

WBF PRESIDENT RONA ON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHEATS AND THE FUTURE

President of the World Bridge Federation (WBF) since 2009, Gianarrigo Rona is one of the most influential and visible people in the bridge world. On a sunny February morning in the Gold Coast, I sit down with President Rona to hear his thoughts on topics ranging from the Olympic movement and the cheating scandal through to youth bridge and the future of the game.

This is not Rona's first visit to Australia. This time, Rona has come at the invitation of the organiser of the 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Competition. While in Australia, he will also be continuing negotiations with Bruce Neill, President of the Australian Bridge Federation, about Australia potentially hosting a future WBF world championship.

Recently, the WBF has come under fire for various reasons. These have included accusations of being slow to investigate and act against cheats, allowing Poland to contest (and win) the 2015 Bermuda Bowl despite two of its players having their invitations to play withdrawn, as well as the scoring scandal of 2016 where the World Bridge Games Open Pairs and Women's Pairs gold medals were each awarded to the 'wrong pair' before scoring errors were discovered. As well as discussing with Rona his vision for bridge, I wanted to find out his opinions on some of the controversial moments of his leadership.

BRIDGE'S OLYMPIC DREAM

Since 1995 bridge has been recognised as part of the Olympic movement and its inclusion has been the subject of much discussion. One of the downsides of the Olympic movement is that bridge has become beholden to an external court of appeal - the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne. In response to the recent successful appeals of previously convicted cheating pairs to the CAS, Boye Brogeland wrote, "We have to stop chasing an Olympic dream which weakens the integrity of the game." I ask Rona what his views are regarding the Olympic movement.

Rona is adamant that the Olympic movement has benefited bridge and will continue to improve the game. He goes so far as to say that if bridge leaves the Olympic movement, in half of the world's National Bridge Organisations (NBOs), "bridge will disappear". Why? In short - because of the money and recognition that being part of the Olympic movement provides.

Rona tells me that Olympic recognition means that bridge clubs often do not have to pay taxes. In addition, many Federations receive subsidies from their national Olympic Committee. Moreover, the Olympic movement provides some sort of legitimacy: "We were able to get the game into schools because we are a member of the Olympic movement. Before that, bridge was considered gambling."

Bridge has been accepted for the first time into the Asian Games (August 2018) which Rona believes will mean further



Mr Gianarrigo Rona being interviewed by Liam Milne

government support and subsidies for bridge in this region. Rona points out that aside from bridge, many other activities still strive to be accepted by the International Olympic Committee. Surely this must mean it is worth something to be part of the Olympic movement, otherwise why would they be trying to get in? He also claims that the benefits go beyond financial matters as many of the sports striving to be admitted have plenty of money already. For Rona, the fact that it took so long for bridge to be accepted by the IOC means that it would be a huge step backwards to leave now. "The idea of leaving the IOC is, in my opinion, catastrophic."

It is clear to me that Rona truly believes that inclusion in the Olympic movement has been and will continue to be good for bridge. But what of the CAS decision in January invalidating the European Bridge League ban against Fantoni-Nunes?

CHEATS, JUSTICE, AND THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

In 2015, a few weeks before the Bermuda Bowl commenced in Chennai, evidence emerged which alleged that Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes (originally from Italy but representing Monaco) were using the orientation of their opening leads to convey hidden information to their partner. Shortly after, Monaco withdrew from the Bermuda Bowl, and in mid-2016 Fantoni-Nunes were expelled by the ACBL and banned from playing by the Italian Federation (FIGB) and the EBL. However, a decision this year by the IOC-mandated CAS invalidated the EBL ban, disappointing many in the bridge community.

Rona seems fatalistic about the January ruling. "Sometimes, the CAS will give us a decision which we don't agree with." He isn't happy about what happened, but he is steadfast in maintaining that Fantoni-Nunes will not be able to play despite the decision. Their ban in Italy still stands and, by the principle of 'reciprocity', the pair cannot play in any other bridge jurisdiction - a principle the EBL was quick to remind its member NBOs of after Fantoni competed in a tournament in Barcelona. Rona is careful to point out that Fantoni and Nunes are not off the hook simply because the CAS ruling was favourable to them:

(continued page 3)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Feature Articles

| | |
|---|-----|
| Interview with the WBF President: Liam Milne | 1-4 |
| Tasmanian Festival of Bridge: Warren Lazer | 7 |
| Autumn National Restricted Pairs | 9 |
| Autumn National Open Teams | 10 |
| An Ordinary Bridge Life: Cathryn Collins | 20 |
| The Difference between Winning & Losing: Peter Gill | 22 |
| The Grosvenor Gambit | 24 |

Regular Articles

| | |
|--|-------|
| President's Report: Allison Stralow | 2 |
| Letters to the Editor | 5 |
| Major Tournament Results | 6 |
| ABF News and Updates | 12-13 |
| Coup of the Month: Brian Senior | 18 |
| Improve Your Defence: Ron Klinger | 19 |
| My Favourite Hand: Peter Gill | 23 |
| Coaching Cathy at Contract: David Lusk | 27 |
| Book Review: Matt Smith | 28 |
| Improving Your 1NT Structure: Andy Hung | 29 |
| Basic Bridge 101: Chris Hughes | 30 |
| Bridge into the 21st Century: Paul Lavings | 31 |
| Around the Clubs | 32 |

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Allison Stralow, the new ABF President

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the ABF's Annual General Meeting held in Canberra on 28th and 29th April, the ABF Management Committee for the period 2018-2020 was elected. I am honoured to be elected the first female President of the Australian Bridge Federation and look forward to working with the newly elected committee for the next two years.

Therese Tully joins Dallas Cooper as a general member and Geoffrey Chettle replaces Russel Harms as ABF General Counsel. Kim Frazer is the new ABF Secretary and Roy Nixon continues in the role as ABF Treasurer. Each member of the committee brings a range of skills from varied backgrounds. However, we all share the goal to continue to assist States and Territories to progress our core bridge activities – teaching, marketing, Youth Bridge and directing – to ensure the continued growth of our game.

I take this opportunity to thank Bruce Neill, outgoing President, for his long and valuable service. He has been a wonderful mentor and I am pleased that Bruce will continue on the Management Committee as President Emeritus.

I also thank Russel Harms for his four years of legal service as the ABF General Counsel. Russel was a valued contributor to the ABF Management Committee, providing advice on many issues. He has been of particular assistance with the drafting of contracts as well as being a member of several committees as the ABF's legal representative.

One of my priorities as ABF President will be to encourage our many volunteers and contractors to continue their work to foster and promote bridge. Volunteers are an integral part of the ABF and are indeed worthy of our recognition and thanks.

We are fortunate to have many people on committees who give up their personal time to help the ABF grow and develop. Retiring committee members Charles Page, Keiran Crowe-Mai (Finance), Eric Ramshaw, Richard Grenside (National Directors' Development), Griff Ware, Phil Gallasch (Ethics), Julian Foster and Nigel Dutton (Governance) have generously volunteered their time over the years. On behalf of the ABF bridge community, I thank them for their service and the invaluable contributions they have made.

Technology will be a priority in 2018. A National Technology Coordinator's position will be created as soon as is practical after applications close on June 16th. The role will be to develop a 5-year ABF Technology Plan and identify the projects required to deliver in areas that have been highlighted by the Masterpoint Centre, the ABF Marketing Strategy, ABF contractors and other key stakeholders. Some key areas are the ABF Website, the development of a national player database and on-line bridge.

On a personal level, I learned to play bridge many years ago in a remote country town and soon became a fanatic. As well as the mental benefits of playing bridge, I also value the many friendships that I have developed over the years, and look forward to meeting and speaking with players around the country during the term of my Presidency.

Allison Stralow

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INTERVIEW WITH THE WBF PRESIDENT continued

"The CAS did not declare them innocent. The CAS reversed the decision of the EBL because there was not enough evidence. They are, for sure, not innocent!" He also tells me that Fantoni-Nunes appealed a separate ban from the Italian Federation to the Italian Olympic Committee tribunal but the tribunal confirmed the ban, an event which received less press than the controversial CAS decision.

While we are on the topic of the CAS, Rona mentions the case of the Russian athletes who were accused of doping at the Winter Olympics. 28 of these athletes successfully appealed to the CAS, which overturned the sanctions against them. At the time, the IOC said, "the result of the CAS decision does not mean that athletes from the group of 28 will be invited to the Games. Not being sanctioned does not automatically confer the privilege of an invitation." It seems that the WBF's position is the same – Fantoni-Nunes' partial victory at the CAS does not mean that they are free to play where they want to. (In the case of the Russian athletes, there was a further appeal to the CAS in an attempt to secure an invitation to compete in the 2018 Winter Games, but this appeal was dismissed, confirming that the 'invitation-only' principle is alive and well in the Olympics.)

For Rona, having decisions sent down from the CAS is a necessary part of following the Olympic dream. He seems hopeful that lessons can be learnt from the decision and that next time such a case arises, the evidence against the cheats can be presented in a clearer, more convincing manner to the (non-bridge playing) judges. He also argues that quitting the IOC and removing bridge from the jurisdiction of the CAS would not necessarily solve the problem. "If you don't stay in the Olympic Committee, and you bar some cheaters, they will go to the ordinary tribunal. The ordinary tribunal, usually, is worse than the Olympic Committee tribunal! Generally, the Olympic Committee tribunal is more or less involved with sport; the ordinary judge doesn't care."

THE WIDER ISSUE OF CHEATING IN BRIDGE

The revelation that several of bridge's top competitions had been tainted by collusive cheating continues to be one of the main concerns for those passionate about our game. About half of my discussion with Rona is on the topic of cheating in top-level bridge. In general, Rona believes that the problem of cheating is on the decline since the 2015 scandal broke. He points to new counter-measures, such as video recording of competitions and the 'express line' created for players to report potential cases of cheating. He tells me that "from Chennai onwards, we haven't had any complaints in WBF events about any apparent problems. I am convinced, unfortunately, that there are still some people who want to cheat. But what we can do is this: we can try to prevent cheating, and we can apply all of the tools that can help us to control things." As a case in point, at this year's World Bridge Series being held in Orlando around 70 tables will be monitored by video cameras.

What is the long-term solution for cheating? Rona believes that the mentality of the game is changing for the better, particularly as younger players move into international competition. Although there will always be criminals and cheats, Rona insists that the WBF is committed to applying all of the tools at its disposal to catch and convict those who don't play fair.

Rona is firm, however, that the bridge world must do things in an ordered way when dealing with cheats rather than locking



Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne

them up and throwing away the key: "We have to follow procedure. Without rules, it is a jungle". He speaks of notions of justice and giving accused players a chance to defend themselves, something for which the WBF has previously copped flak. One of the major problems, in his view, is that it is much harder to prove collusive cheating compared to other forms of cheating (for example, doping).

As the President of the WBF, Rona reminds me that the WBF still has control over its own events. He brings up the case of the 'German Doctors' who were banned for playing in any WBF event for 10 years, but then won an appeal in German courts. "For us, we continue to believe they are suspended. They cannot play in our events for 10 years. Finish." He bangs his fist on the table with each word.

How does the WBF accomplish this in practice? All world events are by invitation only, and the WBF chooses who to invite – so if there are issues or suspicion, there is always the option not to invite a player. Although Rona believes that we should give someone a second chance after their ban finishes, they are not given carte blanche to do what they like: "When someone finishes the sanction, and they start to play, they are 'under control'. If they are clean, if we are sure and we believe they are clean – OK. If we still have some 'not clear' situation, the Credentials Committee can say no." He concludes by saying, "I believe that in any case we have the tools to block the participation of people who are 'non grata'."

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

One of the reasons why President Rona is visiting the Gold Coast is to investigate the possibility of holding a future world championship in Australia and to negotiate with the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) on this topic. There have also been separate but related discussions in the bridge world about the 2019 World Bridge Teams Championships (WBTC) at first being decided to be held in Amsterdam before being cancelled in favour of Sanya in China. I asked Rona about the process of selecting a world championship venue.

In most sports and disciplines, money talks, and bridge is no different. In our discussion, Rona repeatedly emphasises the importance of finances in arranging a WBF championship event. In his words, "bridge is a financially poor discipline" compared to other games and sports. To accommodate a world championship is not a cheap thing to do for the host country; Rona estimates the upfront cost to the Fédération Française de Bridge of hosting the 2017 WBTC in Lyon at around one million euros. Many federations are unable or unwilling to stump up this sort of cash.

However, Rona is quick to point out that host countries and cities also benefit from hosting WBF events. The influx of overseas players brings with it an influx of cash spent at hotels, restaurants and shops – Rona estimates that the host city of Lyon benefited to the tune of eight to ten million euros in tourism revenue from the 2017 WBTC. Playing host can also be beneficial to the NBO as the WBF is willing to share profits from entry fees, especially in the Transnational events which always attract big interest from players in the host country. Rona thinks that host NBOs can more or less break even, but it requires a certain level of commitment: "The revenue is possible. The costs are certain!".

I ask what would make hosting world championship events more viable. Rona compares bridge to chess, which seems to have fewer problems on the financial side. He believes that although there used to be more of a market for sponsorship of bridge, these days sponsors are harder and harder to find: "Now it is more challenging, but we continue to fight on enthusiastically, because we love this game." Compared to the past, more money comes out of the pockets of NBOs and their members – for example, the French Federation increased its membership dues by 2.50€ for three years to help defray the costs of hosting Lyon. And of course, having many enthusiastic volunteers helps a lot.

Since our discussion in February, the ABF has decided not to proceed with negotiations to host a WBF event in 2021 because of the "substantial costs that this would impose on the ABF", so the search for a host NBO continues.

YOUTH AND THE FUTURE OF BRIDGE

When I ask Rona about his views on youth bridge, his eyes light up with enthusiasm. Many have discussed bringing bridge into schools, and Rona is passionate about the topic. Attracting "kids" – those under 15 – has been a missing element of the promotion of bridge, but Rona tells me that the WBF has had some success, especially in his country (Italy) and China. In Italy, he tells me that the key to success was to get the Minister of Education onside, "but one issue is trying to avoid removing kids from school-time." This is one of the main objections that schools have to bridge – the interference with regular classes. However, Rona believes that once schools embrace bridge, they often find that the game has unexpected benefits: "[The kids] have to work with a partner and communicate, develop, grow and acquire different behaviours and skills, and it socialises them."

To Rona, it is not as important to have a million kids playing competitive bridge as having a million kids playing the game at any level. He believes that young people will be the key to spreading the game by talking about bridge and introducing their friends, parents and relatives to bridge. He also speaks of the social aspect of bridge being one of the best parts of the game, and he tells me that having young mix with old to share the joy of the game is evidence of the "universal element" of the game.

Rona emphasises that bringing down the average age of people playing bridge is one of the WBF's main challenges.

TALKING OF PROMOTING BRIDGE

This video about Pompano Beach Bridge Club is worth watching, even though it does reinforce the 'notion' that bridge is for older folk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpuWx5iiZsc&sns=em>

"We want to invest in youth as much as we can." He hopes that the recent creation of a WBF Youth Fund will help address some of the financial difficulties of the task, and he thinks that the rising popularity of Youth World Championships (such as in the Kids category) is evidence that NBOs are on board. "NBOs seem to be realising that kids are the future of the game."

Has the WBF made any real headway on this front? Rona certainly believes so. Yet the evidence is patchy as to whether the WBF has attracted many new young people to the game, and it may be too soon to tell.

RONA'S LEGACY

I conclude our chat by asking Rona about his Presidency of the WBF. Having been President for almost a decade, what does he think his legacy will be when he departs, and what does the future of the WBF look like? He laughs. "This is a more difficult question!" But Rona gets a serious look on his face as he talks about what he believes he will be remembered for.

Foremost in his mind is the increased involvement of youth in bridge. Rona believes that, under his leadership, youth bridge has been cemented as an integral part of the game. A particular focus of his has been improving the arrangements for Youth World Championships, as well as creating new championships for Girls and Kids (Under 15). He also tells me that the WBF has pushed in recent years for NBOs to acknowledge that they must try to get bridge into schools and is ready to provide support for this goal.

And what does Rona dream of for the future of bridge? "My dream is to have a youth event where everything is completely cost-free to the players, which would really help the poorer nations." He concedes this will be very expensive but he is optimistic that the money can one day be found from sponsorship.

Finally, despite the controversy of bridge's involvement in the Olympic movement Rona hopes that one day our best players can compete for a gold medal in the Olympic Games. Increasing the popularity, image and visibility of bridge is crucial for the WBF and being part of the Olympic Games might once again make bridge a household topic. With bridge's involvement in the World Mind Sport Games, SportAccord championships and now the 2018 Asian Games, Rona is optimistic that one day this goal will come true.

The President of the WBF is far from a universally loved figure, and it is still uncertain how he will be remembered in years to come. Certainly, Rona has presided over a difficult period that featured the biggest scandal in bridge's history, yet he seems aware that he will be the one to ultimately take credit, and criticism, for bridge's trajectory in years to come. Only time will tell what the future has in store for Gianarrigo Rona, the WBF, and the great game of bridge. He finishes our interview in characteristic fashion. "We continue to try to do our best, and we hope to have the chance to continue to fight for bridge and have the same enthusiasm and love for bridge".

Liam Milne



President Rona addressing the CNBC, Gold Coast

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re GRANDLY PLAYED, ABF Newsletter, April 2018, p20

The play is interesting but the correct single dummy defence is even more so. Assume West gets an attitude signal at trick one and can place partner with ♠K and, it seems that to bid 7♦, South must then hold ♠K. Then the given ending is a combined double/guard squeeze, and West can do nothing, assuming declarer has three spades and can be trusted to keep an accurate count on clubs. Accordingly, West should keep a club and ditch spades, hoping partner has both the Jack and the 10! This won't work on the given hand but will defeat the contract whenever it should be defeated.

Nick Hardy, Hobart

MY FAVOURITE HAND

I was giving an anaesthetic at the Mater Private Hospital one afternoon for a surgeon I hadn't met before, call him Dick. During the course of the afternoon, I discovered that Dick played bridge in the army during World War II. He said he would like to play a game with me but was rusty as he hadn't played for nearly 30 years. Could I lend him a book to refresh his memory? The only book I had on bidding was Schenken, so I lent him this the next time we met.

Some three months later he said he was ready to play so we went up to Lindfield Bridge Club one Tuesday evening. Early in the night I had a big hand and opened 2♦ which went Pass – Pass - Pass. Dick didn't have much except a few diamonds so I made 10 tricks for a good score. It became obvious during the session that Dick didn't have a clue. On the final deal of the night I picked up

♠ A
♥ A K x x
♦ A K J
♣ A K Q x x

What was I to bid? Anything I bid would be passed. I considered any number of clubs or no trumps but finally decided to open 6NT!! I got the lead of a small club. Dick produced 3 little clubs, J-10-x-x of hearts and nothing else of note. Amazingly the clubs broke 3-2 so I took my 5 tricks, played ♥A-K but the Q didn't drop. However, the ♥J provided an entry to dummy for the diamond finesse, which won. 6NT making. We ended the night in 3rd position but I never again played with Dick!

Gordon Kellerman, Sydney

BRIDGE, APPEALS AND TECHNOLOGY

Success in Bridge, as in life, is determined by good decision making. This includes the appeals process. Despite our disposable society, rather than scrapping bad Appeals Systems, we need to fix them. History demonstrates wearily that accrued power corrupts and "absolute power corrupts absolutely". (Lord Acton)

All human endeavour can be enhanced or diminished by technology. Bridge has incorporated technology into administration, card dealing and scoring with some degree of success. We can also use it to advantage in appeals. In all areas, improvements need to be made.

The overriding guiding principle in all decision making is trust. Without faith, confidence and credibility, trust, authority and legitimacy vaporise. We can ill afford to rely on arbitrary decision making.

Appeals are problematic at all levels of the game. As a director over 45 years, I have experienced disputes threatening legal action. That is not good for bridge.

The solution to a more reliable, equitable and independent system is now readily available – email and texting. As a director I used it a number of times. I simply referred the situation to three senior directors who independently considered the problem and sent back their opinions.

To avoid personal bias, partiality, undue influence or conflicts of interest, anonymity, independence and isolation is crucial. Each State lists recommended experts, qualified to present opinions. For National events you could even use world experts. Bridge Clubs have financial reserves and could afford to remunerate decision makers and administrators.

Nothing is fool-proof, but this system could restore much needed respect, trust and harmony to the Appeals process.

Charles Klassen

HOSTING A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN AUSTRALIA

When is the time right for Australia to hold a Bridge World Championship? For some the answer will be: "Right now, as soon as possible", whereas for others the answer is: "Never, over my dead body".

Why should Australia hold a World Bridge Championship?

There is the often said adage if you keep going to everyone else's party you should host one yourself one day. If we start from when the last Bridge World Championship was held in Perth in 1989, it is 28 years that the Australian Bridge Federation has been sending teams to World Bridge Championships. In the intervening years there was a World Youth Bridge Event and the odd APBF event but never the big one, a World Championship. Now, surely, is the time to host the big one.

Australia has all the infrastructure needed for such event - from the top down with a number of experienced convenors, or from bottom up with plenty of willing volunteers. Operationally, Australia has world class Tournament Directors, scoring programs to cope with any obscurity and computer experts to operate every aspect of such a tournament. From the perspective of the size of a World event, the Gold Coast Congress is on a pedestal as one of the biggest and best in the world.

If the big dilemma is cost, which is a real question, put together a serious budget and a funding model to finance the event. It may be over a three-year or five-year timeframe. It may well include attracting sponsorship from commerce and benefactors, but to say it will be too expensive from the beginning is too easy a way out.

The ABF is no pauper, and the stakeholders of the ABF being the States could be considered as failing in their duty by not ensuring that the annual ABF financial statements are published on the web. 35,000 bridge players pay an annual subscription, yet what reports do they see?

In the last five years, there have been a number of difficulties that the WBF has had to deal with, let's not deny this; some have been self-inflicted, and some could have been handled differently. However, we are still playing the game we love. Hosting the big one, a bridge World Championship, is something to aim for. Hosting and winning the big one would be even better.

Charles Page, Brisbane

MAJOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS



Winners of the TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs (Tasmanian FoB):
Elizabeth Havas and Neil Ewart

AUTUMN NATIONALS

Adelaide, 3 - 7 May

UNDER LIFE MASTER SWISS PAIRS

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1st | Maggie & Nick Truscott |
| 2nd | Adil Alkhouri - John Hart |
| 3rd | Wardie Adamson - Sully Detmold |

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1st | Matt Smith - Jamie Thompson |
| 2nd | Tony Nunn - Matthew Vadas |
| 3rd | Leigh Gold - Howard Melbourne |

WOMEN'S SWISS PAIRS

- | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1st | Sheila Bird - Elizabeth Havas |
| 2nd | Therese Demarco - Lori Smith |
| 3rd | Elisabeth Sylvester - Greer Tucker |

SENIORS' SWISS PAIRS

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1st | Terry Brown - Peter Buchen |
| 2nd | Don Allen - Trevor Fuller |
| 3rd | Roger Januszke - John Zollo |

UNDER LIFE MASTER TEAMS

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1st | ZOLLO: Judy Zollo - Rod Macey, Ann Cottrell - Julie Savage |
| 2nd | BROOKS: Bevin Brooks - Ceda Nikolic, Bill Bradshaw - Peter Dieperink |
| 3rd | BAKAS: Joanne Bakas - Tassi Georgiadis, Sally Fraser - Cathy Thredgold |

OPEN TEAMS

QUALIFYING

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1st | BUCHEN: Peter Buchen - Terry Brown, Andrew Braithwaite - Arjuna De Livera |
| 2nd | MARKEY: Phil Markey - Joe Haffer, Matthew Mullamphy - Justin Williams |

FINAL

MARKEY 104 IMPs defeated BUCHEN 102.1 IMPs

BARRIER REEF CONGRESS

Townsville, 14 - 18 May

RESTRICTED PAIRS

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1st | Jennifer Mullen - Ched Twyman |
| 2nd | Lesley Heap - Sue Rohrig |
| 3rd | Donna Fitch - Di Garside |

OPEN PAIRS

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1st | Marina Darling - Peter Hollands |
| 2nd | Annette Maluish - Andrew Mill |
| 3rd | Jo-Anne Heywood - Frank Vearing |

RESTRICTED TEAMS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1st | GIBSON: George Gibson - Lynne Layton, Margie Knox - Carmel Wikman |
| 2nd | JACOBS: Robert Jacobs - David Hollands, Julie Fisher - Elizabeth Byrnes |
| 3rd | VAN WEEREN: Hans Van Weeren - Peter Clarke, Jill Blenkey - Jeff Conroy |

OPEN TEAMS

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1st | LEWIN: Greg Lewin - Geoff Chettle, Simon Hinge - Laura Ginnan - Peter Hollands |
| 2nd | MALUISH: Annette Maluish - Andrew Mill, Marina Darling - Justin Mill |
| 3rd | DAWSON: Ken Dawson - Adrienne Kelly, Shirley & Michael Phillips |

WESTERN SENIOR PAIRS

Perth, 19-20 May

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1st | Val Biltoft - Phil Tearne |
| 2nd | Diana Quantrill - Audrey Stokes |
| 3rd | Anton Pol - Andrew Swider |

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Everyone needs a coach. It doesn't matter whether you're a basketball player, a tennis player, a gymnast or a bridge player.

Bill Gates



Winners of the TFoB Restricted Pairs:
Haj Skilton and Sue Martin (Devonport)

ROGER PENNY SENIOR SWISS PAIRS

by Warren Lazer

Having won the 2017 Roger Penny Swiss Pairs in Hobart by a slender 0.35 IMPs last year, Pauline Gumby and I decided to attempt to defend the title in Launceston in 2018. Once again, it was the slam hands and those with wild distributions that produced the major swings.

The event was a single field 35 table Swiss with Butler scoring, playing 12 board matches, four on the Thursday and five on the Friday. We were plodding along and running 4th at the end of Day 1 with four modest wins. We began Day 2 at Table 2, against the Tasmanian pair of Nick Hardy and David Chung. Things did not get off to a good start when we doubled them in a cold game on our first board.

Board 4

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

♠ K 10 9 7 5 4 3

♥ 9 3

♦ 3

♣ 8 7 6

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

West

Lazer

3♠

Pass

| | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| North | East | South |
| Chung | Gumby | Hardy |
| Pass | 4♦ | 5♦ |
| Pass | Double | All Pass |

The double didn't cost that much - we were always losing IMPs once they bid to a making game. [Perhaps the ultra weak 3♦ opening, vulnerable, contributed to the result? Ed.] We got it back with interest when we were the only pair in the field to bid 6♦ on board 8.

Dealer West

Nil Vul

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

♠ J 8 2

♥ K 9 8 3

♦ Q

♣ A J 9 7 5

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

West

1♣

2♠

3♣

| | | |
|-------|------|----------|
| North | East | South |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| Pass | 6♦ | All Pass |

Pauline's 2NT enquiry was the key to this auction. My 3♦ response showed a minimum opening, 5+ clubs, exactly 3 spades and a shortage in a red suit. Pauline reasoned that my

shortage was almost certainly in diamonds (the opponents would be bidding if they had 12 hearts between them) and made the practical leap to the making slam to win 11 IMPs. All the other swings in this match were 4 IMPs or less and we emerged with an overall 1 IMP victory - our worst result for the event - and it knocked us down the field to 7th place.

A maximum win in round 6 got us back up to 2nd, with Rosendorff - Smolanko well ahead. We next played against Elizabeth Havas - Neil Ewart. Each pair did well on their slams, overcoming bad trump breaks to bring in their contracts.

Board 5

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Dealer North | ♠ A 10 7 2 |
| NS Vul | ♥ A K Q 4 2 |
| | ♦ A K 3 |
| | ♣ 6 |

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

Playing 6♥, you need to deal with North's spade losers, so you can't afford to draw trumps. Pauline demonstrated one route to 12 tricks. A spade to the ♠Q lost to the ♠K, but the ♠J was ruffed out on the third round of the suit. The diamond loser could now be pitched on a top club and trumps drawn. That was 12 IMPs to us, since eight of the 18 declarers in this contract went down.

Board 9

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Dealer North | ♠ J 9 7 |
| EW Vul | ♥ 4 3 |
| | ♦ A 9 4 2 |
| | ♣ K 10 7 3 |

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

6♦ by East looks a doddle, but the 3-0 trump split makes it quite tricky. You don't want to rely on guessing who has the ♥J, so you must aim either to ruff dummy's three club losers with the ♠2 - 3 - 8 in hand or ruff the three diamond losers in dummy. Whichever line you choose, you need to manage your timing and entries carefully. Elizabeth Havas managed that, whilst more than half the declarers in 6♦ did not, so that was 13 IMPs to them.

Swiss pairs events are very popular around Australia, but luck is a much bigger factor than in other formats; you typically win 2-6 IMPs by simply bidding and making a routine game. The cards in this match were basically running our direction and we ended up with a comfortable 21 IMP win by winning 3-6 IMPs on half the boards by just doing normal things. We may well have lost by a similar margin had we been sitting East-West.

We finally met Nigel Rosendorff - George Smolanko in the penultimate round. The first board out of the slots was rather wild.

Board 13

Dealer North ♠ 3
All Vul ♥ Q J 6 3
 ♦ K J 10 5 2
 ♣ A J 3

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|------------|----------|----------|
| Lazer | Rosendorff | Gumby | Smolanko |
| 4♣ | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 5♥ |
| Pass | Double | All Pass | Pass |

North had hesitated over my 4♦ bid but, with no defence and a strong 8-card heart suit opposite partner's opening bid, South's 5♥ bid was clear-cut, as was Pauline's 5♣ bid. North's ♥Q lead marked South with the top heart honours, so North would have most of the other cards including the ♦K and ♣A. After ruffing the opening lead, the ♠A drew the opponents' trumps. If North had a 1-4-4-4 shape, there were enough entries to set up dummy's long diamond suit for three club

discards., so I played a diamond to the ♦Q and cashed the ♦A, pitching a club. When South threw a heart on this trick, I needed South to have either the ♣Q or ♣J. A club to the ♣8 forced the ♣J. I trumped the diamond return and crossed to the ♣J to play another club - 6, 5, 10, Ace. That ♣9 in dummy was a huge card! +850 converted to 11 IMPs. We had slightly the better of the small swings on the other boards and won the match by 30 IMPs to 20.

Going into the last match, the top three pairs were well clear of the rest of the field: we were on 120.0, Hardy - Chung on 117.6 and Rosendorff - Smolanko on 111.3. We had a comfortable win to hold onto first place. Rosendorff - Smolanko had a near maximum, getting them back to 2nd. Hardy - Chung lost big to Havas - Ewart, but managed to hold onto 3rd.

There's a lot to like about the Tasmanian Festival of Bridge - good venues, on-site accommodation if you want it, friendly and efficient directors, and even an endless supply of free apples courtesy of Sandra and Andrew Richman. Put it in your calendar for next year.

Warren Lazer



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ANOT UNDER LIFE MASTER PAIRS

Nick and Maggie Truscott hit the lead after Round 6 of the 8 matches in the Under Life Pairs event. When I asked Nick for memorable hands, the two he provided were from Round 7, a match which consolidated their position at the top of the leader-board.

His first offering is Board 7:

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

Nick opened 3♦, West doubled, and Maggie raised to 4♦. 4♦ is easy to make, losing one trump and two hearts. The result gained them 10 IMPs, so perhaps many in the Under Life Master field opted not to raise – in defiance of the Law of Total Tricks. (With a 10-card trump fit, be willing to bid to the 10-trick level.)

Admittedly, after a double of 3♦ by West, many Easts were bidding 5♦ which should fail by one trick. However, more Easts than I would expect made 11 tricks, across all the events.

The other hand Nick enjoyed was the wildly distributional Board 11.

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

In Nick's words: "I didn't know the best bid for this one. We play Multi 2s, so I opened 2♥ (at least 5/5 in hearts and another suit, weak). I thought I would be able to rebid hearts later, to suggest I had lots of them – even though I know pre-emptors are not supposed to bid again freely!"

"West bid 2♦ and Maggie bid 3♦, which says that her diamond suit is probably better than my 5-card heart suit. East bid 3♦ and I thought that 5♦ should have some play, so jumped to that contract (expecting a spade lead that I would be able to trump). West bid 5♦, which was passed around to me. Looking at my hand, I thought that they would probably make 5♦ so I bid 6♦, as a sacrifice."

"After Maggie got back on her chair, East led the ♦10, so my club loser was able to be discarded – 6♦ making, and 14 IMPs."

The NS datums on this board were:

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Under Life | - 150 |
| Open | - 10 |
| Seniors | - 190 |
| Women's | - 200 |

6♦ by North was tough to defeat with West bidding spades. 6♦ by South, however, should be defeated. West should lead the ♠A, holding the ♥K. This hand brings back memories of a horrible opening lead by me: against a 5♠ X, contract I tried the ♥A, so 11 tricks were easy. I should have led the ♠A to have a look at the hand!

My husband, Howard Melbourne, had already told me his story on this hand. His partner, Leigh Gold, opened 4♥ - a far more effective opening bid than 2♥. West overcalled 4♦ and now Howard had to find a suitable bid. Howard and Leigh have an agreement that, in this situation, with the 4-level overcall, a bid of 4NT shows a good hand (rather than being an Ace ask). That made it easy for Leigh to introduce the diamond suit – by bidding 6♦ over East's 5♠ bid. And when West unwisely led his ♠K, 6♦ rolled in.

Barbara Travis



Maggie and Nick Truscott

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THE LITTLE THINGS - 2018 ANOT FINAL by Phil Markey

After two days of dancing in the Swiss qualifying, the top two teams to play the Final of this year's ANOT were MARKEY: Phil Markey – Joe Haffer, Matt Mullamphy – Justin Williams and BUCHEN: Buchen: Peter Buchen – Terry Brown, Andrew Braithwaite – Arjuna DeLivera.

The DAWSON team (Helena Dawson – Sartaj Hans, Paul Gosney – Sophie Ashton) get an honourable mention from the Swiss. With four matches remaining, on the last day their first match was against the very tough LAVINGS team. They smashed up LAVINGS, to assume a comfortable spot in the top two and then drew three more excellent teams. They beat the first two, but succumbed by just enough to let MARKEY grab 2nd place in the last round and finished a close 3rd. Not a lucky draw.

The Final was going to plan at half time as MARKEY led by 30 IMPs but BUCHEN stormed back in the third stanza to lead by 3 IMPs with just 14 boards left. In the end, MARKEY won the last set 25-20 to win with an IMP to spare. [They won by 1.9 IMPs, given the leading qualifier has a 0.1 IMP 'carry-forward.]

I had plenty of congratulations from people watching on Vu-graph, all of whom wanted to discuss the last board:

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

At my table Peter Buchen opened 2♣, strong. I was next to bid and went to lift out my 2♦ card, but decided to pass instead, and soon regretted it. Buchen - Brown bid to 3NT by West. Haffer was on lead and tried a heart. After I underled my ♦A later in the play that was 12 tricks, -490.

At the other table (which finished well after my table), Justin Williams decided to support spades holding a void and my team mates played in 4♣, by East. South led his singleton heart and after three rounds of spades North was on lead with his ♣Q. Andrew "Daryl" Braithwaite had the event in his hands. He returned a diamond. That was 10 tricks, +420 and MARKEY held on for the win.

For all but Matt Mullamphy, the final was the fifth successive day of bridge. Head to head all day in a four-quarter knockout match is what you want as a serious bridge player and after lots of lead up bridge, as is usual, the first rule on the road to getting the win is, "Don't make mistakes." Joe Haffer failed rule 1 on Board 1.

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

The auction was;

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Brown | Haffer | Buchen | Markey |
| | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

There is a lot of random wisdom regarding when you need to play well, when you play a long match divided into quarters. I think it is important to play well at the end, when it is commonly hard to maintain your "A" game after a long day's bridge. Other than that, I say "don't screw up the first board".

Terry Brown (West) was my screen mate and I busily told him dummy was almost certainly to be 3-5-4-1 with 19-20 HCPs. The system says that 2♥ is never as many as 10 HCPs, always just 2 (or fewer) hearts and denies 6+ spades demanded this be true, but I had that sick feeling it wouldn't be so. The system has broad guidelines as well as the detail, and the pertinent related guidelines for Joe's choice are "Always look after partner" and "Invite heavy, accept light".

The defence was brutal: a diamond lead, the ♦Q losing to the ♦K, followed by the Ace and another club (the ♣J losing to the ♣Q), and then a switch back to diamonds to establish those defensive tricks. A quick 3 off, for -150. I am not certain about the auction at the other table but I think it likely that North found the normal 2♣ bid, rather than 3♣, because that is where they played to score +110.

I am never sure what goes through Joe's head when he plays bridge. I am certain he doesn't know either. Occam's razor has an answer for this hand though. Joe is an aggressive player. If he was a basketball coach, he would run the full court defence the whole game. If he was a tennis player, he would rush the net every point. This then is just the usual "rush of blood" that Joe failed to temper, probably due to early nerves.

"Progress, far from consisting of change, depends on retentiveness. Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it." Plenty of years playing competitive bridge means that now I am decent at not making mistakes. When I make mistakes, it is frustrating. I nearly always recognise the class of



*The winners of the Autumn National Open Teams:
Matt Mullamphy, Joe Haffer, Phil Markey, Justin Williams*

error made but then immediately wonder why it is necessary to learn that lesson again. I suppose everyone makes mistakes and you just never stop re-learning the lessons about how not to make them.

I got tired and a bit wobbly in spots during this final. The worst scoreboard example was a horrible defence to 3NT that allowed our opponents to score +600 and 12 IMPs. My worst mistake though was one that didn't cost a single IMP.

Dealer North ♠ K 4 3
NS Vul ♥ 3
 ♦ J 9 5 3
 ♣ 9 8 7 6 4

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

♠ A Q 9 8 7 6
♥ Q J 4
♦ K 6
♣ K 3

The auction was;

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| Brown | Haffer | Buchen | Markey |
| 2♦ | Pass | Pass | 1NT |
| 3♥ | Pass | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| | 3♠ | All Pass | |

1NT showed 15-17 HCP balanced, and 2♦ showed a single-suited major hand. It is probably not the recommended auction but in my system where partner, as dealer, opens virtually all his hands that have 4+ spades and most of his 9 HCPs, it seemed a good auction to me. Certainly, Haffer crunched a volley winner with his 3♠ bid.

Terry Brown was on lead and tried a big heart and then switched to a club which was ducked to my ♠K. There was not much to think about so I casually played the ♥Q and ruffed it low in dummy when Terry covered. I promptly called for the ♠K and everyone followed. I noticed the ♠10 from Terry. This is now a very cold contract. 6 trumps in hand, 1 ruff in dummy, ♠K and a top heart equals 9 tricks, right? As it happens, it did equal 9 tricks but in a strange way. After the ♠K, I stopped to wonder about playing a diamond towards my king for some extra tricks. "Hmmm. What could go wrong with that plan?", I wondered. I spent maybe a bit too much time wondering about it and decided that I had better just take my tricks. Terry had followed with the ♠10 so that meant the principle of restricted choice applied and he was a big favourite to hold the singleton ♠10. So, disconnected to what had happened, I played a spade to the ♠9 in my hand and claimed when Terry showed out. "Well done," said Haffer.

The best thing about playing lots of competitive bridge is the people you get to know. I walk into the South Australian Bridge Association club rooms once a week and there is pleasure in looking around a room of 100+ people and knowing 95% of them and wanting to chat with about 90% of them. It is the same when I am at a national event. I know all the serious players. Most of them I have known for decades and there are only a couple I prefer not to chat with.

The serious players like to talk about the other serious players. Never to their faces though. It is way more appropriate to observe that you think that player X's declarer play stinks or maybe that player Y is a great player but a horrible partner behind their back. If you are one of these serious players and

the name Terry Brown comes up, it is likely in my experience that the first thing then said will be along the lines of "He is a sharp declarer player".

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

I am fairly sure the auction was:

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

Terry was at the helm declaring 4♣ and Haffer led a 4th best heart won by dummy's ♥A. Terry tried a spade to hand at trick 2, getting an honour from Joe, and then a club towards dummy. Joe played the ♣J and dummy's ♣K lost to my Ace. I tried another heart which was ruffed in dummy and Terry tried another spade to an honour in his hand. As you can see this was a spectacular success as Joe again followed with an honour and dummy's ♠10 was now high. Without much, if any, pause Terry now played the ♦Q and a low diamond from dummy. I won the ♦K and did pause. "How can it be that Terry is letting me in to give partner a spade ruff?" I thought. I was sure this was some kind of weird "Greek Gift" play but eventually went along with it as Joe ruffed the spade return and had a winning trump for 1 off. Terry uttered a quick "Sorry" to his partner as the play ended and we started the next board.

As with Joe's bidding on the first board I can't tell you for sure what Terry was thinking. I can tell you, as I mentioned earlier, that he had been playing for nearly five days solid when this hand happened. The final was played at a frantic sort of pace. There were planes to catch. We got a two-cigarette (back-to-back) break between sets and maybe 35 minutes for lunch in the middle. You do the maths.

Everyone at my table played reasonable bridge during this final. The final of a national event can often be a scrappy poor standard because, at that point, the players are at the end of a marathon. I could find some more mistakes but not too many more. Joe did almost nothing wrong after that first board. Terry certainly had moments of demonstrating he plays his cards well. I had some wobbles but also hit a few out of the park.

The worst thing about a close head-to-head all day match (aside from losing) is finishing the last set first. You don't know what will happen, and there is nothing more you can do. The best thing about winning a close head-to-head all day match is the last score up.

I prefer to hate Joe. He innocently gets under my skin. I think this is maybe the 7th or 8th time though we have been in a bridge team together at a national event and experienced a score up like this one. It is a great moment after day of bridge to come out on top in a tight situation. It isn't possible to hug someone that often and not be friends, right?

Phil Markey

ABF CONSTITUTION

Two constitutional amendments were proposed and passed.

CAPITATION AND MASTERPOINT FEES

Council agreed a recommendation from the Treasurer that an annual increase in both the above fees be established. From 1st April 2019, the capitation fee will increase to \$15.80 per year (\$7.90 for 6 months). In subsequent years, fees will increase by the CPI.

TOURNAMENTS

- The Tournament Committee has been asked to consider how the annual calendar could be better structured to address conflicting events.
- Australia has been asked to consider hosting the APBF in 2020, and the Management Committee is considering cost, timing and location before making a final decision.
- The ABF will actively work on a solution for the continued incidence of overseas and other players with extensive prior experience entering Restricted events.
- The WBF has announced the inclusion of Mixed Teams at world championships from 2019. The Tournament and Management Committees will discuss the selection method and level of subsidy, if any, at their June meetings.

[Editor: In my opinion, all Australian representative teams attending world championships should receive equal status, and therefore equal subsidy, whether Mixed, Youth or the 'regular' Open, Women's and Seniors.]

ABF GNOT TRAVEL SUBSIDIES IN 2018

For 2018, the ABF has listened to feedback from players, and is changing the arrangements for travel subsidies used in 2017 for players on competing GNOT teams at the National Final from 30 November to 3 December 2018. The ABF wishes to keep the benefits from providing four return best-available economy air tickets for the 44 teams travelling more than 700km to the Gold Coast. These benefits include the guarantee of a return ticket whenever the team qualifies; the ABF meeting its duty of care to get players to the event in the safest, most efficient way possible; and coverage under the ABF's Corporate Travel Insurance Policy.

Most importantly, however, the ABF is:

- introducing more flexible direct booking arrangements through Canberra-based staff (not using an external travel service);
- bookings will be made in consultation with team captains who will consult with their team members thus giving players more control over the timing of their travel;
- after consultation, tickets will be issued. Subsequent changes will be permitted, however the traveller will bear the cost of alterations, not the ABF;
- team members who wish to make their own arrangements (including driving) will be permitted to do so, subject to certain limitations;
- the 16 teams not normally travelling by air will continue to receive a cash subsidy for ground transport of their choice.

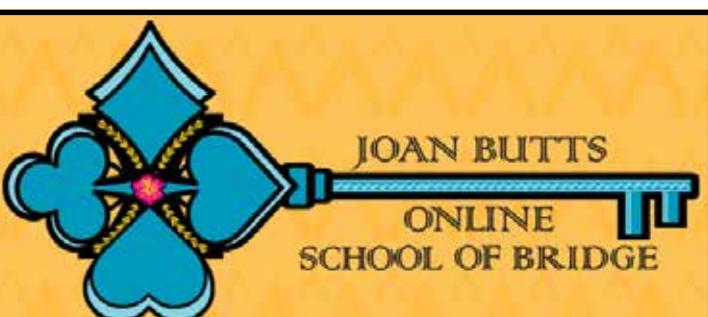
How will this process work?

Once a regional or metropolitan final has been held and the names of the players in any team/s are known, it is the responsibility of the GNOT Regional/Metropolitan Coordinator for that zone to send an email with the captain/player names, ABF numbers, mobile contacts and emails for all team members to the following persons:

Ray Ellaway,
Tournament Organiser,
GNOT National Final
Tel: (07) 3351 8602 (w), 0466 288 365 (m)
Email: ray.ellaway@abf.com.au

AND

Roy Nixon,
ABF Treasurer
Tel: 0423 043 220
Email: roy.nixon@live.com.au



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Winners of the Barrier Reef Congress Open Pairs:
Peter Hollands and Marina Darling

AUSTRALIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

22nd APBF OPEN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bogor, Indonesia, April 2018

Renee Cooper - Francesca McGrath
Tomer Libman – Andrew Spooner
Matthew Smith – Jamie Thompson
Mike Doecke (npc)

Our Under 26 team finished in 5th place in the Junior Teams. There were 13 teams, with 9 teams from Indonesia and 4 from other Zone 6 (and 7) countries.

3rd ASIA CUP

Goa, India, June 2018

MEN'S TEAM

Joe Haffer – Phil Markey
Max Henbest – David Wiltshire
Sartaj Hans – Andy Hung

WOMEN'S TEAM

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

SENIORS' TEAM

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

MIXED TEAM

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

YEH BROS CUP

Beijing, China, July 2018

Joe Haffer – Phil Markey
Justin Mill – Tony Nunn
Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer



*Matt Smith and Jamie Thompson,
winners of the Autumn National Open Swiss Pairs
(and members of the Australian Under 26 Team)*

ABF POSITION VACANT

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

The ABF is continuing to move forward on a number of strategic fronts as part of an overall plan to grow bridge in Australia. Bridge, like many other sporting, social and recreational activities, is facing significant threats to its growth and viability. The ABF therefore has an immediate, strategic need to appoint a National Technology Officer with the vision to oversee the design, development and implementation of a national technology strategy over the period 2019-2021. Key duties of the position include:

- to identify the key technology risks facing bridge in Australia;
- to develop a three-year strategy and roadmap to mitigate those risks;
- to work with the ABF's National Coordinators in the areas of teaching, marketing, directing and organising our major tournaments and developing youth bridge to address their emerging technology needs relating to key areas such as:
 - website and App development;
 - email distribution and database management;
 - an online bridge presence for playing, marketing, learning and teaching;
 - social media;
 - scoring systems; and
 - club and event management including entries and payment systems
- ensuring the ABF has sufficient control over the ABF's critical software IP and hardware systems either directly or through licence agreements.
- to work with interested parties including the private sector, and international bridge authorities to develop a cooperative approach to addressing technology risks.

Applications, in the form of a statement of claim and previous work experience, are invited from suitably qualified persons to undertake the above key duties. Knowledge of bridge and bridge events is an advantage. The ABF envisages this being a part-time consulting position. Remuneration is negotiable depending on previous experience but a range of \$20,000 to \$25,000 is initially envisaged.

Applications should be submitted by email to the ABF Secretary at abf_secretary@live.com.au on or before 15th June 2018.



*Autumn Nationals Women's Swiss Pairs:
(left to right) Therese Demarco - Lori Smith (2nd),
Elizabeth Havas (1st - with Sheila Bird)*

A THOUGHTFUL LEAD

This article illustrates the thought processes that top players go through before making their opening lead. It is important to listen to the auction and draw relevant inferences, to help guide you to the best lead.

In the May 2017 edition of the IBPA Bulletin, Mikael Grönkvist wrote about a hand on which he had the opportunity to start:

♠ 10
♥ K J 9 6
♦ 9 8 6
♣ Q J 7 5 2

| | | | |
|------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 4♣ (splinter) | Pass | 4♦ (cue bid) |
| Pass | 4♣ | All Pass | |

A heart lead felt like a stand-out after the splinter sequence, mainly because partner was a favourite to have the Ace, since neither opponent made a control bid in hearts. Another reason for a heart lead was that I had the ♣Q-J, which were wasted defensive cards when LHO had a club singleton.

The question was: which heart to lead? A low heart would be correct if declarer held the ♥Q, while the surround play of the ♥J would work spectacularly well if dummy held ♥Q-x-x and declarer held the ♥10-x-x. I decided to go for the latter option, since dummy was more likely to have more strength in hearts, given that declarer definitely held a diamond honour, and possibly the ♠A. For once, I got it right:

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

Declarer could do nothing as we cashed the first three heart tricks and later scored the ♦Q for one down. A low heart would not have been a success, and that was West's choice at many tables, probably after similar bidding.

[By starting with the ♥J, Mikael had created a finesse of dummy's ♥Q, and when East won the ♥A, he could return a heart through declarer's ♥10 to Mikael's ♥K-9, for the three heart winners.]

AN EXPENSIVE 'GUESS'

Mikael Grönkvist's hand demonstrates the surround play. For some reason, when these plays are made, the term used to describe them varies depending on whether done defensively (surround play) or by declarer (reverse finesse).

A reverse finesse situation arises when declarer is missing the queen and ten in a suit, but has the other relevant cards, including the nine:

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Dummy | Declarer |
| A J 9 5 | opposite |
| | K 8 7 2 |

Declarer could just play the 'normal' finesse, by leading towards dummy's A-J and finessing (South) for the Queen.

If, for some reason, declarer thinks North holds the Queen, then he could instead lead the Jack first, finessing North for the Queen. If North covers the Jack, then declarer finesses South for the 10 on the next round of the suit. This is a reverse finesse.

In the final of the 2017 Spring National Open Teams, a reverse finesse position existed which I had not considered before (*missing the J-9 instead of the Q-10*).

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Dlr North | ♠ A 5 |
| NS Vul | ♥ Q 10 8 3 2 |
| | ♦ A K 3 |
| | ♣ A 10 3 |
| ♠ Q 9 8 6 | ♠ J 4 3 |
| ♥ A 9 7 | ♥ J 6 4 |
| ♦ J 10 7 6 4 | ♦ 8 2 |
| ♣ 8 | ♣ 9 7 6 4 2 |
| ♠ K 10 7 2 | |
| ♥ K 5 | |
| ♦ Q 9 5 | |
| ♣ K Q J 5 | |

Justin Williams and John Newman had a slam invitational sequence:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| North | South |
| 1♥ | 1♠ |
| 2NT | 4NT |
| Pass | |

This comfortable contract made 11 tricks.

Stephen Fischer and David Morgan reached 6NT, based on different bidding methods. The hand hinged on playing the heart suit for one loser. Declarer played the normal line, leading a small heart from North to the King and Ace, then finessing West for the Jack on the return. The hearts broke 3-3 but the ♥J was off-side, so 6NT went down one.

If declarer had seen the heart suit, he would have taken a reverse finesse. He has to lead the ♥10 from dummy first. If East covers with the ♥J, the play continues ♥K - ♥A. He can then finesse West for the ♥9 on the next round and, with the 3-3 break, 6NT makes. Should East duck the ♥10, declarer runs that card to West's ♥A – again making 6NT.

I'd never really considered this holding in a suit as suitable for a reverse finesse. The fact that a national teams final's outcome hinged on the play added to my interest in the hand – because the winning team gained 13 IMPs on this hand, but if 6NT had made they would have lost 13 IMPs instead. The final margin was 18 IMPs, with this hand swinging 26 IMPs.

Barbara Travis



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Each application should be accompanied by two written referee reports, each of less than 250 words. Further information can be obtained from the club EO, prior to submitting an application.



Winners of the Western Seniors' Pairs:
Allison Stralow (ABF President), Phil Tearne, Val Bilton

Western Seniors' Pairs 2nd place-getters:
Allison Stralow (ABF President) with
Diana Quantrill and Audrey Stokes



The winning team from the Barrier Reef Congress Open Teams:
Geoff Chettle, Greg Lewin, Therese Tully (from the QBA and ABF), Laura Ginnan, Peter Hollands, Simon Hinge

YOUTHFUL TALENT

The IBPA Bulletin, July 2017, reported on the European Junior Championships. Here are a couple of skilful defences.

One of the first things we learn when we are taught what to lead is not to underlead aces against suit contracts. This is a nice rule of thumb but, of course, rules are made to be broken, especially when it comes to a high-level tournament.

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

At both tables, West opened the bidding with 1♠, and ended up declaring 4♠, after a sequence which had let both Norths know that declarer did not have a diamond control.

Simon Hult (Sweden) had no doubt in his mind: this was the time to break the rule, so he placed the ♦2 on the table! Declarer, not having x-ray vision, played the ♦J. South won the ♦Q, returned a heart to North's ♥A, and Simon shot back a second low diamond! Declarer gave this an even funnier look (after all, if North held the ♦10, he could have played it now, in case South held the ♦9), but decided to go with the odds, and played low yet again, finessing against the ♦10 – and down he went!

Interestingly, our other North (Netherlands) found the same lead! Before doing so, he asked a few questions about the bidding, so this may have given away the whole show – the Swedish declarer put up the ♦K from dummy, and soon scored up an overtrick (discarding a diamond on the top clubs), gaining 11 IMPs for his efforts.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♥ | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | 2♠ |

Twenty Wests declared the heart game in the Under 26 championships, the contract making 13 times and being defeated only seven times. Both our North-South pairs (in this particular match) found the killing defence, leading the ♠A and another club to South's ♠K.

Now it was necessary for South to cash the ♠A before playing the third club, and both Souths rose to the occasion - ♠A, third club – promoting a trick for North, for down one and a flat board.

[If South leads the third club before cashing the spade, West just discards the spade loser on the club, losing only three tricks. Ed.]

A GOLDEN HAND

Gary Hyett (UK), who played on my team in the South-West Pacific Teams and did well in the CNBC and the Gold Coast Teams, provided the following example of play and defence from a Gold Cup match in England, from the early 1980s.

The stars of the show were Alan Hudson and Malcolm McLaughlin, who were Gary's team-mates.

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

Jeremy Flint and Irving Rose bid to 6♠ by South.

Alan Hudson, West, led the ♣9. Flint won the ♠A, discarding a diamond, then trumped a club. The ♥A and ♥K were cashed, then a heart was trumped with the ♠8. Another club was ruffed with the ♠10. Declarer next cashed the ♦A and ♦K, then ruffed his last heart with the ♠J. Finally he led another club and trumped with the ♠A, and had set the scene for West to be end-played into leading trumps when he exited with a diamond.

Hudson, however, was ready for this. He had under-ruffed the ♠A, keeping the ♠Q-7 and a diamond. Now East was able to trump the diamond exit, and could ensure West's spades still took another trick in the two-card ending.

Gary adds, "Despite this sterling effort, we were resoundingly beaten."

Gary Hyett, UK



The Autumn National Open Teams final, showing play behind a screen and on BBO (Vugraph).

MORE EUROPEAN STYLE

Two classy hands from the Mixed Teams, European Championships, IBPA Bulletin, June 2017.

David Berkowitz (USA) was full of praise for his team-mates' efforts on defence here.

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

♠ J
♥ 10 9 8 6 5 4
♦ A 9
♣ A K Q 3

♠ 10 4
♥ K J 7
♦ 10 8 7 5
♣ J 9 6 4

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> <i>Jan Jansma</i> | <i>East</i> 1♦ 3♥ | <i>South</i> <i>Aida Jansma</i> Pass Pass |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 2♥ | Pass | 1♠ | |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

Both defenders in this match led their singleton ♠8 against 4♥. Lisa Berkowitz brought home 10 tricks easily enough in one room. Here is what happened at the other table.

Declarer won the club lead in hand, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond, South giving count in the process. Declarer now led the ♥Q and Aida ducked this to Jan, who put the ♠K on the table! Declarer cashed the two top spades to discard his club loser. Then he led a third spade; South ruffed high as declarer discarded a club, then she gave partner his club ruff to set the hand. (She still had another trump trick.)

[That ♠K exit left declarer trapped in dummy; somewhat like Ron Klinger's favourite hand, written up in the May 2017 ABF Newsletter. Ed.]

This deal was declared brilliantly by Roy Welland:

Dealer South ♠ J 10 9
NS Vul ♥ J 10 6 4
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A J 10 8 3

♠ 6 3 2

♥ K Q 9 3
♦ Q 5
♣ 7 5 4 2

♠ A K Q 8 7 5 4
♥ 8 7
♦ J
♣ Q 9 6

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

| <i>West</i> Osborne | <i>North</i> Auken | <i>East</i> Hinden | <i>South</i> Welland |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | 4♠ | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♣ | Pass | 6♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

The defenders led spades. Welland ruffed and ran trumps, and East and West each let go one heart (West the ♦3, East the ♦7) early enough to persuade declarer that West was the defender guarding hearts. As the penultimate trump was led, this was the position:

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

West discarded a club, dummy the ♣J, and East a spade. Declarer crossed to the ♣A and, when West discarded a spade, declarer ruffed the spade (stripping West of his last spade) and exited with a small heart to endplay West in hearts at trick 12.



*The winning team from the Barrier Reef Congress Restricted Teams:
Lynne Layton, Marjorie Knox, George Gibson, Carmel Wikman*

COUP 8: THE DEVIL'S COUP

The Devil's Coup is a rare play – so rare, in fact, that I don't recall ever having brought it off in all my years of bridge.

The name is easily explained – it appears that only the devil could possibly prevent the defenders from making a trump trick, yet that is exactly what happens, and without the need for any supernatural powers.

Dealer South ♠ J 10 4 2

All Vul ♥ K 10 7

♦ A 4

♣ K 8 4 2

♠ A K Q 3

♥ Q 8 6

♦ J 9 7

♣ 6 5 3

♠ 5

♥ A 9 5 3 2

♦ K 10 6 3

♣ A Q 9

♠ 9 8 7 6

♥ J 4

♦ Q 8 5 2

♣ J 10 7

Very over-optimistic bidding sees South play in 6♥. One would think that West's lead of two top spades must mean inevitable defeat because of the trump situation. Yet things are not always quite as simple as they seem and, by dint of a Devil's Coup, declarer can actually make the defensive trump trick disappear, as if by magic.

Declarer ruffs the second spade then cashes three club winners. Declarer intends to continue by playing a crossruff and doesn't want to see a club winner ruffed later on if a defender gets an opportunity to discard a club along the way. The third club is won in dummy so that declarer can take a second spade ruff. Next come three rounds of diamonds, the third ruffed in dummy, and finally a third spade ruff leaves declarer with ♥ A-9 and a diamond, facing ♥ K-10 and a club.

When declarer leads his last diamond, what is West to do? If he ruffs low, dummy's ♥10 scores and the ♥A and ♥K take the last two tricks. If West ruffs high, dummy over-ruffs and the ♥A-9 are sitting over East's ♥J. Again, declarer takes the rest.

Once the black suits were evenly divided, declarer needed East to have the fourth diamond and West the three-card trump holding. Switch a diamond and a heart around, and East would be over-ruffing at trick 11 to defeat the slam. Not a high probability, perhaps, to find the exact distribution required for success. The alternative was to play one defender to hold Queen-Jack doubleton trump and simply lay down the Ace and King early on. Declarer could then ruff a diamond in dummy, but would still require four club tricks. That is another pretty low probability and, with a choice between two slim chances, who could resist trying for the Devil's Coup?

Brian Senior



Winners of the Barrier Reef Congress Restricted Pairs:
Jennifer Mullen and Ched Twyman (from Townsville BC)

REEGEL 11

It is your lead with the West hand, after the auction shown:

♠ K J 10 8 7 5

♥ 7

♦ A K Q 8 7

♣ 4

West

North

East

South

3♣

3♥

3NT

All Pass

You have a good hand, yet all three players have found a bid in front of you, and now you have to lead. You go into the tank, trying to remember which decade it was when your partner last overcalled with a decent suit, including the Ace. It seems almost certain that declarer is punting, with a hand holding a couple of Aces and club honour/s, hoping to get home with two Aces and seven club tricks. All other things being equal, you have to lead a diamond, but which one?

Erika Parn has decided to reveal a method of making this decision, which has been passed down from grandmother to granddaughter in bridge-playing Estonian families for generations. They call it "Reegel 11" which roughly translates to the "Rule of 11" and it works like this:

1. You find the fourth-highest card you have in the suit,
2. You count the pips on that card,
3. You multiply the number of pips by 11 (hence Reegel 11), and
4. You subtract your grandmother's age.

If the product of this arithmetic is a negative number, you lead your fourth-highest card in the suit. If the product is not a negative number, you lead your highest card in the suit. It is that simple.

At our table, the player on lead had no thought for his 92-year-old grandmother and led a diamond honour, after which nothing could stop declarer taking 10 tricks, for this was the full deal:

♠ 2

♥ 3

♦ 9 5 4 3

♣ A Q J 10 9 8 5

♠ K J 10 8 7 5

♥ 7

♦ A K Q 8 7

♣ 4

♠ Q 6 4

♥ K J 10 6 5 4

♦ J 6

♣ 7 2

♠ A 9 3

♥ A Q 9 8 2

♦ 10 2

♣ K 6 3

The Reegel 11 lead defeats the contract by taking the first five diamond tricks, whereas the lead of a diamond honour hands an overtrick to declarer.

I must confess that I was a bit dubious about the reliability of this method, but Erika was adamant. "Switch the ♦8 with dummy's ♦9 and do the calculation again, if you don't believe me," she insisted. I did that and found that 99 minus 92 led me to lead a diamond honour, and again the defence takes the first five tricks.

Chris Depasquale

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

REAL MEN DON'T NEED VALUES TO BID

Teams. North dealer. East-West Vulnerable

North
♦ 10 8 3
♥ 4 3
♦ A Q J 9 5
♣ A Q 10

East
♦ A J 6 2
♥ A 8 7 6 2
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 7

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

West leads the ♥J. Plan East's defence.

Suppose East plays the ♥A and South follows with the ♥Q. What should East play next?

Solution:

♦ 10 8 3
♥ 4 3
♦ A Q J 9 5
♣ A Q 10

♦ K Q 5
♥ J 10 9 5
♦ 2
♣ 9 8 5 3 2

♦ A J 6 2
♥ A 8 7 6 2
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 7

♦ 9 7 4
♥ K Q
♦ K 10 8 3
♣ K J 6 4

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: ♥J.

Defending becomes easier if you focus on the tricks you need. Just as declarer has a contract, consider that you also have a contract when you are defending. South is in 3NT. Your contract, to defeat 3NT, is five tricks. Where can they come from?

One look at dummy tells you that you are not collecting any tricks from the clubs. For the 3NT bid, you can place South with ♥K-Q. South needs only the ♦K and ♦10-x or ♦K and ♦J-x to make nine tricks. South might have ♥K-Q bare, but might also have played the ♥Q from K-Q-10 or K-Q-9 to try to persuade you to return a heart.

If South has a spade winner, you will not beat 3NT. You need to hope partner has values in spades. Switch to the ♠2 at trick 2. A low-card switch asks partner to return the suit you are leading.

You can now collect four spade tricks for one down. It is bad enough that you have missed the cold 4♥ on your meagre combined values. You must not increase the damage by letting South make 3NT.

Ron Klinger

MANAGING THOSE SPOT CARDS

This hand comes from the Spring Nationals final, and is an example of looking at your spot cards to give yourself entries.

The following hand demonstrates the value of managing spot cards. I was declarer in 2♦ after the following auction:

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

West led the ♠8, won with the ♠A on which East threw his ♠K, and I played the ♠6. The ♦9 was led, finessing the ♦K, and the diamond finesse was repeated, with trumps being drawn.

At trick 5, the ♠10 was led, West winning the ♠Q, and returning the ♠J – K – A – 9. East exited with the ♠Q, ruffed.

Now I cashed the ♠J. I then led my ♠3, carefully kept at trick 1, to dummy's ♠5, giving me an extra entry to dummy to lead a heart towards the ♥K, for 10 tricks.

(Yes, East threw away a spade winner at trick 1, but was concerned about being end-played in the defence.)

David Morgan

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AN ORDINARY BRIDGE LIFE by Cathryn Collins

I am an English Kwaussie from a working-class family of card players, but not bridge players. My grandmother was a card sharp at the NZ Whist Club, Canny Annie, and the rest of us favoured Five Hundred, Euchre, Canasta... card games were our go-to on wet NZ camping holidays.

My first brush with bridge was when I was asked to be the 4th by my university flat-mates in Palmerston North, NZ, who ran on 18-hour wake-sleep patterns and coffee. I don't remember much about that game. Soon after, I emigrated to Australia.

Next was the auditory experience of the Sydney University Theoretical Physics Department. They had a bridge session most lunch times if they could drum up four players. Loud comments floated along the corridor, such as "What the *^\$ did you lead that for?" and "Really, you should have..." One gentleman, in particular, seemed to be on the receiving end most of the time; it seemed he was a bit of a masochist. I never ventured closer than the door. I married one of the non-bridge playing theoreticians.

Out in the real world, I got a job working as a medical physicist at the Prince of Wales Hospital Radiotherapy Department. On day 1, I was asked if I wanted to eat in the cafeteria with some of my colleagues. I said yes, as long as I could bring my own lunch. Of course, they had ulterior motives and, once down there, I was told I had to play bridge with them. Remembering my Sydney Uni days, I was a bit apprehensive, but figured this time it was a public area. I thoroughly enjoyed the game and, on return to the department after a long lunch, was given Charles Goren's "Bridge Complete" and told to read the first few chapters before the next day! From that point onwards, lunch and bridge went together at Prince of Wales.

Our player numbers varied from 3 to 7, and Richard, the statistician, drew up movement diagrams to get people in and out of the game. We played fast and furious to get enough hands played in the nominal hour. We came up with a "Cafeteria System" so that we all played the same way. We even had copies printed and stapled into a booklet to hand out to unsuspecting new enlistees; I still have mine somewhere. We did venture into the NSWBA a couple of times – memorable only because of the looks of disbelief we got for the Cafeteria System. At that time, bridge was just a lunch time hobby for me, taking backseat to my love of Scottish Country Dancing.

Ten years later and a move to rural NSW so my husband could start his management career – of large telescopes – meant that I needed something to do, since there was no medical physics in Parkes. So I joined the local bridge club. Major shock to the system – they didn't play Goren or Cafeteria! But now I was hooked. Parkes, Forbes, Condobolin Bridge Clubs were the places to be. I had very patient partners, Peter and Fay, who helped me learn Standard American. Peter was always giving me pamphlets about his favourite conventions.

Weekends were spent at rural teams events and this introduced me to the problem of getting four people to be on their best behaviour for a whole day. One team member would flounce off after Match 1 to spend his non-playing time avoiding us by watching Sports TV, and another had to have a scotch (or two) at lunch time every time she played.

As a mathematician and puzzle lover, the movement of duplicate and teams bridge enticed me to do my directing exams. My husband would say it was because I like telling

people what to do! I subjected Parkes Bridge Club to some interesting rainbow movements at their Christmas Party.

On our return to Sydney four years later, I had to decide what I was going to do. When not playing bridge in Parkes, I was teaching basic computing and maths part-time to adults at TAFE, but I didn't want to continue with that in Sydney, nor did I want to return to medical physics. Fortunately, I answered an ad on the ABF website looking directors on the north shore, which was close to where I lived. My email made its way to John Roberts who asked me in for a chat at the end of one of the sessions he was directing. At my 'job interview' I grilled him on his business for an hour or so, and we both passed! The part-time job turned full-time within a few weeks and I worked with John on and off for 11 years. The job has used all my skills of teaching, directing, computing, bookkeeping, and even painting the office. It has taken me to some beautiful places and I have met some great people.

During this time, my husband's job relocated us again – this time to Santiago, Chile. That heralded a new era in my bridge, South American style. I went to the Club de Bridge Santiago in my first week there. I was told that I could turn up without a partner but, having done so, I was about to be turned away when one of the players got her husband, who was just dropping her off, to turn around and return to play with me. So began a new partnership with Edmundo, a French émigré who only spoke French and Spanish, so we communicated through bridge. Thank goodness for bidding boxes! That first session was spent listening hard for the bridge terms: spades/picas, hearts/corazones, diamonds/diamantes, clubs/treboles. Gestures had to serve to get dummy to play the cards.



Cathryn wearing her special Director's glasses
for seeing through the fiery exterior!
[The total solar eclipse 2017]

Playing bridge in Chile was an altogether different experience. The start and finish times were quite variable. The Friday night game started any time after 7.30pm and finished sometime after 11pm. I'm glad I didn't direct there. The tables were scattered randomly around the room and whoever got to the table first decided where North should be. As for cell phones – these were often used during the game to direct the maid to buy a couple of kilos of potatoes!

The events at the club were sponsored, though I'm not sure why, and when I first arrived you could win wine, which suited me fine. Then they swapped sponsors to a cosmetics company and, since I don't use cosmetics, I used to take home shampoo and hairbrushes, which wasn't at all inspiring. Who needs master points?

We then returned to Sydney for a few years, followed by another relocation to Charlottesville, Virginia, USA. North American bridge is way more regimented to any other bridge I have experienced. Tables have to be absolutely lined up so there is no chance of seeing other cards while playing. I feel like I have gone back in time – tournament directors turn up with line printers (those large chunky old things that have continuous blue and white striped paper that tears off) and use an ancient DOS-based scoring system. When asked why they didn't at least use a laser printer I was informed that it works, so why change! Where do they get cartridges and paper?

My club, the Jefferson Bridge Association, is great fun.

The North American agent for BridgeMate scorers, the guys who invented the tray for use with bridge screens, and a film director of a bridge movie called "Double Dummy" are all regulars. I am playing more than I have for years, and am enjoying helping with the local 49er group (improving players).

In my first year here, I have made it onto the list of the "100 most under-rated bridge players in the ACBL". I guess it has something to do with the fact I have come into the American system as a fully-fledged player and have been earning master points faster than expected. I find this hilarious, especially as one of Australia's best players (Peter Gill) was just below me on the list, though I'm definitely not at his level! I do have to be careful how I play, though, as at least two of my partners have 'concealed-carry' gun licences and tell me they always carry their weapon. I also try not to discuss politics at the bridge table!

Where to next? Who knows. I've visited New Mexico a few times, and I play at the Duke City Bridge Club in Albuquerque. I've also played in Dallas, Texas, where they had signs at the entrance to my husband's astronomy conference saying that you couldn't bring your guns inside!

I'm not an expert and don't remember the hands after the game, but I love the ability to play anywhere in the world and meet lots of different people. So I ask you – where will bridge take you next?

Cathryn Collins

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNING AND LOSING AT BRIDGE

CONCENTRATION, FOCUS, TEMPERAMENT, PARTNERSHIP HANDLING

This is a modified version of Peter Gill's presentation at the Gold Coast Congress 2013.

Experts will tell you that the most important elements to playing good bridge are concentration, temperament and partnership handling. Given these results, shouldn't our improvement at bridge include coaching in these areas?

CONCENTRATION

Distraction and fatigue are among the main causes of poor concentration.

Distraction can occur when emotion from what just happened interferes with one's concentration. Mike Lawrence in his bridge tip called Ecstasy gives great advice – that you have to beware after any triumph (the distracting emotion = ecstasy) or disaster (the distracting emotion = despair).

Trick 1 is a very important time for all players – as soon as dummy comes down, thinking hard is essential. Yet this is a time when many dummies distract declarer by saying something like: "Sorry I didn't use Stayman, I guess I should have" or the like. Many declarers cannot concentrate fully when they listen to partner's comment.

Here's a sample hand:

You hold

♦ K J 9 7 4
♥ 10 9 5
♦ 8 6
♣ A K Q

RHO opens a weak 2♥, vulnerable. You overall 2♦. Pass by LHO, and your partner raises to 4♦, which is doubled in the pass out seat by LHO, who leads the ♥J.

Dummy comes down with:

♦ A 5
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A K 10 5
♣ 5 4 3 2

If you say to partner "Why didn't you bid 3NT?" you fail. If partner (dummy) makes a comment to you, he has erred.

The solution is that you should duck ♥J with as few hints of desperation as you can manage. If RHO plays you for a singleton or doubleton in hearts, and ducks, you have a chance.

Let's look at the full deal. LHO held:

♦ Q 10 8 6 3
♥ J
♦ Q 9 7 5
♣ J 10 8

Any form of distraction at trick 1 reduces your chances of smoothly finding the only play that gives you a chance. If the ♥J is ducked, you can make 4♦X in various ways that involve cashing winners then end-playing West, who has to trump his partner's hearts in the ending. (After the heart lead and club shift you ruff a diamond low in hand, play off the top clubs and ♠A, trump another diamond, then exit with a heart.)

One good player says he counts his cards multiple times, in order to "clear my brain of all extraneous thoughts". He recommends that you develop a focusing routine such as that, and use it at the start of play, at the start of each hand, after a disaster, and after protracted breaks in play.

Mike Lawrence's tip means that it should also apply after +1100 or slam success (Ecstasy), before the last board (keep focusing on the bridge, not on the lunch break), and whenever you are distracted.

Another "focusing routine" is to say internally to yourself "Next Hand" or "This Hand" multiple times, so that you forget about the previous hand.

Decision Fatigue, or even general tiredness which is something different, can also cause concentration errors. When you are suffering general tiredness, Zia's advice is to take it easy and let partner be in charge – let partner make most of the decisions.

PARTNERSHIP HANDLING

When Jeff Meckstroth was asked in an interview if he and Eric Rodwell (the world's best pair) ever get angry, he replies "just about every hand". But "we're very good at rooting for each other", he adds. (Handling of team members also is important.) Successful partnerships are all about looking after your partner and ensuring they are in their 'comfort zone'.

TEMPERAMENT

Getting irritated with partner is one thing. Anger management is an issue we will skip past.

Getting annoyed with oneself is more common and is a serious problem, partly because when you are annoyed with yourself, you are more likely to lash out at partner, especially if he could have prevented your own error, which upset you. This happens a lot at bridge.

We all have problems and we all try to deal with our anger. At bridge, making a massive effort to take it easy and not get upset is necessary if you want to become a better player.

FOCUS

The (2013) Gold Coast Pairs began with a "hiccup" when some boards were put on the wrong tables. Directors halted play while the problem was rectified.

At our table where play had already started, concentration was difficult, so our opponent reassuringly said to his partner, "I understand that you are distracted, but we are in our little 'Oasis of Calm' now". They promptly got a good score, so clearly the 'Oasis of Calm' worked. At the end of the session, this particular pair had topped the whole field! It seemed that their approach to distraction management / focus was very effective.

I tried the technique during the Gold Coast Teams, when nearby players were arguing or loud and distracting, and it worked for me too.

Peter Gill

MY FAVOURITE HAND by Peter Gill

YOUTHFUL EXPERTISE

On the 2nd April 1978, three of us planned to play as a very young threesome in Sydney's annual Teams of Three bridge event. At this event, your fourth team member for the day is a top expert. The organiser, Richard Grenside, was a few experts short, so he split up our team to create three additional 'experts'. When I met my team, one of them exclaimed, "Are you really an expert?"

When my team played against Inez Draper's team (now Inez Glanger), I had an opportunity to answer my team-mate's question:

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

| West | North R. Huss | East | South P. Gill |
|----------|------------------|------|------------------|
| Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♣ |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Richard Huss and I were playing Precision, so I opened 1♣ to show 16+ HCP. His 1♦ response showed 0-7 HCP, and thereafter the auction was natural.

West led the ♥10 to my ♥A. Lacking entries to dummy, I led the ♦J, won by the ♦K. East led the ♦2, which I ran around to dummy, winning with the ♦7!

Taking advantage of an entry to dummy, I cashed the ♥K, discarding a club loser, then led the ♥J, which East ruffed with the ♦10 and I over-trumped. Now I exited with a spade to the ♠A, gaining a second entry to dummy via the ♠9.

West led the ♣7 – 5 – 10 – Ace. I crossed to dummy's ♠9 to lead diamonds – ♦J – Queen – King – 6.

All my plays so far had been more-or-less forced upon me, because any other play looked worse. And East's low diamond around to dummy's ♦7 had marked him with the ♦Q-10-8-2. Overall, East was known to hold ♠K-10, ♥Q-7, ♦Q-10-8-2, and five clubs that presumably included the ♣K. The ending was:

| | |
|---------|--------|
| ♦ --- | ♦ --- |
| ♥ 6 | ♥ --- |
| ♦ 3 | ♦ 10 8 |
| ♣ Q 6 | ♣ K J |
| ♦ --- | ♦ --- |
| ♥ 9 8 4 | ♥ --- |
| ♦ --- | ♦ A 9 |
| ♣ 9 | ♣ 3 |

When I played my last trump, East was in trouble in the minors. He couldn't discard a diamond, because both my diamonds would be winners, so he discarded his ♦J. That allowed me to exit with my ♣3, end-playing East, who had to lead a diamond, allowing me the diamond finesse at trick 12, and 10 tricks, for +620.

Forty years ago, our cards were hand-dealt at the table, so each match played unique deals. Therefore, the only other declarer to play this hand was Inez, at the other table. Inez played in 2♦, making 11 tricks (!), so I was somehow outplayed on my favourite hand from my early bridge days.

Peter Gill



This team was the Barrier Reef Congress' 'Best 300 Team for the Barrier Reef Zone':
Sonja Ramsund, Margaret Azar, Sue Hosie and Patricia Ottone, from Malanda Club on the Atherton Tablelands.

Congratulations to the BRC organisers - 263 bridge players attended, from 51 different bridge clubs in 5 States.
Their celebrity speaker program raised \$380 for Youth bridge, with 78 attendees.

THE GROSVENOR GAMBIT

Written by Frederick B. Turner, this was first published in *The Bridge World* in 1973.

It has now been five years since the mysterious death of Philip Grosvenor in Florida. As a bridge player, Grosvenor was fairly well-known in the south-east, but little else of this strange man's life has been made public. He left a modest estate and a large number of notebooks and diaries related to his experiences at bridge, but his will stipulated that none of this material should be released until five years after his death. As executor of Grosvenor's estate, I judge it my responsibility to fulfil this last mandate.

Grosvenor moved to the United States from England in 1946, after reasonably distinguished service with the RAF. He lived for 12 years in Boston, working as an actuary, and played bridge rarely. In 1958 he moved to Atlanta, and at the same time began to play bridge regularly. Judging from Grosvenor's notes, he was a thoughtful and competent player, though perhaps more interested in the analytical than the practical aspects of the game.

In 1961 Grosvenor had an experience that was to shape his remaining years and, in a small way, to enrich the game to which he devoted much of his life. He was playing in a monthly masterpoint game when the following deal came up against two local experts. I reconstruct the following from Grosvenor's notes:

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

Grosvenor was sitting East, and South played in an ambitious 6♥. West began with two high clubs. Declarer ruffed and played off three rounds of spades, ruffing with the ♥J. He then intended to finesse the ♥10, making the contract if East had started with ♥Q-x or Q-x-x. However, on the third round of spades, Grosvenor accidentally dropped a small diamond! Declarer now amended his original plan and cashed the ♥A and ♥K. When the ♥Q did not drop, South conceded down one. Grosvenor idly faced the trump Queen and prepared for the next hand. But South exploded, and even North got into the act – implying that somehow South should have known to finesse in hearts. During the next deal, South – still fuming over the first board – revoked, and Grosvenor fulfilled a hopelessly overbid game contract. The two experts left the table fulminating, and were still talking angrily about the deal when the tournament ended. Grosvenor noted that they managed to score only 41%.

Over the next two days, Grosvenor thought more and more about the ill-fated slam. His play had cost nothing. There was no legitimate way the hand could be made. Had he over-ruffed dummy at trick five, declarer would have claimed the remainder and no more would have been said. North and South had scored a natural result, yet the manner in which

they had done so had led to a hideous result on the next board. The lesson was not lost on a player of such analytical bent. The result had occurred as a result of an accident, but clearly there should be opportunities to induce such events deliberately. The trick was to watch for chances when, without risk, once could bring about a natural result in an unsettling and disruptive manner. Thus, during the autumn of 1961, the Grosvenor Gambit was born.

Grosvenor's diaries indicate that over the next several years he worked patiently to refine the Gambit, seeking ever-more-ingenuous and satisfying avenues of expression. According to his journal, the following hand occurred during a sectional in Birmingham in late November, 1964:

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

I quote from Grosvenor's notes: "Played with Frank in the Master's Sunday and had a pleasing result against *** [Here, in the interests of common decency, I withhold the name of a noted Florida expert.] I doubled 6♦ as an odds-on bet, and led the ♣A. When dummy came down, I perceived a likely opportunity for the Gambit. *** won the club continuation in hand and lapsed into a brooding study. I could well imagine that he cursed the Gods for a 4-0 split, with the trumps in the wrong hand. Finally, declarer played a small diamond from his hand – perhaps hoping that I had doubled on partner's trumps – and I casually followed with the ♦2! Declarer scrutinised me suspiciously. What was going on? After a bit of fidgeting, he made the obviously correct play of the ♦K.

"When Frank showed out I was really concerned for ***'s well-being. [Grosvenor was apparently aware that *** had suffered a ruptured aneurysm in the summer of 1963.] The scathing and contemptuous comments were almost a pleasure to endure, and *** was still trembling with frustration throughout the next deal. I noted that he missed an absolutely baby squeeze to make 3NT, and he and his partner were still seething when they left the table. I wish I could have continued to play against them."

It didn't take Grosvenor long to realise that the Gambit was most effective in team matches, for at matchpoints the benefits were all too often distributed to undeserving pairs who had done nothing to earn them. It is not surprising then, that from early 1965 on, Grosvenor's notes refer principally to team-of-four play. For example, a regional in Memphis:

"Got to the semi-finals in the knock-outs with a bit of luck, and had to play the second-seeded team. Managed the Gambit twice in the first half, and induced a ridiculous psyche which led to +1100. We lost the match, but only by 4 IMPs..."

As Grosvenor's understanding of the principles of the Gambit matured, he was often disappointed when the situation was not appreciated by his opponents. He soon learned that

exquisite gambitry was wasted on opaque players, and that the subtlety of the Gambit had to be tailored to the capacities of the opposition. Grosvenor's diary (September 1966) records an obviously pleasing hand played in New Orleans:

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

"Frank and I played in a Swiss Team event on Saturday. We reached a good 4♥ against --- (East) and his partner.

"West led ♦7 and I won. I ruffed a club, and finessed the ♠Q. West won, but led a third round of clubs instead of shifting to diamonds. I ruffed in dummy and could see that if hearts were 3-2 my contract was secure. Simply take two top hearts, cash the ♠A, and lead another spade. But was I pleased to recognise in this situation a chance to try for the Gambit. After cashing two high trumps I led a third round of hearts! --- won and considered the situation carefully.

"Clearly my hand must be something like:

♦A Q ♥A K x x x ♦? x x ♣ A x x

"If I held the ♦Q the contract was unbeatable. With lesser diamond holdings I was down, but if I held specifically ♦J-x-x it would be fatal to shift to diamonds. After working this out, East led a club. I ruffed and led ♠A and another spade. The silence which greeted the final outcome was positively eerie! --- rose quickly, left the table, and did not play out the rest of the set. Between sessions, I spied --- walking down St Charles Avenue and wished to thank him for his thoughtful collaboration, but he turned away brusquely and disappeared into an oyster bar."

I would judge from Grosvenor's notes that it was probably the spring of 1967 when he first conceived an insidious refinement of the Gambit – and quite possibly, in doing so, sealed his fate. Until this time, Grosvenor had been content to make mistakes so egregiously bad that no rational opponent could exploit them: a normal result was achieved by an abnormal route. Grosvenor recognised that it would be more piquant if the Gambit could, in some way, favourably influence the result. Opportunities of this nature were apparently rare, and Grosvenor's journals repeatedly refer to his fruitless efforts to achieve this at the table. But on August 18, 1967, Grosvenor's diary begins:

"Eureka! It has happened. We were playing ^^. [Here Grosvenor starts to describe a match against some Texas experts in Dallas.] In the second half, the following came up:

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

"When our partners held the North-South cards, South played in 3NT. West led a small spade and declarer won. A club was led to dummy and East ducked. Our man then passed the ♠10 and ultimately made his contract (2 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds, 1 club). A seemingly normal result – if a bit lucky. At our table, ^ was declarer and got the same lead. When a club was led to the ♠K, I took the ♠A and returned a spade. Frank won and cleared the suit. After only a little thought, South led a club and, with an arrogant sneer at the completion of Frank's echo, finessed the ♠10. After all, who could possibly play the ♠A from an original holding of A-J doubleton? Declarer was eventually down three and we netted 14 IMPs! We won this match by 3 IMPs..."

As Grosvenor became better known, some players began to complain openly about his tactics. Grosvenor's journals reveal that after the incident in New Orleans, there was a protest (not sustained) and in March 1967 a Tournament Committee in Jackson was asked to ban Grosvenor from playing. Once, in Mobile, resentment over the Gambit was so bitter that Grosvenor's team actually forfeited a final match rather than risk victory. In the fall of 1967, three unidentified men roughed up Grosvenor in a parking lot...

Because of these adversities, Grosvenor became increasingly withdrawn, but he continued to hone his peculiar skills assiduously, playing in sectionals and regionals all over the south-eastern United States. As noted above, the more perceptive experts came to know Grosvenor and what he was up to. The trouble was, it was sometimes hard to know when Grosvenor was using the Gambit and when he wasn't. Grosvenor's diary for February 13, 1968, refers to the following hand played against an internationally known pair in Miami:

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

North opened 1♦, and after North-South bid to 6♦ against Grosvenor (East), he doubled. West led a club and declarer played the ♠K. Grosvenor won and tried to cash the ♠Q. South ruffed and played a spade to dummy's ♠K. When the ♠J was led from dummy, Grosvenor followed with his ♠10. Interestingly enough, this particular declarer had been exposed to the Gambit two months previously in Houston.



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Hence, knowing Grosvenor and his strange proclivity, declarer had a thorny problem. Was it possible that the Gambit was in operation? If so, it would be most pleasing to refute it by letting the ♠J ride.

Most readers will remember the publicity that ensued after declarer passed the Jack. Less widely known is the fact that North and South never played together again after this event. It is a tribute to Grosvenor's sense of propriety that he took no pride in this incident. Rather, his notes clearly indicate a sense of hurt that his devotion to the Gambit should have led to such a perverted result.

The rest is common knowledge, of course. Three days after this tournament, Grosvenor's body was found on the beach at Key Largo. The dealing fingers of his right hand had been broken, and there were cruel bruises about his head and shoulders. In spite of the note found in his motel room, and the coroner's subsequent ruling of suicide, there are those who still question the circumstances of Grosvenor's death. Certainly, the world of bridge is poorer for the loss of this moody man and his peculiar talents. Fortunately, however, we may be sure that wherever bridge is played, Grosvenor's strange legacy will continue to be part of the game.

DOUBLE DUMMY PLAY (Counting)

♠ Q J 5 3
♥ 6 5
♦ Q 2
♣ K Q J 9 3

♠ A 10 8 7
♥ Q 4
♦ A J 10 9 5
♣ 6 5

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1♥ Pass | Double 4♠ | 2♥ All Pass | 1♦ 2♠ |

West led a heart to East's ♥A, and won the ♥2 return with the ♥K. A diamond was led to the ♦Q – King – Ace. How would you play?

East had already shown up with the ♥A and ♦K, and apparently four hearts (from the ♥2 return), yet only raised to 2♥. This suggested that West would hold the ♠K, and the only way to make the contract is to drop the singleton King. Accordingly, declarer cashed the ♠A, dropping the ♠K to make the contract.

Only 5 declarers counted well enough to make the game.

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DO WE DONT?

Mon Oncle,

One of our local club experts is an advocate of DONT as a way of bidding over a 1NT opening. If I understand it correctly, we double to show a single-suited hand and bid two of any suit to show 9 or more cards in that suit and a higher suit without specifying the longer one. 2♠ is like a weak 2, I think.

So, do you think that Glenda and I should play DONT? If so, what strength should we have for the bids and what do we do with strong balanced hands, you know the hands where we used to double to show strength?

Is there a good book on this?

Luv,

Cathy

Cher Niece,

DONT (Disturbance Over No-Trump) is a method advocated by the men who pushed the Law of Total Tricks (Larry Cohen and Marty Bergen). It had its genesis against the stronger NT openings where missing games is less of a problem than applies over the weaker NT variants. Note that they are happy to recommend it over all strengths.

Did your expert tell you that the bids apply at both the 2-level and the 3-level? In other words, 3♦ is still diamonds and a major, just more distributional than 2♦.

I am a bit of a believer that you should not vary your methods according to the oppositions' 1NT strength because it is too easy to get it wrong, either by forgetting or failing to check the strength each time. Because I meet the weak 1NT more often than the strong, I prefer not to play DONT because I will have problems with the strong hands, as you have pointed out. No doubt, you play against strong 1NT more often than weak, so DONT is a more attractive prospect. Rather than recommending one action or another, examine these questions.

Am I prepared to take risks? DON'T, as played by the experts, is unashamedly disruptive. Hand strength is not a big issue over the stronger 1NT because you are not worrying about reaching game. Hence, fast and loose seems to be the go. Against the weak 1NT, a greater degree of constructiveness is recommended because you want to reach games when they are on.

Am I prepared to forgo the traditional penalty double of 1NT? This is a bigger question when you are meeting the weak 1NT.

Will this be fun? I am always happy to play methods which are good value entertainment. That is why I like TWERB (also known as TOXIC or SUCTION) over strong 1♣ openings (another story).

Will I remember my methods? I don't think that DONT is a difficult method to learn, but it may take some adjustments on the other side of the table when you bid on shapely 7 and 8-card fits. We also have to remember that bids in either/or suits are going to be correctable.

For example:

(1NT) - 2♦ - (Double) - 3♥

would require a correction to 3♦ by the overcaller in the event that the hand held diamonds and spades. It would also be more likely to be destructive rather than constructive.

Over strong 1NT openings we must focus on that rather than thinking seriously about bidding games to make. You will also have to assign a meaning to 2NT as a response to the overcall and this may have to be different when 1NT is weak.

If these questions can be answered in the affirmative, why not give it a try? After all, if you find that your results fall away on these hands, you can always try something else.

A reasonably comprehensive outline of DONT is provided in Cohen's second book 'Following the Law'.

Avec affection,

David

David Lusk



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BOOK REVIEW - Krzysztof Martens' books

The books written by Krzysztof Martens are exceptional. The cardplay problems are tough, and are a great way to strengthen your declarer play and defence. The bidding books target slam bidding, and provide efficient bidding methods that show singletons and voids below the game-level. Martens aims to strengthen your system's bidding foundation which is built on slam bidding. Better methods are needed to reach those "difficult-to-bid" slams.

The Virtual European Championship books are very good. You are trying to solve complex hands in a Teams match setting against world class opponents from various countries. After each match you can score up the IMPs you won or lost.

The University of Defense series contain brilliant and beautiful defences. The deals can be solved, but they are far from easy. I highly recommend "Owl, Fox, and Spider," "Tiger and Fly" and "Calf."

The Guide Dog books Part 1 and 2 should be read as a partnership. They are aimed at drastically improving a partnership's carding methods. Again, these books are very advanced and not easy. A partnership willing to put in the work will become consistent winners and quickly rise to an expert level.

This is one hand taken from Guide Dog Defense Part 2:

♦ A K J
♥ Q 8
♦ Q 10 7 5 3
♣ K Q 5

♦ Q 6
♥ A J 10 7 6 2
♦ 2
♣ A 9 7 4

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

3♦ = Fit Showing Jump

You are West, and you lead your singleton ♦2. Partner wins the ♦A and returns the ♦9, declarer following with the ♦K. Partner's ♦9 is a suit preference signal showing the ♥K.

If partner holds ♥K-x-x-x we must underlead our ♥A and partner can lead another diamond to promote our ♠Q.

If partner holds ♥K-x-x it is possible to take their contract down 3 by playing ♥A, heart to the ♥K, diamond to our ♠Q.

It is considered normal to underlead the ♥A to cater for both holdings and give up the chance of a 3 trick set.

Martens suggests we can do better.

Before we decide what to do in hearts, we should cash the ♣A and partner should give us the count for the heart suit.

If partner plays the ♣2 ("I have an even number of hearts"), we underlead the ♥A, knowing that 4♣ X -2 is the limit.

If partner plays the ♣8 ("I have an odd number of hearts"), we can cash the ♥A, play a low heart to the ♥K and then receive the trump promotion and 4♣ X is -3.

Matt Smith

The various books available by Krzysztof Martens:

The Martens System

Hand Evaluation, Bidding Decisions

Virtual European Championships - Part 1

Virtual European Championships - Part 2

Imagination Bridge Stories SC

Practical Aspects of Declarer Play

Camouflage Waiting Bid

Extra Length Transfer Bids

Calf

Guide Dog – Part 1

Guide Dog - Part 2

Opening Leads

Owl, Fox, and Spider

Tiger and Fly

Professional Slam Bidding 1

Professional Slam Bidding 2



The "Mackay mob" at the Barrier Reef Congress.

INVITING TO 3NT WITHOUT A MAJOR

There are several ways to "invite to 3NT without a major" opposite a 1NT opening. The three most common methods are:

1. 1NT – 2♣ is "non promisory" Stayman, where responder does not promise a 4-card Major.
2. 1NT – 2♣ is "Range ask or clubs", where opener bids based on the assumption that it is the range ask. Opener replies 2NT with a minimum 1NT opening, and 3♣ with a maximum 1NT opening. If responder makes a further bid (other than 1NT – 2♣ ; 3♣ - 3NT), by agreement responder has clubs.
3. 1NT – 2NT old-fashioned style.

Which one is "best"? Here is the analysis of the three methods:

1. 1NT – 2♣ "Non Promisory" Stayman

This method exists because some partnerships like to play 4-suit transfers (2♦, 2♥, 2♣, 2NT) without using 3♣, and thus the only viable way to invite in No Trumps is to go via 2♣ Stayman, even with no interest in a major.

Pros: It allows you to play 4-suit-way transfers

Cons: You will be bidding 2♣ more often. This allows the opponents to double 2♣ for the lead more frequently. Also, whether the final contract is 2NT or 3NT, the opponents can benefit from the information that you have given them when opener shows/denies a major, and this could help the opponents defend more accurately.

2. 1NT – 2♣ "Range Probe or Clubs"

This method was created to prevent giving the opponents free information.

Pros: No information leakage to the defenders.

Cons: Allows a lead directing double of 2♣. It also gives up the 'magical' 3NT contracts where responder has 5-7 HCP with long clubs, and opener cannot "super accept in clubs" since opener will be bidding 2NT minimum, or 3♣ maximum, based on HCP.

3. 1NT – 2NT "Old Fashioned"

Pros: No information leakage to the defenders, and there are no lead-directing doubles available.

Cons: Using the 3♣ bid as a transfer to diamonds. It does not give you space to super-accept, and it also gives up using the 3♣ bid for some other constructive purpose.

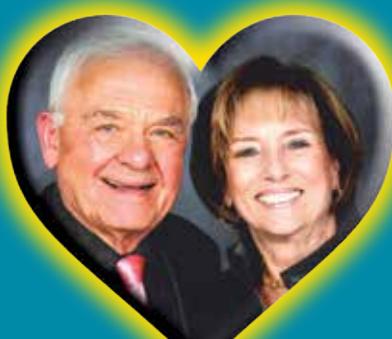
Of course, whichever one you choose is up to you and your partner to agree on. There are advantages and disadvantages to all conventions, and it's up to you to decide what you will be giving up.

Most of the top players prefer to play method (2), as they believe that it is more important not to give needless information to the defence, as happens when using 2♣ Non Promisory Stayman. They also like to use 1NT – 3♣ for some other conventional meaning, so this ultimately leads them to play method (2).

Andy Hung

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BASIC BRIDGE 101 by Chris Hughes

During the regular social drink and discussion after the Thursday night bridge session at our local club, Sarah and her partner, Peter, came over to me and asked me whose fault it was for not bidding a grand slam on board 10. Sarah said that she was sitting East and was dealer and Peter, obviously, was sitting West.

Before Sarah went any further, I said, "I do not want to start a partnership quarrel because sometimes a hand is too difficult to bid to the optimum contract."

Sarah continued, "Peter and I are both interested in your thoughts, and we are eager to learn rather than wishing you to assign specific blame."

"Okay," I said somewhat reluctantly. "It was an interesting hand."

Sarah continued, "I held the following hand and opened 1♣."

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

Peter responded with 2♣ with this hand:

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

I turned to Peter and said, "This all seems very normal, as you need to show your two suits by bidding the longer one first."

Sarah continued, "My hand had 16 HCPs and, once Peter bid a 2 over 1 in clubs, my hand was now enormous with the void in diamonds. I needed to get across the strength of my hand and take control of the auction. Peter and I had agreed to play Minorwood, so I bid 4♣." (*4NT Blackwood is used to ask for key cards when a major suit is trumps. It can also be used when a minor suit is trumps, but a potential problem is that partner's response may commit you to slam when you have insufficient key cards, especially if the trump suit is clubs. To overcome this problem, many pairs use a convention called Minorwood, when the trump suit is a minor, to ask for key cards. A bid of the agreed trump suit at the '4 level' asks for key cards. However, the partnership must be careful to distinguish when, for example, 4♣ is natural and when it is Minorwood. It will not resolve all potential misunderstandings and is a little simplistic but Minorwood, as an initial trial of the convention, should only be used when you jump into '4 of a minor' or the partnership is in a game forcing auction.*)

Sarah continued, "Peter then appeared to look up at the heavens for divine inspiration. I was hoping that he remembered that my jump to 4♣ was Minorwood. I was getting very worried that there might be a misunderstanding. I became more certain that our signals were crossed when he produced a bid of 6♣. What on earth does that mean, I said to myself. All I could do was Pass".

I turned to Peter and asked him what he was thinking of when the 4♣ bid was made. Peter said that he remembered that the 4♣ bid was Minorwood, and he assumed that Sarah intended it this way as they had discussed using this convention only last week. He was duty-bound to answer the number of key cards that he held. He held two key cards in clubs, the ♦A and the ♣K, but he held two voids as well. If he showed only two key cards and Sarah then bid 5♣, what should he do then?

"With eight clubs, I guess that I would just bid 6♣ anyway. So, if I am going to bid 6♣ anyway, I might as well do it now."

Sarah continued, "Please tell us what we could have done differently."

I continued, "This is a very tricky hand and it requires an experienced partnership to get to 7♣ confidently".

"Let us consider what to do over Peter's 2♣ bid. 4♣ is Minorwood, but to ask for key cards with a void is inviting trouble. What are you going to bid if he shows one, two or three key cards? There are a couple of other bids that you could make - 2♥ and then over Peter's next call you can bid 4♣ to show your shape, or 3♦ to show a splinter fit for clubs, and then keep bidding to show a big hand. Now Peter, after 4♣, you did have a virtually impossible bid with your freakish hand. Anything could be right or wrong and 6♣ must be cold or have some play, so you bid appropriately."

I continued, "Now, let's change the auction and introduce another convention that comes up rarely but is useful!"

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

2♣

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

1♣
3♦

"3♦ is a splinter agreeing clubs; now what can Peter do? 4♣ may or may not be Minorwood (depending on your agreements) but even if it was, what does it achieve with two voids? Peter knows that Sarah has one or zero diamonds and a 4-card club raise (with fewer clubs, she would have another bid to make). From Peter's viewpoint, there are no spade or heart losers, as he is void in both and, even if Sarah has one diamond, he can ruff the rest. Therefore, the only concern is what Sarah has in clubs. With A-Q-x-x, you want her to bid 7♣ and with Q-x-x-x, 6♣ is your contract."

"There is a convention called the Grand Slam Force (GSF), which requires that there are no losers outside the trump suit. All one needs to know is what partner's trump holding is. There are several variations and you may use the one that is easiest to remember as it does not come up very often. A convenient method is a jump to 5NT after a major has been agreed, or 5♥ after a minor has been agreed, (5NT can be used but uses up a lot of space), asking about the trump suit only. The responses are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • First step | 1 of the top 3 honours (A, K, Q) |
| • Second step | 2 of the top 3 honours |
| • Reverting to 6-suit | 0 of the top 3 honours |

"Now the auction after 3♦ might go:
5♥ (GSF) 5NT (2 of top 3 honours)
7♣ "

"But these auctions are very tricky without strong partnership understandings, which come with practice."

Chris Hughes

ACTION WHEN PARTNER OPENS 1♠, PLAYING STANDARD

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

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 1♠ | Pass | You? |
| 1. | ♠ 2 ♥ J 6 5 ♦ A 8 4 3 ♣ 10 6 5 3 2 | |
| 2 | ♠ K 3 2 ♥ 10 7 6 4 ♦ Q 6 3 2 ♣ 6 3 | |
| 3 | ♠ 8 7 5 ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ J 9 5 2 | |
| 4 | ♠ K Q ♥ 9 6 5 3 ♦ 6 4 3 2 ♣ 8 7 2 | |
| 5 | ♠ 3 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ K 7 ♣ Q J 10 8 6 3 2 | |
| 6 | ♠ 5 ♥ J 7 ♦ K Q ♣ Q J 10 9 7 6 5 4 | |
| 7 | ♠ 4 ♥ 6 3 ♦ A K 7 ♣ Q J 10 8 6 3 2 | |
| 8 | ♠ 2 ♥ Q J 9 3 ♦ A K 7 6 3 ♣ J 7 3 | |
| 9 | ♠ 3 ♥ A Q J 8 7 3 ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ 6 2 | |

1. Pass. Bridge writers are a bit like dieticians, who invariably recommend the diet that works for them. Certainly, Pass has worked well for me but with 5 HCP and a shortage many experts would rake up a 1NT reply. One thing I like about Pass is that it tests the judgement of the player in fourth seat who may have quite a problem working out whether to call or let the bidding die in 1♠. Their side most likely has 7 spades to your side's 6 but you are only at the 1-level.

If you do reply 1NT you might get lucky if your partner bids a minor but what if partner bids 2♣, 3♣ or 4♣, or 2NT or 3NT? A lot of bad things can happen, whereas if you Pass and opponents re-open you now have a great defensive hand.

2. Pass. If you respond 2♣, there is a big chance opener will bid on and your hand is bound to be a disappointment. My guess is that if the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♣ - 4♣, your partner will make 10+ tricks only about 10% of the time and that's poor odds.

3. 1NT. A poor hand with the worst shape but it is dangerous to pass with 6 HCP, partner could have 18 or 19 HCP. I prefer not to bid 2♣ with such lifeless shape and no ruffing values. A response of 1NT seems sensible and you only require 7 tricks instead of 8 or more.

4. Pass. When this hand came up responder thought he had to do something so bid 2♣. It is not a good idea to be a trump short when you are already a point short. If you feel you should bid, then 1NT is recommended. The 2♣ bid came back to bite them when opponents backed in at the 3-level and they mis-defended

when opener played responder to have three spades.

5. 1NT. An attractive hand with a 7-card suit and 9 (good) HCP but to bid 2♣ then 3♣ is an invitation to game with say 13-14 HCP. Your hand will not look so fancy opposite 11 or 12 HCP balanced. Your best shot is to respond 1NT and hope 1NT is not passed out.

Whatever partner rebids you can then bid 3♣ (weak, non-forcing). However, keep in mind that you do have a good hand and, if opener rebids 2NT over 1NT, you should bid 3NT.

6. 1NT. With an 8-card suit you are close to a 2♣ reply but again you are best not to encourage opener too much, but simply bid 1NT and wait for your chance to bid your clubs.

7. 2♣. I like this hand: every high-card is working full-time, you have stoppers and you have quick tricks. You want to play 3NT if partner has more than a minimum so bid 2♣ and then 3♣, a definite invitation.

8. 1NT. Yes, even with 11 HCP, you are better off to bid 1NT if you have a singleton in partner's major. Imagine you reply 2♦ and opener bids 2♣ to show a minimum, what do you do now? 2NT has little appeal because it is likely that you have a mild misfit and NT is more difficult than an 8-card fit at the same level.

What if opener has a maximum, 14 HCP and a balanced hand – with 25 HCP between you want to be in 3NT. The solution is to upgrade about 75% of your flat 14 HCPs, including many 5-4-2-2s to a 1NT opening. Honours in short suits are a negative, and don't be too concerned with a small doubleton in a suit.

9. 2♥. 6-4 bid more, this is an attractive hand and I am happy to invite game by bidding 2♥ then 3♥ over 2♣.

Paul Lavings



*Barrier Reef Restricted Pairs: Best Pair with Under 100 MPs,
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AROUND THE CLUBS

MACKAY CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB TURNS 50

This year the Mackay Contract Bridge Club is celebrating its golden anniversary. The meeting to form the club was held at the home of Alan and Win Henry on Friday 14th June 1968. The first game was played a week later in the CWA Rooms. In later years, games were played in the St Francis Church Hall and at Meals on Wheels in the evening.

In 1980, the Club leased land from the Council and, with the assistance of a government grant, were able to obtain a bank loan to build their own club house. Mr. Tom Newberry, Member for Mackay at the time, officially opened Mackay Contract Bridge Club House on a date very close to the 22nd anniversary of the club's founding.

After a number of years, the Club realised bigger premises were required. Not only was membership increasing but the Management Committee decided it was time to start running Congresses in Mackay. Fund raising activities included Fashion Parades and Bring & Buy sales complemented another bank loan to provide sufficient funds to double the size of the club house. Comfortable premises and a strong membership made it now viable to invite clubs from around the country to participate in Congress events in Mackay. The club hosted the first Barrier Reef Congress and will be pleased to host the 25th Congress in 2020.

The Club continues to thrive, with many members dedicating their time on a regular basis to maintain the club's smooth operation and to encourage and support new members. The club has 115 current financial members, with skills ranging from raw novice to expert. Our longest serving member is Barbara Tait who, after 45 years, including periods as President and Secretary, is still very active in Club activities. The Club is fortunate enough to be home to six Grand Masters: Ian Afflick, Bessie Baldry, Noel Bugeia, Monica Darley, Kath Poole and Del Ryan.

The 50th Anniversary is being celebrated with a special Teams Congress over the weekend of 16th and 17th June. There will be a celebration dinner on the Saturday evening. Past members including some who attended the inaugural meeting and other special guests have been invited for the celebrations.

Kim Ellaway



2018 Committee Members:

Frances Brown, Robert Carless (Treasurer), Anne Lutz, Janelle Conroy, Lorna Shuttlewood (President), Doone Mitchell, Diane Stokes, Victor Mason (Secretary), Barbara Tait.

HAWKS NEST BRIDGE CLUB

Hawks Nest Bridge Club is part of a small community of ~3000; a community with the dubious distinction of having the highest average age in Australia.

From humble beginnings 22 years ago, our club has grown to just under 100 active Members. In some ways we were a victim of our own success as the choice of venues, in a town of our size, capable of accommodating that number is very small. Playing courtesy of other establishments often meant cancelling sessions when our host had special events.

In 2012, recognising the need for us to be our own master, HNBC started its tortuous journey towards its own clubhouse. Land being expensive was the first hurdle but, after extensive discussions, our Council (then Great Lakes) offered us a long-term lease on an unused car park.

With that locked in place we redoubled our fund raising efforts through savings, donations, innumerable raffles, a market table selling vegetables, jam and eggs, trash 'n' treasure – if there was an opportunity we took it. Our efforts to date total ~\$120,000.

We also started seeking grants and in this we were particularly successful. Donors responded very positively when we explained that bridge was excellent brain exercise for "mature" residents. And, critically, bridge offered huge social benefits in a community where many residents live alone. We also made clear our firm commitment to share our clubhouse with other local like-minded "homeless" groups.

We obtained substantial grants from the NSW and Federal governments and our Council, now MidCoast Council. These, plus a low interest loan through the ABF James O'Sullivan Trust, made the project possible. The support and encouragement given by all four has been awesome.

Our indebtedness as at the Official Opening Ceremony date of 23 March 2018 was \$72,000 so fund raising activities continue as we are determined to keep table fees (\$5) as affordable as possible.

Our pro-bono designed clubhouse holds 28 tables and has a tea room, toilets, an office and parking for 11 cars. This all goes to show what a small determined group can achieve through hard work, determination, generosity and a little luck.

Les Falla, Secretary, Hawks Nest BC



Hawks Nest BC's new clubrooms.