

ABF NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.

EDITORS: David & Sue Lusk

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Opinion

In March this year, a high profile player in the U.S. was suspended for more than 18 months after allegations were made that he had fiddled deals in at least one ACBL tournament.

Bridge administrators at all levels should take some interest in the aftermath of this action, for the player in question is launching a seven figure damages suit claiming that he has lost his livelihood as a bridge professional as a result of a wrongful act by the disciplinary tribunal. If you want the gory details, they are documented on eBridge news pages on the Internet.

If the case goes to court, the processes which underpin disciplinary matters will be subject to scrutiny by a court of law. If any of these processes is found to be questionable during the litigation, then it will open up an ugly can of worms for all sponsoring bodies.

The ACBL may well be forced to demonstrate that their disciplinary hearings and procedures are faultless or face the prospect of having a court of law rule that they have acted improperly on the matter.

The warning that this sounds for bridge administrators at all levels is self-evident: any procedures relating to disciplinary matters and the sanctioning rights of the bodies in question will have to be bullet-proof in order to protect clubs, associations and federations from adverse scrutiny by a court in the event of civil action.

Although civil action on matters of jurisdiction and power are not unprecedented in Australia, no sponsoring body has yet faced a threat to its powers of the magnitude of the case which may unfold in America.

We should observe with interest, and learn from the experience.

David Lusk

A View From the Top

Congratulations to both the Noble and Travis teams who will represent Australia in Singapore and Bali. The Travis team will be captained by Denis Howard. The Youth team captained by Peter Smith will also be at the PABF Championships in Singapore. We extend our best wishes for success to all 3 teams.

The Haughie team will join the Open and Women's teams in Bali. The Haughie team won the right to represent by defeating 2 Australian teams and then New Zealand over Easter. I have received glowing reports on the conduct of the Seniors Play-off and the superb efforts of David Stern (Convener) and Richard Grenside (Director).

The Junior Test Match against New Zealand will be held in Hamilton late June. There is considerable activity on the Youth front and interested players are urged to check the ABF Home page. Also available on the Home page are details of the Autumn Open Teams in Adelaide, May 18-21, and the Victor Champion Cup in Melbourne, June 7-11.

In this busy program you must make time for the ANC hosted in Canberra July 13-27 and the Barrier Reef Gold Point Congress at Mackay 8-11 June. Phone Margaret Mc Nee 07 4942 1058.

Phil Gue is preparing a paper on an extensive overview of the Masterpoint scheme, in particular from a club perspective. Details should be elsewhere in this Newsletter. Please send your advice to Phil and help us get a better result.

The Australian Olympic Committee has a number of complex issues to consider regarding our application for membership. It will not be possible for them to do this before June 2001. "We will be kept informed of progress".

Keith McDonald
ABF President

Pairs in Paradise

THE GOLD COAST PAIRS

Richard Jedrychowski and Tom Jacob of Auckland won the Gold Coast Pairs, in the end by a comfortable margin over Terry Brown and Phil Gue, with Stephen Burgess and Bob Richman floating to third.

Richard is Polish (well guessed) and has been living in NZ for 8 years. He and Tom have established a new partnership this year after Tom's long-time partner Brian Mace returned to England permanently. Tom very rarely plays pairs and only a desperate need for qualifying points for the Zone 7 Championships could persuade him into doubling up the pairs with the teams at Surfers.

One of the drawbacks of winning a bridge tournament is having to provide hands showing your brilliance. This tournament though, like any other, was won by giving away few gifts to the opposition, rather than by any great play. Still, Richard is a practical player. Witness his 1NT rebid on ♠76 ♥Q ♦K432 ♣AKQJ95 after 1♣ - (1♦) - X - (No) - ?

That duly made for a very good score. He also made the right decision on this hand from the final. As South, you hold ♠AKJ ♥107 ♦AK8 ♣AQ643

West	North	East	South
		1♥	X
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	?

Most players passed in this position but why did partner, who seems to have the values for a 1NT response, prefer 2♦ at matchpoints?. Richard drew the right conclusions, long diamonds and a sharp heart stop so he bid 6♦. That was easy enough opposite ♠532 ♥A94 ♦QJ954 ♣102 with the club finesse coming through the opening bidder.

Tom and Richard had a huge first session in the qualifying

but it took the right lead from Tom on the last hand to resuscitate a flagging second qualifying session.

Your hand ♠74 ♥87652 ♦J962 ♣65

North	South
	Pass
2♣	2NT
4NT	5♣ ¹
5♠ ²	5NT
All Pass	

- 1 No Aces
- 2 Transfer to 5NT

Clearly there were two Aces missing and the task was to find a third trick. There are additional chances to build the extra trick in diamonds rather than hearts, for example dummy could have Kx or Qx and partner A10x, or dummy could have KQ doubleton and partner Axx. Thus, Tom led a diamond and was not disappointed.

North		East	
♠ AKQ32		♠ 985	
♥ AKQ		♥ 1093	
♦ K7		♦ AQ8	
♣ Q108		♣ A432	
South		West	
♠ J106		♠ 74	
♥ J4		♥ 87652	
♦ 10543		♦ J962	
♣ KJ97		♣ 65	

Only a diamond lead beats 5NT and it beat it three tricks for a top board!

The Grand coup must be the most overnamed play in bridge parlance. Tom Jacob brought this one home with a little help from the defence:

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North		
♠ 6		
♥ 85		
♦ QJ8764		
♣ KQJ4		
West		East
♠ KQ9832		♠ A54
♥ Q		♥ J943
♦ AK3		♦ 1052
♣ 932		♣ 765
South		
♠ J107		
♥ AK10762		
♦ 9		
♣ A108		

Tom played 4♥ on a spade lead won by East. East envisaged declarer's throwing losing diamonds on the clubs so he switched to diamonds, choosing the fatal ♦5. West tried to cash a second diamond, which was ruffed. After a spade ruff, the ♥A brought the queen from West but Tom cashed the ♥K anyway, knowing it was possible to pick up East's ♥J9xx with a trump coup. Then came a club to dummy to throw a spade on the ♦Q, ruff the good ♦J to reduce declarer's trumps to the same number as East, then another club to dummy to lead good diamonds through East's ♥J9 holding him to one trump winner for +620.

Richard and Tom hit the lead at the start of third session, thanks to boards like this:

North		
♠ K		
♥ AK9653		
♦ 85		
♣ AJ103		
West		East
♠ A103		♠ 965
♥ 8742		♥ Q10
♦ K109		♦ QJ63
♣ 985		♣ Q764
South		
♠ QJ8742		
♥ J		
♦ A742		
♣ K2		

Against South's 3NT, Richard found the killing diamond lead. When he later ducked the ♠K, declarer's spade suit was stranded for +50. Nothing too flash but a great start to the session and they were on their way.

The following 3NT contract certainly reinforced the lead during the final.

♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥

Copy Deadline

For Issue No 90, July 2001
June 25, 2001

Any other material will be held over
until September 2001.

♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥

North		
♠ 104		
♥ 953		
♦ KJ742		
♣ K95		
West		East
♠ Q765		♠ K98
♥ Q4		♥ A1062
♦ Q109		♦ 853
♣ 10874		♣ 632
South		
♠ AJ32		
♥ KJ87		
♦ A6		
♣ AQJ		

Richard (South) won the club lead in hand, played ♦A and a diamond to the Jack, then the ♦K which split the suit so the contract was in no danger. He then led a heart up, and noting East's 2 (reverse count) decided that AQx onside wasn't likely and decided to fly with the ♥K. He then exited a heart to West, who was stuck. If he didn't break spades then Richard would win the 2nd club lead in dummy cash the diamonds discarding spades and lead up a heart for 11 tricks. When he did switch to a spade Richard could build a second spade trick without ever losing a trick to the ♥A. Making 5NT was a very fine score.

With the generous prize money including accomodation at the ANA Hotel then I guess there is a good chance that Tom may be persuaded to play pairs again – in 12 months time. There was good news for the local economy though as we can report that the cash prizes were well and truly spent with the proprietors of Sea World, Wet 'n' Wild and Movie World...

Tom Jacob

The Gold Coast Teams

I was more than ready for the Gold Coast Teams as, for the second year in a row, Paul Marston and I had failed to qualify for the pairs final. I don't feel so bad as he has missed 4 in a row! After having 2 days off I sat down for the ruthless qualifying sessions. We started with the expected 25 but then had a couple of partnership disagreements and hence a couple of draws and small losses. We were soon back on track qualifying relatively easily and playing well as a team.

Our semi-final opponents were the strong 6 person Ziggy team consisting of: Ziggy Konig - Jim Wallis, Stephen Burgess - Bobby Richman, Ashley Bach - Kieran Dyke. After 2 tight sets we were down 9 at the halfway. We turned up the next morning to find Burgess- Richman having the first set off. There was action aplenty in this 10 board set. On the very first board we missed a very good 6♣.

Board: 1

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North	
	♠ KQ63	
	♥ A72	
	♦ A4	
West	♣ K543	East
♠ 1052		♠ AJ874
♥ J6		♥ 10984
♦ K109862		♦ J73
♣ Q7	South	♣ J
	♠ 9	
	♥ KQ53	
	♦ Q5	
	♣ A109862	

I opened 1NT as North and East interposed showing both majors. Espen bid 3♣ and my 3NT ended the auction. I made only 10 tricks when I ducked spades twice to cater for West's having 3 spades and QJx of clubs. The other table's auction went a little off the rails and they got to slam but, unfortunately for them, it was 6♥ and, fortunately for us, hearts were 4-2. 10 IMPs and we were up by 1. On board 4 a light opener in 3rd seat by Chris Convery won the hand when they bought it in a spade partscore for +140 while we bid and made a vul 3NT for +600 and 12 more IMPs. Board 6 was a fast and furious auction at our table:

Board: 6

Dealer: E
Vul: EW

	North	
	♠ 108	
	♥ A7653	
	♦ 10654	
West	♣ Q10	East
♠ AKQ765		♠ J432
♥ 4		♥ K
♦ Q732		♦ A
♣ 74	South	♣ AJ98653
	♠ 9	
	♥ QJ10982	
	♦ KJ98	
	♣ K2	

Vulnerable against not, East dealt and opened 1♠, canapé, 2♥ from Espen, 4♠ from West, 5♥ from me, 6♠(!) from East. Alas for East, partner had a singleton heart not a singleton club, -100 and 13 more IMPs. The rest of the match continued the same way and when the dust settled the score was 87-0. A concession followed so we went to an early lunch to await our final opponents. We came back from lunch to find ourselves playing the Queensland team of Mike Robson - Betty Lee and Ralph Parker - Peter Hainsworth who had a convincing 146-109 win over the strong Sarten team.

The Queenslanders surprised us with their consistent and steady play. It was a tight match especially after we lost 27 IMPs in the first 3 boards on vu-graph. With only 4 boards to go we had this good result:

Board: 17

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North	
	♠ Q	
	♥ J1063	
	♦ 852	
West	♣ AQ854	East
♠ AJ75		♠ K84
♥ AK97		♥ —
♦ J6		♦ AKQ10743
♣ 1073	South	♣ K96
	♠ 109632	
	♥ Q8542	
	♦ 9	
	♣ J2	

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>del'Monte</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	2♣ ²
X	3♦ ³	Pass	3♥
X	All pass		

- 1 Precision, 16+.
- 2 Diamonds or majors
- 3 Pass or correct

Betty knows for fear of her life not to rip Mike's doubles. Espen played well to get out for 1 down and -100 was 11 IMPs when our teammates brought back +690. In a tight well played final we emerged the winners by 126-101.

I would like to thank the Queensland team for a very enjoyable final. It was played in very good spirit and they played very well. Also thanks to my team (Espen Erichsen, Craig Gower, Chris Convery) for playing so well.

Ishmael del'Monte

Seniors at the Gold Coast

The 2001 Gold Coast Congress included for the first time a teams event for Seniors which offered play-off points for selection in the national Seniors Team. The event was held at the Gold Coast International Hotel and this proved to be an excellent venue with perfect playing conditions.

The event was run parallel with the Open Teams, using the same boards. It consisted of a twelve round Swiss (fourteen board matches) with the top two teams withdrawing after ten rounds to play a fifty board final. Although the entry of forty-eight teams was very good for a new event, the teams included only a few of the leading senior players, a number of whom elected to play in the Open which offered "better bridge" and the possibility of playing against a number of prominent visitors from overseas.

Brockwell (John Brockwell, John Ashworth, Bill Westwood, Ian McKinnon) was the number one seed and obvious favourite. This team included three players who were members of the national Seniors Team that played in Bermuda just a year ago. **Kent** (Michael and Joan Kent, Margaret Millar, Robyn Clayton) was the number two seed and included three players from the successful Queensland Seniors Team at the 2000 ANC. These teams were the eventual finalists. A draw resulted when these teams met in the Swiss, the IMP margin being 20-19 in favour of **Kent**.

The final consisted of four stanzas. Two ten board stanzas were played in conjunction with the Open semi-final and two fifteen board stanzas with the initial rounds of the Open final. At best the standard of play was mediocre with swings coming more from errors and missed opportunities than from brilliancies. Not all of the errors showed on the scoresheet with missed opportunities (particularly in defence) being duplicated on a couple of occasions. However, a number of tight games were bid and made and there was no evidence of shyness or seniors' conservatism in the bidding from either team.

In years gone by, I played with the late Kurt Brandweiner, a very competent player but a difficult and often over-demanding partner. I quickly learnt to bid and play with one eye on the inevitable post-mortem. Perhaps not surprisingly, I found that the decisions that would stand up in the post-mortem were most often the right decisions. From this I enunciated "Kurt's Law" which states that "It is better for partner to be wrong than you." As trivial as this may sound, I recommend this law to anyone prepared to listen. Sadly, I forgot to recommend it to my team-mates.

On your first board in this important final, you are vulnerable and pick up as dealer: ♠J432 ♥K ♦A ♣AJ98653. You open 1♣, LHO overcalls 2♥ (weak) and your partner leaps to 4♠. Do you look for slam? Key-card Blackwood will tell you what you should know already. You are missing one key card, probably the ♥A. Hence the slam will only make if your partner has a singleton club. If you bid slam and there is a club loser you are wrong. So apply Kurt's Law and pass. Ian McKinnon pressed on to slam (one off) but, fortunately, this was duplicated in the other room.

A couple of boards later a very careless double on my part saw our opponents make an overtrick in 1♠X with 4♥ cold our way. Things were not looking good when along came this hand:

West (Westwood)	East (McKinnon)
♠ AQ4	♠ J1076
♥ A	♥ K1042
♦ AQJ753	♦ 10
♣ A65	♣ J983

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I opened 2♦ (Multi), North doubled for the majors and South bid 2♥ over a pass from East. My 3♦ rebid showed a strong hand and Ian bid the obvious 3NT. The lead was the ♥8. Plan your line.

A small diamond to the ten at trick two looks obvious but is it? The bidding and lead mark North with the queen and jack of hearts and almost certainly the ♦K. If you allow the singleton king to make you may be in trouble on the 5-1 break.

McKinnon took the obvious line and lost to the singleton king. North continued with the ♥Q, Ian won with the king, played a spade to the ace, called for the ♦A and got the bad news. He then found an excellent recovery by calling for the ♠Q which places North in a classic “Morton’s fork”. If she wins with the king, declarer now has nine tricks and if she ducks, declarer can set up the long diamond for his ninth trick.

This proved to be a gain when declarer failed in 3NT in the other room. Despite missing a marginal game, Brockwell - Ashworth had a tidy set and I was relieved to find that we trailed by only one IMP (22-23).

The second stanza was error-ridden with five significant errors in ten boards, two by our side and three by our opponents. We also gained when I decided to open ♠Q752 ♥Q ♦AK863 ♣1053. I think this is clear-cut in view of the quality of the diamond suit (which we may need to lead) and the existence of the spade suit but my decision came in for “theoretical” criticism from all of my team-mates. Ian had A1084 of spades and a ten count. We reached game which depended on playing the spade suit for one loser. This was easy as one defender held J3 behind the A1084. We won this stanza 36 - 15 to establish a 20 IMP lead.

Kurt’s Law struck again in the third stanza. Holding ♠AQ74 ♥72 ♦863 ♣A973, John Ashworth passed over a 1♥ opening on his right and was very surprised when the bidding board came back to see that his partner had bid 5♦ over a 1♠ response. Observing his three trumps and two aces, he bid the diamond slam which was doubled and two heart tricks cashed.

We were lucky in this set when Brockwell-Ashworth bid 3NT with J42 opposite 96 in spades. This was good enough when one opponent held A108753 but no entry. The errors continued with our side failing in 4♥ with eleven tricks available in diamonds or no-trump. However, we picked up on the partscores and, once again, lost by just a single IMP.

Given the rate at which IMPs were being exchanged, our lead of 19 was anything but secure and there was plenty of action in the final stanza. I was not unhappy in our room until our third to last board came along. As East-

West you are in 4♠ on the following after North opened 1♥ and South preempted with 3♥ over your 1♠ overcall and led the ♥3:

West	East
♠ 873	♠ A10952
♥ A8	♥ 74
♦ KJ852	♦ A4
♣ Q65	♣ AK87

Plan your line. Assume North plays the 6 when you lead a trump from dummy. Does it make any difference if North plays the jack? What if North had doubled 4♠?

The key play is to duck the first round of hearts and thus sever communications in case a ruffing situation applies. In the absence of a double the contract looks safe if trumps are three-two. Even so, it is correct to play the ♠9 over the six as this protects against North’s having four spades. John Ashworth rose with the Ace and now failed and North did in fact have KQJ6 in trumps.

In our room, Ian McKinnon doubled 4♠ and split his trumps when declarer won the opening lead and played a trump at trick two to the jack and ace. Declarer continued with a second trump. Ian might have pressured declarer at this point by switching to his singleton diamond hoping to later underlead his king-queen of hearts to my jack (promised by the lead) to get a ruff. This is why declarer was wrong to play the ♥A at trick one. Ian cashed his top heart and switched to a club. Now declarer had no problems and we had just spent 13 of our 19 IMP lead.

Now with a sniff of victory, Millar - Clayton bid and made two very light heart games on our final boards. I was convinced that, once again, I had seen defeat snatched from the jaws of victory. But Ashworth-Brockwell had bid and made these tight games and with one other pick-up, we lost the set by only 2 IMPs (36-38) for a winning margin of 17 (121 - 104).

The turnover of 4.5 IMPs per board was evidence of a high error rate. One curious aspect is that overall we played 5 sets against **Kent** and won only one. However, the four losing margins were one IMP (three times) and two IMPs.

This inaugural event was a success and I hope to see a bigger and stronger field next year. I hope to be back to defend.

Bill Westwood

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Zone 7 Open Teams C'ships

Eight teams from around the zone gathered in Christchurch over the Easter period this year to contest the biennial Zone 7 championships. Represented were **New Caledonia** and the **Kingdom of Tonga** with a team apiece who were joined by three teams from each of **Australia** and **New Zealand**. At stake were not only the championship itself but two places in the World Inter-zonal Championship (The Bermuda Bowl) would go to the two highest placed teams from different countries in the zone. Should none of the Australian teams qualify for the Bowl, then the leading Australian team would still go to the Far East (Zone 6) Championships to be held in Singapore in June. Thus, the competition could be expected to be fierce.

The Australian Teams were **Neill** (Bruce Neill - Mike Hughes; Barbara McDonald - Alan Walsh; Pauline Gumbo - Warren Lazer), **Noble** (Barry Noble - Terry Brown; George Bilski - Phil Gue; Peter Fordham - Mike Prescott) and **Rothfield** (Carole & Jessel Rothfield; Seamus Browne - Ishmael del'Monte; Kieran Dyke - Matt Mullamphy). All three teams had their strengths, equally they all harboured weaknesses, some were just more obvious than others. The pundits produced cases for the success of any and all of them, so none had reason to be pessimistic about their chances.

The format was to be a double round robin. As far as winning the tournament went all matches carried equal weight and, to win, a team would need to score heavily against the weakest teams, do well against the better teams and hold its losses to small ones when things were not going so smoothly. To be the leading Australian team more emphasis would lie with the head to head matches against the other Australian teams as every point gained was one denied the other team. Effectively, these points were double in value.

At the half way mark, **Noble** had hit the front having followed the suggested pattern pretty well including defeating both **Neill** and **Rothfield** by handy margins. The question would be "Did **Noble** have the stamina to go the distance from in front?" That was answered solidly with a YES! when the second round followed closely the pattern of the first. Although **Noble** and **Rothfield** squared off 15 all, **Noble** clobbered **Neill** 24 - 6 to dash their chances. **Noble** finished strongly to win the tournament comfortably from the New Zealand **Henry** team who had had a strong second round. These two teams would represent the Zone at the Bermuda Bowl and their respective countries in Singapore.

Final standings were:

1. Australia	Noble	256
2. New Zealand	Henry	248.4
3. New Zealand	Taylor	241
4. Australia	Neill	231.5
5. Australia	Rothfield	228
6. New Zealand	Grant	207
7. New Caledonia	Vigneau	135.4
8. Kingdom of Tonga	Lokrantz	103

Try these situations from some Australia v Australia matches to see whether you might fair well playing for Australia.

1. Dlr. Nth. N-S Vul. Nth. ♠Q876 ♥J954 ♦87 ♣1032

The bidding has gone -

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	1♦
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♣
Dble	?		

What do you bid?

2. Dlr. Nth. Nil Vul. East ♠Q843 ♥95 ♦76 ♣96542

After this bidding, what now?

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♦
1NT	Dble	2♣	Pass
2♦	Dble	?	

North's first Double shows a strong hand, and in their methods, probably implies 17 - 20 pts and 3+ clubs; your 2♣ showed clubs and another suit; partner's 2♦ denied 3+ clubs; and, finally, Double of 2♦ was a Take-out Double. Over to you?

3. Dlr. Sth. All Vul. Nth. ♠A ♥AQ432 ♦J4 ♣J10852

The bidding goes -

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	?		

(a) What now?

(b) If you chose 4♦, partner continues with 5♣. Now what?

♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥

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♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥ ♣♦♠♥

Problems 1. and 2. are companions from the same match, **Noble v Neill**. They focus on finding the best bid despite holding a very poor hand.

On the first Lazer – Gumby ended in 4♦ doubled when Pauline Gumby didn't appreciate that 4 of whatever major Warren Lazer held (surely his 4♣ bid suggested 3460 or 4360) would play reasonably well, and may well be better than 4♦. Redouble could hardly be to play so would be a worthwhile shot in the hope that partner works out to bid a major. The full hand was:

Dealer: N	North		
Vul: NS	♠ Q876		
	♥ J954		
	♦ 87		
West	♣ 1032	East	
♠ 95		♠ K432	
♥ AQ3		♥ 62	
♦ K1092		♦ 5	
♣ QJ54	South	♣ AK9876	
	♠ AJ10		
	♥ K1087		
	♦ AQJ643		
	♣ —		

The defence led clubs at Trick 1, and Lazer, fearing losing trump control, led a heart to Trick 2. This allowed East a ruff in hearts and 800 to East – West was the outcome. This meant 5 IMPs to **Noble** when Neill - Hughes reached the thin, but cold, 3NT East – West in the other room. This could easily have been a bushel of IMPs to **Neill** as 4♥ might even make and is unlikely to be more than one down.

On Hand 2, Fordham could see that his side might be in real trouble. If Gumby, North, held 4 spades, as it was starting to look like, 2♠ doubled could be very bloody indeed. Maybe Pass would work if partner held 5 diamonds. After consulting the gods, the ceiling and the tea leaves, he bid 2♠. When it went All Pass, he breathed a sigh of relief and turned his attention to the play. The full hand:

Dealer: N	North		
Vul: Nil	♠ KJ5		
	♥ A102		
	♦ J2		
West	♣ AKQ108	East	
♠ A106		♠ Q843	
♥ KQ73		♥ 95	
♦ AQ84		♦ 76	
♣ J7	South	♣ 96542	
	♠ 972		
	♥ J864		
	♦ K10953		
	♣ 3		

2♠ will surely fail on a trump lead, but Warren Lazer, not unreasonably led his singleton club. Pauline Gumby

could still have beaten the contract at Trick 2 by switching to a trump (the King is best to get full value from whatever trump card of note partner might hold) but she cashed a second club before switching (to a low trump). Now it was too late. Fordham won Lazer's 7♠ with dummy's ♠10, played the ♥K from dummy and won the second trump, the Jack, with the ♠A, cashed the ♥Q and ruffed a heart. The defence were free to score both their trumps but declarer, with the aid of the diamond finesse, could not be prevented from enjoying his last two trumps independently for 8 tricks and +110.

The hand is quite an object piece in trump play. If North had been prepared to sacrifice all the defence's trump tricks immediately, declarer would have had only 4 trump tricks and seven tricks in total. On the actual defence, the defenders made two tricks with trumps, but declarer made five, and eight tricks overall. This netted a further 5 IMPs as East sat 1NT by West in the other room, which failed by two tricks. Phil Gue didn't double despite his good hand because he knew his partner, George Bilski had less than 6 points on their bidding, which suggested Hughes – Neill probably had a better spot to play.

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Hand 3 comes from the **Noble** v **Rothfield** encounter in the first round. Mike Prescott bid 4♦ as Peter Fordham had shown a big hand (first time he'd jump shifted in two years) with probably 6 – 4 in diamonds & spades. After Fordham continued with 5♣, Prescott knew that slam was definitely in the picture but a trump honour must be missing (if all that partner needed was a modest trump fit and a couple of Aces, he would have asked for Keycards). Prescott jumped to 6♦ confident it would be the best spot as indeed it was. The full hand:

Dealer: S	North	
Vul: All	♠ A	
	♥ AQ432	
	♦ J4	
	♣ J10852	East
West		♠ J98
♠ 107542		♥ 1098
♥ KJ65		♦ Q103
♦ 85		♣ Q943
♣ 76	South	
	♠ KQ63	
	♥ 7	
	♦ AK9762	
	♣ AK	

In the other room, Ishmael del'Monte and Seamus Browne had an uncharacteristic bidding error and ended in 7NT. While this is a truly horrible grand slam, fortune sometimes smiles on the overly ambitious. With the heart finesse working and the diamond double finesse and break all sitting prettily for the declarer, 7NT rolled home. 13 IMPs to **Rothfield** rather than to **Noble**, merely saved 5 Victory Points from a match that would otherwise have been a maximum win to **Noble**.

Peter Fordham

2001 Zonal Playoffs - Women's

The Zonal Playoffs, held in Christchurch, New Zealand, comprised two separate events. Firstly there was a round robin qualifying event, from which the leading team from each of Australia and New Zealand became that country's representative team. In the Open Playoffs that was the end of play – there being two berths available for Zone 7 in the Bermuda Bowl. However, there was only one position available to the Zone for a Women's team – our teams (Oz and NZ) did not perform well enough in Maastricht in 2000 to retain two berths. Thus the leading qualifiers from Australia and New Zealand met in a 96-board match to win the right to represent the Zone in the Venice Cup.

At the end of a triple round robin, the leading Women's team was **Travis** (Barbara Travis, Elizabeth Havas, Marilyn Chadwick, Alida Clark, Jan Cormack, Deborah Moir) from Australia. The other two Australian teams finished 2nd and 3rd, **Cummings** having needed a 25-5 win against **Travis** in the final match – and duly earning 22 VPs... so close! **Beech** had had a dreadful start to the second round robin –

gaining 1 VP each in the first two matches, ending their run. The 4th-placed team **Newton** (Shirley Newton, Jenny Wilkinson, Lynne Geursen, Jan Abel) qualified as the New Zealand team.

At the conclusion of the round robins, the Christchurch Bridge Club arranged a cocktail party. It was an appropriate time to congratulate the representative teams, although the Zonal President did not seem to know who they were! Anyhow, congratulations to the teams named above.

The next day we women started our 96-board match. **Travis** started with a 30 IMP carryforward, gained from the head-to-head matches (with 30 being the maximum).

There were many fascinating hands throughout the tournament, with lots of slam decisions during the playoff. Whilst my screen-mate was impressed with one of our bidding gadgets, I was impressed with the speed with which Elizabeth found what seems, to me, to be the best line of play on a tricky hand.

Board: 3

Dealer: S	North	
Vul: EW	♠ A1085	
	♥ AQ5	
	♦ K952	
	♣ J6	East
West		♠ J642
♠ Q7		♥ 32
♥ KJ87		♦ 86
♦ 103		♣ AQ952
♣ K10874	South	
	♠ K93	
	♥ 10964	
	♦ AQJ74	
	♣ 3	

Elizabeth opened the North hand 1NT (14-17 HCP), so I responded with 3♣ which shows a game forcing hand with a club shortage and at least three cards in each other suit. In due course Elizabeth played 4♠, on the lead of the ♦8. In next to no time, she pulled the ♠9 from dummy, intending to run it – thereby retaining trump control, the ability to ruff clubs, and entries to dummy. However West covered with the ♠Q so Elizabeth won with the ♠A, then ran the ♠8 back towards dummy. When this was ducked she reverted to diamonds, allowing East to ruff whenever she liked. (If clubs were led, Elizabeth would discard on the second round, ruffing the next round in hand – relying on the heart finesse at the end.) East, in fact, trumped the third round of diamonds, then led hearts, so Elizabeth could draw the trump, then run the diamonds.

At the other table the contract was 5♦. The best line is to ruff out the clubs and draw trumps, then take the heart finesse and lead three rounds of hearts. If the hearts are 3-3, then the opponents are endplayed into opening the spade suit. On the particular lie of the cards though, 5♦ was destined to go one light.

In the fourth segment of the final, **Newton** missed an opportunity:

Board: 6

Dealer: E

Vul: EW

	North	
	♠ AJ5	
	♥ K854	
	♦ 5	
West	♣ AKQ74	East
♠ 10982		♠ Q743
♥ 103		♥ AQ72
♦ 874		♦ J63
♣ J862	South	♣ 53
	♠ K6	
	♥ J96	
	♦ AKQ1092	
	♣ 109	

Elizabeth and I bid to a comfortable 3NT from South. On the ♠10 lead, I won the ace in order to retain the spade entry to hand for the diamonds if they didn't behave. I duly made 6 diamonds, 3 clubs and 2 spade tricks for +460.

Shirley Newton and Jenny Wilkinson play Moscito and relayed their way to 6NT from South. If Jan Cormack had led a heart the contract would have failed immediately. On the lead of the ♠10, the play is far more interesting. Having won with the king, declarer first cashed three clubs finding the bad break. She now cashed the diamond suit to her satisfaction. At the final hurdle declarer went wrong, playing for the ♥A onside. This cannot be correct, since West has the long club. Instead, East is squeezed on the last diamond. North comes down to ♠AJ ♥K, and East must discard from ♠Q7 ♥AQ. When Debs bares the ♥A, she is endplayed into leading a spade back to dummy. It would have been a spectacular way to gain 11 IMPs! Fortunately the swing went our way.

	c/f	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5	Total
Travis	30	62	47	28	67	43	277
Newton		17	54	48	24	25	168

Newton conceded after 80 boards – 109 IMPs seemed insurmountable over 16 boards.

The **Newton** team had performed exceptionally – playing as a foursome, they had completed 380 boards over the 6½ days. Our playoff was played in the best of spirits and we all look forward to seeing our 'rivals' in the Far East.

I remember my last experience at a playoff in Christchurch six years ago and the Christchurch Bridge Club once again lived up to expectations. They supplied delicious lunches daily, courtesy of Barbara Fechny and assistants; unobtrusive caddies under the management of Michael Sykes; a constantly up-dated website (according to reports) via David Stephen; and the smooth

direction of Ari Geursen. I'm not sure that I thanked you all at the time but it was appreciated.

Should you be wondering about the author of this article, Val Cummings gave me a new nickname – I think it's far better than the New Zealanders' "Travesty". When my room-mate's snoring became too loud for me one night I took refuge in the bath (and shut the bathroom door)! I had a wonderful sleep until a loud voice yelled "Where are you?" (at approximately 5am). She accepted my response of "In the bathroom", without too much concern, so I went back to sleep. Of course, at play the next day she told anyone who would listen about my latest exploit... and "Bath Tub Barbie" was born.

"Bath Tub Barbie"

ABF News

2001 AUSTRALIAN TEAMS

The ABF is pleased to announce the Open and Women's teams for the PABF Championships (Singapore) in June, and the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup (Bali) in October as well as the Zone 7 team for the Senior event in Bali.

OPEN: Barry Noble, George Bilski, Terry Brown, Philip Gue, Peter Fordham, Michael Prescott

WOMEN'S: Barbara Travis, Elizabeth Havas, Alida Clark, Marilyn Chadwick, Jan Cormack, Deborah Moir

SENIOR: Bill Haughie, Jim Borin, Gaby Lorentz, John Lester, Tim Seres, Ron Klinger

OLYMPIC BRIDGE COMES CLOSER

Bridge will be an attraction sport in the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic

José Damiani, WBF President, gave an interview to e-bridge regarding the progress of bridge being recognised as a full Olympic Sport.

Mr Damiani said that, following a meeting held in Switzerland on 14 March with Mark Hodler, he was very happy to hear from Mr. Hodler that bridge is to be given the opportunity to demonstrate a competition at the Salt Lake City Olympics.

The Grand Americana Hotel in Salt Lake City has been allocated for a bridge attraction to take place about a few days before the official opening of the Winter Olympic Games (scheduled for 08 February 2002). Teams in three categories will be invited - Open, Women and Juniors.

Following a successful demonstration in Salt Lake City, work will continue to achieve the aim of having Bridge as an Olympic Discipline at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy.

Coaching Cathy at Contract

LOOKING AFTER PARTNER

Hi. It's me again!

Could you take some time out to look at a couple of defences that messed up when we got our wires just a little bit crossed? I want to know who blundered because many of these contracts were beaten at lots of other tables but not at ours.

BLUNDER #1.

	<u>Dummy</u>
	♠ 7
	♥ Q95
	♦ KJ98
	♣ KQJ75
<u>Me</u>	
♠ K106	
♥ J1084	
♦ 1072	
♣ 1062	

West opened a weak 1NT and East bid 3. Glenda led the ♠Q and I played the ♠6 to encourage (we are playing low encourage these days) and West the ♠8. Glenda thought for a while and switched to a heart. Declarer had no problem from then on, knocking out Glenda's ♣A and taking 4 clubs plus enough tricks in diamonds and spades. West had: ♠A843 ♥A73 ♦AQ6 ♣983.

BLUNDER #2.

This time the oppo reached 2♠ after West opened 1NT (weak) and bid 2♠ over East's transfer response.

	<u>Dummy</u>
	♠ QJ973
	♥ Q94
	♦ QJ7
	♣ 62
<u>Me</u>	
♠ 842	
♥ AKJ	
♦ A432	
♣ J107	

Glenda led the ♦5 against 2♠ and I won with the Ace and returned the 4. She trumped but tried to lead a club and that didn't work. Apparently she thought that my four of diamonds was a *little* one and that I was asking for a club to get in with. She had ♠xxx ♥10xxx ♦5 ♣KQxxx and declarer took the club and played the Ace and King of spades and threw one loser on a fourth diamond to make 8 tricks. Couldn't she see that the 3 and 2 of diamonds were missing? Naturally, -110 was a terrible score with almost all pairs coming out with a plus score on our hands.

Trying, trying, trying!!
Cathy.

Dear Trying,

Knowing when it is right to help partner out a little is a key area of defence. On some occasions you need to be psychic to get it right but these hands are two good examples of simply reading the play a little better.

On the first hand, it would be fair to suggest that partner holds QJ9xx in spades. If she didn't have the 9, your K10 will block the suit anyway and a low spade would clearly have been more successful. Even though you encouraged, declarer's 8 made life more difficult for your partner. From her point of view, declarer might have been clever with AK108 in spades and a continuation would have resulted in a free trick for the declaring side. Given that the spade suit must be pursued and it must gel for the defenders, what would have happened if you played the King at trick one? Even in the unlikely event that declarer played the Ace on the first trick, Glenda should get the idea that your holding was K10 at least. If declarer holds up with the ♠A, you can return the 10 and light the way for partner.

On the second example, you have obviously done well to read partner for a singleton diamond but you have failed to give her a clear line of defence. By leading your highest remaining diamond at trick two, you have provided a potentially ambiguous McKenney signal for a partner who was, unfortunately, less than alert. On the other hand, you have missed the opportunity to make the position crystal clear. With only two diamond ruffs available, you can give an unambiguous demonstration of your resources by playing the King of hearts. After giving partner her diamond ruff at trick three, you will regain the lead with partner's heart return and guarantee one light if the third round of hearts stands up. It's a pity that 3♣ is making for your side but (as you correctly observed) a plus is better than a minus.

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It is a reality that partners go wrong from time to time. It is a shame if we miss those rare opportunities to make absolutely sure that they don't.

Keep trying, trying, trying!!
David

David Lusk

Masterpoint Scheme Review

I've been asked by the Australian Bridge Federation to present a report to its management committee on ways to improve the masterpoint scheme, in particular, making it more meaningful to the large majority of players, the ordinary club player, and to make it attractive to the clubs as an incentive to have more players looking towards playing in club events.

An example of the problems with the current scheme being expressed by a number of people, clubs and State associations, is that of National events (and even State and congress events) attracting so many masterpoints in comparison to club events. This is just one area of concern. Others are saying that there is also the need to better market the scheme to our players. After all it is the ABF's main, even sole, source of income. As a sellable product, it needs to be attractive. You may have other concerns with the scheme, as it stands, and would like those to be considered.

I wish to canvas the ideas of players, clubs and State bodies on these matters. Those ideas and comments will be included in my report.

I would like to invite you to submit any ideas that you may have on the masterpoint scheme and ways to improve it. I am sure that you have some good contributions to make in this area, enabling the ABF to look at giving the scheme more relevance to the players and clubs.

I would like to have those ideas by the end of May. It is my intention to submit my report to the ABF as soon after as possible. I find e-mail the best way of communicating this type of information but please do not hesitate to contact me.

Adelaide Bridge Centre,
209 Glen Osmond Rd
Frewville, SA 5073
Telephone: (08)83792044
Fax: (08)83793558
e-mail: abc@camtech.net.au

Phil Gue

On behalf of the ABF Management Committee

Youth News

COLTS TO NEW ZEALAND

An Australian Colts (Under 20) team will compete against the New Zealand Junior Team in Hamilton at the end of June. The team is:

Daniel Krochmalik - Arian Lasocki (NSW/Vic)
Michael Delivera - Robin Stevenson (ACT)

The editors wish to apologise to Luke Matthews for omitting his name from the Australian Junior Team in the last issue. He will, of course, be partnering Nic Croft.

Tournament Results

GOLD COAST CONGRESS - CORRECTION

RESTRICTED TEAMS:

The runners-up in this event were the **Mullin** team:

Eddie & Dianne Mullin, Patricia Sutor, Eric Lindh

The change to the team personnel was inadvertently overlooked when the results were announced.

ZONE 7 CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN TEAMS:

- Noble** Barry Noble, Terry Brown,
Aus - 256 Peter Fordham, Phil Gue,
George Bilski, Michael Prescott
- Henry** Stephen Henry, David Ackerley,
NZ - 248.4 Stephen Blackstock, Scott Smith
- Taylor** Andy Braithwaite, Michael Cornell,
NZ - 241 Tom Jacob, Richard Jedrychowski,
Malcolm Mayer, Michael Ware,
Tony Taylor (npc)

WOMEN'S TEAMS:

QUALIFYING:

- Travis** Barbara Travis, Elizabeth Havas,
Aus - 249 Deborah Moir, Jan Cormack,
Alida Clark, Marilyn Chadwick
- Cummings** Val Cummings, Candice Feitelson
Aus - 244 Berri Folkard, Linda Stern
- Beech** Margaret Bourke, Kylie Robb,
Aus - 226 Felicity Beale, Diana Smart,
Sue Lusk, Therese Tully
- Newton** Shirley Newton, Lynne Geursen,
NZ - 220 Jenny Wilkinson, Jan Abel

FINAL:

Travis 277 defeated Newton 168

SENIOR TEAMS:

Haughie Bill Haughie, Jim Borin,
Aus - 197 Gaby Lorentz, John Lester,
Tim Seres, Ron Klinger

defeated

Cahn Lindsay Knight, Janet Woodfield,
NZ - 82 Robyn Freeman-Greene,
Dougal McLean, Jeff Green,
Tony Lenart, Charlie Cahn (npc)

Country Congress Calendar

Dates	Where/Event	Contact
June		
1-4	Darwin Crocodile Congress 7bulbul@one.net.au	Ken Brown Phone/Fax (08) 8948 2807
2-3	Chermside Arana Congress dancerr@powerup.com.au	Val Acklin (07) 3355 6399
22-24	Tamworth Swiss Pairs Walk-in Pairs (22nd)	Tamworth Bridge Club PO Box W142 Tamworth 2340 (02) 6762 7687
23-24	Sunshine Coast Honeysuckle (Butler) Pairs	Anne McLeod PO Box 5152 Maroochydore Business Centre 4558 (07) 5492 7539
23-24	Tweed Heads Wintersun Congress Swiss Pairs Swiss Teams	Joy Rennie Tweed Bridge Club PO Box 106 Tweed Heads 2485 Club (07) 5536 1570 Home (02) 6676 1792
July		
1-4	Illawarra Swiss Butler Pairs iba@speedlink.com.au	Margaret Spira Illawarra Bridge Club 11 Princes Hwy Figtree 2525 (02) 4267 3699
20-22	Noosa Heads Walk-in Pairs Butler Pairs	Colin Regan Congress Convenor PO Box 440 Noosa Heads 4567
August		
11-12	Wagga Wagga Wagga Leagues B.C.	Valerie Cook PO Box 863 Wagga Wagga 2650 Congress Convenor
11-12	Surfers Paradise Congress Teams Weekend	Surfers Paradise BC Gold Coast Mail Centre QLD 9726 Ph (07) 5597 0085 Fax (07) 5597 1172
12	Sunshine Coast Novice Pairs	Anne McLeod PO Box 5152 Maroochydore Business Centre 4558 (07) 5492 7539
24-26	Muswellbrook Walk-in Pairs Pairs & Teams	E. Battista PO Box 558 Muswellbrook 2333
25-26	Dubbo Pairs & Teams	Margaret Redden PO Box M56 East Dubbo 2830 (02) 6882 9057

Dates	Where/Event	Contact
September		
2	Sunshine Coast Swiss Teams	Anne McLeod PO Box 5152 Maroochydore Business Centre 4558 (07) 5492 7539
7-9	Orange Congress	Margaret Craig Orange Bridge Club PO Box 1218 Orange 2800 (02) 6362 0796
12	Surfers Paradise Birthday Teams Congress	Congress Convenor Surfers Paradise BC Gold Coast Mail Centre QLD 9726 Ph (07) 5597 0085 Fax (07) 5597 1172
15-16	Glen Innes Open Pairs Congress	Prue Graham Glen Bridge Club PO Box 188 Glen Innes 2370
28-30	Broken Hill Pairs & Teams	Marise Allen Broken Hill BC PO Box 834 Broken Hill 2880
October		
7	Gympie Graded Pairs	Sherree Soanes PO Box 521 Gympie 4570 (07) 5482 2154
13-14	Cooma Pairs & Teams	Freda Kaufline Monaro Bridge Club PO Box 418 Cooma North 2630 (02) 6452 1030
28	Maitland Teams Congress	Rosemary Pout (02) 4966 5376
November		
11	Tweed Heads Birthday Teams	Joy Rennie Tweed Bridge Club PO Box 106 Tweed Heads 2485 Club (07) 5536 1570 Home (02) 6676 1792
11	Surfers Paradise Novice Teams Congress	Congress Convenor Surfers Paradise BC Gold Coast Mail Centre QLD 9726 Ph (07) 5597 0085 Fax (07) 5597 1172

ABF Website Update

Check out the ABF website at www.abf.com.au.

Each month David Beauchamp's selection for the best inquiry he received during the month is posted on the site.

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

The best March submission came from **Ron Lel** (rllel@ains.net.au).

Hand: ♠ —
♥ xxxxx
♦ xxx
♣ Qxxxx

Bidding: IMPs, All Vul; Dealer West

West	North	East	South
4♠	4NT	5♠	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	?

Comments: 4NT is a 2 suited takeout, (X would have been a 3-suited takeout). Should South pass the double, given that he has a 5-card fit with at least one of partner's 2 suits?

And David's Response:

Hi Ron,

Quite a tough problem. I would opt for 5NT (choice of contracts) in preference to pass. If partner has ♠x ♥x ♦AKxxxx ♣AKxxx, bidding is the big winner.

Alternatively, if partner holds ♠x ♥Ax ♦AKxxx ♣AKxxx, pass is right.

It seems likely that partner has a strong hand to take two actions. Bidding seems to have the slight upside. It looks as though they have 12 spades and 5♠ will often go one down or occasionally make, especially if partner has hearts and clubs.

I would be interested in seeing the full deal.

All the best,
David Beauchamp

The full deal was:

Dealer: W Vul: All	North ♠ x ♥ AQJxxx ♦ x ♣ AKxxx	East ♠ Jxx ♥ K ♦ AKJxxxx ♣ xx
West ♠ AKQxxxxxx ♥ x ♦ Qx ♣ x	South ♠ — ♥ xxxxx ♦ xxx ♣ Qxxxx	



John Hardy

Bridge Books and Software
(Prices include postage)

Books

25 Ways to Compete in the Bidding <i>Seagram & Smith</i>	\$28.05
Modern Bridge Defense, <i>Kantar</i>	\$33.00
Competitive Bidding in the 21st Century <i>Miles</i>	\$27.50
Hand Evaluation, <i>Lawrence</i>	\$24.75

Software

Bridge Baron 11	\$118.80
Cavendish 2000, <i>Kit Woolsey</i>	\$57.20
1999 Life Master Pairs, <i>Larry Cohen</i>	\$57.20
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Letter to the Editors

The following letter, received from the Ballina Bridge Club, reflects the healthy state of Bridge in Australia.

DEBT FREE AT BALLINA

It took only 30 months for Ballina Bridge Club to repay the debt it incurred on building its new Bridge Centre.

On Australia Day this year, it was announced that the club had repaid the last of its debentures, which had totalled \$85,000. Originally estimated to take seven years to repay, the great result was achieved much more quickly than expected because of the great effort and determination of the members.

It seems like a fairy tale how things fell onto place but it was far from that. After many years of agitation and disappointment, Ballina Shire Council offered the club the lease of a reserve on North Creek Road, which was accepted with much enthusiasm. The acquisition of the land was inspirational. Offers of assistance were made in every conceivable way including donations of money, fund raising, free services (such as surveying, building design and expertise), buildings materials, landscaping, kitchen

equipment and interior furnishings and decor. While the building was under construction, members raised funds from a trading table, house parties and raffles as well as preparing for a monster garage sale. Once the centre was occupied, funds were raised at every opportunity such as Trivia Nights, Hungi Days, a Melbourne Cup Party, Garage Sales, Congresses and by renting out the facility to other organisations.

However, the real success of the Club has been from an increased attendance due to an increase on membership; an increase in the number of playing sessions (possible when you aren't paying rent) and a sense of pride which has seen members being prepared to do so much for the Club e.g. gardening, catering, cleaning, maintenance and directing. Three people, with help from members, run classes for beginners and donate the teaching fee back into the Club. There is a wonderful caring and friendly atmosphere at the Club and this has contributed a lot to our success.

The Committee is now in a position to plan for the future by prioritising needs and everyone is looking forward to the new tables and chairs which have been ordered to replace the temporary furniture.

Fees have remained at \$3 per session (includes afternoon tea) and \$6 on Sunday night (includes a meal). Any club thinking of embarking on building their own club rooms is welcome to contact us at PO Box 564, Ballina 2478 or, if any of your members are visiting the beautiful North Coast, pop in for a session - you are very welcome.

Book & Software Reviews

CONVENTIONS, AND THE JUDGEMENT TO MAKE THEM WORK BY MIKE LAWRENCE (INTERACTIVE CD FROM BRIDGE BASE, ONTARIO, CANADA, 2000, \$115.00)

What a great program! There are 9 chapters, but when you open up a chapter you find at least half-a-dozen sub-headings. Open a sub-heading and you find more sub-headings, and when you open any one of these you find up to 20 example hands. Try the example hands and on each bid Mike gives you a choice of answers to click.

There are appropriate sound effects for right and wrong answers, and explanations for every action, even for incorrect bids. Sometimes, when the full hand is shown, the program will play out the hand, and ask you questions along the way on the card play.

The main areas covered are: *Responding to 1NT*, *Raising Partner*, *Passed Hand Bidding* (mostly on Drury), *Strong 2♣*, *Asking for Aces*, *Doubles*, *After Opponent's Takeout Double*, *Interfering & Coping With Interference*, and *Miscellany* which includes 4th Suit and Weak Twos, plus a few of Mike's favourite treatments.

Among the many excellent methods and treatments in the program, I thought this idea a valuable tool in staying low in the part score battle:

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♥
X	2♠	Pass	?

2♥ was a transfer to spades, what should South bid holding: ♠Q10763 ♥A86 ♦1063 ♣Q7? Lawrence recommends that redouble by North be a better sort of hand, instead of a desire to play two hearts redoubled, and 2♠ be used to show a minimum. That way you can pass this moderate hand and not risk failing in 2NT or 3♠.

This CD is a major work, and contains a mountain of information. Five stars.

BECOMING A BRIDGE EXPERT BY FRANK STEWART (MASTERPOINT PRESS, TORONTO, CANADA, 2001, \$39.95)

Huge is the word to describe this book, a huge book on bridge technique. Every two or three pages Stewart introduces a new Tip and presents a quiz or full deals to press his point. Subjects covered are *Constructive Bidding*, *Dummy Play*, *Competitive Bidding*, *Defense*, with a final chapter entitled "*Personal Glimpses*".

This deal falls under the tip "*When You Suspect How the Cards Lie, Be Bold*":

Dealer: N		North	
Vul: All		♠ AJ1084	
		♥ AK6	
		♦ 86	
	West	♣ J73	East
	♠ 7652		♠ K9
	♥ Q10872		♥ 4
	♦ 94		♦ AQ10752
	♣ Q8	South	♣ K1062
		♠ Q3	
		♥ J953	
		♦ KJ3	
		♣ A954	

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♦	?

The bidding was the same at both tables in a team game. One South took a positive view of the position of ♦ KJ, and bid 3NT. Even though East won the diamond lead and switched to a club, declarer was able to put together nine tricks by careful play. The other South made a negative double of 2♦. North was in a fix, and bid 2♥, and South bid 3♥. This was down two for a 13imp swing.

Stewart is an entertaining writer, and he manages to bring out a number of interesting points in every deal.

10 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE BY DAVID BIRD (VICTOR GOLLANCZ, LONDON, 2000, \$24.95)

Highly popular author David Bird has assembled 10 areas that are stumbling blocks for the improving player. He covers *Bidding the Opponents' Suit*, *Battling for the Part-score*, *Support Doubles and Redoubles*, and *Splinter Jumps and Fit Jumps*. Turning to card play, he explores *Managing the Trump Suit*, *Count Signals*, *Playing the Right Card from Equals*, *Tactics at Notrumps*, and the very fashionable *Ace for Attitude*, *King for Count*. Each chapter concludes with a summary of major points and a quiz.

Test yourself on this question from the chapter on directing the lead:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

As West, on lead, you hold: ♠A4 ♥J106 ♦10973 ♣10832. If you were to lead a red suit you should choose a heart, because partner might have doubled 5♦, and didn't. However, the opponents have bid and supported clubs, and partner is likely to have a singleton club. Lead a club, and rise with ♠A on the first round of trumps and hope to give partner a club ruff.

Paul Lavings
Post-free Books

1999 LIFE MASTERS PAIRS DAY 3 - IBM CDROM

For those dedicated followers of software fashion, here is the third in Larry Cohen's excellent series – *The Final of the 1999 Life Master Pairs*. The field contains the crème de la crème, so you'll have to play well to win.

In this series, Larry focuses on basic bridge in-depth: take note of the auction, check the opponents' methods, make a plan for the hand, watch the cards and then count, count, count! You are constantly reminded that this is matchpoints, which requires the successful player to take appropriate actions based on the probabilities in the hand, and also on what the rest of the field will be doing. This type of analysis may not come easily right now, but after playing through the 52 hands in the CD, it will almost be second nature.

Discussion of bridge technique, such as the play of certain card combinations, is brought in within the scope of particular hands. Larry emphasises false carding for declarer as an automatic action which costs nothing and may gain against good players who watch the played

cards. Because of the relative depth of analysis, you will only do justice to this CD over many sittings.

Most of the bidding is straightforward, but a few conventions and treatments are discussed as a bonus – once again within the scope of the example hands. Here's an example of the style of the CD:

You are South in second seat with neither side vulnerable. East opens with 1NT showing 15 – 17. You hold: ♠K1053 ♥98 ♦6 ♣A87632. Do you bid?

Larry says you should (and this is not a minimum action). Using the DONT convention you bid 2♣ showing clubs and a higher ranking suit.

The auction proceeds:-

West	North	East	South
		1NT	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West leads the ♥J and dummy comes down with ♠A964 ♥AQ76 ♦AJ52 ♣4

ACOL BIDDING TRAINER

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A new interactive CD-Rom for **Acol Bidding with Bernard Magee (Mr Bridge)**. With voice and text explanations, this has to be the future of bridge software. Bernard explains why your bids are wrong or right and then at the end of each auction he gives a detailed account of the bidding. As well as an invaluable tool to practice and learn, you are also able to play the hands.

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We love partner's hand but there's a lot of work to do. We have 23 HCP and East must have at least 15, leaving two at most for West – maybe one more black Jack. Should we finesse at Trick 1?

Yes! We know it will lose, but we want to utilise the power of the heart spots. Presuming the lead is from J10x (x), we now have an extra heart trick after East takes his King. Fair dinkum, now, did you notice those spots? If not, you will notice them, and many other details, after playing through this CD.

The CD is perfect for the intermediate player who wants to get into tournament play, or who just wants to be the best they can be. The product retails for around \$58.00.

John Hardy

The Director's Chair

LAW 92 — THE RIGHT TO APPEAL

Law 92 is headed 'Right to Appeal'. In 99% of bridge clubs around Australia, this law has little or seldom usage. Club players tend to accept without question all rulings or decisions of their director who in most cases is one of the players. In the majority of clubs, the players take it in turn to 'look after' their weekly game which creates an air of stability.

Back to the real world: club players at some stage in their playing life venture out into the cut and thrust of a higher level. For a while their game is business as usual, however at some stage they will become embroiled in a claimed ethical position with a director ruling that, in their minds, either strongly suggests cheating overtones or a ruling that justifies their action. Often in the latter case, their indignant opponents mutter something about the incompetency of the director and that they will be appealing.

Suddenly, the game has entered an unknown arena, involving an order to front up to a committee hearing

where they are questioned, often accused, badgered into making statements that were never in their thought processes and finally ruled against. From this point there is a vow never to return. A familiar scenario? If in any doubt, just ask around.

The game of bridge is probably unique in its approach to decisions of the laws of the game, allowing appeals for almost anything. There is a growing feeling worldwide that the decision made by a director is as good as it gets and that the appeal process should be scrapped.. Whilst this approach makes a lot of sense, a worthwhile alternative would be to only permit appeals regarding aspects of law, leaving all matters of bridge judgement status quo.

This is nicely covered under Law 93B1 whereby 'The Chief Director shall hear and rule upon the appeal as deals solely with the Law or Regulation'. I suspect that the reason for the allowance to appeal bridge judgement is based in the past, to satisfy the opinion of expert players and administrators that bridge directors lacked bridge judgement and competency. Perhaps this may well have been the case but we now live in the future and I would strongly suggest that the expertise of tournament directing has strengthened considerably and that there is undoubted professionalism in the industry.

The WBF has produced 'A Code of Practice' which in its foreword recognises that "It has become widely apparent that there are inconsistencies in the handling of appeals at the various levels of the game" and goes on to give advice and procedures to address the problems.

The committee that promulgated 'The Code' is indeed impressive. The President of the WBF, Mr Jose Damiani, together with John Wignall, a senior Vice President of the WBF and our zonal representative, head a list of participants that bring together most of the lateral thinkers in the bridge world today. The object of 'The Code' is to set standards for the hearing of appeals, the decision process and the function of the director and appeal committee members.

'The Code' was initially published in December 1999 with an invitation to all NCBOs to adopt the recommendations and to invite feedback from both clubs and players as to the practical experiences of the effect where 'The Code' is adopted. It is my understanding that Australia has taken up the challenge to adopt 'The Code' for the 2001 ANC in Canberra. It will be interesting to hear from anybody who gets involved.

In my next article, I will attempt to précis 'The Code' with advice where appropriate for both players and bridge clubs.

Richard Grenside



ABF Calendar

Date	Event	Location
	Contact	Telephone
June 2001		
1-2	WW Bridge Contest John Hansen	Australia-wide (08) 9246 9992
7-17	PABF Championship Val Brockwell	Singapore (02) 6239 2265
8-11	Barrier Reef Teams Kim Ellaway	Mackay (07) 3855 3331
7-8	VCC Seniors Teams Jenny Thompson	Melbourne (03) 9885 0160
9-11	VCC Jenny Thompson	Melbourne (03) 9885 0160
30 -	NZ Nationals	Hamilton
7 Jul	Fran Jenkins	64 4 473 7748
July 2001		
13-27	ANC Julia Hoffman	Canberra (02) 6260 3728
August 2001		
6-15	World Junior Ch'ships Peter Gill	Brazil (02) 9560 2704
September 2001		
13-16	Sydney Bridge Festival Valerie Cummings John McIlrath	Hakoah, Sydney (02) 9959 4946 (02) 9922 3644
28 -	Hans Rosendorff Teams	Perth
1 Oct	Sue Broad	(08) 9384 3350
October 2001		
13-14	Australian Swiss Pairs Barry Kelly kellybg@netspace.net.au	Hobart (03) 6228 5247
19 -	WBF Championships	Bali, Indonesia
2 Nov	Val Brockwell	(02) 6239 2265
November 2001		
8-10	Spring Nat. Women's Teams Frank Budai	Sydney
12-14	Spring Nat. Open Teams Frank Budai	Sydney
16-18	GNOT Final John Brockwell	Sydney (02) 6246 5093
January 2002		
12-18	Youth Championships Peter Gill	ANU, Canberra (02) 9560 2704
16-28	Summer Festival John Scudder	Canberra (02) 9344 5564
February 2002		
13-23	Gold Coast Congress Kim Ellaway	Surfers Paradise (07) 3855 3331
March 2002		
16-17	ABF AGM Val Brockwell	Canberra (02) 6239 2265



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[FROM MIKE LAWRENCE'S NEW CD "CONVENTIONS"]

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

(1♣) - 2♣* - (Pass) - ?

*5-5 or better in the majors

1. ♠A1072 ♥62 ♦J98 ♣A1074
2. ♠9652 ♥Q8 ♦Q976 ♣1094
3. ♠108543 ♥Q ♦Q965 ♣Q63
4. ♠K3 ♥109 ♦QJ862 ♣Q962
5. ♠AJ3, ♥43, ♦KQ862, ♣972
6. ♠AK632 ♥J4 ♦AQ ♣J863
7. ♠8 ♥93 ♦Q97653 ♣A762
8. ♠3 ♥Q7 ♦K83 ♣10976542
9. ♠6 ♥J83 ♦A10873 ♣K1073
10. ♠J2 ♥95 ♦AQJ8643 ♣104

1. 3♠. The jump to three of a major over the Michaels Cuebid is reserved for hands of invitational strength, with four card support. The Michaels bidder would now be expected to pass with up to 10 HCP.

2. 2♠. You would like to preempt with 3♠, and bid to the three level quickly with your nine card fit, but you can't have it both ways. The jump to 3♠ would be invitational to game.
3. 4♠. On his CD Mike illustrates with examples how the jump to 4♠ makes life far more difficult for the opposition. Though you suspect that you can make very little, and have no idea what the opponents can make, it is important to get to the four level quickly with ten trumps and two shapely hands.
4. 2♦. When partner employs Michaels over 2♣, the 2♦ reply asks for the longer major, or the stronger major if 5-5. It would be costly to bid 2♥ and find partner with six spades and five hearts. Also with something like ♠A62 ♥1062 ♦A862 ♣765, it makes sense to bid 2♦ to place the declaration in partner's hand.
5. 2NT. Your hand is promising, and 2NT shows an invitational hand with 3 cards in one or both majors. Responses are: 3♣ = 5-5 minimum, 3♦ = 5♠-6♥ minimum, 3♥ = 5-5 good hand (11-15 HCP), 3♠ = 5♠-6♥ good hand, 3NT = 5-5 top hand (15+ HCP). The responses that deny a minimum are game forcing.
6. 3♣. The cuebid of the opponent's suit is the only game force. This gives you room to explore for slam below the game level, and on his CD Mike provides instructive examples of how to best use this space to best advantage.
7. 2♥. You would prefer to bid 2♦ but that asks the Michaels bidder for the longer major, as in question 4.
8. Pass. Though I don't blame you if you bid 2♥. However years of experience warns me that if I bid 2♥, partner will have an excellent hand and, in competition bid 3♥. And that will not be a positive experience, especially doubled. My instincts tell me to get out early. Remember, the bidding's not over yet!
9. 2♥. You have a promising hand but not quite enough to bid an invitational 2NT. There are two things to consider. First is that you don't want to discourage the opponents from competing at the three level, since you have excellent defence. Secondly, against a trump lead your hand begins to lose a lot of its appeal, and strong opponents will lead a trump when they are strong in the Michael's bidder's other suit.
10. 3♦. Even if 2♦ were available you might still choose 3♦ to preempt the auction. Likewise if the opening bid were 1♦ and the Michaels Cuebid 2♦, then 3♣ would be natural and non-forcing.

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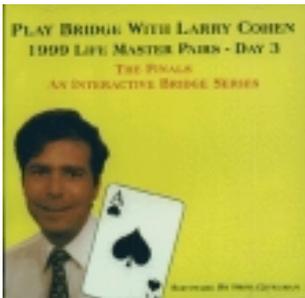


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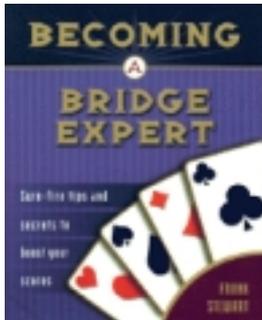
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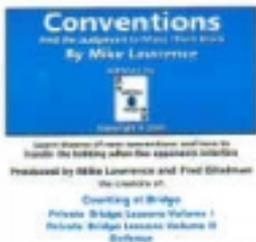
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McCutcheon Trophy Standings - 30th April 2001

Best Performing: Of all Masters

DEL' MONTE, Ishmael	NSW	194.03
CHUA, Cathy	VIC	135.42
HINGE, Simon	VIC	133.18
RICHMAN, Bob	NSW	124.31
MOIR, Deborah	NSW	117.91
NUNN, Tony	NSW	115.00
ROBB, Kylie	NSW	114.35
DYKE, Kieran	NSW	113.31
WESTWOOD, William	NSW	106.57
PARKER, Ralph	QLD	105.68

Best Performing: Silver Grand Masters

DEL' MONTE, Ishmael	NSW	194.03
CHUA, Cathy	VIC	135.42
HINGE, Simon	VIC	133.18
RICHMAN, Bob	NSW	124.31
WESTWOOD, William	NSW	106.57
HAVAS, Elizabeth	ACT	102.86
BURGESS, Stephen	NSW	102.42
GUE, Phil	SA	93.57
BROWN, Terry	NSW	93.03
WALSH, Alan	NSW	88.08

Best Performing: Grand Masters

NUNN, Tony	NSW	115.00
ROBB, Kylie	NSW	114.35
DYKE, Kieran	NSW	113.31
PARKER, Ralph	QLD	105.68
MARKEY, Philip	SA	101.58
HURLEY, Eric	NSW	92.68
LOWE, Leslie	NSW	92.38
LESTER, John	VIC	89.27
LORENTZ, Gabi	NSW	89.27
HAINSWORTH, Peter	QLD	86.37

Best Performing: Gold Life Masters

MOIR, Deborah	NSW	117.91
DAVIS, Derrick	VIC	96.92
BACH, Ashley	QLD	94.31
WATTS, Marlene	NSW	65.37
DE RAVIN, John	NSW	64.07
PRESCOTT, Michael	NSW	62.61
KONIG, Siegfried	QLD	61.22
BRAYSHAW, Paul	WA	59.32
VAUGHAN, Robin	QLD	58.48
DE LUCA, Attilio	SA	56.38

Best Performing: Silver Life Masters

MALACZYNSKI, Wally	NSW	81.88
BAKER, Colin	NSW	79.30
CORMACK, Jan	NSW	73.36
WILKINSON, Michael	NSW	68.92
LINDSAY, Jack	NSW	60.59
CROFT, Nicolas	SA	59.71
WILLIAMS, Heather	WA	59.63
SMALL, Anne	NSW	57.26
COURTNEY, Jill	ACT	57.09
MEYDAN, Ari	VIC	52.42

Best Performing: Bronze Life Masters

HAY, Jillian	ACT	55.21
EUSTACE, Greg	NSW	48.22
LYONS, Frances	NSW	47.85
MILLAR, Marlene	SA	43.82
DALLY, Gordon	VIC	40.45
MORTIMER, David	SA	39.43
COLLINS, Terry	WA	38.11
VALENTINE, Joan	WA	38.02
KING, Linda	NSW	37.94
LAWFORD, Prue	NSW	37.62

Best Performing: Life Masters

COWAN, Richard	NSW	67.61
LOVELOCK, Lynn	NSW	59.13
ABRAHAM, Mark	ACT	52.33
BEDFORD-BROWN, Linda	WA	47.16
STRICKLAND, Trevor	QLD	43.77
BATES, Janette	NSW	42.56
SKINNER, Tony	NSW	42.41
PHILLIPS, Shirley	NSW	42.02
IVANYI, Alexander	VIC	40.91
HART, Geoffrey	NSW	40.29

Best Performing: **National Masters

TALLY, Jim	WA	42.34
LINDH, Eric	QLD	35.77
PAK POY, Patricia	SA	35.32
MORAWIECKI, Roman	QLD	35.08
STONEMAN, Mac	QLD	28.95
FOSTER, Margaret	QLD	28.18
CLARK, Ilma	VIC	27.52
McCULLOCH, Lee	NSW	25.54
BARNETT, Philippa	QLD	24.59
ROBINSON, Berneice	QLD	24.58

Best Performing: *National Masters

FOSTER, Julian	NSW	94.15
EMERSON, Susan	SA	66.58
RENTON, Heather	NSW	39.84
GRIFFIN, James	NSW	38.37
HAMMOND, Gwen	NSW	38.21
PHILLIPS, Michael	NSW	38.07
HALMOS, Franci	VIC	37.29
DEAN, Sandy	QLD	36.44
WEAVER, Paul	NSW	33.92
FLYNN, Patrick	NSW	33.70

Best Performing: National Masters

SQUIRE, Mary	NSW	35.25
NASH, Bill	SA	33.36
WAGNER, Norman	VIC	33.25
KOWALCZYK, Eva	NSW	33.08
DOLAND, Ian	NSW	31.79
DAKIN, Keith	QLD	29.37
LOWRY, Helen	NSW	28.90
KROST, Barbara	NSW	28.08
STRUICK, Andrew	ACT	27.97
BONNICK, Les	QLD	27.01

Best Performing: *State Masters

WOODHEAD, Damon	NSW	55.85
WALFORD, Tony	QLD	36.22
GUARINO-WATSON, Adam	TAS	36.18
SUITOR, Patricia	QLD	35.81
WILTSHIRE, David	SA	35.47
WILKINSON, Ann	TAS	35.15
JOHNSON, David	NSW	34.45
JOHNSON, Mandy	NSW	34.12
WATSON, John	NSW	32.12
SPENCER, Jennifer	NSW	32.09

Best Performing: State Masters

NEUMANN, Dagmar	NSW	51.08
WOOD, Kerry	QLD	41.63
ZHANG, Gao Yang	NSW	33.77
MEERBACH, Ferdi	SA	32.07
MANTON, John	NSW	30.28
YANG, Shu Liang	NSW	29.84
DE CHASTEL, Ellen	QLD	28.38
DE CHASTEL, Norm	QLD	28.38
THORN, Margaret	NSW	27.53
RIVKIN, Gayle	NSW	26.93

Best Performing: *Regional Masters

PILKINGTON, Leon	SA	20.80
STRAW, June	NSW	16.52
LEVY, Magda	VIC	13.09
WAIT, Marie	SA	12.21
DI GIACOMO, Maureen	QLD	12.11
BENNETTS, Dorothy	SA	11.23
MIKECZ, Else	QLD	10.91
HENDERSON, Susan	QLD	10.39
HELMAN, Anne	VIC	9.87
WALLER, Marcella	QLD	9.63

Best Performing: Regional Masters

HARRIS, David	QLD	23.09
KENNEDY, Peter	NSW	19.98
McGINTY, Hugh	NSW	17.51
FORREST, Don	NSW	15.04
CADMAN, Agnes	QLD	14.44
DUNCAN, Faith	NSW	13.20
NORMAN, Barbara	SA	13.16
SIMPSON, Cheryl	QLD	13.01
RUDD, Gordon	NSW	12.45
LEUNG, Theresa	QLD	12.38

Best Performing: **Local Masters

STEGGLES, Alan	NSW	36.47
GREENWOOD, Allan	TAS	35.71
PORTER, Matthew	SA	26.25
AZZOPARDI, Paul	SA	19.44
HOFFMANN, Hanna	QLD	19.41
YOUNG, Brian	NSW	19.17
TOTTERDELL, Val	NSW	18.78
ROBERTSON, Kim	NSW	18.42
LEUNG, Julia	QLD	18.31
ATKINS, Judy	NSW	18.06

Best Performing: *Local Masters

MOIR, Shelley	NSW	35.35
OSMUND, James	QLD	30.00
GINSBERG, Monica	NSW	28.56
HURD, Anthony	NSW	22.59
MOLIERE, Robert	SA	19.33
MITCHELL, Doug	VIC	18.12
NAGY, Effie	NSW	17.34
CLIFTON, John	NSW	16.48
ATKINS, Bernie	NSW	16.37
NABARRO, Vivienne	NSW	15.54

Best Performing: Local Masters

MILLAR, John	QLD	18.56
DALY, John	ACT	16.87
KRUSS, Cecile	VIC	13.77
BEATON, Colin	ACT	12.83
SENDER, Sylvia	QLD	12.70
EVANS, Val	NSW	12.51
ARORA, Santosh	NSW	11.40
RUSK, Ashleigh	QLD	11.10
STRZELECKI, Janet	ACT	9.08
LEE, Claire	VIC	8.82

Best Performing: Club Masters

MILLER, Don	NSW	24.70
MORGAN-KING, Pam	SA	21.53
KERI, Joseph	QLD	14.70
BARNES, Edward	NSW	14.32
GERBER, Wolfgang	VIC	14.08
SHAMEEM, Joseph	SA	12.28
BRIFMAN, Maryanne	NSW	11.84
WISMER, Stuart	QLD	11.32
HU, Alan	VIC	10.84
RUDERMAN, Lita	QLD	10.52

Best Performing: Graduate Masters

LOPATA, Bessie	NSW	16.00
HAUER, Heidi	NSW	15.13
HILL, Richard	ACT	14.00
SINDEL, Jeanne	QLD	9.83
ASPINALL, Una	SA	8.69
LUM, Mary	NSW	8.00
WARMAN, Geoff	VIC	6.92
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EDWARDS, Margaret	SA	17.33
JANZEKOVIC, Darko	QLD	12.62
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LACHSZ, Andrei	NSW	8.23
BONYNGE, Helen	NSW	7.84
FLOC'H, Ann	NSW	7.84
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FAULKNER, Liz	QLD	7.28



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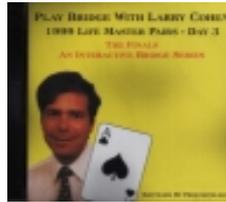
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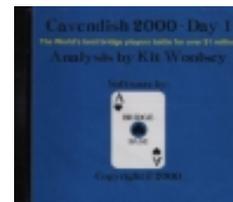
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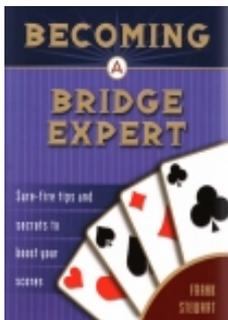


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