) bid a simple and practical 3NT, making 11 tricks on a diamond lead.

Slam 2: On the very next deal NS were confronted with a bidding problem that most partnerships have probably not discussed. Do you have a convenient way of showing slam interest in hearts after the sequence 1♥ – 1♠: 2♥? No, neither did Buchen – Christie, but Buchen “invented” a splinter bid despite holding A6 in the suit. That worked out fortuitously when it encouraged Christie to bid the excellent slam. Note to self: change the system so that four-minor after 1♥ – 1♠: 2♥ is a general slam interest cue bid.

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Buchen	de Luca	Christie
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Chan – Harms in the other room bid: 1♥ – 1♠: 2♥ – 3♣: 3♥ – 4♥, the full deal being:

South deals, NS vulnerable

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

Slam 3: Kanetkar–Brown are not known for their shyness in the bidding but they judged well to stay low on the next deal, not that they were put under much opposition pressure.

North deals, all vulnerable

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

The bidding at their table was soon over:

West	North	East	South
Brown	Januszek	Kanetkar	Zollo
	3♣	3♠	4♣
4♠	All Pass		

Zollo decided not to get too involved, even though 5♣ is a good save over 4♠, perhaps for fear of pushing EW into a making slam. Unfortunately, for him, there was no way EW could make 12 tricks. At the other table, there was a lot more action, despite Jedi’s disciplined pass in first seat:

West	North	East	South
Harms	Jedi	Chan	Neill
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	3♣	4♣	5♣
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Result: down one. Unlike Slam 5 below, this was not a time to bid one more for the road.

Slam 4 How is it possible to miss a slam holding 23 HCP opposite 10? Apparently, this may happen playing Acoll. Unlucky, because in a Standard auction starting with a 2♣ force, it would be hard to miss out.

Board 56, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

Here is the bidding at both tables. Kanetkar - Brown’s direct approach while scorned by some, would be strongly endorsed by others (for others read older Seniors). At the Sydney (Standard) table:

West	North	East	South
Brown	Harms	Kanetkar	Chan
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

At the Adelaide (Acoll) table:

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Neill	de Luca	Jedi
Pass	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

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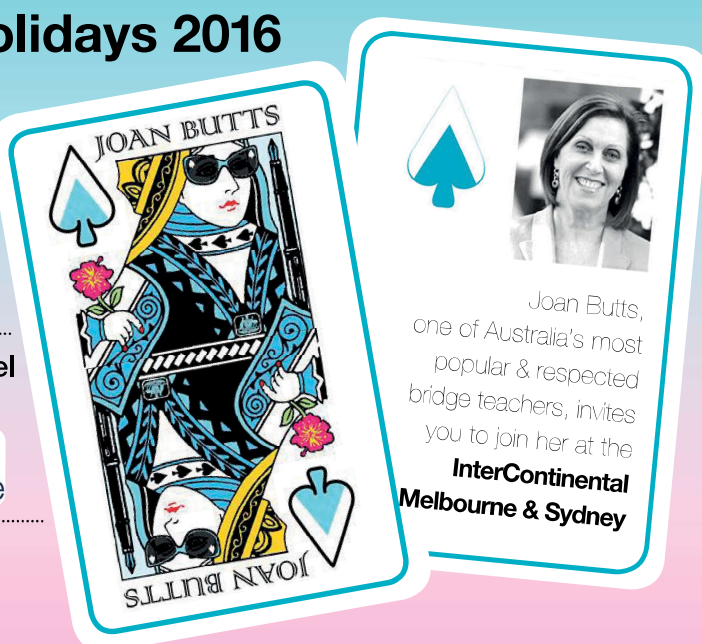
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Nevertheless, 6NT is by no means a laydown. South led ♣10 at the Sydney table and then produced another club after ♥A and ♥J were played, so Kanetkar quickly wrapped up the requisite 12 tricks. De Luca claimed the same number when the diamond lead at the Adelaide table conceded an immediate 12th trick.

Slam 5: Allowing the opponents a lot of bidding room is generally not recommended, but sometimes it works in your favour. This final slam is a classic example. At one table the bidding was short and to the point. De Luca opened 4♥ in first seat which is hard to criticise. That won the auction, with 12 tricks for the taking.

Opposite his spade void, dummy presented the perfect ♠532, or is ♠432 the perfect holding!?

Board 58, East deals, all vulnerable

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

At the other table Kanetkar pretended he had a real opening and bid 1♥, which not expectedly allowed NS to comfortably enter the auction.

West	North	East	South
Brown	Harms	Kanetkar	Chan
		1♥	Pass
2♦	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

After partner's 5♥ bid Brown got the gist and, as is so often right in these situations, bid one more. Yet another unlucky board for ZOLLO when no one really did anything wrong.

Postscript: The winning margin of 81 IMPs was not really an indication of the closeness in bridge ability between the two teams.

NEILL, with some sizeable luck, got onto the right side of all five slam decisions, but they would have won the match even without those slams.

The final, as always, was played in good spirits and camaraderie between two very competitive sides, who were happy to have a friendly drink together in the bar afterwards. Sydney was buying this time.

Book Reviews

Bridge Tips: Tips on Cardplay

by Mike Lawrence

(Master Point Press, Canada, 2015, soft cover, 309 pages) \$29.95 postfree from Paul Lavings Bridge Books



Mike Lawrence wrote his first book “How to Read Your Opponents’ Cards” in 1973 and it became an instant hit. Further successes followed and from 1990 - 1992 Lawrence wrote six sets of five booklets which have now been revised and updated and made into three books of which *Tips on Bidding* and *Tips on Competitive Bidding* are the first two. This third book is on play and defence.

The “tips” are chapters of 20 to 30 pages each and cover their area thoroughly. The 12 chapters are: Mistakes in the Play, Timing, Endplays, The Simple Squeeze, Loser on Loser Play, Leads versus Notrump, Leads Versus Suit Contracts, Suit Preference, Defensive Signals, Third Hand Play, Defense Part One and Defense Part Two.

How would you fare on this hand from the Loser on Loser Chapter:

South deals, NS vulnerable

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

♠ A K 6 4
♥ Q J 7
♦ A K 6 4
♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	4♥ ¹	Dbl	4♠
5♥	5♠	All Pass	

1. Texas Transfer to spades

The opponents have done a lot of bidding and you have a club loser and can expect bad breaks and likely two diamond losers. How would you proceed on ♥10 lead?

Continued on page 18

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

For Issue 179, May 2016, copy deadline is:

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by Bill Jacobs

12 teams arrived in Canberra in February for the Australian Open Team playoff, the winner to represent the country in the World Bridge Games (formerly the Olympiad) in Wroclaw, Poland in September.

The teams were seeded by playoff points into Division 1 (four teams) and 2 (eight teams), each to play a round-robin. The top two from Division 1 would play the semi-finals, whilst the bottom two would play the top two teams from Division 2 in a repechage, to determine the other two semi-finalists.

My team, Sartaj Hans – Tony Nunn, Peter Gill – Andrew Peake, Ben Thompson – Bill Jacobs was in Division 1, and as I gazed at the Division 2 field, I was mighty pleased about that. Division 2 was chock full of teams I wouldn't want to meet (in the bridge context) in a dark alley at night. There was a pleasing combination of youth and experience, indicative of the excellent depth in Australian bridge at the moment.

I was just 25 when competing in my first playoff in 1981. Nowadays, 25 is relatively middle-aged. There were plenty there this year much younger, and trust me, they play a vastly superior and more sophisticated game than their counterparts did 35 years ago. Such is the power of the internet.

It only got worse for me when I discovered that I was the oldest player in my own team. This was shocking news, and I resolved to get to bed early each night with a warm Ovaltine to aid sleep.

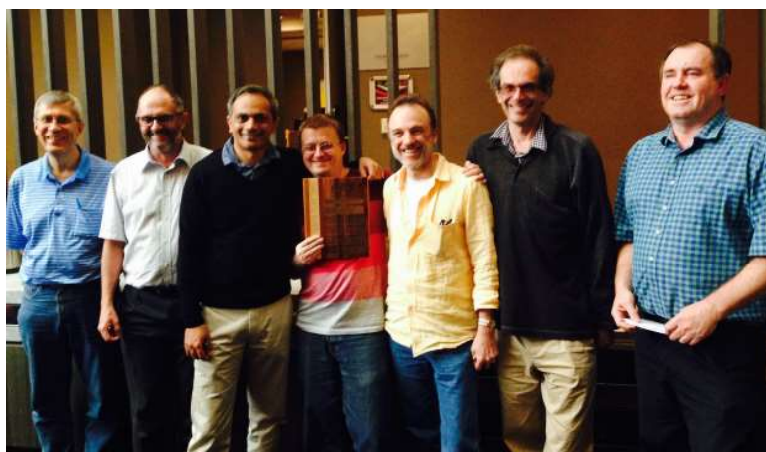
There was plenty of youth in Division 1 as well. Rhys Cooper was one who played not only with skill, but considerable flair.

He opened 3♣ (as dealer at favourable vulnerability) on ♠32, ♥J4, ♦QJ43, ♣AJ1083

Shortly after, his Dad was doubling us in 5♦ for +800 and 12 IMPs. I had to spike the Ovaltine that night.

Despite setbacks like this, we managed to negotiate the round-robin and semi-final. In the final we would meet *STERN*, Gabi Lorentz – Stephen Burgess, Liam Milne – Nye Griffiths, Peter Hollands – Justin Howard – a powerful squad indeed. Of the six bidding systems,

three were based on a strong club, two were Two-Over-One, and one was the system formerly known as *Fantunes*.



Andrew Peake - Peter Gill, Sartaj Hans - Tony Nunn,
Ben Thompson - Bill Jacobs with Matt McManus

It can be interesting to catalogue the systems used at the top level, but it's not particularly instructive. They all work fine, and the bidding differentiators lie more with the level of detailed partnership discussion and individual judgment, than with system mechanics.

For individual judgment, I offer you two examples.

1. You hold ♠A965, ♥A84, ♦QJ, ♣A1073.

Everyone is vulnerable and it goes pass, pass to you in third seat. Your methods include a 15-17 HCP 1NT opening. You have 15 HCP, so do you open 1NT?

Liam Milne did open 1NT, whereas Tony Nunn downgraded the hand and opened 1♣. The full deal:

East deals, all vulnerable

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

Liam's 1NT was passed out ... the problem with the doubleton QJ of diamonds came home to roost, as the defence ran the diamond suit. Down three for -300 to *STERN*.

Meanwhile at the other table, Howard, North reasonably overcalled Tony's 1♣ with 1NT – Hollands, South transferred to 2♥ for another -100 to *STERN*: 9 IMPs away. Subtle hand evaluation variations like that can be the difference between winning and losing, and there's no doubt Tony earned that swing.

2. But Milne took his revenge on this deal. With ♠A94, ♥AKQ753, ♦A8, ♣104 he opened a strong 1♣. Partner gave him a 0-7 HCP 1♦ and RHO overcalled 1♠. Liam

could see eight tricks in notrumps and any halfway decent partner would provide the ninth trick so he bid 3NT. The full deal:

West deals, EW vulnerable

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

Nye Griffiths' ♦K was just what the doctor ordered. Things were slightly tense as the defenders cashed their clubs, but there were only four tricks there. Disdaining the 10-card heart fit earned Liam a well-deserved 12 IMPs as his opponents at the other table discovered their fit and went down in 4♥.

What about partnership agreements? Have you discussed doubles of transfers with your partner? Suppose your LHO opens 1NT (11-14 points in this case), partner passes, and RHO bids 2♠, a transfer to clubs. What should double mean?

There are several options, including: spades, general strength and takeout of their suit (in this case clubs).

There's no right answer, but there is a wrong answer: that you and your partner have different answers.

South deals, NS vulnerable

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

<i>West</i> <i>Hollands</i>	<i>North</i> <i>Jacobs</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Howard</i>	<i>South</i> <i>Thompson</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♠	Dbl	3♣
3NT	All Pass		

Justin Howard doubled 2♠, intending his double to be a takeout of clubs. But partner Peter Hollands interpreted it as just showing general strength. So he took

his best shot and bid 3NT, which couldn't survive the club opening lead.

<i>West</i> <i>Nunn</i>	<i>North</i> <i>Milne</i>	<i>East</i> <i>Hans</i>	<i>South</i> <i>Griffiths</i>
			1♦
1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

At the other table, Tony Nunn overcalled the emaciated spade suit ... this might offend the purists but I'm sure it's the correct bid in today's game. The successful 4♠ was bid in a trice, for 11 IMPs. I might add that the weak 1NT earned its keep on this deal, as it usually does.

I haven't mentioned cardplay yet, but of course it plays a role. Here is a challenging 3NT contract for you:

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

Justin Howard played 3NT as East, with the opponents silent in the auction, and South led ♠J (top of a sequence or of an internal sequence: South might or might not have ♠K). What would you do?

You can guarantee two spade stoppers by playing low from dummy, but what if North wins ♠K and switches to hearts? So you might decide to play ♠A at trick 1, in which case you better not let North in to lead a second spade through.

It's a tough call, but I think Justin did the right thing by playing ♠A at trick 1. The odds were strongly in favour of being able to develop the diamonds without North obtaining the lead. The full deal:

West deals, NS vulnerable

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

Oops! North (me) had an inescapable diamond winner. Justin led ♦Q at trick 2, ♦K, ♦A, small. Then over to dummy's ♦A for a second diamond play, intending to run the card to South. I stuck in ♦9 and to his dismay Justin found he had to let me in. But his good play was rewarded when I couldn't find a second spade to play, and he wound up with 11 tricks.

Continued on page 11



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DJUROVIC, Nevena Djurovic - Rena Kaplan - Di Smart - Felicity Beale - Alida Clark - Viv Wood

National Women's Teams Final

DJUROVIC 125 **THOMPSON** 59.1

National Seniors' Teams

ZOLLO, John Zollo - Peter Chan - Attilio de Luca - Russel Harms - Roger Januszke - David Lusk
HAVAS, Elizabeth Havas - Arjuna de Livera - Richard Douglas - Robert Sebesfi - Ron Cooper - Simon Hinge
HAVAS, Elizabeth Havas - Arjuna de Livera - Richard Douglas - Robert Sebesfi - Ron Cooper - Simon Hinge
HENBEST, Simon Henbest - Neil Ewart - Robbie Van Riel - David Smith

National Seniors' Teams Final

NEILL 190 **ZOLLO** 109.1

National Red Plum Life Masters Teams

DALZIELL, Ian Dalziell - Trevor Berenger - Terry Hemming - Jeremy Dawson
MARKER, Tony Marker - Bill Tutty - Jim Ascione - Ken Anderson
KWOK, Dominic Kwok - Buan Assaee - Kelela Allen - Tony Allen

National Non-Life Masters Teams Championship

STEPHENSON, Evelyn Stephenson - Teresa Pietrzak - Jacqui Morton - Fatma Ahmet
MACNEILL, Dell Macneill - Warren Cousins, Jennie McKenzie - David McKenzie
CLIFT, Malcolm Clift - Kathy Clift - Sallie Quarles - Fran Campbell

150 Novice Teams Championship

FITZPATRICK, Carolyn Fitzpatrick - Rosalind Dey - Drew Fitzpatrick - Philip Dev
BISCOE, Jane Biscoe - Robyn Donaldson - Elizabeth Neil - Margaret Kenny
ROGERS, John Rogers - Wing Roberts, Tanya Renaud - Jessica Chew

Meanwhile at the other table, Andrew Peake played 3NT from West and North led ♥K, South following with ♥10 – interesting. With a second stopper now in hearts, Andrew won the ace and simply had to develop the diamonds for the loss of only one trick. How would you do it?

If diamonds divide 3-2, anything works, but what if they are 4-1? If they are 4-1, it is likely that South holds the diamond length (given that North apparently had six or even seven hearts). So Andrew played a thoughtful low diamond to the ace at trick 2, to protect against North (or South) having a singleton king. The result was two diamond losers, and whilst he could have still made 3NT after this start, he did not find the required series of plays from there.

Then there were the slams. Tip for aspiring playoff contenders: it's best to get the slam decisions right. This year, *NUNN* did; *STERN* didn't.

Peake and Lorentz picked up ♠AQJ8432, ♥ ---, ♦QJ9654, ♣---

Partner opened 1NT (14-16 for Peake, 13-15 for Lorentz). Peake bid a slam, Lorentz didn't. It was as simple as that: neither player consulted partner, as how could he possibly contribute to the decision making process? Partner held ♠K and ♦A, so Peake was right, to the tune of 13 IMPs.

And blow me down if in the next set, we didn't see ♠AQJ9874, ♥AQ9754, ♦---, ♣---

Nye Griffiths heard 2♣ (Precision) on his right, he bid 3♣. 4♣ from LHO, then a voluntary 4♠ from partner. That was enough for him: he bid 7♠. Double on his left, an affront, so he redoubled. But partner lost a spade and a heart: down 2, -600.

Sartaj Hans heard 3♣ on his right, he bid 4♣. Pass on his left, 4♠ from partner. There's no science to this ... he bid 6♠. The play problem in 6♠ was different to that in 7♠, and Tony Nunn duly brought the slam home, to win 17 IMPs.

The full hand:

North deals, nil vulnerable

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

So that was 30 imps away on slams, and then there was this heartbreaker:

East deals, nil vulnerable

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

Both pairs, Hans – Nunn and Griffiths – Milne found their spade fit, and used Roman Key Card Blackwood to discover that all the essential cards were present and correct.

Hans and Nunn bid 7♠, and the play did not take long. But Milne (West) wasn't sure about the location of ♠J, and eventually decided to play in 7NT, thinking that this might survive a bad break in spades. The play took considerably longer than in the other room, but it eventually boiled down to the club finesse.

That was another 17 IMPs to bring the slam swings to 47 IMPs for *NUNN*, who eventually won by 63 IMPs. It had been a very close match, aside from the slams.

Many, many years ago, Ron Klinger wrote a series of articles in *Australian Bridge* magazine titled "*Asking for Jacks*". I never paid much attention to them at the time, as I was in a phase of my career which concentrated on the aces, kings and queens, but it might be time to revisit the matter.

A Meaningful day at Glenbrook BC

Glenbrook Bridge Club recently had its 'usual' 3rd Sunday of the month Bridge afternoon by holding a Charity Day.



This year we decided to support Ovarian Cancer Australia and were successful in raising \$863.00 through charging extra table money and holding several raffles. Many thanks to our wonderful members who continue to support our growing club and who also provided the delicious afternoon tea.

Kerrie Fitzpatrick

by John Shield

Over the weekend of 31 October and 1 November, Bathurst & District Bridge Club hosted their inaugural Central West Novice Tournament, for bridge players with 35 MPs and under.

This weekend was an officially endorsed Bathurst 200 Bicentenary event, with Council providing assistance by way of medallions for all competitors and Bx200 badges for placegetters.

70 competitors representing 13 bridge clubs from the Sydney, Illawarra, Wagga, Canberra, Cootamundra and Central West areas made up 30 pairs on Saturday, 14 teams on Sunday and competed for a splendid array of prizes.

One of our major sponsors was the Summer Festival of Bridge, who provided, complimentary entry into the "Super Novice" and "Rising Stars" divisions in their popular festival, which was held in January.

Club members provided many snacks, cakes and slices and served high quality and delicious food for lunches, all sourced from local businesses. A huge amount of food disappeared over the two days, and travellers on Sunday were sent on their way with small food hampers for their journey.

Lloyd Cleaver directed, assisted by a large team



Pairs winners: Thi Pham - Lynda Atkin with Bill Keirath and John Shield



Charles, John and Georgina McMahon and Sebastian Strugnell



Deep in concentration



Team Canberra

of other club directors and members who helped to make the play problem free and successful – a very happy and friendly atmosphere prevailed.

Winners:

Overall Pairs and 10-35 MPs

Pairs: Thi Pham - Lynda Atkin (Springwood and Glenbrook)

0-10 Pairs: Charles McMahon - John McMahon (Wagga)

Overall Teams and 0-10 MPs

Teams: Charles McMahon - John McMahon - (Wagga), Georgina McMahon - Sebastian Strugnell (Sydney) – this team's members are all under 27 years old and provided very stiff competition

10-35 MP Teams: Caroline Hermes - Heather Last, Barbara Beveridge - Annie McMaster, all from Cootamundra

Best local Pairs:

10 to 35 MPs: Kevin Wilds - Phil Cummings

0 to 10 MPs: Bev & Jim Vickers

Best Local Teams

10 to 35 MPs: 3rd overall: Joy & John Adams, Paddy Robinson - John Shield

0 - 10 MPs: Bev & Jim Vickers, Toni Pender - Val Stuart

Editor: Bathurst Bridge Club is located at 47 Mitre Street Bathurst, just across the road from the Netball Courts at the John Mathews Sports complex and next to Pollets Martial Arts Centre and Ten Pin Bowling Centre.

Plenty of car parking is available on the club lot, and coffee and tea are available for players at each regular session.

The club has a session each day of the week except Thursday and Sunday.

For details of upcoming events
Phone: 02 6331 8477 or email:
bridgeclubbathurst@bigpond.com

What should I bid?

The best submission for January came from Emlyn Williams. He wins a voucher of \$30 funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at the Bridge Shop or Paul Lavings Bridge Books.

South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ A K Q 7
♥ A K J 7 4
♦ J 9 2
♣ 9

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

♠ 6 4
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ Q 5 4
♣ 8 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	4♦	Pass
Pass	?		Pass

What should North do? Double does not seem right since South might bid clubs. Is pass the only option?

The basic system is Acol with five-card majors.

Thanks for your advice, Emlyn

Hi Emlyn,

That's a nice problem you have.

After your auction, I would personally double with the North hand, and probably convert to 4♥ with the South hand, depending on whether I know East's preempting style (with a more aggressive preemptor, I would think about passing the double for penalties and leading a spade). I don't think North should be worried about South bidding clubs as South will likely bid 4♠ or 4♥ (even on doubleton support) giving that more priority than 5♣. Yes, South bidding 5♣ can happen, but it's so rare that I wouldn't worry about it at all. Majors are the most important suits, and when I'm holding a strong hand, passing out 4♦ doesn't seem like a winning action to me.

Whilst it's true that on the actual hand 4♥ is not the ideal contract, the fact is that neither North nor South can diagnose the diamond situation. For example, North might've been hoping that South has a doubleton diamond and ♥Q, and that's all that is required to make 4♥. Or South might be visualising North to have a singleton diamond, in which case 4♥ should be a decent contract.

Sometimes both players can make the percentage action and still not get to the best contract on the given deal.

As it is, you can congratulate East on making a nice pressure bid with 4♦.

Sometimes the 4♦ bid can backfire (i.e. East has an opening hand, so buying it in 3♦ or 3NT is not out of the picture), but today it forced NS to guess at a high level.

Hope that helps,

Andy

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Geo Tislevoll - Joan Butts
Julian Foster - Jenna Gibbons

Super Novice Pairs Overall

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Elizabeth Cusack - Nari Meehan
Heidi Colenbrander - Ray Hurst

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South-West Pacific Teams Championship

LAVAZZA, Maria Teresa Lavazza - Norberto Bocchi - Giorgio Duboin - Agustin Madala - Dennis Bilde - Alejandro Bianchedi

APPLETON, David Appleton, Khokan Bagchi, Howard Melbourne, Johnno Newman, Griff Ware, Peter Reynolds

MILNER, Reese Milner - Nick Jacob - Ishmael Del'Monte - Justin Lall - Hemant Lall - Jacek Pszczola

MILNE, Liam Milne - Nye Griffiths - Andy Hung - Paul Gosney - Ashley Bach - Geo Tislevoll

NEILL, Bruce Neill - Richard Jedrychowski - Avinash Kanetkar - Terry Brown - Peter Fordham - Kim Morrison

BLOOM, Martin Bloom, Matthew Vadas, Peter Gill, Tony Nunn, Michael Wilkinson

LORENTZ, Gabi Lorentz - Stephen Burgess - Justin Howard - Peter Hollands - Matthew Thomson - Peter Newman

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National Open Teams - Quarter Finals

LAVAZZA 197.1 - BLOOM 90
NEILL 157 - APPLETON 89.1
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National Open Teams - Semi Finals

LAVAZZA 155.1 - NEILL 59
MILNER 158.1 - MILNE 90

National Open Teams - Finals

LAVAZZA 150.1 - MILNER 124

Australian Mixed Teams

GINNAN, Laura Ginnan, Will Jenner-O'Shea, Joachim Haffer, Matthew Brown, Tim Munro, Simon Hinge
ASHTON, Sophie Ashton, Sartaj Hans, Martin Reid, Peter Newell

WILLIAMS, Emlyn Williams, Lisa Ma, Stephen Carter, Val Brockwell (sub), John Brockwell

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No invitations explained

by George Cuppaide

Invitational sequences which take you to 2NT (10-12 balanced) or to three-of-a major lacking a nine-card or better fit are incompatible with playing a standard system incorporating 10 point opening bids. Whatever your system, these actions offend against the *Law of Total Tricks*. This article sets out to show how to handle these and similar situations more effectively.

When you make one of these invitations, you squander a great tactical position. You prevent your opponents from making a potentially disastrous balancing action. You have blurted out the valuable secret that you have something to spare. Your opponents gloat when they push you to the three-level.

Don't do it to yourself. Let them try, with the attendant risk. When you invite, you do it on the very hands where you would welcome a balance. If you can catch your opponents in a poor fit with 18 points, or fewer, combined, they are in serious trouble. Hands with only an eight-card fit are relatively defensive. Your system should be geared to look for penalty double opportunities over a balance when you have enough to bid one more on the basis of brute strength alone. Conversely, your opponents cannot simply sit back and assume that if the hand does belong to them, they will get a plus score through your under-tricks. Quite often, when they have game on, this will not be enough.

For an invitation to be "right" you must make your marginal game. If your invitation is not accepted, you must make the contract you reach. By telling your opponents that you are stretching, you leave yourself open to a lead-directing double or a double based upon an unfavourable lie of the cards. When they know you have nothing to spare, they sit up and take extra notice. An opportunity to nail that compulsive balancer is wasted. Balancers succeed because so many push so hard for game. They are not so safe if you hold surprise extra values. When you decide to bid game, just bid it. Let the opponents guess if you are marginal for game or marginal for a slam try. They cannot know.

By playing marginal game contracts in 1NT or two of a suit you get a virtually certain plus score. This alone will compensate you for the invited games that make, as you will not make all of them. Add all the other advantages and it is no contest. Once you abandon the bid of 2NT as an invitation, it becomes available as the most valuable bidding tool of all. It will solve

a multitude of everyday bidding problems and it does not displace a natural bid. New minor forcing and 2♣ Checkback can go back to their valuable natural function, forcing or not forcing, according to the context. A plus score is a good score. In short, the three-level, like the five-level, belongs to the opponents. To play at either of these levels often means a poor result unless you make on the button. You should aim to do your game investigation below 2NT, and your slam investigation below game.

In forty years playing rubber with Tim Seres, I did not hear him invite game even once. Yet he never advocated taking the next logical step, playing "invitational" bids as below-game slam tries. In some partnerships he played 2NT as forcing. Successful players, inherently, follow the logic set out here without necessarily ever

stopping to put its rationale into words. It is not, but should be, part of any basic bridge course.

You can have your cake and eat it too. It is quite simple to distinguish between the 6-9 point three-card raise and the 10-12 point one below the level of two of the suit. When a nine-card fit exists, it is not nearly so important to stay low. If your three-level contract fails, it is very likely that you have shut your opponents out of a making contract of their own. To fail in an eight-card fit at the three-level or in 2NT has no such compensation. Your only compensation comes from others in the same boat and this is a boat you are better out of.

Over a first or second position one-of-a-major opening a simple raise shows 6-9 points with three-card sup-



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port. 2♣ is used as range-ask. Opener rebids 2♦ on all minimums, 10-14 points if playing 10-point openers. Over 2♦, responder's two of the bid major shows the 10-12 point three-card raise, which can be passed. Other continuations from responder are natural, forcing and show long clubs as well as four cards in any new suit introduced. A bid in the other major may, optionally, be used to ask opener to further describe. This way gives opener maximum room to continue with the description of his hand. If you do, responder's second round 2NT replaces the natural bid in the other major.

If you choose to use 1♣ as the opening bid for the all the 4-4-3-2 and 4-3-3-3 shapes outside the 1NT range, abandoning *Better Minor*, this treatment can be used over 1♦ as well. Treat 1♦ as showing five cards as it usually will. Optionally, 2♥ is used as the artificial forcing continuation over 2♦ and 2NT shows four hearts along with long clubs.

To be able to bid 2♣ natural and non-forcing over a third or fourth position opener is far too valuable to sacrifice for any other purpose.

Over all your opening one-bids and simple overcalls and whether or not there is an intervening bid, use 2NT to show a raise to three or better with an extra trump. Make a jump-raise to three on weaker hands. Both bids carry the valuable information that there is a 9+card fit.

Over 1♣, 1NT is the 6-9 raise and 2♣ is the 10-12 raise. Holding a lot of clubs, you choose between 2NT and 3♣. (I like the idea that 1NT and 2♣ show four cards in clubs, immediately establishing when there is a four-four club fit. This may be a little idiosyncratic.)

The following arrangement, regarding jump preference, is simple, space-efficient and effective.

Whenever opener bids two suits it shows 5+ cards in the first. Jump preference to a major is forcing and opener should treat it as a slam try, signing off in game only when minimum. Holding 10-12 points and support, responder goes via 2♣ or 2NT. Jump preference to a minor shows 10-12 points with 3+ card support and is not forcing. It will often lead to success in 3NT based upon running opener's long suit.

This is not the place to discuss the merits of transfer responses to 1NT bids, but remember that Jacoby himself said that he invented the scheme so he could play the hand. The transfer sequence used to show 6-9 points and a five-card major opposite a 1NT opener is best described as ugly. Responder transfers to the major and bids 2NT. (This is a good spot to begin a single-suited slam investigation, when 2NT is played as always forcing.) There is a better way.

Consistent with the proposition that you avoid playing near-game hands in 2NT or three-of a major in an eight card fit, the old fashioned Gladiator Convention works perfectly. To play Gladiator, you must abandon transfers.

Direct bids of 2♥ or 2♠ show a five-card suit with 6-9 points. Opener can pass or bid the game of his choice. Responder's 2♦, obliging opener to bid 2♥, paves the way to a weak takeout in all the suits. Responder's 2NT over the forced 2♥ shows weak (or very strong) with both minors. Weak major-minor two-suiters are played in two of the major. Those with 6-9 points, and one or both majors, can be shown via 2NT - diamonds and a major or both majors, 3♣ - clubs and a major.

Standard bidding does not deal with this important class of hand.

Consistent with the *Law*, and very effective, is to super-accept a transfer to a major over 1NT or 2NT whenever and only when you hold four-card support. That extra trump is worth three points. And again, it is often right when it is wrong.

Simulations show that a flat nine points opposite a 15-17 point 1NT bid will offer a play for game considerably less than half the time and quite often 2NT is too high. Unless the hand is particularly promising, pass and take the money. You may get a little extra if someone tries a balance, and double from responder is penalty. With 8 or 9 points and three or four cards in their suit, they will not make. Double from opener is better played as take-out, ideally with a small doubleton in the bid suit.

Ed: The Gladiator Convention was developed by Mr. C. L. Eastgate and Mr. L. M. Killop, both of New Zealand.

These responses to a strong notrump, were modified to a small degree, and were basically employed soon after their development in the Roman bidding system and also the CAB bidding system.

The perceived and claimed advantage of this response method allowed a more accurate description of responder's holding by allowing responder to indicate strength between a weak zone of 7 high card points, a limit zone of 8-9 high card points, and a strong zone of at least 10 high card points.



St Mary's crosses school bridge first

On Monday, five primary schools competed for the Frank Power Memorial Shield at Bairnsdale Bridge Club.

The schools involved were St Mary's, West Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Swan Reach and Eagle Point with all baring one of the schools represented by two teams.

The Bridge in Schools program was introduced about six years ago by the late Frank Power, initially involving two schools. Today the program is being taught in five local primary schools.

The schools involved have given a one-hour session, one day a week as an extension to their maths program.

Bairnsdale Bridge Club has a dedicated group of bridge players who conduct the sessions.

The students would normally play about five to six boards during that period. On Monday those students played 27 boards over a three-and-a-half-hour period.

They are to be commended for their endurance and focus. It is not easy to maintain focus and concentration for that period of time.

The successful team and winner of the shield was St Mary's No. 1 Team, with runners-up Eagle Point No. 2 Team.

"I would like to sincerely thank all the participating schools, their teachers and our very

own bridge players who have taught and tutored the students throughout the year. Your help and dedication to the program is ensuring its ongoing success," program coordinator, Bev Fisher, said.

"Bridge is a wonderful game for all ages. It's a great way to keep mentally fit, meet new friends and enjoy playing cards."

"It helps keep your memory active and brain alert. It requires you to use mathematics, strategy and concentration and most of all improves inferential reasoning."

Bridge lessons will be held in the Bairnsdale clubrooms in early 2016.



Bridge in Schools program presenters Lyn Wilkinson, Mary Turnbull, Carey Lang, Lou Pemberton, Ilsa Porritt, Jenny Coverdale, Sue Deed, Helen Leech, Bev Fisher (coordinator) and Brian Sampson. K1649-910



Bairnsdale West and St Mary's students competing in one of the 27 boards played for the day. K1649-913



Winner of the Frank Power Memorial Shield for the Bridge in Schools program on Monday was St Mary's No. 1 Team, pictured with coordinator, Bev Fisher. (PS)



Runners-up Eagle Point No. 2 Team. (PS)



The two Swan Reach teams came face-to-face. K1649-915

Unstoppable Emme player of the day

Orange court had a great turn out for Bairnsdale junior tennis on Saturday morning with 14 children ready to play.

The morning started off with Emme Hadden taking on Matthew McDonald. They both started well, with Matthew's amazing serving and Emme's unstoppable forehands, but in the end Matthew was too good and took the match 5-3.

On the other court there was another close match with Sam and Hughie fighting it out.

It was a great game to watch with both boys pulling out everything they had to win the match.

After the longest 20 minutes of their lives, Sam got over the line by one game, winning the match 6-5.

Player of the day went to Emme

Hadden, for showing great sportsmanship and wearing the best outfit.

The green court could not have been closer with two of the four matches resulting in a tie.

Lotto and Adidas was one of those. With both teams needing fill ins, it made for an exciting match.

Katie Waller played some great tennis to beat David Ng, whose concentration left him at crucial times. But all matches were extremely close being won by one game and one with a draw.

The other draw was between New Balance and Puma. The match of the day was between Will Martin and Ryan Waller against Puma's Amy Bury and Che Buckley.

It was a match of high standard

and some great doubles was being played and both partners communicated well, ending quite fittingly with time running out and the match ending in a draw.

The line three match was really good tennis as well with New Balance's Harry Lancaster just losing to Grace Ng. Both players keep improving every week.

It wasn't so close between Fila and Nike with Fila winning four and drawing the other two.

Lochie Borensenko fought hard all day for Nike, drawing in two matches against a highly fancied Sage Haussegger.

The match was won in the lines two and three with Jarrod Bence and Xander Borensenko putting up strong wins in all their matches.

But everyone was looking forward

to the doubles, battle of the Borensenko brothers which younger brother Xander won paired with Sage, 3-2.

It was a great return for Oscar Bury, who had missed the past few weeks with a foot injury, as he won the green ball player of the day by not losing a game, which was the major reason Under Armor defeated Reebok.

In fact, Reebok could only muster one win with Ethan Nalder beating Noah Johns 4-0.

In the yellow ball competition, Maggie continued its undefeated way with a win over Smithers.

Again the Southern boys continue to dominate their singles, but Etienne Goessens won his singles to get Smithers on the board. However, Aidan Southern won all three of

his matches, and that was enough to secure a four rubbers to two victory.

Mr Burns had a hard fought win over Bart. Hannah Perkins had a great day for Bart, winning her singles over Luke Radford and winning her doubles with Rachel Brooker, but unfortunately with a few tight games not going their way they fell four rubbers to two. Lochie Rose played great tennis to win all three of his matches.

In the final match, Millhouse dominated Homer winning five rubbers to one. Both Jordan Johnston and Hannah Ng were three-set winners. Homer's only win came from Elise Lucas, beating Josh Van Den Hoff 6-1 in what was Josh's first match back after having a few weeks off.

The answer is loser on loser: discard a club on the heart lead and East wins ♥K. Win the club return with ♣A, draw trumps and lead ♥Q, discarding a diamond from dummy. Now you can throw the other small diamond from dummy on ♥J and lose just two tricks. And the diamonds broke 5-0 with East holding ♠J, ♥AK6542, ♦---, ♣Q85432.

Lawrence explains each and every situation thoroughly with suit diagrams and many full hands. His Tips series is a winner and an excellent way to improve your knowledge and technique. It's enjoyable to read books so well-written and with such a wealth of knowledge. Highly recommended.

Playing Doubled Contracts

by Ron Klinger

(Master Bridge Series, London, 2015, soft cover, 96 pages) \$27.95 postfree from Paul Lavings Bridge Books



Ron Klinger presents 58 deals where the odds are stacked against declarer but they have at least been warned of bad breaks by the double. The winning declarers in this book survived by calmly thinking the hand through and nutting out the winning play. The losers normally conceded 500, 800 or 1100.

This hand is typical of the involved planning required to succeed:

North deals, nil vulnerable

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

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

1. 12-14, some balanced hand

2. Natural, non-forcing

If the defence had taken their three club tricks there would be no story, but North started with ♠9. Declarer had to play precisely, he won ♠A and played ♥A and ♦AK and trumped a diamond. Now came the key play, a low spade ruffed and another diamond ruff. Now declarer could play ♠K and throw a club loser, North could trump but the defence made just three trump tricks and two clubs for -470.

Everyday Bridge Adventures

by Dennis Zines

(Austin Macauley Publishers Ltd, London, 2015, soft cover, 154 pages) \$19.95 post-free from Paul Lavings Bridge Books



Dennis Zines describes himself as an “average” player but really he is a good player who plays with a lot of passion. He feels elation when he does well, and it hurts when he falls short. The first chapter analyses whether bridge players are simply victims of luck, while the second chapter examines what control we can exert to change our luck. He then looks at slams in Chapter 3, bidding and declarer play in Chapter 4, successful defence in Chapter 5 and exotic deals in Chapter 6.

Dennis frequently muses over things like whether one should bid weak suits and on this deal he decides to try a 1♠ response instead of simply raising diamonds. Suddenly he is way higher than he would like to be:

East deals, nil vulnerable

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

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

As he studied the dummy in his 18 HCP game, Dennis noted the double fit and the well-fitting shortages and tried to ignore the poor spade pips. West led ♠9, East won ♠10 and returned ♠K, 3, 8, A. Next came ♣A, and remembering East's passed-hand takeout double, he led ♦10 to ♦K and successfully ran ♦6. Dennis now ruffed a club and started running the diamonds. It would do East no good to ruff, so declarer simply ruffed his third club and made his 10th trick with one of his little trumps.

Don't bid on weak suits, don't bid on weak hands without shape, and you need 25 HCPs for game were all tested and found wanting

There are about 150 hands in the book and some amazing things happen. A fascinating read.

Continued on page 21

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by Kim Frazer

Segmenting Performance

In an earlier article, I spoke about competitors making errors when performing well in competition because they become anxious or nervous due to their performance exceeding their expectations. They get outside what's known as their comfort zone (see ABF Newsletter, July 2014). One way to enhance this anxiety is to spend a lot of time looking at the scoreboard between rounds. This is guaranteed to make you start thinking about the outcome - winning, rather than the task at hand - making or defending this contract, bidding according to your system, and so on. Some players have no problem knowing how they are performing, and many thrive on it, lifting their performance when they have a chance to win. If you are not one of those players, and your history is that you "choke" or make mistakes when the pressure is on, then one tactic that can be tried in matches, apart from avoiding looking at your score all the time, is to segment your performance and set segment goals.

Segmenting performance makes a player focus on achievable goals, rather than the overall outcome. In shooting, my match could be broken into parts and it was quite easy for me to set segment goals. For example, a match was 60 shots, so it was broken into 10 shot segments, with a goal for each segment which concentrated on technical factors. How would this type of methodology translate into application at bridge?

Most of our bridge competitions are made up of multiple segments. For example:

- a one day Swiss Pairs or Teams event might be 7 x 8 board matches or similar. Each match is a segment.
- a competition at your club might be made up of 2 x 14 board rounds per day or night for 3 weeks.
- a duplicate game consists of 2, 3 or 4 boards against each pair of opponents.

Whilst the overall goal is to win the day, setting sub-goals for each segment and achieving these sub-goals can assist in achieving the overall goal of a good performance. In duplicate pairs, a score based goal in every segment would be as simple as getting a plus score on every board. Even if the opponents have the cards their way, a "plus" could still be to ensure the overtricks are kept to a minimum, or even defeating



a contract through careful defence or subterfuge, by making an unexpected lead or play. Endeavouring to play consistent bridge is always the objective, however, generally segment goals comprise a combination of factors which may include this score goal, but more importantly include some technique goal(s), a personal improvement goal, and so on. Hence the segment goals may become:

- get a plus score on every board; or
- count the hand out before playing to trick one; or
- no chatting about the hand after the play; or.....

Let's consider the segment goal, "counting the hand before playing to trick one". For a basic level player this could mean thinking about the opening lead before you play to trick one, and trying to count that suit before playing - think about what is in the leader's hand, what is in your hand, what is in dummy, what is in the fourth player's hand. For an intermediate player, counting can advance to considering the shape of the whole hand based on the lead, what you can see of dummy and the bidding. This thinking could then advance to also thinking about what inferences can be drawn from this lead, as opposed to some other lead that might have been made. Throughout the hand, continuing to consider what card is played, and by deduction what this implies, continues the focus on this segment goal. Occupying the mind with a technical aspect like counting the hand decreases the likelihood that anxiety through thoughts about scores and winning will have an effect on performance during the match. Eventually this approach to each hand becomes automatic, and the segment goals will be redefined over time. Throughout the day, a different goal can be used in each segment, so the player's focus remains sharp.

Players should set goals that help their particular performance objectives. The best players know when a contract should or shouldn't have been made immediately, but some less experienced players don't always know this until they see the hand record. There is a temptation to become distracted by the thought that a contract should have been bid or made, or a particular defence employed - whether or not it is true. It is also easy to get distracted in a segment of the match by the perception that the cards aren't running your way, and it doesn't matter what you do, you have no chance. Staying away from the scoreboard and thoughts about your placing or winning, and keeping your mind on segment goals can improve concentration and performance to ensure your results are the best they can be.

Thanks as always to David Morgan for his insights in this article.

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HELANE K TOURS

Intermediate Bridge Play Problems

by Tina Zines (Trumps Publishing, Sydney, 2016, soft cover, 104 pages) \$16.95 postfree from Paul Lavings Bridge Books



Bridge teacher and expert player Tina Zines presents 50 deals for intermediate players on play and defence, most of which come from her years of teaching at the New South Wales Bridge Association.

The problems increase in difficulty from simply counting your tricks to more involved plays like this one:

♠ A 5
♥ A K 9 4
♦ Q 5 4
♣ 8 7 5 4

♠ 7 6
♥ 8 6 3 2
♦ A K
♣ K Q J 6 2

West	North	East	South
			1♣
2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

North has the values for game and makes a negative double of 2♠, showing four cards in the other major. The fit is found and game reached.

You count your losers and see that if trumps break 3-2, not that likely with West's 2♠ preempt, you will only lose a spade, a heart and ♣A. So you can guard against a 4-1 trump break by discarding your spade loser on ♦Q.

West leads ♠K, and you must not touch trumps yet. Win ♠A and cash ♦A, K, cross to ♥A (West plays ♥Q) and discard a spade on ♦Q.

You still can't play a second trump, and you play on clubs. East win ♣A but now you are OK. When you draw the second top heart, you note that trumps do break 4-1 but you lose just two hearts and a club.

The book is not just a book of problems. Being a natural teacher Tina explains the finer points of the bidding and play in great detail. A wonderful book for intermediate players.

Paul Lavings
Paul Lavings Bridge Books and Supplies

RULE OF 11

Fourth best leads are one of the oldest conventions in bridge. In his best seller *Foster's Whist Manual* published in 1891 RF Foster wrote, "Deduct from 11 the number of spots on the card led; the remainder is the number of cards that are held against your partner's suit, higher than the one led."



So let's say the six is led, 11 minus 6=5 so there are five cards in the other three hands higher than the six. Foster added "I discovered this rule in 1881 after much careful study. Its usefulness I have found to be so great that I wonder it was not discovered before (in fact it was, 20 years earlier in the UK)".

This is the textbook example of fourth highest leads at their best:

7 lead K54 AJ93 (*You*)

You do your sums, 11-7=4, so there are four cards in the other three hands higher than the seven and you can see them all, A,K,J and nine. When declarer plays the four you follow with the three. If the seven is a fourth-best lead the seven will hold the trick.

Here is another recent example of where Rule of 11 helps the defender:

9 AJ52
7 lead

At the table East won the ace and routinely returned the 2. If East had done his maths (he was a retired Professor of Mathematics), 11-7=4, then three of the four higher cards are on view so declarer has only one card higher than the seven. It was imperative to return the Jack:

9 AJ52
K1087 Q643

The return of the Jack would be the end for declarer but on the return of the two, declarer covered with the three and lost three tricks in the suit, not four and made his contract.

Declarer can also use the rule of 11 to advantage. For example:

Q82 64
7 lead A105

When West led the seven, declarer subtracted 7 from 11 and knew that there were four cards in the other three hands higher than the seven.

As all four cards were on view in dummy and his own hand, it was clear that playing the eight would win the trick, assuming fourth best, and the eight proved to be a vital extra entry to dummy.

This deal is from the second stage of the recent play-offs for the Australian Open Team:

West deals, EW vulnerable

```

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

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

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

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

At both tables West led ♥6 and East won ♥A and switched to ♣A and ♣10.

Both declarers, Ron Klinger and Fraser Rew, quite correctly played for East to hold ♣A109 and covered with ♣J, hoping to block to the suit. West ran all his clubs for five down, -250.

Let's say West optimistically leads ♣6 instead. When declarer does his sums, 11-6=5, he can see five cards higher than the six when East wins ♣A and returns ♣10, so he knows West has ♣9. As his only chance declarer ducks ♣10 and survives the looming avalanche.

Fourth highest leads can help declarer and 20-30 years ago simply leading low to show you "like the suit" had a following. But this method lacks accuracy and has largely fallen out of favour.

One popular variation is fourth highest leads vs notrumps and 3rd and 5th leads (Rule of 12) vs suits. 3rds and 5th leads allow defenders to differentiate between a lead from a three-card or four-card suit.

The drawback with 3rd and 5th leads is that a low card lead may not promise an honour whereas playing fourth best leads, a lead of the lowest card from length guarantees an honour.

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