



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

Editor: Brad Coles (editor@abf.com.au)

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2023 World Youth Teams

by George Bartley

A masterclass in reckless overbidding (or sheer genius) at the World Championships

The Australian under-21 Team that travelled to the Netherlands to compete in the 2023 World Youth Bridge Teams Championships comprised of Jack Luke-Paredi, Alex Goss, Bertie Morgan, Lara Topper and George Bartley, as well as non-playing captain Bec O'Reilly. Our team finished 10th, despite defeating the eventual gold, silver and bronze medallists during the qualifying, and managing a seven-win streak across a period of three days.

With a meagre three world championships worth of experience between the five of us combined, we were starry-eyed but motivated for some tough bridge ahead of us. After going 0/3 from a challenging first three rounds, we set out to bounce back, doing so in typical youth style! The following board was instrumental in the team's first win, by 1 imp against Canada, where both tables played in a ridiculous 20-point game.

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Front cover image: our U21 and U26 teams.
See page 12 for article on the World Teams.

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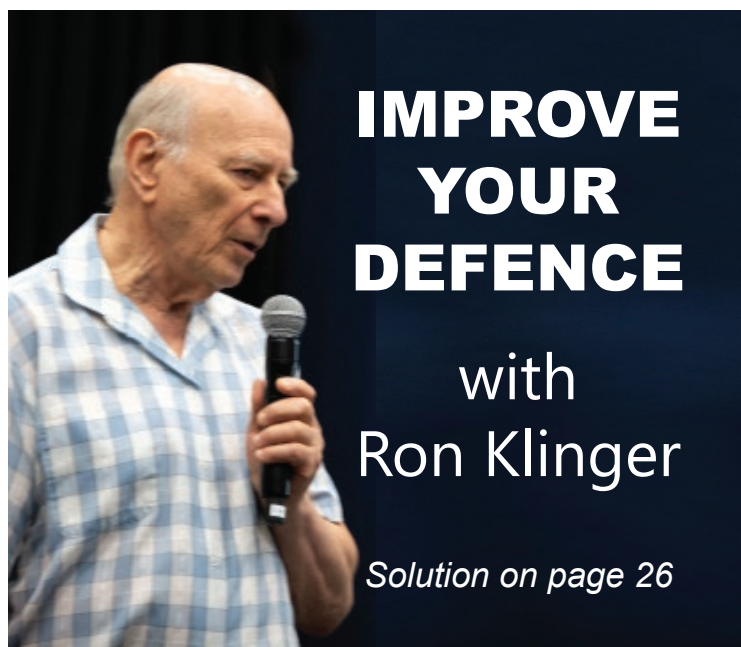
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Dealer North, North-South vulnerable

♠ J 10 8 6 4

♥ 9 8 5

♦ K 8

♣ 10 8 4



♠ K 3 2

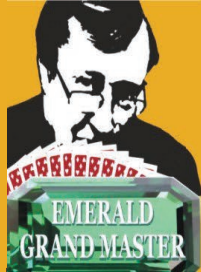
♥ 4

♦ J 9 7 2

♣ K J 6 5 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1♣ ¹⁶⁺
pass	1♦ ⁰⁻⁸	pass	2NT ²¹⁻²²
pass	3NT	all pass	

West leads ♥Q: five - four - ace and South plays the ♠A: seven - four - three, followed by the ♠9: five - jack - king. Playing Pairs, what should East play at trick 4?



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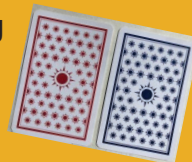
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

president@abf.com.au



As Australian Bridge Federation President, and Chef de Mission to the teams in Marrakech, I sent our thoughts and support to the Fédération Royale Marocaine de Bridge and all the Moroccan people, following the devastating earthquake. I am pleased to report that after the World Team Championships in Marrakech, Morocco, all the Australian contingents are now safely home following the strongest earthquake in Northern Africa for more than a century, as well as a medical emergency. Nazife Bashar was hospitalised after she suffered a serious medical episode during Round 20 (of 23) of the tournament. After nearly three weeks in hospital in Marrakech, Nazife has arrived back in Australia accompanied by a paramedic. She is making pleasing progress and thanks her best friend for working closely with the insurance company and Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers who arranged her flight home and fully covered all expenses.

For health reasons, Stephen Fischer has resigned from the ABF Board, leaving the position of Secretary vacant. On behalf of the Board and the bridge community I thank Stephen for his service and wish him well.

As per section 14.7 of the Constitution, the Board has the power to fill the vacancy from amongst Councilors until the next AGM in May 2024. Chris Mulley has agreed to fill the vacancy and therefore will become a member of the ABF Board until May 2024. All correspondence will still be sent to secretary@abf.com.au.

All eligible youth players keep the dates 6th-12th January 2024 free for Youth Week. Laura Ginnan, the Tournament Organiser of the event will



We are looking for your ideas to improve your bridge experience and enjoyment.

Scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone or your favourite scanner app. You will then have the option of leaving suggestions anonymously, or you can also leave us your contact details and we will get back to you.

circulate information as it comes to hand, so check the ABF website and your emails.

The Mid-Term Council and Board meetings will be held in Sydney on 28-29 October.

Thank you to Ann and Terry Spiro for inviting me and the BAWA President, Ian Clake to the special celebration at the Perth CBD Bridge Club. Don and Sandy Sutton-Mattocks (pictured below) were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding contribution as inaugural Director and Teacher of the newly-founded club. Don and Sandy have contributed to the growth of bridge in Western Australia, also volunteering at Bayswater and Canning Bridge Clubs.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with me or the ABF Board, please email

president@abf.com.au





MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox
marketing@abf.com.au



THE STATE OF THE BRIDGE WORLD

PRE AND POST COVID – AUSTRALIA'S PERFORMANCE

Today I want to address the state of the bridge market around the world, now more than a year into recovery from the effects of COVID-19. This recovery period was very short for places like Western Australia, which had little exposure to COVID and very short periods of closure. At the other end of the scale, parts of the USA are still affected. Some clubs are trying to recover or are still closed, some permanently.

International tournaments were closed until 2022 World Championships, European events, and World Youth competitions were held again. In the USA, the NABCs and Regional Championships have also been in full swing since 2022, as have events in Australia and many other countries.

Now, before your eyes glaze over at the thought of lots of numbers, I have made a couple of charts. If they say a picture is worth a thousand words then charts are worth hundreds of words.

WARNING: I have sourced statistics from a variety of sources which sometimes use different metrics and methodologies, some of which are unreliable and others possibly weighted to suit political or commercial objectives. However, they do tell stories.

International WBF Members by Zones

Zone	Area	Countries		Membership			Change 2017/2022	%
		Yr 2009	Yr 2022	Yr 2009	Yr 2017	Yr 2022		
1	Europe	47	46	393,164	352,468	274,232	-78,236	-22%
2	North America	3	3	160,912	170,606	124,909	-45,697	-27%
3	South America	10	10	4,384	3,575	2,861	-714	-20%
4	Asia	13	9	9,188	7,307	6,044	-1,263	-17%
5	Central America	20	11	1,384	884	485	-399	-45%
6	Pacific Asia	12	11	71,129	59,242	56,716	-2,526	-4%
7	Australia + Oceania	4	2	47,286	51,355	46,371	-4,984	-10%
8	Africa	14	8	6,398	5,856	3,881	-1,975	-34%
		123	100	693,845	651,293	515,499	-135,794	-21%

The first chart shows that the number of National Bridge Organisations has fallen from 123 in 2009 to 100 in 2022. However, most of these may have found the WBF fees more than they could justify for their small player base.

The EBL (European Bridge League) was already in decline in 2017. COVID-19 contributed to a further membership decline of 78,000 members or 22% by 2022.

North America, and the USA in particular, declined by nearly 46,000 or 27%.

Australia/New Zealand had the second lowest decline of 10% only beaten by Pacific Asia with -4%.

PERFORMANCE BY COUNTRIES

Registered Bridge Players - WBF

	European Bridge League (Major Bridge playing countries in Europe)											
	USA	England	Aust	NZ	France	Denmark	Germany	Italy	Neth.	Norway	Sweden	Switzerl.
Members 2019	167,000	54,106	36,543	15,060	81,630	21,399	23,943	20,513	79,471	7,852	22,523	3,373
Members 2022	120,675	18,612	33,722	12,649	56,322	18,100	20,063	15,494	64,819	7,488	18,858	2,892
Change	-46,325	-35,494	-2,821	-2,411	-25,308	-3,299	-3,880	-5,019	-14,652	-364	-3,665	-481
%	-28%	-66%	-8%	-16%	-31%	-15%	-16%	-24%	-18%	-5%	-16%	-14%
Population (M)	332.0	56.0	25.7	5.1	67.8	5.9	83.2	59.1	17.5	5.4	10.4	8.7
Shr Pop	0.04%	0.03%	0.13%	0.25%	0.08%	0.31%	0.02%	0.03%	0.37%	0.14%	0.18%	0.03%

The second chart looks at the performance of some of the major bridge-playing countries in more detail.

USA: ACBL membership is down 28% since COVID-19. The number of clubs has fallen from over 2,700 to less than 2,000 and the number of tables played F2F is down by 30%. An interesting example is the famous Honors Club in New York. In 2019 it was the highest ranked club in the US by tables played with 18,883 F2F tables in the year. In 2023 the top ten clubs are all online clubs, with some providing a small number of F2F games for locals. The largest, Gryphon 11 DBC will do over 50,000 tables in 2023. The ten largest clubs will provide 14% of all tables played and the top 10% of clubs about 50% of tables played in the US. Honors has been closed for the last couple of years and is trying to reopen again in a new F2F location in New York with online games as well.

England: The number of clubs has fallen by about 10%, though the number of online clubs has grown. Membership, which was over 54,000 in 2019, fell to only 18,600 active members in 2022. However, there were about 34,000 active players in 2019. The issue of dormant players is a major problem in most countries because of the high average age of bridge players being about 74.

Europe: The large bridge-playing countries such as France, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Italy all suffered declines in membership of 15-30%.

New Zealand: The number of registered players fell in New Zealand by 16% from 15,000 pre COVID to 12,600 in 2022. Online has proved particularly popular in NZ which has affected the size of F2F games and congresses. NZ Bridge has recently employed a Marketing Manager.

Australia: The number of registered players in Australia fell by 8% from 2019 to 2021 but fell further in 2022, a trend around the world. The WBF figures are based on the previous year and a more realistic figure for Australia is a 10-12% decline in memberships. Other countries deficits are also more likely to be higher after a surprising fall in members in 2022.

Both Australia and New Zealand along with Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway are all relatively small populations and have a higher penetration rate of the population than larger countries.

CONCLUSIONS

Australian bridge has been an international leader in rebuilding club memberships by:

- handling the COVID-19 crisis in bridge clubs well
- minimising the club shutdown period and loss of members
- providing online bridge and supporting clubs and players during COVID
- motivating clubs to reach out and contact players to return to F2F bridge
- campaigning for clubs to provide a PREMIUM service for the F2F experience
- promoting F2F congresses to rebuild attendances again
- publishing press releases to the media to attract new players to bridge
- teaching clubs how to make media releases and talkback radio calls to their local media.

Australia may be a world leader in promoting bridge but a lot more work needs to be done around our country and the world to recover from COVID and to grow in a highly competitive leisure and online gaming market.

SPREAD THE WORD ON TALKBACK RADIO

One of Bridge's strengths is our thousands of club volunteers and 32,000 registered players. Here is your chance to make a contribution by spreading the word about bridge.

Talkback radio (and breakfast TV) are always desperate for people to ring in and make comments about the subject of the hour. Many topics have a relationship with bridge including mental health, retirement, sports and games, online activities, lifestyles, travel and holidays.

For example last week I was driving and the ABC Radio Sydney talkback topic was the hottest place you have been. This gave me the chance to ring in to the program and talk about the World Bridge Championships in Marrakech where it was over 40 degrees every day.

Pointers:

- Grab any chance to talk about bridge on talkback radio shows
- Remember it is not about you – the aim is for you to talk about bridge
- Speak clearly and minimise the use of Ums, Ahs, Right and OK if possible
- Be enthusiastic, warm and confident. Be brave, give it a go.

Here is the very brief 51-second interview:

www.bridgetv.com.au/latest-news/radio-grab/



Julian and Jenna during the earthquake evacuation in Marrakech



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Photos of the Australian teams, BridgeTV being highlighted in the WBF Daily Bulletin, the final results and Australia's placings, Vugraph commentary of major matches including Australia vs New Zealand and some of Pete Holland's videos are all available at

<https://www.bridgetv.com.au/>

BRIDGE PLAYERS IN MARRAKECH EARTHQUAKE

A special report on the Marrakech earthquake, which occurred less than a week after the World Championships, offers the opportunity for clubs and players to make donations. It also includes some personal experiences: Julian Foster and Jenna Gibbons were caught up in the earthquake in Marrakech. Jenna had been playing in the World Bridge Teams Championships, and Julian had flown in from Australia via London to share a holiday together.

Other links on [BridgeTV](http://BridgeTV.com.au):

- Jenna tells her story in an email to friends at the time.
- Julian later tells their story of that night on 6PR Perth with Gary Adshead.
- Peter Cox describes a trip to the Atlas Mountains the week before the Earthquake.

Thanks to those who donated to the International Organisations supporting the earthquake victims on the ground and particularly to the Darwin Bridge Club for their donation.

RealBridge & BAMSA: Teacher and Coach Conference

RealBridge and BAMSA (Bridge: A MindSport for All) have arranged a short [online conference](#) on 7-8 October 2023 for bridge teachers, coaches and mentors.

The speakers are from around the world. Some material will be pre-recorded and subtitled. The entire conference will be recorded and made available subsequently.

What should I bid?

with Lauren Travis

The best submission for July came from Pravin Nahar. He wins a voucher of \$30, funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at Paul Lavings Bridgegear or The Bridge Shop.

Hi Lauren,

2♥ was explained as weak two in hearts. Playing Lebensohl over double of two-level openings, East bids to show one-suiter strong hand (3♦ would be showing 7+ HCP and a good five-card suit).

Questions:

1. Is 4♦ bid justified?
2. What should West do over 5♦? Pass or a blind guess at 6♦?
3. Any other suggested bidding sequence by E-W?



S/All	♠ 10 7 ♥ 9 7 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K J 9 8 5 4 2	♠ — ♥ A K 8 ♦ A J 9 7 5 4 3 ♣ 10 7 3	
♠ A K Q J 8 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ K 8 ♣ A Q 6	♠ 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ Q J 10 6 4 2 ♦ Q 10 ♣ —		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
dbl	pass	4♦	2♥
4♠	pass	5♦	pass
5♠	all pass		

Hi Pravin,

Thanks for this question – it's an interesting hand!

I like the 4♦ bid provided you're on the same page that it's forcing and single-suited. I would take it as a hand with some interest in slam if partner has the right cards, as East could bid 3♦ with a more flexible hand (e.g. a balanced hand or 4 spades and 5-6 diamonds) or 5♦ with a hand that just wants to play in game.

I would take West's 4♠ bid as showing that they had a strong double with spades, as with a more 'boring' hand they would have either overcalled spades at their first turn or just bid 5♦ over 4♦. (Note: They also could have bid 3♠ or 4♠ directly over 2♥, as jumps over weak twos and preempts should be strong single-suiters, rather than preempting over a preempt.)

East's decision is tricky now! If partner has a genuine strong double then 6♦ is probably a good bet, but 5♦ is also fine if they're not entirely sure.

As West, I would raise 5♦ to 6♦. 4♦ followed by 5♦ is a strong message that "I want to play in my suit, not yours", so that would rule out rebidding spades for me. Keeping in mind that 4♦ should be strong (game forcing) over a simple takeout double, East has to have a pretty good hand! West holds 3 key-cards and a solid side suit – what can partner have but lots of diamonds and points in hearts, since I have the most of the rest of the points? You could also consider 6NT on most hands, but here but with two low hearts and the possibility that partner has something like KJ rather than AK, I wouldn't risk it.

Hope this helps,

Lauren



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TONY BEMROSE INSURANCE BROKERS

The best submission for June came from Robin Tregenza. She wins a voucher of \$30, funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at Paul Lavings Bridgegear or The Bridge Shop.

Hi Lauren,

I was thinking that 3♣ would be forcing. Given my spades weren't great I was dubious about rebidding them.

What bids are forcing here?

What do you recommend as my rebid?

I did want to go to game, so perhaps 4♠ is better, but I was worried that partner might hold a singleton spade – which is possible in the 1NT rebid – and my spades weren't great.

N/Nil

♠ A 7

♥ Q J 6

♦ A 4 2

♣ Q 7 6 4 3

♠ Q 10 8 6 5 3

♥ 7

♦ 6

♣ A K J 9 2

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

pass

1NT

pass

1♠

all pass

pass

pass

3♣

Hi Robin,

Thanks for writing in. Responder's second bid after opener rebids 1NT can be a matter of style. Generally, I think most people who play naturally would play two-level bids as non-forcing and three-level bids as forcing.

If you play a 'checkback' convention such as new minor forcing or two-way checkback, then you can have more flexibility to show invitational and game forcing hands, and reserve the three-level for 5-5 hands – super useful here!

I can absolutely understand your reluctance to shoot straight to 4♠ if partner potentially has a singleton. In these situations, I always consider how likely it is that partner has a singleton spade vs something going wrong if I bid 3♣. If you're playing with a reg-

ular partner then I would lean toward 3♣, but if it's a first-time or new partnership then I might just bid 4♠ to protect against anything strange happening. And from your question it sounds like if your hand was

♠ A K J x x x

♥ x

♦ x

♣ Q 10 x x x

you would bid 4♠ regardless, which I agree with – you don't care so much if partner has a singleton there.

As an aside, if North thinks that 3♣ is natural and invitational (assuming 2♣ would be natural and non-forcing) then I think they should bid 3NT and you could correct to 4♠, leaving no doubt about the shapeliness of your hand.

Cheers,

Lauren

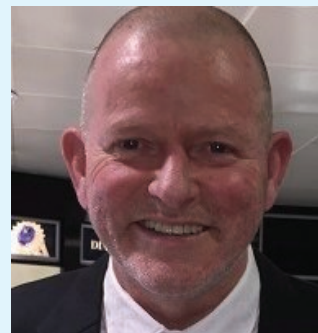


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MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

MYABF Project Manager
julian.foster@abf.com.au



The steady increase in My ABF users continues. At the time of writing there are now 15,383 users. Of those 9,173 have registered with their own account and 6,210 have been added as members by their clubs.

All the upcoming national congresses (Canberra in Bloom, Spring Nationals, Golden West Swiss Pairs, GNOT National finals, Summer Festival 2024, Gold Coast 2024) are listed on My ABF and taking entries. There are also an increasing number of club and state events being listed. The long term aim remains that this page becomes the definitive listing for all major bridge events in Australia rather than having lots of disparate systems at state and club level all around the country, some of which only handle entries and not payment. There are other advantages to a single listing as well:

- As we build up records of events over several years that allows organisers to look at trends.
- It forms a basis for a future national results database.

DUPLICATE PAIRS RESULTS DISPLAY

I have started to get some feedback from players and clubs about the pairs results display. This is great – the more people use and see something the more feedback we get; hence the more we can improve things for you!

When a club publishes results of a session you played in, you get an email notification (you can opt out of this if you wish on your Settings page) with a link to the results. You can also see them on your My ABF dashboard. Here's an example of what it looks like there:

Your Recent Results		
Date	Partner/Team Event	Result
18 Sep 2023	Adrienne Monday Afternoon - Section A (18-Sep-23)	4th
16 Sep 2023	Adrienne Saturday Afternoon - Section A (16-Sep-23)	1st
14 Sep 2023	Verna Thursday Afternoon - Section A (14-Sep-23)	5th
11 Sep 2023	Adrienne Monday Afternoon - Section A (11-Sep-23)	5th
7 Sep 2023	Verna Thursday Afternoon - Section A (7-Sep-23)	9th

Each of these is a direct link to the session results where your own position is highlighted and from there you can, as usual, view your or any pair's scoresheet and every result on every board played.

The box on your dashboard shows just your five most recent results. A more comprehensive view is available through the Results page on your main menu:

That page contains sections showing all your own results, results for your teammates (i.e. people you have defined as teammates in your profile – usually those you play with regularly), all results for your club and all results for all clubs.

Of course you can only see results from your club if the club chooses to publish them in My ABF. If your club isn't yet publishing its duplicate results why not encourage them to do so?

Note at this stage results display is limited to Duplicate Pairs events. Obviously in time the plan is to accommodate all the common tournament formats as well – Swiss Pairs, Swiss Teams, Knockouts, etc.

HOW CLUBS BECOME ACTIVE IN MY ABF

Of course the starting point to any of this is for the club to become active in My ABF. All clubs have now been set up in My ABF but to become active a club needs to have an initial administrator who sees their Club Admin menu and can then control who else should have access. Just let us know (preferably through raising a My ABF support request) who you want that to be and your club can be ready to go in a matter of seconds!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

Let me next explain membership aspects a bit more. This is a list of the features around managing members, showing which ones are currently operational and which ones are still to be built.



 Dashboard

 Results

Feature	Status in My ABF
Set up types of membership for your club.	Available and working
Upload a list of club members (from the masterpoint centre or external sources like Pianola, Compscore or a spreadsheet).	Available and working
Make changes to maintain that list as current.	Available and working
Download a report of members.	Available and working
Track home club members.	Built, but deliberately not yet made visible so as not to conflict with the masterpoint centre
Send email communications to members or tagged subgroups of them.	Available and working
Use membership status to calculate different member and visitor table money rates for club sessions.	Available and working
Use membership status to calculate different member and visitor entry fees for tournaments.	Not yet available
Track dates for which players' membership is paid up to.	Not yet available
Facilitate payment for member annual renewals (by bridge credits or other means).	Not yet available

What this means is that clubs can maintain a list of their current members. They can use this list for communications and to calculate table money at club sessions. But they can't yet fully track the history of their members and process their annual renewals.

For a small to medium sized club where members don't change that much this probably isn't much of an issue. For a larger club that's using something like Pianola or Compscore to manage your members you will probably want to continue to use that for now.

Nevertheless, you can still use My ABF. Several larger clubs have uploaded their members, maintain the current list and use it for processing club sessions. Yes, at this stage there is a small amount of extra handling to keep the member listing up to date in My ABF and another system. But the convenience (both for the club and the players) of running club sessions and accepting payment with bridge credits far outweighs that!

RECENT WORK

In the last couple of months travel and absences by members of the My ABF project team, including myself, has resulted in limited progress on the platform. The Steering Committee is currently reviewing timelines and planned release schedules such as the highly anticipated membership management enhancements (described above) and the masterpoint rollout for clubs. Our ambitions and hope were to deliver this functionality by the end of this year, but resourcing challenges – yes, this affects us too – are impacting our timelines. We will provide an updated schedule soon. Stay tuned!

By the way, the My ABF project team is always seeking augmentation. If you know of Python developers that might be able to lend a hand, please let us know. We are actively looking! Other skills we are always interested in are solutions architecture, change management and communications.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about the possibilities for clubs there are written and video guides here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/clubs/>

Alternatively drop us a support request and we can talk to you individually about any aspect. Help is available every step of the way to get going.

2023 World Youth Teams

George Bartley

Continued from page 1



Board 19. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

♠ K 8 7
♥ K 10 9 3
♦ Q 5
♣ J 8 7 3

♠ A J 9 5
♥ 6 5
♦ A 9 3
♣ A K 5 4

♠ 10 6 4 3 2
♥ Q J 7 2
♦ J
♣ 9 6 2

♠ Q
♥ A 8 4
♦ K 10 8 7 6 4 2
♣ Q 10

WEST	NORTH Lara	EAST	SOUTH Jack
dbl	pass	4♠	4♦ all pass

WEST Alex	NORTH	EAST Bertie	SOUTH
1NT	dbl	2♥ spades	1♦ pass
3♠	pass	pass	4♦ pass
pass	pass	4♠	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

Both auctions were, let's say, pretty aggressive, but they got the job done. Jack and Lara took 4♠ two off for +200, while Alex made 4♠ doubled on some helpful defence for +790, and a 14-imp swing!

Almost reversing the score-line from day 1, we leaped from 14th to 9th going unbeaten on day 2, playing some very impressive bridge against strong opponents. The following board against Hong Kong during round 7 produced an interesting defensive situation, with Lara starring.

Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

♠ 9 6 3
♥ A 10 8 5
♦ Q 6 4 3
♣ 8 5

♠ K J
♥ J 7 6 2
♦ A 7 5 2
♣ A J 6



WEST Lara	NORTH	EAST George	SOUTH
dbl	2♠	pass	1♠
all pass		3♥	3♠

Lara held the West cards and elected to lead the ♥2. Declarer thought for a bit then played the ace, partner following with the nine, declarer the three. Declarer then played a spade to their queen, partner following with the two, as you win your ♠K. How would you plan the defence?

At trick 3, Lara chose the great switch of the ♦A. From the auction, and the cards at trick 1, I must have held exactly ♥K-Q-9-4. Hence, by discouraging I must have wanted some urgent switch to another suit, as I did not know if she held J-x-x or J-x-x-x. This meant, from looking at the West cards, I probably either had ♦K-J-10 – needing the lead through dummy – or a singleton/void in diamonds. After Lara's switch I followed with the eight, and she led

Lara Topper, George Bartley, Bertie Morgan, Jack Luke-Paredi, Alex Goss, Bec O'Reilly npc



through the ♦2, signalling for a club if I indeed held a singleton. After I trumped the diamond, I was able to lead back a low club for another diamond ruff.

The full deal:

♠ 9 6 3	
♥ A 10 8 5	
♦ Q 6 4 3	
♣ 8 5	
♠ K J	♠ 10 4 2
♥ J 7 6 2	♥ K Q 9 4
♦ A 7 5 2	♦ 8
♣ A J 6	♣ K 10 9 7 2
♠ A Q 8 7 5	
♥ 3	
♦ K J 10 9	
♣ Q 4 3	

The final result was down three for +300, while Alex and Bertie netted an impressive +150 against a 4♥ contract, not easy to beat, for 10 imps. The final score against Hong Kong was 46-26, for our fourth successive win.

By round 14, we were placed 13th, and were up against the home nation, the Netherlands.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

	♠ K 10 9 5 3	
	♥ A K 9 8	
	♦ 9 6	
	♣ J 5	
♠ 7		♠ 2
♥ 7 6 2		♥ 5
♦ Q 8		♦ A K J 10 7 5 4 3 2
♣ A Q 9 8 6 4 2		♣ 10 3
	♠ A Q J 8 6 4	
	♥ Q J 10 4 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ K 7	

WEST	NORTH Lara	EAST	SOUTH George
3♣	4♣ raise	6♦	1♠
pass	6♠	all pass	6♥

WEST Alex	NORTH	EAST Bertie	SOUTH
4♣	4♠	5♦	1♠
pass	6♠	7♦	5♥
all pass			dbl

This was an absolutely crazy board, where at my table, East found a great 6♦ sacrifice, electing to pass after 6♠ believing they'd forced a phantom slam save. At the other table, Bertie Morgan found the magnificent (insane?) sacrifice of 7♦ against 6♠,

which led to a delicious 12-imp gain. The final result of 37-44, albeit a bit disappointing, was still fantastic given we'd played an online practice match against the "men in orange" a few weeks prior and had got absolutely annihilated 22-75 over 24 boards.

With four rounds to go, we were running 11th, and up against eventual gold medallists Denmark in Round 16, needing a win to even have a chance at the top 8. This was achieved in dramatic style, 40-35, by a hair's width. One of the crucial boards that contributed to knocking over the heavyweights was the following:

Board 19. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

	♠ K 7 6	
	♥ —	
	♦ K 8 5 4 3	
	♣ A 10 9 6 3	
♠ Q 5 2		♠ 8
♥ Q 6 4 3		♥ K J 10 9 7 5
♦ Q J 9		♦ A 10 2
♣ 8 7 5		♣ K 4 2
	♠ A J 10 9 4 3	
	♥ A 8 2	
	♦ 7 6	
	♣ Q J	

WEST Jack	NORTH	EAST George	SOUTH
pass	2♦	2♥	1♠
3♥	dbl	all pass	2♠
WEST	NORTH Alex	EAST	SOUTH Bertie
pass	2♣	2♥	1♠
pass	4♠	all pass	dbl

Kudos to Bertie who made a great 4♠ here for +420 (setting up dummy's clubs and playing West for ♠Q), while my 3♥ doubled rolled home pretty easily on a couple of finesses for +730, netting 15 imps.

Unfortunately, the final day did not quite go our way, with a couple of losses to USA1 and China sealing up 10th as our final position. In hindsight, nerves on the first day probably cost us a spot in the finals, as we had some poor matches against weaker teams. However, being able to deal with pressure comes with experience, and particularly given our rough start, the team is extremely proud of our overall performance to just narrowly miss the finals. We are indeed very grateful to Bec O'Reilly and Mike Doecke who both did a fantastic job leading the team. The World Championships is an amazing experience, and it is an honour to represent Australia at such a prestigious event.



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Australia-Wide Open Pairs

Kerin Tulloch

***Kudos to Kooyong Bridge Club,
with three pairs in the national Top 20***

Played in view of centre court at Kooyong, formerly home to another great Australian Open event, 66 bridge club members battled it out during the same week in August that 1477 other pairs played the identical cards in clubs all over Australia. It's not called the Australia-Wide for no reason, with clubs from Blue Lake and Bribie to Warwick and Welling-ton and lots of clubs in between. Kooyong finished with three pairs in the top 20: Susie Stock and Maria Campbell 11th, Kerin and James Tulloch 14th, and Sue Douglas and Deb Fogarty 20th. No other club can boast such a good result.

The Open event is played in August each year with the Australia-Wide Novice event (under 100 master-points) held in May and Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs (under 300 masterpoints) later in the year. It's a great way to pit yourself against bridge players not just from your own club, but from everywhere in the country to see how your standard compares on the day.

Getting back to Kooyong, often called the spiritual home of tennis, the bridge club has grown significantly over the past few years and now boasts 360 members, one of Victoria's bigger bridge clubs. It

runs four duplicate sessions a week, with many opportunities for learning and competition throughout the year. The three Australia-Wide Pairs events are subsidised by the club to encourage members to participate in these events.

Of the three Kooyong pairs listed above, a few themes emerged when speaking to them afterwards.

Generally, the importance of partnerships was emphasised, although our top pair on the day was a scratch pair! There are always exceptions to rules in bridge!

Sticking to the rules was also a common remark as a fundamental key to long term success.

Those that had played cards from early in life found it easier to learn the game, although with hard work, anyone can succeed – several of this group hadn't played cards before learning to play bridge.

Most had taken up bridge after retiring, with more time in their lives, needing a new challenge and wanting to keep the brain active. The social aspects of the game were also a positive aspect.

The married couple (a novice pair) lucked out that day with their best score ever! That is one of the other good things about the game, that at times anyone can rise higher than their masterpoints might suggest they should. It keeps a lot of us playing!

With the tennis season hotting up around Kooyong on the centre court, maybe those bridge players not so interested in the tennis could do a tour around Australia and drop in to some of those bridge clubs such as Gawler, Goondiwindi or Gold Coast and have a game over the summer. I'm sure they would be very welcome.

Scoring over 66% in the Australia-Wide Open Pairs: Sue Douglas, Deb Fogarty, Suzie Stock, Maria Campbell, Kerin & James Tulloch



Coffs Coast Congress

Kim Frazer

An emphatic victory in the Coffs Teams



In August the national circuit of bridge moved to sunny Coffs Harbour for the Coffs Coast National Congress. It's three years since I was able to travel to Coffs for one of my favourite events on the calendar. The weather is great, the people in the town friendly and there are good restaurants for the evening meal and of course – there is no traffic to contend with, even if you don't stay at the venue.

The Teams event runs over three days. Players get Friday morning off to attend the free seminar held at the venue or to take a stroll on one of the nearby tracks. There is a full day of play on Saturday, and the event concludes around lunchtime on Sunday with drinks and nibbles before departing to travel home at a reasonable hour.

The event was a runaway win for the Coutts team (James Coutts, Justin Mill, Andrew Mill and Peter Hollands) who led from start to finish and took an unassailable lead into the last round. Below are some of the more interesting hands from the event.

From Round 3, a lot of pairs including our winners made 4♠ by South here:

Board 6. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

♠ A 10 3	
♥ K 9 7 4	
♦ K 7	
♣ K 7 6 4	
♠ K Q 2	♠ 6
♥ Q 8 6 3	♥ J 10 5 2
♦ 2	♦ A Q 5 3
♣ Q J 10 8 2	♣ A 9 5 3
♠ J 9 8 7 5 4	
♥ A	
♦ J 10 9 8 6 4	
♣ —	

Defeating 4♠ requires the lead of ♠K to prevent South ruffing their diamonds good, and this lead wasn't found by any of the Wests on defence.

In Round 5 the Morrison team defeated our winners with a clear victory. This board helped them secure the slam bonus when West reached 6♦:

Board 4. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ Q 10 4	♠ A 7 5
♥ J 10 9	♥ A K 7 5
♦ 10 6 2	♦ A Q 8 4 3
♣ Q 9 7 3	♣ 8
♠ K J 8 2	♠ 9 6 3
♥ Q 6 4	♥ 8 3 2
♦ K J 7 5	♦ 9
♣ J 2	♣ A K 10 6 5 4

North chose the aggressive lead of a low spade. To defeat the contract, a club lead and spade switch from South is the best defence, although on the layout of the hands any lead except a spade from North will work.

In Round 6 a variety of results were produced on this deal with those NS Pairs who found the diamond save winning the points over the EW pairs who were allowed to play unmolested in the heart game.

Board 25. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

♠ J 6 2	♠ A 10 5
♥ 6	♥ A J 10 9 5 3 2
♦ A K J 7 6 5	♦ —
♣ Q 6 2	♣ K 10 9
♠ K 8 7	♠ Q 9 4 3
♥ K 8	♥ Q 7 4
♦ Q 8 3	♦ 10 9 4 2
♣ J 8 7 5 4	♣ A 3

At my table, I opted for an immediate 4♥ bid over North's 1♦ opening. This was slightly unconventional since EW 'can' make slam from East's hand but this action worked well here. The fast arrival bid prevented the opponents from finding their save and picked up 11 imps for me (and also for our winning team).

In the last round, this deal could have created a big plus for our winners.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ J 5 3	
♥ K Q 4	
♦ 10 9 7 5 4 2	
♣ 3	
♠ Q 7 6 4 2	♠ K 8
♥ 8 7 5 3	♥ 10 9 2
♦ K Q 8	♦ J 3
♣ 7	♣ A K 9 6 4 2
♠ A 10 9	
♥ A J 6	
♦ A 6	
♣ Q J 10 8 5	

After the following auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
pass	2♣ ¹	dbl	rdbl
all pass			
1. Puppet to 2♦.			

South had no problems sending back East's lead directing double (who wouldn't make a lead-directing double with that suit?). With North as the declarer in

2♣ redoubled, Andrew was annoyed not to make it, going one down on the lead of the ♥9. North-South can make on the heart lead by playing three rounds of hearts and then a club from dummy and inserting the eight. Declarer can then play off their aces, and must eventually come to two more trump tricks for a total of three hearts, a spade, a diamond and three clubs.

Congratulations to the Coutts team on their emphatic win. James Coutts described the Coffs Coast Congress in his victory speech as one of his favourite events and I couldn't agree more. I look forward to visiting Coffs again next year.

Final results:

Open Swiss Pairs

- 1 Sandra Richman - Andrew Richman 115.91
- 2 Terry Brown - Bruce Neill 112.74
- 3 David Weston - Kim Morrison 107.64

Open Teams

- 1 Andrew Mill, Justin Mill, Pete Hollands, James Coutts 127.91
- 2 Terry Brown, David Weston, Bruce Neill, Kim Morrison 111.79
- 3 Liz Adams, Marlene Watts, Peter Gill, Shane Harrison 111.64

Coffs Coast Teams winners: Justin Mill, James Coutts, Peter Hollands and Andrew Mill

Photo by Nick Hughes





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For those bridge players who care about the environment, the ABF's sponsor, PENLINE, makes Reusable Coffee cups and Water Bottles, as part of its "War on Waste". If you are interested in more information, please contact Maryo Derofo by email: maryo@penline.com.au



Perth-everance on the North Shore

Chris Depasquale

THE BUTLER DID IT!

You pick up this monster at IMPs in the qualifying stage of the ANC Open Butler, both sides vulnerable, and partner deals and opens 3♥.

♠ A K 5 3	♥ Q J	♦ A K 10	♣ A K 7 2
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	4NT	pass	3♥
pass	?		5♥ ¹

1. Two key cards without the queen.

7NT looks attractive, relying on three sets of AK to complement seven heart tricks. But what if partner's third best heart is the nine and they break 4-0? How will he enter his hand to run the heart suit? I settled for 7♥. It is possible for this to be beaten by a ruff at trick one when partner does hold AKTxxxx but that seems such a remote possibility. Suppose, for example, partner also has four clubs. The suit would have to break 5-0 to begin with, which is about a 4% chance. Half the time it will be the hand without clubs on lead, so that reduces it to 2%. Even then the opening leader may not wish to lead a club – many textbooks still advocate a trump lead against a grand slam. But 7♥ led to disaster!

You probably think that clubs were 5-0 and the defence took a club ruff at trick one, but you would be wrong. South held

♠ Q 9 7 6	♥ A K 8 7 6 5	♦ 9 7	♣ 10
-----------	---------------	-------	------

and the trump suit broke 5-0!! To add insult to injury 7♠ was cold (trumps 3-2) played by North (the heart void on opening lead), and even 7NT made comfortably enough because the hand with five hearts also began with QJx of diamonds, and so was squeezed when the sixth black winner hit the table.

Hands similar to that one (4-6 in the majors and about 8 or 9 HCP) got us into trouble several more times at the Butler. You don't want to open a weak two, as the other major might be a better strain. After the third disaster (the one above was -16 imps) we decided to open such hands 1♥ and jump straight to

game if partner responded 1♠. Once we had decided on that treatment, that particular configuration did not show up again throughout the rest of the event.

AND NOW FOR SOME REAL BRIDGE

A couple of weeks later Michael Courtney and I were paired up again as part of team Zhu (William Zhang and Wayne Zhu were our teammates) at the North Shore Bridge Club Winter Online Teams Congress. We suffered narrow losses in our first two matches and, until the following hand came along appeared destined for the same fate in Round Three.

Our opponents were the all-Northern Territory Williams team (Neil Williams - Tony Abbott, Sue Moffitt - Ken Moffitt). They comfortably won the Intermediate prize that was on offer for the event, meaning they showed a financial profit as well as getting the experience of playing against seriously good teams for 54 boards. It surprises me that more people don't take advantage of opportunities like this that Real Bridge makes available.

Both sides were vulnerable, and I was dealer in the West seat.

♠ 4 3	♠ A K 9 2
♥ 6 5	♥ K Q 8
♦ A K J 9 4	♦ 10
♣ A K Q 9	♣ J 8 7 3 2
♠ Q J 10 7	♠ 8 6 5
♥ A J 7 4 3 2	♥ 10 9
♦ 6 5	♦ Q 8 7 3 2
♣ 10	♣ 6 5 4

I opened 1♥ (Goren, four-card suits) and when North chose to double, East bid 1♠. South had no interest in the auction at all, and my jump to 4♠ set the final contract.

At the other table West opened 2♥ (weak), North overcalled 3♦, East jumped to 4♥ and South bid 5♦. Neither East nor West felt they had enough to double this, and +200 was insufficient compensation for -650 at the other table.

The field at North Shore was smallish (twenty teams) but remarkably strong. Our losses were to Peake (Andrew Peake - Elliott Kaplan, Shane Harrison - Martin Bloom) and Jeffery (Peter Jeffery - Les Grewcock, Stephen Bock - Kevin Davies) who finished sixth and fifth respectively behind Zhu, Finikiotis (George Finikiotis - Leo Goorevich, Liz Fanos - Linda Aubusson), Dawson (Jane Dawson - Peter Gill, Liz Adams

- Tony Nunn) and Burke (Anthony Burke - Phil Gue, Lori Smith - Arjuna de Livera).

Our teammates topped the Pairs datums for the event. Decisions like choosing to overcall rather than double in the hand above helped them, but there was some nifty declarer play on show, too. On this hand EW were vulnerable and West was the dealer.

♠ Q 6 5 2	
♥ K 10 8	
♦ 9 7 6 4	
♣ 5 4	
♠ 7	♠ J 10 8 3
♥ Q 7 5	♥ 6 4 3
♦ Q 3	♦ J 8 2
♣ K Q 10 9 7 3 2	♣ A J 8
♠ A K 9 4	
♥ A J 9 2	
♦ A K 10 5	
♣ 6	

At most tables West’s club preempt went around to South, who doubled for takeout, and North became

declarer in 4♠. This contract was reached twelve times but made only thrice.

It looks as if declarer needs to find the heart queen. With a two-way finesse possible the knowledge that West started with club length mandates that East is more likely to have the heart queen.

Nine declarers played that way and finished one down.

William Zhang, playing 4♠ North found an elegant solution. The ace of clubs was led, followed by a small diamond won in the South hand. The ace of spades followed by a spade to the queen revealed the trump break when West discarded a club. Zhang now ruffed his last club in the South hand and exited with a small diamond! This left West on lead. Opening the heart suit would give declarer no problems so West led a club. This was ruffed in the North hand and a heart discarded from the South hand. Declarer played his last trump and played the diamonds from the top. East could ruff in, but then be on lead in the all-heart ending.

Know what to wish for

Michael Bishop

In the 1990s I bought a computer disk (remember those?) on Card Play by Mike Lawrence, one of America’s top authors and players. One of the themes of the disk was “Know what to wish for,” written next to an icon of a wishing well. The phrase has stuck with me ever since.

In the following deal, played in a recent club duplicate session, I was the West defender. Declarer went one down in 5♥. After the session I looked at the record, and the little box said 5♥ was makeable.

Dealer West. East-West vulnerable.

	♠ 10		
	♥ Q 7 4 3		
	♦ A Q 9 8 6		
	♣ A 5 3		
	♠ K 5		
	♥ A 9 6 5 2		
	♦ 3		
	♣ K 9 8 7 6		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	dbl	2♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	all pass	

Using the bidding and the ♣10 opening lead, what must you wish for to make 5♥? And then how do you play it? Trumps will break 2-2.

SOLUTION

The opening club lead looks very much like a singleton. You have a spade loser, a trump loser and a club loser. Since West opened, there’s a good chance he has the ♦K. The key to the hand is to force West to lead a spade when both you and dummy don’t have any spades; you can then discard the “inescapable” club loser from dummy and ruff in your hand. You must wish that West has 7-2-3-1 shape, with the ♦K and the ♠A (not unreasonable, since West opened).

You win the club lead with your ♣K. Before you draw trumps, you need to eliminate diamonds from West’s hand. You lead a diamond to the ♦Q which wins. Play the ♦A, discarding the ♠5 from your hand, and ruff a diamond back to your hand. Now play ♥A and another heart. Trumps break 2-2. If West wins with the ♥K, your wish is granted – he will only have spades left. He cashes his ♠A and then must lead another spade, while you discard a club from dummy and ruff in your hand. Then you ruff dummy’s fourth diamond, making dummy’s hand good.

If it is East who wins the ♥K and returns a spade, West is in the same spot. If East returns something else, you win and play your ♠K to put West on lead.

Note: If you play trumps immediately, West can exit safely with a diamond. At the table, declarer did finesse the ♦Q before drawing trumps, but discarded a club from her hand on the ♦A.



A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

Try bidding these hands with your favourite partner, East dealer:

♠ 5	♠ A J 6 4
♥ A K 8 3 2	♥ Q J
♦ A Q 4	♦ K J 9 7 5 2
♣ K J 10 4	♣ Q

Here is my recommended auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	1♦	pass
2♣ ¹	pass	1♠	pass
3♦ ²	pass	2♦	pass
4NT	pass	4♦ ³	pass
6♦	all pass	5♥	pass

1. Fourth suit forcing (to game).
2. Since East has shown long diamonds (5+) and denied 3 hearts, you now decided to set diamond as trumps and see if partner is interested in slam. You are already in a game-forcing auction, so take your time!
3. Bypassing 3NT and bidding 4♦ (not 5♦) shows a better hand, with some slam interest.

You could cuebid now (4♥ then 4♠), before using 4NT.

The West hand should use fourth suit forcing because it is too big for a 3NT rebid on the second round. Rebidding 3NT should show about 13-15 HCP only. Further, this hand is suitable for slam should East have a more shapely hand than the 4-4 shape shown so far.

Often, when the defence has one trump remaining and it is high, you leave it outstanding. I was recently asked about hands on which you need to remove that high trump, and here is such an example:

♠ 9	♠ A K Q J 5
♥ A K J 10 9 4	♥ 7 2
♦ 6	♦ J 10 9 4 2
♣ K J 10 6 4	♣ A

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	all pass

Whilst this may not have been yours or my auction, the key is the play.

North leads the ♦8 to South's queen, and South returns the ♦A. Whilst you should trump with the ♥9 (the ♦8 is a high spot card, so a shortage lead), you trump with the ♥4 and North over-ruffs with the ♥6, then leads the ♠4.

Your entries to dummy are now under threat. Whether you can afford to take the heart finesse is debatable, because a club lead would prove awkward if the ♥Q is offside. So you win the spade in dummy and cash the ♥A and ♥K, with South having ♥Q-8-5.

If you now cross to dummy with the ♣A – your last entry to dummy – South can trump the third spade, meaning you have only been able to discard two club losers. You will now lose a fourth trick to the ♣Q. Instead, you need to exit with a heart to South, giving him his heart trick. You can win any return, cross to dummy's ♣A, and take three club discards on the top spades, making your contract.

Here's another bidding hand:

♠ K 9 6	♠ A Q 8
♥ K Q 7 6 2	♥ A 10 4
♦ Q J 2	♦ A 9 8 7 5 3
♣ 7 2	♣ 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	1♦	pass
3♦	pass	2♦	pass
4♥	all pass	3♥	pass

After East's 2♦ rebid, showing six diamonds and 12-15 HCP, West invites game by raising to 3♦. Now

East can accept the game invitation, but should also show their three-card heart support by bidding 3♥. This allows you to reach the excellent 4♥ contract. (6♥ makes if the ♦K is onside and hearts behave.)

Try this hand, after partner opens a weak 2♦ (all vulnerable):

♠ A Q 10 7 4 ♥ K Q 2 ♦ J 3 ♣ A 7 2

Whilst I would simply respond with 3NT opposite a vulnerable weak 2♦ opening, many didn't. If you aren't going to bid 3NT, perhaps you use 2NT as an enquiry – whether Ogust or a 'feature' ask. Whichever method you play, you should use opener's 3NT rebid to show a solid suit, i.e. A-K-Q-x-x-x. Now 3NT often becomes the contract, regardless of major fits etc. That would have been partner's response and you rest in an easy 3NT contract.

It must be time for a play hand:

♠ 8 7 5	♠ A K 9 2
♥ 10 6 4	♥ A Q 2
♦ Q 10 9 2	♦ A K 5 4
♣ Q J 8	♣ 7 4

East is playing in 3NT and South leads the ♥8 - ten - North discards ♣6 - two. You have two spade tricks, two heart tricks, four diamonds (hopefully), and need to develop a club trick.

Cross to hand with the ♦A, and lead a small club towards dummy: jack - king. North switches to the ♠Q, which you can duck safely (North can't lead hearts through). When North continues with the ♠J, you win the king as South shows out. Now you know you have three spade tricks, with the aid of another finesse.

How are you planning to play diamonds? You should think about the shape of the defensive hands. South has seven hearts and one spade; North has five spades, no hearts, and is far more likely to hold four diamonds than South. Therefore, you should cross to dummy's ♦Q. South shows out (again!), so you can now manage two finesses from dummy – if you play in the right order. Lead the ♦10, ducking if North plays low. Then you simply lead the ♠8, finessing North's remaining spade honour.

For a tenth trick, lead towards dummy's clubs again. Despite your lack of entries between the hands, South is endplayed. If they lead a heart, you will win both the ace and queen; if they lead a club, you score the jack as trick 10.

Nobody bid to any slam on these hands:

♠ 3	♠ A 10 7 2
♥ A K 10 9 7 3	♥ Q 6 2
♦ A 5 2	♦ 3
♣ Q 10 5	♣ A K 7 6 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	2♣	pass
2♥	pass	4♦ ¹	pass
4NT	pass	5♠ ²	pass
5NT	pass	6♣ ³	pass
7♥	all pass		

1. Splinter (see below).
2. Two key cards + ♥Q.
3. ♣K (specific kings).

When you responded 2♣, you were planning to make a delayed game raise next bid. But after West bid 2♥, and is likely to hold six hearts, you should make a delayed splinter bid of 4♦. This should show three-card heart support and a singleton in diamonds. (Bear in mind, 3♦ would be game forcing, so the jump is a splinter bid.)

After the keycard response, West can count to 13 tricks, but only by ruffing the diamond losers: one spade, six hearts, one diamond, two diamond ruffs, three clubs. Then again, you also know East has 5+ clubs (they have three hearts and one diamond, and responded 2♣ not 1♠ initially).

I can't recommend Roman Key Card Blackwood, splinter bids, and specific king asks enough!



YOUR RHO OPPONENT OVERCALLS 3♥

What would you call on these hands, nil vulnerable?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦ ¹	(3♥)	?

1. Assuming 1♦ shows 3+ diamonds, better minor.

1. ♠ K 9 6 5 ♥ 2 ♦ K J 7 2 ♣ A 10 3 2
2. ♠ K J 9 4 ♥ 2 ♦ Q J 4 ♣ J 9 8 6 4
3. ♠ K Q 6 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 9 7 6 2 ♣ K 9 6 2
4. ♠ A 8 7 ♥ A 9 7 ♦ J 10 7 ♣ A 9 8 5
5. ♠ Q 6 ♥ A 7 6 ♦ Q 8 7 6 5 ♣ K 10 4
6. ♠ J 4 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ A 10 ♣ A Q J 9 7 6
7. ♠ A K 10 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ 10 8 5 2 ♣ A Q 2
8. ♠ K Q 10 ♥ Q J 8 ♦ 10 9 6 5 ♣ K 9 5
9. ♠ A Q 7 6 4 ♥ 10 7 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ J 7 6
10. ♠ Q 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ K Q 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ K 8

Solutions on next page

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com



Solutions to problems from page 21

YOUR RHO OPPONENT OVERCALLS 3♥

What would you call on the hands posed on page 21, neither side vulnerable?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦ ¹	(3♥)	?

1. Assuming 1♦ shows 3+ diamonds, better minor.

SOLUTIONS

1. Double. Your side has the balance of power and you have the perfect shape. What should the opener rebid after your double with something like:

♠ A Q 3 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A Q 6 4 ♣ 10 8 6 3

3♠ on a three-card suit looks a better choice than pass or 4♣ so be aware that opener could rebid 3♠ with only have three spades and be cautious when raising 3♠ to 4♠.

2. Pass. You have the right shape but you lack the values to compete at the three level. The bidding is still alive and if opener has sufficient strength to reopen with a double you will have an easy 4♠ bid.

3. 4♦. Even though you have an aceless hand you have positive features in every suit and would be happy for opener to carry on to 5♦ or 6♦. It is not a good idea to double here with only three spades.

4. 3NT. Not much choice here holding a 13-count. You have no idea how many tricks you will take in 3NT but it's difficult to imagine a better contract from your hand. Aces are great for notrumps and you have three of them.

5. 4♦. This hand is from the recent World Championships in Morocco:

♠ J 10 3 2	
♥ 4	
♦ J 4 2	
♣ A J 7 5 2	
♠ Q 6	♠ A 5 4
♥ A 7 6	♥ 8 5 2
♦ Q 8 7 6 5	♦ A K 10 9
♣ K 10 4	♣ Q 6 3
♠ K 9 8 7	
♥ K Q J 10 9 3	
♦ 3	
♣ 9 8	

As a non-gambler, I didn't fancy 3NT and bid 4♦. We were vulnerable and 3NT could easily be two or three down. I do love going positive. When I checked the analysis box (I call it the "hindsight" box) I saw that 4♦ is one down and 3NT makes. You win the second heart and rattle off five diamond tricks and South is in trouble finding discards. To keep enough heart winners South must shed a club and now you play ♣4 from dummy. North must duck and you win ♣Q and throw South in with a heart and they must play away from ♠K at trick 12.

I thought I should change my answer to 3NT but a few hours later it hit me that the diamonds were blocked and that East would have to win the fourth round of diamonds. So how does 3NT make? After winning ♥A at trick two declarer must finesse to ♦10 and now the diamonds don't block. Since that play is almost impossible for a human to find I decided to stick with my 4♦ answer.

6. 3NT. When in doubt bid 3NT. Even though opener had ♦K when this hand arose 5♦ had no chance with three top losers. 3NT will make up to thirteen tricks if defenders don't grab their top tricks at once.

Keep in mind that 5♣ and 5♦ require extra strength to make 11 tricks and a dicey 3NT is often a better proposition where you only need nine tricks.

7. Double. Having said that double should show four spades I can't see a realistic alternative. There is a school of thought that happily gambles 3NT here and certainly that will succeed some of the time.

8. Pass. With a poor 11 pass and take your one or two down. On a good day opener will reopen with a double and now you have the choice of passing for penalties or 3NT.

9. Double. You could pass and quietly take one or two down, however you could well make 3♠ or even 4♠ on a good day. Or maybe partner has four good hearts and passes your double. I like your chances to show a handy profit by doubling.

10. 4♥. You are close to making a slam, if opener has a good 13 HCP you could have 12 top tricks in 6♦. If opener cues 4♠ I recommend a 5♣ cuebid or simply 4NT Keycard. It's always good to know you aren't missing two keycards when you bid a slam.



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TEACHING TIPS with Ian Dalziel

PLANNING AND PLAYING IN TWOS

Everyone agrees that, when dummy goes down, you should make a plan before playing to the first trick; the trouble is there isn't much time to do so. Indeed, every lesson I ever give on planning hands is followed by, 'Great lesson, Ian, but we don't have time to do all this at the bridge club.' Hence, at the club, they usually just 'bash on' with the play, especially if their bidding has taken a long time and the director is about to call the move. Even at a home game, you can't take too long or your opponents will get bored and you won't be invited back.

I sympathise, but you can use your time more effectively. Don't take too long to bid – if indecision is your problem then dithering won't improve your choice. Indeed some of the worst bids I have ever seen have been made after interminable thought. If you bid fairly quickly, you have more time to play and can use the extra time to make a plan.



Ian Dalziel is a teacher and regular columnist for "Mr Bridge" magazine in the UK, where this column was originally published.



However, if you can practise planning hands at the class when you have more time and are under less pressure, you are more likely to transfer the skills to the club. After my spoken lesson on 'planning suit contracts', my students work in pairs, as I demonstrated in my previous column on Finessing – this time they use wallets, not flashcards, to plan the hand. This needs twice the number of tables, but they get a lot of practice. Believe it or not, declarer can play the hand out without defenders, if desired (see later). However, if you get the plan right, the hand plays itself.

Each wallet has a booklet with the contract and lead shown. The North and South cards are taken out of the wallet and put face up on the table, as shown. The East/West hands remain in the wallet with the lead face up. South is always declarer and North is dummy. The booklet has questions and answers about the play. North reads out the ques-

tions; South answers and North checks. If an answer is wrong, they discuss till they understand it fully. All four hands are shown inside the booklet. They then swap roles for the next wallet. This technique is ideal for counting losers in suit contracts as the losers are turned side on. It's primarily a 'teach each other' method and the discussion



is incredibly helpful; the students love it as no-one is inactive or bored. It's so intense that 30-45 minutes is long enough and they are keen to have a tea break. The supervised random hands which follow are actually quite relaxing by comparison.

If desired, declarer can play out the hand using my 'face up' method of play. Declarer plays the cards left to right and dummy's cards are played in the same direction. Winning cards point to partner and losing cards are side on. The cards are left face up and the 'parallel effect' gives a record of play, as shown. The EW cards are not played, but North checks the booklet and informs declarer how suits break and, if defenders win a trick, North says who wins and which card is returned. The 'play out' option is very quick as only 26 cards are used and not turned over.

At my supervised play sessions, I sometimes use this 'face up' method to show how a hand should have been played when all four hands are faced on the table. Declarer and dummy play their cards under my instruction; I tell them how the defence will go but the defenders' cards aren't played. This is much quicker and more effective than replaying the whole hand.

The hand shown was a suit contract which was planned by counting losers, but the pairs method can also be used for notrump contracts by counting winners. This technique is ideal for hands where the defence have limited options, which is about 40%

Y1) S to make 5D, 9S led					
1.	Count losers in each suit?...	Diamonds = 1	Spades = 0	Hearts = 2	Clubs = 1
	<i>Turn losers side on in declarer's hand only, don't include ruffing in dummy yet.</i>				
2.	What is the (raw) loser count?	4			
3.	How many losers can you afford? (in 5D)	2			
4.	How many losers must you save?	2 <i>(raw minus affordable)</i>			
5.	Has dummy any ruffage?	YES (hearts)			
6.	How many heart losers can you ruff in dummy?	2			
7.	Has dummy extra length winners?	NO (spades are weak & lack entry)			
8.	Which method will you use to save losers?	Dummy's shortage.			
9.	Will you draw trumps immediately?	NO (If you draw trumps there will be none left in dummy for ruffing)			
10.	How will you play the hand? 1 Win AS. 2 Cash AH. 3 Enter hand with AC. 4 Ruff a heart in dummy. 5 Re-enter hand with KC. 6 Ruff an other heart in dummy. 7-9 Draw trumps They break 3-2				

of my lessons on declarer play. Using the normal method of four at the table, only declarer is really practising the topic, the rest are just 'making up the numbers' waiting for their turn 'to play'. With the pairs method, everyone is fully involved and dummy takes a very active part in the learning process.

I have used this method at hundreds of classes and have yet to find a student who didn't like it. Try it yourself, it really works.

If you would like a free PDF and / or Publisher copy of my set of booklets on planning suit contracts, then email

ildalziel@gmail.com

If you have Publisher, you can delete my hands and use it as a template for your own hands.

If not, you can make your own template in Word using my PDF copy as a guide.

Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK

World Jigsaw Puzzle Championships



In news from the Australasian Bridge Facebook group, Lauren Travis reports that she and some friends took a trip through Europe on their way home from the World Championships, and they stopped in Valladolid, Spain to take part in the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championships.

Congratulations to New Zealand player Andi Boughey (pictured) for making it through the semi-final stage and reaching the final of the tournament, where she solved a particularly difficult Ravensburger 500-piece puzzle in under an hour and a half.

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



HANDS UP – WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED

There are some well-known defensive positions, known as 'surround leads'.

♦ 7 4 3 ♦ 10 5 2 ♦ K J 9 6
 ♦ A Q 8

If East is on lead, the jack holds declarer to two tricks. If East plays the six or the nine, South can come to three tricks. The jack is also essential when South has Q-x-x and West A-x-x. Lead the jack and South makes no tricks, lead a low card and South makes one trick by playing low from hand.

One of the lowest 'surround' positions occurred on this deal from a European Open Pairs:

♠ Q 7 5	♠ J 10 8 6 4	♠ K 3 2
♥ Q J 7 6	♥ 9 8 5	♥ 4
♦ Q 6 4 3	♦ K 8	♦ J 9 7 2
♣ 9 2	♣ 10 8 4	♣ K J 6 5 3
	♠ A 9	
	♥ A K 10 3 2	
	♦ A 10 5	
	♣ A Q 7	

The contract was 3NT at 21 of the 26 tables. West led the ♥Q. South won and could have continued hearts to land nine tricks by taking the club finesse later.

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WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1♣ ¹
pass	1♦ ²	pass	2NT ³
pass	3NT	all pass	

1. Artificial, strong.
2. Artificial, negative.
3. 21-22 points.

Hoping for bigger things, South played ♠A and another spade, East winning with the ♠K. He now produced the surround card of the ♦9. Had he shifted to a low diamond, declarer could play low and capture West's ♦Q. That would leave South with the A-10 over East's J-x-x.

South covered the ♦9 with the ♦10 and captured West's ♦Q. The ♥9 came next and that was allowed to win. Declarer needed to take the club finesse now, but played a heart to the ace and another heart. West was in and cashed the ♠Q. He continued with the ♦3: eight - jack - ace. East was down to ♦7-2 and ♣K-J and when South cashed his fifth heart, East discarded the ♦7. South exited with the ♦5, but West won and cashed the other diamond for one down and a 94% board.

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WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with William Jenner-O'Shea

DEFENDING TECHNIQUES: COVERING HONOURS

This month I ran a face-to-face Defence Workshop in both Sydney and Canberra. There were plenty of practical tips for players who don't think about defending techniques enough.

♠ A J 3	
♥ A Q 7	
♦ Q J 10 9	
♣ Q J 9	
♠ K 9 5	♠ 10 4
♥ K 6	♥ 10 9 8 4 2
♦ 7 4 3 2	♦ K 8 6
♣ 10 6 5	♣ K 8 4 3
♠ Q 8 7 6 2	
♥ J 5 3	
♦ A 5	
♣ A 7 2	

Here is a hand from the lesson, played by South in 4♠. Ignore the opening lead, and let's take a look at each suit in isolation, with declarer or dummy being the first to lead.

In spades: If declarer leads the ♠Q, West should cover the queen with the king. The ♠K will force out the ace, but the defenders still have the ♠10 and ♠9 and be able to score a trick. If West does not cover the ♠Q, then declarer will play a low Spade to the jack (repeating the finesse), and then play the ♠A and lose no tricks.

Defender's play tip: In general, cover an honour with an honour. Here, covering the ♠Q promotes a trick with West's ♠9.

Declarer play tip: Leading the ♠Q is the best play against defenders who don't 'cover honours', but a better play is probably to play a small spade to the ♠J and then play the ♠A.

In hearts: If declarer leads the ♥J, West should cover with the ♥K. The ♥K will never win a trick with the ♥A and ♥Q in dummy, so West must cover to potentially promote a trick in partner's hand.

Declarer play tip: When you are leading for a finesse, consider what happens if your card gets covered. Here, if the ♥J is covered, then declarer only wins two tricks. The best play for three tricks is to play small to the queen, then play the ace, hoping to catch a doubleton king with West. This is the exact layout where declarer can make three tricks.



The diamonds: With the lead in dummy, declarer calls for the ♦Q. If East covers with the king, declarer will win the ♦A and have four easy diamond tricks. If East does not cover the ♦Q, the finesse will win, and dummy will lead the ♦J next. If East refuses to cover this trick as well, then declarer must play their ace. Declarer hasn't lost a trick, but still hasn't established the remaining diamonds.

Defender's play tip: Don't cover touching honours. It only promotes extra tricks for the other side.

The clubs: If dummy leads the ♣Q, East knows not to cover, since they can see touching club honours in dummy. If they cover, declarer will win the ♣A and can potentially lead a club to the ♣9 finessing against partner's ♣10 and make three tricks. The ♣Q wins the trick. If dummy now leads the ♣J, East should cover this time. The ♣J is no longer part of touching honours. By covering the ♣J, it promotes a trick for West's ♣10, and declarer only gets two club tricks.

As a general rule, most club level players don't cover honours often enough, and might be missing the chance to promote a trick in their own hand, or in partner's hand. If an honour is led from dummy, and it is not touching honours, then you should cover almost always. If declarer leads an honour from their hand, and you can't tell if it is touching honours or not, cover if you have any chance of promoting a trick in your hand or partners.



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