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SOUTH AUSTRALIA WINS



South Australia's Open Team, winners of the Interstate Open Teams by 0.8 IMP:
Justin Williams, George Smolanko, Attilio De Luca, David Lusk (absent: David Anderson - Ian Hilditch)

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020: HELPERS NEEDED

The Australian National Championships will be held in Adelaide in July 2020, at Morphettville Racecourse. The SABF needs the help of South Australian bridge players to ensure that these championships are successful. They are seeking assistance, which can be divided into two categories:

VOLUNTEERS/WORKERS

- Volunteers are required to help on the 'Help Desk', with the hospitality desk, and perhaps with pick up or drop off of interstate visitors. Volunteers will be offered free entry to a side event, and a bottle of wine, once their assistance has been completed.
- Caddies are needed to help move the boards during a session and to distribute/collect boards before and after sessions. Caddies will be paid for their work. Children and/or grandchildren are welcome to help too.
- People will be required to run BBO services, which require skills with computers and with following the play of a bridge hand. These are paid positions.
- The SABF would love assistance finding sponsors, so if you have contacts or could help with sponsorship, please let us know.

PARTICIPATING IN CONGRESS (SIDE) EVENTS

- You are encouraged to come and play in the various side events during the Championships. You will witness a national championship in play, potentially earn yourself some red masterpoints (and prizes), and just be 'part of the action'.

Set aside the dates: 11th to 23rd July 2020

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS by Barbara Travis

INTERSTATE OPEN TEAMS

The Interstate Teams qualified two teams for each category's final. South Australia dominated the Open qualifying, leading throughout the second round robin. In the final, they played against NSW, with SA having a 6.8 IMP carry-forward. Before looking at the final:

- WOMEN'S FINAL: ACT defeated Western Australia
- SENIORS' FINAL: NSW defeated Queensland
- YOUTH FINAL: NSW defeated South Australia

The South Australian Open Team won the final by 0.8 IMP! Winning by such a margin certainly means that many hands are significant (and makes the win more special...) David Lusk has supplied details of a few of the more publicised hands.

The first offering is Board 1 of the fourth (of five) sets and is rather puzzling:

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

At one table, the NSW East played in 3NT and received the ♥8 lead. He finished with 10 tricks for +430.

At the other table, this was the auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Lusk</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>De Luca</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
	Pass	1NT (1)	2♣ (2)
Double (3)	Pass (4)	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- (1) 11-14 HCP
- (2) Both Majors
- (3) Values
- (4) East asked North what the pass meant and apparently received a 'shrug'. Meantime, having passed 2♣ X, Matthew Thomson alerted his partner's pass and explained it to David Lusk...

This explanation made David Lusk believe that the auction was still alive, so he now bid 3♦. For those who have not been eagle-eyed – South's pass ended the auction. However, the players seemed unaware of this and kept bidding! (You have to feel some sympathy for the BBO operator, who DID know what was going on but was merely a bystander.)

3NT failed on the now-automatic club lead; 50 to NSW who gained 10 IMPs on the board.

But --- 2♣ X makes a minimum of 9 tricks. 430 + 280 converts to 12 IMPs. NSW would have won without this incident.

David Lusk told me, "I only knew what happened when Attilio called me from the Government House reception to tell me about it."

This was about five hours after the hand, and deemed too late by the Director.

The final was a low-scoring affair, with the 60 boards generating a score-line of 93.8 to 93 IMPs. A big swing came South Australia's way on this hand:

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

The NSW East-West played in 5♦ X. Declarer ruffed the second spade lead and did not take the precaution of cashing a trump at trick 3, instead leading a club. The defenders now caught up by leading a second club, and North's ♦Q became the defence's third trick.

When David Lusk was declarer, he drew one round of trumps and quickly got a count of North's hand, realising that North held a 6-5-1-1. (South had 2 spades, 3 trumps and 7 clubs, so the heart position became marked.) That hand generated 13 IMPs to SA.

There were five 12-board segments in the final. Starting the last set, SA trailed by 80.8 to 87. Starting the last board, the score for the set was 12-6 to SA, so they still trailed by 0.2 IMP (92.8 to 93)! Sit tight...

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

One table had already finished, having played this hand in 3♦ by South (SA), one off, -50.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Lusk</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>De Luca</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
1♥	Pass	Pass	Double
1♠	All Pass		

Attilio did not 'correct' the contract to 2♥ because it was possible that his partner held a 4-4 in the Majors.

After a diamond lead, David Lusk fiddled around with the clubs and, when not good much happened, he had to deal with repeated diamond leads, shortening his trumps. He now led a heart towards dummy's ♥10. North played low, so South had to win with the Ace. David now had 4 spade tricks, 1 heart and the 2 minor aces, for seven tricks. He scored a massive +80, gaining SA that 1 vital IMP.



South Australia's Interstate Youth Team, who finished 2nd:
 George Bartley (15), Jess Curtis (21), Fletcher Davey (13), Lincoln Davey (11), Bertie Morgan (16), David Gue (21)
 and non-playing captain David Parrott (age withheld)

If North had won the ♥Q, 1♠ fails. (Yes, 2♥ always makes, but that wouldn't make for such an exciting story!)

I can only imagine some sheepish and disappointed NSW players at the reception later that night.

Well done to our six representative players: Ian Hilditch – David Anderson, David Lusk – Attilio De Luca, George Smolanko – Justin Williams (playing captain).

INTERSTATE YOUTH TEAMS

This year there were several teams with very young players acquiring valuable experience for future years, with Taydon Gold (Vic) and Jade Wilkinson (ACT) being 10 years old. Our SA Team had a real mixture of experience and youth/new players. I believe that Lincoln and Fletcher Davey, aged 11 and 13 respectively, learnt bridge in January 2019!

Playing with David Gue, Lincoln won the B Grade of the Rotary Pairs Congress!

South Australia led during the first session of the final, largely due to this board - one of the SA highlights from the Final:

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

Lincoln Davey, sitting West, opened 2♥, and his partner, George Bartley, raised to 3♥. For some reason both North and South passed, so Lincoln went down 4, -200, in his contract.

At the other table, Fletcher Davey (North) and David Gue (South) bid all the way to 6NT! With the diamond suit behaving so kindly, this contract rolled in for +1440 and 15 IMPs to SA.

The team was out-gunned by a far more experienced NSW Team, but did us proud.

ANC OPEN BUTLER PAIRS

The Open Butler Pairs is a six day 'marathon'. The Butler Pairs event involves 'teams scoring' where your results are compared with all those of the other pairs sitting in your direction. Stage 1 involves a two-day, four session qualifying, with the top 10 pairs in each direction continuing into Stage 2 (with small carry-forwards). Stage 2 is an all-plays-all round robin of 12 board matches, five a day, for four days, playing bridge from 10am to approximately 6.30pm. To do well, you need to be a harmonious partnership, and be fit and focused.

Six South Australians qualified in the final 20 pairs, with us all finishing in the top half of the field.

Here are a few of my favourite hands from the event. Firstly, this hand is a classic 'book' hand - defensively.

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

West Ginsberg	North	East B Travis	South
			Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Without the spade bid, South may well have led a spade, but the auction marked a heart lead (both East and West having denied four hearts). The ♥2 went to North's Ace, the ♥9 was returned to the 10 and Queen, and South's heart continuation removed my entry to the club winners.

I tried the diamond finesse, North winning his King. He now led the ♠J, won in dummy with the Ace. When I led the ♦A, South discarded.

This meant that I only had seven winners, however I saw one possibility.

Before North could 'wake up', I cashed the other two diamonds – hoping he kept the ♦9... Now I led the ♠K and ♣A, and exited my losing ♦6 to North's ♦9. He was now on lead with two clubs remaining – giving me access to my two club winners.

What North had to do was play his ♦9-7-5 on dummy's top diamonds. Then, when I led the ♦6, he could underplay it with the ♦5, leaving me stranded in dummy and having to give the last two tricks to South, for one off.

Only one other declarer made it on the heart lead and North reported himself to the Bulletin editor for his sleepy play on the diamond suit. More declarers made the contract on a spade lead, with the ♥K still available as an entry to the two club winners.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Ginsberg</i>		<i>B Travis</i>	
1♠	2♥	Pass	Pass
4♣	All Pass	3♥	4♥

North-South were playing very free-wheeling overcalls (the first overcall we saw was a 2-level overcall on 4 HCP with the suit being J-10-9-8-3).

One declarer made the contract on the ♥A lead. Candice Ginsberg was the only other declarer to make 4♣. The lead and inferences played an important part in the outcome of the hand.

Candice received the ♦10 lead, which looked very much like a shortage lead. She won the ♦K to lead the ♠J and finesse to North's King. If North had switched to the ♣10, Candice planned to win the ♣A then lead another spade to her Ace. The second spade finesse wasn't part of her plan, because it was unlikely that North held a singleton spade and singleton diamond. Her plan was to draw the second round of trumps then cash her diamonds. She could then discard dummy's heart losers on her diamonds, and ruff one heart in dummy. If North trumped in, that still left her plan intact. If South held the long trump, she would be able to discard all the hearts, and this plan still worked.

As it happened, North decided to cash his ♥A when he won the first spade, so now her contract was safe, regardless.

The hand is worth reporting, partly because of the line of play Candice had found, but more for the opening lead 'issue'. Holding the ♠K-Q-4, potentially two natural trump winners, it is unusual for a singleton lead to be correct. Many declarers received the ♣10 lead instead. If they now tried two spade finesses, North could exit with the third spade, removing dummy's ability to ruff hearts, so declarer failed.

Naturally, another relevant factor is that several North players did NOT overcall on this moderate collection opposite a passed partner. North's silence in the auction increased declarer's chances of going wrong by trying the double finesse in spades, with the fallback position being the hope that the ♥A was outside.

This hand indicates that silence can be golden, especially when you know the hand does not belong to your side (i.e. partner is a passed hand).

The following part-score hand was an exercise in counting:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Ginsberg</i>		<i>B Travis</i>	
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

The opening lead was a 3rd/5th highest ♦3. North won the Ace and returned a diamond, the King winning. Assuming spades were breaking 3-2 (one loser), there were four losers outside hearts (1 spade, 1 diamond, 2 clubs). That meant that I had to find who held the ♥J versus the ♥A. I placed each of North and South with some club points, given that neither of them had led clubs, which they would likely do with all the honours. So, I cashed the top two spades, then led the ♣A and another club. North won second club and led a third club, South winning with the King. He cashed his high trump, then led a small heart, dummy's King winning.

I trumped a diamond to complete my knowledge about South's diamond suit; once they both followed, I knew North held the Queen (given South's 3rd highest lead).

North had held the ♠Q, ♦A-Q and the ♠J. If he'd also held the ♥A, he would have opened the bidding.

It was a simple task to lead another heart and play the ♥Q, confident that South held the Ace. Surprisingly, half the field failed in this 2♠ contract. It was the fourth day of the event; players were starting to get tired.

Slam bidding is really important in long, tough events. We were on the receiving end of opposition who bid to a cold 7♥ that some of the field played in game! On the other hand, here is one of our successes.

♠ A 6	♠ K 5 4
♥ K	♥ J 4
♦ K J 3	♦ A 10 8 7 4
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3 2	♣ A K 4
<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
2♠ (1)	1NT (14-16 HCP)
3NT (3)	2NT (2)
4♦ (5)	4♣ (4)
6♣	4♠ (5)
	Pass

- (1) Either a transfer to clubs or a range enquiry
- (2) Showing a minimum (?)
- (3) Continuations include rebidding 3♣ (to play) or bidding another suit (showing a shortage in that suit, with clubs), but taking the Splinter option with the King seemed wrong. My 3NT rebid showed mild slam interest (otherwise I would have bid 3NT immediately over 1NT).
- (4) Realising that her clubs were excellent, given I had 6+ clubs and some slam interest
- (5) 1st or 2nd round control cue bids, with the 4♠ bid denying the ♥A – which meant I loved my hand more and just bid slam.

The slam requires finding the ♦Q. On a spade lead, having drawn trumps, Candice deliberately lost the heart in order to set up a squeeze on North (♥Q and ♦Q), making her contract. Kudos to the defender who cashed her ♥A against 3NT, dropping dummy's King, and thereafter leading across to her partner's 7-card heart suit!

Barbara Travis

THE 'LUCK' OF WINNING

<p>Dealer North ♠ 9 8 EW Vul ♥ K 7 6 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ A K 9 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 6 ♥ 10 4 3 2 ♦ A Q J 6 2 ♣ 6 5</p>	<p>♠ 10 5 3 2 ♥ A Q J 9 5 ♦ 9 5 ♣ 10 7</p> <p>♠ A K Q 7 4 ♥ 8 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ Q J 8 3</p>
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At one table, the auction was reasonably direct:

West	North	East	South
	1NT (9-14)	Pass	2♥ (transfer)
Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East made a normal lead, the ♥J, which North won with the King to cash the next eight tricks in black suits (five clubs and three spades). Making 9 tricks, +400.

At the other table, this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT (1)	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣ (2)	Pass	3♦ (3)
Double (4)	3NT (5)	All Pass	

- (1) As a passed hand, 2♣ would have been Drury, showing a maximum pass with spade support
- (2) Invitational
- (3) Bidding out shape – showing a 5-1-3-4 or 5-0-4-4
- (4) Lead-directing
- (5) Undaunted, despite the lack of diamond stopper when playing 3NT from North

East duly led the ♦9, top of a doubleton. West won the ♦J and returned a heart. East won the heart to continue diamonds and, having cashed the diamond tricks, another heart lead through North's ♥K led to East-West taking the first 10 tricks, down 6, -300.

This was an instance where the auction gave away too much information, in that West was given the opportunity to double the 3♦ bid. Remember to take advantage of such opportunities, making partner's lead decisions easier.

This was a hand that I watched on BBO during the Victor Champion Cup. Who were the beneficiaries? Phil Markey's winning team! Andrew Spooner was North and Phil was South.

Phil loves his mini 1NT opening bids. However, I think he loves even more giving the opponents as little information as possible during an auction. It certainly worked on this hand.

Barbara Travis



The SA Youth Team relaxing between matches:
 George, Bertie, Fletcher, Lincoln, Jess, David

SARA TISHLER WOMEN'S PAIRS (VCC) by Dianne Marler

As a new "face-to-face" partnership, Alison Dawson and I did not have any huge expectations from our first outing, at the Sara Tishler Women's Swiss Pairs held in Melbourne in June. Even with six months' of BBO practice and many discussions refining our system, we were the newbies in the event.

After a poor start we won a succession of matches, to lead with a match remaining. Our final match was against Penny Corrigan and Susie Hall, from Melbourne, whose win against us resulted in their win and our second placing.

One of the agreements that we made was always to push the envelope and test the defence. This proved to our advantage on many occasions when we bid to 3NT. Over the eight matches of the competition, we managed to generate 63 IMPs by bidding aggressive 3NT contracts – an average of almost 8 IMPs per match – using this premise.

In Round 3 we picked up 9 and 8 IMPs respectively on the following hands:-

Board 9	♠ J 9 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ K 8 4 3 ♣ K 7 6 2	♠ A K 8 7 ♥ K 7 ♦ 10 ♣ Q J 10 9 5 3	
	♠ Q 6 3 ♥ Q 8 4 ♦ Q J 9 5 2 ♣ A 8	♠ 10 5 4 2 ♥ J 10 5 3 2 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 4	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1NT (1)	Pass	1♣	Pass
3NT (3)	Pass	2♣ (2)	Pass
	All Pass		

- (1) Playing transfer responses, our 1NT response showed diamonds or a balanced hand with no Major, invitational.
- (2) Forcing, promising 5 clubs and 4 spades, and asking partner about her point range.
- (3) 3NT was to play opposite East's constructive auction.

The contract was right-sided and the defence were on a guess about what to lead, hence the lead of the ♦3, dutifully returned when dummy revealed only one diamond. Partner wrapped up 9 tricks and a 9 IMP reward. Winning the ♦A and returning the ♥J would have put partner under pressure. [Ed: South did know that West had denied four hearts, so the switch can be found. However, with the ♥A in North's hand, the contract is now cold.]

Board 13	♠ 8 5 ♥ A K Q 8 5 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 10 8 6 4	♠ J 7 4 ♥ J 9 3 2 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ K J 9	
	♠ K 3 2 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A 8 7 6 2 ♣ A Q 2	♠ A Q 10 9 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ 7 5 3	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1NT	Pass	1♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass	2♥	2NT

Because we were playing transfer responses to 1♣, I could open with the poor East hand. And once again partner got her 1NT bid in showing 5+ diamonds or a flat hand, inviting game. When North came in with the 2♥ bid, I was able to bid 2NT, also invitational and promising a stopper in hearts.

Partner wrapped up 9 tricks losing 3 hearts and the ♠A for another 8 IMP gain. [Ed: Note, once North shows up with the top three hearts, the ♠A must be in South's hand, given North's original pass.]

We are now strong converts of the transfer responses after partner's 1♣ opening, which is wide spread in the eastern states but taking longer to come to South Australia and the west.

Dianne Marler



Winners of the Victor Champion Cup: Andrew Spooner, Phil Markey, Ron Klinger
Absent: Matt Mullamphy

THE VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

In the absence of an article from Phil Markey about his win in the VCC, Di Marler has offered a few educational hands. Di's team was the Best Women's Team. You can read about Phil's win in the ABF Newsletter or Australian Bridge (magazine).

HOW WE FARED

A trip to Melbourne in the middle of winter is not everyone's cup of tea, but my team mates and I make it every year – with very diverse results. This year was our best result, finishing a very creditable 17th in a field of 92 teams. Congratulations to my team mates, Alison Dawson (from QLD - my partner) and Linda Alexander and Angela Norris.

Here are a couple of hands that appeared to be relatively straight-forward at the time, but resulted in swings, both for and against us.

Dlr West ♠ J 10 9 6
All Vul ♥ 6
 ♦ 10 9 8 6 2
 ♣ 10 9 7

♠ 7 ♥ A Q J 8 7 3 ♦ 4 ♣ Q J 8 5 2	♠ 4 ♥ K 10 4 2 ♦ A J 5 ♣ A K 6 4 3
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♠ A K Q 8 5 3 2 ♥ 9 5 ♦ K Q 7 3 ♣ void	
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West	North	East	South
Dawson		Marler	
1♥	Pass	3♠ (1)	4♣
4NT (2)	Pass	5♦ (3)	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

- (1) Splinter – spade shortage, agreeing hearts
- (2) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (3) 0 or 3 key cards

What would this double mean to you? Of course, it calls for an unusual lead, but which suit was South's shortage. Simon Hinge was put to the test and failed, leading the ♦10 (his long suit). When the dust settled, we had gained 15 IMPs on the board because our team mates found the 6♣ sacrifice.

Dlr West ♠ 9 6 5 EW Vul ♥ K J 10 2 ♦ 9 6 ♣ A 10 5 3	♠ K 4 3 2 ♥ A ♦ A K 3 ♣ K 9 7 4 2
--	--

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

West	North	East	South
Dawson		Marler	
1♣	Pass	1♥ (4+ spades)	Pass
1♣ (3 spades)	Pass	?	

Rightly or wrongly I bid 3♣, showing a game forcing hand with four spades and longer clubs. Partner placed the contract in 3NT and I took some time deciding what to do. My hand looked better than a 3NT contract, so I pushed on to 4♣, intending it as Minorwood (ace asking). My partner raised to 5♣ (partners don't cooperate when you want them to, do they?). I figured that if partner was willing to play in 5♣ then 6♣ looked like a good place to be, so we landed in the only making slam. The bridge angels were on the side of our newly-created partnership, with the spades breaking and the 4-1 club break being manageable. Another 12 IMPs to our side and a very disappointed North, with her A-10-5-3 in clubs!

Of course as things go, not all was bright and rosy for the Alexander Team; there were many mishaps along the way.

This is one such hand played by my team mates (who agreed to my divulging how we lost 11 IMPs on the board).

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

Both teams reached 3NT, played by North. At our table, I led the ♦J. Declarer won the ♦A, cashed the ♦Q and finessed the next diamond, partner signalling for hearts. When I won the ♣K, I dutifully switched to hearts. However, we only made three tricks – the ♥K, ♠K and ♣K. +430 to our opponents.

At the other table however, East led the ♥8. When declarer finessed, West immediately switched to the ♠J through declarer's A-Q-4. What would you do as declarer? North took the wrong line. Instead of playing the ♠A, which protects the Queen should the club finesse fail, she played the Queen, which resulted in an 11 IMP swing to our opponents.

(Editor, I am sure that you would have some words of wisdom on this hand. YEP! See below. Ed.)

Dianne Marler

The hand above is a classic example of thinking about which hand is 'safe' and which hand is dangerous - and when.

Firstly, declarer should win the ♥A at trick 1. The main reason to win the ♥A is to prevent a switch to spades at trick 2 (as happened at the other table). The ♥10, together with the Queen, should be able to provide a second stopper.

However, having finessed the ♥Q at trick 1, declarer should win the ♠A at trick 2. Now you cross to dummy to take the club finesse. Finessing to East is 'safe' at this stage, because your ♠Q is protected if East leads the suit. This means that finessing the ♠Q at trick 2 must be wrong!

Finally, by taking both finesses, you leave the defence able to swap between major suits to establish enough defensive tricks to defeat 3NT.

Editor

SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AT NATIONAL EVENTS

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP FESTIVAL

WALLY SCOTT OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 3rd **Mike Doecke** - John Newman (NSW)
- 6th **Lauren Travis** - Jamie Thompson (Vic)
- 15th **Phil Markey** - Matt Smith (NSW)
- 16th= **Joe Haffer** - Leigh Gold (Vic)
- 16th= **Peter Colmer** - Gordon Fallon

SARA TISHLER WOMEN'S SWISS PAIRS

- 2nd **Dianne Marler** - Alison Dawson (Qld)
- 6th **Susan Emerson** - Alison Fallon

VICTOR MUNTZ RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

- 4th **Joanne Bakas** - Tassi Georgiadis

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP (Teams)

- 1st **MARKEY:** **Phil Markey** - Andrew Spooner
Ron Klinger - Matt Mullamphy
- 4th **RANSON:** Nico Ranson - John McMahon
Joe Haffer - Leigh Gold
- 5th **MOSKOVSKY:** Ellena Moskovsky - **Lauren Travis**
Sophie Ashton - Fraser Rew
- 17th **ALEXANDER:** **Linda Alexander** - **Angela Norris**
Dianne Marler - Alison Dawson [*seeded 45*]

Joe Haffer - Leigh Gold topped the datums.

Current Youth and ex-Youth (Under 30) players did particularly well in the VCC. Andrew Spooner, who is part of the Australian Under 25 team, won the event, 2nd included Peter Hollands and Laura Ginnan (Under 30), the 3rd placed team are all Under 30 including Jamie Thompson and Matt Smith from our current Under 25 team, Nico Ranson and John McMahon from the 4th placed team are currently in the Youth team, and Ellena Moskovsky and Lauren Travis have recently exited 'Youth' ranks.

South Australian players' names are in bold.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

INTERSTATE OPEN TEAMS

- 1st **SOUTH AUSTRALIA:**
David Anderson - Ian Hilditch
David Lusk - Attilio De Luca
George Smolanko - Justin Williams (pc)
defeated NSW 93.8 to 93 IMPs

INTERSTATE WOMEN'S TEAMS

South Australia finished 5th

INTERSTATE SENIORS' TEAMS

South Australia finished 4th

INTERSTATE YOUTH TEAMS

- 2nd **SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** David Parrott (npc)
Lincoln Davey - George Bartley
Fletcher Davey - David Gue
Jessica Curtis - Bertie Morgan
lost to NSW 136 to 200.6 IMPs

INTERSTATE PAIRS

SENIORS:

- 1st Peter Popp - Andy Babiszewski (*2nd overall*)

OPEN BUTLER PAIRS

- 3rd **Lauren Travis** - Sartaj Hans (NSW)
- 4th **Barbara Travis** - Candice Ginsberg (NSW)
- 5th **George Smolanko** - Peter Buchen (NSW)
- 6th **Howard Melbourne** - Paul Dalley (NSW)
- 8th **Joe Haffer** - Simon Hinge (Vic)
- 10th **Phil Markey** - David Appleton (ACT)

WOMEN'S BUTLER PAIRS

- 6th **Sue Lusk** - Viv Wood (WA)
- 10th **Lori Smith** - Therese Demarco

RESTRICTED BUTLER PAIRS

- 9th Bevin Brooks - Rod Macey
- 20th Liz Robertson - Gale Spalvins
- 21st Wendy & Jim Smith

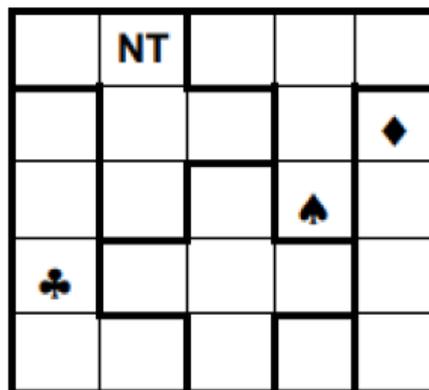
PUZZLE CORNER

This puzzle requires you to fill in the grid with the symbols:

♣, ♦, ♥, ♠, NT.

- A single cell block should be filled with a ♣,
 - a 2-cell block with a ♣ and a ♦,
 - a 3-cell block with a ♣, ♦ and ♥,
 - a 4-cell block with one of each of the suit symbols, and
 - a 5-cell block with all five symbols.
- No same symbol may be placed in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally adjacent ones.

The solution can be found on page 18.



TRUMP COUP

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The Trump Coup is one of the more valuable and common techniques that declarer can use to overcome an unfortunate trump break.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	3♠

The 2♥ opening was weak, and 2NT asked for further information. South's 3♠ response showed a maximum hand with some values in spades (Ace or King). North might have checked on partner's trump quality now but preferred to just gamble it out in the small slam.

West led the ♠A then the ♠5 to dummy's ♠Q. Declarer was very happy with her contract until West showed out on the second round of trumps.

Although declarer does not have another heart in dummy to pick up East's trumps, it may still be possible to make the contract via a trump coup. Though dummy's diamonds are all winners, it is ruffing diamonds that is the key to success on this deal. To succeed, it is necessary for declarer to reduce her trump length to match that of the opponent to be couped.

Having won the second spade in dummy and drawing two rounds of trumps, declarer has the bad news about the trump suit. The ♦A and ♦K are followed by a diamond ruff. A club to the ♣A allows a second diamond ruff. Having shortened her trumps sufficiently, declarer now plays a club to the ♣K and leads the winning diamonds through East, trapping the ♥J-9 (or discarding the ♠K if necessary).

Can you see the importance of shortening declarer's trumps to the same length as East's? If, in the ending, South had three trumps to East's two, she would have to ruff at trick 11 and would no longer be in the correct hand to trap the opposing heart holding at trick 12.

THE REWARDS OF TEACHING

One pair who has dedicatedly attended bridge lessons on slam bidding were very excited to bid to a grand slam, "using all the tools they had learnt from me". Congratulations to Deborah Cramer and Peter Turnbull, who bid this grand, though I have to admit their auction was not the auction I would have had. The hand itself was eminently suited to using Roman Key Card Blackwood and then one of my 'add-ons':

North	South
♠ A Q J 9 7 5	♠ K 8 6 3
♥ A K 7 5 4	♥ Q J 9 3
♦ 7	♦ A 9 8
♣ 3	♣ A J
1♠	2NT (1)
4NT (2)	5♦ (3)
6♥ (4)	7♠ (5)

- (1) Jacoby 2NT: showing 4+ card spade support and game forcing values
- (2) North just wants to know about key cards (Aces and ♠K, and heart control), so uses RKCB rather than cue bidding
- (3) 0 or 3 key cards – 3 key cards given the game force
- (4) Having agreed the spade suit as trumps, the introduction of a new suit at the 6-level asks for third round control of that suit (i.e. hearts). With either a doubleton or the ♥Q (third round control), South is expected to bid the grand slam; if not, South bids 6♣
- (5) Confirming the second round control. *[7NT makes, but North isn't sure whether South has the ♥Q or if they need to trump hearts.]*

Even if you play 1♠ - 4♠ as 13-15 TP, as long as you use RKCB you have chances to reach this grand slam. However, you still need some method for checking about third round control (♥Q or doubleton) of the heart suit in the East hand to be able to bid the grand slam with confidence.

It's very gratifying to see people applying their new skills successfully.

Barbara Travis

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THE WORLD-WIDE BRIDGE CONTEST

The World-Wide Bridge Contest was held on both Friday 7th June (one event) and Saturday 8th June (second event). For each event, the first and second placed pairs will receive free entry to one of the Pairs events at the 2020 World Championships, free accommodation and 500 euros each, with the third placed pairs receiving the entry and accommodation for the 2020 World Championship Pairs, and the fourth and fifth placed pairs receiving free entry to the World Championships Pairs. Any affiliated bridge club could enter, essentially running a normal duplicate bridge session, then also sending the scores through to the organisers for scoring world-wide. At the end of play, participants were able to receive a Commentary booklet about the hands, analysed by Mark Horton from the UK.

Bridge at Beaumont participated in the event, with 19 tables participating.

Liz Robertson and Martin Tucker bid to a grand slam on Board 19 (East-West):

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

Martin	Liz
1♦	1♥
3♥ (1)	4NT (2)
5♠ (3)	5NT (4)
6♣ (5)	7♠

- (1) Upgrading because of the singleton
- (2) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (3) 2 key cards + ♥Q
- (4) Guaranteeing all the key cards
- (5) Neither of them was sure of their responses – 6♣ usually shows the ♠K (and 6♥ denies an outside King) – however Martin felt that his singleton club should be useful, so compromised. Liz, meantime, wasn't sure whether Martin showed the ♠K (good), or was denying any King, which would also be good in that Martin would now have better diamonds!

The last two bids were not the most scientific bids, but the outcome was effective. Not surprisingly, they were my only pair at Beaumont to reach the grand slam. In a world-wide contest, such outcomes remain outstandingly good, whereas some other club 'tops' will not necessarily remain such good scores. (The scores at the club level change when scored against all the scores coming in from around the world.)

A quick check of the scores revealed that their score of 2210 gave them 93+% of the matchpoints world-wide. The commentary on this board:

"If West opens 1♦ East responds 1♥. If West jumps to 3♥ East is not going to stop short of a slam – the only question being just how high to go.

"After 1♦ - 1♥ - 3♥, East can continue with 3♠ (cue bid) and that should lead to an exchange of cue bids – 4♣ - 4♦ - 4♥ - 4♠. Now West might ask for key-cards with 4NT, discovering that East has the missing Aces and ♥K. It is then possible to ask for Kings and, if East is able to show both the ♠K and ♦K, then it is easy for West to bid 7♥. [This is not easy to do! Ed.]

"A few pairs might be able to start with an opening bid of 2♥, promising a three-suited hand with at least four hearts (a method described in detail in The Mysterious Multi). East would then be able to use a series of relays to reach 7♥."

Disappointingly, only two clubs in Australia participated! Wow. This is a marketing opportunity gone to waste.

The cost is only GBP 1.50 per player. Personally, I didn't even bother to pass on the cost to my players, preferring to cover the cost as a thank you for their on-going support. But here's a chance to compete against anyone in the world, and with prizes available to boot. Not only that, but the world-wide results are available by the end of Saturday (allowing for the time differences, then data input) – very efficient.

It was hard to compete with the winning score, which was a massive 81.42%. However, results are given on various bases: overall, national, club (adjusted for the world). Below are the top results from Australia. Bear in mind, 3,741 pairs participated from 194 clubs in 21 countries, with 46 pairs being from Australia. (The Saturday session, with different hands, had a winning score of 73.75%.)

Barbara Travis, Bridge at Beaumont

RESULTS

Australia	World	Pair	Score	Club
1st	43rd	Tania Black – Robert Black	66.97	Bridge at Beaumont
2nd	57th	Derrick Brown – Helen Sanders	66.26	Trumps
3rd	102nd	Liz Robertson – Martin Tucker	64.13	BaB
4th	202	Joshua Wyner – John Newman	61.79	Trumps
5th	270	Pam Dixon – Sally Sarah	60.84	BaB
6th	371	Brenda Butcher – Sally Fraser	59.55	BaB
7th	383	Kate Hartley – Susan Armitage	59.39	BaB

ONE IMP AWAY

By Oren Lidor (from *bridgebase.com*)

Moses returned home in a bad mood.

"What happened?" asked his wife.

"Did it ever happen to you that you did an absolutely perfect thing, and you were so proud of yourself, only to find out someone else did better?"

"Too many times: When I scored 99 at Maths in high school but Norma got 100; when I followed a killer diet but Silvia still had a slimmer waist; when I baked a huge birthday cake for our Georgie's birthday but Jamie's mother had baked a bigger one; when I brought you home to meet my Mum for the first time but my sister brought Oliver home the same day...", she added with a wink, trying to cheer him up.

But Moses was not really listening, absorbed in his thoughts.

"So, what happened?" she asked again.

"At the teams competition today, I played a slam in clubs in a most brilliant way, and yet at the other table our opponents got a better score and didn't even make a big effort for it..."

Dealer South	♠ K		
Nil Vul	♥ A Q		
	♦ A 9 5 4		
	♣ A 9 7 6 5 3		
♠ 8 3		♠ 10 9 7 6 5 4	
♥ 5 3		♥ 8 7 6 4 2	
♦ K Q J 10 8 7 6 2		♦ void	
♣ 8		♣ K 2	
	♠ A Q J 2		
	♥ K J 10 9		
	♦ 3		
	♣ Q J 10 4		

"This was the last board of our knock-out match. West led the ♦K against 6♣. I played the ♦A, but East ruffed and played a spade. Now I have a dilemma. There are still two more clubs out, including the ♣K, so should I try to finesse, or should I play the Ace to drop a singleton King?"

"After some thought, I managed to solve this issue in a most scientific and brilliant way. I won trick 2 with the ♠A, dropping the ♠K from dummy, then continued with the ♠Q and ♠J, discarding the ♥A and ♥Q from dummy! Note that this play carried no risk whatsoever as, if West ruffs, I can over-ruff in dummy, and East is marked with long spades after having a diamond void. West followed to the first two rounds of spades and discarded a diamond on the third round of spades.

"Now I played my ♥K-J-10 from hand. Again, this move is completely safe as, if West ruffs, I can over-trump in dummy. West followed to two hearts then discarded another diamond on the third round of hearts. At this point, West's hand is fully counted! He had 8 diamonds, 2 spades and 2 hearts, therefore one club. And so, I played my ♣A next, dropping East's bare ♣K, and scored 920 points for making my contract."

"Well done to you, my dear husband! I'm so proud of you. So... what happened at the other table?" asked his wife.

But Moses couldn't see the humour. "At the other table North bid 6NT, making his contract with no pain. He just gave up the ♣K (to the safe hand). They scored 990, gaining 2 IMPs on this hand..."

"You see – without this board we would have won the match by 1 IMP and would have qualified for the next stage!"

THE "BIG" (TAKEOUT) DOUBLE

Given that overcalls are usually limited to approximately 17/18 HCP, you will sometimes hold a hand that is too big to make a 'normal' overcall. On these hands you have to start by making a takeout double.

This double can be done with:

- 17/18+ HCP and a good 5+ card suit - too good to overcall the suit at the minimum level (and, of course, higher level overcalls are weak). You start by doubling and then, if partner makes a minimum response, you bid your suit.
- 19+ HCP and a balanced hand - too good to overcall 1NT. A 1NT overcall is 15 -18 HCP with a stopper in their suit, so if you double and then, after partner's minimum response, you respond 1NT you show 19-20 HCP.

If partner makes a minimum response to your double, there is no need to jump the bidding!

- Partner has shown a weak hand with a minimal response – so with a minimum double you would PASS.

Bidding again guarantees 16+ HCP, so if you introduce your own suit you must be saying you have more points and a long suit of your own – hence a hand that was too good for an overcall.

- Similarly, if you now bid 1NT (or NT at the minimum level) – you would have passed with a minimum double, you would have overcalled 1NT with 15-18 – hence you must have a hand that was too big to overcall 1NT immediately.

If partner makes a jump response and you have a 'big' double, you will have to jump the bidding on the big hands.

EXAMPLES

The opponent opens 1♦ and you hold:

♠ A x
♥ A K Q J x x
♦ A x x
♣ x x

This hand is too good for a 1♥ overcall – you have 8 playing tricks in your own hand. You double, then introduce your hearts over partner's minimum response.

The opponent opens 1♦ and you hold:

♠ A x
♥ A K Q J x x x
♦ A x x
♣ x

This hand is too good for a 1♥ overcall – you have 9 playing tricks in your own hand. You can't bid 3♥ (weak) or 4H (weak) so you start with a double. After partner's minimum response you bid 3♥ – nearly game in your own hand.

The opponent opens 1♦ and you hold:

♠ K Q J x
♥ A x x
♦ A J x
♣ A J 10

This hand is too good for a 1NT overcall. Furthermore, you do not wish to overcall 2NT in case partner has 0 HCP. So you double first, then rebid 1NT over partner's minimum response. This shows a hand better than an initial 1NT overcall.

WHEN YOU DOUBLE AND, AFTER A MINIMUM RESPONSE, YOU BID A NEW SUIT OR 1NT, YOU ARE SHOWING A HAND TOO GOOD TO MAKE A 'NORMAL' OVERCALL.

THE TREE OF HAPPINESS by Jeff Rubens

This article, written by Jeff Rubens (USA), appeared in Australian Bridge, June 1972 (before my time!).

Four minutes after the announced starting time, the Monday night duplicate game at the Club Bridge Studio got off to its usual smooth start. No sooner had Charlie club finished collecting the entry tickets than a slight difficulty arose.

"Director!" called Alfred Snoyd, a small crinkly man with steel-rimmed bifocals.

"Oh dear," muttered Miss Reeves, his right-hand opponent.

Charlie walked briskly to their table, where this situation awaited him:

♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 6 3

Miss Reeves

♠ J 10 8 5
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ 5

Alfred Snoyd

♠ A 9
♥ K 5 3
♦ A
♣ A K Q J 10 9 2

♠ K 7 2
♥ 7 6
♦ K Q 7 5 2
♣ 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	4NT
All Pass			6♣

Having heard the bidding repeated and seeing Miss Reeves' ♠J on the table, Charlie surmised the cause of the disturbance, but he let Miss Reeves unwind herself by telling him.

"The 2♣ was artificial," explained Miss Reeves nervously. "I thought this hand (she gestured to her right) bid clubs first and I'm afraid I've led out of turn." Miss Reeves did not care about the penalty. She only hoped the director would not be angry with her for her transgression.

"Well, these things will happen," said Charlie cheerfully. Taking a Rule Book out of his pocket, he turned to Snoyd. "The new rules give your four options," he announced. Charlie knew the rules well, but holding the Rule Book lent authority to his statements.

"Four?" queried Snoyd. "I thought there were only three." Snoyd nodded knowingly as Charlie reeled off the three older options. "Finally," the director concluded, "you may ask the correct leader to lead a spade, in which case Miss Reeves may pick up her ♠J and there is no further penalty."

Snoyd thought for a while and finally decided that he wanted West to lead a spade. West promptly underled the ♠K, allowing Snoyd's ♠Q to win in dummy. Snoyd then drew trumps, knocked out the ♥A and made his contract easily.

As Charlie walked away from the table, he remarked to himself how happy Alfred Snoyd had been to make his slam with the aid of the new penalty.

"Like a child with a new toy," Charlie mused. "I wonder what things give people the most pleasure. Would everyone get the same enjoyment from a clever choice of penalty?"

Or would they prefer to make it under their own steam?"

Charlie's thoughts kept wandering on until he decided on a strange experiment. He saw South's 6♣ contract as a tree. The tree had many branches. Charlie wanted the different Souths to see different branches. So, when he helped move the hands between the rounds, he surreptitiously changed the East-West cards around to suit the temperament of the declarer.

At the next table, the South player was Mrs Lansing. Charlie recalled that she had just graduated into his advanced bridge classes. The first lecture had been on throw-in play, and Charlie had prepared a brief examination for his pupil.

♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 6 3

♠ K 7 2
♥ A 7 6
♦ K Q 7 5
♣ 8 7 4

♠ J 10 8 5
♥ 10 9 8
♦ J 9 8 3 2
♣ 5

♠ A 9
♥ K 5 3
♦ A
♣ A K Q J 10 9 2

Against Mrs Lansing's 6♣ contract, West led the ♦K. Mrs Lansing won the ♦A, drew three rounds of trumps and led a heart to the ♥Q. When this held the trick, she returned a heart to her own ♥K. West had been watching the cards carefully and, having seen his partner play the spots upwards, ducked this also.

Mrs Lansing now thought hard. From his remote position, Charlie thought he saw a gleam in her eye. She ran off all the trumps. For his last three cards, West had to keep two spades and the ♥A. Mrs Lansing then kept two spades and one heart in dummy and led a heart, forcing West to lead from his guarded ♠K.

"Very nice," complimented Charlie as he picked up the boards a little before the move was called. Mrs Lansing was pink with pleasure.

Charlie had scouted the next table, where South was Bill Flaherty, a big and jovial man. His greatest joy was fooling the opponents out of something they rightly owned. Charlie did not disappoint him.

♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 6 3

♠ J 10 8 5
♥ A 7 6
♦ K Q 9 3
♣ 5 4

♠ K 7 2
♥ 10 9 8
♦ J 8 7 5 2
♣ 8 7

♠ A 9
♥ K 5 3
♦ A
♣ A K Q J 10 9 2

Whenever Bill saw a long, solid suit, he knew it meant he could make the opponents discard a lot, so he reached 6♣ quick-as-a-flash.

West led the ♦K and Bill's ♦A won. He promptly rattled off a few trumps. On the third and fourth rounds of clubs, each of the other players threw diamonds. As Bill led the fifth round of trumps, the position was:

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

When Bill led the ♣10, West huddled. Charlie grew anxious, but he knew his customers! West thought vaguely about the diamond position. His partner had dropped the ♦8 under the ♦K. Surely he had the ♦J. No, maybe he was just trying to show four diamonds. If he discarded the ♦Q and declarer held the ♦J, his partner would surely yell at him. And a spade discard wasn't appealing, as declarer had kept all the spades in dummy and probably held the Ace and King three or four times himself. So, West discarded a heart, and Bill Flaherty scored both a small slam and a big chuckle.

And so it went throughout the evening, with Charlie Club allowing each South player to break his or her own limb off the Tree of Happiness.

On the last round, the board reached the table at which Professor Amesbury was South. The Professor held an important chair at the college nearby and often dropped in for a relaxing evening of bridge. His bidding was unpolished, Charlie had noted, but his play of the cards often approached the expert level. Technical play gave him the most pleasure and, on the last round, the Professor declared the following deal in 6♣:

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

West led the ♦K to the Professor's ♦A. After a longer huddle than any of the other South players had found necessary, the Professor drew trumps (throwing a spade from dummy) and played the ♥K from his hand.

West played the ♥8 and East won with the ♥A. East returned a diamond which declarer ruffed. On the next trump, dummy threw another spade, leaving this position:

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

Declarer led the ♣9 and it was West's turn to trance. That defender saw that a heart discard would set up dummy's hearts, and a diamond discard would later expose East to a spade-diamond squeeze. So West threw the ♠10.

Rising to the occasion, Professor Amesbury discarded the ♠Q from dummy. On the next trump lead, West was forced to throw his ♠J. After cashing two hearts in dummy, the Professor finessed the ♠9, thus equalling the scores of all the other North-South pairs on this board.

Charlie Club was a little cheerier than usual at the end of the evening. As he flipped out the lights and closed the door behind him, he wondered which branch of the tree was his own.

"I think I would take the West cards," he said to himself. "I'd give myself the ♠K, four hearts to the Ace, and an opposing South who would lead a heart to the Queen and a heart back to the King. I'd capture the ♥K with the ♥A and play a third round of hearts, destroying all the possible end-positions."

Jeff Rubens, USA

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DEEP FINESSE

Deep Finesse is the program that analyses the pre-dealt boards that we play. You always need to bear in mind that it knows exactly how to play or defend a hand, because it can 'see' all four hands.

Here's a typical hand (from the Gold Coast Teams final):

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

After an auction where North showed both minors and South showed his spades, East ended in 4♥.

South led the ♦9 which was won with dummy's ♦A. Trumps were drawn and East lost 2 spade tricks and the ♣A – making 10 tricks.

However, Deep Finesse revealed that only nine tricks can be made in hearts, so I had a bit more of a look at the hand. Some DF analytical challenges are too tough for me, even knowing that DF can drop singleton Kings off-side and is able to find any missing Queens. Sometimes the deal hinges on the opening lead, and this hand was one of those.

On this deal, South has to lead a club to North's ♣A. North now switches to a spade through declarer's ♠K, with South able to win two spade tricks. A third spade from South suddenly promotes a heart trick – look at those spot cards. When South leads the heart, dummy has to trump with the ♥A, because North's ♥7 is high enough to over-trump any other trump from dummy.

Once the ♥A has been used, South's doubleton ♥Q has been promoted into a winner.

Barbara Travis



Bill Bailey,
creator of Deep Finesse

WHO IS BILL BAILEY?

As we know, there is a small chart affixed to each deal in the hand records. The numbers in that table indicate how many tricks can be taken in each contract by each player. Or, at least, the computer program "Deep Finesse" says so.

Bill Bailey is the developer of Deep Finesse, the hand analyser that you use if you study the hands after a bridge session. He doesn't claim expert player status, but is fanatical about analysing hands after a game. He wanted a tool that would determine what could or could not make on a given hand, so that he could determine whether he had played a hand well enough (or not).

Bill started out playing Rickety Kate with friends at Harvard. Some of them found it too easy, so bought bridge books and taught themselves how to play. He is unusual in that he read bridge books avidly, studying the game through books, before playing any serious games. He didn't even start playing tournaments until he had already started working on Deep Finesse.

Deep Finesse was a 'natural fit' for him. Bridge was a passion, and computer programming a strong skill, so it was an obvious combination. Chess computers were well-developed, but bridge software was still unable to play at a reasonable standard. So, during 1999, Bill took a one-year break from his programming job with Oracle Corp in order to pursue one of his dreams. His initial objective was to create a double-dummy analyser (Deep Finesse) then to build it into a full bridge-playing robot.

Deep Finesse uses a series of search technique, transposition tables, alpha-beta pruning, intelligent heuristics to determine which lines of play to explore first and if they succeed there is no need to do further searching from that point. If they fail, then a more detailed analysis becomes necessary. [A set of 36 boards takes between 10 and 20 minutes to analyse fully, depending on the complexity – eg singletons and voids, in particular – of the hands.]

In the early months, Deep Finesse occasionally made mistakes. It almost always came down to being too aggressive in deciding a play line was not worth pursuing. Bill remembers some early errors in his 'quick peek' algorithm. That's something which, at each position, quickly determines fast winners in each suit. If they sum to more than are sufficient for the contract, then an exhaustive analysis of the position is not necessary – a certain time saver. He notes that nobody has reported an error in Deep Finesse since those early days.

With the completion of the double dummy analyser (Deep Finesse), Bill has been side-tracked for a long time, after he was offered the post of Chief Technology Architect at an internet start-up. It was a tough decision but, in the end, he opted for the 'real' job. Unfortunately, this has been very demanding and has allowed no time for continued work on Deep Finesse. Someday he says he will return to Deep Finesse but it is not on the immediate horizon.

Bill has allowed for Deep Finesse to be used by others. There is a DF analysis engine which can be incorporated into outside software, which is how we can see the analysis output from the various computer-generated dealing packages.

It can be bought via internet download from www.deepfinesse.com. There is a free demo available first and, if you like what you see, you can purchase the full version online.

A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

This time I was playing Acol (weak 1NT, 4 card Majors), and sitting North. Regardless of system, interesting hands appeared in abundance.

♠ K 5 2
♥ A K 9 8
♦ J 8 7 5
♣ 6 2

Partner opened 1NT (12-14 HCP). I suspect many people would look for game on this 11 point hand, but I had decided I would pass. The maximum points we could have was 25, which is the minimum needed for 3NT. Since I had no long suit, the hand was not likely to be easy to play. If I had planned to look for game though, I would have started with Stayman. *[The same thinking applies after an opener's 1NT rebid showing 12-14 HCP, when holding 11 HCP.]*

Meantime, as I was thinking these things, my RHO overcalled 2♣. There was a slightly slow Alert and, on asking, I was informed the bid was Landy, showing both majors. It was easy to double, which I hoped was showing interest in penalising. My LHO bid 2♠ and RHO rapidly rebid 3♣. Given she now clearly held clubs, not the Majors, this auction had not proceeded very well for us. The one benefit was that the opponents were vulnerable, so I chose to double for penalties.

Here is the full hand:

<p style="padding-left: 40px;">♠ K 5 2 ♥ A K 9 8 ♦ J 8 7 5 ♣ 6 2</p> <p>♠ 9 6 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ Q 10 ♣ A K Q 10 9 4</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">♠ A Q 8 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ A K 3 2 ♣ 8 7 3</p>	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">♠ J 10 7 4 3 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ 9 6 4 ♣ J 5</p>
---	---

3♣ X went down 2 tricks, for 500 – and a top. Look what happens to No Trump contracts... West cashes the first six club tricks, then you have the remaining tricks. Three other Acol pairs went down in 2NT. So, the question is: Should West bid over 1NT? My answer is: No. Everyone was vulnerable, so you should be happy defending if the opponents play in NT. If you can defeat 1NT, then 100 will score more than your 2♣ contract. In fact, if you can make 8 tricks, then you may well score 200 defending 1NT. If the opponents reach a suit contract, you could try 3♣ if you wish.

If you have a solid long suit, you are often better served trying to defend the 1NT opening bid, especially when the opponents are vulnerable. If your suit is broken, it is often better to bid, since you will not often have the top tricks.

On the next hand, I found the best opening lead by listening to the auction, but partner fell at the first hurdle. RHO had opened 1NT (12-14 again) and LHO had invited game with a 2NT bid.

I held:

♠ Q 6 5
♥ 10 8 7 6
♦ K J 8 6
♣ Q 3

Given that my LHO had not used Stayman, my preference was to lead a major since LHO was likely to hold at least one minor. Therefore, I led the ♥8. Dummy came down with the ♥Q-4. My partner held the ♥K-9-5 and played the King. This is wrong, given the lead of the ♥8. If the 8 was 4th highest, there was no need to play the King, since I would hold the A-J-10-8 and the 8 would win. However, a lead of the 8 is unlikely to be 4th highest. In that instance, declarer would hold both the Ace and Jack. Playing the King would then give declarer three heart tricks – the Ace, Queen and Jack. If partner had played low, declarer would win the Jack, but the next heart lead will draw out the Queen, King and (potentially) Ace, allowing declarer only two heart winners. Make sure you stop and think about the lead and its ramifications before you play to trick 1.

How would you bid the following hand?

♠ A Q 9
♥ J 2
♦ A K 6 5 3
♣ A J 9

West	North	East	South (you)
Pass	1♠	1♥ 2♥	Double ?

There was no reason to fall in love with this hand. It was certainly worth taking another action, but forcing to game is illogical because partner's response to the double was forced and they might hold a pile of garbage. The best continuation would have been another double, showing extra values, and then you would hear North rebid 2♠, so you should stop.

You have led the ♠4 against 1NT (12-14 HCP) and see the following dummy:

Dummy
♠ J 2
♥ 9 7 6 4
♦ A 7 3
♣ K J 4 2

You

♠ A 10 9 4 3
♥ 10 3
♦ Q 10 8 4
♣ 6 5

Partner wins the ♠K, declarer playing the ♠7, then returns the ♠6 – 8 – your play? Given the lack of entries to your hand, you should play the ♠3 at trick 2. You know declarer has the ♠Q but, if you win the Ace and return another spade, you will have no way for partner to reach your hand when they regain the lead.

<p style="padding-left: 40px;">♠ J 2 ♥ 9 7 6 4 ♦ A 7 3 ♣ K J 4 2</p>	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">♠ K 6 5 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ J 6 ♣ A Q 9 7 3</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">♠ Q 8 7 ♥ A K Q 2 ♦ K 9 5 2 ♣ 10 8</p>
--	--

My partner won his ♠A at trick 2 and led another spade. Now when declarer had taken her seven winners (♠Q, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds), she exited with a club. All I had left were clubs, so I was end-played into conceding one more club trick to dummy. If I had still held a spade, I could have exited to partner's hand, allowing him to cash his spade/diamond winners. At matchpoints, these overtricks can really hurt your score.

The next hand presents one of my particular bug-bears.

North
 ♠ void
 ♥ Q J 9 8 2
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ K Q 6 5 2

South
 ♠ A J 6 5 3 2
 ♥ 10 7 4 3
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ void

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♣
1NT	2♣
Pass	

Admittedly, I could have responded 2♥ to partner's 1♣ opening bid, given I was already a passed hand. At the time, though, I was thinking that we may have had a fit in any of the other three suits, not just hearts. If I had bid 2♥, partner may have passed and we would have landed in the best spot.

However, partner should have rebid 2♥, offering me choice of contract. 2♣ did show a 6-card suit and a minimum opening hand (up to 15 HCP), but it gave me no choice. A 2♥ rebid, on the other hand, would have shown 5+ spades and 4+ hearts, which would have allowed me some say in the final contract. After the hand, partner said, "But I wanted to tell you I had 6 spades." My favourite comment of his was to my husband, Howard, who was watching us, "You taught me that years ago." Howard can usually argue well for himself but, on this occasion, especially with that spade suit, I rose to his defence.

And then I had an(other) auction where I didn't know what partner's bid meant. Here's the hand:

♠ A
 ♥ K 9 5 3
 ♦ A Q J 8 7 3
 ♣ J 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♦ (1)	Pass	2♥ (2)	3♦
Pass	3♥ ?		

- (1) Multi 2♦, showing a weak 2 in hearts or spades (or big and balanced)
- (2) Pass or correct (to spades or NT)

What did 3♥ mean? In this situation, where opener's suit was not known, I would think the suit should be natural. Given I had never played with my partner before, I was just guessing whether it was natural or asking for a stopper for 3NT. I chose to raise to 4♥ and knew I had got it wrong when partner corrected back to 5♦.

♠ J 6 5 2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K 10 6 5 4
 ♣ A K 3

However, I think partner had a better bid available. With such fantastic trump support, partner could have jumped to 4♥ which would have to be a splinter bid, agreeing diamonds. The jump must be a splinter because he had not already overcalled 2♥ over the opening bid. This is the bid which would have made this excellent slam biddable.

I am not an advocate of doubleton leads, but there are a few exceptions. One of the times when a doubleton lead seems sensible is when dummy is strong and your hand is weak. Your partner is likely to have a decent hand and, also, you are leading through the stronger hand. So this auction and hand provided a classic opportunity for the doubleton lead:

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1♥	1♠
4♠	Pass

Partner, South, held:

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

The lead of the ♦6 went – King – Ace – 4. I could see these hands:

Me
 ♠ A 6
 ♥ 10 9 5 3
 ♦ A 9 3 2
 ♣ A 8 5

Dummy
 ♠ J 7 4 2
 ♥ A K Q 8 4
 ♦ K Q 7
 ♣ K

I cashed the ♣A, in case declarer had some discards on dummy's hearts, then continued with another diamond. Declarer's ♦8 held the trick as partner contributed the 5. Aha, he had led a doubleton.

Declarer trumped a club to dummy, then cashed three top hearts, discarding his remaining two diamonds plus one club. Now he led a small spade from dummy. I knew to fly with the ♠A to lead another diamond, which promoted partner's doubleton ♠Q into a winner, when it was sitting over declarer's King. Nice lead partner!

Barbara Travis



Colin Twelftree and Jim Burke, winners of the Barossa Swiss Pairs, Section B

SIR RICHARD'S TRIUMPH

Reprinted from Australian Bridge, August 1997

A shy smile broke out over the battered countenance of Sir Richard de Bouvier as he basked in the accolades of his partner, the wraithlike spirit, Mystrala. For a player of Sir Richard's limited calibre, this was a brief moment of glory – a temporary exoneration for the countless ignominious sins of the past. For their part, his opponents, the heathen Aztec and his unspeakable partner, the Staffordshire Imp, were each trying to blame the other for some flaw in the defence but for which this moment of triumph would have been denied.

This was the campaign which was the source of the knight's brief fame:

Dealer South ♠ 10 4 3
 NS Vul ♥ A K Q 5
 ♦ A 10 4
 ♣ K 10 7

♠ Q 9 7 6 2
 ♥ J 6 3
 ♦ Q J 7 5
 ♣ 8

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

♠ A K
 ♥ 10 9 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ J 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Paxacotl	Mystrala	The Imp	Sir Richard
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
2♠	3♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♠
DBL	All Pass	Pass	Pass

The Imp was pleased with the auction. It was clear that the ignorant knight had lost the plot of the bidding after one or two calls. The Aztec led the ♠6 and Sir Richard surveyed dummy with some apprehension. Somehow, Mystrala had failed to bid her favourite contract of 3NT, and it seemed that 5♣ was about to meet a swift fate on the spade lead. Miserably, he called for dummy's lowest spade. With a flourish, the Staffordshire Imp produced the ♠A and followed quickly with the ♠K. Unwilling to open up either minor, the Imp switched to a low heart.

A little surprised by this reprieve, Sir Richard searched for a discard. What advice had that pagan once given him when he had discarded something of value? "Don't try to be clever, just throw your lowest card." The epithet had been delivered with such uncharacteristic politeness that the crusader had followed it unwaveringly ever since.

Therefore, the knight disposed of his smallest diamonds on the top three hearts in quick succession. Extending that principle, he then played ♠7 to the ♠Q in hand, followed with ♦K and a small club to dummy's ♠K as the Aztec tossed a spade, vainly attempting to disguise the revealed 4-1 break. With all his senses at full power, declarer called for the ♠10 and finessed against the Imp's ♠J. Now a bit stranded in dummy, the knight tried the ♥5. Looking visibly disappointed when the Imp played the ♥8, he contributed ♣6, and West the ♦5.

With these cards remaining, a hush came over the table, as all waited for Sir Richard's next move.

	♠ 10	
	♥ void	
	♦ A 10	
	♣ void	
♠ Q		♠ void
♥ void		♥ 10 9
♦ Q J		♦ void
♣ void		♣ J
	♠ J	
	♥ void	
	♦ 8	
	♣ Q	

"It's your lead, Mangled One. We haven't got an eternity." The Aztec's stock comment on protracted pauses was comprehensively inaccurate but it did jolt declarer into action. After establishing that he was in hand, the knight cashed the ♠Q.

Mystrala smiled as Paxacotl squirmed. She had followed the play well enough to know that the Aztec would be squeezed on the last trump. "I'm not quite sure why you were in such a hurry," was the mild comment to the hapless West. With an obscene grunt, the Aztec threw the ♠Q.

"Thank heavens he threw the ♠Q," was Sir Richard's comment to Mystrala later. "I was quite at odds as to which of dummy's 10s to discard."

David Lusk

PUZZLE SOLUTION

♣	NT	♦	♣	♥
♥	♠	♥	NT	♦
NT	♦	♣	♠	♣
♣	♥	NT	♦	♥
♠	♦	♠	♣	♠

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HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

This play discussion is based on Teams bridge, or when you have bid to a contract that you think others will not have bid. In these instances, safety takes priority ahead of overtricks.

♠ A Q 7 6
♥ J 10 4 3
♦ A 2
♣ J 10 6

♠ 10 9 8 5 2
♥ A Q
♦ K 4
♣ A K Q 5

You are playing in 6♠, with no interference bidding, and have received the lead of the ♦10.

This is a hand where you should defer any decision on how to play the spade suit. You should try the heart finesse first (since you have no way to dispose of a potential heart loser). If the heart finesse fails, then you will have to negotiate the spade suit for no loser. If the heart finesse works, you can play the spade suit more safely.

Therefore, you should win the first diamond in dummy with the ♦A, then take the heart finesse. When it works, as it did at the table, you can play more safely in spades.

With this combination in spades, the safest play is to cash the ♠A first. If it brings down the Jack or King – from either opponent – you have only one spade loser. If no honour appears, you cross back to your hand to lead a spade towards the Queen. This works when there is a singleton trump honour or when the spade honours are onside. If your RHO holds K-J-x/x in spades you will go down anyway!

Why do we play this combination of cards this way? If you finesse on the first round – let's say you lead to the Queen – and East wins the King, what will you do next time around? Finessing will be wrong if East holds ♠K-J doubleton; cashing the Ace will be wrong if LHO holds ♠K-x-x. Similarly, if you lead the ♠10 and run it, with East winning the Jack, you face the same uncomfortable 'guess' on the next round of trumps. By cashing the ♠A, you reduce these awkward decisions.

Barbara Travis



Patricia McGaffin and Judy Maloney, winners of B Grade, Bridge at Beaumont's Christmas in Winter Congress

DEFENSIVE INSIGHT

From the IBPA Bulletin, March 2019.

This hand from the Gold Coast Pairs is an example of taking control of the defence to ensure that your side cashes all their tricks.

♠ 4 2
♥ 8 7
♦ A 8 6 5 4 3
♣ A 10 5

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ K 9
♦ K 10 7
♣ 8 7 4 3

♠ 9 8 5
♥ A 10 5 3 2
♦ Q 2
♣ J 9 6

♠ A K Q J
♥ Q J 6 4
♦ J 9
♣ K Q 2

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

This hand involves correct defensive technique against 3NT.

West leads a heart to East's ♥K. If East returns the ♥9, West will most likely duck the Queen, hoping partner has three hearts and can return one if/when he gets the lead in diamonds. Once West ducks the ♥A the trick has 'gone'.

East has enough information, from the auction and lead, to make the defence easy for partner. West is marked with five hearts (he led the ♥3) so South has four hearts. He also wasn't strong enough to overcall 1♥, so the suit will not be strong enough to defeat 3NT (not ♥A-Q-10-x-x or better).

Given that East controls the diamond suit, there is no harm in not returning hearts for now. Switch to a different suit, and then when you return the heart later in the hand, West will know to win the ♥A.

If West wins his ♥A, you will get 63% (for -600), whereas if you return the heart at trick 2 and partner ducks, your -630 will score you only 19%.



Jen and Ross Gallery who won C Grade at Beaumont's Christmas in Winter Congress

RESULTS

CONGRESSES

ROTARY PAIRS

A1 GRADE

- 1st Cathy Chua - Justin Williams
- 2nd Sharmini Hoole - David Anderson
- 3rd Ingrid Cooke - David Lusk

A2 GRADE

- 1st Liz Robertson - Wendy Hooper
- 2nd Milton Hart - Neil Welch
- 3rd Val Churchill - Helga Corbett

B GRADE

- 1st Lincoln Davey - David Gue
- 2nd Elaine Kenny - Ann Matthews
- 3rd Pat Lake - Chris Wagner

C GRADE

- 1st Varn Treleggan - Bronwyn Vale
- 2nd Liz Milner - Christine Roberts
- 3rd Vicki Djurasevich - Patricia Mesmer

CHRISTMAS IN WINTER

A GRADE

- 1st Pam Morgan-King - Ceda Nikolic
- 2nd Lori Smith - Therese Demarco
- 3rd Angela Norris - Jeff Fallon

B GRADE

- 1st Patricia McGaffin - Judy Maloney
- 2nd Briar Saint - Mike Stratton
- 3rd Margaret & Herbert Neumeister

C GRADE

- 1st Jen & Ross Gallery
- 2nd Sarah Nicolson - Margaret Nihill
- 3rd Di Lacy - Marilyn Chambers

BAROSSA CONGRESS

SWISS PAIRS: SECTION A

- 1st Helen Kite - Helen Rollond
- 2nd Jill Allanson - Angela Norris
- 3rd Lori Smith - Tim O'Loughlin

SWISS PAIRS: SECTION B

- 1st Jim Burke - Colin Twelftree
- 2nd Elaine & Michael Kenny
- 3rd Margaret & Herbert Neumeister

TEAMS

- 1st WILLIAMS: Justin Williams - Nic Croft
Russel Harms - Paul Hudson
- 2nd DEMARCO: Therese Demarco - Lori Smith
Pam Morgan-King - Andrew Eddie
- 3rd BIRD: Sheila Bird - Jon Hunt
Caprice Davey - Marc Deaton



Helen Rollond and Helen Kite,
winners of the Barossa Swiss Pairs, Section A

STATE EVENTS

SWISS BUTLER PAIRS

- 1st Mike Doecke - David Parrott
- 2nd David Black - Phil Cheney
- 3rd Andy Babiszewski - Peter Popp



Bridge at Beaumont's Christmas in Winter A Grade:
Lori Smith (2nd), Pam Morgan-King (1st), Therese Demarco (2nd), Barbara Travis (director)
Absent: Ceda Nikolic (1st)

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

North was playing the hand in 2♠ on the following layout:

♠ A J 9 7 6 2
♥ 8
♦ 10 9 4
♣ K Q 2

♠ 5
♥ Q 6 5 4
♦ Q J 7 3
♣ A 8 6 4

♠ K Q 10 8 3
♥ J 10 7 3
♦ A
♣ 7 5 3

♠ 4
♥ A K 9 2
♦ K 8 6 5 2
♣ J 10 9

I had natural trump tricks, so didn't want ruffs, therefore I led the ♥J. Declarer won the ♥A and grabbed the opportunity to discard a diamond on the ♥K. The contract looked fairly straightforward if spades behaved (3-3, or 4-2 with the ♦A onside), so declarer started drawing trumps. She led a spade and tried the ♠J, my Queen winning. I continued with another heart, ruffed by declarer.

As it happened, her continuation of the ♠A was fatal for the contract, but worse was to come. After the ♠A, she led the ♣K and partner won the Ace, leading a fourth heart. (This meant that once I won the lead I could draw trumps.)

Declarer cashed the ♣Q, then realised she might need to lead towards dummy's ♦K. Whilst declarer had been leading clubs, I had merrily played high clubs (the ♣7 then the ♣5). Whoops! I won the ♦A, then drew her remaining trumps.

At trick 12, I led my last trump and dummy had to discard, holding the ♦K and ♣J. After protracted thought, declarer discarded dummy's ♣J. I led my ♣3 – and she had to follow with the ♣2! Two off, amid a massive fit of the giggles – from me...

Barbara Travis

HOW TO GET A LITTLE HELP

Lauren Travis reported this hand from the VCC, Melbourne.

Dlr South
NS Vul

♠ A 9
♥ 10 9 2
♦ A Q 9 7 5
♣ A 6 5

♠ J 6 2
♥ A 8 6
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 10 4 3 2

♠ K 8 7
♥ Q J 5
♦ K J 3
♣ K Q J 8

♠ Q 10 5 4 3
♥ K 7 4 3
♦ 8 2
♣ 9 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT (14-16)	Double	Pass
All Pass			2♥ (Majors)

This contract should fail, as long as the defenders stay off trumps. There will be 2 minor suit losers, 1 spade loser and 3 trump losers. Therefore, declarer has to tempt the opposition to lead trumps.

Lauren, South, received the ♣4 lead which she won with the Ace. She cashed the ♠A and led towards her Queen, planning to rise if East played low. East won the ♠K, then cashed the ♣K and continued with the ♣Q. Lauren figured the diamond finesse was failing, given East's double, so she discarded her small diamond, aiming to keep trump control.

East's best option is to exit a spade, but she led a small trump – exactly as hoped. Lauren played low and West was forced to win the Ace. A heart was returned to the Jack, also ducked. East was now 'fixed'. Given the 3-3 heart break, on any return Lauren had the rest of the tricks.

Only 6 people made 8 tricks in their 2♥ contracts.

COMING CONGRESSES

GLENELG	Saturday 31st August	Glenelg
CHRISTIES BEACH PAIRS	Sunday 15th September	Christies Beach
BRIDGE IN THE CITY	Sunday 6th October	Edwardstown
RIVERLAND CONGRESS: PAIRS	Saturday 26th October	Loxton
RIVERLAND CONGRESS: TEAMS	Sunday 27th October	Loxton

COMING SABF EVENTS

REGIONAL GNOT FINAL	Sunday 11th August	Bridge in the City, Mitchell Park
UNDER GRAND GNOT FINAL	Sunday 25th August	SABA
OPEN TRIALS QUALIFYING	Thursdays 8th August, 15th August, 22nd August, 29th August, 5th September, 12th September	
STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP	Mondays 2nd September, 9th September, 16th September, 23rd September, 30th September	
STATE TEAMS PHASE 2	Thursdays 19th September, 26th September, 3rd October, 10th October, 24th October	

DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING TEAMS?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY TO REPRESENT SOUTH AUSTRALIA? WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN SOME 'GOLD' MASTER POINTS?

The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is a State-based national teams event held in Coolangatta at the end of November each year. South Australia has four representative teams.

Two are selected via an event at SABA (already completed), and two are selected separately.

Each representative team receives a subsidy – travel costs for four players to Coolangatta plus the entry fee.

Accommodation (and other costs) are your own expense.

Given the GNOT itself is a knockout teams event, there is a consolation event which all participants are entitled to play in (free entry). Firstly, there is a 'repechage teams' on the Friday and Saturday for teams eliminated from the main event. There is also a Swiss Butler Pairs event (pairs but with teams scoring, 8 board matches) on the Sunday.

The **REGIONAL GNOT FINAL** is open to teams from non-SABA affiliated Clubs. All members of a team must be members of the Club that they are 'representing'. Apart from all the members of a team being from one Club, anyone can enter the REGIONAL GNOT FINAL. Some clubs have qualifying events; others do not.

The cost per team is \$110 (including a barbecue lunch).

The REGIONAL GNOT FINAL will be hosted by Bridge in the City, at Mitchell Park Community Centre (139 Bradley Grove, Mitchell Park) on Sunday 11th August 2019, from 10am. Entries close on Thursday 8th August 2019.

The **UNDER GRAND MASTER GNOT QUALIFYING** is open to players from any affiliated Club, as long as no member is a Grand Master. Any team can enter the UNDER GRAND MASTER GNOT QUALIFYING.

The cost per team is \$110 (lunch not included, but you can buy at the venue).

The UNDER GRAND MASTER GNOT QUALIFYING will be hosted at SA Bridge Association (243 Young Street, Unley) on Sunday 25th August 2019, from 9.30am. Entries close on Thursday 22nd August 2019.

Each winning team from the above two events will qualify to represent South Australia at the GNOT.



2019 Under Grand Master GNOT Qualifying

Hosted by

SABA

243 Young St

Unley

9:30 a.m. Sunday August 25th 2019

**Entry is open to all SABF affiliated players under
Grand Master ranking as at June 30th 2019.**

**Gold points will be awarded for each win, and
the top team will be invited to represent SA at
the GNOT Finals at the Gold Coast in November.**

Captain

Player 1.....

ABF Number.....

Player 2.....

ABF Number.....

Player 3.....

ABF Number.....

Player 4.....

ABF Number.....

Entry fee : \$110 per team.

**Entry fees should be paid by cash, or by a
cheque made out to the SABF**

Lunches can be purchased at the venue.

**Entries close Thursday August 22nd and should
be forwarded to the Director, David Anderson,
at revolve1@live.com or the SABF web site**

NEVER GIVE UP

The European Open Bridge Championships were held in June 2019. Look at the following hand, which is a classic example of never giving up...

<p>♠ A 10 ♥ A K Q 8 7 ♦ K J 10 6 ♣ A 9</p> <p>♠ 9 8 4 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ 7 5 4 2 ♣ 10 3 2</p> <p>♠ K Q 6 3 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ K Q J 7 5</p>	<p>♠ J 7 5 2 ♥ 10 6 4 3 ♦ A 9 ♣ 8 6 4</p>
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<p>♠ 10 ♥ A K Q 8 7 ♦ K J ♣ ---</p> <p>♠ 8 4 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ 7 5 4 ♣ ---</p> <p>♠ K Q 6 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ 7</p>	<p>♠ J 7 5 2 ♥ 10 6 4 3 ♦ A ♣ ---</p>	
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Mostly people reached the sensible contract of 6NT, with just one loser (♦A). However, even in international tournaments, some pairs will overbid on such hands, and several pairs reached 7NT – failing.

[One West found the diamond lead, the only lead to defeat the contract, when played by South. Ed]

Two pairs playing in 7♣ did not receive a diamond lead and made their contracts. Declarer won the spade lead in dummy with the Ace, then cashed five club winners.

Watch what happens:

When the last club is led by South, what can East discard? If he discards a spade, declarer can now cash three spade winners, and East has to find a red suit discard. A heart discard makes dummy's hearts into winners but discarding the ♦A makes the ♦Q into the thirteenth trick. If he discards a heart on the last club, dummy has five heart tricks. And if he discards the ♦A on the last club, declarer can cash his top diamond, repeating the squeeze on West – but this time in hearts and spades.

This end-position also arises in 7NT on a non-diamond lead, so several players must have given up. Imagine having given up when you could make your grand slam on a "repeating squeeze", otherwise known as a triple squeeze!

Postscript: One world champion who went off in 7♣ found a different line. He thought that the odds favoured trying the spade finesse instead, then playing for a simple squeeze (the ♦A and four hearts in one hand).



2019 Regional GNOT Final

Hosted by Bridge in the City

Mitchell Park Community Centre

139 Bradley Grove Mitchell Park

10:00 a.m. Sunday August 11th 2019

Entry is open to all SABF affiliated players who are members of a South Australian club other than SABA.

Gold points awarded for each match won.

The top team will be invited to represent SA at the GNOT Finals at the Gold Coast in November

Entry fee : \$110 per team.

Player 1.....

ABF Number.....

Player 2.....

ABF Number.....

Player 3.....

ABF Number.....

Player 4.....

ABF Number.....

Barbeque lunch will be provided

Entries close Thursday August 8th and should be recorded at the SABF website, or sent to David Anderson at revoke1@live.com.

COACHING SESSIONS WITH BARBARA TRAVIS

AT BEAUMONT BOWLING CLUB

71 Devereux Road, Linden Park

2.30pm to 4.30pm

THURSDAYS from 1st August to 5th September: **OVERCALLS SERIES**
Doubles and Overcalls, Cue Raises, Balancing and Competing (Law of Total Tricks)

TUESDAYS from 20th August to 3rd September: **VARIOUS CUE BIDS**
Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual 2NT, Defending Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual 2NT overcalls, Other Useful Cue Bids
– after partner's takeout doubles, stopping asking cue bids, game forcing cue bids

TUESDAYS from 10th September to 8th October: **NO TRUMP SERIES**
Junk Stayman, Super Accepts of Transfers, Four Suit Transfers, Texas Transfers (transfers at the 4-level) and their ramifications, Smolen (watch for the Defensive methodologies against 1NT – in November)

THURSDAYS from 12th September to 3rd October: **2 OVER 1 GAME FORCING**
2 over 1, 1NT Response, Bergen Raises, 3-card Limit Raises, Competition, Passed Hand Bidding

Cost: \$15 per person per session

BOOKINGS NOT NECESSARY –
JUST TURN UP IF INTERESTED AND AVAILABLE. PARTNERS NOT NECESSARY

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Counsel	Phil Markey		
Sponsorship/Promotion	<i>vacant</i>		

Committee Members: David Gue (Adelaide Bridge Centre), John Smith (SABA), Peter Teubner (Glenelg), Jill Allanson (Barossa), Sue Phillips (Bridge in the City), Jinny Fuss (Christies Beach), David Anderson (Reynella), Barbara Travis (Beaumont), David Parrott (SABA), Moira Smith (Gawler), John Elliott (Alexandrina), Jim Coffey (Whyalla)