

ABF Leadership - Setting the Direction for 2016 Onwards

The ABF Annual General Meeting was held in May.

The ABF Council, effectively our *'Board of Directors'*, with appointees from each State and Territory Bridge Association, met to undertake its legal obligations and to review our 2016 Strategic Activities. We also welcomed Kim Frazer (the VBA Secretary) to Council. Kim has also joined the ABF Management Committee.

In addition to our key strategic programs Council discussed some major topical issues such as how to :

1. improve International Team performance
2. combat cheating in our sport; *and*
3. deal with players who have been banned at National, State or club level.

In the January Newsletter I described the key Strategic Planning activities that Council identified for 2016. It's now time to give you an update on how these are going.

- Our **Teaching program** continues to grow, and I'm very happy that it looks like we will soon appoint another Teacher Trainer to assist our National Teaching Co-ordinator, Joan Butts, to deliver teaching.
- We are also devoting more resources to our **marketing and club support** programs in 2016. Our National Marketing Officer, Sandra Mulcahy, can help clubs by providing free promotional materials and can arrange marketing seminars to engage with club administrators and provide them with practical advice on how to increase membership and develop education programs. I will be telling you more about this in the next issue of the Newsletter.
- The ABF is also developing plans to build a **Director Development program** to work with States and Territories to support all directors, but especially those at the club level. A strong focus of this program will be mentorship to expand the skills of our newer directors.

A new ABF-wide initiative, starting soon, will be a **performance tracking program** where we track overall key performance indicators such as membership growth, participation rates in gold point events and the number of affiliated clubs. This will enable us to get a more accurate picture of how we are travelling from year-to-year and to identify where there are further opportunities for improvement.

In the next issue

A more in-depth look at our marketing and Club support program.

Bruce Neill
ABF President
June 2016



The Usual Suspects - continued

Seniors' Teams Playoff Final

by Ron Klinger

The 96-board final was between *Buchen* and *Lorentz*. All six pairs were regular partnerships, all had represented Australia internationally a number of times and all had competed against each other on many occasions. On recent form, *Buchen* was the logical favourite. They had won the 2016 National Seniors' Teams and had won the double round-robin in Division 1 of the Playoffs. *Lorentz* had come sixth in the National Seniors' Teams and third in Division 1.

South deals, nil vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	3♠	Pass
Pass	?		

What would you do as North with ♠---, ♥10973, ♦Q963, ♣AK1073

Board 8, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>	<i>Christie</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Christie, in 5♦ doubled, ruffed ♠A lead, crossed to ♥A and played ♦2, four, nine. He continued with ♣A, ♣K, and cross-ruffed the black suits. After ♥10 to the king, he led ♥6 and West could make only two trump tricks, NS +550.

At the other table, when East's 3♠ came to me (North), I doubled, hoping South might have a penalty pass. Haughie, South, bid 3NT, all pass.

After ♠3 to ♠K, East returned ♠J. If South ducks, 3NT makes, but he reasonably enough played ♠Q. West won and 3NT went four off, EW +200, *Buchen* +13 IMPs. I would have done better to bid 4♦ or 5♦.

Board 13, West deals, all vulnerable

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

Burgess, West, opened 2♣, 10-15 points, 5+ clubs. *Buchen*, North, bid 4♥, all pass. He lost a club and a spade, +650.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Haughie</i>
1♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4♠	Dbl
5♣	Dbl	All Pass	

West won ♠J lead and played ♣A, ♣K. The result was five down, EW +1400, *Lorentz* +13 IMPs.

After 16 boards *Lorentz* led *Buchen* by 49 IMPs to 19.1.

North deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	?		

1. Strong 5+ spade suit, slam interest

What would you do as North with ♠Q1093, ♥QJ54, ♦KQJ4, ♣A

Board 8, South deals, nil vulnerable

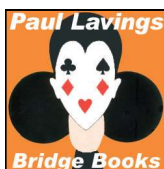
♠ Q 10 9 3	
♥ Q J 5 4	
♦ K Q J 4	
♣ A	
♠ 7 4	♠ 2
♥ K 10 9 3 2	♥ 8 6
♦ 9 6 3	♦ A 10 9 2
♣ J 10 3	♣ Q 9 8 7 4 2
	♠ A K J 8 6 5
	♥ A 7
	♦ 7 5
	♣ K 6 5

Some players like to fly direct. Others prefer a more scenic route to check that the opponents cannot take two quick tricks in an outside suit. Avi Kanetkar belongs to the first group. Witness:

Continued on page 4



Stephen Burgess



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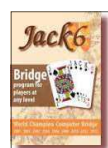


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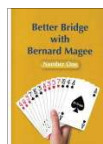
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West	North	East	South
Krochmalik	Kanetkar	Lavings	Brown
	1♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ ¹
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

1. 0 or 3 key cards for spades

The advantage of this approach is that it tells the opponents very little. The downside is that you might lose the first two tricks, for example, if you switch South's red suits and they lead a heart. No problems this time, NS +1430.

Had I been North, it would have continued 3♠ over 2♠, then 4♣, 4♦, 4♥ cuebids before 4NT for Key Cards. At our table it began 1♦: 1♠, 3♠, followed by 4♣, 4♦, cues and 4NT Key Card, ending in 6♠, all pass, no swing.

After 32 boards in the final of the Seniors' Team Selection. Lorentz led Buchen by 74 IMPs to 47.1.

Both declarers did well here:

Board 34, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Haughie	Neill	Klinger	Jedrychowski
Christie	Burgess	Buchen	Lorentz
		Pass	Pass
1♦	1NT	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

1. Transfer to clubs

2. Good hand for clubs

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

For Issue 181, September 2016, copy deadline is:

August 26, 2016

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 182, November 2016. Email: editor@abf.com.au

At both tables the play began ♠J, taken by the ace. Declarer played a club to the ace and West returned ♠10, won by the king. Both declarers continued with ♦A, diamond ruff, club to dummy, diamond ruff.

These cards remained:

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

Both Souths exited with ♠9. East won and had to open the hearts or give South a ruff-and-discard. The defence could not collect more than two hearts tricks, N-S +110.

South deals, NS vulnerable

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

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

1. 13-15

2. Majors

3. Stopper ask

West leads ♥9 (0 or 2 higher): queen – two – seven. Declarer, with ♦Q-J-7-2, plays four rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. West discards ♠8, ♠5 and East ♠4. Declarer then plays ♠2: nine – queen – king.

What should West do now?

South is known to have ♥K (trick 1), ♦Q-J (tricks 2-5) and ♠Q, trick 6. South also figures to have ♠A, else East should have played it and returned a heart. That gives South 12 HCP and so South cannot have ♣A for a 13-15 1NT.



Bruce Neill



This was the full deal:

Board 37, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

After ♠K, switch to ♣10 and you take 3NT three off. Buchen, West, had read East's ♥2 at trick 1 to show four hearts and so at trick 7 he banged down ♥A. Stephen Burgess, South, now had nine tricks, three spades, two hearts and four diamonds, for +600.

At the other table, Bruce Neill, South in 3NT, had shown 11-14 points. He won ♥10 lead with the queen and played ♠2: ten – queen – ace. West could place South with ♥K, ♠A-Q-J and later ♦Q-J. South finished two down, EW +200, Lorentz +13 IMPs.

At the end of Day 1 (48 boards). Lorentz led Buchen by 126-63.

With only NS vulnerable, East passes. What is your plan of bidding as South with this collection? ♠A42, ♥53, ♦KQ, ♣AKQ876

The game of bridge is about winning tricks, not about points. We count points to estimate the number of tricks you can win. Each trick = about 3 points (40 HCP divided by 13 tricks). On that basis, the South hand below is worth about 21 points. It will take 7-8 tricks most of the time. If you have confidence in that assessment, you might open 2NT. I am betting Avi Kanetkar would do that. However, neither NS pair had

a natural 2NT available. Both used it to show a weak hand with both minors.

Buchen staged a 48-28 recovery in Session 4, due in part to two games bid and made, while the other side stopped in a partscore. Here is one of them:

Board 50, East deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Lavings	Buchen	Krochmalik	Christie
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
All Pass		Pass	3NT

South could have opened 2♦, which includes 20-22 balanced. South ducked ♥K lead, won the next heart, knocked out ♦A, 9 tricks, +600.

West	North	East	South
Brown	Burgess	Kanetkar	Lorentz
Pass	1♠ ²	Pass	1NT ³
All Pass			

1. Artificial, 16+ points
2. Artificial, 0-8 points, no 5-card major
3. 16-19 points

South ducked ♥K, won the second heart, ran the clubs and knocked out ♦A for 9 tricks, +150, but –10 IMPs. South could have treated the hand as 19-21 (rebid 2♣, 19+, and then 2NT) or as 22+ (rebid 2NT over 1♠).

After 64 boards in the Seniors' Team Selection final, Lorentz led by 154 - 111 IMPs.

Board 70, East deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Lavings	Neill	Krochmalik	Jedrychowski
		Pass	1NT
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1. 15-17 (a bit offshape)

West lost a club and a spade, EW +650.

West	North	East	South
Brown	Klinger	Kanetkar	Haughie
		Pass	1♣
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dbl	All Pass

The defence took two hearts, ♠A and a diamond ruff, two off, EW +300, but 8 IMPs to *Lorentz*.

North's decision to save in 5♣ was based on two factors. Opponents who bid game when vulnerable against not are bidding to make. Even though EW figured to have at most 21 points, they usually have freak shape to compensate for the high-card deficiency.

Secondly, the EW bidding suggested that South had a singleton heart. If so, South would systemically have 5+ clubs. That made 5♣ attractive.

Board 72, South deals, nil vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Neill	Krochmalik	Jedrychowski	Lavings
			Pass
1♦	2♦ ¹	3♣	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

1. At least 5-5 in the majors

The defence took two hearts. West ruffed the third, drew trumps, picked up the clubs without loss and made 11 tricks, EW +150.

West	North	East	South
Klinger	Kanetkar	Haughie	Brown
			Pass
1NT ¹	2♦ ²	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

1. 15-17 (a bit off-shape)

2. Majors

West played ♦K, ♦A, ♣K and ♦6: ♠6, ♠8. South still had ♠A to lose, two off, -300, 4 IMPs to *Lorentz*.

South took North's double as showing a powerful two suiter. North meant the double as penalties. In the abstract, I would blame North for the loss. He could not be sure of five heart tricks. However, trailing by 43 IMPs made every IMP vital. Maybe 3NT would go two or three off.

After 80 boards, *Lorentz* led *Buchen* 184-137.1. To pick up 47 IMPs in 16 boards is not impossible, but *Lorentz* scored 29 IMPs to 0 in the first six boards of Session 6, won the last set by 58-25 and the match by 242-162.1.

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

1. 2+ clubs, game force

2. Cuebid

North leads ♣10. Your move.

Board 92, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

As West's 1♠ opening was limited to 15 points, East had no inclination to look for a slam. North led ♣10, jack, ace, and South returned ♣6: four – nine – king. After ♥A, ♦K to ♦A, West finessed ♥J, losing to the queen. There was a spade to lose, 10 tricks, EW +620.

At the other table, after the auction in the problem above, Richard Jedrychowski alerted 4♦. 'Splinter', he wrote. For some pairs, my partnership with Bill Haughie included, 4♦ promises control in all the non-trump suits and so I asked whether 4♦ denied control in the spades and clubs. He wrote, 'Yes'.

I was about to lead when he wrote, ‘No, if I had bid 3♠, that would show six spades.’ As the 2♣ bid was not necessarily a genuine suit and West had shown diamond control, I led ♣10. West went up with dummy’s ♣K. He lost two clubs, a heart and a spade, one off, –100, 12 IMPs to *Lorentz*.

When a low card is led against a trump contract, assume that the opening leader does not have the ace. To lead away from an ace in a trump contract is a losing strategy. West should play ♣J. If the opener leader has led away from an ace and it works, accept the loss and congratulate them (through gritted teeth).

Gold Coast Gold

by *Barbara Travis*

Last year I missed the Gold Coast Congress, primarily because there were too many national bridge events in the first two months of the year. I promised Therese Tully, the Convener, that I would return when the ABF reorganised their calendar, which will have happened by the end of this year, so I was probably a year early. I’m glad of that.

Therese told me that ‘winners are grinners’ but I truly found this year’s Gold Coast Congress to be the best I have attended! The organisation was flawless, the weather behaved, the unit we had booked was excellent, and the workers were incredibly helpful (as always). One of the additional services provided by the organisers is a shuttle bus to take those who need mobility assistance to and from the venue and this was my first time utilising this service, which was a real benefit to me.

I suggested to my husband, Howard Melbourne, that perhaps we could play together in the Gold Coast Pairs, as we had different partners in the teams. We have played four times now, winning in 2013. I had high hopes, because Howard understands the pairs game really well, and the hands I’ve chosen are designed to demonstrate winning pairs tactics.



(I sat North, Howard sat South throughout the event – we were given some allowance for my recent ankle surgery and the fact that I played most of the event wearing my moon boot with my leg raised... not the most comfortable bridge-playing position.)

♠ J 4
♥ Q J 8 3
♦ K 8 4 3
♣ A J 2

♠ A 9 5
♥ K 10 7 5 4 2
♦ A J
♣ Q 5

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

West led ♠7 and Howard ducked East’s ♠10. A spade was continued, won with ♠A. When Howard led a trump, West won ♥A and switched to ♣10. It seemed likely that ♣K was with East (from both the lead of ♣10 and from the auction). Rather than settling for 10 tricks, Howard risked the contract to try for the overtrick. He won ♣A and led a diamond, finessing ♦J. When that won, he drew the last trump, cashed ♦A and trumped a spade to dummy so that he could discard ♣Q on ♦K.

If he had made 10 tricks, we would have scored only 32% of the matchpoints, whereas making an overtrick gave us a 79% score.

Here is another example of the same notion:

♠ K Q J 7
♥ K 6 4
♦ 7 2
♣ 5 4 3 2

♠ 9 4 2
♥ A 9 5
♦ 10
♣ A K 10 9 8 7

After a competitive auction, we reached 4♣ from the South hand. West led ♠3. Given that this lead was unlikely to be from ♠A, Howard took the view that the lead was from ♠10, so he played low from dummy at trick 1. When East was forced to win the first trick with ♠A he now had three spade tricks, and a discard for his heart loser.

Making 11 tricks was worth 97%, as opposed to the 86% for making 10 tricks. (Clearly many EW pairs were allowed to play in partscores or perhaps went –100 compared with our +150.)

Two hands that belong ‘together’ occurred during the Pairs Final 2. Partner opened 1♦ and I held ♠AKJ8542, ♥642, ♦83, ♣7

We had agreed that jumps were invitational, so I could respond 2♠ to show 6+ spades and an invitational hand. Instead I decided to bash 4♠. This didn’t play

well and went down two tricks (and it could have been down three). Our -200 was worth only 38%, whereas 2♠ making was worth 85% (it seems nearly everyone chose to overbid this hand).

Having held that hand only three boards earlier, I picked up ♠A, ♥AJ87632, ♦109, ♣J74

Partner opened 1♦ and this time I was more discreet, making the systemic 2♥ bid. Howard might have passed, but chose to try 2NT, so I rebid 3♥ and played there. Of course 3♥ went down (again), but down one in 3♥ was worth 96% when most of the field overbid to 4♥ again. Clearly, playing in 2♥ was worth an outright top.

The lesson from these two hands is that pairs is about making sure you get a ‘plus’ score, rather than just bashing to game. At IMPs, the bonus from bidding and making a game means that you can bid lower-percentage games. However, at pairs you need to be more cautious in order to ensure you make your contract. Without a fit, both these hands were not very valuable.

Pairs also involves making more penalty doubles, especially in competitive auctions where your opponents have stolen your partscore contract from you. If you were scoring +110 (or 130 or 140) you need to score more than 100 from taking your opponents down. This means you need to double to compensate for your lost score (you’ll score badly if they make or go one down, so if they make doubled it doesn’t cost you very much).

Howard (South) held ♠10983, ♥KQ4, ♦Q762, ♣83

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♠	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

My 3♣ bid was an intermediate jump overcall, so Howard knew I had a decent hand. 3♣ should make only 9 tricks but often made 10 tricks – for 110 or 130. EW were not vulnerable, so we needed more than 100 to get a good score and compensation for our contract. Hence Howard doubled. We took 3♠ down two, scoring +300 (worth 100%), instead of the 31% that +100 would have given us.

In the final session, this theme recurred.

Sitting South, Howard (I already said he is a pairs expert) held ♠QJ, ♥AQ653, ♦Q98, ♣953

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

West asked me what the double meant, and I replied, “It’s a pairs double, aiming for +200”. We should score only +90 in 2♦ but many were allowed to score an overtrick, for 110. With EW vulnerable, we needed to maximise our compensation.

Howard’s double was also based on sound logic. East held the values, and Howard was likely to be holding heart values over East. I was unlikely to hold three hearts, having passed both 1♠ and then the 2♦ bid. So, in all likelihood we would have three heart tricks, and I must have other scattered values. In fact, I held an Ace-King and an Ace, making my pass easy.) 2♠ doubled went down one when Howard held ♥AQ over dummy’s ♥KJx and I got a ruff. Our +200 was an outright top, beating all partscores. (Note: Many Souths had overbid to 3♦, forgetting the pairs principle of getting a ‘positive’ score and not overbidding.)

And similarly, when you know your contract is going down, it is important to think about two things:

- Maximising your tricks, and
- What you think the opponents can make on their cards.

This hand from near the end of the final session saw me playing 2♠:

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

[West should have competed for the partscore by doubling 2♠, which would have led to EW playing in 3♣, which makes 11 tricks (a diamond loser can be discarded on a major king).]

Against 2♠, East led his ♥2. I won ♥A to lead and finesse ♠9, which won. On the next spade lead West showed out, so I won ♠A and led a small spade. East won ♠K and the opponents now took ♥K and a ruff, and four minor winners. I had six tricks for -100, but felt content that I had made as many tricks as possible

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19 – 21 October (Wed – Fri)

Spring Nationals Open Teams Qualifying

19 – 20 October (Wed & Thu)

Two Men & a Truck Restricted Teams

All players fewer than 300 Masterpoints at 30/6/2016

24 – 26 October (Mon – Wed)

Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams Qualifying

All players born before 1/1/1959

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Linda Stern Women's Teams Qualifying

Pairs Events

22 – 23 October (Sat & Sun)

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22 – 23 October (Sat & Sun)

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and I could also see that there were 11 tricks in clubs. Most important of all was to ensure that I did not fail by three tricks which would match the scores of 150 for the club partscores making 11 tricks!

The last hand of the tournament has been mentioned in many articles already, but was of similar vein. We played in 2NT, going down two tricks for -100, when the opponents could make nine tricks in a spade contract. Our -100 was worth 88%, whereas -140 would have given us just 35%.

Ashley Bach and Michael Cornell had led the tournament all the way, and led comfortably going into the last three boards. However, we had a massive last round, averaging 89% to pip them at the post, by 0.04%.

This was Howard’s fifth win in the pairs, but until now he had only ever won with different partners. This was my third win, with my first win being in 1979 and my second being in 2013 (just 34 years later!) with Howard. We will be returning!

Thanks to Therese and her band of tireless workers for putting together one of the best tournaments on the world calendar.

Six days in March . . .

The Women’s Playoff
by Helene Pitt

Pitt, Helene Pitt, Ruth Tobin, Pele Rankin, Paula McLeish was seeded fifth out of only seven teams entered for the 2016 Women’s Playoffs. Seeding is based on accumulated qualifying points in 2015.

The ABF warned to keep in mind that Parliament was sitting the week of the Women and Senior Playoff. I was well prepared and booked my hotel well in advance, checking out on Wednesday morning of Stage 3: the Final.

Playing as an unfancied team, we held our own with steady results throughout the qualifying, so we were always comfortably within the top four qualifying teams. We finished third in the qualifying round.

As expected the favourite team, Bourke, Margaret Bourke, Sue Lusk, Candice Ginsberg, Barbara Travis did extremely well in the qualifying.

They chose to play the other four women team, Pitt for the semi final. Qualifying results below:

Pl	Tm	Name	W	D	L	IMPs	B/Fwd	Score	Total	MPs
1.	21	BOURKE	10	2	2	186	173.12	16.37	189.49	20.73
2.	22	THOMPSON	8	2	4	80	147.90	12.01	159.91	24.6
3.	25	PITT	6	2	6	30	137.62	7.99	145.61	49.21
4.	24	SMITH	6	2	6	55	140.14	3.63	143.77	11.42

10



The semi final was a close affair throughout. After three sets, we were down only 6.1 IMPs, so our sound result in the final set gave us the overall win.

Semi Final A

No	Name	C/F	Set 1	Total	Set 2	Total	Set 3	Total	Set 4	Total
1.	BOURKE	0.1	20	20.1	34	54.1	16	70.1	6	76.1
2.	PITT	0	11	11	43	54	10	64	26	90

Semi Final B

No	Name	C/F	Set 1	Total	Set 2	Total	Set 3	Total	Set 4	Total
1.	THOMPSON	0.1	29	29.1	63	92.1	36	128.1	19	147.1
2.	SMITH	0	34	34	15	49	24	73	61	134

Come Tuesday night the least of my worries was that all the hotels were booked out in Canberra. My luggage was in storage. But Pele had an extra couch . . .

The truth of bridge is that you don’t win for all the spectacular hands. More from making less mistakes.

In the final, we faced Thompson, Jenny Thompson, Cynthia Belonogoff, Toni Sharp, Marilyn Chadwick, Renee Cooper, Jane Reynolds. This team was a mixture of experienced and inexperienced partnerships, with Renee and Jane bringing a good mix of youth and aggression to the team.

The key to winning the final was bidding confidently and aggressively, locking in great results in the first two sets. Although we bled IMPs in the last two sets, our first two sets had set up a substantial lead that was too much for Thompson to recover from.

Playing as a four-person team, one of the challenges is maintaining focus and concentration and keeping your emotions in check throughout a long tournament. Meeting Thompson in the final meant that they had the advantage of a six-person team, so it was even more important for us to maintain our focus and concentration.

Final

THOMPSON										
C/F	1	Total	2	Total	3	Total	4	Total	5	Total
0.1	7	7.1	9	16.1	20	36.1	26	62.1	51	113.1
PITT										
0	48	48	51	99	21	120	36	156	12	168

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After six days play, 304 boards, we had won the Final beyond all our expectations. More than three months later euphoria has not diminished – we're off to Poland in September.

Our team for Poland represents nearly all the Australian States.

Helene Pitt -
Ruth Tobin NSW
Pele Rankin and
Paula McLeish
Qld
Renee Cooper
and Jane
Reynolds WA
Jenny Thompson
Captain, Vic.

Women's Bridge

Interesting is that in the recent USA Qualifying Playoffs for the World Games 2016, there were only five teams entered, with the team seeded 1 having a bye till the semi final. There was discussion on BBO that in a few year's time women's teams events might be redundant.

What are the reasons that so few teams entered from a country as vast as the USA, two less than Australia?

Why are more women not interested in participating in the World Bridge Games 2016 (formerly known as the Olympiad), with 115 teams entering?

I put this question to one of the top USA players. Her answer was that it is too expensive to compete,

with little chance of winning. Also, sponsors in the USA have moved to open events.

One of the objectives of the World Bridge Federation's *Women in Bridge* is to help women players who wish to compete in national and international Championships, giving them the opportunity to train, and playing with partners from all over the world. Also aimed at promoting women's bridge is the Women's Online Bridge Festival.

This event is now held twice a year, and demonstrates the development and importance of women's bridge. Clearly it is up to us women to keep women's teams events alive in tournaments.



Pacific Asia Women's On-Line Bridge Festival BridgeBase Online August 22—August 26, 2016

The Australian Bridge Federation is very pleased to announce that we are again holding the **Pacific Asia On-line Women's Bridge Festival** to be held from Monday 22nd of August to Friday 26th August 2016 on **BridgeBase Online**. Registrations will open in August

The Festival will include three 12 board tournaments a day over five days in a variety of formats – pairs, Individuals and robot tourneys.

This event has been set up to capture all of those female players who reside in the Pacific/Asia rim.

Tourney Points will be awarded to the first three or four placed pairs/individuals in each event, with overall prizes being awarded to the individual players with the highest number of Tourney Points.

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A complete prize breakdown will be prepared and posted to the web site at the completion of the event.

For more information go to: [Pacific Asia On-line Women's Bridge Festival](#)

Registration will open in August

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

For Issue 181, September 2016, copy deadline is:
August 26, 2016

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 182, November 2016. Email: editor@abf.com.au

Western Seniors Pairs

The winners of the 2016 Western Seniors Pairs held in Perth on May 14-15 were:

Andrew Swider – Anton Pol
Dennis Yovich – Robert Prince
Nigel Dutton – Marie-France Merven



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Townsville nonagenarian

Gloria, Vice-President of the Townsville Bridge Club sent the Newsletter a photograph of one of the club members, Phyllis Johnson, enjoying her 96th birthday at the bridge table.



Phil has been playing bridge since she gave up golf at 74!! Her words are that everyone should play bridge as it is such an entertaining sport.

Bridge in Geelong



I made my first visit to Geelong Bridge Club on Friday, my favourite partner Cecile Senior graciously travelling up from Melbourne so I could have my weekly fix. Up to this point, even though I live in Geelong, I have been V-Lining it to the city to play at my home club, Gardenvale Bridge Club, where I am always made very welcome.

The Geelong crowd were, however, just as welcoming, and of course there were many familiar faces of those who regularly attend congresses in Melbourne. The club has great parking, a big comfortably heated room with a big kitchen where the players - and visitors - can have a cuppa and a biscuit. It was novel to see a playing director, but the game went without a hitch and the club has all the modern electronics in use. Geelong welcomes visitors by charging only \$7 for a game, not the big city prices I am used to.

They play Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at 12.30 and Wednesdays at 7.30pm at their own standalone clubrooms at 149-152 Portarlington Rd.

A couple of hands from our game follow.

Example 1:

You hold ♠AK54, ♥874, ♦KJ87, ♣75. Your right hand opponent has opened and rebid clubs, and your left hand opponent has bid first hearts and then spades. Declarer then leaps to 3NT. What is your lead?

Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

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

A theme of our session at this Friday duplicate was the effectiveness of laying down the king (or ace) from ace-king to four against opposition notrump contracts. On both occasions we failed to do this and suffered poor results.

On Example 1, I was in the East seat, and led fourth highest through dummy's second bid suit (spades). I was soon disenchanted with my lead when partner produced the jack and declarer the queen. On this defence, declarer attacked clubs, forcing out the ace and all we could take were two spades and ♣A. *Deep Finesse* confirms that eight tricks are the maximum for NS. It is easy to see that if you lay down ♠K (in our signalling methods, partner plays high low to give count) you can continue with ♠A and a third spade to partner's jack. Now partner can put a diamond through declarer before the clubs are set up, and five tricks are neatly slotted your way early in the piece.

Example 2:

You are on lead against 1NT with ♠Q54, ♥J4, ♦AK97, ♣A1043 after your left hand opponent has opened 1♠, and your right hand opponent has bid 1NT.

Board 1, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

It is probably easier to lay down ♦K on this hand, as partner is likely to be a broken reed, and at duplicate you don't want to lose any tricks. On ♦K lead, East plays ♦5 to show the start of a low-high echo, and you cash out the suit, carefully playing ♦9 to East's

jack at the third trick so they can make the obvious club switch at trick five. You win five tricks and a super top board.



On a low diamond, however, declarer puts up the queen, cashes the hearts, takes the spade finesse and scores 10 tricks, more than those who played in the heart partscore and made the obvious 10 tricks. You only beat those hapless EWs who had 4♥ bid against them.

Incidentally, I would always bid 2♥ on the North hand - it is a losing tactic to play 1NT when you hold two doubletons. Bid out your shape when practical.

The jury's out on the top card lead from ace-king to four, but I am swayed.

Stephen Lester

What Should I Bid?

The best submission for May came from Sid Reynolds. He wins a voucher of \$30 funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at *The Bridge Shop* or *Paul Lavings Bridge Books*.

Board 1, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1NT	Dbl	2♦	All Pass

1. 12-14

Result: -1100 (while 2♥x and 2♠x would only be -300, versus their vulnerable 3NT).

We play a weak notrump not vulnerable, but use the same principles if using a strong notrump.

Was East right to run to 2♦ initially, or to the stronger suit, spades?

Should West have run to 2♥? (risky as partner may be short in hearts)?

Should East have then run to 2♠ (thinking partner likely has two diamonds to be doubled, so surely has 3+ spades)?

Hi Sid,

As it always is, the weak notrump is fantastic when it works, but sometimes it comes at a cost when 1NT is doubled – and when it is doubled, that's when you need to try and minimise your losses and make sure you find your best fit to play in. Thus, when your 1NT

is doubled, it would be best if you could reduce any guesswork when it comes to locating your best fit.

Whether East chooses to bid diamonds or spades on this hand is essentially a 'guess'. It's more about finding the right fit rather than "bid spades because they're stronger". For example, imagine if West's spades and diamonds were switched, and now you'd be wishing you'd be playing in diamonds rather than spades!

Over the actual 2♦, West should definitely not "run" to 2♥ because East could easily have a six-card diamond suit. As for whether East should re-run to 2♠ when 2♦ is doubled, that is unclear, because partner would of course always pass with three or four-card diamond support (the opponents don't always bid perfectly, sometimes they "tempo double" us, even if we land in an eight or nine-card fit).

If you have a run-out system where East can show a two-suiter (4+/4+), then that would be best. One possible run-out, for example, is that an immediate bids show "that suit and a higher suit", and redouble shows a single suiter (opener relays with 2♣ to ask which suit). On this hand, East would be able to bid 2♦ to show "diamonds and a higher suit [hearts or spades]", West can then bid 2♥ as a "pass or correct", and East will then correct to 2♠.

There are lots of different types of run-out schemes over 1NT-(X)-?, and there is no "perfect" method, so it is up to you and your partner to decide on what you like best. Whatever your run-out scheme is, you should be able to show a single suited hand (5+ suit), as well as a two-suited hand (4+/4+ in both suits).

Hope that helps, Andy

Letters to the Editor

I wish to express my thanks to Brad Coles and *Australian Bridge* for their excellent work in holding the "2016 Australia-Wide Novice Pairs Competition"

As a less than good bridge player, I have played in this competition over the last few years and enjoyed the boards immensely as well as the Souvenir Booklet that one receives after the night's play.

Even better are the results and commentary available on the *Australian Bridge* website where you can compare your play with the rest of the over 1000 pairs who competed.

I also congratulate those clubs who further the cause of bridge by holding this event, for not only novice players, but for the newcomers, as it gives us all a taste of competition.

John Shield

Victor Champion Cup Teams

by Stephen Lester

This year I was not able to play the VCC due to ill health, so my sole contact was as a BBO spectator. I was glued to my screen not only for the last match, but for many of the matches featured. We will present an article on the VCC by Barbara Travis in the next issue.



The last board

The very last board of the final match on BBO treated the audience to a fierce struggle. The outcome of the deal would clinch the match for CORNELL, who zipped over MILNE, in the throes of suffering a disastrous loss to WILKINSON after having been in the lead since Round 5 of the 10 round event.

Board 28, West deals, NS vulnerable

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

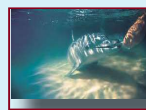
West	North	East	South
Haffer	Cornell	Melbourne	Bach
2♥!	Pass	Pass	Dbf
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dbf	3♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	4♠	Dbf
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Without the hand to help you, you would probably be wondering how the cards were distributed around the table.

West's opening 2♥ bid promised 0+ HCP and exactly seven cards in the majors! Now it's easy to make a penalty pass at the one-level hoping that partner will keep the bidding open, but it's a different story at the two-level. Howard Melbourne kept his powder dry by giving preference to hearts (!) by passing, and fortunately for NS, Ashley Bach had just enough to make a takeout double with his weak notrump. Michael

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Cornell duly passed, and Melbourne tried another subterfuge, bidding 3♣. Cornell was ready to double that too, so now Melbourne was forced into the open with a 3♠ bid. Bach, having made a minimum takeout double, didn't want to be dragged into the auction, passed and Cornell bid 3NT in the passout seat.

Whether this was intended as takeout for the minors or to play, it is pretty sure from the subsequent bidding that Bach would have passed. Now Melbourne made his first big error in the auction, backing in with 4♠, hoping for -500 (with a trick from partner).

Bach doubled, hoping for the torture to be over, but Cornell was not to be swayed - he bid 5♠, void-showing and asking Bach to bid a minor. Bach bid 5NT (no minor?) and Cornell plunged into 6♣. It would have been admirable had NS now ended in 6♦, the best contract on the NS hands, but it was not to be. Bach shrugged and passed.

Melbourne made declarer's job easy by leading ♥10, allowing Cornell to pick up the heart suit for one loser, and with clubs breaking 3-3 the slam rolled home for +1370.

Note that at most tables the bidding would have started (Pass) 1♥ (3♠) and most Souths would simply have bid 4♥, which does not show a strong hand. So much for the "expert approach", you might say.

Had slam gone down, *MILNE* would have won the event. Not being great with the latest IMP scores, I am not sure what would have happened had slam been bid and made in the other room. Suffice to say the leading three teams in the Victor Champion Cup were:

CORNELL, Mike Cornell, Ashley Bach, Phil Markey, Justin Williams, 153.52

MILNE, Liam Milne, Nye Griffiths, Sartaj Hans, Avi Kanetkar, 152.74

TRAVIS, Barbara Travis, Candice Ginsberg, Howard Melbourne, Joe Haffer, 140

Other events:

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs

George Kozakos - Ian Robinson

McCance Seniors' Swiss Pairs

Mike Hughes - David Beauchamp

Sara Tishler Women's Swiss Pairs

Sandra Coleman - Mindy Wu

Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs

Ming Zhang - Yao Lu

Frank Power Trophy <200 MP Swiss Pairs

Maria Campbell - Colleen Bourke

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams

Sandor Varga, Julie Farmer, Robin Hecker, Don Tylee

Gunnedah Teacher Training

ABF Teacher Training - Gunnedah - March 2016

Gunnedah Bridge Club had the pleasure of hosting Joan Butts (ABF National Teaching Coordinator) on the weekend of 5-6 March for the purposes of running the ABF sponsored TTP & CPD courses for people interested in learning to teach bridge (methodology) and also to improve their own level of expertise

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to prepare them for teaching intermediate lessons (content).

Participants travelled from Armidale, Tamworth, Narrabri and Coonabarabran to join the Gunnedah participants.

Sandra Curran and Di Hasler, from Gunnedah Bridge Club, had successfully completed the program and became accredited teachers in 2015. Sandra and Di have been using Joan's materials and methods for their beginner classes for some time, with good results and player feedback.

"We realised that people living in relatively isolated rural communities west of The Great Divide have limited opportunities," explained Sandra. "Consequently, we arranged her visit and were delighted when the ABF approved the initiative, and as a result we experienced a great weekend of coaching."

An added bonus was the opportunity to showcase Gunnedah, where Dorothea Mackellar was inspired to write her famous poem "*My Country*". For Joan's visit it was indeed a 'sunburnt country,'" explained Di, as we had experienced a particularly dry period. However, Joan seemed to enjoy the opportunity to see the town and its surrounds.

Since Joan was already in Gunnedah and able to stay an extra day, on the Monday morning a workshop on slam bidding was held. This enabled any player from the local bridge club as well as neighbouring towns to

participate, and swelled the numbers in the afternoon, when the regular Monday duplicate competition was being held.

Here's a hand from the workshop which we all enjoyed bidding and playing. It's from "*Improve Your Judgment: Opening the Bidding*", by Audrey Grant.

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

East has only 21 high card points, but the seven-card suit makes this hand worth a 2♣ opening. West makes the waiting response of 2♦. Now East rebids 3♣ to show the club suit for the first time.

With a nice hand for clubs, West raises to 4♣. At this point, East might simply jump to 6♣, hoping to find enough in the West hand to make a slam. It's better to use Blackwood, 4NT, to ask how many aces West holds. When West shows one ace (5♦), East might now try 5NT, asking about kings and looking for a grand slam. When West responds 6♣ showing no kings, East can settle for the small slam.

Lead: Best choice is ♠J, top of the sequence.

Play: At first glance it may seem that declarer has to stake everything on a successful heart finesse, but there's a much safer play. Declarer should take advantage of dummy's excellent diamonds. After winning ♠A, declarer should play ♣K to draw trumps, and then play ♦A. Next declarer should lead a club – not ♣2 though – and overtake with dummy's ♣A. Now ♦Q is led. If North were to play ♦K, declarer could ruff with a high club and play ♦2 over to dummy to take the established diamond winners, discarding the spade loser and a heart loser.

But North follows to this trick with a low diamond. Now declarer should discard the spade loser. This trick loses to South's ♦K, but that's the last trick for the defence.

South can lead a spade, but East ruffs with a high club and leads the carefully preserved ♣2 over to dummy. ♥J and ♥Q are discarded on dummy's two diamond winners and declarer makes, without risking the heart finesse. This technique is called discarding a "loser on a loser".

Sandra and Di were very pleased that others were able to share the expertise of Joan's enthusiastic approach to teaching and promoting the exciting game of bridge, and would like to thank the ABF for its support of teachers, and development of the Accreditation Programme for teachers.

**Di Hasler & Sandra Curran -
ABF Accredited Teachers**

More Professional Development Days, 2016

I'm excited to announce that due to popular demand, ABF will be offering five more Continuing Professional Development Days in 2016.

The second session of the series, *How to Teach Defence*, is a content-based training day, for teachers who have completed the Teacher Training Programme (TTP), and who wish to continue in the ABF scheme. Each attendee receives 10 accreditation points for completing this one-day 6 hour course.

Continuing Professional Development Day 2 - How to Teach Defence

- Vic: Melbourne VBA, Tuesday 19 July
- Qld: Redlands BC, Sunday 26 June
- NSW: Maitland BC, Tuesday 5 July
- SA: Adelaide SABA, Sunday 11 September
- NSW: Sydney Peninsula BC, Sunday 16 October

Continuing Professional Development Day 1 - Modern Competitive Bidding

- Qld: QCBC, Brisbane, Sunday, 20 November

Teacher Training Programme

- Qld: QCBC, Brisbane, Saturday, 19 November

To register for any of these sessions, email teaching@abf.com.au and include your name, contact details and the session you wish to attend.

The programmes may also be completed online. Go to ABF site, Teachers.

Joan Butts

Bad Omens

by Michael Courtney

It appears that, during my childhood, I must have done something good (though I cannot call that unlikely event to mind) for I have always endured unnaturally good luck at the bridge table. Little things like getting a good hand when needed, or a good score at a key moment. Having a finesse work in a grand slam is of

course included, but many players are doubtless oft lucky in those areas. The area where my good fortune invites disbelief is well beyond all those...

All my life if the players have been discussing some rare coup before a fourth arrived, that very theme has manifested itself that session. When my partner and I have discussed some rare bidding sequence before a session, that sequence has come up during the ensuing session. I particularly remember the last Australian Individual Championships – the only thing I discussed with each partner before the round was “What do you play over their 1NT opening?” 1NT was opened on almost 50% of the boards in that event!

However, a recent event has me slightly terrified.

Before a teams session, I was lamenting to Rose Don and Owen Camp that I had played perhaps half a dozen “Vice Squeezes” and on only the last of these found the right layout to make. That triumph was greatly diminished by the fact that I was playing matchpoint pairs. Whether I made -50, +110 or 130 in 3♣ was irrelevant, as all other tables saw our opponents’ cards making between 170 and 650 in spades.

While that conversation had begun with “Does studying high level card-play greatly improve your score?” the very fact that we had had it sent me to the bridge club more in expectation than mere hope that such a deal would occur.

What should have happened

Owen and I were playing against two HYG’s (Hypermodern Young Guns). Naturally they (usually wrongly) imagined they had little equity in the card-play, so set out to score points with volatile bidding.

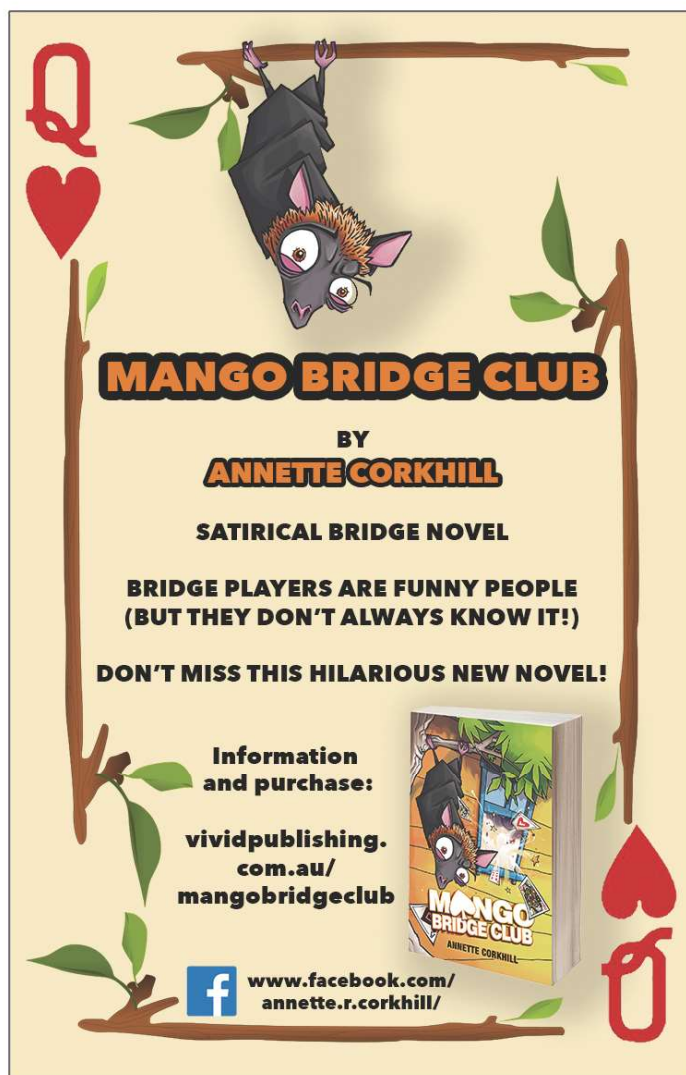
Auckland Bridge Club, April 21, 2016

West deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
HYG 1	Owen	HYG 2	Michael
Pass	1♦	2♦	3♣
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	6♣	All Pass	

Two points are worth making about the auction. If West wishes to take ballistic action after the Michaels Cuebid, he does better to simply choose a large number



For purchase or information go to the link vividpublishing.com.au/mangobridgeclub or use the Facebook link at the bottom of the ad. Annette’s phone number is 0423 121 643 and her email address is annetecorkhill@gmail.com

of spades and bid that. Owen’s pass is a fine idea I first heard from Kevin Hume – the side with the good hands wish to know how many aces East holds! Indeed, it was that very fact that made the play trivial.

At first glance it appears that 6♦ by South is the only good slam, since we know ♠A is offside. West led a heart but, given that knowledge and that spades were 4-5 exactly, it is not to hard to make the slam.

Win the heart in hand, draw trumps then finesse in diamond. Now cash your minor suit winners:

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

When ♣K is led the *Vice* mechanism squeezes both players. West cannot discard another spade or (knowing his ace to be bare) declarer discards the low heart from dummy and plays a low spade. So West must discard a heart. Dummy discards a spade and it is East's turn. He cannot part with a heart or both dummy's hearts will cash, so he parts with a spade honour.

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

Now cash ♥A, to strip West's heart and play a spade. The spade nine is the 12th trick.

What actually happened is that Owen and I were EW and our opponents stopped in 5♣ just making, while our teammates bid a normal 1NT – 3NT for a prompt one down after a spade lead.

The Mental Game

The Annual Training Plan by Kim Frazer

Elite athletes usually have a well developed annual training plan. The annual plan for my shooting year defined the competition periods, peak training periods, rest periods, fitness training periods, experimenting periods and other key events during the year.

It also included annual goals, and goals specifically for individual competitions and training. Goals should be both score-based and technique or performance-based. It is easy to say you want to win everything you enter, but that is not always practical. For example, swimmers usually have periods of highly intensive training after which they taper off for competitions that are important to them. It would generally be unrealistic to expect a swimmer of equal ability, who was in intensive training, to win against a swimmer who has tapered for competition.

If we consider the annual bridge calendar, we note that it is quite busy with competitions, and there are many national events during the year, beginning with the Summer Festival in January, and concluding with the GNOT in late November.

For our international level players, these are important national events, whilst for those players who participate in club events, there are key events such as club championships which are just as important to them. Each player is different, and each will have events they consider to be the most important. Hence, to prepare an effective training plan, a few key steps are required. Get a one year calendar (either electronic or paper) and mark up the following on it.

- Identify the key competitions that are most important to you in the year(s) ahead. Try and pick two or three events you really want to do well at.
- Identify the periods in the year when you will have breaks (holidays, family commitments, Christmas, etc).
- Identify the periods that you may wish to use to experiment with new conventions or system changes, or to play with a different partner (note that experimenting should occur well in advance of key competitions to allow time to ensure the changes are going to be effective)
- For the key competitions, mark out any lead-up events you wish to use to gain competition practice. Identify dates/times that you and your partner will set aside to do bidding/play practice. BBO's partnership bidding facility is a super resource to use.

At the end of every year, reviewing how well your training plan worked allows you to measure how successful you were when compared to the goals you set yourself, and to identify any changes you might wish to make for the following year.

Bathurst Bridge Club

A full house of 32 tables contested the 42nd Bathurst and District Bridge Club Congress over the weekend of 30 April - 1 May.

President Teresa Martin welcomed players from near and far and thanked the work put in by Tournament Director Karin le Roux, (ably assisted by Doreen Kjeldsen) and introduced popular Congress Director Ed Barnes.



The format for Saturday was Swiss
Ed Barnes with pairs winners Tim Stewart and Rod Dunn, and Convener Karin Le-Roux and President Teresa Martin



ABN: 70 053 651 666



ABN: 82 057 199 126

2016 Hans Rosendorff Memorial Weekend Congress - Perth

NEW FORMAT- Women's Swiss PAIRS Event

Sat 17 & Sun 18 September



GOLD POINTS

PQPs: 1st 24,
2nd 12, 3rd 6



West Australian Bridge Club, 7 Odern Cres., Swanbourne

Play commences 9.30 am and finishes 5.30 pm (approx.)

LUNCHES MAY BE ORDERED BEFORE START OF PLAY EACH DAY

Presentation of ABF medallions at supper after play on Sunday

ENTRY FEE: \$80 per player; PRIZES: 1st \$1,000; 2nd \$500

Information and online entry on the BAWA website: www.bawa.asn.au

Tournament organisers:

Lynne Milne: 0414 400 219
lynne.a.milne@gmail.com

Sheenagh Young: 0409 381 439
dugald@iinet.net.au

Directing Team:

Bill Kemp CTD: 0478 595 275
diggadog@iinet.net.au

Neville Walker: 0418 944 077
nevillewalker1@bigpond.com



Pairs and at the conclusion of the day, the winner was the North Shore Bridge Club pair of Tim Stewart - Rod Dunn, who fought out a strongly contested final round with eventual runners-up Vicki and Ian Lisle from St George Budapest Bridge Club.

First local pair was Rosemary Hummelshoj - Lloyd Cleaver.

The Sunday Swiss Teams was taken out by strong Blue

Mountains

Schwarz,

Tammy

and Alan

Scharwz,

David

Priol - Peter

Lamek, with

Newman

being close runners-up.

Here, best local team was Liz Scorer - Graham Daniel, Rosemary Hummelshoj Lloyd Cleaver.

It must be recognised that David Priol - Peter Lameks compiled a modified datum of 145.5 in the Teams Pairs rankings which was 53% higher than the next pair.

Another interesting team was Jacobs, Natasha Jacobs, Murray Paterson, Christine Kershaw and Judy Jackson from Orange Bridge Club, who placed 30 of 31 after round one and fought their way into fourth place after the final round.

Natasha is a young player who while at school represented Scotland in the national Junior bridge team and played with the NSW Youth team in 2013. Natasha was ably assisted by her more seasoned partners.

During the afternoon along came a hand that you would rarely encounter and by coincidence or design it was Board 13! The hand comes along once in a blue moon.

Board 13, West deals, all vulnerable

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

Picture yourself in South's position and work out how you will find out what North has and where you will

More for less

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eventually end up. Always the aim in bidding is to say to yourself "What in? How high?" Hopefully you will end up in a grand slam, 7NT, which is a no brainer! How delicious. No doubt nearly everyone else will bid to the same spot but it is still exciting nevertheless.

Ed: It certainly is pretty easy if you are playing that partner needs three controls to give a positive over a 2♣ opening. South opens 2♣, North bids 2♥, showing five hearts to a top honour and three controls; so North must have ♥K and ♦A; there is nothing else to be said but 7NT at South's second bid.



Bathurst & District Bridge Club

Invites you to the 2nd

Central West

Novice Bridge Tournament

For players with 50MPs or less at 30 June 2016

Divisions: 0-10MPs; 10.01-30MPs; 30.01-50MPs

A weekend of:

- Bridge
- Good Food
- Great Company
- Friendly Competition

Conducted under the auspices of the NSWBA
RED Masterpoints approved by the ABF at B4c level

29 & 30 October 2016

Programme

Saturday: Pairs

Sunday: Swiss Teams

Contact details:

- Email: Karin Le Roux kle-roux@bigpond.com
- Mobile: 0428 859 898

Noosa Bridge Week 2016

Four seminal lessons

Two fun & friendly events

Sunday 16 October to Saturday 22

JOIN PAUL MARSTON, PETER BUSCH AND ANNE WEBER for a week to remember. Paul presents the lessons and Peter runs the bridge while Anne makes sure that everyone is getting the best out of their holiday.

The bridge is played in a fun and friendly atmosphere with players from all around the country. Good partners available. Only one 22-board duplicate session per day, leaving plenty of time to enjoy the balmy weather. Ideal for nature walks, shopping and al fresco dining.

You have the choice of arranging your own accommodation or booking through us at either Ivory Palms Resort (two minutes by car) or onsite at Noosa Lakes Resort.

Feedback from last year

Last year we moved to the Convention Centre, allowing us to accommodate 200 people in the classes. Most of them completed a survey after they got home. **Everyone** said the week was good, with 75% of them saying it was excellent. And **everyone** said they thought their bridge had improved as a result of the lessons.

Even so, this year is set to be the best yet - we have made many improvements!

The Noosa lessons are different from regular lessons in that the training starts long before you reach Noosa. Before you arrive you will receive a video setting out what you are going to learn and why it will make a big difference to your game. This helps you to grasp the key points more quickly when they are presented in Noosa.

Then lesson 5 is all about reinforcement. It starts with a summary of the key points before you play 12 deals based on those key points finishing up with a board by board discussion.

Timetable

Saturday 15	2pm on - Check in
Sunday 16	10am - 12pm Lesson 1 1:45pm - 4:30pm, Sun Pairs 1
Monday 17	10am - 12pm, Lesson 2 1:45pm - 4:30pm, Sun Pairs 2
Tuesday 18	10am - 12pm, Lesson 3 1:45pm - 4:30pm, Sun Pairs final 6pm - Victory dinner on Tewantin wharf
Wednesday 19	3pm - Talking point - Defensive inferences 4pm - 6:45pm Ivory Pairs 1
Thursday 20	10am - 12pm, Lesson 4 1:45pm - 4:30pm, Ivory Pairs 2
Friday 21	10am - 12:45pm, Ivory Pairs final 1pm - Prize lunch at Riverdeck Restaurant
Saturday 22	10am - 12:30pm, Lesson 5 <i>Thanks for coming – safe journey home</i>



All bridge activities are at the spacious and comfortable Noosa Convention & Exhibition Centre – 3 Hilton Terrace, Noosaville

Lesson program

Lesson 1 – Major suit raises

When partner supports your major, you want to know both his point count and the number of trumps. Learn the best way to do this in Two over One.

Lesson 2 – Managing your trumps - rule one

Trumping losers in the short hand. Judging when to draw trumps and managing the entries.

Lesson 3 – Understanding the principle of fast arrival

In a game force, the direct bid to game in a suit shows no interest in slam while a bid below game does. Learn how to use this principle to streamline your slam bidding.

Lesson 4 – Managing your trumps - rule two

The general rule is to set up side suits straight away. Learn how to spot the need for this and to manage your entries.

Lesson 5 – Putting it all together

Play 12 deals based on the lessons followed by a board by board discussion.

Charges including seven night's accommodation

Stay at **Ivory Palms Resort** from \$689 per person.

This includes the accommodation (in Sat 15, out Sat 22), all bridge activities, the dinner and the luncheon.



The downstairs area of a 2-bedroom deluxe apartment at Ivory Palms Resort (2 minutes by car from the Convention Centre). It opens out to a covered and furnished patio.

There is also a bathroom and laundry downstairs as well as a well-appointed kitchen, plus 2 bathrooms upstairs. Each unit has its own carport with internal access.

Charges without accommodation

The charge for all bridge activities is \$340. Add \$95 to include the dinner and the lunch.

Prices and bookings at www.grandslambooks.com/noosa-bookings.html
Enquiries phone 02 9327-4599 or email enquiries@grandslam.com.au

Responding to 1NT (2)



Responding to 1NT has changed a great deal in a short time. No longer do you transfer to your long minor and then bid your four-card major. Now you go via Stayman and check out the major suit fits first:

1NT 2♣
2♦ 3♣

3♣ shows at least five clubs and a four-card major and some chance for slam. Opener now has all of the three level to cue-bid or show values in particular suits, quite an improvement on the old method of transferring to the minor suit first.

1NT	2♣	1NT	2♣
2♦	3♣	2♦	3♣
3♦	3♥	3♦	3♥
3NT		4♣	

In the first sequence it sounds like the opener has good diamonds and spades and is not particularly interested in a club slam, perhaps:

♠ A Q J
♥ J 3 2
♦ A Q J 6
♣ 8 3 2

In the second sequence, the opener may be angling for notrumps with 3♦ but 4♣ later shows a good club fit with slam interest, something like:

♠ 6 4
♥ A J 3
♦ A K J 6
♣ K 8 3 2

If the responder finds a major fit after 2♣ they can agree the major and show slam interest by bidding the other major at the three-level:

1NT	2♣	1NT	2♣
2♥	3♠	2♠	3♥

The 3♠ and 3♥ bids are artificial and show slam interest and may have a longer minor, the important thing is you now have room to cue-bid below the level of game.

Jumps in other suits can now be used as splinters agreeing opener's major and showing slam interest:

1NT	2♣	1NT	2♣
2♥	4♣/4♦	2♠	4♣/4♦/4♥

When transferring to a minor, 2♠ to clubs and 2NT to diamonds, the super-accept is the return to responder's

suit (and not the next step up). This allows the opener to be declarer with a super-accept.

Look at this example:

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

After transferring to a minor a new suit by responder now shows a shortage:

♠ A Q 4 3	♠ K 10 7
♥ 8 6 2	♥ 3
♦ K 4 2	♦ A J 5
♣ A Q 6	♣ K J 10 7 5 2
1NT	2♠
2NT	3♥ (shortage)
4♣	4♦
4NT	5♥
6♣	
♣ 8 6 2	♣ K J 7
♥ A Q 4 2	♥ 3
♦ K 4 2	♦ A 7 5
♣ A Q 6	♣ K J 10 7 5 2
1NT	2♠
2NT	3♥ (shortage)
3NT	

In Hand 1, the opener does not super-accept because of the minimum point count, barren shape and three small in a side-suit, but when responder shows a heart shortage and slam interest the hand comes alive. Opener visualises responder with ♠K, ♦A and ♣K, confirms clubs as trumps with 4♣, and the partnership rolls into the good slam.

On Hand 2, the opener has strength opposite the singleton and chooses 3NT.

It is quite logical to load 2♣ Stayman with many hand-types. The bidding starts from a lower base and otherwise idle sequences are put to good use.

The three level is now free to check out stoppers for notrumps and 3NT contracts with a dramatic weakness in one suit can be avoided. The frequent use of splinters and shortage-showing bids also allows for greater accuracy.

Paul Lavings

Paul Lavings Bridge Books



QT HOTEL, CANBERRA **10-22 JANUARY 2017**

Mark your diary!

Planning is now well under way for the 2017 Summer Festival of Bridge. Please note the following:

- A finalised **program** will be available on the event website in the next two to three weeks – go to www.summerfestivalofbridge.com to check out the various events available.
- There are some changes to last year's program, e.g. final week-end events and more opportunities for **novice** players to compete in events tailored specifically for them.
- **QT** Hotel is a quality 4 star hotel with excellent facilities and a major sponsor of the Summer Festival of Bridge.
QT Hotel is offering a generous '**Early Bird Rate**' of **20% off** the rates below if you book and confirm before Monday 31st October 2016:
QT Standard accommodation @ \$190.00 per room, per night, including full buffet breakfast for 1 adult
and QT Standard accommodation @ 210.00 per room per night including full breakfast for 2 adults.
Note: Bookings may be made via <https://www.qthotelsandresorts.com> and under **MORE BOOKING OPTIONS

in the **CORPORATE ID** field enter your corporate ID: **BRIDGE17** or you can telephone QT Canberra on (02 6247 6244) **If bookings are made post Monday 31st October 2016, the above room rate of \$190.00 & \$210.00 room rate is still applicable.**

- The Summer Festival of Bridge will once again be raising funds for **NeURA**. A new one-day Flighted Swiss pairs event is planned with a reduced entry fee. All fees collected will be donated to this **NeURA**. Be sure to enter this event which supports research into finding cures for neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's and dementia that affect so many people in our older population.
- The Summer Festival will once again be trying to make entering our events as simple and efficient as possible. **Entering on-line** is strongly preferred; it is simple, easy and secure. I hope to provide details soon of an incentive prize draw to encourage you to enter and pay online by a certain date to have a chance to win some good prizes.
- The SFOB **courtesy bus** will once again be available during the day to take non bridge playing partners to some of Canberra's premier tourist attractions as well as collecting players from hotels near the venue. Tourist venues include the Australian War Memorial, Parliament House, the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery of Australia.

Note: the Australian War Memorial has been acknowledged as Australia's top tourist attraction and this is on our bus route!

Stay tuned for more updates about this premier bridge event.

Roy Nixon
Tournament Organiser



**2016
SWAN RIVER OPEN SWISS PAIRS**

*a PQP (32, 24, 16 & 8) and **GOLD POINT** event*

1st - \$1000 per pair and 2nd - \$500 per pair

Saturday 20th August at 10.00 am

and

Sunday 21st August at 9.30 am

at the

West Australian Bridge Club, Odern Crescent, Swanbourne

Directing Team

Matthew McManus and Bill Kemp

Tournament Organiser

Hilary Yovich – 0409 082 920 or hilily@iinet.net.au

***Entry Fee \$80 per player payable at the table or on the BAWA web site (Account
BAWA BSB 016464 Acc No 255674541)***

Lunches from Kirkwood Deli may be ordered before play



2017 GOLD COAST CONGRESS UPDATE

PLEASE NOTE DATES – SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY TO SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

A great result for us last year has meant we were able to put money aside for more Bridgemates, cards, wallets and uniforms. I need another good year to address the prize money and wages and then I will feel happy to step down knowing the Congress is in good shape.

Next year the entire Gold Coast Convention Centre has been booked out by Microsoft for the week ending Friday 17/2, our traditional starting date. This means we will have to bump in from midnight AT BEST so this will put an enormous strain on our staff and resources. We have tried hard to minimize the effect on you, the players, but there has to be some changes we could not avoid.

CANCELLATION OF FRIDAY NIGHT NO FRILLS WALK IN: - Microsoft will be still in the process of bumping out so there is no way we can hold this. **THIS IS FOR 2017 ONLY**

2PM START FOR SATURDAY 18/2 All events on Saturday will start an hour later at 2pm NOT 1pm. We will reduce the dinner break to compensate and start as usual at 7.30pm for the night events.

Changes that we are making due to feedback received from you are:

WEEKEND SWISS 0-500 MPS: This will run concurrently with the Open Swiss on Saturday and Sunday. Please spread the word. **NEW EVENT**

MONDAY BUTLER 0-500 MPS: This will run concurrently with the Open Butler on Monday. Please spread the word. **NEW EVENT**

SERES MCMAHON SWISS PAIRS: This will be run on Friday 24/2 and will replace both teams events. The same boards will be used as the Ivy Dahler but it will finish one round earlier on the Friday to allow people to catch planes if leaving. **NEW EVENT**

FRIDAY TEAMS & SERES MCMAHON MIXED TEAMS: These are now cancelled and replaced by the Seres McMahon Swiss Pairs.

FRIDAY NOVICE PAIRS NOW NOVICE SWISS PAIRS: Due to popular demand and an increase in numbers this will now be run as a Swiss.

THEME FOR 2017 - STARS & STRIPES

These are the main highlights. There are some more changes re length of matches and lunch times etc but we will keep you posted when we have finalised the entry form which hopefully will be published in hard copy in September – electronic version a little earlier.

Thank you all for your input.



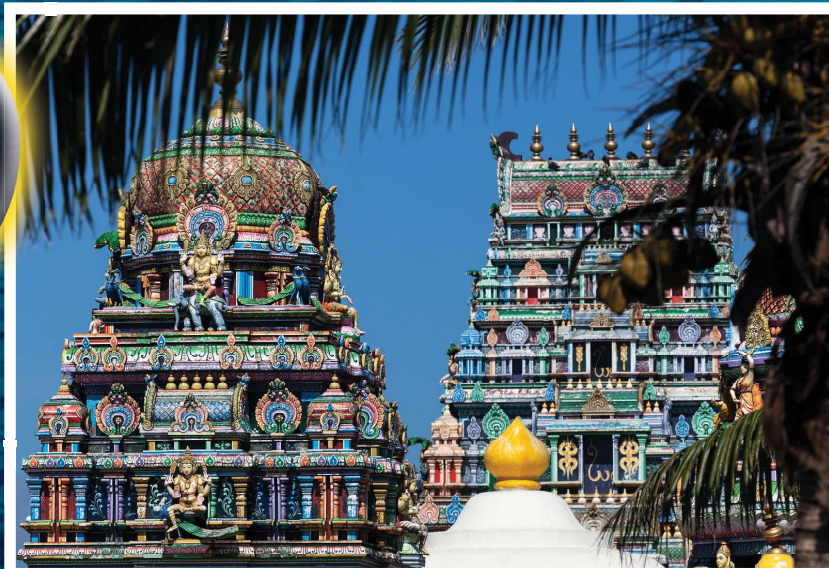
and of course *Therese Tully*
Kim Ellaway, Queensland Bridge Association

Aah-mazing!

Join Roberta and Arnold Salob on a six-star Crystal Bridge Cruise



A complete bridge program — Daily duplicates and Roberta's bridge lectures exclusively for Bridge Holidays' guests, at no extra charge, on the #1-rated six-star Crystal Symphony!



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Melbourne to Sydney
January 5 – 20, 2017
on the Crystal Symphony

- Melbourne
- Milford Sound
- Stewart Island
- Dunedin
- Christchurch
- Wellington
- Napier
- Tauranga
- Auckland
- Sydney



Fun to do
Back-to-
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