



New South Wales Bridge Association

♠ ♥ Newsletter ♦ ♣

Editor: Steve Hurley

Chairman's corner

As I write, the Spring Nationals have just begun. The teams and pairs events at the weekend (including the new Novice pairs) are looking strong and well supported.



Thanks once again to the conveners, Marcia and John Scudder, who have continued where they left off with the ANC and worked hard to bring this tournament together.

The NSWBA has been looking at our State tournaments, how they are organised, which players they target, etc. As a result we are planning to try a couple of new things in 2015:

- The State Seniors pairs will be run in conjunction with Seniors week in March and will be conducted wholly online using BBO.
- A new event for players in the 0-100 masterpoint range (who constitute a significant majority of players) with the emphasis on play at a local and regional level without the need to travel to Sydney for a final.

Finally, Bruce Minchinton has recently relocated to Victoria and consequently stepped down from his role as NSWBA Metropolitan zone councillor. I would like to thank him for his contributions and welcome Cath Whiddon as his replacement.

Happy bridging

Julian Foster
NSWBA Chairman



The Spring Nationals

The 2014 Spring Nationals were conducted over a week: 29 October to 6 November 2014

The main event, the Spring National Open Teams (and no, I will not be using an acronym for this event) attracted 48 teams. After 9 rounds of qualifying, the top four places played were HANS (Sartaj Hans - Tom Jacob - Michael Whibley - Paul Gosney - David Beauchamp - Ishmael Del'Monte), HORWITZ (Helen Horwitz - Matthew Thomson - Peter Gill - Justin Howard - Peter Hollands), HOFFMAN (David Hoffman - Margaret Bourke - Tim Bourke - David Smith - Felicity Beale - Robbie Van Riel), and NEILL (Bruce Neill - Arjuna De Livera - Simon Hinge - Kim Morrison - Avinash Kanetkar - Ian Thomson).

The semifinals lined up with HANS playing HOFFMAN and HORWITZ playing NEILL in the semifinals.

HANS went in with a 14 IMP carry forward from the qualifying and won each 14-board set to win the semifinal comfortably. HORWITZ had a smaller 7 IMP carry forward, then lost the first stanza to be 25 IMPs behind before powering to a strong second stanza win and they were not headed.

The final was between HANS and HORWITZ, with HANS taking a 14 IMP carry forward. Each 14-board stanza of the final was a tight affair, with no stanza being won by greater than 3 IMPs. And so it was that the carryover had a bearing, and HANS team won the 2014 Sydney Spring National Teams 97 to 85 IMPS.

A second event, the 'Two Men and a Truck' teams, was run jointly for restricted players with less than 300 masterpoints. With 14 teams, the winner was MCAULIFFE (Michael McAuliffe, Richard McAuliffe, Leigh Matheson, Lavy Libman, Tomer Libman) comfortably ahead on 97.60 VPs, with PIKE (Allan Pike, Arthur Bragg, David Snow, Michael Ronai) second on 78.25 VPs, and MIETZKE (Craig Mietzke, David Emmerson, Bruce Nelan, Susan Nelan) third on 71.32 VPs.

Across the weekend, three pair events were conducted. These were unusual in that a modified scoring method was used: the results were match pointed then converted to a victory point scale. It was pairs scoring with teams results. Each event was played over 12 rounds of 8 boards per stanza.

The Dick Cummings Open Swiss Pairs attracted 94 pairs. Towards the end of the event Milne - Coutts were ensconced at table 1, with Thomson - De Livera 1 VP behind, then a gap to Neil Ewart - Chris Quail third. The final round saw Thomson-De Livera claim a good win over Ewart - Quail, with Milne - Coutts losing to Hurley - Hurley, with the final placings being Ian Thomson - Arjuna De Livera first on 240 VPs, Liam Milne - James Coutts second on 227, and Steve Hurley - Liz Hurley third on 218.

The Ted Chadwick Restricted Swiss Pairs was limited to players with less than 300 masterpoints and attracted 36 pairs. Michael McAuliffe and Richard McAuliffe went to the first place after round 5 and were not headed, although David Snow and Michael Ronai (second) and Allen Pike and Chris Duggan (third) gave a good chase.

The Novice Swiss Pairs was limited to players with less than 100 masterpoints and attracted 18 pairs. Like a good horse race where the event was played, the contenders at the novice pairs jostled and exchanged positions coming down to the finishing post. After the fanfare and throwing of losing stubs in the air, Gary Kembrey - Andrew Grace had charged to first with a solid win, Gordon Cooke - ThiHong Pham finishing second with a big win, and Keith Napier - Morag Napier coming in third.

In the second week, the fields changed to the fillies and the stayers, with the Linda Stern Women's Teams, and the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams.

After the qualifying rounds for the Linda Stern Women's Teams, the top two places in Pool A were KAPLAN (Rena Kaplan - Eva Caplan - Di Smart - Felicity Beale) and CAINS (Yvonne Cains - Saima King - Anne Rutter - Jenny Michael). The top two places in Pool B were TRAVIS (Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg - Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk) and PITT (Helene Pitt - Ruth Tobin - Pauline Evans - Greer Tucker). In the semifinals KAPLAN played PITT, with PITT winning decisively. And in the second semifinal, TRAVIS played CAINS, with TRAVIS also winning decisively. With a negligible carry over for TRAVIS, the final between TRAVIS and PITT was tight, with TRAVIS taking an early lead from the barrier. But around the back, PITT urged her team on to bring the contest back to 2 IMPS margin with one stanza to go. However down the home straight, TRAVIS had some in reserve and ran away winners 129 IMPS to 99.

The Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams was run jointly with the Linda Stern Women's Teams. The top two places in first Pool were KLINGER (Ron Klinger - Bill Haughie - Paul Lavings - Robert Krochmalik - Peter Buchen - Henry Christie) and FORDHAM (Peter Fordham - Chris Sundstrom - Ross Stuart - Richard Douglas). And the top two places in second Pool were BRIGHTLING (Richard Brightling - David Hoffman - Andrew Braithwaite - Robbie Van Riel - Neil Ewart - Chris Quail) and NEILL (Bruce Neill - Arjuna De Livera - Simon Hinge - Kim Morrison).

In the semifinals, KLINGER played NEILL in an ebb and flow affair, with KLINGER winning by about 13 IMPS; and BRIGHTLING played FORDHAM, and after a slow start, won in a canter. The final was between KLINGER and BRIGHTLING, with KLINGER taking a strong lead after the first stanza, BRIGHTLING clawing some back with stanzas two and three leaving them 13 IMPS in arrears. And in the final stanza, KLINGER had a small win to claim the title by 17 IMPS.

The Oaks is traditionally a day for the ladies (in November at least). Presumably this was not that day as there were a few fillies in need of some make-up and a good shave. The event attracted 36 pairs conducted over two sessions, with the winners being Vanessa Brown - Linden Raymond (126.47%), second Marlene Watts - Michael Wilkinson (119.28%), and third Connie Schoutrop - Beveley Stacey (117.32%).

The weekend was memorable in another way. Perched high in the grandstand, the players looked out over the greenery and gardens of the beautiful Canterbury Park Racecourse. Then for several periods of five minutes or so, the course was beset by some of the wildest weather as wind and rain lashed the area and upended furniture and blew down sizeable branches. A truly remarkable display of Mother Nature.



Eight-card suits at the Spring Nationals Open Teams

Does your bidding system appropriately cater for 8-card suits?

You might think that's a silly question. After all, who designs a bidding system to cater for things that hardly ever turn up? Systems are all about differentiating forcing from non-forcing bids, and methods for handling commonly occurring tricky situations, not for exotica.

However, the Canterbury Park Racecourse is apparently a breeding ground for 8-card suits, so if you want to play in an event there, you'd better have an approach worked out!

My first evidence in support of this claim is the ANC Butler, which was played at Canterbury in July this year: on the opening day of Stage 1, there were 4 hands that contained 8-card suits (see the [eBulletin](http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/anc/2014/ebull.asp?id=41) <http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/anc/2014/ebull.asp?id=41>)

At the time, I quoted David Beauchamp's memorable line: "What's an 8-card suit?" "Trumps!"

Perhaps in light of what I've seen since, the approach one could take is that when holding such length, it's not unreasonable to extend the idea of "when in doubt, bid one more" to "... bid two more!"

One hand from that earlier event, in Round 4 of Stage 1, illustrated the virtues of overbidding when holding an 8-card suit. Only 11 of 36 in the Open and 3 of 15 in the Women's reached 6C, but it was absolutely cold.

| | | |
|----------|-----------|--------|
| Board 10 | ♠ | |
| Dealer E | ♥T62 | |
| Vul Both | ♦97 | |
| | ♣AKQ98762 | |
| ♠JT8752 | | ♠KQ643 |
| ♥J7 | | ♥A9853 |
| ♦Q842 | | ♦T3 |
| ♣5 | | ♣J |
| | ♠A9 | |
| | ♥KQ4 | |
| | ♦AKJ65 | |
| | ♣T43 | |

On the third day of the Qualifying, East was dealt 3 hands with 8-card suits! Firstly this in Round 7:

| | | |
|----------|--------|-----------|
| Board 8 | ♠QT96 | |
| Dealer W | ♥K | |
| Vul None | ♦J9654 | |
| | ♣T97 | |
| ♠A8732 | | ♠ |
| ♥AJ763 | | ♥T2 |
| ♦KQ2 | | ♦AT3 |
| ♣ | | ♣AKQ86432 |
| | ♠KJ54 | |
| | ♥Q9854 | |
| | ♦87 | |
| | ♣J5 | |

Following the "bid two more" principle, this is at least an automatic 6C after partner opens and then shows 2 aces. Remarkably, 11 out of 48 EW pairs stopped in game. In contrast, another 7 pairs took the above principle very seriously and proceeded to bid the grand slam – successfully!

Then in Round 9, East had another two chances:

Board 10
 Dealer E
 Vul Both

♠ K932
 ♥ KJ952
 ♦ 92
 ♣ 52

♠ JT5
 ♥ AQ763
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ AJ8

♠ A8
 ♥
 ♦ AJ3
 ♣ KQT97643

♠ Q764
 ♥ T84
 ♦ KT8764
 ♣

The hand might be good enough to consider upgrading to a strong 2C, otherwise a fake reverse into 2D after partner's 1H response to 1C should allow a game-forcing sequence to be established. Again partner has aces to spare and again slam should be automatic. For all but 7 pairs, it was. One has to have some sympathy for the 3 pairs who went on to 7C, which unfortunately is doomed.

As if East hadn't had enough fun, 9 boards later ...

Board 19
 Dealer S
 Vul E-W

♠ JT63
 ♥ AJ6
 ♦ 63
 ♣ T985

♠ Q9754
 ♥ 873
 ♦ 42
 ♣ K63

♠ 8
 ♥ 5
 ♦ AKQJT975
 ♣ A74

♠ AK2
 ♥ KQT942
 ♦ 8
 ♣ QJ2

On the "bid two more" principle, no matter how the NS bidding commences, East simply bids 5D. This hand was the source of much angst because of its squeeze potential and the illusion in clubs which makes it very difficult for South to defend accurately. Scores swung wildly across the room, with 17 declarers making 5D (12 doubled) while 17 went down. (For more on this, see the [Bulletin](http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/spnot/2014/ebull.asp?id=24) at <http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/spnot/2014/ebull.asp?id=24>).

In the semi-finals, another 8-card suit came along, this time without any supporting values. When in doubt, bid two more ... opening 4H stopped EW finding their cold 4S for an 11 IMP gain.

Board 9
 Dealer N
 Vul E-W

♠ T2
 ♥ QJT87653
 ♦ 73
 ♣ 2

♠ KJ93
 ♥ K42
 ♦ AT2
 ♣ QT3

♠ AQ6
 ♥ A
 ♦ K95
 ♣ J98654

♠ 8754
 ♥ 9
 ♦ QJ864
 ♣ AK7

Rakesh Kumar

The Dick Cummings Pairs

The premier pairs event of the Spring Nationals, the Dick Cummings Pairs, provided its fair share of interesting hands.

With EW vul against NS not vul, as South, you hold:

♠ AQT9
 ♥ 76
 ♦ KJ8
 ♣ AQT9

Preparing to bid 1NT, East opens before you with 1H. With no Heart stop but 4 Spades, a double is now best. The next hand passed, and partner bids 1S, minimum values with Spades. East is undeterred and bids 3H. With more than a basic takeout double, you compete with 3S, and partner ups the ante, bidding 4S. After two passes, West thinks and comes to life with 5H. You double with defensive values and 5HX became the final contract.

Summarising, the auction went:

| East | South | West | North |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1H | X | P | 1S |
| 3H | 3S | P | 4S |
| P | P | 5H | P |
| P | X | All pass | |

Your lead. Partner has minimal values and anything but Hearts is fraught with giving a trick away. When the opposition have bid on thin high card values, it is usually best to draw trumps to reduce their ruffs. So you lead a Heart. Dummy came down.

♠ 7
♥ Q953
♦ QT952
♣ 754

So what's the situation? This is pairs scoring. West has pushed vul against not, with great respect for East's declarer skills, along with an expectation that the Diamond suit will likely produce tricks. With East's bidding indicating most of the remaining values, you can expect to win the two aces and the K Diamonds, but if NS can make 4H, one off will only be 200 against the other NS pairs making 420. So another trick is required.

Declarer wins the first trick in hand and plays a second high trump. Partner has no more trumps and discards the 3S. With trumps drawn, declarer plays the AD then another D. With no reason to hold up, you win the K and partner follows. With the Diamonds set up and entries to them via Spade ruffs, you can now cash out for one off. But partner has played the 3S, and in your methods, this is an encouraging card.

It's time to bite the bullet. Underleading the Ace, you play the 9S. Partner wins the KS and switches to the obvious choice of Clubs, through the KC, and providing NS with a second defensive trick for a penalty of 500.

The full hand was:

♠ K8643
♥ 4
♦ 764
♣ J862

♠ 7 ♠ J52
♥ Q953 ♥ AKJT82
♦ QT952 ♦ A3
♣ 754 ♣ K3

♠ AQT9
♥ 76
♦ KJ8
♣ AQT9

A second hand. You have the following hand and the bidding has been three passes to you.

♠ 84
♥ J94
♦ AQJT6
♣ K85

If you pass, the hand will be passed in. What do you do?

For minimum values, you have a nice hand and can rebid your Diamonds. With three passes to you, the hands appear to have roughly the same 10 or so points around the table. So if you open and the opposition has the majors, they will likely compete and outbid you in a part score with higher ranking suits. And you are short in both majors.

So the answer is to pass.

The actual hand was:

♠ AQ53
♥ QT5
♦ K42
♣ 742

♠ 84 ♠ T2
♥ J94 ♥ A8732
♦ AQJT6 ♦ 987
♣ K85 ♣ A96

♠ KJ976
♥ K6
♦ 53
♣ QJT3

NS competed with Spades and easily made 9 tricks.

Lastly, a quirky hand. Sitting West, with EW not vul and NS vul, you hold:

♠ 5
♥ 82
♦ AKQJT2
♣ KQT53

Partner is first to bid and the auction proceeds:

| East | South | West | North |
|-------|-------|------|-------|
| P | P | 1D | 2C |
| X (1) | P | ??? | |

(1) Take out

It's your bid. This is pairs, and as partner initially passed, game is unlikely. With NS vul and with powerful Clubs, 'pass' looks like a good option to convert the takeout double and pick up 200 or a greater penalty against a part score for EW. Do you pass?

If you do, bad luck. The full hand is below. North had a powerhouse, chose to overcall, and had no problem racking up 8 tricks on a Spade lead.

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| ♠ A | |
| ♥ AK43 | |
| ♦ 6 | |
| ♣ AJ98642 | |
| ♠ 5 | ♠ QJT94 |
| ♥ 82 | ♥ QJT75 |
| ♦ AKQJT2 | ♦ J94 |
| ♣ KQT53 | ♣ - |
| ♠ K87632 | |
| ♥ 96 | |
| ♦ 8753 | |
| ♣ 7 | |

Normally North would have doubled then bid Clubs to show a hand too strong to overcall, but with a gappy suit, vulnerable, and wanting a club lead, chose to bid a quiet 2C instead.

As West, the percentage option is to pass, and only sometimes do you get a bloody nose.

Steve Hurley

A Most Unusual Trump Coup

Have you ever seen a trump coup in which the J2 is trapped by the A3? Not only did it happen on the following hand, it was the defence that won the last two tricks.

It all occurred on the last night of the NSWBA State Teams in the Swiss repechage.

Board 12 ♠ J65
 Dealer W ♥ AK3
 Vul NS ♦ A854
 ♣ Q63

| | | |
|--------|---------|---------|
| ♠ A3 | | ♠ KQT94 |
| ♥ J92 | | ♥ T754 |
| ♦ QJ62 | | ♦ K73 |
| ♣ AK75 | | ♣ 8 |
| | ♠ 872 | |
| | ♥ Q86 | |
| | ♦ T9 | |
| | ♣ JT942 | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| Morrison | Gumby | Buchen | Lazer |
| 1NT | P | 2C | P |
| 2D | P | 2H | All pass |

By agreement, East's sequence showed precisely 5 spades and 4 hearts and invitational values opposite the 15-17 NT opening. Maybe East with his good 8-count should insist on game, maybe West should convert to 2♠ or 2NT, but no one did anything clearly wrong and the final contract of 2♥ was certainly reasonable.

South led the ♣J and dummy's Ace won the trick. If spades are 3-3, then 3NT has an easy 9 tricks, so it is probably reasonable to play for spades to break 4-2. Play proceeded as follows. The ♦Q was led at trick 2, ducked all round. ♣A (pitching diamond) and a club ruff. ♠K, spade to dummy's Ace and dummy's last club was ruffed whilst North pitched the ♠J.

The position after trick 7 was:

Board 12 ♠ -
 Dealer W ♥ AK3
 Vul NS ♦ A85
 ♣ -

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| ♠ - | | ♠ QT9 |
| ♥ J92 | | ♥ T7 |
| ♦ J62 | | ♦ K |
| ♣ - | | ♣ - |
| | ♠ 8 | |
| | ♥ Q86 | |
| | ♦ T | |
| | ♣ J | |

Declarer continued playing the \spadesuit K, North won the Ace and continued the suit. This was ruffed with the \heartsuit 10 and South overruffed with the Q. East's invitational values (\spadesuit KQ & \diamondsuit K) and exact shape meant East's hand was now an open book. As he had just one trump left, South continued with the \heartsuit 8. This was covered by Dummy's 9 and North won the King as West followed with the 7. This was the position at trick 10, with North on lead.

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Board 12 | \spadesuit - | |
| Dealer W | \heartsuit A3 | |
| Vul NS | \diamondsuit 8 | |
| | \clubsuit - | |
| \spadesuit - | | \spadesuit QT9 |
| \heartsuit J2 | | \heartsuit - |
| \diamondsuit J | | \diamondsuit - |
| \clubsuit - | | \clubsuit - |
| | \spadesuit 8 | |
| | \heartsuit 6 | |
| | \diamondsuit - | |
| | \clubsuit J | |

At trick 11, North led \diamondsuit 8 and south trumped as dummy followed suit. A black suit lead now meant that North made both the \heartsuit A and \heartsuit 3 for down 1. Declarer won the first 7 tricks, the defence the last 6.

Warren Lazar

The lonely hearts club

This came from a selection event to choose a national team. East-West had a laydown slam, but half the field played in game.

East dealer : Nil vulnerable

\spadesuit 4
 \heartsuit AKJ7642
 \diamondsuit 962
 \clubsuit A6

What opening action would you take as East?

Here is the full hand.

\spadesuit QJT96
 \heartsuit T3
 \diamondsuit 5
 \clubsuit QT852

\spadesuit A53 \spadesuit 4
 \heartsuit Q985 \heartsuit AKJ7642
 \diamondsuit A4 \diamondsuit 962
 \clubsuit K974 \clubsuit A6

\spadesuit K872
 \heartsuit -
 \diamondsuit KQJT873
 \clubsuit J3

Some successful auctions to reach the best EW contract of 6H were:

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1H | 2D |
| 3D (1) | P | 4C (2) | 4D |
| 6H | All pass | | |
| | (1) Strong heart raise | | |
| | (2) Cue-bid | | |

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1H | 3D |
| 4D (1) | P | 4NT | P |
| 5S (2) | P | 6H | All pass |
| | (1) Strong heart raise | | |
| | (2) Two key cards plus the HQ | | |

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 4H | 5D |
| 6H | All pass | | |

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 4H | 5D |
| 6H | X | All pass | |

In this last auction, 6H was doubled. North was hoping partner might have the DA or some defensive values for the 5D bid. East had no trouble racking up twelve tricks for +1210 and +10 Imps, as the datum was E-W 730.

Some other auctions included:

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1H | 2D |
| 3D (1) | P | 4H | X (2) |
| XX | 4S | 5H | All pass |

- (1) Strong heart raise
(2) Takeout double

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 4H | 5D |
| 5H | All pass | | |

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1H | 2D |
| 3D (1) | P | 4C (2) | P |
| 4H | All pass | | |

- (1) Strong heart raise
(2) Cue Bid

Once East took a cue-bid with 4C, West could have continued cue-bidding with 4D. Once partner makes a cue-bid, you can cue-bid below game without promising extra values.

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | 1H | X |
| 4H | 4S | 5H | 5S |
| X | All pass | | |

Declarer lost the obvious 4 tricks for –300 and +10 Imps to N-S and the best N-S result.

Ron Klinger

Ed. This hand is interesting for bidding as it raises a number of important concepts. It would be worthwhile to consider and even discuss with your partner how you would bid the hand. Consider:

- *The opening bid. Would you open 1H or 4H? It is by partnership agreement, but pre-empts are best reserved for more trumps and less high card values.*
- *Overcalls. How would you show both the long minor and 4-card boss suit?*
- *Raise of partner's opening. How do you show a good suit raise with and without high card values? A cue raise typically shows good values.*
- *The power of Aces and Kings. No wasted values when there are shortages.*

Be a good sport – Part 2

(This is the second part of the article reproduced from the Ethics page on the NSWBA website <http://nswba.com.au/member/ethics.html>)

No trickery, no tip-offs

You must not try to help your partner or fool your opponents by anything but the bids you make and cards you play ... bridge is not poker!

- Don't tip partner off – and ignore partner's tips. Ethical players will try to avoid revealing mannerisms, and make a point of ignoring any information they accidentally get from partner's hesitations or mannerisms.
- Don't deceive the opponents by hesitations or mannerisms. If you accidentally hesitate without a problem, apologise: "sorry – I didn't have any reason to hesitate. I was asleep!"

Correct misexplanations as soon as you can

If partner accidentally misinforms the opponents, you can't give a correction during the bidding (because you mustn't tell partner the correct explanation).

- If your side becomes declarer, you **must** give the correct explanation **before** the opponents make their opening lead.
- If your side ends up defending, apologise and give the correct explanation at the end of the hand. Call the director if opponents may have been damaged – that's why he's there!

Hesitations

- You are allowed to think! But if you do take a long time over something, it shows you had other choices. Your partner must not use that information to influence what they do later.
- If partner hesitates, you can still pass, double or bid whatever you want (but without – even subconsciously – using the knowledge that partner apparently had other options).

The GNOT Sydney Metropolitan Final 2014

The Metropolitan Final was played over the weekend of 11-12 October, with a knockout section qualifying two teams to the national final, and a Swiss repechage qualifying another two teams. Those qualifying from the knockout were decided by lunchtime on Sunday, while everyone else played through the afternoon – for most teams, therefore, the event is 8 × 14-board matches.

This year, there were 43 teams, including a number of teams as direct entries. The qualifying teams from the knockout were LAZER (Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Mathew Vadas, Martin Bloom) and MUNDELL (Giselle Mundell, Avril Zets, Robert Sebesfi, Peter Jeffery). The top two teams from the Swiss were WILKINSON (Michael Wilkinson, Susan Crompton, Julian Foster, Michael Prescott, Marlene Watts, David Weston) and SMEE (David Smee, Gary Lane, Steven Bock, Les Grewcock, Peter Wood, Leo Goorevich).

The event is a great opportunity to play a lot of bridge in a sizeable field of good to excellent teams. As is often the way in long teams events, bidding thin games and getting to making slams is what it's all about – no guts, no glory. Of course there were horror stories – reviewing the scores, I could see quite a few 4-digit penalties and even the occasional postcode. However, I think it's more instructive to look at hands that illustrate how aggressive bidding can be successful, and how one's methods can change might-have-beens into great results. I don't have the stories from around the room for most of these hands, so I'll tell you the tale from my own perspective. Let's start with a couple of games.

Round 4 Board 28

Board 28 ♠ 7643
 Dealer W ♥ 9
 Vul N-S ♦ K8654
 ♣ AQJ

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ A ♥ KT3 ♦ J97 ♣ K86532 | | ♠ J85 ♥ QJ8754 ♦ Q3 ♣ T4 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|

♠ KQT92
 ♥ A62
 ♦ AT2
 ♣ 97

At our table, West opened 1C, partner overcalled 1D, East passed and I bid 1S. West blithely bid 2C and partner raised to 2S. Now what? This question obviously baffled quite a few, as less than half the field reached game. I didn't find the most appropriate inquiry bid, which would have been 3H as a long suit trial – this would certainly have induced partner to bid a prompt 4S, which can make 12 tricks.

Hopefully you would have done better on that first hand. But would you have bid this?

Board 10 ♠ QT4
 Dealer E ♥ AKJ8
 Vul Both ♦ 85
 ♣ 9652

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ AJ852 ♥ 5 ♦ T762 ♣ T43 | | ♠ 6 ♥ Q62 ♦ AKJ94 ♣ AQJ7 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|

♠ K973
 ♥ T9743
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ K8

At our table, after 1D-1S-3C, Loraine Neville sitting West jumped straight to 5D. She said "We were vulnerable so I thought we should be in game" and she was right! A couple of Easts were allowed to get away with making 3NT, but most played part-score contracts in diamonds. Our opponents were among the few to reach the unbreakable contract. The double-digit IMP loss on this board evicted us from the knock-out section, so we joined everyone else in the Swiss.

The next board was a fine display of gutsy bidding by my partner, George Finikiotis.


Board 26 ♠ AK82
 Dealer E ♥ QT8
 Vul Both ♦ A3
 ♣ K762

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ JT54 ♥ 952 ♦ Q652 ♣ 84 | | ♠ Q976 ♥ K763 ♦ KJ4 ♣ JT |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|

♠ 3
 ♥ AJ4
 ♦ T987
 ♣ AQ953

After 1C-1S-2C, George bid 2D (ostensibly natural, but unambiguously forcing), which I unsuspectingly raised to 3D. George now bid 4C, which set suit and was RKCB, in response to which I showed 2 keycards plus the queen, but no outside king. Thus George was one of only 2 in the entire room to reach 6C. Of course everything hinged on the heart finesse, but fortunately this worked. George's logic was that even a minimum opening hand (7 losers) opposite his hand (on the face of it, 6 losers, but upgraded because of 2 aces and the 4-card fit) ought to be able to make slam if we had the necessary controls, which it seemed we did ...

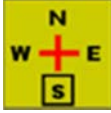
Now to a hand that proved to be much too hard for the field. Only 4 pairs bid to 6S, while two bid 6NT and somehow made it.

| | | | |
|----------|--|--------|--------|
| Board 18 | ♠AK54 | | ♠J7 |
| Dealer E | ♥AJ3 | | ♥QT85 |
| Vul N-S | ♦K4 | | ♦82 |
| | ♣AQ93 | | ♣KT852 |
| ♠Q63 |  | ♠J7 | |
| ♥K976 | | ♥QT85 | |
| ♦T53 | | ♦82 | |
| ♣J64 | | ♣KT852 | |
| | ♠T982 | | |
| | ♥42 | | |
| | ♦AQJ976 | | |
| | ♣7 | | |

After 2NT-3C (puppet Stayman)-3D (a 4-card major)-3H (4 spades)-3S, I pondered long and hard about whether I dared to explore and whether partner might get into trouble in 5S if we didn't hold the necessary controls, but my eventual sign-off in 4S was chickening out altogether too early. It couldn't cost to cue 4D, showing first round control, which would have elicited 4H from partner. Then I could have bid 4NT RKCB, which would have revealed partner's 4 keycards, and perhaps we would have got there. I'll never know.


One would have thought this next hand wouldn't be quite so hard. However, only 8 declarers bid and made 6S, although another half a dozen were in it and managed to go down.

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Board 23 | ♠QJ92 |
| Dealer S | ♥85 |
| Vul Both | ♦KQT94 |
| | ♣AK |

| | | |
|--------|---|-------|
| ♠T3 |  | ♠84 |
| ♥KQ743 | | ♥J62 |
| ♦J52 | | ♦A763 |
| ♣752 | | ♣JT86 |
| | ♠AK765 | |
| | ♥AT9 | |
| | ♦8 | |
| | ♣Q943 | |

At our table the auction began 1S-2NT (Jacoby, promising 15+ hcp with slam interest in our style)-3D (shortage). This discouraged partner, who signed off in 4S, but South's notional 6-loser hand seemed well worth another try, so for a change I found some courage and bid 5H as a cue. On hearing this, partner promptly bid 6S. The ♥K was duly led, so the only sensible line now is ♠AK, ♠Q and ♠A. When trumps break 2-2 the second heart is discarded on ♣Q and there is no further problem.

Finally, a hand from the last round that needed both guts and good methods.

| | | | |
|----------|---|--------|--------|
| Board 15 | ♠K8 | | ♠KJ94 |
| Dealer S | ♥AKJT8 | | ♥3 |
| Vul N-S | ♦QT | | ♦J6432 |
| | ♣Q854 | | ♣J73 |
| ♠6 |  | ♠KJ94 | |
| ♥765 | | ♥3 | |
| ♦K9875 | | ♦J6432 | |
| ♣T962 | | ♣J73 | |
| | ♠AT7532 | | |
| | ♥Q942 | | |
| | ♦A | | |
| | ♣AK | | |

After 1S-2H, Standard American bidding has a hard time finding the grand slam, because 3H isn't forcing to game. An immediate 4NT RKCB will confirm possession of all the keycards, but finding the ♠K is very tricky. Even those playing specific king asks after the RKCB response could get into difficulty, as spades is opener's first suit so there is room for much misunderstanding. Two-over-one or a strong club system would fare better, but it would help to be playing multi cue bids (showing either first or second round control) which would allow North to bid 3S after South sets suit with 3H. Only 2 pairs bid and made the grand – unfortunately for us, one of those was North-South at our team-mates' table!

Rakesh Kumar

The teams to represent the Sydney Metropolitan area, in seeding order, are:

Sydney 1: Liam Milne, Nye Griffiths, Paul Gosney, Tony Nunn, Michael Whibley

Sydney 2: David Beauchamp, Terry Brown, Peter Buchen, Avi Kanetkar, Kim Morrison

Sydney 3: Fraser Rew, Nicholas Rodwell, Orlando Wu, John Newman

Sydney 4: Andre Korenhof, Carola Hoogervorst, Helena Dawson, Maurits Van Der Vlugt

Sydney 5: Michael Wilkinson, Susan Crompton, Julian Foster, Michael Prescott, Marlene Watts, David Weston

Sydney 6: Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Mathew Vadas, Martin Bloom

Sydney 7: Giselle Mundell, Avril Zets, Robert Sebesfi, Peter Jeffery

Sydney 8: David Smee, Gary Lane, Steven Bock, Les Grewcock, Peter Wood, Leo Goorevich

Grand Designs

Here is Board 15, 04-Sep-2014, NSWBA which is more notable for its play rather than its bidding. The contract is 7S by South (clearly some optimistic bidding, but the Finesse God is smiling on N-S). Will the contract make or go down on best play and defence?

♠ AQT5
♥ AQ87
♦ J6
♣ J62

| | |
|--------|--------|
| ♠ 874 | ♠ 92 |
| ♥ K42 | ♥ J963 |
| ♦ T732 | ♦ K95 |
| ♣ Q97 | ♣ T843 |

♠ KJ63
♥ T5
♦ AQ84
♣ AK5

It's easy to see that a club lead from West allows declarer home immediately, by rising with JC and taking both red finesses and ruffing two hearts high in hand (including leading to dummy's AS to take the last ruff). A red lead is much more interesting: it allows declarer to take the red finesses and ruff two

hearts high in hand, again via a lead to AS. West has to under-ruff the last heart to avoid throwing a crucial minor card. Then cross back to dummy in spades to draw trumps. Even if East has managed the under-ruff earlier, he is now caught in a ruffing squeeze as follows:

♠ T5
♥ -
♦ -
♣ J62

| | |
|-------|--------|
| ♠ - | ♠ - |
| ♥ - | ♥ - |
| ♦ T7 | ♦ K |
| ♣ Q97 | ♣ T843 |

♠ -
♥ -
♦ 84
♣ AK5

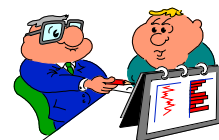
Declarer leads TS from dummy, and throws the C5 from hand. If East throws a club, declarer cashes AC and KC to drop the QC, and dummy's trump and JC take the last two tricks. If instead East throws a diamond, a club is led to AC, a diamond is ruffed, removing the final diamond each from both opponents, and a club goes to the KC and the good diamond.

Can the contract be beaten? Yes - an initial trump lead perhaps surprisingly gums up declarer's communications and he can't quite get everything done.

Martin Clear

Jacoby Transfers

There are good reasons why transfers work very well. The main one is that the strong hand becomes the declarer.



TRANSFERS WITH A WEAK HAND

Let's look at the following auction. You hold:

♠ 85
♥ 987643
♦ 762
♣ 74

Your partner opens 1NT. Your hand is definitely not a joy to behold. You would like to play in hearts but would much prefer the stronger hand to play the contract. You must bid the suit below the one you would like partner to bid. So you bid 2D which shows at least 5 hearts. Partner **must** bid 2H accepting the transfer. You now pass knowing that you have reached the best contract.

Now let's change the hand slightly:

♠ 876432
♥ 543
♦ 965
♣ 7

You now have a six-card spade suit. Partner again opens 1NT and you now respond 2H. Partner bids 2S and you pass. In both examples you have shown your major suit and ensured that partner plays the hand.



TRANSFERS WITH AN INTERMEDIATE HAND

We now need to look at how to handle hands with 8-9 points and a 5-card major.

♠ 65
♥ A8764
♦ KJ5
♣ 742

Your partner opens 1NT. You now bid 2D which again shows at least five hearts. At this stage partner does not know if you are weak or strong but he must rebid 2H even if he has two small hearts. You now rebid 2NT. You have described your hand perfectly. You have five hearts, 8-9 high card points and a balanced hand. Partner has four choices:

1. Pass with 2 hearts and 15-16
2. Bid 3H with three or four hearts and 15-16
3. Bid 3NT with 2 hearts and 17-18
4. Bid 4H with three or four hearts and 17-18

With a different hand

♠ A86432
♥ 65
♦ Q65
♣ 72

Over 1NT you bid 2H and partner bids 2S. You know there is a spade fit as partner must have at least two spades to open 1NT. Your hand is now 8 total points. If partner has 17-18 you would like to be in 4S (not 3NT). So your rebid is 3S, which is invitational and guarantees a six-card suit. Partner must bid 4S with a maximum or pass with a minimum. (Remember that he can now add any distribution points (but not Qx or Jx).

Let's now change the hand:

♠ A986432
♥ 6
♦ Q65
♣ 72

This time your hand is worth 10 total points (three for the singleton heart and one for the doubleton club) so you must jump to 4S.

Remember, you have shown a 5-card suit by transferring to it so when you rebid your suit after a transfer, you are showing 6-card suit (or more).

TRANSFERS WITH A STRONG HAND

We now need to look at how to handle hands with 10 + points and at least five spades or hearts.



♠ K5
♥ A8764
♦ KJ5
♣ 74

Your partner opens 1NT. You respond 2D and partner rebids 2H. You must now jump to 3NT. Partner has 2 choices: pass 3NT with only two hearts or bid 4H with three or four hearts.

♠ A8764
♥ KJ72
♦ A3
♣ 72

You respond 2H to partner's 1NT and partner rebids 2S. You now rebid 3H to show five spades and four hearts. A change of suit after a transfer is forcing, so partner raises to 4H with H's or bids 3NT which becomes the final contract.

On your toes ...

Take the West seat for this deal from a recent duplicate. You're hot against not, in second chair. RHO passes and you hold:

♠ KQ
♥ KJ7
♦ KQ95
♣ KT76

With this partner, you are playing 1NT as 15-17 points, so this 17-count will do just fine thanks. You open 1NT to hear LHO and partner pass. RHO chimes in with a 2♥ overcall. There's no alert, so no funny business. It's just showing hearts. So the auction has gone:

| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | P |
| 1NT | P | P | 2H |
| ??? | | | |

Should you do something other than pass now?

If you pass, partner gets another go and knows a whole lot more about this deal than you do. Maybe you should leave it to partner. A good rule (here at the two-level) is, with 3+ cards in their suit, let them play! You might make an exception with a decent 5-card spade suit. So you pass, as do LHO and partner. 2♥ is the final contract.

What should you lead?

The standout leads are the ♠K or the ♦K.

Which is better?

Leading the ♠K is angling for a ruff.

Is this the right situation to try to get a ruff?

Here is a list of the ideal conditions in which to short suit yourself so as to get a ruff:

- 1) You have 2 or 3 low trumps
- 2) You have nothing useful in the suit which you will be ruffing
- 3) Partner has plenty of entries

So I guess you've noticed that **NONE** of these conditions exist. You should settle for a diamond lead this time.

You lead the ♦K and see:

♠ AJ86
♥ 53
♦ 843
♣ Q982

♠ KQ ♠ ??
♥ KJ7 ♥ ??
♦ KQ95 ♦ ??
♣ KT76 ♣ ??

♠ ??
♥ ??
♦ ??
♣ ??

Your signalling methods are "high to encourage". So partner's ♦2 appears to be discouraging.

Who holds the ♦A?

Declarer holds the ♦A

Who holds the ♦J?

Declarer holds the ♦J.

With either of those cards, partner would have ENCOURAGED.

Why did declarer duck trick 1?

Declarer is hoping to take a trick with both the ♦A and the ♦J. If you lead another diamond, declarer will be able to do just that. If you refuse to lead diamonds, declarer will not be able to win a trick with the ♦J.

It's worth stating that very clearly again: If you do not lead diamonds again, declarer will not win a trick with the ♦J.

So it's time to switch. Every switch poses risks: spades sets up dummy's suit. Hearts are likely to be

going into the ♥AQ. Clubs could be giving dummy a trick with the queen. Look at these options one by one.

Which is LEAST BAD?

Considering them one by one:

- Spades - we know is dummy's suit and rates to set up as many as 2 EXTRA tricks for declarer.
- Hearts – Partner could have either of the ♥A or ♥Q, which would make this switch safe.
- Clubs – This is the interesting suit. Partner might have the ♣A and/or the ♣J. If he has both, this switch is very unlikely to be bad for your side. If partner has neither or just the ♣J, a club lead will usually only cost a tempo (ie. declarer will always make two club tricks, but he will get them earlier than expected). It is only if declarer has ♣AJ doubleton or ♣Ax that a club will cost. If partner has the ace but not the jack, you may be setting up a club trick that declarer would otherwise have to work hard to get.

After considering your options, a club seems to offer the most hope, so you lead ♣6. The queen is played from dummy. This wins as partner plays ♣5 and declarer ♣3. What seems to be the layout in clubs? Although not guaranteed, declarer's play suggests that he doesn't hold the jack of clubs. So partner has either ♣J54 or ♣J5.

With the lead in dummy, declarer plays a trump to his ten and your jack, and you have another lead problem.

What does declarer's hand look like?

In high cards: at trick 1 you learned that he had ♦AJ; and then at trick 2, you discovered he had ♣A. You really are desperate to get partner to lead a diamond through declarer so you can make a second trick there. Is there any chance? Remember, declarer is a passed hand, so he cannot have much more than ♦AJ and ♣A. The only big card missing is the ace of trumps – partner must have that.

This is what you can see now:

♠ AJ86

♥ 5

♦ 84

♣ 982

♠ KQ

♥ K7

♦ Q95

♣ KT7

♠ ??

♥ ??

♦ ??

♣ ??

♠ ??

♥ ??

♦ ??

♣ ??

Can you make a plan to take all the tricks available to your side?

Trick 4: lead a heart to partner's ace

Trick 5: partner leads a diamond through declarer

(declarer wins the ♦A)

Trick 6: declarer plays a spade and lets you win your ♠Q or ♠K

Trick 7: You cash your ♦Q (everyone follows)

Trick 8: Lead a 4th diamond, (in case partner can ruff with the bare ♥Q!)

With confidence, you lead ♥7, but partner plays ♥8!? (Try to bury your surprise beneath your finely honed poker face). Declarer wins with the ♥Q and leads the ♠9. You play your ♠Q and are allowed to win the trick.

It does not need to be stated that this defence has gone awry. What matters now is that we figure out what's going on and gather what few matchpoints are still available.

Does partner really not hold the ♥A or is she just being *acelly* retentive? (*sorry*)

If partner does not hold the ♥A, she must have the ♦A. Perhaps she had no diamonds other than the ♦A and ♦2. How many diamonds would that give declarer?

Four – that would give declarer this hand: ♠xx

♥AQTxx ♦JTxx ♣Ax. I don't know many people that would pass in first chair with that hand. Do you?

So, partner has to have one of these aces.

Is it the ♥ A, ♦ A or ♣A?

The ♦ A seems most likely, but her card at trick one is inexplicable. Oh well, I guess you have to lead a diamond and find out what's going on.

Here is the full hand

| | |
|---------|--------|
| ♠ AJ86 | |
| ♥ 53 | |
| ♦ 843 | |
| ♣ Q982 | |
| ♠ KQ | ♠ 7432 |
| ♥ KJ7 | ♥ 942 |
| ♦ KQ95 | ♦ AJ72 |
| ♣ KT76 | ♣ J5 |
| ♠ T95 | |
| ♥ AQT86 | |
| ♦ T6 | |
| ♣ A43 | |

You can't recover the tempo for your club trick now, as the spades are ready to run, but at least your diamond trick didn't go anywhere.

All of the hard work you did during this hand was worse than useless in the face of partner's erroneous signal. To defend accurately is to:

- 1) observe
- 2) communicate
- 3) plan

If you (or your partner) miss any of these three crucial steps, you're groping around in the dark. That can be fun too.

Ed Barnes

Ed. This classically illustrates how crucial simple and effective signalling methods are, whether count or encouraging/discouraging, and that these are closely adhered to - particularly at trick one and two when setting the defense.

Newbies are delightful

If you have never sat down and played with new players you have missed a very rewarding experience. If you can visualize someone learning a new language and getting tongue tied this equates to a bridge newbie. (Did you know that the French word l'occasion means opportunity in English!)

How can you argue with this logic?

Here are some gems: The bidding goes: Pass, Pass, Pass, Double. On enquiry, the player who doubled explained: " Well you said I need at least 3 cards in the unbid suits to double. Well I've got at least 3 cards in 4 unbid suits."

The bidding starts off:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
| 1D | P | 2C | 1S |

East was asked why they bid 1S and responded "Well you told me that spades ranks higher than clubs so why can't I bid 1S"

You are playing with a newbie who opens 1S. RHO passes and you respond 2C. Your partner now shuffles in the seat and sighs "I really don't know what to do". Being a kind person, you suggest to your partner to continue to describe their hand, and the newbie replies "Well, I have 6 spades, 5 diamonds, 1 heart and 1 club".

The bidding goes:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
| 1NT | P | 2NT | All pass |

A card is led and dummy comes down with 3 points. You hesitatingly enquire why the 2NT was bid with 3 points. "Well you keep on saying that 1NT is one of the most difficult contracts to make, so I thought I'd make things easier for my partner."

Two newbies are full of confidence and decide to have a go at the open. On the first hand newbie 1 opens 1C. Left Hand Opponent turns to newbie 2 and asks "And what do you understand about your partner's bid?" Quick as a flash, newbie 2 retorted: "Mind your own business!"

If you're looking for a good reason to turn off the idiot box, why not offer to take a newbie group for a session. You'll probably come away with better stories than I have related!



Anony Mous

Walk and play bridge

On Sunday 26 October the Cancer Council ran the annual Seven Bridges Walk in Sydney. This is a 27km circular loop around Sydney Harbour, crossing 7 bridges along the way. Given it had the name bridge in the title, what could be more suited to bridge players?!

So a group of us (16 in total from as far afield as Tamworth and New Zealand) formed a team, the idea being to walk a bridge and then play some bridge at the various event “villages” as we went! We started at Milsons Point and picked up our event “passports” in which we could collect stamps at each bridge and each village. The first bridge was of course the Harbour Bridge, followed by Pyrmont Bridge, Anzac Bridge, Iron Cove Bridge, Gladesville Bridge, Tarban Creek Bridge and Fig Tree Bridge. Then we wended our way through Lane Cove, Greenwich, Wollstonecraft and finally back to Milsons Point.

27km is quite a long way – especially when the day turned out to be unrelenting sunshine and over 30 degree heat. So it wasn't surprising a few people pulled out, but the majority made it all the way round and duly celebrated by rehydrating in the Kirribilli hotel afterwards!

Thanks to John McIlrath for most of the organisation and arranging the specially made team hats and shirts (see photos below). Thanks also to Frank Budai for organising the bridge (mainly done using BBO). Every imp that changed hands raised \$1 for the Cancer Council.

The event is now in its 9th year and is a great day out raising (so far) over \$500,000 for the Cancer Council. Here's a few photos to prove bridge players don't spend all their time sitting at a table!

Smiles at the start



Most of the group at Observatory Hill



Hard at work playing bridge (on BBO!)



No, John McIlrath doesn't spend all his time directing bridge!



And the "trophy" (stamps at each bridge and each village inside)



Adventures in card play

Bridge has a wonderful way of throwing up varieties of hands with great possibilities. Here are a couple to ponder upon.

Crocodile Coup

A play for defenders, it is called the Crocodile coup because it requires a defender to gobble up a high card of their partner to avoid an end position. With Spades as trumps, South needs to make 4 of the last 5 tricks. Declarer is in dummy and leads a Diamond.

♠ -
♥ -
♦ 75
♣ A32

| | |
|-------|------|
| ♠ - | ♠ - |
| ♥ - | ♥ 85 |
| ♦ AQ | ♦ K |
| ♣ QJ9 | ♣ 85 |

♠ 4
♥ -
♦ 43
♣ K8

West must overtake the K with A, gobbling the honor, then cash the Q. Otherwise, if East returns a ♣, South wins the King then plays the 4♠ and West is squeezed. And if East instead plays a ♥, South trumps, and West is squeezed now. West wants to wear the crocodile smile.



Some well-earned refreshment at the end.....



Variation on a theme.

Short honors can also work against defenders.

Treat the following hand as a double dummy problem. South needs to make 4 more tricks in no trumps, with the lead in dummy. What does declarer lead?

| | |
|--------|-------|
| ♠ - | |
| ♥ KJ4 | |
| ♦ - | |
| ♣ A7 | |
| | |
| ♠ - | ♠ - |
| ♥ 6 | ♥ QT8 |
| ♦ - | ♦ - |
| ♣ K953 | ♣ QT |
| | |
| ♠ - | |
| ♥ A5 | |
| ♦ - | |
| ♣ J64 | |

In this situation, West does not have the luxury of extra high cards in the same suit. So the play could go A♣, a small ♥ to the A, then a small ♣ is played from hand, to reach this position.

| | |
|-------|------|
| ♠ - | |
| ♥ KJ | |
| ♦ - | |
| ♣ 7 | |
| | |
| ♠ - | ♠ - |
| ♥ - | ♥ QT |
| ♦ - | ♦ - |
| ♣ K95 | ♣ Q |
| | |
| ♠ - | |
| ♥ 5 | |
| ♦ - | |
| ♣ J6 | |

When the 6♣ is played from hand, if West plays the King, the Queen is swallowed, and the Jack becomes a trick. If West plays low, East must return a ♥ and dummy takes the last two tricks. In this case, it is now crocodile tears for the defenders.

Steve Hurley

Around the State

Mountains



On Friday 15 August, Glenbrook Bridge Club hosted an anniversary dinner for its members. We were delighted with the response of 60. We started with a spit roast followed by a bridge session and a red point event. There were spot prizes given during the session and a lucky door prize generously donated by Springwood Bridge Club. Half way through the evening our President cut the anniversary cake and the evening concluded around 10.30. A great night was had by all.

Kerrie Fitzpatrick, Glenbrook Bridge Club

South Coast



On a Monday playing at the Illawarra Bridge Club, my partner, John Roodenrys, picked up a Yarborough (no card bigger than a 9), and on the very next hand - I had one! The chance of getting a Yarborough on any given hand is 1 in 1,828, so if you play twice a week (as I do), you'd average one Yarborough in seven months.

The chance of your partner and then you getting a Yarborough in two consecutive hands is 1 in 3,341,738. So, if I keep playing bridge twice a week for long enough, I would expect this to happen again within roughly 1,200 years. Even partner and I between us getting two Yarboroughs in consecutive hands would take 300 years to become likely.

P.S. I got another Yarborough ten days later. The probability of two Yarboroughs in three matches is about 1 in 1,200 years. At my rate of play, this should happen once in 72 years.

Martin Bunder, Illawarra Bridge Club

Ed. Martin is a Professor of Mathematics at Uni of Wollongong so is well credentialed to comment on odds.

The Kiama Bridge Club has a long history - it started in 1940 with rubber bridge played at the local CWA and various hotels around the town. Interest faded as members passed away, then in 1977, a duplicate club was formed to play weekly on Wednesdays nights. Offering different sessions during the week to suit players, membership grew, and sessions swelled to 23 tables some days. With the growth, larger premises were sought, and a new club house was built for just over \$300,000 - funded by club savings, an ABF grant, and members, and supported by the local council. This was opened in May 2009 by Keith McDonald, President of the ABF. With the promise of a permanent bridge club, membership has increased by another 60. Not bad for a small town on the south coast.

At the recent annual general meeting, Jim Hinchliffe was given life membership of Kiama and District Bridge Club Inc. (pictured here receiving his life membership from club president, John Hetherington).



Wayne Courtney, Kiama Bridge Club

Mid North Coast



Proving how good bridge is for the delayed onset of Alzheimer's. Four bridge stalwarts from the Coff's Harbour Bridge Club. From left to right Joyce White,88;Don Smith, 94; Beryl MacQuillin,90 and Audrey Smith, 89. These gorgeous members are all sharp mentally and have a mean age of 91!!



Barbara Herring, Coff's Harbour Bridge club

Sydney Metro



Peninsula Bridge Club was very honoured to host the first ABF Continuing Professional Development Day for bridge teachers in NSW.



Teachers from all over NSW gathered to hear Joan Butts, the ABF National Teaching Coordinator, revisit methodology by looking at Modern Competitive Methods from the point of view of Opener, Responder, Intervener and Advancer.



The Bridge Education team really appreciated learning more about "what to teach", as well as reviewing "how we teach".





We were also delighted to be able to provide a delicious lunch for the 32 attendees, thanks to the generosity of the NSWBA and the creativity of Jo Jarvis.

The Chairperson of the NSWBA also attended to congratulate everyone involved and then joined us for a relaxing debrief at the end of a really productive today.

Special thanks to our PBC Committee and the Bridge Education team for supporting this ABF initiative

Ed. This article was reproduced kindly from the Peninsula Bridge Club website.

Some light bridge humor. But, oh, so true ...

Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster.

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you sit at the bridge table.

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing

There are three kinds of bridge players: those who can count, and those who can't.

One member of a pair was heavily criticising the other one without stopping. The 3rd person at the table took an "Extra Strong Mint" from his pocket, gave it to this person, said "Have a mint", and turned to the others "Let's keep his mouth busy."

Heard somewhere from down the room...

"We had a 75-percent game last night! Three out of four opponents thought we were idiots."

At the next table, someone was mentioning a game at home the other day. All four players were elderly and while their hearing was bad, their eyesight was no better. So the opener announced: "1 Spade". The left hand opponent bid: "1 Heart". Her partner quickly bid: "1 Diamond". And the 4th player said after some consideration: "If everyone passes, can we do a Goulash?"

Did you know that 43.6 percent of all slam contracts fail? And 62.7 percent of all bridge players are women? And 97.8 percent of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up?

Then from table 23 ...

My neighbor went to watch after his sister's cat for her while she's on vacation. She called him one afternoon to ask him how the cat's doing, and he said "oh, the cat's dead."

"What!" she cried, "you can't do that!"

"What do you mean?" he asked.

She said "Well, you have to break news like that to me slowly. You know, give me a chance to get prepared. For example, you could have said today that the cat's on the roof and we can't get him down. Then, tomorrow, you could tell me the cat fell and we had to take him to the vet. Then the next day, tell me that the cat wasn't doing well. Then, finally, after a few days, you say that the cat died. Then I'd be prepared for the bad news."

"Oh, okay, sorry about that," said her brother.

"Anyway, how's grandma going?"

"Oh," says the brother, "grandma's gone up onto the roof and we can't get her down....."

Congress Results

Ingleburn Teams

Ernie Newman, David Priol, Patricia Phillips, Eric Lindh

Wagga Wagga Congress

Swiss Pairs:

Bal Krishan, Phil Timmins

Teams:

Lisa Ma, Emlyn Williams, Julia Leung, David Appleton

Moree Pairs

Sid Reynolds, Antoinette Rees

Peninsula Swiss Pairs

John Newman, Michael Wilkinson

Kings and Queens Winter Teams

Richard McAuliffe, Michael McAuliffe, Tomer Libman,
Lavy Libman

Toronto Teams

Rosalie Broughton, Margaret Geddes, Ian Walker, Ken Wilks

Tweed Winter Teams

Janet Brown, Eric Hurley, Marjorie Askew, William Powell

Trumps Friendly Pairs

Will Jenner-O'Shea and Vanessa Brown

Blue Mountains Congress

Swiss Pairs:

NS: Brad Coles, Erin Tewes

EW: Sylvia Foster, Jaan Oitmaa

Teams:

Paul Gosney, John Newman, Tania Lloyd, Patsy McCartney

Sapphire Coast Congress

Teams:

Emlyn Williams, Tim Davis, Lisa Ma, Jan Davis

Swiss Pairs:

Elsbeth Saxby, Brian Thorp

Walk-in Pairs:

NS: Colin Manley, Lewis Seychell

EW: Vicki Fell, David Fell

Central Coast Novice Congress

Swiss Pairs:

John Jeffery, Peter Wheatley

Teams:

Ray Hendley, Brian Lilley, Mark Mathews, Val Way

Port Macquarie-Hastings Teams

Rosalie Broughton, Ken Wilks, Michael Johnson,
Michael Simes

Hunters Hill Teams

Open:

Helen Lowry, Berenice Folkard, Toni Sharp, Kim Morrison

Restricted:

Jack Chen, Don Huang, Shijun Tian, Yumin Li

Novice:

Wendy Hawker, Sarah Kelsey, Robyn Bowen, Susie Tan

Lismore Teams

Open:

Helen Tootell, Peter Tootell, Liz Jeffery, Howard Jeffery

Restricted:

Christophe McDowell, Jennifer McDowell, Greg Maley,
Jenny Maley

Glen Pairs

Tina Strickland, Mary O'Toole

Great Lakes Congress

Swiss Pairs:

Ken Wilks, Michael Simes

Teams: =1st:

Janet Clarke, Di Coats, Frances Lyons, Richard Lock
Anne Rutter, Jenny Michael, Yvonne Cains, Saima King

Pennant Hills Teams

Marlene Watts, Michael Prescott, Sue Crompton, Peter Gill

Mollymook Congress

Swiss Pairs:

John Scottford, John Newman

Best Local Pair:

Janet & Ron Turnell

Teams:

Kevin Douglas, Graham Evans, Liz Hurley, Steve Hurley

Best Local Team:

Ken & Maureen Harrison, Viv. & John Hodge

Wollstonecraft Pairs

Kevin Davies, Steven Bock

Kings and Queens Swiss Pairs

Lorna Ichilcik, Lynn Kalmin

Commercial Club (Albury) Super Congress

Swiss Pairs:

David Appleton, George Kozakos

Teams:

Alan Glasson, Frank Kovacs, Dianna Middleton,
Edward Hynes

Muswellbrook Congress

Pairs:

Darryl Almeida, Myra Katz

Teams: =1st:

Noel Crocket, Shirley Crocket, Judith Smyth, Sylvia Foster
Robert Harvey, Glen Campbell, Janet Clarke, Di Coats

Cowra Teams

Dariusz Drozd, Manda Labuschagne, Rita Baker, Judy Jackson

NSWBA Spring Swiss Pairs

Henry Chu, Nu Beasley

Tumbarumba Congress

Swiss Pairs:

Tom & Jan Hackett

Teams:

Stephen Carter, Lisa Ma, Val Brockwell, Emlyn Williams

Gunnedah Congress

Swiss Pairs:

Bruce Tier, Ian Price

Teams:

Ian & Vicky Lisle, Michael Johnson, Rachel Rich

Dubbo Congress

Pairs:

Helen Wilson, Jane North

Teams:

Gwenda Bunworth, Judy Jackson, Sally Spence,
Patricia Burrows

Port Stephens Teams

Paul McGrath, Robyn Fletcher, Michael Simes, Ken
Wilks

Southern Highlands Congress

Swiss Pairs:

Marilyn Chadwick, Toni Sharp

Teams:

Jan Nicol, Margaret Geddes, Janet Hill, Rosalie
Broughton

Trumps Teams

Ranjit Limaye, Raj Limaye, Titus Ling, Michael Draper

Spring Nationals

Spring National Open Teams

Sartaj Hans, Tom Jacob, Michael Whibley, Paul
Gosney, David Beauchamp, Ishmael Del'Monte

Dick Cummings Open Pairs

Ian Thomson, Arjuna De Livera

Ted Chadwick Restricted Pairs

Richard McAuliffe, Michael McAuliffe

Two Men & A Truck Restricted Teams

Michael McAuliffe, Richard McAuliffe, Leigh Matheson,
Lavy Libman

Novice Swiss Pairs

Gary Kembrey, Andrew Grace

Linda Stern Women's Teams

Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg Margaret Bourke -
Sue Lusk

Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams

Ron Klinger, Bill Haughie, Paul Lavings, Robert
Krochmalik, Peter Buchen, Henry Christie

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Doing business with us

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Australian Bridge Federation Inc.

Teacher Training Programme Southern Highlands, NSW 7 – 8 February 2015



ABF National Teaching Coordinator - Joan Butts

EDUCATION PROGRAM – BRIDGE TEACHERS

Saturday 7 February

| When | Topic |
|--------------|---|
| 9.30 – 12.30 | Teaching Methodology Generating STEAM – a focus on five essentials for professionally delivered bridge lessons |
| 12.30 – 1.00 | Lunch |
| Afternoon | Play in Duplicate Pairs session if desired. (not part of TTP). |

Sunday 8 February

| When | Topic |
|---------------|--|
| 9.30 – 11.00 | Practical Teaching Tools (1) Up-to-date methods that assure successful lessons for players from beginners to advanced |
| 11.00 – 11.15 | Morning tea |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | Practical Teaching Tools (2) |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | Lunch |
| 12.30 – 2.30 | Workshop Joan Butts Competitive Bidding |
| 2:30 – 2.45 | Afternoon Tea |
| 2.45 – 3.45 | Discussion Group with Teachers |

If you are a bridge teacher, or would like to become one, attend this *free* workshop, sponsored by ABF & NSWBA.

You're welcome to do the course more than once. The workshop will follow a modern approach to teaching, both in theory and in practice.

You will receive a Teacher Training Certificate if you attend all 9 hours of the course. See over for FAQs.

NB: BYO Lunch. Coffee etc. will be provided.

To Register:
Contact Rob Ward
rob@robward.com.au
0418 611 908

Venue : East Bowral Community Centre, 71 Boardman Rd, Bowral

A Good Game Of Modern Bridge

Ron Klinger has self-published another book, this one focusing on contemporary bidding methods and conventions. Ron has targeted the book to all levels of players, with chapters and ideas for club players through to experienced tournament players wanting to really soup up their system.

A Good Game of Modern Bridge [272 pages] available for \$32.95 from The Bridge Shop - 02 9967 0644 or via www.bridgeshop.com.au.

