

Roll of Honour

Session One

Board 3, Dealer is South, Vul: E-W

	♠ J5	
	♥ 1076432	
	♦ 109872	
	♣ -	
♠ QT83		♠ 964
♥ 8		♥ KQ
♦ KQJ54		♦ 6
♣ 1054		♣ QJ98763
	♠ AK72	
	♥ AJ95	
	♦ A3	
	♣ AK2	

Some may get overboard in 6♥ on this deal. A good fit and great controls may see South bid the slam even if North promises nothing but a heart suit long enough to play opposite a doubleton. 6♥ is cold on the lie of the cards. Win the lead and cash the winners, in the process ruffing a club and a spade so that East is reduced to clubs and then play ace and another trump and wait for the ruff and discard to jettison the losing diamond. Bidding and making 6♥ will rate you a mention on our Roll of Honour.

It should be stressed that, 6♥ being a very bad contract, congratulations for making the requisite twelve tricks are for the play, in making on the only lie of the cards which make it possible, rather than the auction.

The successful pairs were:

J. and M. Roche from Ballina Bridge Club

M. Blythe and W. Kierath from Bathurst Bridge Club

J. Hector and M. Simes also from Bathurst Bridge Club

D. Butler and D. Reddel from Canobolas Bridge Club

L. Giles and P. McCare from Cessnock Bridge Club

M. and R. Baird from Goulburn Bridge Club

S. Kumar and B. Heyman from Penrith Bridge Club

Session Two

Board 20, Dealer is West, Vul: E-W

	♠ K752	
	♥ QJ1064	
	♦ -	
	♣ AKQ5	
♠ QJ4		♠ 10963
♥ 3		♥ 9852
♦ KJ10953		♦ 876
♣ J103		♣ 74
	♠ A8	
	♥ AK7	
	♦ AQ42	
	♣ 9862	

7♥ is a good contract and a proportion of the field will bid it. Getting to 6♥ should be routine. Diagnosing the grand depends on ascertaining that the side has no trump losers and, most importantly, no third round spade loser. Those who play a system sufficiently sophisticated to bid 3rd round controls will get the reward they deserve on the score sheet. Bidding and making 7♥ will rate you a mention on our Roll of Honour.

There were dozens of partnerships bidding 7♥ but only two were up to the declarer play required to bring the contract home. They were:

M. Dimitry and N. Comber from Manly Warringah Leagues Bridge Club

K. Balkin and G. Gibbs from Penrith Bridge Club

Session Three:

Board 3, Dealer is South, Vul: E-W

♠ Q9863
♥ J10642
♦ Q9
♣ J

♠ J	♠ K752
♥ 85	♥ 73
♦ K107532	♦ A4
♣ A1052	♣ K8743
♠ A104	
♥ AKQ9	
♦ J86	
♣ Q96	

Only the very courageous will get into the action on the EW cards at this vulnerability. A 5-5 in the majors with no real prospect of game is difficult to bid after a strong 1NT opening from South. Some are able to use simple Staymen and if partner responds 2♦, showing no majors, then 2♥ shows a preference to play at the 2-level in a major. 4♥ can only be made if West leads the singleton spade jack or declarer picks to run the queen. Managing to play in 2♥ will rate you a mention on our Roll of Honour.

Congratulations are due the 13 pairs who creditably stayed low in 2♥. A part score was not well rewarded when many managed to make game in hearts. This was due to ordinary bidding together with a spade lead and a friendly lie of the cards. The pairs who reached the best contract were:

D. Hewett and B. Atkinson from Ballina Bridge Club
J. Gribble and P. Manion from Ballina Seniors Bridge Club
N. Feller and P. Smith from Camden Haven Bridge Club
H. Moore and D. Whitney from Canobolas Bridge Club
P. Jarvie and N. Byrne from Cessnock Bridge Club
D. Cunningham and V. Stevenson from Glen Bridge Club
I. Gilder and G. Thomas also from Glen Bridge Club
D. Graham and A. Hallam from Goulburn Bridge Club
A. Craven and R. Scahill also from Goulburn Bridge Club
M. Fallon and R. Wegner from Griffith Bridge Club
L. Shannon and M. Thomson from Gunnedah Bridge Club
P. Whitehead and V. Bloem from Leeton Bridge Club
P. Kliffen and M. Draper from Manly Warringah Leagues Bridge Club

Well done to all.
 Valerie Cummings.