

## Linda Stern 1949-2007

Linda Stern was born in London in 1949 to Sybil and the late Joseph Cornell. The family migrated to New Zealand, where Sybil and elder brother Michael still live.

After completing her Diploma of Education, Linda did some teaching in London, then settled in Australia where she met David. They married in 1977 and had two children, Justin and Danielle.

Linda taught primary school at Bellevue Hill. When she gave that up, she and David ran the Double Bay Bridge Centre very successfully for many years.

One thing you could rely on when you met Linda: she always had a smile on her face. She was invariably cheerful, warm and friendly and was always quick to congratulate players on their successes.

Both the Cornell and Stern families have a long association with bridge. Michael Cornell has often represented New Zealand and Gerda Stern, David Stern and Robert Grynberg have won many events. Like her brother, Michael, Linda enjoyed considerable success in major tournaments. She represented Australia in the 2005 Pacific Asia Women's Teams and competed in the World Transnational Teams. Her national titles include the National Women's Teams, Spring National Women's Teams, Interstate Women's Teams and the Interstate Women's Pairs. Last year she was second in the National Open Teams and this year she won the NOT, the premier event on the Australian calendar.

On this deal from the final of the 2007 NOT Linda found the right path to a slam to score a good pickup:

(see top of next column)

East led the SA and played another spade. Declarer won the second spade and continued with a diamond to the ace and a diamond to the king for +1370.

The slam was respectable with North declarer to protect the SK from the opening lead.

Board 18. East Dealer NS Vul

♠ K 10  
♥ 8  
♦ K J 9 8 7 4 3  
♣ Q 10 2

♠ J 9 8 5 4  
♥ K 5 4  
♦ 6 2  
♣ 8 7 6

♠ A Q 7 3  
♥ J 10 9 7 3 2  
♦ Q 5  
♣ 9

♠ 6 2  
♥ A Q 6  
♦ A 10  
♣ A K J 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
Gue	L.Stern	Brown	Gill
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠ (1)	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦ (2)	Pass	4♥ (3)
Pass	6♦	All pass	

(1) Minor suit slam try

(2) In diamonds

(3) Cue-bid in support of diamonds

Lead: SA

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Marston	Erichsen	Prescott
		2♥ (1)	3NT
4♥	Dble	Pass	5♣
All pass			

(1) Weak

Lead: HK

Declarer made thirteen tricks for +640, but 12 Imps away.