

December 2019

Published by the SA Bridge Federation
<http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au>
email: sabf-news@huiac.com

SPRING NATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES

SPRING NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

DATUMS 1st (best individual pair)
Justin Williams - James Coutts

DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS

3rd Justin Williams - James Coutts
8th Jarrad Dunbar - Charles McMahon
10th Joe Haffer - Leigh Gold

BOBBY EVANS SENIORS' TEAMS

1st BUCHEN: Peter Buchen - George Smolanko,
David Beauchamp - Mike Hughes,
Ron Klinger - Ian Thomson

LINDA STERN WOMEN'S TEAMS

1st BOOKALLIL: Sophie Ashton - Lauren Travis,
Marianne Bookallil - Jodi Tutty
2nd PITT: Viv Wood - Sue Lusk, Helene Pitt - Ruth Tobin

DATUMS 1st (best individual pair)
Sophie Ashton - Lauren Travis



1st in the datums, Spring National Open Teams:
Justin Williams (left), Jarred from TBIB (sponsors),
James Coutts (right)



Winning team Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams at the Spring Nationals:
George Smolanko, Bobby Evans' son, Peter Buchen, Mike Hughes, Ian Thomson, Ron Klinger, David Beauchamp

DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS by Barbara Travis

I can't admire the bidding, but I do admire Jarrad Dunbar's line of play on the following hand, given to me by his partner Charles McMahon (NSW).

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

(!) 2NT was a 'different' way to show a 5-5 with the unbid suits.

A heart lead defeats the contract, destroying South's trump control but, fortunately for Jarrad, East led their singleton ♦6. Jarrad won with the Ace and cashed the ♠Q, allowing for a 4-1 break with East (where he could double finesse if East held J-10-x-x). He now led a spade towards dummy, finessing the ♠9. He continued with a club towards his A-J, with West splitting his honours, playing the Queen. The ♣A won the trick and now Jarrad showed great forethought. He drew the last two trumps with dummy's Ace and King, and on the ♠K, he discarded the blocking ♣J. This meant he was relying on the clubs either breaking 3-3 or there being a doubleton ♣8. Now he could continue establishing his club suit whilst also retaining trump control of the hand. He made 5 spade tricks, 4 club tricks and the ♦A for 10 tricks and +590.

That hand was very nicely planned and executed by Jarrad, although I imagine that dummy was initially a disappointment!

Di Marler showed me a hand that Alison Dawson (Qld) played very nicely, with a little discarding help from her West opponent.

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

Alison, South, was playing in a slightly ambitious 6NT contract. They were the only pair in 6NT, so making would be an absolute top and going down would be a zero!

West led a passive ♥8, and declarer had 5 club tricks, a fortunate 4 heart tricks and 2 spade tricks. The final trick could come from either the ♦A onside or double-finessing in spades. The double-finesse in spades was only a 25% prospect, since it required both the Queen and 10 to be onside, whereas the diamond 'finesse' was a straight 50% option. I'm confident that Alison was considering the diamond finesse until an early discard from West said, "I love diamonds". This particular West is a very honest player, so Alison now opted to lead the ♠J and take the spade finesse twice – making.

Moral: Don't give declarer too much information, particularly in slam hands – where your partner is not going to be on lead very often.

Barbara Travis



Lauren Travis (left) and Sophie Ashton (right) were presented with their winners' medals for the Linda Stern Women's Teams by David Stern's granddaughters.

Not only did Lauren and Sophie win the LSWT, but they were also the best performing women's pair.

SPRING NATIONALS by Barbara Travis

From the TBIB Spring National Open Teams comes this fascinating exercise in playing a hand safely.

<p>♠ A 2 ♥ 8 2 ♦ J 6 4 3 ♣ 10 8 7 4 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 7 ♥ 10 9 7 5 ♦ 2 ♣ K Q J 5</p> <p>♠ void ♥ A Q J 3 ♦ Q 10 9 7 5 ♣ A 9 6 2</p>	<p>♠ Q J 8 6 5 4 3 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ A K 8 ♣ void</p>
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This is a typical auction:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Double
3♦ (good raise)	Pass	4♠	All Pass

East is playing in 4♠ and receives a diamond lead. The contract looks cold, and that means you have to consider hidden traps.

Given South's double, it is likely that you have at least two heart losers. So what will happen if North gets the lead? You will go down, as did all the declarers who led a trump at trick 2, with North winning and switching to the ♥8, scoring two heart tricks and a heart ruff.

The safer line, given South's double, is to make use of dummy's solid clubs. Ruff a diamond at trick 2, then lead the ♣K, discarding a heart if North doesn't play the Ace. South wins but, with no trump to lead, your contract is now cold. You can trump another diamond (even though it is a winner), then cash two more clubs to discard your hearts. On the other hand, if South cashed the ♥A, your King is now a winner.

If South has the ♠A, your contract will always make. Thus, this line is definitely superior.

In one match, one North-South pair were very happy to score +100 against 4♠. At the other table, East-West seriously overbid to 6♣ X, which was likely to fail by two tricks for -500. However, South chose a bad moment to try to cash the ♣A at trick 1. Moments later, declarer had discarded all three heart losers on the clubs, claiming 12 tricks and +1660, for 18 IMPs.

In another match, both East-Wests overbid to 6♣, one being doubled. Amazingly, both Souths tried the ♣A lead, so both contracts made, swinging only 6 IMPs.

This hand was Board 6 of Match 6, so Nick Hughes even referred to it as the "6-6-6 hand"!

Here's a wild hand. You are South, dealer, and pick up:

<p>♠ A K 10 8 4 3 ♥ void ♦ Q J 9 5 4 3 ♣ A</p>	<p>♠ Q J 8 6 5 4 3 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ A K 8 ♣ void</p>
--	---

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

- (1) 5-5+ hearts + minor
- (2) Interest in penalising at least one of their suits

This was the auction at our table, where East's silence (she should have bid 3♥) gave us more bidding space. What would you now bid, given partner's leap to 5♦?

An easy option is to bid 6♦. A better option is to bid 5NT. I haven't seen a hand suited to the 5NT "Grand Slam Trump Ask" for a number of years, partly because of the introduction of Exclusion Key Card Blackwood (showing a void and asking for key cards outside that suit). On this hand, there is no way to use EKCB, but it is perfect for a 5NT bid, asking partner to bid 6♦ with 1 top honour in diamonds, or 7♦ with 2 top honours in diamonds (all other suits being irrelevant). On this hand, partner would rebid 7♦, holding:

♠ void
♥ 8 5 4 3 2
♦ A K 8 7 2
♣ 10 9 2

Spades were 6-1, but diamonds were 1-1, so you could draw trumps then cross-ruff for 13 tricks. On a non-trump lead, you can actually play a complete cross-ruff, allowing for trumps to be 2-0 and spades not breaking!

How did the Seniors' and Women's Teams cope with the hand? Only one pair (Women's) bid to 7♦, though I imagine that several East-West pairs barraged the opponents with their club-heart fit too. There is hope for us all...

Here is another hand where only one pair (of 22 Women's teams and 16 Seniors' teams) were successful, although our opponents should have bid it:

<p>♠ A K J 8 2 ♥ 6 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ A K 4 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 7 4 ♥ A K Q 9 8 7 5 ♦ void ♣ 10 8</p>
--	---

Here is a possible auction:

<p>1♠</p> <p>4NT (2)</p> <p>5♦ (4)</p> <p>7♠</p>	<p>1♥</p> <p>4♦ (1)</p> <p>5♣ (3)</p> <p>5♥ (5)</p>
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- (1) Since 2♦ is a reverse, 3♦ becomes the splinter. Therefore, 4♦ should be used to show the diamond void.
- (2) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (3) 1 key card
- (4) Trump Queen ask
- (5) Showing ♠Q and ♥K. West can basically work out East's hand – knowing of the diamond void, and therefore excellent hearts

Our East-West opposition had a different tool available. Over 4NT, East responded 6♦, apparently showing 1 key card, the trump Queen and a diamond void! (I said they should have bid it.)

I didn't watch the Seniors' final, having a bias towards the Women's final where my daughter was playing. Lauren Travis and Sophie Ashton were playing a Strong Club system. Watch them at work:

♠ J 7
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ K Q 7
♣ A J 7 3

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

♠ Q 9 5 2
♥ Q 9 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ 2

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

West Sue Lusk	North Sophie	East Viv Wood	South Lauren
2♥ (2)	2NT (3)	Pass	1♣ (1)
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT (5)	Pass	4♥ (4)
Pass	5♠ (7)	Pass	5♥ (6)
Pass	7♦	All Pass	6♣ (8)

- (1) Strong club, 16+ HCP, any hand
- (2) Hearts and a minor, usually 5/5+
- (3) 8+ HCP, game forcing
- (4) Cue bid (1st or 2nd round control)
- (5) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (6) 2 key cards
- (7) Asking for ♠K
- (8) ♠K and ♣K

Sue Lusk led the ♣10, run around to the King.

On seeing dummy, Lauren knew Sue held hearts and clubs, but was worried about how many spades Sue held (shapes: 1-5-2-5 or 0-5-3-5). However, when she led a diamond to dummy's King, she discovered the 4-0 break. Now she wasn't worried that Sue could ruff spades, so her line of play was clear (with the club finesse marked).

She also knew that she could only trump one spade because of the trump break (lacking the diamond spot cards), so had to rely on the club finesse. She cashed the top two spades and ruffed a spade in dummy, then cashed dummy's other top diamond, crossing back to hand with a heart ruff to draw the remaining trumps. She now needed the club finesse, making her 13 tricks.

If she had realised that the other table had played in 3NT, I'm sure she'd have been happy with a small slam! Both Seniors' pairs played in 6♦.

The next hand shows Sophie 'starring' in defence.

♠ A K J 9 5
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 10 4
♣ A Q 4

♠ 8 6 3 2
♥ A 6 5 3
♦ 5 3
♣ K 10 6

♠ Q 10 7 4
♥ K
♦ A J 7 6
♣ J 8 7 2

♠ void
♥ Q J 10 9 8 4
♦ K 9 8 2
♣ 9 5 3

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

Sophie Ashton, sitting East, led a spade at trick 1, which ran to declarer's 9. Back on lead again at trick 2 with her HK, she decided that her partner held the trump Ace, so tried the effect of a low diamond, allowing for Lauren to hold a doubleton.

This ran to declarer's ♦10 but now, when Lauren won her ♥A, she returned a diamond to Sophie's Ace, receiving her diamond ruff. This was a thoughtful and well-rewarded defence, needing Lauren to hold either the ♦Q or a doubleton. (A club switch required too many values in partner's hand, given the 1NT opening bid. It also demonstrates the need to count.)

The other table stopped in 2♥ making 9 tricks, so this was a gain of 5 IMPs rather than a loss of 7 IMPs – a typical Teams score.

♠ Q 7 4 2
♥ 9 5
♦ Q 4 3
♣ 9 6 5 3

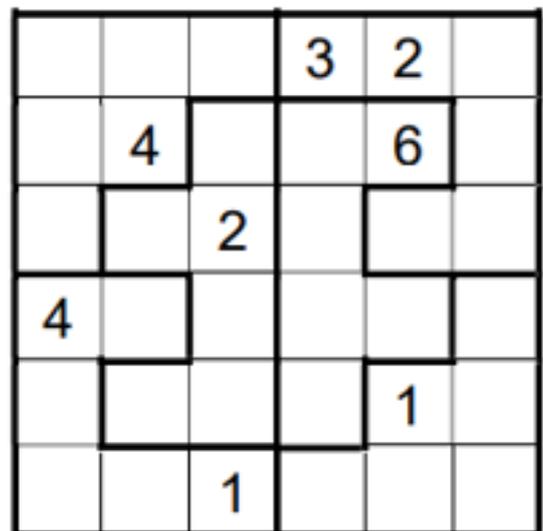
♠ K J 8 5
♥ J 8 7 6 2
♦ K 10
♣ Q 10

♠ 9 3
♥ K 10 3
♦ A J 9 7
♣ A K J 7

♠ A 10 6
♥ A Q 4
♦ 8 6 5 2
♣ 8 4 2

Both Seniors' final East-West's bid to 4♥, by East. Both Souths led the ♦6. At both tables, the ♦10 was covered by the Queen and won with the Ace. Declarer crossed to dummy with the ♣10 to lead a heart, finessing the 10 and losing to the Queen. Both Souths now switched to the ♠6, leaving declarer with a nasty guess for the contract.

PUZZLE



Can you place the numbers 1 to 6 once in each row, column and bold-shaped region.

The solution can be found on Page 15.

Beauchamp's decision may well have been based on the opening lead – a passive lead such as a diamond is often indicative of Aces in other suits – or it may have been based on the notion that it seems more dangerous to switch from a Queen, rather than an Ace. He may also share my opinion that it is unwise to 'guess' each time you hold a King-Jack and need one winner, therefore I usually play the King for consistency!

In my opinion, both Wests in the Women's final showed excellent judgement, given their strength in their short suits. Both Easts opened 1NT, with West simply checking for a 4-card Major and opting for 3NT when partner denied one. The honours, particularly in hearts, made the hand more suited to a 3NT contract unless there was a 4-4 fit (or 5-4 in

the case of hearts). Once again, both Souths led the ♦6, and 3NT made in comfort, even with a mis-guess when spades were led.

Lauren and Sophie, together with Marianne Bookallil and Jodi Tutty, won the Linda Stern Women's Teams, with Lauren and Sophie being dominant in the datums (how individual pairs performed).

In the Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams (BEST), George Smolanko teamed up with Peter Buchen, David Beauchamp - Mike Hughes, and Ron Klinger - Ian Thomson to win. Notably, Ron Klinger and Ian Thomson won both the Open Teams and Seniors' Teams, an excellent achievement.

Barbara Travis



Bridge at Beaumont's Birthday Congress, A Grade winners (left to right):
Merilyn Paris (2nd place), Adel Abdelhamid, Barbara Travis (organiser), Attilio De Luca

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

THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFFS

The Playoffs for the Australian Open Team were held in Canberra in November. Eight teams qualify to participate, playing two-day 128 board quarter finals, semi finals, then the final. These are some of my favourite hands from the event.

Semi Finals

Dealer South ♠ A K 7 2
NS Vul ♥ A J 4 2
♦ Q 7
♣ A 7 3

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

♠ 9 4
♥ K Q 10
♦ A 9 5 4 2
♣ J 8 5

All four Norths played in 3NT, with three Easts finding the deadly lead of the ♠10. The declarer who received the spade lead made his tricks in comfort when the ♦K was with West (and the suit behaved).

All declarers who received the club lead tried the Jack at trick 1, ducking the Queen. Two went down when they did not recognise the danger of the club lead/suit, playing on diamonds. However, in the HARRISON v. COUTTS semi-final this was the auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mill</i>	<i>Haffer</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
1NT	Double	2♠	Double
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Justin Mill was the only declarer to make the contract on the ♠10 lead. After the mini NT opening bid, revealing where the points lay, Mill read the hand perfectly to execute his strip and endplay.

He ducked the club lead completely, then won the club continuation. The next step was to cash four heart winners, extracting some of West's spare cards. The top two spades followed then, at trick 9, he exited to West with his last club. West was able to cash his three club winners but had to concede the last two tricks to the diamonds, resulting in a healthy 12 IMP gain in their match.

The final was a neck-and-neck tussle between HANS and COUTTS, both playing four-handed. One set would go HANS' way, then COUTTS would fight back in the next set. It was still close in Set 7 when this board arrived:

Dealer North ♠ A 10 9 7 5
NS Vul ♥ A Q 5
♦ 8 4
♣ 10 9 5

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

♠ Q 8
♥ J 7 4
♦ K J 7 6 5 2
♣ A Q

Playing a strong club system (limited openings), Gill and Hans reached a sensible 3♦ as North-South. At the other table this was the auction to reach (yet another) somewhat frisky 3NT contract.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Hung</i>	<i>Mill</i>	<i>Edgtton</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♦
All Pass		Pass	3NT

The lead was the ♣4 to the King and Ace. Tony Nunn proceeded to justify Deep Finesse's claim that 3NT was cold.

At trick 2, he led the ♠Q, which East won with the King to return the ♣6, won by declarer's Ace. Nunn now took the heart finesse, then cashed dummy's ♠A, felling West's Jack, as required. Three more spades made West's life particularly uncomfortable. He was able to discard one heart and one diamond, then had to bare his ♥K, hoping partner held the Jack. Unerringly, Nunn cashed his ♥A, dropping the King, and making his ♥J his ninth trick.

The VuGraph commentators were particularly surprised that 3NT could make without using the diamond suit at all!

Andy Hung played this hand perfectly, and Justin Mill defended just as well.

Dealer South ♠ K 10 8 5
Both Vul ♥ Q 8 4
♦ Q 10 8
♣ 9 7 3

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

♠ J 9 7
♥ K 6
♦ 9 7 6 3
♣ J 5 4 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Hung</i>	<i>Mill</i>	<i>Edgtton</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
1♠	Pass	1♦ (hearts)	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Admittedly, East-West should be playing in 3NT with these balanced hands, but it seems that neither East was interested in finding 3NT with those spades. The superior contract is 3NT by West.

At the other table, North led a small spade, providing declarer with his tenth trick immediately. Justin Mill found a passive club lead, the ♣3, which ran to declarer's King. At trick 2, Andy Hung finessed in hearts, South winning and returning the ♠7. Declarer won the ♠A, finessed trumps again and finished drawing trumps.

Next, he eliminated the clubs, then cashed his ♦A and ♦K, all set to put North on lead with the ♦Q, endplaying him for the spade lead. Mill could see the endplay coming, so he threw his ♦Q under the Ace at trick 9, so declarer's ♦J was now his tenth trick (but North had avoided the indignity of the endplay!).

Hung then tried the spades for an overtrick, settling for his contract. All that work for another flat board.

The HANS team finally built their lead on this board from Set 7 (followed by two more large swings):

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

Hans – Gill had the structures to deal with this hand.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Coutts</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Milne</i>	<i>Gill</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣ (cue)	Pass	3NT (1)
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♥ (cue)
Pass	7♦	All Pass	5♠

(1) 3NT = 4 diamonds, 3-5-4-1 shape

The solidity of South's hearts meant that only one club ruff was needed. At the other table North opted to use a 2♣ response, artificial game force, and the diamond fit was lost, resulting in the final contract being 3NT.

HANS won the final by 274.1 to 228 IMPs after a close-fought battle for most of the match. Last year (for 2019), Sartaj Hans – Peter Gill, Andy Hung – Nabil Edgton also won four-handed. They become the Australian Open Team for 2020, and will be augmenting another pair in due course.

In December, the Playoffs for the Seniors' and Women's Teams will be held. A sizeable number of South Australian women are competing: Lauren Travis, Barbara Travis, Sue Lusk, Felicity Smyth and Sheila Bird (all on different teams!). George Smolanko is the lone South Australian in the Seniors' event. There will be a report in January.

Barbara Travis

PARTNER'S CROCODILE COUP

A crocodile coup occurs when a defender rises with a higher honour than necessary to win the trick, in order to 'swallow' their partner's honour card, e.g. winning with the Ace when holding A-Q, to swallow partner's singleton King, or winning with the King when holding K-J, gobbling up partner's Queen.

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

West's 2♦ overall was unattractive, given the suit quality (and vulnerability), but she decided she wanted to bid. North's 2♥ bid was unwise, given that they played it as forcing. A negative double may have been a better bid, although North-South were now getting too high. Now North had to pass 2NT (12-14 HCP), because bidding would show a stronger hand.

West led the ♦5, won in dummy with the 10. Declarer now erred by trying the heart finesse. The finesse, allowing for East to hold both ♥K and ♥Q (or honour doubleton) would be recommended if dummy had unlimited entries, but watch what happened. West won the ♥Q and exited with another diamond, removing one of dummy's remaining two entries while the ♥A still blocked the suit. Hearts could no longer be established, declarer garnering their one heart trick rather than three heart winners.

At trick 2, it is wiser to lead a heart to the Ace, then exit with the ♥J. Now you can win a diamond return in dummy to lead the ♥10, giving yourself three heart winners. If the defence give you three diamond winners, then you will have your eight tricks!

Anyway – back to the play/defence. Declarer was in dummy with the ♦A, and no prospects. He tried a small club to his Jack and West's Queen. West cashed the ♦K hopefully (hoping East held three diamonds), then exited a diamond to declarer, who now had managed three diamond tricks. (Now you can see why it was critical to make those heart winners.) I was sitting East and had had to find two discards. I had done a quick count of declarer's points (5 in hearts, 2 in diamonds, 1 in clubs), so knew that declarer did not hold ♠A-K-J and was now comfortable discarding two spades. Note how important it can be to count during a hand!

Declarer ducked a club, a mistake since he could no longer reach dummy, and I was on lead. Now I erred, leading a small spade instead of the Queen. Declarer won the ♠A and exited with a spade, in this position:

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

I was regretting keeping the ♠Q! I was about to regain the lead and would have to give that trick back to dummy's ♠A. Partner, however, rescued me. She executed a crocodile coup by rising with her ♠K to swallow my ♠Q. Now she was able to cash her ♦9, then her ♠J while I discarded my clubs, and I took the last trick with the ♥K. I was pretty impressed that partner realised that I held the ♠Q, and that she could perform this rare feat, resulting in 3 off rather than 2 off.

Barbara Travis



Margot O'Donnell and Paul Sweeney
won B Grade, Bridge at Beaumont's Birthday Congress

WORK WITH THE ODDS

This hand from the Interstate Teams caught my eye. North is playing in 4♠ after East opened 1♥ or 2♥, with East leading the ♥Q.

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

MAKING IT EASY FOR PARTNER

This article, by Brian Senior, appeared in the Bulletins at the World Teams Championships in Wuhan, China.

This deal from the first session of the Quarter Finals saw the majority of those who played in 3NT on the North-South cards making their contract. Of those who failed, the majority got the diamonds wrong.

East-West had bid and supported spades, so the usual opening lead was therefore a spade from West. Where declarer won the first trick and played a club, West needed to rise with the Ace and return the ♥Q. Even with the aid of Smith Peters [Ed: a signal at trick 2 to indicate liking or dislike for the opening lead suit], or in this case the lack of a Smith Peter, that is not an easy defence to find, and I do not believe that anyone found it. However, what about the tables where declarer played on diamonds at trick 2?

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

Like most Wests, Barry Myers (England Mixed) led the ♠3 to the Jack and Ace. Declarer played the ♦K, unblocking the 10, and Sally Brock discarded the ♠Q and, when declarer continued to play on diamonds, followed that up with the ♠9 then ♠7. By transferring protection of the spade suit to partner, Sally was able to keep her heart holding intact, along with one club and one spade, and made it crystal clear to partner what was required in the defence.

Declarer cashed all the diamonds plus the ♠K, then led a heart and ducked it to Sally, who led her club to Barry. He cashed the ♠10 then led the ♥Q and that was down 1.

Elsewhere in the Mixed Championship, Romania's Marina Stegaroiu and Marius Ionita also defeated 3NT after a spade lead, with declarer playing on diamonds. Ionita discarded all his clubs then the ♠6 and ♠7. When declarer had run out of diamonds and led a club, Stegaroiu rose with the Ace and played the ♥Q – again down 1.

It was only in the Women's field that declarers seemed to 'star' by making 4♠ regularly – although, admittedly, across all four events many East-West pairs saved in 5♥. The majority of the Open and Seniors' players in 4♠ failed. Why? It seems that they must not have thought the hand through. The real issue is the matter of an entry to dummy...

One line of play is to win the ♥K and cash the ♠A, hoping for a singleton ♠K, giving you an entry to dummy for a diamond discard on the ♥A. You would then play on the club suit and can even cope with two club losers.

The other line of play involves the 'counter-intuitive' line of winning the ♥A at trick 1, giving up your ♥K for the entry to dummy. You can then finesse the ♠K, then play on clubs, now needing clubs to break 2-2 or a singleton honour.

Which line is better? The odds of a singleton ♠K (either hand), missing four cards, is 1 in 8 – 12.5%. The odds of the finesse, given you can finesse enough times (i.e. 3 times in the case of a 4-0 break outside), is 50%. Therefore, you should win the ♥A at trick 1 and start finessing in trumps immediately.

If you don't know how to work out the odds of a particular break, try writing down all the options that exist and you will learn to work them out for yourself. On this hand:

4-0 breaks	K642 – void void – K642	(2)
3-1 breaks	K – 6 6 – K42 4 – K62 2 – K64 K64 – 2 K62 – 4 K42 – 6 642 – K	(8)
2-2 breaks	K6 – 42 K4 – 62 K2 – 64 64 – K2 62 – K4 42 – K2	(6)

Working with the odds is a long-term winning strategy. Clearly some people made the contract, despite winning the ♥K at trick 1, with the aid of a defensive error – this is not a winning strategy against good defenders.

Barbara Travis

WHAT IS A 4NT OPENING BID?

I play that a 4NT opening bid asks for specific aces, with the responses being:

5♣	No Aces
5♦	♦ Ace
5♥	♥ Ace
5♠	♠ Ace
5NT	2 Aces
6♣	♣ Ace

My team-mates have held this bid a couple of times, but I've only ever held that sort of hand when an opponent has already opened the bidding – so far the 4NT opening bid has eluded me!

However, I've seen two examples in recent times. From the Cavendish Invitational Pairs in Monte Carlo (February 2019) comes this hand:

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

If you were opening bidder, this is an ideal opportunity to use the 4NT opening bid. If partner shows the ♣A only, you will play in 6♥; if partner shows the ♦A, you can bid 7♥, and if partner shows 2 aces you can bid 7NT.

What happened at the table? RHO opened 1♣ and only four pairs managed to reach 7♥ with these two hands:

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

The last board (of 96) in the Final of the World Championships was another such hand. South picked up:

♠ A K Q 10 3
♥ A
♦ 8
♣ A K Q J 6 4

With this hand, I'd be thinking about a 4NT opening bid (again), because all you really want from partner for the grand slam is the ♦A. Naturally, you are sitting as fourth-bidder, and LHO opens 1♦. Some auctions started with 1♦ - Pass - 1♥ and you could make a Michaels Cue Bid, then use an Ace ask if partner showed spades. Other auctions started with 1♦ - Pass - Pass, with many Souths making a practical 6♣ bid. This time partner held nothing:

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

but both 6♠ and 6♣ were obviously easy.

I guess I'll keep waiting for 'my' 4NT opening bid. I'm glad that others have the same issue – that there is an opening bid in front of their amazing hands!

Barbara Travis

BID THESE HANDS

Try bidding these hands with your favourite partner.

Recommended auctions can be found on Page 14.

WEST HANDS

HAND 1

West Dealer
♠ A J 4 3
♥ 3
♦ A K Q 8 7
♣ K 5 4

HAND 2

East Dealer
♠ Q J 10 9 6 5
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ 5
♣ 4 3

HAND 3

West Dealer
♠ 5
♥ A K 10 9 5
♦ Q J 2
♣ K Q J 2

HAND 4

East Dealer
♠ J 7 6 4
♥ A 8
♦ A 6 2
♣ K 9 7 2

HAND 5

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

EAST HANDS

HAND 1

West Dealer
♠ K Q 6 5
♥ A K 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ A J 2

HAND 2

East Dealer
♠ 8
♥ J 10 5
♦ A K 8 7 6
♣ K Q 6 5

HAND 3

West Dealer
♠ A Q J 10 9
♥ J 4 2
♦ A 10 4
♣ A 4

HAND 4

East Dealer
♠ A 10 3
♥ K 9 6 4 2
♦ void
♣ A Q 5 4 3

HAND 5

West Dealer
♠ A J 8 7
♥ 5
♦ 8 7 6 3
♣ K Q 9 3



Deborah Cramer and Peter Turnbull, winners of C Grade, Bridge at Beaumont's Birthday Congress

APPLYING PRESSURE

This is a modified reprint of an article by Frank Stewart (USA) from Australian Bridge, February 1992.

As dealer, South, I hold:

♠ A 7 4
♥ A K J 8
♦ K 7 4
♣ A 7 3

I open 1♣ and West overcalls 1♠. North raises to 2♣ and East passes. We have at least 25 HCP, so game is likely. Still, there are some things about this situation that I don't care for.

Firstly, my spade stopper is primary. I'd rather have J9xx or Q10x; then I would have to spend only 1 or 2 HCP instead of 4 HCP to win a spade trick, and that would leave me more points to establish additional tricks. As it is, West, who probably has good spades for his vulnerable overcall, may set up his suit immediately.

Secondly, my clubs are mangy. The suit may not run even if North has K-Q-x-x-x, and we may need 8 fast tricks after winning ♠A.

I'm playing teams, so if we were vulnerable and I had more to gain by bidding game, I might sacrifice caution and blast into 3NT. Since we are not vulnerable, I try only 2NT.

North huddles before passing. West leads ♠6.

♠ 8 3
♥ Q 7 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ K 8 5 4 2

♠ A 7 4
♥ A K J 8
♦ K 7 4
♣ A 7 3

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

All those HCP and no game! My assessment of the club situation was on target – if I had the ♣Q instead of the ♦K, 3NT would be favourite. North also refused to stretch; his hand, with poor clubs and side Queens, is wrong for an acceptance.

But my pleasure at our restraint wanes when I see that even 2NT may go down.

East plays the ♠Q to the first trick and I duck. The ♠10 is returned, and I duck again. West overtakes with the ♠J, and leads the ♠K to drive out my Ace, as East discards a heart.

West's choice of ♠K has suit preference overtones, suggesting an entry in diamonds. (I'd expect West to hold the ♦A on the bidding, anyway.)

I have seven top tricks. If I lead a diamond, West will surely take his Ace and cash three more spades. If I concede a club, I'll go down two tricks. Nevertheless, I see a chance. East's heart discard suggests that he started with five; players often throw the "worthless fifth" card in a suit. If West has club length, he will feel the pressure as I cash my hearts.

I lead a heart to the ♥Q, and return to the ♥J. West discards a diamond. On ♥K he discards another diamond, but when I lead the ♥A, he pauses before discarding a spade. Now I can safely lead a diamond. West wins the ♦A and cashes his remaining two spades, but then he must lead a club. I win and claim my contract. I have lost four spades and a diamond.

As the full lead shows, West had no good discard on the last heart:

♠ 8 3
♥ Q 7 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ K 8 5 4 2

♠ K J 9 6 5 2
♥ 10
♦ A 10 3
♣ Q J 6

♠ Q 10
♥ 9 6 5 4 2
♦ J 9 8 5
♣ 10 9

♠ A 7 4
♥ A K J 8
♦ K 7 4
♣ A 7 3

Since West could throw neither the ♦A nor a club, he had to let go a spade winner – the setting trick.

At the other table, they reached 3NT. South won the third spade and tried to sneak a diamond past West. If West had played low, the same 'squeeze' would have operated again, this time for the contract (since South would have had eight tricks already). Luckily, West was awake and grabbed his ♦A and cashed his spades, so we gained 6 IMPs.

Surprise benefits can come when declarer runs a long suit. Of course, an opponent may err in discarding even if he is not legitimately squeezed. In this instance, a defender had to relinquish a winner, and then declarer could establish a winner safely.

Frank Stewart



Winners of the Riverland Congress Pairs (Loxton):
Chris Nettle and Michael Ward

WHAT IS THE RULE OF 20?

The Rule of 20 can be used to guide you whether to open hands at the 1-level, particularly with shapely distribution.

You add together:

HCP + number of cards held in your 2 longest suits

If the answer comes to 20 or more, you can open at the 1-level (rather than passing or pre-empting).

I think this article from A New Bridge Magazine, February 2018 (<http://www.newbridgemag.com/>) sums it up.

THE RULE OF 20

MARTY BERGEN COMMENTS:

After teaching bridge for over 20 years, I thought I had seen it all. However, I had the following experience in the winter of 1994, and it made a lasting impression on me. My class consisted of 28 experienced players, and I will never forget the first hand.

The dealer held: ♠ K Q 5 4, ♥ A 8 7 3, ♦ 6, ♣ K 10 6 4.

I was amazed as player after player passed this hand. Only one person opened. What was going on? I immediately stopped their non-bidding and asked, "Do you open with 13 HCP?" Everyone answered yes. I now asked the \$64,000 question. "How do you count points when you pick up your cards?" 17 students answered that they simply counted their HCP and added points for distribution only if they found a fit; 10 students answered that they added points for length to their HCP – one point for a 5-card suit, two points for a 6-card suit etc. I am familiar with this technique, but I cannot agree with any methods of evaluation that calls for passing hands like this one.

The one student who opened said that she had added 'short-suit points' to her HCP – one point for a doubleton, two points for a singleton, and three for a void. With 12 HCP plus two points for the singleton, she was happy to open. This was the technique I learned when I took up bridge. How did I resolve the confusion? I taught them the Rule of 20.

In first and second seat, add the length of your two longest suits to your HCP. When the total is 20 or more, open the bidding. With less, do not open at the 1-level.

Here is how it works. It is a matter of simple addition:

HCP + number of cards in longest suit + number of cards in second longest suit.

This is all you must know to determine whether you should open the bidding in first or second suit (i.e. when partner has not had a chance to pass). Try some examples.

The first is the hand that only one player opened in class.

♠ K Q 5 4, ♥ A 8 7 3, ♦ 6, ♣ K 10 6 4

4 spades + 4 hearts + 12 HCP = 20. Open 1♣

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

6 spades + 4 clubs + 10 HCP = 20. Open 1♣

♠ K J 5, ♠ A 8 7 5, ♦ Q 7 5, ♣ Q 6 2

4 hearts + 3 (any) + 12 HCP = 19. Pass

♠ 8 7, ♥ Q 5 4, ♦ A K Q 9 7 6 2, ♣ 9

7 diamonds + 3 hearts + 11 HCP = 21. Open 1♦

The purpose of counting points is to evaluate your trick-taking potential to bid to the correct contract. However, you cannot accurately assess your values if you count only HCP. The reality of bridge life is that hands with long suits and short suits have far more potential than their balanced counterparts. Give the Rule of 20 a chance. There is no question that the Rule of 20 will increase your chances of having an opening bid. Is this desirable? Here are my thoughts:

(1) You bid more accurately after your side opens.

(2) It is much easier to open than to overcall.

(3) It must be right to get in the first punch. I hate to guess after my opponents have bid, particularly if they have pre-empted.

(4) It is more fun to bid – absolutely, positively.

LARRY COHEN'S THOUGHTS:

I think the Rule of 20 is a good guideline, especially for newer players. It gives an immediate (and easy) ballpark estimate of what is or isn't an opening bid. However (and Marty would be the first to agree), it is just 'general advice'. It is not to be followed religiously. There are many tiny outside factors which need to be considered, such as:

(1) Spot cards (especially 10s and 9s).

(2) Vulnerability (if borderline, be more aggressive if not vulnerable).

(3) Points in long suits (♠ A Q 10 7 5, ♥ A 10 9 6 5, ♦ 4 3, ♣ 2 is much better than ♠ 8 6 5 4 2, ♥ 9 7 6 5 4, ♦ A Q, ♣ A).

(4) Short honours should be discounted a bit (such as singleton kings or doubleton queens or jacks).

(5) Suits such as A-J-10 or A-Q-10 are worth more than their point count, especially if accompanied by length.

Some writers have carelessly debunked the Rule of 20. What they really mean to say is that the Rule is a good basic starting point but can use some fine-tuning.

However, a new and more mature guideline has entered my brain. I look ahead to the future. I ask myself, "What will happen if I open 1♣ with this borderline hand - ♠ 5, ♥ Q J 4 2, ♦ A K 10, ♣ J 10 7 6 5?" The answers are mostly negative. For one, partner might lead a club (from, say, ♣ K-x-x or ♣ A-x-x). That wouldn't be so good. Even worse, it might be our hand. What do you think partner will respond? You know how partners are. Surely, you can look forward to the pleasure of his 1♣ response. Now what? You can't rebid 1NT with a singleton, can't rebid your 5-card suit, and can't reverse into 2♥. You can't pass, so you have to make one of those lovely rebids. Yuk! So, why not show a little maturity and just pass? I gave it a try.

What happened next? I actually got to have a good auction. LHO opened the bidding 1♣, and my partner overcalled 2♥. RHO passed, and I got to make a splinter bid of 3♠. The hand was off my chest. I had painted a nice picture of my shape and strength, and I managed this all without opening the bidding. Had the opponents bid and raised spades, I could have entered the auction with a takeout double, again providing a good description.

Marty Bergen & Larry Cohen (USA)

A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

A very interesting selection of boards/topics occurred during my most recent game.

My first hand was delightfully played by Libby Lock.

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

I led the ♥Q, won with dummy's Ace. Libby led a spade to her Queen and my Ace, and I returned the Jack, hoping to remove as many trumps as possible from dummy. This was won with the King and now Libby started her cross-ruff.

A club to the King was followed by a diamond ruff. The ♠A was cashed and a club ruffed. Libby ruffed another diamond with dummy's last trump, cashed the ♥K and ruffed the last club. With the defence unable to over-trump, she had scored 5 trump tricks and 5 outside tricks in Aces and Kings. It was a nicely played hand, and their 81% score demonstrated that you don't need to bid 'close' games to score well; you just need to make all your tricks.

The following hand is an excellent example of a responsive double. You are East and hold:

		<p>♠ K 7 5 3 ♥ J 9 5 3 ♦ 5 ♣ Q J 10 4</p>	
<p>West</p>	<p>North</p>	<p>East</p>	<p>South</p>
<p>Double</p>	<p>2♦</p>	<p>Pass ?</p>	<p>1♦</p>

If you bid 2♥ you will play there, in the 4-3 fit. On the other hand, you can double. This double, a responsive double, says you have about 7-9 HCP (with a bigger hand you cue bid 3♦) and no 'obvious' bid – so you don't have a 5+ card suit but you are likely to have two 4-card suits. This makes your partner choose their longer major, and you will end in 2♣ rather than 2♥.

There is more to the play of the hand:

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

After the lead of the ♦Q, you can place the King with North. In due course, you will try the club finesse, and North wins the King. Now you can place the remaining values with South, so you know that the ♥A-Q are both onside. Careful entry management will lead to 10 tricks – once you have counted the points on the hand.

<p>♠ A K Q 9 7 2 ♥ A J ♦ 9 8 7 5 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ 6 4 3 ♥ Q 9 7 3 ♦ A K 6 ♣ Q 8 2</p>
--	--

North led a club against 4♣, by West. South won the Ace and returned a club. Rather than ruffing the club, I decided to discard a diamond loser – a loser-on-loser play, establishing the ♣Q as a winner on which I could discard my other diamond loser. I did this primarily because I was trying to allow for a 3-1 trump break plus a 4-2 diamond break. It had an additional benefit, because North forgot to think about how many points I had to have to bid game after the limit raise – and switched to a heart, from her King, giving me the finesse. 11 tricks was a bonus outcome.

Barbara Travis

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SACRIFICE

This article, written by Simon Stocken (UK), comes from the Bulletins at the World Youth Championships held in Croatia in August 2019.

Dealer East
Nil Vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♥
Double	4♥	5♣	5♥
6♣	6♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

The auction began the same way at most tables, with East opening 1♠ and South overcalling 2♥. This West chose to make a negative double, whereas others bid 3♦. With North bidding 4♥, East's 12 HCP became much stronger with key 10s and 9s to add to the shape, so East bid 5♣. South lacked defence, so tried 5♥ and West, realising that his partner must have a void in hearts, decided to chance 6♣. This contract would have fared very well with every card well-placed.

North did not fancy his defensive prospects against 6♣ so opted for 6♥ which East passed, alerted as forcing and showing first round control in the heart suit, in case partner was interested in bidding the grand slam. West doubled and pondered – what to lead?

To my mind, it is clear-cut. The question to ask yourself is this: How will declarer score additional tricks? East is void in hearts, and the defenders have the side-suits covered.

The trump lead is clear-cut. You intend to lead trumps three times and you will need your additional entries (♦A and ♠K). If, instead, you start with a high diamond you can only lead trumps twice, once being at trick 2.

At the table, West started with the ♦A then switched to the ♠J. Declarer now played very nicely to escape for -500.

A trump lead, allowing for three defensive trump leads, holds declarer to 7 tricks, which equates to 1100.

Simon Stocken (UK)

When you hold the points and the side suits, with the opponents sacrificing, a trump lead is called for, to minimise declarer's ability to cross-ruff.



BLUFF THE RUFF

From the Bulletins at the World Team Championships, Wuhan China, September 2019.

On this deal, Meckstroth found a play that is so often missed.

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

West	North	East	South
Moss (USA2)	Rodwell (USA1)	Lall	Meckstroth
	Pass	1♣	4♥

All Pass

West led the ♣8 won by East's Ace. What will happen next if declarer follows with the ♣3? Knowing that the opening lead is a singleton, East will give his partner a club ruff. What's more, he will lead a high club (♣9). This is a suit preference signal, suggesting a spade return. West will underlead his ♠A, East winning with the Queen, and a third round of clubs will promote West's ♥J into the setting trick.

That is not what happened at the table. Meckstroth (South) followed with the ♣Q at trick 1. Since his remaining club was lower than the ♣8 opening lead, in East's eyes it was possible that the opening lead was a doubleton. He switched to the ♠K, killing his entry card, and the game could no longer be defeated.

So much for the "That would never fool anyone!" merchants, who decline to make this deceptive play.

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BID THESE HANDS: Solutions

Hands can be found on Page 9.

HAND 1

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

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

- (1) Fourth suit game forcing.
- (2) Showing a club stopper for No Trumps.
- (3) Revealing a hand with spade support but too big to raise to 4♠ immediately, i.e. better than 13-15 TP. Now 4♠ would be 16-17 TP and 3♠ is stronger again.
- (4) One can cue bid on these auctions but, with control in each of the unbid suits, it is better to use RKCB immediately. This is because YOU can find all the critical cards required.
- (5) 0 or 3 key cards – must be 3 in this auction.
- (6) Trump Queen ask.
- (7) Showing the ♠Q and the ♥K.

Now opener has to consider the two hands together:

- Solid spades (4 top trumps)
- Two top hearts – allowing a discard of the club loser
- Solid diamonds – or able to be established with one ruff so, they can bid 7♣.

If opener held ♦ A-K-Q-J-7 they should rebid 7NT: 4 spades, 2 hearts, 5 diamonds (anticipated), 2 clubs.

HAND 2

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

1♠	1♦
2♣ (1)	2♣

- (1) If you rebid 2♥, you will be using fourth suit forcing – forcing to game. It is more appropriate to rebid 2♣, showing 6-9 HCP and 6 spades.

HAND 3

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

1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦ (1)
2NT (2)	3♥ (3)
4♣ (4)	4♦ (4)
4NT (5)	5♦ (6)
5♣ (7)	6♥ (8)

- (1) Fourth suit game forcing.
- (2) Showing a diamond 'stopper' for No Trumps
- (3) Setting hearts and showing a better hand than an earlier jump to 4♥ (i.e. better than 13-15 TP).

- (4) Cue bid, showing 1st or 2nd round control. West wants to head to slam but shouldn't use 4NT until he knows that there are not two top diamond losers. Cue bids help solve these bidding problems.
- (5) Once partner shows a diamond control you can use RKCB because there are 1st or 2nd round controls of every suit 'known'.
- (6) 0 or 3 key cards – 3 on this auction.
- (7) Asks about the ♥Q.
- (8) Denies the trump Queen (in this situation, 5NT shows the Queen and denies Kings).

HAND 4

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

1♠	1♥
2♦ (1)	2♣
4♣ (3)	3♠ (2)
4♥ (5)	4♦ (4)
6♣	5♦ (6)
	Pass

- (1) Fourth suit game forcing
- (2) Showing a 3-5-1-4 or 3-5-0-5
- (3) Setting clubs
- (4) Control cue bid
- (5) Control cue bid – by agreement, it is not a shortage in partner's suit, therefore ♥K-x (at most)
- (6) Control cue bid (now a void)

With the clubs breaking 2-2 and the hearts breaking 3-3, this slam was cold even without the ♦A! Two of dummy's spades could be discarded on the hearts. However, the ♦A would have been needed if hearts had broken 4-2.

Only 2 pairs (of 24) bid to this slam on a State championship night. Perhaps many people were in too much of a hurry to rebid 3NT on the West cards? To my mind, a hand with a fit and 3 key cards is simply too strong for just accepting 3NT as the final contract – especially at Teams scoring where you can investigate for slams and stop at 5-minor more comfortably (than at Pairs).

HAND 5

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

1♦	2♥	Double (1)	3♥
4♦	Pass	4♥ (2)	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦ (3)	Pass
6♦			

- (1) Negative double
- (2) Should be showing a heart control and slam interest. On this auction, it must be a singleton heart, so you also have key black suit values for West.
- (3) 1 key card

NOTE: Not one pair (of 24) bid to 6♦ on a State championship night of bridge. I was East and 'bid too quickly', raising 4♦ to 5♦, leaving partner tempted but unable to bid the slam with three small hearts in his hand.

Barbara Travis

THE IMP'S COME-UPPANCE

Reprinted from Australian Bridge, December 1996

A very bored Imp surveyed the grim collection of offal before his bloodshot eyes:

- ♠ 10 9 4
- ♥ 7 5 3 2
- ♦ 10 7 3
- ♣ J 4 2

This was the third successive hand in which he had been dealt such trash. He sprawled in his seat, waiting for the battle-bloodied knight on his left to open the bidding.

"It's your call," prompted Olaf, who sat opposite him.

The Imp proffered a perfunctory Pass. Not only had he to endure these repulsive cards, he had to be reminded that he had dealt them himself.

The knight opened 1NT on the South cards. This may well have been weak. Since Paxacotl had recently called the crusader a coward for failing to open a respectable 14-pointer with the bid, Sir Richard had been more inclined to adhere to his systemic obligations.

Paxacotl, North, considered a variety of auctions which the battered warrior could easily sabotage, and thus decided to end the bidding as quickly as possible with 3NT.

Paxacotl

- ♠ 5 3
- ♥ 6 4
- ♦ 9 4 2
- ♣ A K Q 6 5

Olaf

- ♠ K Q 8 7
- ♥ K Q 10 8
- ♦ A 8 6 5
- ♣ 3

The Imp

- ♠ 10 9 4
- ♥ 7 5 3 2
- ♦ 10 7 3
- ♣ J 4 2

Sir Richard

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

The Wizard led the ♥K. At that moment, the Imp cash a mischievous spell. As dummy was placed on the table, one card disappeared from the view of a now-anxious declarer. Sir Richard, unable to endure the unceasing scorn of the savage Aztec, rued his decision to throw cowardice to the winds. It would appear he must lose at least five hearts and the ♦A. What was that heathen doing, raising to 3NT on 9 HCP? Or had he second-guessed Sir Richard's penchant for opening with a few points to spare?

Glumly, he called for a low heart and followed with the ♥9. Olaf was surprised. A hold-up? From the knight? From J-9-x? With the certainty of an expert card-reader, the Wizard continued with the ♥Q. The speed with which Sir Richard called for a second low heart from dummy caused a small tremor from Olaf and an astonished glance from the Aztec. The Imp looked bored, and even the stolid knight took in the vibrations. Something was wrong. Olaf continued with a third heart and declarer pondered his first discard. The Aztec glared at him irritably, and reached desultorily for a vacant space on the table where his pathetic hearts had been. As he touched the space, the ♥A suddenly appeared before Sir Richard's astonished eyes.

"Do you want this?" enquired the Aztec with more than a hint of sarcasm.

"Er, yes, I do," replied the relieved crusader.

The Imp followed with as close to the expression of an innocent child as his ugly features could emulate, and Sir Richard discarded a club.

Even for Sir Richard, the rest of the play was easy. He cashed the club suit without a problem, discarding two spades from hand, set up two diamonds, conceded a heart and claimed like a veteran.

The Aztec grunted his approval and the Wizard stared at the Imp with malice.

"Imp!" he railed. "Your little prank has allowed the knight to find a rare unblocking play. Unless he withholds ♥A, which he momentarily thought was somewhere else for two rounds, his club suit is blocked and the hand is one trick short. I suspect that the worthy knight will never play another hand as well. And in this place, as you well know, never is a long time."

David Lusk

PUZZLE SOLUTION

1	6	5	3	2	4
2	4	3	5	6	1
3	1	2	4	5	6
4	2	6	1	3	5
6	5	4	2	1	3
5	3	1	6	4	2



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Gordon looked at me as if I were some strange animal in a zoo. "Don't blame me," I said. "According to the Rule of 11, you had to hold the ♣7."

Gordon shook his head. "The Rule of 11 is very unreliable when the 2 is still out," he said. "Anyway, if declarer had held the ♣A2, she would have covered the lead with dummy's ♣10."

Jill caught her partner's eye. "Don't forget that I made the 2 of trumps on the fifth round," she said.

The lunch hour in this part of the building seemed to extend to a full 90 minutes. I was partnering Bill as we picked up our cards for the final hand.

Dealer North ♠ K Q 10
All Vul ♥ J 7 6 4
 ♦ A 8 4
 ♣ K 7 3

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Jill</i>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Bill</i>
	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Against 4♥, West led the ♦Q, which Bill won with the ♦K. Two rounds of trumps left East holding the ♥Q. Declarer now crossed to the ♣K and took a club finesse. Jill won with the ♣Q and made the smart switch to a spade. Dummy's ♠K was topped by the Ace, and Gordon could now cash the ♥Q and exit safely in clubs. Declarer eventually had to finesse dummy's ♠10 and was one down when this failed.

"Can you believe it?" complained Bill. "Four cards wrong."

At last I could spot a chance to impress the lovely Jill. "I think you can make 4♥, Bill," I said. "Suppose you play two rounds of trumps and eliminate the diamonds. Then you can play ♣A, ♣K and another club. If Gordon wins, he can cash the ♥Q, but he will have to lead up to dummy's spades. If, instead Jill wins the third round of clubs and plays a spade, you put up the King. If Gordon wins this with the Ace, he's end-played again. If he doesn't, and the ♠K holds, you can throw him in with the last trump."

Gordon, at least, did seem to be impressed by this. "Hey, if you can talk nested conditional logic like that, you should come and work with us," he said.

The session was over and Bill typed the figures from the scoresheet into his computer. A second or two later the printer clattered something back at him.

"It seems you owe us 17 coffees, Jack," he said. "Three to me, six to Gordon and eight to Jill. As you work so far away, we'd better make it cash."

Gordon bent over to inspect the print-out. "Jill wins the lunch-pot, with seven 2s scored," he announced, "and Jack comes last. Well, you know what that means, Jack."

"My pleasure," I said. I flashed one of my famous smiles in Jill's direction. "We can go to that new Italian restaurant just around the corner. 12 o'clock tomorrow all right for you?"

David Bird & Simon Cochemé, England

9th APBF Open Congress, Perth, Western Australia

Message from the ABF President

The ABF welcomes all bridge players to Perth, Western Australia, for the Joseph Greenfield Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress to be held from the 15th-22nd April 2020.

In the year of the Summer Olympics the APBF holds an Open Congress. This congress is a transnational event welcoming players from all over the world, without limitation as to the number of participants per country. As this event is not restricted to the teams that will represent their countries, but open to all Australian bridge players, save the dates and organise your teams.

I look forward to you joining us at an exceptional venue and sharing my beautiful city.

The best of Bridge to you all.

Allison Stralow



Cottesloe Beach

The Joseph Greenfield
Asia Pacific Bridge
Federation Congress

April 15-22, 2020

SAVE THE DATE
and organise your teams
and/or pairs

Perth Convention Centre

APPLICATIONS INVITED

The SA Bridge Federation is responsible for running the Autumn Nationals Bridge Tournament and is seeking applications from suitably-qualified persons for the role of

Autumn Nationals Tournament Organiser

The appointment will be for a period to be mutually agreed.

The Management Committee of the SABF envisions the suitable applicant will meet the following criteria:

- excellent communication and administrative skills;
- commitment to, and responsibility for, the successful running of the entire tournament, with support and resources from the SABF Management Committee as required;
- knowledge of the form and structure of the event;
- ability to liaise with relevant ABF personnel;
- ability to liaise with and report regularly to the SABF Management Committee, detailing all relevant activities.

A comprehensive Job Description is available.

Applications addressing the Job Description should be forwarded to:

The Secretary
SA Bridge Federation Inc
PO Box 1033
UNLEY SA 5061

or by email to anorris@adam.com.au by **31 January 2020**.

Further details may be obtained from Adel Abdelhamid on 0402 433 674.

RESULTS

CONGRESSES

BRIDGE IN THE CITY CONGRESS

A GRADE

- 1st Rosemary Grund - Anne Harris
- 2nd Wendy Hopkins - John Smith
- 3rd Adel Abdelhamid - Gordon Fallon

B GRADE

- 1st Varn Treleggan - Bronwyn Vale
- 2nd Margaret & Herbert Neumeister
- 3rd Keith Cropley - Ross Grantham

RIVERLAND CONGRESS:

PAIRS: Final

- 1st Chris Nettle - Michael Ward
- 2nd Russel Harms - Phil Markey
- 3rd Paul Hudson - Justin Williams

PAIRS: Plate

- 1st Carolyn & Brian Leach
- 2nd Milton Hart - Neil Welch
- 3rd Therese Demarco - Lori Smith

TEAMS

- 1st HARMS: Russel Harms - Phil Markey, Justin Williams - Paul Hudson
- 2nd LUSK: David Lusk - Therese Demarco, Sue Lusk - Lori Smith
- 3rd FOREMAN: Carole & John Foreman, Sue & Gary Hollands

GAWLER TEAMS

- 1st DE LUCA: Susan Emerson - Attilio De Luca, Margaret Walters - Phil Gue
- 2nd WILLIAMS: Justin Williams - Nic Croft, George Evans - David Parrott
- 3rd BIRD: Sheila Bird - Jon Hunt, Caprice Davey - Marc Deaton

BEST GAWLER TEAM:

- SHILLING: David Shilling - Arthur Davies, Val Paltridge - Mick Koziol

BRIDGE AT BEAUMONT CONGRESS

A GRADE

- 1st Adel Abdelhamid - Attilio De Luca
- 2nd Marilyn Paris - Chris Barnwell
- 3rd Rosemary Grund - Ceda Nikolic

B GRADE

- 1st Margot O'Donnell - Paul Sweeney
- 2nd Anne Henesey-Smith - Tricia Lonn
- 3rd Chris Brady - Moira Smith

C GRADE

- 1st Deborah Cramer - Peter Turnbull
- 2nd Bay Both - Monique Haan
- 3rd Marilyn Chambers - Di Lacy

STATE EVENTS

STATE TEAMS PHASE 2

- 1st HUNT: Judy Hocking - Kevin Lange - Jon Hunt - George Smolanko - Felicity Smyth
- 2nd POPP: Peter Popp - Andy Babiszewski, Paul Hudson - Chris Lorimer
- 3rd HARMS: Russel Harms - Jeff Travis, Phil Markey - Justin Williams, Zolly Nagy - David Middleton

SENIORS PAIRS

- 1st Peter Chan - Jon Hunt
- 2nd Sheila Bird - Felicity Smyth
- 3rd Ingrid Cooke - Tim O'Loughlin



At Loxton, the VNUK team - Monika Vnuk, Owen Teakle, Alice Handley, Meagan Zander - finished 4th in the Riverland Teams, beating many far more experienced teams.



Best Local Pair, Riverland Congress Pairs: Marg Phillips and Grace Altschwager (with Sue Lusk, centre)

COMING CONGRESSES

SABA SWISS PAIRS

Tuesday 31st December 2019

COMING SABF EVENTS

SABF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday 12th December 2019

*** all bridge players welcome, it is not just for Thursday night players ****

State Swiss Individual

Thursday 19th December 2019

Daytime State Teams

starts Wednesday 29th January 2020

Open Trials Final

starts Thursday 30th January 2020

Open Trials Plate

(check calendar for variations to sessions)

Under Life Master Butler

SABF CONTACTS and SABF AGM

The AGM of the South Australian Bridge Federation will be held on Saturday 7th December 2019.

There will be a new Committee elected at the meeting, so this contact list will be outdated.

The next issue of the SABF News (January 2020) will have updated contacts.

President	Adel Abdelhamid	aabdelha@icloud.com	0402 433 674
Secretary	Angela Norris	anorris@adam.com.au	0419 039 782
Treasurer	Paul Walker	pwwalker@gmail.com	0433 397 532
ABF Delegate	Adel Abdelhamid	aabdelha@icloud.com	0402 433 674
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Youth Coordinator	Justin Williams	sayouthbridge@gmail.com	0407 979 610
Autumn Nationals	Jinny Fuss	ANOT.Organiser@gmail.com	0474 074 005
Constitution	Phil Markey		
Ethics	David Cherry		
Appeals	Rex Whitford		
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), Sue Lusk (Bridge Around Adelaide)



Saturday 11 - Thursday 23 July 2020

Interstate Teams Championship: 12 - 17 July

Butler Championships: 18 - 23 July

Some Congress Events will be available



New Venue
Morphettville Racecourse
79 Morphett Road
Morphettville SA

Free parking

Easy access to public transport

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Variety of accommodation within walking distance

For further information, contact
the SA Bridge Federation:

www.sabridgefederation.com.au

