



New South Wales Bridge Association

♠ ♥ Newsletter ♦ ♣

Editor: Steve Hurley

Chairman's corner

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015. I trust everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and those that attended the Summer Festival in Canberra had a good time. It was particularly good to see increased participation in the novice and super-novice events, a level we should all be encouraging.



To that end, clubs should have recently received information about all the various NSWBA State events for 2015. I'd like to draw your attention to a new one - a Statewide pairs event specifically aimed at those in the 0-100 MP range (with multiple flights within that). The plan is to play regional finals simultaneously and score across the field (i.e. no Sydney based final). That will reduce travel and is a great opportunity to introduce newer players in your club to a different type of competition.

Besides competitions, the NSWBA continues to support assorted directing and teaching workshops across the State. Some are already organized; others are being planned. Talk to your regional representative to find out when one is planned for your area.

Finally, check out the affiliated clubs area of the NSWBA webpage. <http://www.nswba.com.au/clubs/> We are expanding it significantly and will be including updated material from the old FABC handbook on all aspects of running a bridge club.

Happy bridging

Julian Foster
NSWBA Chairman



Three wise monkeys

At the NSWBA, January always gets off to a flying start, with the New Year Masters Teams. The field is usually very strong, perhaps in part because it is a very suitable practice event for the Summer Festival. The metronomic tick of time has recently made me eligible to play in Seniors events, so I was playing with my team-mates for the first week of the Canberra funfest, but unfortunately was still making at least my usual quota of mistakes. Even more unfortunately, I didn't stop making the mistakes when we got to Canberra.

On the plus side, however, this year I learnt something from my errors in both events. Far too many of these were foolish actions as declarer (the play of the hand has always been the most underwhelming part of my game). So I now try to visualize three wise monkeys watching me as I attempt to play a hand, telling me:

1. Don't forget to count
2. Don't be greedy
3. Don't panic!

Here are three boards, one to illustrate each of these points.

Don't forget to count

Just for a change, I'll tell you about a board where I did something right – this happens rarely, so I'd better take the opportunity.

♠74
♥AQ962
♦Q73
♣A8

♠AK8
♥43
♦A965
♣J762

East dealt and there were 3 passes to North (we don't open flattish 12 hcp hands) who opened 1H. East overcalled 1S and I bid a natural 2NT, which was passed out. West led ♠2 to the ♠T, which I ducked. A low spade was continued and West unblocked the queen under the king. With only 5 top tricks, I figured I needed something good to happen in hearts and/or for the ♦Q to be a late entry when the suit was established. Anyway, I led the ♥4 to the queen for a successful finesse, and cashed the ♥A. East showed out, discarding a small club. This was a bit of a shock!

For once, though, I didn't forget to count. West had shown up with the ♠Q and the ♥KJ so for East to have anything like an overcall, she must have both the ♦K and the ♣KQ. And she couldn't lead a heart to West's winners ...

♠74	Brd: 14
♥AQ962	Dir: E
♦Q73	Vul: Nil
♣A8	

♠Q52	♠JT963
♥KJT87	♥5
♦JT2	♦K84
♣94	♣KQT3

♠AK8
♥43
♦A965
♣J762

At trick 5, I led a small club from the table. East rose with queen and returned another spade to the ace. I now played a club to the ace and another one back. East took her ♣K and cashed her two spade winners, but was now end-played to lead a diamond, so 2NT was made.

Don't be greedy

With the decimalised VP scoring table, overtricks have become more important at IMPs, but they're

still not important enough to justify what I did on this hand.

♠T43
♥K6532
♦J9
♣Q82

♠AK86
♥8
♦KQ8
♣AK953

We bid to a perfectly normal 3NT by South and I received the perfectly normal lead of ♠Q, which I took, then led ♦8 to the jack. East captured this with ♦A, gave it some thought and returned a spade. What would you do?

The contract is now cold provided nothing horrible happens in clubs. If you duck this spade to the queen, however, you will have 10 tricks, won't you?

♠T43	Brd: 2
♥K6532	Dir: E
♦J9	Vul: NS
♣Q82	

♠QJ95	♠72
♥AJ4	♥QT97
♦765	♦AT432
♣JT7	♣64

♠AK86
♥8
♦KQ8
♣AK953

Oh no you won't. Paul Lavings contemplated for a while (perhaps wondering whether I really could be as stupid as the evidence seemed to suggest) then played ♥J. I ducked this, but he followed with a small heart. I suppose the best play at this point would be the king, in case he was leading from the ace, or there was a doubleton ace on my right which would mean the suit couldn't be continued anyway. But I played low, the queen won and a heart came back to the ace. One off, an ignominious fate that was, remarkably, shared with one other declarer (although I'm not sure that makes me feel any better).

Don't panic!

I do this a lot – most hands look insanely complicated to me. Of course partner and I are both inclined to overbid, so we end up in some insanely optimistic contracts! What I haven't yet really learnt to do is to take several deep breaths and look for a viable line of play. In fact there usually is at least one – but unfortunately I often don't figure it out, because I'm too shaken by the realisation of what I've got myself into.

This example is from the Seniors Teams in Canberra. We were vulnerable and with opponents silent, we landed – not altogether intentionally – in 7D by West. LHO led the ♦10. What would you do?

♠QJ43	♠A7
♥T8	♥AK76
♦K42	♦AQ9763
♣AJ87	♣K

I panicked, of course. How had we got into this? It was certain that our EW opponents wouldn't have misbid their way to this silly contract. Yes, there might be some play, but there were too many alternatives and too much to consider. Should I gamble on a spade finesse? Surely it ought to be possible to avoid that! Could I discard a spade on the ♣A and ruff out dummy's losing hearts? In that case, did I have to play for a 2-2 trump break, or were the percentages better if I catered for a 3-1 break and took the finesse? While all this was going through my head, I still hadn't managed to figure out in which hand I should win the trump lead. Still flustered, I did all the wrong things, thus going down and losing 16 big IMPs.

In fact the hand ought to have been proof even against me – playing for a 2-2 trump break and a 4-3 heart break makes the spade finesse unnecessary, as dummy's second losing heart can be ruffed with ♦K. What's more, the Rueful Rabbit play of the spade finesse also works on this hand.

♠K652	Brd: 9
♥J42	Dlr: N
♦T8	Vul: EW
♣Q654	

♠QJ43	♠A7
♥T8	♥AK76
♦K42	♦AQ9763
♣AJ87	♣K

♠T98
♥Q953
♦J5
♣T932

Just watch out for those monkeys!

Rakesh Kumar

Meanwhile, somewhere out in the twilight zone ...

On a Monday night side movement, you pick up this little gem ...

♠A
♥K5
♦AKT92
♣AKJ63

A quality 22 count with a 5/5 shape. Yeehaa! As third to bid, you ponder whether to open 1D or 2C when partner opens in front of you with 1S. You bid 2D, and partner bids 2H. After a quick flurry of bidding, you arrive in a lazy 7NT.

The ♠2 is lead and dummy comes down. Between your hands you see:

♠KJ643
♥AT9763
♦84
♣-

♠A
♥K5
♦AKT92
♣AKJ63

Partner must have taken the red pill this morning and has bid up the hand, based on shape and not on high cards points. But the fact remains; you are in 7NT and how do you strive for 13 tricks.

Entries are limited due to the poor communication for say a double finesse in ♦, but that will still only yield 5 tricks in the suit. So another source is required. The long shot ♥suit perhaps?

Winning the ♠A perforce, you cash the ♥K and the ♥Q drops on your left. Could it be? 6 Heart

tricks, the A and K in the side suits, with some luck in the minors (♣Q coming down, QJ♦ falling) giving 13 tricks. The second ♥ to the K draws the J and the suit runs. After the remaining Hearts and ♠K, right hand opponent discards one too many clubs and 13 tricks are claimed. That was lucky! The full hand was:

BD: 21	♠KJ643	Dir: N
	♥AT9763	Vul: N-S
	♦84	
	♣-	
♠QT72		♠985
♥QJ		♥842
♦J65		♦Q73
♣T854		♣Q972
	♠A	
	♥K5	
	♦AKT92	
	♣AKJ63	

But that is not the interesting part. Deep finesse, oracle of all things makeable and maker of great sorrows, says 7NT is cold, on any lead. So how?

After all the hearts are run, best defence will leave this situation:

BD: 21	♠KJ64	Dir: N
	♥-	Vul: N-S
	♦84	
	♣-	
♠QT7		♠
♥-		♥-
♦J65		♦Q73
♣-		♣Q97
	♠-	
	♥-	
	♦AKT	
	♣AKJ	

On the ♠K, East can discard a ♦, and West follows suit. You must still lose a trick to the ♣ (East) or ♦ (West), depending on what you throw.

The key is to remove the idle cards before committing the second ♥ to the K. Cash the ♣A and ♣K first. This establishes a trick for the opposition, which they will never get. This maneuver is called a Vienna Coup.

Now run the Hearts for all but one to reach this position:

BD: 21	♠KJ	Dir: N
	♥6	Vul: N-S
	♦84	
	♣-	
♠QT		♠-
♥-		♥-
♦J65		♦Q73
♣-		♣Q9
	♣-	
	♥-	
	♦AKT	
	♣J6	

Now on the last ♥, East can discard a ♣, South a ♣, and West must discard a ♦ to protect the ♠. Then on the ♠K, it's East turn to be squeezed. Throwing the ♣ makes the ♣J good, where discarding a ♦ means the ♦ suit now runs.

An amazing hand. A Vienna coup, with a progressive squeeze, making 7NT. Certainly something from the twilight zone, and a hand worthy of the Hideous Hog at the Griffins Club.



Ethyl Severe

With axetreme prejudice

When partner doubles a 1NT opening for penalties, it is normal to pass with a few values, say 6 HCP or more. What if you have a worthless hand? It is true that partner might have enough to defeat 1NT without any help from you, but as partner is encouraged to double a weak 1NT with simply a strong hand, about 15 HCP or more, chances are that they will make 1NT with overtricks if your hand is worth less.

With East dealer, NS vul, suppose the bidding starts:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		P	P
1NT (1)	X (2)	P	??

- (1) 13-15
(2) Penalties

What should South do with:

♠J82
♥8754
♦9873
♣43

The recommended strategy is to:

- bid 2C with a poor balanced or semi-balanced hand,
- bid 2D/2H/2S with a poor hand but a decent 5+ suit (such as Q-J-x-x-x)
- pass with 6+ HCP.

That means South should bid 2C here. Partner can pass with club length or bid some other suit.

Such a situation arose on this deal from a national selection event.

♠7543	♠Q1096	Brd:?
♥3	♥AK109	Dlr E
♦AKJT6	♦2	Vul: NS
♣AKJ	♣10985	
♠AK		
♥QJ62		
♦Q54		
♣Q762		
♠J82		
♥8754		
♦9873		
♣43		

There were a variety of results.

At two tables it went:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		P	P
1NT	X	All pass	

Lead: ♦A

South encouraged and North continued with ♦K, ♦J. Declarer now had nine easy tricks for +380 and +5 Imps against the datum of E-W 190. South should remove the double to 2C and North will bid 2D. East-West might then find their heart fit, where they can make nine tricks.

At another table, the double of 1NT was passed by South, but West ran:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		P	P
1NT	X	P	P
2C	2D	3C	All pass

Lead: ♣A

North switched to a ♥, taken in dummy. Declarer played a trump and came to nine tricks for +110.

Here, after 1NT doubled, East ran:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		P	P
1NT	X	2H (1)	All pass

(1) Hearts and spades

Declarer made nine tricks for +140.

This was the auction at the fifth table to open 1NT:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		P	P
1NT	X	P	2D (1)
P	3D	X (2)	All pass

- (1) Weak with diamonds
(2) For takeout

Lead: ♠K

West continued with the ♠A and the HQ. East overtook this, cashed the ♠Q and led the ♠10, ruffed and over-ruffed for one down and E-W +200.

At other tables:

- One East opened 1H, a doubtful move with a 4-4-4-1 9-count even playing 10-14 opening. They reached 4H and went one down.
- Another East opened 2C to show a minimum 4-4-4-1. West bid 2D, North doubled for takeout, South bid 2H and West's 2NT ended the auction. Declarer made nine tricks, +150.
- Playing a strong 1NT, one West opened 1C, North overcalled 1D and East-West finished in 3H for +140.

Ron Klinger

Sydney North wins inaugural Metro Playoff

The teams below representing Sydney North dueled with Sydney South through a 56 board head to head playoff in the four categories:

- *Open* - Trumps - Joshua WYNER, Derrick BROWNE, John NEWMAN, Richard DOUGLAS
- *Intermediate (<750MP)* - Trumps - Anne MORRIS, Noreen GRANT, Carmel BOURKE, Patricia LACEY
- *Restricted (<300MP)* - Gordon Bridge Club - Noelene HIRON, Jenny BARNES, Beryl KERR, Barbara CLARK, and
- *Novice (<100MP)* - Peninsula Bridge Club - Sarah YOUNG, Peter CLARKE, Michael PENGELLY, Timothy MUSSARED.

Commiserations to the Metro South region represented by Southside, St George Budapest (2 teams) and Port Hacking, although it is worth noting that they came second!

There was a great atmosphere in the room, even though it was a long format for just two regions. All players are to be commended for their dedicated competitive spirit throughout the day. We look forward to doing it all again in 2015, with even more Metropolitan regions represented.

View the full results at:

<http://nswba.com.au/tourn/res.asp?yr=2014&dir=state/ict>

In Sydney North, the 2015 representative teams are determined at the **Margaret Smale Sydney North Inter-Club Teams** - played at Peninsula Bridge Club on Sunday 8 February 2015. This event determines both the overall winning Sydney North club, and the winning team in each category becomes eligible to represent the region in the 2015 Sydney Metropolitan Playoff. Each club in the area can submit up to a total of eight teams comprising their regular players, spread across the four different categories, to this qualifying event. Smaller bridge clubs can combine into All Stars type entries.

The Margaret Smale InterClub Challenge was won by North Shore with 16 points ahead of Peninsula (13) and Trumps (11). Results can be viewed at <http://www.bridgeaustralia.org/resultslistbyheadevent.asp?umbid=50>

Competitive bidding - Bidding after the opponents open.

When the opponents have opened, they have staked a claim and are ahead in the competitive bidding race. To compete effectively some bidding tools are needed. These include:

1. Constructive suit bids: overcalls
2. The takeout double
3. The 1NT overcall
4. Obstructive/destructive bids: pre-emptive jump overcalls
5. Conventional 2-suited bids such as Unusual NT, Michaels cue bid

This article discusses constructive bidding over the opponent's suit.

Let us first consider bids in a suit at the lowest available level, which are normally referred to as overcalls. An overcall is the most common way that we compete for the part score, and thus defines the most frequent objective. The criteria for hands that overcall must primarily address that objective.

A suit overcall has the risk that responder can play for penalties. As their partner opened the auction they are in the privileged position of having a good idea of the combined values of their side and can therefore make an informed judgment on when you

have bid into trouble, and arrange to play the contract doubled. This risk must be also considered when choosing criteria for hands that overcall.

A good suit is the common basis for a constructive overcall. The risk of a double is diminished and advancer can act with confidence opposite a quality suit holding.

A good hand that has a long (5+) suit also provides a sound basis for making the overcall. This time the high cards are the protection against risk of double.

We are now ready to state the criteria for suit overcalls:

- **At the 1 level :**

At least a good 5 card suit with 2 of the top four honours, 8-16 HCP, 8L (losers Ed.)

OR

A 5 card suit with less honors but you will need more (12-16) HCP, with 8L or better

- **2 of a minor overcall.**

(Note: The risk is highest with these overcalls because they do not double you into game, and can take a gamble because the cost of being wrong is far less.)

A fairly good 6+ suit, and 10-16 HCP, 8L or better

OR

A good 5 card suit with some honours, 13-16 HCP, 8L or better. If your shape is balanced (5332), you will need more HCPs.

- **2 Heart overcall after 1 Spade opening**

Note: Firstly, when opponents double 2H, it becomes a game contract. So they will be more reluctant to gamble on this compared to doubling a 2 level minor. Secondly, 4 Hearts is a more realistic possibility than 5 minor. Both ideas suggest relaxing the criteria for a 2H overcall as follows.

A fairly good 5+ suit, (SQ=8 Suit quality Ed.) and 10-16 HCP, 8L or better

Having decided the criteria, notice that an overcall can serve extra objectives, all of them (marvelously!) worthwhile:

- To compete for part-score or game
- To prepare for a possible sacrifice
- To take bidding space from the opponents when indeed it is their hand
- To begin preparing a defense should the opponents declare
(Bidding for the lead is one example of this)

Advancer responding to overcalls

Advancer should strive to raise an overcall when at all sensible.

Remember that an overcall has a slightly lower minimum point count than an opening so you should add 2-3 points to normal raises. Assume that the overcall is 8L or better.

Raise trumps to the appropriate level with distributional supporting hands. Base the level of your raise assuming that the overcall has 8L potential at worst. If your raise is strong in high card values as well then start with a cue bid rather than a direct trump raise. So advancer options are to:

Raise	= Natural
Bid a new suit	= Natural, using the same criteria as for an overcall
Bid NT	= Natural & quantitative (1NT=9-11 HCP, 2NT 12-14 HCP) and showing stoppers in their suit.
Cue bid	= A general force, enquiring, frequently showing 3+ trump support
Jump Cue	= A good raise with singleton in cued suit

(Ed. Importantly cue raises not only tell partner how high to compete and what sort of high card strength to expect if partner wants to double.)

After advancer cues, the overcaller rebids their suit with a minimum hand, **not necessarily** promising extra length, and with a stronger hand bids descriptively.

Here are some examples.

Since overcalls are based on a good suit you can raise with simple support.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♥	2♣	P	??

♠KT73
♥9
♦A975
♣9863

Bid 3♣, with minimal HCPs, a singleton, 8L and minimum 9 card fit

Now change the hand to something stronger.

♠KQJ3
♥9
♦A975
♣9863

Bid 2♥, with better HCPs, a singleton, 8L and minimum 9 card fit

Now change the bidding and your hand.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♣	1♥	P	??

♠J763
♥Q62
♦AQ95
♣84

Bid 2♥. This is a complete maximum for a simple raise. Anything stronger (singleton or another HCP, you could have bid 2♣.

Another hand.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♥	1♠	P	??

♠8
♥AT73
♦KJ873
♣J95

Pass! Remember that partner may well have less than 12 HCPs. Partner can bid again to express more, and you can always bid later.

Another hand.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♥	1♠	P	??

♠QT76
♥3
♦KQJ87
♣AJ9

3♥. A jump cue. This shows sound trump support, shortage in their suit, good HCPs, strong game interest, and possibly slam interest if partner is strong for the overcall.

Now the opener's partner bids ...

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♠	2♥	2♠	??

♠JT8
♥AT73
♦AKJ83
♣9

3♠. Shows strong trump support, 10+ HCPs, 7 losers, and is FORCING to game. Partner is short in ♠ so slam may be on.

One last hand ...

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♥	1♠	2♥	??

♠QT
♥3
♦AKJ873
♣KJ9

3♦. You have a sound suit with secondary ♠ support.

Ian Lisle

Denmark, a rat, and some curly cheese ...

Sitting there, it seems that something is not quite right in the state of Denmark, you smell a rat, or something simply grates you up the wrong way. Someone has made a bid at the table and they clearly do not have what they say. They have 'psyched' and you have a bad score as a result.

A psyche is where a bid grossly misrepresents the power and/or suit lengths of the bidder's hand, aimed at deliberately deceiving the opponents to misguide them to the wrong contract or wrong line of play. Typically the psychic bid is made with a weak hand, overstating its overall strength, the length and strength in a particular suit, or both.

Note the words 'grossly' and 'deliberate'. A player may have bid light where say their weak 2 is a 5 card suit and not 6, or their opening bid is a 10 count and not the 12. This cannot be said for a hand with say 2 high card points and a three card suit.

A psyche is not illegal, but there are rules. It must be an unexpected action, where there will be every chance that their partner will be impacted by the psyche along with the opposition. And the partner of the psycher cannot field the psyche from partnership experience. As for having an agreement, it is ok for a pair to agree to open light in some situations (with this fact included on the system card) then bids in such situations alerted to the possibility that it may be light. But where the pair agree to use of more than a very light opening, e.g. regularly use of openings with less than 8 points and / or with say short suits, it now becomes an illegal system (for the huge majority of events at least) and is not permitted.

While the intent for the psycher is to lead the opposition astray, it often backfires where their partner acts on the information, bidding, doubling, or leading that suit. So while you may feel aggrieved on one board, the next time the psyche bites back getting their partner and you feel justice has been done.

So what do you do if it has happened? Firstly contact the director, but do this after the hand so as not to possibly alert partner if you are defending the hand. If it was a true psyche, the director will examine the actions of their partner and consider what should have taken given their hand. If there

was any evidence that the partner did not bid according to the value of their hand (for example, the partner didn't bid the hand as strongly as what would have been expected), the director will seriously consider awarding an adjusted score. This would be the likely result on the board had the psycher's partner bid "normally".

Not all scores are adjusted however, as this is the nature of the gamble. Regardless of the result though, the psyche and details can be registered in the NSWBA psyche register. This allows ongoing monitoring of psyches across NSW, so even if the player(s) play elsewhere, the NSWBA can take action where warranted, including being barred from events.

So while titillating, psyching is discouraged. Bridge is a game to be enjoyed, solving the puzzle, a social outing, and being part of a wider bridge community. It detracts from the bridge experience; it is considered gratuitous and un-sportsmanlike in nature, and basically it is not why people play bridge.

View the NSWBA psyche register page at =>

<http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/regulations/psyche.html>

Steve Hurley

The Defence objects!

Basic rules on defence for inexperienced players.

2nd player plays low

That is, if you are the 2nd player to play to a trick, it is *very often* right to play low. You hold: AJ3 and dummy, on your left, has K842. Declarer leads the 6 and it's your turn. If you play the A, declarer may lose only 1 trick in this suit. If you play small, declarer will win this trick with the King but her future in this suit will be hard yakka. It may look like this:

You hold =>

	K842	
AJ3		95
	QT76	

Think about playing the A on the first trick and then try ducking the first trick.

3rd player plays high

When partner leads a low card, it's normally right for you to play high. Try these problems

Partner Lead:	3	Partner's lead of a low card indicates they an honour.
Dummy shows	762	Dummy plays the 2
You hold	QT5	You play Q You should co-operate by playing your highest card. The Queen.

Partner Lead:	3	Partner's lead of a low card indicates they an honour.
Dummy shows	AJ2	Dummy plays the J
You hold	QT5	You play Q. Partner expectedly has the K, so you should win your Q, then you should return the T to clear the suit.

Partner Lead:	J	As an honour lead, partner should have the T.
Dummy shows	Q53	Dummy plays the Q
You hold	K82	You play K. This will lose to the Ace, but then partner's T will be high.

Partner Lead:	J	As an honour lead, partner should have the T.
Dummy shows	Q3	Dummy plays the 3
You hold	A982	Declarer expectedly has the K. If you play the A, declarer will get two tricks, the K & Q. So play the 2 and take the Q later.

Partner Lead:	9	As a high pip lead, partner will not have an honour.
Dummy shows	Q73	Dummy plays the 3
You hold	AJT62	Like above, declarer has the K, and if you play the A, declarer gets the K & Q. Again play the 2 to get the Q later.

Higher or Lower from touching cards?

Although we *lead* the top of touching honours, we should *follow suit* with the lowest of touching high cards when defending.

Partner leads ♥7 against 3NT and dummy comes has: ♥KT4, and you hold ♥AQJ65. When dummy plays the ♥4, you should play the J, not the Q. This is purely for partner's benefit. Try sitting at the other side of the table to see why.

♠Q76
♥KT4
♦KQJT
♣A87

♠JT2
♥872
♦A52
♣5432

Partner has bid hearts and then spades and you are on lead against 1NT. You choose to lead the ♥7 and dummy comes down.

Declarer plays a small card from dummy, partner plays the ♥J, which wins. Partner leads the ♦9. What is your next move?

Firstly as high pip, the ♦9 says I don't have honours in ♦. And by winning the ♥J, partner ALSO has the ♥Q and ♥A, so partner will LOVE you to lead another heart - *through* dummy's ♥K. If partner had won the first trick with the ♥Q, you would know that it was DECLARER who held the ♥J. In that case, there would be no point leading a heart – partner can lead hearts their self. Better in that case to switch to the ♠J; *through* dummy's ♠Q.

So:

**LEAD THE HIGHEST OF EQUALS,
But
FOLLOWING SUIT, PLAY THE CHEAPEST OF
EQUALS**



Ed Barnes, NSWBA teacher.

The 2015 Gold Coast Congress

The 2015 Gold Coast Congress in February is now the biggest congress in Australia. In January, the National Open Teams in Canberra draws about 130 teams (which was down from previous years) where as the Gold Coast teams this year attracted 208 teams, comparing just the open teams events. There are also other teams events for Seniors (over 58), Intermediate (under 750 MPs), Restricted (under 300 MPs) and Novice (under 100 MPs), as well as similar classifications for the major pairs event, and many other walk in teams and pairs events. It is a great place to spend the week for a bridge-o-phile. And the Gold Coast has the added attractions of fun (theme parks, beach, shopping, much more) and sun (if you excuse the occasional cyclone which finally came through as some heavy rain squalls), along with good accommodation and fine food close to the venue, and the Casino is a stroll away for those wanting some more action.

As a feel for the size of the event, this is the playing area for the teams before play ...



... then after the players take their positions ...



That's about thirty tables for each row.

The event produced the usual assortment of hands. 18 point slams, a 7/6 trump fit, 27 HCP games going off, and more. Board 23 of match 8 was interesting. As East, with all vul, you hold =>

♠KT3
♥A743
♦K852
♣A5

... and the auction has proceeded ...

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
P	1D	1H	??

Your go. What do you bid?

First things first, we own the auction, and notionally we should be in game (at least) somewhere. At first glance, 3NT looks the likely spot, but options need to be explored.

Without another biddable suit, you can double here, takeout at this low level, but this is not the right bid as this implies 4 cards in the other major, spades, which you don't have. An alternative action to force partner to bid is to bid the opponents suit. This just says 'Tell me more. I have a good raise for you in the suit you have bid, but tell me anything more on the way'.

So the auction continues ...

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
P	1D	1H	2H
P	3D	P	??

Your go again. Partner has retreated to the implied ♦ fit, expressing no stopper, a minimum hand, and no interest in going further. But you still do – you have game going values and need to play in game somewhere. As a fall back, you could play in 5♦ but partner may have a half stop in ♥ or even another strong suit. Even slam could still be a possibility with a long ♦ suit and distribution. After all, you have Aces and Kings. So force the bidding again – bid 3♥!

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
P	1D	1H	2H
P	3D	P	3H
P	3S	P	??

Partner would likely show a half stop here but did not bid 3NT so does not have one. And partner has not rebid 4♦ or 5♦ to show extra length. The bid of 3♠ now shows a good ♠ suit but without reversing values (as partner would have bid 2♠ over my earlier 2♥).

3NT on a ♥ lead can easily go down if partner has only 4 diamonds – there will not be enough tricks. And if partner has only 4 diamonds, even 5♦ may go down. Seemingly there is a better option – to play in 4♣, a moysian (4-3) trump fit. This allows for needing to make only 10 tricks rather than 11, with the distinct possibility of bad break in either ♦ or ♠.

The full hand was =>

♠J64	Brd:8
♥KJT85	Dlr S
♦Q6	Vul: All
♣J76	
♠AQ92	♠KT3
♥Q	♥A743
♦AT74	♦K852
♣8432	♣A5
♠875	
♥962	
♦J93	
♣KQT9	

So the initial instinct to play in 3NT was wrong, 5♦ does make because ♦ behave well, but 4♣ has better play options considering possible ♦ safety plays, trump reversals, and other options such as squeezes.

Note that if partner had bid 4♣ to show good clubs, you would have played in 5♦.

Steve Hurley

Teacher Training

Teacher training in NSW has begun well for 2015, with a Teacher Training Programme in the Southern Highlands on Saturday 7 February. Participants (31) were from Clubs all over the State & the NSWBA Councillor with responsibility for Education also attended. The ABF Teacher Training Programme encourages teachers to keep the “**STEAM**” principles in mind: S (Student Safety) T (Timing) E (Energy) A (Attitude) M (Materials). (It really does work – so give it a try.)

Rob Ward, the organiser of the Southern Highlands teacher training, thanked the ABF and NSWBA for their support: “That investment and support is firstly very much appreciated and has to be the best form of investment of member’s funds.”

Quite a number of attendees continued on the next week to the Teachers Professional Development Day at Kiama Bridge Club. Ann Blue organised the ‘Continuing Professional Development Day’ and had very positive feedback from the 28 attendees on Joan Butts presentation, which was content-oriented rather than focusing on methodology.

Joan Butts also presented Ann with her teaching certificate under the ABF accreditation program during the day.

An online video version of CPD's is available on the ABF website (Teachers, Accreditation) along with short videos Joan Butts has made recently (& it's also available on the Southern Highlands Bridge Club: http://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwof/bw.cgi?club=southernhighlandsregionbridgegeteachers&pid=display_home&sessid=760502730005234).

The NSWBA has also created a group email list of bridge teachers and hopes to use it to liaise with teachers in NSW.

Three NSW Bridge Teachers have been acknowledged under the ABF’s new Teacher Accreditation Program; Cath Whiddon from Peninsula Bridge Club on the Northern Beaches of Sydney; Stuart Packington, Randwick Bridge Club; Trish Thatcher, Port Stephens Bridge Club.

This initiative was launched at the 2014 Summer Festival of Bridge (SFOB). The goal is to support and acknowledge bridge teachers who strive for continuing professional development in the teaching methodology and materials they use to teach bridge. The program is conducted and managed by the ABF’s National Teaching Coordinator, Joan Butts.

These bridge teachers have attained the required number of points to demonstrate their commitment to continually updating their skills and knowledge.

Good luck with your teaching, 2015 looks like a great year for local club teachers – thanks to the combined efforts of the AFB & NSWBA – we hope we can work together to support you in your teaching efforts.

If you would like to join the teachers' email group, or have any other teaching issue, please email at cwhiddon@live.com or via the NSWBA.

Cath Whiddon

Books

From time to time, the newsletter will cover recently published books. This issue, there are two books

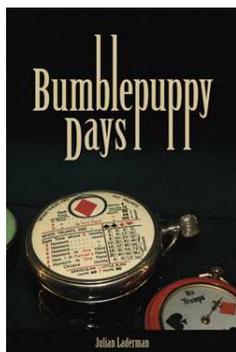
Bridge on a shoestring (Michael Schoenborn)

Most young bridge players spend their formative years experimenting with wild ideas, inventing new conventions and systems, playing in crazy contracts, and discovering the magic of the card game that is bridge. This book is an entertaining account by Michael Schoenborn of his formative years in the bridge clubs in Toronto and how he finally fulfilled his dream of playing at the Bermuda Bowl.



Along his journey from the university bridge club to the world championships, he meets a cast of characters, described in the spirit of Victor Mollo including the Owl, Big Bird, Eric the Half Bee, Colonel Bulldozer, Mrs Four No-Trump, the Bambino, the Albatross, and many more. Unlike Victor Mollo's stories, these characters are real, along with the misadventures at and away from the card table.

Bumblepuppy Days (Julian Laderman)



The nineteenth century belonged to whist, the twentieth century to bridge. But where did bridge come from, and why did it take over? This book follows the trail, with many detours, as it covers duplicate whist, Boston, Swedish whist, Russian whist or 'britch', bridge whist, auction bridge, and finally to the game we play today.

The book also covers colorful characters that have popularized each game, played it, taught it, wrote about it, including Hoyle, Cavendish, Elwell, Foster, Work, Culbertson, Goren, and many more, and to see how these writers facilitated transition of the game to the next stage of evolution. The book also covers how society was impacted, as attitudes changed towards gambling, leisure time, the role of women, and how traces of these early games can still be found in everyday language.

Heard somewhere from down the room...

Two people were arguing about leads...

"What do you mean fourth best? You held K9752, and you lead the 9! Why the hell didn't you lead the 5?"

His partner thinks for a minute and says "Ah-ha, fourth best. You mean it's from the top!"

At a local club, phones were always put in a box at the front desk before play. One phone kept; it was a distinctive tone. Finally North at table one got up to answer it. His partner overheard something along the lines 'Yes, ok, yes, alright ..., ok then, buy the handbag. What, \$15,000, oh, ok, sure.' He came back to the table and his partner asked 'What was that about? Your wife wanted a new handbag?' to which to guy replied, 'I told her to buy it, that'll stop her from ringing again.' 'Best thing of all – that wasn't my phone'.

Sean was out the front of the bridge club and looking at the new flagpole, tape measure in hand. Paddy walked by and asked what he was doing.

"I'm supposed to be getting this length of rope to be running up the flag" Sean says, "and I don't have a ladder to be measuring da height".

Paddy thinks for a minute, and goes over to the tool bag and picks out an adjustable spanner. He loosened a few bolts and lays down the flagpole. He takes the tape measure, took a few measurements announced that it was 8m, smiles, and promptly gets on his way.

Sean stands there and shakes his head. "Still the dumbest mahn in the town. I wanted the height, not the length."

"The Raving ..."

(With apology to Edgar Allen Poe)

Once upon a midnight, Drury
I drove my partner to a fury.

All I did was bid two clubs;
Don't know why he got so sore.

While I nodded, clearly napping,
I received a verbal slapping.

Partner asked me o'er and o'er,
"Have you ever played before?"

Quoth the Raver,
Nevermore!

Around the State

Clubs across NSW are strongly encouraged to submit articles to the editor to promote activities, events, successes, etc, in their club. Please send articles to editor@nswba.com.au.

Central Coast



The Central Coast Bridge Club is collecting interesting recipes and interesting bridge hands. These will be collated and edited which will produce a book of recipes and bridge hands. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards Neuro Research at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney. Ron Klinger has very kindly lent his name to this project.

So, if you have an interesting recipe or have come across an interesting bridge hand, please forward them to me here at the Central Coast Bridge Club.

Our address is PO Box 6083 Long Jetty, NSW 2261, or contact us via ccbc@westnet.com.au or on 02 4334 1294

Hunter



This year one of our valued members, Allan Stewart, will turn 100! We shall be celebrating his birthday at Hawks Nest Bridge Club on Friday February 27th as he will be celebrating his Big Day on 7th March in Sydney. We also have a delightful lady member, Pauline Cole, who will be 95 this year, they are both regular bridge players.

On 1st May our club will celebrate its twentieth anniversary and we have invited the inaugural President and Vice President to be our guests on that day, at the Hawks Nest Golf Club where bridge sessions were originally held. It's also Bridge for Brains Day at our club and we expect a good turnout from our members.

Congress Results

Armidale Teams

Ken Wilks, Rosalie Broughton, Bruce Tier, Ian Price

Central Coast Teams

Open: Mathew Vadas, Andrew Peake, Peter Gill,
Anthony Burke

Restricted: Forde Leathley, Pamela Leathley, Nola Daly,
Roy Cotton

Taree Teams

Judy Scown, Don Scown, Wayne Carroll, Fran Carroll

Manly Teams

Michael Wilkinson, Michael Courtney, Tony Ong,
Helena Dawson

Ballina Teams

Open Teams: Janet Brown, Eric Hurley, Marjorie Askew,
Bill Powell

Restricted Teams: Marie Thomas, Leonie Love,
Christopher McDowell, Jennifer McDowell

IBA Swiss Pairs

Julian Abel, Frank Budai

Trumps Festival of Bridge

Trumps Swiss Pairs: Marlene Watts, Michael Prescott

Open Pairs: Jane Dawson, Peter Gill

Australian Bridge Teams: Martin Bloom, Nigel

Rosendorff, Paul Gosney, Wendy Ashton

Bridge Shop Teams: Inez Glanger, Marcia Scudder,

Kinga Moses, Neville Moses

Gourmet Pairs (Wed)

NS: =1st George Finikiotis, Liz Fanos

Cath Whiddon, Lyn Smith

EW: Steve Baron, Julian Abel

Gourmet Pairs (Thu)

NS: Margaret Foster, Julianne Rocks

EW: Derrick Browne, Daneil Peng

1-Session Pairs: Peter Gill, Martin Bloom

Gourmet Pairs (Fri)

NS: Sarah Gaunt, Robyn Ronaldson

EW: Alice Taylor, Anne Crothers

Festival Pairs: Les Varadi, Leo Goorevich

Festival Teams: Wayne Zhu, Bob Sebesfi, Rakesh

Kumar, Kevin Davies

Double Bay Swiss Pairs

Tony Nunn, Martin Bloom

Armidale Swiss Pairs

Nicholas Wall, Edward Hahn

Kings and Queens Summer Swiss Pairs

Tom Kiss, William Zhang

Great Lakes Teams

Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, Julian Foster, David
Weston

Trumps Summer Teams

Wayne Zhu, Robert Sebesfi, David Wurth, David Fryda

Canberra Valentine Teams

Anne Powell, Margaret Bourke, Denise McKinnon, Gary
Khemka

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