

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

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Opinion

Moving the World Championships to Paris at such short notice was always likely to create logistical problems and many of the players who found themselves lodged some considerable distance from the venue were no doubt understanding about the lengthy travel time associated with getting in to compete.

However, the use of cards designed in 'symmetrical' style was another matter altogether, one which had nothing to do with relocating the event.

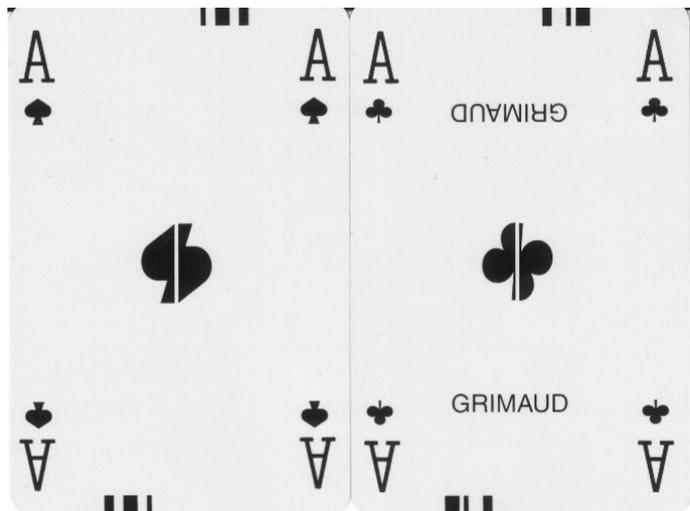
Confronted with totally unfamiliar centre spots and much smaller corner spots than is normal, the competitors were provided with an unnecessary obstacle for which they were largely unprepared. It is not surprising that the frequency of revokes and other problems associated with mis-sorting hands reached epidemic proportions.

After complaints from players and captains, the cards were replaced but the relief was short-lived and the symmetrical cards returned on the next round.

Whilst the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge provide no specification as to face design, some commonsense should be applied when selecting cards for any event, World Championship or otherwise.

If it becomes WBF policy to use such cards, then one would presume that future teams will be in a position to practise using them. A more sensible approach would surely be to scrap them for all time.

David Lusk



President's Report

The Management Committee extends their best wishes for the New Year to all members. I particularly thank those hard working members who contribute to their clubs all year round. I know that all clubs are grateful for this support. The considerable number of ABF helpers are also thanked profusely.

I appreciate I am addressing the converted, but I ask yet again for each member to attempt to sign up at least one new member in 2002. Our ability to cope with innovation given an additional 32,000 members would be very greatly improved. I hope it will be possible for all of you to play in an ABF event in 2002.

A recent Ethics advice I was sent states "Always maintain a courteous attitude to everyone; partner, opponents, Director.....". Now I add ABF Officials.

Keith McDonald
ABF President

2001 Grand National Open Teams

48 teams competed in the 2001 Grand National Open Teams at the Hakoah Club, Bondi, in Sydney. The format is five rounds of knock-out matches on Friday and Saturday, with the two undefeated teams going straight to the 48-board semis on Sunday afternoon. The K-O losers go into a Swiss teams. At the end of the Swiss, the two leaders play in a 20-board repechage on Sunday morning against the two losing quarter-finalists for the other two semi-final berths.

When all eight Sydney teams were knocked out by the end of Round 3 on Friday night, there was much joy and good-natured ribbing from the teams from the other states.

The two undefeated teams to go to the semi-finals were:
Adelaide 2: Joe Haffer – Phil Markey, Nic Croft – Luke Matthews (The first two had already won the Spring National Open Teams.)

Melbourne 1: Cathy Chua – Simon Hinge, Chris Hughes – Ben Thompson, Rob Fruewirth (Fruewirth was unable to come to Sydney.)

At the end of the Swiss, two Sydney teams emerged to enter the repechage:

Sydney 1: Val Cummings – Matt Mullamphy, Peter Newman – Matthew Thomson, Kieran Dyke – Ron Klinger (This team had won the GNOT in 1999 and 2000.)

Sydney 3: Bruce Neill – Andrew Peake, Ted Griffin – Mike Hughes, Barbara McDonald – Alan Walsh (Neill became ill and took no part in the final stages. The team then played in various partnerships. Peake had already won the SNOT.)

In the repechage **Sydney 3** met **Perth 2** (Peter Reynolds – Nigel Rosendorff, Henry Christie – Ron Cooper; Reynolds was also a SNOT winner.) and won 27-24, while **Sydney 1** met **Adelaide 1** Peter Chan – Roger Januszke, Greg Sargent – John Hewitt and won 33-28.

In the 48-board semi-finals, **Sydney 1** beat **Melbourne 1**, 149-48 and **Sydney 3** beat **Adelaide 2**, 122-101.

It was to be an all-Sydney final after all, held on Monday at the Double Bay Bridge Centre.

How's your slam bidding? For most pairs, this is the weakest part of their bidding. One of my theories is that slams can win or lose teams matches, particularly long ones, and top pairs owe it to themselves to devote significant attention to this part of the game. You can check how you and your partner would have managed on these deals.

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From Qualifying Round 6:

Board: 9

Dealer: N	North	
Vul: EW	♠ 104	
	♥ 94	
	♦ AK9865	
West	♣ 643	East
♠ 87652		♠ 9
♥ 2		♥ 10865
♦ 73		♦ J102
♣ AKJ72	South	♣ Q10985
	♠ AKQJ3	
	♥ AKQJ73	
	♦ Q4	
	♣ —	

At our table our opponents bid successfully:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

I felt that it would not hurt to bid 5NT (trump ask) over 4♦ and then bid 7♥ when partner shows two honours.

This is another possible sequence:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣ ¹
Pass	4♠ ²	Pass	5♣ ³
Pass	5♦ ⁴	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

1. RKCB on diamonds
2. 2 key cards, no ♦Q
3. Asking bid in clubs
4. No ace or king of clubs

The deal is also an excellent example of the Kabel 3NT opening (for specific aces):

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	3NT ¹
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♦ ⁴	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

1. 'Which aces do you have, if any?'
2. ♦A only. (4♣ = no ace, and 5♣ = ♣A)
3. 'Which kings, if any?'
4. ♦K only

With neither side vulnerable, you hold:

♠84 ♥Q ♦7653 ♣AQ10963

The bidding starts (Qualifying Round 6):

West	North	East	South
2♠ ¹	?		Pass

1. Weak two

Why is this game so hard? One of the reasons is that we are point-bound. Instead of looking at shape we focus more on the high card points, to our detriment. Any time you have 10+ cards in two suits you should be anxious to take action. The 6-4 pattern has considerable playing strength: 'With 6-4, bid more,' says the tip.

Board: 11

Dealer: S
Vul: Nil

		North	
		♠ 84	
		♥ Q	
		♦ 7653	
West	♣ AQ10963	East	
♠ Q109752		♠ J3	
♥ J8		♥ AK1097	
♦ K1098		♦ AQJ42	
♣ 4		♣ K	
		South	
		♠ AK6	
		♥ 65432	
		♦ —	
		♣ J8752	

Of course, if South has opened a multi-2♥ (hearts and a minor) then North can safely jump to 5♣, Pass or Correct. After Pass by South and 2♠ by West, few would criticise a pass by North but as the cards lie, you have just passed a hand which can make slam.

At our table North-South were quiet and we bid 2♠ : 3♥, 4♥ for +420 when the defence did not find the path to four tricks. In fact, with their 24 HCP and double fit, E-W cannot make any game. 5♦ can be defeated swiftly. A heart lead and a heart ruff for North or a diamond ruff for South will doom 4♠ and three rounds of spades will destroy 4♥ even without cashing the ♣A first. If East discards the ♣K on the third spade ruffed by North, a diamond gives the defence their fourth trick.

So with 24 HCP and three potential trump suits, E-W can make no game while with only 16 HCP and only one trump suit, 5♣ is cold for N-S on any trump division and 6♣ is a reasonable slam to reach. Clubs 1-1 = 52%. As Marty Bergen would say, *Points, Schmoints*.

There were four critical slam decisions in the final. This was in Set 1.

Dealer: W
Vul: All

West		East	
♠ A9		♠ K87	
♥ 10964		♥ A3	
♦ AKQ65		♦ 107432	
♣ A7		♣ KQ4	

With both sides vulnerable, North bids 2♥ over West's opening. How would you bid on from there?

Sydney 1 bid to 6♦ +1370 while **Sydney 3** went to 7♦. That went one down as there is nowhere to park the

heart loser and no miracles occurred. 16 IMPs to **Sydney 1** who won the first quarter 61-10.

Sydney 1 won the second set 36 to 21 to lead by 66 IMPs at the halfway point. **Sydney 3** struck back in the third set, 55-19 to trail by 30 with 16 boards to play. The next three slams arose in the final set:

Board: 52

Vul: All

West bids first.

West	East
♠ KQ82	♠ A7543
♥ KQ5	♥ A1094
♦ Q105	♦ AK
♣ A65	♣ Q10

There was no interference bidding and neither team reached the laydown 7♠. +1460 at both tables. No swing.

Next:

Board 56

Vul: Nil

West bids first.

West	East
♠ AKQ83	♠ J109762
♥ 107	♥ AKQ2
♦ A1086	♦ 2
♣ A2	♣ 86

Again neither side found the laydown 7♠.

Last board:

Board: 64

Dealer: W
Vul: EW

		North	
		♠ AKQ5	
		♥ A7	
		♦ AKJ7	
West	♣ AK3	East	
♠ 874		♠ 109	
♥ Q842		♥ K10	
♦ Q542		♦ 10863	
♣ 64		♣ J10752	
		South	
		♠ J632	
		♥ J9653	
		♦ 9	
		♣ Q98	

Both North-Souths started with a strong opening, negative reply, stronger hand by North, second negative. At our table Dyke rebid 2NT game-force and I transferred with 3♦ and rebid 3♠ over 3♥. Cue-bids of 4♣ and 4♦ followed and Dyke jumped to 6♠. There were no problems in the play.

At the other table, after North's game-forcing rebid, South bid 3♦, a transfer to hearts, and promising a shade more than a third negative. North's 3NT ended the bidding. That was 11 IMPs to **Sydney 1** who won the final 142-122.

While there was scope for gain on several other boards, **Sydney 3** needed to do the right thing on two of these four slam deals to take the title.

The venue, the Hakoah Club, Bondi, was fine and the service and hospitality at the Double Bay Bridge Centre for the final lived up to its fine reputation.

Ron Klinger

The 2001 SNOT

The 2001 Spring National Open Teams was held for the first time at the Hakoah Club in Bondi. As someone who has travelled to play bridge a lot, the picturesque surrounds of Bondi beach take a lot of beating as a bridge venue.

After 12 tough rounds of Swiss teams the top two teams, who then played a 64-board final, were **Haffer** (Joe Haffer, Peter Reynolds, Andrew Peake, Phil Markey) and **Cummings** (Valerie Cummings, Ron Klinger, Matthew McManus, Stephen Lester, Tony Nunn, David Beauchamp). **Haffer** won the final by a margin of 54 IMPs.

For the winners, the theme of the event and the primary reason for winning was a simple aggressive approach to bidding. Both pairs regularly reached freely bid game contracts going 3 off and scores of -800 or even -1400 were not uncommon. The bad boards were quickly consumed, however, by the repeated upside of bidding and making lots of games and often “stealing” the auction from our opponents.

This hand, from the second set of the final, was a good example of the upside of aggressive early bidding.

Dealer: W		North		
Vul: All		♠ KJ9643		
		♥ K62		
		♦ 876		
		♣ 2		
	West		East	
	♠ 8		♠ A752	
	♥ AQ1094		♥ 75	
	♦ A95		♦ Q	
	♣ AJ84		♣ K97653	
		South		
		♠ Q10		
		♥ J83		
		♦ KJ10432		
		♣ Q10		

West opened 1♥ and North bid 2♠. What do you bid with the East cards?

I know of a couple of systemic agreements that attempt to overcome this sort of problem. Ultimately though, the equation is the same. If you bid there is a significant risk of getting too high. If you pass there is unlikely to be a decent opportunity to “catch up”.

To a large extent, the answer should lie in partnership style or understanding.

The primary object of aggressive bidding is to enter an auction as early as possible and compete. The further aim is to establish fits and thereby quickly arrive at your optimum contract or make your opponents guess what theirs is. If this is an understood partnership objective then partner’s early entry and participation in an auction may be done on minimal values.

In a good partnership it is crucial that neither player is “punished” for taking such action. It is not always possible not to punish partner in such situations and that is why we regularly seemed to go 3 off in game contracts. Nonetheless, where possible, part of the aggressive style that was pursued also insisted on caution when assessing contracts based on partner’s early participation in the auction. With that agreement in mind, the clear choice on the given hand is a simple natural and forcing 3♣ bid. No fear of having to catch up later and confident (hopeful) that you won’t be going 3 off in yet another freely bid game.

On the actual hand, once having bid 3♣, West’s only concern is whether to bid 7 and this view is justified when 6♣ is an excellent contract. In real life, the auction started the same way at both tables. The Haffer team East bid 3♣, his counterpart did not. Whilst it may be possible to catch up after passing, it’s a lot harder. +13 IMPs to Haffer. In the long run, early aggressive action pays big dividends.

Unfortunately, it makes it hard to write a bridge article when most of the “work” is done in the auction. I can recall only 3 or 4 spectacular card plays by my entire team. Nigel Rosendorff, however, assisted me in remembering this hand from the last round of the Swiss.

Dealer: E		North		
Vul: Nil		♠ K8		
		♥ 86		
		♦ AJ74		
		♣ KQ764		
	West		East	
	♠ Q954		♠ A732	
	♥ AJ52		♥ 9	
	♦ KQ82		♦ 10963	
	♣ 8		♣ 9532	
		South		
		♠ J106		
		♥ KQ10743		
		♦ 5		
		♣ AJ10		

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

Nigel was keen to brag to me about this hand after the last day’s play, as he had declared and made 3NT as

North by cleverly endplaying one of the defenders. (I confess to not now remembering the exact line). Unfortunately for Nigel, this was about the only hand in the entire event I managed something spectacular with the cards.

East chose a '3rds and 5ths' ♦6 for an opening lead and West contributed the queen. There is not much to be done with declarer's diamond spots so I chose to duck. West continued with the ♦2 and I happily inserted the ♦7. East now won the ♦9 and returned the ♦3 to her partner's king and my ace.

Obviously needing heart tricks, I played a heart to the king and West's ace (West does better to duck). West exited his last diamond won by my jack. At this point, I had 8 tricks needing either a second heart trick or a spade trick. After cashing the club suit, I reached this 3-card ending.

		North		
		♠ K8		
		♥ 8		
		♦ —		
West		♣ —	East	
♠ Q			♠ A73	
♥ J5			♥ —	
♦ —			♦ —	
♣ —			♣ —	
		South		
		♠ J		
		♥ Q10		
		♦ —		
		♣ —		

As it happens, courtesy of my ♠8, it is near impossible to go off at this point. Nonetheless, the carding, discards and auction suggested that West started with 4 hearts, so I exited a small spade from hand. East cannot afford to win otherwise the ♠K becomes the ninth and if West wins, he is endplayed for the ninth. Sorry, Nigel.

Phil Markey

♣♦♥♠ ♣♦♥♠ ♣♦♥♠ ♣♦♥♠

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♣♦♥♠ ♣♦♥♠ ♣♦♥♠ ♣♦♥♠

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The 2001 VENICE CUP

The last time I represented Australia in the Venice Cup was in Perth in 1989. For once, I thought, I would have the least distance to travel of any players. Unfortunately, about five weeks before the event, the domestic pilots began industrial action and, by the time of the event, they had resigned. Sue Lusk, Jeff (Travis) and I ended up travelling by train – a 44-hour journey after all!

Perhaps I should be wary of future Venice Cup competitions. This year, approximately five weeks before the event, terrorism struck America. Consequently, the US and Canadian teams withdrew from the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. Other representative teams were then asked whether they would compete if the events were held in Bali (but no longer as world championships) or if the events were held elsewhere. With six (of 16) women's teams and five (of 18) open teams unwilling to compete in Bali, the event was cancelled in late September. A few days later the event was on again – this time in Paris, a few days later than initially planned. Once again, the Australians would be travelling far more extensively than hoped.

Paris instead of Bali. Well, how did it compare? Firstly, the women's event became tougher! Daniela von Arnim [the heroine of Germany's come-from-behind victory where they recovered nearly 50 IMPs in the final 16 boards] was able to travel to Paris, whereas her doctor had advised against long-distance travel whilst pregnant. France, as host country, was invited to play and fielded their strongest team [which had been absent from the European qualifying]; in fact, they were the other finalists. Then Israel was invited to play – reasons unknown except to avert a bye!

Secondly, the accommodation. Our hotel was comfortable, with an extremely reasonable room rate negotiated. It had a wonderful shopping complex, with a gourmet supermarket that many players frequented regularly. Unfortunately, the convention centre attached to the hotel was not available [too small?] for the first week's play, so we played at the Stade de France, which was built to host football's 1998 World Cup. The hotel was in the west of Paris, with the Stade to the north of Paris so players were taken to the venue by bus. We had to leave before 9am, not returning until nearly 9pm each day, at which time we needed to eat. It made for a long day. Personally I found the Stade a disappointing venue, though I appreciate that the WBF had very limited time to make appropriate arrangements. However, we did get to watch the grass 'grow'; they were resurfacing the stadium for an upcoming football game against South Africa. I also tried to determine exactly which 25,000-seat stand could be moved according to the event!

I was dismayed with the so-called 'no smoking inside' regulations. By the second day smokers didn't seem to

worry about where they smoked [security personnel included].

The provision of endless coffee and tea by Lavazza was fantastic. Many cars had been provided by sponsors and these were used to ferry personnel and some players to the venue. I must say that certain players seemed to be given 'preference' [they were certainly never seen on the buses].

The cards we played with were atrocious. These were, however, made for the Bali event, so we would have suffered regardless. They were symmetrical, which meant that the symbol in the middle of the card was half one direction, half the other. In addition, the suit symbols in the top corners were much smaller the usual which added to the confusion. There were many cases of revokes caused by confusion over the aces of spades and clubs and, similarly, the black twos.

We all arrived in Paris several days before the bridge started in order to overcome jetlag. However, despite adjusting physically I'm not sure that we all adjusted mentally (as suggested by Paul Brayshaw in this Newsletter). We were playing all the sessions during the day: 10am, 2pm and 5.20pm. Our evening sessions were appalling – France 6-24, Israel 6-24, Venezuela 15-15, Brazil 15-15, Canada 7-23. Playing to form, we should have had big wins against Venezuela and Brazil at the very least. Were we unused to playing without a dinner break? Were our blood sugar levels low? Did our minds not adjust to the time difference?

Irina Levitina, from US1, played this hand card perfectly against us (hand rotated for convenience):

North		
Lynn Baker		
	♠ AQ9	
	♥ 10843	
	♦ K2	
West	♣ 8762	East
Barbara		Elizabeth
♠ K7		♠ J643
♥ QJ72		♥ —
♦ 763		♦ QJ10984
♣ KQ104	South	♣ 953
	Irina	
	♠ 10852	
	♥ AK965	
	♦ A5	
	♣ AJ	

Against silent opposition, Irina played in 4♥ on the ♣K lead. At trick 2, she led a trump, finding out about the bad break. She now exited in clubs, planning to ruff the clubs in hand. On a small spade return she did not rely on a double finesse, instead planning to endplay us. She finessed the ♠Q, trumped a club, led to the ♦K and ruffed

the last club. Now ♦A and a small spade left me without recourse. If I discarded my diamond, letting partner win, I would be endplayed in trumps on the next lead. If I ruffed, then led my diamond, the ruff and discard was the tenth trick. The end-position was:

	North	
	♠ 9	
	♥ 1084	
	♦ —	
West	♣ —	East
♠ —		♠ J6
♥ QJ7		♥ —
♦ 6		♦ QJ
♣ —	South	♣ —
	♠ 108	
	♥ K9	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

Apparently, it was played exactly the same way on open room vugraph and the audience burst into applause. Most other declarers went wrong, trying for the double spade finesse. The line taken is far superior.

In the same match, Elizabeth and I had an auction which I've never experienced before. Holding ♠K108 ♥2 ♦A1092 ♣KQJ62, I opened the bidding with 1♣. Elizabeth responded 1♦ to which I replied with 2♥, showing four-card diamond support and a singleton heart. The bidding tray returned through the screen with 7♦ and my screen-mate and I were absolutely stunned. Partner held ♠AQ74 ♥AQ3 ♦KQJ8 ♣A8. She was sure I held the ♠K, ♦A, ♣K and couldn't necessarily find the queen and jack of clubs. It was a flat board, but bid in a spectacular way.

In these events, you need some luck. Perhaps the first match was a sign that we were not playing 'in luck'. Two hands were indicative of this. Firstly, what contract would you like to be in holding:

West	East
♠ K1083	♠ A964
♥ 103	♥ KQ85
♦ AJ1062	♦ KQ3
♣ J10	♣ 43

Elizabeth opened the East hand 1NT (14-17 HCP) to which I responded with 2♣ (a range and 4- or 5-card major ask). North doubled, showing clubs, so over Elizabeth's 2♦, showing a minimum with no club stopper I chose to pass. 2♦ looked a fine contract, with two club losers, one heart loser and... well, of course, spades were 4-1 with North holding the singleton queen. At the other table Austria bid and made 4♠.

Three hands later, Elizabeth opened a strong 2♣, vulnerable against not. South intervened with 3♠ and I was in some trouble holding ♠K ♥87542 ♦Q5 ♣AK532.

We had agreed that a pass showed a positive but hadn't discussed 5-5 shapes. Of course, North raised to 4♠, doubled by East. Now my bidding had to start at the five-level. We were happy to reach 6♣ but had a perfect fit and the grand slam was cold. [East held ♠A43 ♥AKQ10 ♦A10 ♣QJ64.] Fortunately it was a flat hand, but how many Souths actually bid on this hand: ♠J109652 ♥J9 ♦J974 ♣9?

Highlights of the event included a draw against the US2 team and defeating England in the final match where we all played tight bridge. Some of the quarter-final vugraph sessions were sensational. In US1 versus Italy there were three amazing sessions. In the first the US team played faultlessly to bring the margin back to 1 IMP. Then, in the final two sessions, the Italians played faultless bridge; in fact, they held the US IMP-less in the first of these sessions! The German women's team also played to the crowd, building a big lead, losing it, then coming back with two wonderful sessions. At that time, I returned home.

However, I was delighted that a woman has now won the Bermuda Bowl – Rose Melzer in the US2 team. And the final of the Venice Cup must have left the audience, let alone the players, breathless. The German women came from 46.5 IMPs behind to win by 2 IMPs in the last 16 boards.

Gold Coast Congress

Gold Point Event and Australian Team Selection Point Event

Sunday February 17 to Tuesday February 19

Open Pairs Championship
Senior Pairs Championship
Restricted Pairs Championship

Tuesday February 19 - Friday February 22

Open Teams Championship
Senior Teams Championship
Restricted Teams Championship

The Senior and Restricted Pairs and Teams will be held at the Gold Coast International and the Open events will be held at the ANA Hotel. (These hotels are within walking distance of each other.)

Entry forms can be downloaded from ABF Website or email Kim Ellaway on

qldbridge@ozemail.com.au.

I still have no actual reason why, despite high expectations, we performed poorly.

I suspect all the changes, deciding whether or not to go, negotiating with the ABF to pay the additional airfares, arranging a new captain, making new travel arrangements and so on also took their toll on us all.

Paris, once the bridge ended for us, was charming, despite the museums being closed due to a strike! However, I would have preferred a short 'hop' to Bali and I'm hoping to make it there in 2003.

Barbara Travis

The Open Team in Paris

I have read with interest many commentators writing that our Open Team (George Bilski, Terry Brown, Peter Fordham, Philip Gue, Barry Noble and Michael Prescott) performed below par at the recent World Championships. Our President, Keith McDonald, expressed this view in the last newsletter (Issue 92, Nov 01). As a member of the team, I must say I agree. However, it would be fair to bring to light some mitigating circumstances which affected the Australian Open team.

Primarily, the doubt about the event being held after the cancellation of Bali and the events of Sept 11th were unsettling. The speedy need to get to Paris and the doubts that the WBF had secured adequate accommodation was also filled with drama. Two members of the team did not make it to Paris until the Sunday evening with the event to start on Monday morning. This fact precluded any practice sessions to get team members' minds working properly.

Naturally we lost our first three matches and were in last place. Then the team began to function much better as the event progressed and we moved up to 12th after we had maximum wins over Indonesia, Japan, Hong Kong and took three other matches and some draws. We had a close loss to USA1 by 14-16.

Thus, we were in a position to qualify for the quarter-finals but had to play USA2 (the eventual winners), Poland and Italy. It proved too tough a finish and we only held our position.

One thing I learned over there was how poorly managed and prepared we were compared to the professional European teams. The US and European teams have a manager, coach, non-playing captain, a psychologist and a scorer/recorder. The manager and psychologist prepare a defence against the systems played by their next opponents and prepare a profile of the players they are scheduled to meet. The coach reviews the matches played with the help of the recorder. Their players do not sit down at game time and study their opponents' system cards.

The important fact which emerged is that any future Australian team should arrive in plenty of time to settle in and have at least three solid practice sessions. It must be noted that Paris is one of the most expensive cities in Europe and the subsidy offered by the ABF was nowhere near sufficient to cover the real cost. If Australian teams are to be competitive in the future, these points will need to be addressed.

One point of interest is the fact that Terry Brown and George Bilski won the Butler at the Bowl. They had an average of +1.3, twice that of the second placed pair. This is the first time an Australian pair has won this event and was the subject of much discussion and congratulations. But our press for some reason ignored this success. Also, before leaving for Paris, Terry Brown and Phil Gue won the Australian Swiss Pairs Championship in Hobart.

I'm sure that if we were as well supported and prepared as the European teams we would compete on an even footing, remembering that they play bridge for a living; we for our sport.

Barry Noble

Dr. George McCutcheon

AN OBITUARY

George Buchanan McCutcheon was born, the third of seven children, in Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1925. More commonly then than now, card games were a regular family activity and by his early teens George had become an accomplished whist player. His acquaintance with bridge began during his medical student career at the University of Aberdeen. After graduation, bridge continued to be a major interest within his busy life. He represented the North of Scotland against the South amidst other successes.

In the late fifties with his first wife, Joan, and daughter, Therese (Terry), George moved to Queensland taking up a staff position at Bailey Henderson, a psychiatric hospital in Toowoomba. He found no organised bridge there. Expanding his horizon he tried Brisbane and found two small clubs playing once or twice a week. Some may have given up. Not George, who was both energetic and a skillful organiser. Within a couple of years he had clubs established in Toowoomba, Gatton and Dalby. Further, he contributed to a re-invigoration of bridge in Brisbane. He made the return trip there at least weekly and formed a strong partnership with Harold Hiley, the best player in Queensland in that era.

By now George had made contact with leading players in other states and was arousing interest in open bridge events, weekend or longer. This type of competition

(Congress Bridge) did not exist in our country at that time though increasingly popular in Europe and the US. Not good enough. In 1960 George conducted, for the fledgling Toowoomba Bridge Club, its (and Australia's) first Congress. In 1961, aided by Arthur Hoffmann, the Brisbane Congress was underway enhanced, at George's invitation, by the presence in the field of Tim Seres and Dick Cummings. There they discussed the possibility of a week long event. In February 1962 what is now a great national institution came into being – the Gold Coast Bridge Congress. George was its organiser, its convenor and found time to be a major competitor.

As a young player it was my good fortune to be George's partner in this event. He was an excellent player possessed of a less than common strength. More than many others who may have had greater talent George almost always played to the top of his ability. He was also a fine captain. In retrospect I believe major highlights of George's bridge career would have been victories, as playing captain, in the first two Gold Coast Teams. Our teammates in 1962 were Harold Hiley/Bob Williams and Bruce Meares/Denis Priest. Finals opponents were Tim Seres/Dick Cummings (NSW) and Ron McIntosh/Jim Waugh (SA). The concept of 'going away' to play in a bridge event was up and running.

Another area within our game where George contributed significantly was the establishment, in 1962, of our national masterpoint system. The states had haggled over this for far too long until George's conciliatory skills led to agreement. It was more than fitting, then, that the ABF honoured his services to our game via the creation, in 1971, of the ' McCutcheon Trophy'. It is presented annually to the player who wins most (Australian) masterpoints in the calendar year.

By 1968 a number of changes had taken place in George's life. His first marriage had ended. He married again, to Helga. His career had advanced with a promotion to medical superintendent at the Challinor Centre in Ipswich. This was a demanding position and caused him to decide there was not room in his life any more for serious bridge. He could no longer devote the time and energy. Typical of the man the decision, once made, was adhered to – his retirement from all but the most casual of play was absolute. He was greatly missed.

Although his active career in bridge in Australia spanned only a decade George contributed enormously to the game here. When he arrived, bridge in Australia was moribund. When he withdrew from bridge it was thriving, moving forwards in leaps and bounds. Many others contributed, but few as much. George died, after a protracted illness, on Monday December 12th last year. To his wife, Helga, his daughter, Terry, and her family, my condolences on behalf of our bridge community.

Tony Jackman

ABF News

ADVERTISING RATES

As from the March 2002 issue, the advertising rates will rise by 10% to:

	No GST	Incl GST
Full Page	\$275.00	\$302.50
Half Page/Column	\$137.50	\$151.25
Half Column	\$62.50	\$68.75

INSURANCE

The rise in Insurance premiums as a result of the September 11th terrorist attack and the fall of HIH has resulted in a doubling to almost \$31,000 in the Public Liability Policy that the ABF pays for all 305 clubs in Australia. There has also been a considerable increase in the number of Public Liability claims and payouts in the last two years.

ONLINE BRIDGE OFFER

Almost 300 bridge players since October 2001 have taken up the offer of free online bridge (free till the end of February 2002) offered by the ABF in its trial with International On Line Bridge (IOBC). Players are urged to try it out by going to the ABF website at: www.abf.com.au.



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 or surf to www.duplimate.com

Youth News

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The following international events will be available to Australian Youth players who meet selection criteria.

Jan 12.	International Youth Challenge (formerly the Trans-Tasman Challenge) in Canberra
May/June	Pacific Asia Bridge Federation Championships.
July	Hamilton Test vs. New Zealand
August	World University Teams Championships in Bruges, Belgium.
September	World Junior Bridge Triathlon in Montreal, Canada.

It is hoped that Australia will have representation at all events.

The ABF Website has further information.

YOUTH COORDINATOR

From January 1, David Lusk will remain as the sole Youth Coordinator. Regrettably, Peter Gill has withdrawn from the role. Peter's energy will be invaluable to the NSW youth programme but will be missed at the national level.

The Director's Chair

IRREGULARITIES DURING THE AUCTION

PART 2

Laws 28 to 34 relate to 'Calls out of Rotation'. Note the difference between a bid out of turn and a pass (call) out of turn. Referring to the definitions, a call is 'Any bid, double, redouble or pass', whilst a bid is 'An undertaking to win at least a specific number of tricks in a specified denomination'. The options are vastly different, with a pass being far less serious than a bid. As in Law 27 (Insufficient Bid) and others, any call out of rotation can be accepted. Try the following when you hold:

- ♠ 8
- ♥ AKQJ65
- ♦ AQ3
- ♣ A65

You are the dealer, about to open an Acoll 8 playing trick 2♥. Before you have the opportunity to do so, your right-hand opponent opens a weak, pre-emptive 2♥ out of turn. You call the director who offers you a chance to accept. Your move.

This occurred to an international player of repute who reasoned that if he accepted the bid, which he did, partner

would draw the only possible conclusion that he was stacked in hearts, unable to double and wanting to penalise. Unfortunately the player had an enviable reputation as a gentleman at the table, so his partner just assumed that he was being nice to his opponents. Instead of doubling, he bid his 6 card spade suit.

In all seriousness, acceptance is a valuable option. Don't discard it lightly. Should an acceptance not be forthcoming, then the director will offer applicable options which are encompassed within one of the seven laws pertaining to a call out of turn, opening pass out of turn and before any player has yet bid.

1) Pass out of Turn:

Call is cancelled and offender must pass for one round.

2) Pass out of Turn During the Auction:

RHO's turn to call: as above.

LHO's turn to call: Treated as a change of call (see Law 25).

Partner's Turn to call: Offender must pass throughout with partner barred from doubling or redoubling at that turn.

A conventional pass out of rotation is treated as a bid out of rotation.

3) Double or Redouble out of Turn:

At partner's turn to call: Partner is barred for the complete auction.

At RHO's turn to call: If RHO passes, the double or redouble must be repeated, no penalty. If RHO bids, the offender may do as he wishes but partner is barred throughout. (Law 23 'Damaging Enforced Pass' may apply.)

4) A Bid out of Turn:

At RHO's Turn: If RHO passes, then the bid must be repeated with no penalty.

If RHO bids, double or redoubles, the offender can repeat the denomination at any legal level barring partner for one round of bidding or take any other legal action, including double or redouble, barring partner for the rest of the auction. (Law 23 applies.)

Law 33 and 34 complete the picture, covering simultaneous calls: 'The Offender's Call Deemed to be Subsequent' and 'Retention of Right to Call', the latter safeguarding a player's right to call if a call has been followed by three passes when one of those passes was out of rotation. This is an aspect I have never encountered!

Richard Grenside



THE BRIDGE SHOP

614 Willoughby Road WILLOUGHBY 2068 PO BOX 429
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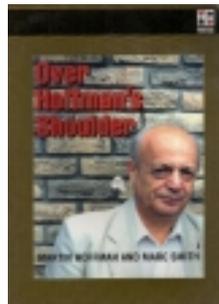
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Marty Sez
by Marty Bergen

Marty Bergen's latest effort in the *Points Schmoints* series contains 114 very practical tips on a variety of subjects, each spanning just one or two pages. An ideal book for intermediate players familiar to Bergen's conversational style or those players keen to join the fan-club.

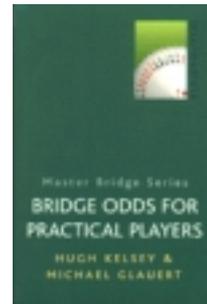
\$32.95



Over Hoffman's Shoulder
by Martin Hoffman

Hoffman joins forces with Marc Smith to tell the reader exactly what went through his mind as he tackled some great hands over the course of a year's tournament play - from the initial bidding, right through to their triumphant conclusion. An entertaining view of top-class bridge.

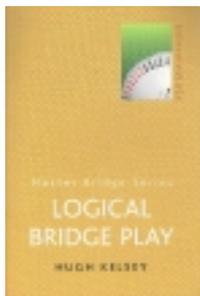
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Bridge Odds for Practical Players
by Hugh Kelsey and Michael Glauert

The reprint of one of Kelsey's classic texts. The authors tackle some important topics (such as the Theory of Vacant Spaces and the Principle of Restricted Choice) but always keep in perspective that the reader is interested in bridge first and probabilities second.

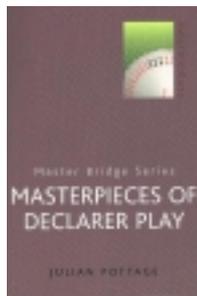
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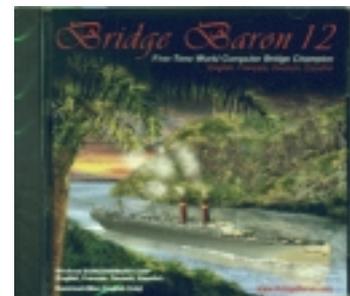
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Bidding Into The 21st Century

TEST YOUR COMPETITIVE BIDDING AT THE THREE LEVEL

How would you continue after the following sequence at pairs, BOTH vulnerable ?

1♥ (2♣) 2♥ (3♣)
?

- 1) ♠K85 ♥AKJ763 ♦873 ♣3
- 2) ♠QJ4 ♥KJ865 ♦K62 ♣Q2
- 3) ♠KQJ2 ♥AQJ62 ♦75 ♣K2
- 4) ♠AQ5 ♥AJ1073 ♦AJ3 ♣93
- 5) ♠94 ♥KQJ83 ♦AK8 ♣852
- 6) ♠AK3 ♥AJ7643 ♦KJ53 ♣—
- 7) ♠KJ7 ♥AQ87542 ♦Q3 ♣3
- 8) ♠65 ♥AQJ92 ♦AKQ82 ♣3
- 9) ♠Q3 ♥AK9764 ♦K72 ♣AQ
- 10) ♠2 ♥AKJ874 ♦AQ8652 ♣—

- 1) 3♥. Automatic with a six card suit, and in no way an invitation to 4♥. Your sixth trump is one extra winner, and one less loser. The modern point of view is that your side has nine trumps, and the opponents have eight or nine trumps, so the total number of trumps, and tricks (TNT) is 17 or 18. Assuming the TNT is 17, then the likelihood is that one side makes 9 tricks and the other side 8 tricks (TNT is extremely accurate at the two and three level). Plus 100 will probably score poorly if 3♥ makes, so take your chances at scoring +140. If opponents can make 110 in 3♣ and 3♥ fails, you hope to be undoubled and go minus 100. Partscores are the expert's special domain, and they are keenly aware of the necessity to either push one level higher, or to double for penalties in these razor-edge, but frequent, situations.
- 2) Pass. An easy decision with your queens and jacks, which are more valuable in defence than play. Your best chance is that you have pushed opponents to the three level, and you should hope for +100, on the basis that you probably couldn't make 2♥ anyway. Double is second choice, since your pass may encourage partner to compete with 3♥.
- 3) 3♦. Game try. You would prefer a game try in spades, but 3♠ would take you beyond 3♥. In this sequence 3♥ is purely competitive, and the only game try available is 3♦, so it covers all game try hands. If the opponents were competing in diamonds, so no game try is available, then double serves as the game try. Marty Bergen, in his excellent "Better Bidding with Bergen-Volume 2 Competitive Bidding, Fit Bids, and More", refers to these doubles as "maximal overcall doubles" or "game try doubles".
- 4) Double. Opponents have overcalled and raised so you will hold a full-blooded penalty double far less frequently than stronger balanced hands such as this, so partner

may occasionally remove your double to 3♥ or 4♥. You have a ready made trump lead against 3♣X, and can expect a penalty of 500 or 800. If you don't have game on, this will make a handsome entry on the travelling score sheet. If you tend to open 1NT on all or most 15-17 hands with a five-card major, then double will be more like, ♠65 ♥AJ765 ♦A76 ♣KQ10.

- 5) 3♥. You do not have a six-card suit, but there are numerous pointers to bidding three hearts. Your hearts are strong, and your values concentrated. In cases where double fits exist for both sides the number of tricks available may be higher than the Total Number of Tricks. Also your three small clubs indicate at least one extra trick may be available from ruffing clubs in dummy.
- 6) 4♣. It is unlikely that you would be looking for slam, so a bid above the game try level tells partner it is your side's hand, and sets up a forcing situation at the five-level. By cue bidding the opponent's suit at this level you are showing a first round-control, obviously vital information. Partner will now bid at the five level, double 5♣, or make a forcing pass leaving the decision to you.
- 7) 4♥. This time you don't want partner to get involved at the five level, so you simply follow The Law of Total Tricks and bid to the four-level with your ten-card trump fit. The effect is that you take away space and give your opponents the last guess on the deal, whether to pass, double, or bid on to 5♣.
- 8) 4♦. As in question 6, bids above 3♥ in a new suit are made with a view to making five-level decisions easier. The expectation is a strong four card suit or a five card suit. This emphasises the value of good trump support, length in diamonds, and ♣A and ♠A, and perhaps ♠K and tells partner there is a forcing situation at the five-level.
- 9) 4♥. It is tempting to bid 3NT, but now everyone would know you have a strong hand with a double club stopper. Opponents could now allow you play 3NT, but on a spade lead. Also if you later finish up in 4♥ the opponents will be warned off the club lead. If opponents save in 5♣ over your 4♥, you have an easy double.
- 10) 6♥. You have good prospects in 6♥, but you also need to preempt opponents out of co-operating and working out whether they have a good save in 7♣. The 1♥ opening is far superior to opening 2♣ or 2♦, where, against good opponents, the bidding might be at the five or six-level when it gets back to you.

Paul Lavings

ABF Calendar - 2002

Date	Event/Contact	Location/Phone
February		
16-23	Gold Coast Congress Kim Ellaway qldbridge@ozemail.com.au	Surfers Paradise (07) 3855 3331
March		
7-10	Open/Women's Playoffs Val Brockwell valbrockwell@ozemail.com.au	Sydney (02) 6239 2265
16-17	ABF AGM Val Brockwell	Canberra (02) 6239 2265
April		
26-28	Senior Playoffs Val Brockwell	TBA (02) 6239 2265
May		
TBA	Oceania Congress Val Brockwell	TBA (02) 6239 2265
17-20	Autumn National Teams Dianne Marler marler@arcom.com.au	Adelaide 0414 689 620
June		
TBA	World-Wide Bridge Contest John Hansen abfmpc@inet.com.au	Australia-Wide (08) 6239 2265
6-10	McCance Trophy & VCC Jenny Thompson bjpt@ozemail.com.au	Melbourne (03) 9885 0160
7-10	Barrier Reef Teams Kim Ellaway qldbridge@ozemail.com.au	Townsville (07) 3855 3331
TBA	PABF Championships Val Brockwell	TBA (02) 6239 2265
29-	NZ Nationals	Hamilton
6 July	Fran Jenkins fran@nzcba.co.nz	+64 4 473 7748
July		
19-	Australian National C'ships	Hobart
2 Aug	Margaret Whitehouse tba@tas.quik.com.au	(03) 6243 9319
August		
16-31	WBF World Championships Val Brockwell	Montreal (02) 6239 2265
September		
16-31	Sydney Festival Valerie Cummings vcummings@ozemail.com.au	Sydney (02) 9959 4946
28-	Hans Rosendorff Teams	Perth
1 Oct	Sue Broad	(08) 9384 3350
October		
18-20	Australian Swiss Pairs Norma Smith dsmith@microtech.com.au	Launceston (03) 6327 3371
November		
7-9 (Qual)	Spring Nat Women's Tms Frank Budai budai@all.com.au	Sydney

10 (Final)	Spring Nat Women's Tms Frank Budai	Sydney
11-13 (Qual)	Spring Nat Open Teams Frank Budai	Sydney
14 (Final)	Spring Nat Open Teams Frank Budai	Sydney
15-17	GNOT Final John Brockwell jbrockwell@ozemail.com.au	Sydney (02) 6246 5093
17	Provincial Pairs John Brockwell	Sydney (02) 6246 5093

Letters to the Editors

ADVERTISING RATES

*The Editors,
ABF Newsletter,*

I read with interest Paul Marston's view that the cost of advertising in the ABF Newsletter (ABFN) was less than fair and reasonable to him as a competitor for bridge related advertising revenue.

Paul's reference to the 'ABF subsidising advertisers' ignores the fact that the ABF is a body that exists for the benefit of its members.

My members, through the club, contribute \$7,000-\$8,000 a year to the ABF and State Association which I continually try to evaluate in terms of the value which we collectively receive for this payment.

In summary our benefits are:

- affiliation with the State and Federal Bridge authority.
- delivery to the club of approximately 80 copies of the ABF Newsletter, an excellent publication which has a good following in my club.
- a public liability insurance policy which has a value of approximately \$500 per annum.
- masterpoints the value of which the ABF debases through the addition of an increasing number of gold masterpoint events. [Hopefully the ABF will recognise that a failure to modernise the antiquated masterpoint system may see its demise in the future.]

My cost/benefit assessment is that my players and my club receive less than full value.

Paul's calculation of the production costs versus the advertising charges ignores the revenue side of the equation. It is distributed free of charge partially recognising the affiliation costs paid to the ABF by its constituents.

The marginal cost of adding four pages to the Newsletter to accommodate the advertising cannot be calculated by simply dividing the total production cost by the number of pages. The marginal cost per page is probably less

than \$50 given that there is no editorial cost, the print setup has been established and the distribution costs would vary little.

If the clubs, bridge promoters and entrepreneurs who contribute substantially towards the finance of the ABF receive advertising rates for bridge related products which is less than **Paul** considers reasonable then I respectfully suggest that this is a problem for Paul to deal with not the ABF. The ABFN does not advertise motor vehicles, life insurance or other non-bridge related products. It advertises products which directly relate to bridge and the activities of the bridge clubs.

I would however, be grossly remiss if I did not note the outstanding contribution of Australian Bridge Magazine to bridge in this country over many years.

From a personal point of view, my decision to advertise our bridge holidays in the ABFN is based on fundamentals. The circulation of the ABFN is in excess of 9,000 with a potential readership of up to 33,000 while the circulation of Australian Bridge I would guess is around 3,000 of which a number of subscribers reside overseas. Even if the advertising price were the same, the cost per reader would be substantially greater in AB than the ABF Newsletter.

Finally, perhaps Paul needs to look more closely at Australian Bridge's cost of advertising in terms of the marginal cost of producing that advertising and the overall cost structure as perhaps the problem is that his costs are too high rather than the ABFN too low.

David Stern, Sydney

POLITICAL COMMENTS IN EDITORIALS

*The Editors,
ABF Newsletter,*

The ABF Newsletter is not an appropriate forum for the expression of political opinion. The two front page contributions to the November issue (No. 92) both violate a fundamental tenet of the game.

I would urge David Lusk to tender an apology for his insulting remarks about bridge players and in future to restrict his expressed opinions to aspects of the game.

*Sincerely,
Geoffrey Lee, Merewether, Vic*

Editor's Comment: *[If anyone else interpreted the Opinion column in issue 92 as a slur on the character of bridge players, then I apologise. My intention was only to highlight what a resilient and determined bunch we are.]*

Country Congress Calendar

Dates	Where/Event	Contact
February		
10	Tweed Heads Restricted Teams	Joy Rennie Tweed Heads BC PO Box 106 Tweed Heads 2485 (07) 5536 1570 (Club) (02) 6676 1792 (H)
March		
3	Coffs Harbour Restricted Pairs	Beth Chambers PO Box 6545 Park Beach Plaza Coffs Harbour 2450 (02) 6652 3951
8-10	Batemans Bay Congress Pairs & Teams email: Evelyn_Jenna@msn.com.au	Joyce Murray 16 Ocean Avenue Surf Beach 2536
10	Sunshine Coast Sunshine Coast Pairs Maroochydore	Anne McLeod PO Box 5152 Business Centre 4558 (07) 5492 7539
16-17	Wollongong Illawarra BA Annual Congress Open Pairs Open Teams iba@speedlink.com.au	Margaret Spira c/- IBA Hall 11 Princes Hwy Figtree 2525 (02) 4227 2799 (02) 4267 3699
April		
20-21	Griffith Wine Country Congress Swiss Pairs Swiss Teams	Margaret Perosin P.O. Box 512 Griffith 2680 (02) 6962 2468
May		
19	Maitland Teams Congress	Rosemary Pout (02) 4966 5376
24-26	Mudgee Walk-in Pairs Open Pairs Open teams	Val Heferen PO Box 536 Mudgee 2850 (02) 6372 3383
25-26	Coffs Harbour Swiss Teams	Beth Chambers PO Box 6545 Park Beach Plaza Coffs Harbour 2450 (02) 6652 3951 c/- Val Mitchell
26	ACT Southern Tableland Teams	Canberra BC PO Box 9006 Deakin 2600 (02) 6282 2382
31- June 3	Darwin Crocodile Congress e-mail: 7bulbul@dingoblue.net.au	Ken Brown (08) 8948 2807
June		
22-23	Sunshine Coast Honeysuckle Pairs	Anne McLeod As Above

22-23

Tweed Heads
 Wintersun Congress
 Swiss Pairs
 Swiss Teams

Joy Rennie
 Tweed Heads BC
 PO Box 106
 Tweed Heads 2485
 (07) 5536 1570 (Club)
 (02) 6676 1792 (H)

September

1 **Sunshine Coast**
 1-Day Swiss Teams
 Maroochydore

Anne McLeod
 PO Box 5152
 Business Centre 4558
 (07) 5492 7539
 c/- Val Mitchell
 Canberra BC
 PO Box 9006
 Deakin 2600
 (02) 6282 2382

October

20 **Coffs Harbour**
 Open Pairs

Beth Chambers
 PO Box 6545
 Park Beach Plaza
 Coffs Harbour 2450
 (02) 6652 3951

November

10 **Tweed Heads**
 Birthday Teams

Joy Rennie
 Tweed Heads BC
 PO Box 106
 Tweed Heads 2485
 (07) 5536 1570 (Club)
 (02) 6676 1792 (H)

ABF Press Releases

**AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WBF BRIDGE EVENT
 PRIOR TO THE SALT LAKE CITY OLYMPICS**

The Australian Bridge Federation was invited by the World Bridge Federation on 12th November to participate in the 4th IOC Grand Prix as an attraction sport prior to the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in February 2002.

The Australian Open Team was invited to take up this offer. With the short notice, only three of the six members of the team that played in the Bermuda Bowl in Paris were available.

In these circumstances, the Management Committee of the ABF, at its meeting of 15/16 December, decided that it was unable to endorse any players as THE Australian team. The Committee noted that Jose Damiani, President of the World Bridge Federation, stated that he would "prefer to cooperate with the NBOs in the designation of their players". While the Committee is supportive of the WBF objective, it has decided that it must decline the invitation to nominate pairs.

continued next page

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The program takes you from the very basics of Acol all the way through the maze of bidding technique. The program includes Transfers and Key-card Blackwood as well as all sorts of bidding tactics and tests of judgement.

Any Acol player should take advantage of this superb innovation. You are sure to learn a lot and have a great deal of fun.

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---000---

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 WA 6007 Email: dyovich@iinet.net.au

2002 PLAYOFF

Entries for the 2002 playoff closed on Friday 14 December at 4.00pm as advertised contemporaneously in the September ABF Newsletter and on the ABF web site.

The Management Committee determined that it would accept all entries received before the Committee convened to consider the entries. Entries with defects such as lack of entry fee, system or Declaration were to be accepted subject to immediate rectification of the deficiency. One entry was received after the closing date but before the entries were opened. This entry was accepted.

Fifteen entries were received for each of the Open and the Women's Playoff.

The ABF Secretary will publish the list of entrants on the web site and in the Newsletter in due course.

Book & Software Reviews

MASTERPIECES OF DECLARER PLAY BY JULIAN POTTAGE (CASSELL & Co, GREAT BRITAIN, 2001, \$23.95)

This is not a collection of brilliantly played hands, but a more advanced sequel to the recent "*The Golden Rules of Declarer Play*". The hands, notrump and suit contracts, come from Pottage's imagination. They are instructive, and can be generally be solved after giving the hand some thought. The author has made extensive use of the CD program "*Deep Finesse*" to analyse and refine the deals.

See if you can find the way to reach dummy on this deal, looking at all four hands:

Dealer: E		North	
		♠ 103	
		♥ 92	
		♦ K83	
West	♣ QJ10542	East	
♠ Q987		♠ J2	
♥ KQJ104		♥ 863	
♦ —		♦ AJ97642	
♣ 9863	South	♣ 7	
	♠ AK654		
	♥ A75		
	♦ Q105		
	♣ AK		

East opens 3♦, and your 3NT closes the bidding. West leads ♥K, and you duck twice and win the third heart. After unblocking your clubs how do you enjoy the four club winners staring at you from dummy?

East's shape is clearly 2-3-7-1, so first play off ♠A-K, bringing East down to diamonds only. The way to dummy can be deduced by a process of elimination. The ♦Q fails, as does

♦10 because East simply ducks. The solution is to play ♦5 and play dummy's ♦8. East can't duck, and if East wins the trick then he must allow an entry back to dummy. For players of intermediate plus strength 72 deals of this ilk will certainly improve your game.

OVER HOFFMAN'S SHOULDER BY MARTIN HOFFMAN AND MARC SMITH (FINESSE BRIDGE PUBLICATIONS, BATH, GREAT BRITAIN, 2001, \$29.95)

A year in Martin Hoffman's life entails continual travelling back and forward between the USA and Europe. For the most part he plays pro with a motley collection of well-off clients, and is grateful whenever they manage to hold up their end.

But when it comes to declarer play Hoffman is in his element. His bidding is simple and practical, and he makes the most of his card play opportunities:

♠ KJ109875	♠ A
♥ QJ96	♥ K1082
♦ K	♦ A86
♣ 2	♣ KQJ86

Reading the tempo in the opponent's bidding plays an important role in the play of the hand, as Hoffman frequently demonstrates. Both vulnerable, Hoffman opens 3♠, and partner raises to 4♠. Hoffman feels that his RHO has passed with some reluctance.

West leads a "brisk" ♣5 and East wins ♣A and returns ♣10. How would you continue? It looks safe to ruff with the jack, but Hoffman adds all the signs together, and places East with a six-card club suit and a heart void. Backing his judgement he ruffs with the ♠K, crosses to the ♠A, and back to the ♦K, to play the ♠J.

This works beautifully as East's shape is 2-0-5-6.

An entertaining book, with lots of table action, by-play and pushing hunches, greatly enhanced by Marc Smith's deft hand as co-author.

Paul Lavings

CLASSIC AND MODERN CONVENTIONS: VOLUME 1
EDITED BY MAGNUS LINDKVIST

This is a mammoth work. Indeed the whole project, when complete will run over three volumes and 1000 pages. The aim of this series is to provide a definitive compilation of bidding systems and conventions and has sought input from some of the world's leading writers, players and theorists, including Ron Klinger and Eddie Kantar.

Volume One has just been released with the next two still in the pipeline. It covers most widely known systems, responses to natural suit openings, and continuations

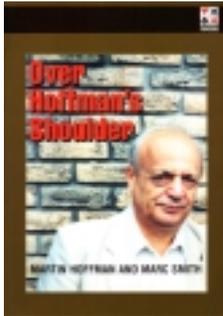


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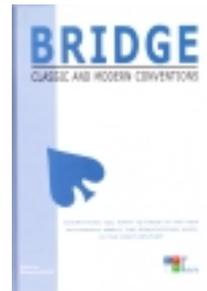
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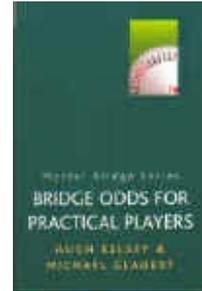
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thereafter. The coverage is comprehensive, dealing with a number of natural bids and some things we take for granted. The authors include helpful comments on which conventions can be played together and which are in common use.

The contents list and an alphabetical index help you find what you are looking for and for the most part, they present a balanced view of the pros and cons of each convention.

The book will appeal to a broad range of players in terms of abilities. If you are a budding champion, it enables you to learn a lot very quickly. It will also be of use if you have a number of partners, all with their own favourite conventions – or if you simply want to understand your opponents’ methods better. Advanced players adopting something new who need to know all the ins and outs first should also find what they seek.

Here’s a particularly instructive hand that illustrates the popular Jacoby 2NT Major suit raise:

Opener	Responder
♠ A	♠ 842
♥ A6432	♥ KQ1085
♦ K752	♦ AQ6
♣ K54	♣ A6

Opener	Responder
1♥	2NT ¹
3♠ ²	4NT ³
5♥ ⁴	5NT ⁵
6♥ ⁶	7♥ ⁷

1. Jacoby 2NT, game force with at least 4-card trump support
2. Spade singleton – opener normally shows a shortage if possible
3. Blackwood
4. Two Aces
5. With all Aces accounted for, responder ask for Kings
6. Two Kings
7. Since opener has shown a spade singleton, the two kings must be in the minors, thus covering responder’s loser in these suits.

True, you might fluke your way to 7♥ if responder bids the 3-card diamond suit, as opener may splinter in spades but, using standard methods, it is hard to see a convincing route to the grand slam.

BRIDGE ODDS FOR PRACTICAL PLAYERS BY HUGH KELSEY & MICHAEL GLAUERT

This is a reprint of one of Kelsey’s classic texts and indeed one of the most important (and accurate) bridge books on the topic. Many of us of course know of Kelsey, the famous Scottish bridge writer, and in this book he

joins forces with none other than a university professor in mathematics, Michael Glauert.

Some difficult but well-known and widely misunderstood topics are clearly explained - such as the theory of vacant spaces and the principle of restricted choice. But the authors handle these topics sensitively too - throughout the book, they keep in mind the fact that players are interested in bridge first and probabilities second.

Would you like to see how good you are at working out the odds? To give you a clue, this comes from the section in which they are assessing how the odds change once new information becomes available.

♠ A6	♠ 74
♥ AK	♥ Q10543
♦ 983	♦ AK64
♣ J10742	♣ AQ6

You play in 3NT and North leads a nondescript spade. You win with the ace and cash two hearts, both opponents following low each time. Do you now go for the 50-50 chance of the club finesse or do you hope the hearts are breaking 3-3?

To start with, it was of course more likely that hearts would be 4-2 than 3-3, but can you see what has changed? Since the jack has not fallen, you can rule out 1/3rd of the 4-2 breaks. The chance of the ♥J dropping under the queen is in fact now 52.4% (11/21). By crossing to the ♣A planning to run the hearts, you have the added chance that the ♣K is bare.

Overall, the text and examples are clear. For anyone with an interest in the mathematical side of bridge, or indeed in simply going with the odds in a few more contracts, I can well recommend this book.

Nick Fahrer

BRIDGE TECHNIQUE SERIES BY DAVID BIRD AND MARC SMITH. MASTERPOINT PRESS

- Vol. 10: *Reading the Cards*
- Vol. 11: *Planning in Defense*
- Vol. 12: *Tricks with Finesses*

Here are three more titles in the popular Bridge Technique Series. Each of these 60 page books focuses on some aspect of card play. The format is consistent throughout the series – each chapter contains brief theoretical discussion broken up into smaller topics, with illustrative examples, followed by a Key Point Summary and a quiz to test your understanding. The idea of the books is to present just enough material to cover the topic, and which will be able to be absorbed readily by the student. The advertised level is intermediate, but this is the upper range in my opinion due to the very basic nature of some of the material.

Reading the Cards is all about noticing and using the clues that are available from the bidding, the lead, and the defenders' signals. Can you trust the opponents' signals? Here's a good tip - defenders usually give true signals to help each other, especially early in the hand.

Planning in Defense covers opening leads, counting and defence against suit and notrump contracts. Obviously opening leads cannot be covered in fifteen pages, when other books have taken hundreds to deal with this topic. This book concentrates on some of the ideas behind selecting an opening lead, such as when to lead trumps.

Tricks with Finesses deals with nothing but finesses, and why not, as this is usually the technique that beginners encounter first in their studies? Various finessing techniques are covered, such as what to do if the relevant honour cards are not in the same hand.

Say you have A42 opposite Q53. You can still finesse by playing small towards the Queen, hoping that the King is on your left, in which case you will make two tricks. Some difficult concepts are covered, such as the Principle of Restricted Choice. This is an application of probability theory that most students will find difficult, yet it is very useful in play, cropping up very frequently. The explanation here is perhaps one of the best I've seen.

Say you have the following suit which you must play for no losers:

♠ A107654
 ♠ ??? ♠ ???
 ♠ K32

If you cash the King and an honour appears from East, should you then finesse the ten or play for the drop? The odds of East's various holdings (Q or J singleton, or QJ doubleton) are roughly equal. The odds are two to one in favour of finessing. Over thirty hands, the probabilities would approximate the following.

- 10 times East had the Queen singleton and was forced to play it (Restricted Choice)
- 10 times East had the Jack singleton and was forced to play it (Restricted Choice)
- 5 times East had QJ and decided to play the Queen
- 5 times East had QJ and decided to play the Jack

So, ten times out of fifteen that the Queen appears, the card was a singleton. That's two to one odds in favour of the finesse – a good bet in the long term.

These inexpensive, easy-to-read little books are the perfect way to improve specific aspects of card play.

John Hardy



John Hardy

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Coaching Cathy at Contract

PLAYING THE ODDS

Guru Uncle,

Could you please help me with some hands that I have played recently? I try to follow the rules I have learnt but it doesn't seem to work out as often as it should.

I went down on each of these hands and some other really irritating people made them and I want to know why they played the cards differently.

Down #1:

West	East
♠ 5	♠ AK8643
♥ A543	♥ K
♦ A874	♦ K5
♣ Q853	♣ KJ42

We reached 3NT on this hand. North led a heart and I won in dummy and went after my longest suit (as I have been taught). Well, South had four spades and won the third round, returned a heart and North later got in with the Ace of clubs and took enough heart tricks to take me one down.

Down #2:

West	East
♠ KQJ1087	♠ A6
♥ 7	♥ AJ9652
♦ 8743	♦ AK5
♣ 93	♣ 64

After I opened a weak 2♠, we reached 4♠. North led the King of clubs and took the second trick with the Queen before switching to a trump. I tried playing Ace, King and another diamond but the suit didn't break and they played another trump, so I lost two diamond tricks and two club tricks.

Down #3:

West	East
♠ 43	♠ AQ4
♥ AQ1093	♥ KJ74
♦ 874	♦ AKQ65
♣ K95	♣ J

We were proud of reaching 6♥ on this hand but North led the ♠5. You have warned me to be wary of finesses so I played the Ace of spades and drew trumps in three rounds. When I played the diamonds, North held 4 and I could no longer make enough tricks. Of course the King of spades was in the right place and I felt a bit silly.

Where am I going wrong?

*Luv,
Cathy*

Dear Cathy,

A working knowledge of percentages is an indispensable part of the declarer's equipment. How far to go down that path is up to the individual but some familiarity with suit divisions and percentage chances is useful, particularly for comparative purposes with each other and with 50%, which is, of course the percentage chance that a finesse will fail.

4 Cards Missing:

Possible divisions	4-0	3-1	2-2
Percentage chance	9.57	49.74	40.70

This shows that the most likely split when missing 4 cards in a suit is 3-1.

5 Cards Missing:

Possible divisions	5-0	4-1	3-2
Percentage chance	3.91	28.26	67.83

Because 8 card fits are so common, these figures are worth remembering. The odds clearly favour a 3-2 break when 5 cards are missing, but this does not make it a certainty.

6 Cards Missing:

Possible divisions	6-0	5-1	4-2	3-3
Percentage chance	1.49	14.53	48.45	35.53

Note that an exactly even division of 6 missing cards is considerably less than 50%. Many players are unaware of this and will often pin their hopes on a 3-3 break in a suit when other prospects offer a better chance.

Let's take this information and consider it in the context of your hands.

On the first hand, you backed your longest suit to provide you with the three extra tricks you needed to make 3NT.



This would have worked if the suit had divided 3-3 but the odds show that this was a 35.53% chance. An alternative source of 3 extra tricks was the club suit which would have yielded the necessary tricks on any 3-2 break or whenever South had a singleton Ace (since your first play would have been low from the table). The odds of success here slightly exceed the 67.83% associated with a 3-2 break in any 8 card fit. Clearly the club play becomes the superior choice when this information is analysed.

On the second hand, you pinned your hopes on an opposition error or a 3-3 break in diamonds. The trump switch unfortunately foiled a good plan. However, as long as the spades are 3-2, you can do better on this hand if the hearts are 3-3 OR 4-2. Since either will suit your purpose, the odds in your favour are 35.53 + 48.45 (83.98%). Hence at trick 3, you would do better to play a heart to the Ace and ruff a heart. As long as both opponents follow, you can play a spade to the Ace, checking the spade position on the way. If someone has a major suit singleton, you can revert to the diamonds. Otherwise, ruff another heart, draw the last trump, cross to a diamond and ruff the fourth round of hearts (if necessary). If all has gone well, you will make 5.

It may be of small comfort that you played the third hand correctly. On any lead but a spade, you would have had time to draw trumps, test the diamonds and take the spade finesse if necessary. Unfortunately, the opening lead forced you to commit at trick one. You refused the straight 50% shot and relied on the 3-2 diamond break (67.83%). Unfortunately, the longer odds position worked on this hand but, as with all aspects of probability, you never get any guarantees. Your line will also succeed if the trumps are 2-2 and the club Ace onside even if the diamonds do break 4-1, so it was a perfectly reasonable choice. Those (irritating) players who made it either misplayed the contract or received a different lead.

*Kindest regards,
David*

David Lusk

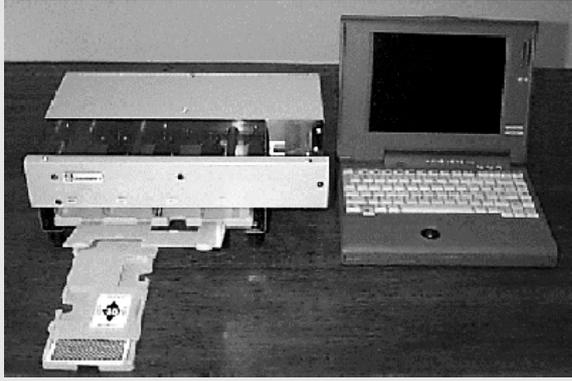
♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥

Copy Deadline
For Issue No 94, March 2002
February 25, 2001
Late submissions will be held over till
Issue 95, May 2002
at the discretion of the Editors.

♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥

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Tournament Results

SPRING FESTIVAL

SPRING NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS

QUALIFYING:

1. **Bourke** Margaret Bourke, Jan Cormack, 172
Felicity Beale, Diana Smart, Sue Lusk, Therese Tully
2. **Hoffman** Julia Hoffman, Nola Church, 168
Karen Creet, Sheila Bird
- =3. **Halvorsen** Wendi Halvorsen, Kinga Moses, 154
Nafi Bashar, Merrilee Robb
- =3. **Hutton** Helena Hutton, Dagmar Neumann, 154
Kim Neale, Catherine Herden.

FINAL:

Bourke 149 defeated **Hoffman** 104

SPRING NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

QUALIFYING:

1. **Haffer** Joe Haffer, Peter Reynolds, 234
Phil Markey, Andrew Peake
2. **Cummings** Valerie Cummings, Ron Klinger, 221
Matthew McManus, Tony Nunn, David Beauchamp, Stephen Lester
3. **Kanetkar** Avi Kanetkar, Nigel Rosendorff, 216
Henry Christie, Ron Cooper, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer

FINAL:

Haffer 189 defeated **Cummings** 135

GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

REPECHAGE:

Sydney 1 Valerie Cummings, Ron Klinger, 33
Kieran Dyke, Matt Mullamphy, Peter Newman, Matthew Thomson

defeated

Adelaide 1 Greg Sargent, John Hewitt, 28
Peter Chan, Roger Januszke

Sydney 3 Bruce Neill, Andrew Peake, 27
Michael Hughes, Edward Griffin, Barbara McDonald, Alan Walsh

defeated

Perth 3 Ron Cooper, Henry Christie, 24
Peter Reynolds, Nigel Rosendorff

SEMI-FINAL:

Sydney 1 defeated
Melbourne 1 Simon Hinge, Cathy Chua, Rob Fruewirth, Ben Thompson, Chris Hughes

Sydney 3 defeated
Adelaide 2 Joe Haffer, Phil Markey, Nic Croft, Luke Matthews

FINAL:

Sydney 1 142 defeated **Sydney 3** 122

ABF Website

Each month David Beauchamp's selection for the best inquiry he received during the month is posted on the site, www.abf.com.au.

The winner receives a voucher for \$20, funded by the ABF, toward any purchase made at the Bridge Shop.

The best November submission came from **David Kalnins**.

Hand: ♠10xx ♥xx ♦AQxxx ♣xxx

Bidding: Dealer: W, Vul: Nil

West	North	East	South
1♣	2♥*	Pass	4♥
4NT	Pass	5♦	5♥
Pass	Pass	?	

Comments:

2♥ = Majors, 5+ /5+.

Playing 5 card majors, strong NT.

4NT shows long clubs with secondary diamonds.

David's Response:

Hi David,

It looks as though partner has something like:

♠ Ax	or	♠ Kxx
♥ x		♥ —
♦ Kxxx		♦ Kxxx
♣ AKJ10xx		♣ AKJ10xx

I will bid 5NT to right side a contract in 6♣ in case partner's spades are Kx. If partner has Ax then he/she can bid 6♦ and all's well! We are not going to get rich defending 5♥ so let's have a go at a minor suit slam. I would be interested in seeing the full deal.

All the best,
David Beauchamp

And David Kalnins' reply:

Partner's hand was:

♠ J
♥ x
♦ KJ10xx
♣ AQJ9xx

Clubs are 3-1 with the king under the ace and the diamonds 2-1 so 5♥ is cold. 6♦ fails by one trick and 6♣ by two when the hand with 3 clubs has a singleton diamond. Partner will certainly prefer 6♦ to 6♣ if you give them an option with 5NT.

Cheers,
Dave

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