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SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE, CANBERRA



George Bartley,
Australian Under 21 and Under 26 teams



Winners of the National Seniors Teams (left to right):
Ron Cooper (WA), George Smolanko, Zolly Nagy, David Lilley (ACT)



Bertie Morgan (left), George Bartley (right),
Australian Under 26 team



Jill Braithwaite and Ann Axelby,
One Day Novice Teams



Bertie Morgan,
Under 26 team

NATIONAL EVENTS IN ADELAIDE

South Australia is hosting two national championships during 2020.

The Autumn Nationals are held in Adelaide each year, at the Showgrounds.

This year's dates are 30th April to 4th May.

The program includes two days of Open, Women's and Under Life Master (restricted) Swiss Butler Pairs, followed by the Open and Under Life Master Teams on the weekend. The Monday hosts the Open Teams final, plus consolation events (open to all).

The Australian National Championships rotate between 'capital' cities on a 7-year cycle and 2020 sees it being held at Morphettville Race Course from 11th to 23rd July.

The first week's focus is the Interstate Teams Championships, with the second being the Butler Pairs Championships. There are plentiful congress side events for locals (and interested other players) to participate in, with red points and prizes.

The Congress program is on **page 17**, and everyone is encouraged to join in.

SIZZLING SUMMER OF SUCCESS FOR SA

The first event of the national bridge calendar is Youth Week, which is both a 'fun time' for young bridge players and the selection event for the Australian Under 26 team. The SPOONER team – Andrew Spooner – Renee Cooper, Jamie Thompson – David Gue – won the Youth Teams Championship.

The final event of the week is the Youth Butler, which is used to determine the Australian Under 26 team. In first place was the experienced pair of Renee Cooper (WA) with Andrew Spooner (ACT). Second place went to David Gue, playing with Jamie Thompson (Vic). In third place were George Bartley and Bertie Morgan. This means that South Australia has three players in the Under 26 team for the world championships! Congratulations to all three of our youth players, but especially to Bertie who has only been playing bridge for less than two years.

George Bartley will be in Australia's Under 21 team. The Under 16 team for the APBF Congress includes Lincoln and Fletcher Davey, although they were not at Youth Week. Our best wishes to you all.

Ann Axelby and Jill Braithwaite headed to Canberra to play some Novice tournaments in the Summer Festival of Bridge. In the One Day Novice Teams, they paired with two players they had never met before to finish third overall, and top of the "B" field. Well done!

The National Red Plum Life and Non-Life Masters Teams championships combined fields due to small numbers. The BAKAS team, Joanne Bakas – Tassi Georgiadis, Bill Bradshaw – Paul Williamson, finished 5th overall, and 2nd in the "B" field.

In the National Seniors' Teams Championship, the LILLEY team qualified first, and continued their winning ways through the semis and final. LILLEY comprised David Lilley (ACT) partnering Zolly Nagy and George Smolanko playing with Ron Cooper (WA). Zolly and David also won the award for the best 'datums', despite David Lilley being hospitalised on day 1 of the event!

The National Women's Teams qualifying was won by the B. TRAVIS team, closely followed by the L. TRAVIS team. Keeping it all very much in the family, the other two qualifying teams were HAVAS (Elizabeth Havas being Barbara's cousin / Lauren's first cousin-once removed) and SMYTH, consisting of Felicity Smyth, Lauren's stepmother (married to Jeff Travis), and another South Australian – Sheila Bird (no relation to any Travis!).

In the semi-finals, B. TRAVIS defeated SMYTH, and L. TRAVIS

defeated HAVAS. The LAUREN TRAVIS team, Lauren Travis – Sophie Ashton (NSW), Susan Humphries – Jessica Brake (both NSW) prevailed in the final.

Held on the weekend of the Women's and Seniors' final, the TBIB National Open Swiss Pairs saw Mike Doecke, partnered by William Jenner-O'Shea (ex-SA), finish 3rd.

The premier event of the Summer Festival is the South-West Pacific Teams, from which the eight top teams qualify for the National Open Teams. Teams that qualified containing South Australians were:

BUCHEN: Peter Buchen – Terry Brown (both NSW), George Smolanko – George Kozakos (NSW), Ben Thompson (Vic) – Matthew Thomson (NSW)

TRAVIS: Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Kate McCallum (USA) – Axel Johannsson (NSW), Alan Watson – Rick Roeder (both USA)

MARKEY: Phil Markey – Justin Williams, Mike Doecke – William Jenner-O'Shea

BUCHEN chose to play against TRAVIS, which proved a tight battle, with the three-quarter margin being 1.1 IMPs. TRAVIS won the final stanza, winning by a narrow 9.9 IMPs.

Meantime MARKEY was also having a tough battle with JACOB, leading into the final set by 1.9 IMPs! Two poor boards at the end saw JACOB win by 17.1 IMPs.

The HANS team selected to play TRAVIS in the semi-final, with TRAVIS having a luckless first quarter, giving HANS a hefty lead from which TRAVIS never recovered. Once again, Barbara Travis's team lost to a team containing a family member – her brother, Peter Gill. HANS continued on to a comfortable win in the final of the National Open Teams.

While the National Open Teams (final stages) were being played, the "Nearly Time to Pack Up & Go Home Pairs" was won by Therese Demarco playing with Stephen Fischer, with whom she won the Gold Coast Pairs in 2019.

Winners of the National Women's Teams:
Lauren Travis (SA), Susan Humphries, Sophie Ashton,
Jessica Brake (all NSW)



ARTICLES FROM CANBERRA

These articles appeared in Daily Bulletins in Canberra.

GEORGE SQUEEZES A LEMON

(from Youth Week)

George Bartley and Bertie Morgan were opposing Arran Lemon and Sebastian Langdon Macmillan on this hand, where George declared 3NT from the West seat.

<p>♠ K 9 8 6 4 ♥ 9 8 6 4 ♦ J 4 ♣ 4 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 5 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ K 8 5</p> <p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ 8 5 ♣ Q 10 9 7 3</p>	<p>♠ 7 3 ♥ A Q ♦ A 10 9 7 6 3 ♣ A J 6</p>
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North led a low spade, won with the ♠A. South returned a spade to North's King, and another spade was played. Noting the ♥J in his own hand, George discarded the ♥Q on the spade, then ran his diamond suit, coming to this ending:

<p>♠ -- ♥ J 5 ♦ -- ♣ K 8 5</p> <p>♠ -- ♥ K 10 ♦ -- ♣ Q 10 9</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 ♥ 9 ♦ -- ♣ 4 2</p> <p>♠ -- ♥ A ♦ 7 ♣ A J 6</p>
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George led the ♦7 from dummy, and South was squeezed.

If he threw away a heart, George would discard a club from his hand, then cash the ♥A, dropping South's King, and making the rest of the tricks.

If, instead, South discarded a club (especially if they discarded it like a man who didn't want to!) then George could play the ♣K, then the ♣A, dropping the Queen, winning the ♣J at trick 13.

Arran Lemon, for the sake of this article, please please please tell me that you were sitting South and, if it hasn't already happened, welcome to the first bridge article making a squeeze pun of your name. You have a long career of "squeeze pun article titles" ahead of you.

CLUBS TRUMP SPADES

This article, by Jamie Thompson (who played with David Gue), comes from the Bulletins for the recent Australian Youth Bridge Championships, January 2020, in Canberra.

Most players find their Major fit and play it. However, sometimes it pays to look around for a better option. This board appeared in the Pairs Qualifying:

♠ K Q 10 9 7
♥ K

♦ K 9 5
♣ A Q 8 4

♠ 8 5 2
♥ A 10 4 3
♦ J 4 2
♣ 10 7 3

♠ 4 3
♥ Q 9 8 7 6 5
♦ Q 8 6
♣ J 2

♠ A J 6
♥ J 2
♦ A 10 7 3
♣ K 9 6 5

West	North	East	South
	D Gue		J Thompson
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	?		

Jamie's 2♣ response was game forcing, though it can occasionally be a three-card suit. David's raise to 3♣ promised four-card support. Jamie then bid 3♠, confirming three-card spade support, and showing slam interest. David was 'half-interested' in slam so he bid 4♥, "Last Train" - not terminating the auction with 4♠ but showing some interest.

Jamie was happy to bid slam, but he now leapt to 6♣. Why 6♣ instead of 6♠?

Let's take a look:

In 6♠ you must lose the ♥A and, at some stage, there is a diamond loser.

In 6♣ you still lose to the ♥A, but you can draw trumps then use the long spade winners to discard the diamond losers from South's hand, then ruff a diamond.

If the suits split favourably, then a 4-4 fit is often better as the trump suit than a 5-3 fit. Since slam bidding is about finding the slam most likely to make, he opted for the 4-4 fit, knowing that the outside 5-3 fit would provide discards for losers.

DIAMONDS CAN BE A GIRL'S ENEMY

The MARLER team had a tough time in Round 1 of the South-West Pacific Teams against FISCHER – Stephen Fischer – Michael Wilkinson, Leigh Gold – Joe Haffer – with almost a maximum loss.

Di Marler, sitting West, however, was astute enough to convert the 6♥ X contract reached by Ingrid Cooke to 6NT. She feared a diamond ruff at trick 1 and, with good secondary pips in diamonds, this was a success, with two diamond tricks swelling the total in No Trumps to 12. (The doubler was Michael Wilkinson, South.)

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

by John Brockwell

The generally accepted year when the January Congress morphed into the Summer Festival is 1974, when the National Open Teams first came to Canberra. In 1974, a total of 184 people were involved in the NOT. (There was a complete list of all teams provided.)

Of those 184 people, 34 (18.5%) are in attendance 46 years later at this 2020 Summer Festival of Bridge. A full list of names was again provided. Perennial South Australians still attending:

David Lusk
Sue Lusk
Peter Chan
Phil Gue
Gordon Henderson (ex-SA)

These figures are astounding. Bridge truly is a game for life!

BRIDGE FROM THE APOCALYPSE

Rick Roeder (TRAVIS team) wrote this for Bridge Winners, an online bridge forum, on 13th January.

For those of you who have not visited Australia during the Southern Hemisphere's summer, you have missed out – at least until this year.

Australia features two terrific bridge tournaments during the American winter. February's Gold Coast tournament in Queensland is the best tournament I have ever attended. However, the national tournament currently held in Canberra is not shabby.

Alas, a dark cloud (almost literally) hangs over the tournament this year. The bushfires that have devastated Australia over the past six weeks have caused a tragic loss of both human and animal life. The extent of the fires is such that a permanent haze in the capital city has been present during my week here. I was an incredible optimist when I packed my tennis rackets for the trip. It appears quite unhealthy to get significant outdoor exercise. It is not uncommon to spot masks on pedestrians.

While bridge seems trivial compared to the current fire emergency, the extent of the crisis hit home in the first event I played – the Seniors' Teams.

Bizarrely, our team was going to consist of between four and seven members and we were unsure of the exact number until the last minute.

Seven? How is that possible?

One of our prospective team members, Peter Fordham, has been fighting a courageous battle against cancer and was unsure if he could play. We had two other potential team members whose homes were in peril. Those two members had to deal with two issues: Could they find a passable route from the homes? If they didn't want to leave, could they reasonably stay and help fight the fires? At the last minute, those two team members decided to come to Canberra and Peter became our NPC, to the relief of his physician.

As to the bridge itself, playing in Australia is refreshing on many fronts:

1. As some know, I have been fighting to get the Multi 2♦ opening bid reinstated in ACBL national open events over the past decade, to no avail. I am happy that so many employ the Multi here – even the 90-year-olds have no problem playing it or defending against it. I hope that does not reflect on the relative intelligence of Americans compared to Australians.
2. All teams play the same boards in team events. It makes for much more stimulating dinner conversation.
3. In team events, there is a pairs 'datum'. Did you really get dumped by your idiot team-mates? The pairs datum will weigh in.
4. In Canberra, there are two large screens on opposite walls. They show your opponents for the next match. As I detail later, table assignments are unnecessary. (Clever, those Aussies!) (*Rick missed out on the discovery that you can receive your next match information by text too.*)
5. On these screens, during each match, they show the number of boards completed in each match. If your table is behind, time-wise, your completed number of boards is highlighted in red.
6. Australians and Kiwis tend to be pretty friendly.

There is only one element that I find somewhat off-putting. Let's say you commence the event as the #10 seed. Your North-South pair will always sit at Table 10. Suppose you, as Team 10 are playing against Team 9 (or 11), your team-mates are at the adjacent table! (*I pointed out to Rick that it does mean that only half as many people need to move around the room! This speeds up the start of each session. I also teased him – as a mathematician, I thought that would be obvious. Ed.*)

SIGNIFICANT DATES 2020

STATE WOMEN'S TEAM QUALIFYING	Sunday 15th March
STATE WOMEN'S TEAM FINAL	3rd to 5th April
STATE SENIORS' TEAM FINAL	20th to 22nd March
SABA GNOT	starts Thursday 19th March
AUTUMN NATIONALS	30th April to 4th May
ANC + CONGRESS EVENTS	11th to 23rd July
GNOT REGIONAL (non-SABA teams)	Sunday 9th August
GNOT UNDER GRAND	Sunday 23rd August
STATE MIXED PAIRS	Sunday 20th September
STATE SENIORS' PAIRS	Sunday 4th October

TAKING YOUR EYE OFF THE BALL by Barbara Travis

South West Pacific Teams / National Open Teams

I have chosen a selection of hands where someone failed to concentrate to the end of the hand. Just for good measure, all these hands involved Australian international representatives.

Dlr South ♠ 9 2
EW Vul ♥ A J 8 6 5 3
 ♦ Q
 ♣ Q J 7 6

♠ Q 5
♥ K Q 10 4 2
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ 9 4

♠ 8 7 6 4
♥ 7
♦ 8 4
♣ A 10 8 5 3 2

♠ A K J 10 3
♥ 9
♦ A K 7 5 3 2
♣ K

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♦
All Pass			4♣

After South's "brutal" 4♣ rebid, there were some comments about the penalty double of 1♥ as dummy was tabled. The other table had reached a very comfortable 3NT, making 10 tricks. Clearly 1♥ X would have been a bloodbath, though East would have run to 2♣ (Deep Finesse says that North-South can take 9 tricks in clubs!). Regardless, declarer has to knuckle down and make 10 tricks in 4♣.

My partner, Candice Ginsberg, led the ♥K, won with the Ace. Failing to think about the need to retain trump control, declarer played a club towards his hand. I flew with the ♣A, returning a trump to try to limit dummy's ability to trump. Declarer took the finesse to West's Queen. Knowing that declarer held a 5-6 for the bidding, partner opted to shorten declarer's trumps, rather than return her remaining trump. She exited with the ♥Q, so East discarded a diamond, while declarer trumped.

Now a diamond was led to dummy, and the ♣Q cashed, then the ♣J was led, but ruffed by Candice. The defence already had three tricks, and declarer had trump control issues, given he had only 3 spades left (and so did East), but the diamonds were not established!

Another heart forced me to ruff, and South to over-trump (down to 2 trumps). In desperation, he tried cashing the ♦A, but I trumped, then exited with another trump, removing dummy's second trump. Partner took the second undertrick with the ♦J.

The club suit was a red herring in terms of the play of this hand. It was necessary to start working on the diamonds immediately, ensuring the long suit was established before there were any issues with trump control. You are better served to cash the ♦Q at trick 2, then lead a spade from dummy, retaining your trump control. It is probably best to cash the ♠A and ♠K, and when the trump Queen falls, you draw trumps, then establish your diamond tricks.

From the same match, there was this 'book hand' for the defence.

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

My team-mates bid aggressively to reach 6♥, North. East did very well to lead a trump, which meant that declarer could not take any spade ruffs. That meant that he needed clubs to behave to make the contract; specifically he needed clubs to break 3-3 due to lack of entries to dummy.

Axel Johannsson drew trumps in three rounds, then cashed the ♣A, ♣K (discarding one spade) and ruffed a club. The 4-2 break left him one option, though this line required a defensive error. He led his ♦6 towards dummy. The textbook play is for East to play the ♦Q, because his only chance of restricting declarer's entries to dummy is that North holds doubleton K-6 of diamonds. Once the Queen is played, the King denies declarer the extra entry to dummy.

East, an international player, took his eye off the ball, playing a small diamond without enough thought. Axel tried the ♦J, gaining the extra entry. He could now ruff a fourth club, then reach dummy by overtaking his ♦K with the Ace. Dummy's two clubs provided a parking place for two more spade losers. 6 hearts, 4 clubs, 2 diamonds, and a fortuitous slam swing.

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♣	Double	Pass
2♣	2♣	3♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		3♣

On this unusual sequence I was sitting East and playing with Alan Watson, a former Australian who moved to the USA in the late 1970s. I must admit to utter confusion about partner's hand, but I left him in 4♥ regardless. One key issue is that North took a long time to pass over 4♥, and it was most likely that he was thinking of saving.

DOUBLE DELIGHT

Red Plum Life and Non-Life Master Teams

The BAKAS team performed admirably in the Red Plum Life and Non-Life Master Teams in Canberra, finishing 5th overall and 2nd in the "B" field. They submitted this hand – the highlight of the event.

Here's the whole hand:

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

This hand obviously generated some wild swings. Here's what happened in the BAKAS match:

West	North	East	South
<i>Bradshaw</i>		<i>Williamson</i>	
Pass	2♠ (1)	Double (2)	Pass (3)
4♥ (4)	Double (5)	All Pass	

- (1) North's 2♠ showed a 5-5 with spades and a minor. With 7 spades, this hand is clearly unsuited to such an opening bid.
- (2) East's double guaranteed 4 hearts
- (3) South's pass is inexplicable, with a spade void but support for whichever minor partner held!
- (4) West was prepared to try 4♥ with his distributional hand
- (5) Nobody knows why North doubled. Perhaps he thought it showed an interest in bidding again?

North led the ♠J. Bill Bradshaw didn't anticipate the distribution, especially given South's pass of 2♠ X, so he rose with the Ace, ruffed. South tried cashing the ♣A, but couldn't read what signal North was giving with his singleton ♣5, so he continued clubs – but North had no trumps! 4♥ X now made with an overtrick, with all dummy's losers being discarded on West's clubs, +990.

West	North	East	South
	<i>Bakas</i>		<i>Georgiadis</i>
Pass	1♠ (1)	2♥	Pass (2)
4♥	4♠ (3)	Double	All Pass

- (1) Joanne Bakas rightly considered this hand too powerful for a 2♠ opening, so opened 1♠ instead
- (2) I would have made a negative double on South's hand
- (3) Bidding what she is happy to play (though she may have bid 5♦ after a negative double?)

4♠ X was unbeatable, as long as you lead trumps from the top (dropping the ♠9). It makes an overtrick if East-West don't navigate their diamond ruff! +590.

Two doubled games amounted to 1580 and 17 IMPs, and a delighted team.

North cashed two top spades, then shortened partner's trump with a third top spade. Partner led the ♥Q, which won, then the ♥J, which North won with the Ace. He switched to a diamond, won with the Ace. Now declarer led a club to the Ace, in case there was a singleton Queen around, before leading his last heart and overtaking it with dummy's hearts. The trumps had been drawn, and now he had to determine the club position. He led the ♣J but chose to fly with the Ace, going down three tricks.

Given that North had thought about saving, there was some inference available that North had some shape. It is less common to think about saving when holding a 6-3-2-2. Bear in mind, one draws inferences from the auction (and any hesitation) at one's own risk. However, this was an inference that partner should probably have drawn. South was rather grumpy with his partner for potentially revealing the club position (regardless of scoring 300 on the hand), and didn't hold back at the end of the hand!

Despite this result, we gained 4 IMPs on the hand. Somehow, East-West at the other table had allowed 4♠ to make, North-South (and I have no idea how!).

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

West did very well not to lead his singleton diamond, which would have given away the diamond position. With four cards in the trump suit, he decided to try to shorten declarer's trump suit by leading the ♣Q. That was won in hand with the ♣K, a heart was led to dummy's Ace, and the other heart was discarded on the ♥A. Now declarer tried the diamond finesse, and when the Queen held, she took her eye off the ball.

Whereas at Pairs, one would probably cash the ♦A and then try to ruff a diamond in dummy, trying for the important overtrick, at Teams making your contract is the most important job. So, once the diamond finesse won, it was time to lead trumps, ensuring 5 spades, 2 diamonds, 1 heart and 2 club tricks.

Instead, when she led the ♦A, West ruffed, cashed the ♠A and led a second trump, leaving declarer a trick short, because one of her winners had been trumped! The other table had received a diamond lead against their 4♠ X, so played safely for their contract.

Remember what form of the game you are playing. At Teams, making your contract is your objective. At Pairs, making overtricks is an important consideration.

The National Women's Teams and National Seniors' Teams played the same hands, so I looked up my team's results, which were 5♥ X by East, failing by one trick, and 5♣ X by West, failing by one trick.

I opened 4♠ on the basis of the shape. I've since been advised by Margaret Bourke, my partner at the time, that in her experience it is better to open 1♣ because you often miss a fit in the minor. On this hand 7♦ makes if you ruff out East's top spades!

After my 4♠ opening bid, East doubled, but West removed the double to 5♣. With her void in my suit and ♣A, Margaret doubled. I led the ♦A to have a look at dummy, then switched to spades. I tried the ♠J, hoping it had suit preference overtones, but I should have led the ♠K to make it clear to partner that I wanted a heart back. On a heart return, we score the heart ruff, then another spade ruff, taking 5♣ X down 3 tricks, for +500. As it was, Margaret thought I might be short in diamonds, so tried to cash the ♦K, and we ended up with a meagre +100.

Tassi Georgiadis / Barbara Travis



Tassi Georgiadis playing bridge in Canberra

A FASCINATING POSITION

A FASCINATING POSITION – UNBLOCKING TRUMPS STARTING AT TRICK 1

This was one of the articles provided by Mike Lawrence for the ABF's Daily Bridge Column, which ceased at the end of February.

Dealer South ♠ 10 9 8
NS Vul ♥ 8 7 6 2
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ 7 3

♠ A Q 6
♥ A K J 10 3
♦ 8 3
♣ Q J 2

♠ K J 5 4 3 2
♥ 5
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ A K

♠ 7
♥ Q 9 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ 10 9 8 6 5 4

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

One of the things that I recommend you do after a session of bridge is discuss hands. One of the best tools you have is the hand records, if they are available. If you have them, you can often find a gem that would otherwise be lost.

South played in 4♠ X, and West led the two top hearts, South ruffing with the ♠2. South felt that his best line was to get to dummy to take the diamond finesse. Thinking there was a chance that one of the defenders would have a singleton ♠Q, he led the ♠K. West permitted the King to win and South continued spades. West won and switched to the ♣Q. This defence was sufficient to defeat 4♠ because South could not get to dummy to take the diamond finesse.

You can see that leading the ♠K (or ♠J) does not work. The defenders have a simple answer to these plays.

Can you see a play that does work?

Keep in mind that West doubled 4♠ which is a hint that he has spade tricks. The ♠A-Q-x in the West hand is possible. Let's say you ruff the second heart with the ♠2 and lead the ♠3 towards dummy's ♠10-9-8. West doesn't want you to reach dummy so he wins his Queen. He leads another heart which you ruff. What now?

Let's say you ruff the third heart with the ♠4. Your spades now are the K-J-5. If you lead a spade honour, the defence lets you have the trick, again shutting you out of dummy. If you lead the ♠5 instead of an honour, West wins and you cannot reach dummy.

There is a solution that does not immediately come to mind, but which will occur to you some day as a result of seeing this hand. When you ruff those heart leads in your hand, ruff the second one with a spade honour. This allows you to retain two little spades, ensuring that you can reach dummy sooner or later.

Of course, when you finally draw trumps, ending in dummy, you are out of trumps and that means that the diamond finesse had better work. If it does, you make 4♣. If it fails, West gets his diamond honour and also another heart.

Hands like this are annoying for another reason. It may turn out that West has the singleton ♦K in which case all your good work comes to nought. It may turn out that you could have forced your way to dummy with a diamond in order to finesse East out of the ♠Q. Many hands offer various lines and the winning line is not known until the hand is over. Still, the line shown is a good line of play that deserves consideration (because of West's double). If you agree, you have to spot the need to unblock the spade honours along the way.

Mike Lawrence (USA)



NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAMS

The National Women's Teams was won by L. TRAVIS: Lauren Travis – Sophie Ashton, Susan Humphries – Jessica Brake – who defeated B. TRAVIS in the final: Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg – Margaret Bourke, Vanessa Brown – Kate McCallum.

This article is simply about some of the more interesting hands from the tournament.

When my team (B. TRAVIS) won the event in 2019, Vanessa Brown went down in a slam where she relied on a double-finesse (75%), rather than an elimination (100%). This year, she was very pleased to execute two elimination plays in successive matches, both making vital games.

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

Vanessa was West, playing in 4♣. There is one diamond loser, one club loser, so you must ensure that you only have one heart loser. Seeing all four hands, it is easy, because South has the doubleton ♥K. However, why guess if you can make the opponents work the suit for you.

North led the ♦K, followed by another diamond which was ruffed. Vanessa drew trumps and, once they were 2-2, she could see the endplay. She ruffed the third diamond, eliminating the suit, then cashed the ♠A and ♠K, before exiting with the last club.

With trumps (spades) drawn, and diamonds and clubs eliminated from both hands, now whichever opponent won the club had to lead hearts, ensuring you have 2 heart tricks, or give a ruff and discard (where you would discard a heart from East). South won the third club and had to lead a heart, so tried the ♥K, hoping North held the Q-10.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	Double	4♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4NT (1)
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

At my table, my second double as North, showing extra values, saw Candice decide to bid on to the 5-level, confident that we had a fit. Her 4NT bid indicated willingness to play in two suits, so I bid my suits 'up the line', until we found our fit in 5♦.

The ♠A was cashed, then West switched to the ♥7 to East's Ace, and the heart ruff defeated the contract quickly. Since Candice had no entry to her hand, when she led diamonds, the King fell under the Ace, and the club finesse saw the contract go down only one trick.

At the other table:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	Double	4♣	All Pass

West, Vanessa, was left alone in 4♣, so now the onus was on her to make the contract. She had one diamond loser and had to negotiate the club suit to ensure at least one winner.

The lead of the ♥K was won with the Ace, then a heart was ruffed with a high trump, retaining trump entries to dummy. The ♠9 was led to the Queen and a third heart was ruffed. Now a diamond was led, and North had to win the Ace. North had to lead diamonds (or concede a club trick), so East ruffed. The last heart was ruffed, and then the last diamond was ruffed. Now the scene was set for the elimination (or endplay). The situation was this:

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

The lead was in dummy, so Vanessa led a club to her ♣9 and North's ♠10, and North was caught. A diamond lead would give a ruff and discard, but a club lead would give a club trick to West. Contract making, for a healthy swing.

The next hand was a matter of defensive timing, and goes to show that you shouldn't let down your guard even against the 'little' contracts.

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Double	1♣ 2♣ (!)	Pass All Pass

East's 2♣ seems like an underbid, but the ♠K is a tough value to judge.

South, Margaret Bourke, chose an excellent moment to make a passive lead, leading the ♦7 – 4 – Jack – 5. I now cashed the ♦A and ♦K, with everyone following. Assuming that partner held 6 clubs, I didn't stop to think enough, and thought her club suit would do enough damage as it was.

However, what I needed to do was lead a small heart to partner's Ace, receive a heart back to my King, and then I could lead my fourth diamond, promoting partner's ♣9 into a winner – despite East holding the top five clubs!

The key to these defences is to ensure you cash all your winners first before trying for the promotion because, if I had led the diamond at trick 4, East simply discards one of her heart losers instead, so there is no trump promotion.

Barbara Travis

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Juliet Britten-Jones and Kate Hartley:
winners of SABA's February Congress, B Grade

A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

You are playing Pairs (matchpoints) and your partner opens 1NT, showing 15-17 HCP, and you hold:

♠ 8 5 4
♥ A 9 7 2
♦ K 9 4 2
♣ J 3

My question is – do you bid or not? Personally, I would pass 1NT. However, if you do bid 2♣ Stayman, I think you probably pass their 2♥ response too. This hand is NOT a good 8 point hand, and you really should not be too worried about missing game. Admittedly, game will occasionally make, but it will fail more often than not. Pairs is all about ensuring that you get a 'plus' score, rather than pushing for challenging games. Here are the two hands:

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

Nine tricks were the limit of the hand in hearts, and eight in 1NT. A lot of people, including us, were allowed to make 4♥ on the ♠J lead – ducked after North unwisely encouraged – and ♠10 continuation. A club loser could then be discarded by taking a spade finesse through North's known ♠Q.

Now you are on lead against South's 1NT opening bid, holding:

♠ A K 9 5
♥ A K 9 2
♦ 9 3
♣ 8 5 2

You lead the ♥A and see this dummy.

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

You

♠ A K 9 5
♥ A K 9 2
♦ 9 3
♣ 8 5 2

Firstly, you should do your sums. You have 14 HCP and South has 15-17 HCP. Dummy has 7 HCP, leaving a maximum of 4 HCP for partner.

Partner discourages hearts at trick 1, so you try your ♠A at trick 2. On the Ace, partner throws the ♠J. Rather than being discouraging, the Jack should promise the 10. What should you do now? The wisest action is to cash your ♠K. This will either drop declarer's doubleton ♠Q, giving you access to partner's hand and the ♠10, or it will drop your partner's ♠10, making declarer's Queen into a winner, but a third spade will make your ♠9 into a winner. The latter is the situation and you will hold declarer to seven tricks. Stopping overtricks is so important at Pairs. Only five defenders held declarer to seven tricks, and nine allowed the overtrick (some even giving two overtricks!).

The session was full of lead problems (mainly for partner, sitting West). Here's one. You hear this auction and hold the following hand:

West	North	East	South
Pass (?)	1NT	Pass	1♥
All Pass		Pass	2♣

♠ A Q 6 4 3
♥ 6 5
♦ Q J 8 7
♣ 4 3

There's a bit of a kerfuffle before you lead, as North reveals she made the wrong bid initially. Don't let that put you off. What's your lead?

This type of auction, where responder leaves opener in their second suit, indicates a heart shortage. You should be leading a trump automatically, regardless of sequences in 'unbid' suits. Look at what happens on a club lead.

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

On a trump lead, East plays the 10 and declarer wins their King. Now declarer can cash a heart and ruff a heart, but cannot get off dummy easily. West will regain the lead on the (typical) spade to the King and Ace, leading a second club. East can now cash two more rounds of clubs, restricting declarer to 2 heart tricks, 1 heart ruff, 2 clubs in hand, and the ♦A. There may be an additional trick in the wash if the defensive entries become tangled, but it is at least one off.

Look what can happen on a less effective defence. Imagine West leads the ♦Q. Declarer should not duck; they don't want to risk a trump switch! Win the ♦A and lead a spade to the King and Ace. Now declarer has organised their communications for a cross-ruff. If West now switches to a trump, two options exist. East can win the Ace and lead a second trump, with the Jack becoming a winner later – after declarer has won the ♣K, cashed two top hearts, ruff two hearts and ruffed two spades and taken their ♦A (previous winner). That is 8 tricks. Alternatively, East can play the ♣10 and declarer wins the ♣K. Now declarer can cash two top hearts, then cross-ruff three times in hearts and twice in spades (East can then ruff in), together with their diamond and trump winners. That is 9 tricks.

Keep listening to the auction. Keep making the 'right' lead, based on the auction, even if it doesn't prove successful every time. You can't get all your leads right so just work the percentages in your favour.

Your LHO opens 1♥ and the auction is passed around to you, holding:

♠ A 8 2
♥ K J 6
♦ A K 3
♣ K J 6 5

Your 'textbook' bid is 2NT. In the balancing seat, the 2NT bid should not be an Unusual 2NT (showing the minors). That is an illogical use of the bid, because it means that the opponents must have one or both majors. In particular, your partner hasn't been able to overcall with spades, so if you had a 5-5 in the minors it is likely the opponents have a spade fit.

This bid does require partnership agreement and understanding, with Stayman and transfers still applying. However, it makes perfect sense, especially when you think about balancing 1NT bids being weaker (and therefore double-then-NT showing 15+ to 18 HCP). The balancing 2NT bid shows 19-20/21 HCP!

At the table, balancer either didn't know about the balancing bid or forgot it, so doubled then jumped to 2NT, which happened to end happily – sadly for us, as defenders.

One final offering:

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

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

North leads the ♠K which you win with dummy's Ace. You lead a small spade to the ♠7 and North's King. North switches to a heart, and you face a guess. Which heart will you play from dummy? The answer is easy if you have been counting. North passed, and has presumably got 5 HCP in clubs and has shown up with the ♠K. She can't have the ♥A, so try the Jack, forcing out South's Ace. I'll keep nagging – and continue to say, "Count, count, count".

Barbara Travis

JUST BECAUSE: Part I

This article, written by Matthew McManus, is reprinted from the eCongress News, NSW Bridge Association.

There are many situations in bridge where what is conventional wisdom is really not that wise. Quite often, someone says, "so and so told me that..." Quite often the "so and so" is a director, so therefore it must be true! A little more investigation usually shows that the person doing the quoting was relaying what they wanted to hear, not what they were actually told. So, in the interests of trying to shed a little more light, here are a range of "just because" situations.

Just because an opponent claims and there is a trump outstanding, it doesn't mean that you will get an extra trick. There are a range of tests that the director has to use before deciding what the appropriate ruling will be. In many cases, it will result in an extra trick or tricks to the non-claiming side, but it is not automatic.

Just because someone revokes, it does not mean that there will be an automatic two trick penalty. The rules for revoking are quite complex – call the director – make him do his job!

Just because on the hand record Deep Finesse says that partner can make 7NT, it doesn't mean that the hand has been misbid or misplayed when partner only makes nine tricks in 3NT. The Deep Finesse analysis can frequently be 'misleading'. It is based on what you could have done if you could see all four hands.

Just because the players take the cards from the wrong pocket and look at them, it does not mean that you won't be able to play the board. One of two things may have occurred:

1. North took South's cards and vice versa, with East taking West's cards and vice versa. North-South still have the North-South cards and East-West still have East-West's cards. The board is played 'upside-down' and is scored normally.
2. The players take the cards out of the board but it is turned through 90 degrees – West has South's cards, and so on around the table. This is known as an arrow-switched board, and in most cases the director can allow the board to be played this way. Each pair will get the score based on the cards they actually hold and play. This is even though, in normal circumstances, they would have held the other cards. This leads to...

Just because the hands are arrow-switched, it doesn't mean that the result will be unfair to your side. In fact, it will not be unfair at all. You get the result you scored. Some people are incensed, believing that they have been disadvantaged by not getting the right cards. (It may lead to a poor result if the opponents did well on the hand, but that can happen with any cards on any hand.)

Just because you think it is too cold, it doesn't mean that everyone else does. Please remember!

Just because a special agreement is on the system card, it does not mean that you are excused from your responsibility to alert it. For example, if an opponent opens 1NT and your partner overcalls 2♥, which is DONT – showing hearts and spades, you must alert it. You fail to alert and the opponents get into trouble when they end up in a spade contract, assuming your partner holds only hearts. If the director is called, it will be no defence to say, "But it's on the system card." You still have an obligation to alert any agreement which is artificial, because the opponents are not expected to know your system.

Just because an opponent claims without stating a line of play, it does not mean that you can tell them how to play the cards. With five cards remaining, declarer holds this club suit: A K Q J 2 opposite 7 6 5 4 3 and just places their hand face up on the table. You have 10 9 8. You cannot make them play a low club so that you can make a trick.

Just because you expect partner to pass your sign off, you cannot write the contract on your personal scorecard before he has bid!

Matthew McManus

More next edition!

WHAT I LEARNT PLAYING WITH KATE McCALLUM

DEFENDING AGAINST LANDY (OVER OUR 1NT)

7¼ time world champion, Kate McCallum, recently spent a few days in Adelaide. Despite having known each other for 30+ years, we had never played bridge together. Therefore, we headed to the SA Bridge Association on a Thursday night for our first game. This article is what I learnt from our game.

We didn't discuss much system, but she did introduce me to a new method against Landy (2♣ overcall of a 1NT opening). I would highly recommend her methods, having misunderstood them when explained in brief, but now having a better understanding of them.

In summary, after the opposition's 2♣ overcall of your partner's 1NT, this is the structure:

Bid Meaning

- 2♥ A hand with general game interest or game forcing values - like a minor-oriented negative double
- 2♣ A hand that, in general, wishes to compete (no obvious suit) - like a minor-oriented negative double (but weaker than the 2♥ bid)
- 2NT Lebensohl (forcing 3♣ from opener)
- 3-level Game forcing – however you already play
- Double Interest in penalising, 4 cards in at least one major (now all doubles are penalty)
- Pass, then Double Competitive, no obvious suit

We had discussed the double of 2♣ but not the 2♥, 2♣ or pass / double options when this hand occurred. Consequently, we gained a good score from my misapplication of the principles.

Sitting South, I held:

♠ J 8 6
♥ A 10
♦ J 10 2
♣ Q 10 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT (15-17)	2♣ (Landy)	Pass ?

In the absence of full system knowledge, I decided to double, offering partner the chance to penalise. The auction continued:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT (15-17)	2♣ (Landy)	Pass
2♥	Double	All Pass	Double

These low-level penalty double auctions require trump leads, so Kate led the ♥4. Here's the hand:

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

Declarer tried a small heart, and I won the ♥10 to cash the ♥A. (Declarer should have played the ♥J at trick 1, forcing my Ace. Then they have two heart tricks, along with four outside winners, going down two tricks.) We now had declarer three down, but the defence dropped one trick because Kate thought I had four spades for my double. +300 was still a top.

As you can see from the above structure, my double was the 'wrong' action, regardless of the result. After the hand, I asked Kate what I was supposed to do with my middling collection. The system action would be to pass first, then double West's 2♥ bid, showing a hand with borderline values (for game), and no clear-cut bid. Note that the outcome would be the same, 2♥ X, but that partner would not expect me to have length in the majors.

I've never thought of using the 2♥ and 2♣ bids in a useful way after the Landy overcall, so "thank you, Kate".

Barbara Travis



Left to right: Margaret Bourke, Kate McCallum, Barbara Travis, Vanessa Brown, Candice Ginsberg, 2nd in the National Women's Teams. Kate, Barbara and Candice finished 3rd in the National Open Teams.

ACES ON THE ASTRAL PLANE by David Lusk

Reprinted from *Australian Bridge*, October 1994

Paxacotl's lank black hair fell carelessly across his already-sweating brow. He surveyed dummy with some misgivings. Still, this was almost certainly a better slam than those with which he was customarily challenged.

♠ K 9 3 ♥ J 7 5 3 2 ♦ A K Q ♣ A 3	♠ 8 7 6 ♥ 10 ♦ 9 2 ♣ Q 10 9 8 7 6 2	♠ A J 10 4 2 ♥ A K ♦ 10 8 6 5 ♣ K 5	♠ void ♥ J 7 5 ♦ A ♣ void
♠ Q 5 ♥ Q 9 8 6 4 ♦ J 7 4 3 ♣ J 4			
West <i>Fr O'Loughlin</i>	North <i>Mystrala</i>	East <i>Olaf</i>	South <i>Paxacotl</i>
Pass Pass All Pass	2♥ 5NT	Pass Pass	1♠ 3♦ 6♣

The spirit's grand slam force on the North cards immediately caused Paxacotl a twinge of regret. Had he somehow shown a stronger hand than he had? A quick survey revealed that he was, in fact, stronger than usual for such a sequence. Nevertheless, lacking two of the top three honours, he was serving common-sense rather than cowardice in signing off in the small slam over Mystrala's 5NT.

Father O'Loughlin led ♣J. As the Aztec considered the possibilities of a few different lines, a curious thing happened. The wizard on his right had been chatting expansively to a rather sinister kibitzer about his exploits aboard Viking ships as a boy in the early 13th century. As he did so, his hand waved around somewhat. Never averse to a quick peek, Paxacotl caught sight of:

- ♠ Q x (?)
- ♥ Q x x x (?)
- ♦ J x x x
- ♣ (?)

"Thank you, partner," the Aztec's voice reverberated across the table. "I'll have the Ace, please." This was quickly followed by a small spade from the board. Paxacotl confidently inserted the ♠10. To his astonishment and the priest's obvious pleasure, this lost to the ♠Q. Hadn't he just spotted the ♠Q in the East hand? What new treachery was Olaf up to?

Father O'Loughlin continued clubs. Declarer won in hand and drew trumps in two more rounds. Now Paxacotl was forced to decide whether he had fallen for the old trick of placing the ♠Q with the spades before exposing the hand to view, or some real magic whereby Olaf had, in fact, cast a spell which created the illusion that East held West's cards. On the other hand, if either opponent had that holding in the red suits, perhaps the run of the trumps would put that player under intense pressure.

Noting West's discard of a heart on the third round of trumps, South cashed two diamonds from dummy and returned to hand with a top heart, leaving this position after cashing one further round of trumps:

♠ void ♥ Q 9 ♦ J 7 ♣ void	♠ void ♥ J 7 5 ♦ A ♣ void	♠ void ♥ void ♦ void ♣ Q 10 9 8	♠ 4 ♥ A ♦ 10 8 ♣ void
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------

On the last spade, a look of desperate paranoia passed over the priest's countenance. Whichever red suit he unguarded would allow declarer to cash the Ace in that suit and cross to the other hand to collect an established winner.

He elected to part with a diamond. Paxacotl discarded dummy's low heart and crossed to dummy with the ♦A. When the ♦J tumbled down, he claimed, his hand being high.

"Oh, brilliantly played!" squealed Mystrala as she floated towards the firmament in ecstasy.

"Simple, really," countered the Aztec as he fixed Olaf with a malevolent stare. "Once the spade finesse lost, I could practically play it double dummy."

David Lusk



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COMPETITIVE DOUBLES

You are West with the following hand and auction:

♠ A Q 7 6 2
♥ A 5
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ A 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
?			

If South hadn't raised to 3♥, you would have made a long suit trial bid (game try) by bidding 3♦. You could bid 3♠, but this could prove costly if partner has some defensive values, or raises to 4♠ when 3♠ was the limit.

The solution is to double. **This is known as a competitive double and shows interest in game.** It invites responder to bid game, sign off at the 3-level, or pass for penalties.

The use of the competitive double has another advantage; it allows your partnership to bid 3-of-your-suit to play [because you would use the double on hands where you are looking for game]. For example:

♠ K Q 9 8 7 6
♥ 8 5
♦ A J 6
♣ A 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
?			

You want to bid 3♠ to play; you don't want partner to raise to 4♠).

If you play competitive doubles, you simply bid 3♠. If you were interested in playing in 4♠ you would double, so the 3♠ bid says, "Let's play 3♠, and defend against 4♥ - perhaps doubled - if they bid on."

The competitive double works when your side has bid and raised a suit, and the opponents compete at the 3-level, in particular in the suit immediately below your suit (leaving you no space to explore for game). The double will show game interest but the inability to make a game try bid, whereas the bid of 3-of-your-suit will be to play.

Phil Gue



A 4NT OPENING BID

Grr, it's happened again. The 4NT opening bid occurred, but I was away in Canberra. Typical - I still haven't had a 4NT opening bid myself!

I was asked how to bid the following hand:

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

The person who showed me this hand opened 2♣, which is totally reasonable. When partner responded 3♣, they just punted 6♥.

One agreement that works well is that bidding a suit, when showing a positive, shows a decent suit. If that was the case, then opener would have been able to respond 7♥.

The 'easiest' way to bid this hand is to open with 4NT. The 4NT opening bid is an ask for specific aces. The responses are:

<i>Response</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
5♣	No aces
5♦	♦ A
5♥	♥ A
5♠	♠ A
6♣	♣ A
5NT	Any 2 aces

On this hand, you would open 4NT.

If partner responds 5♣ or 5♦ (the ♦A), you would simply rebid 6♥.

If partner responds 6♣, showing the ♣A, you would rebid 7♥. Should partner respond 5NT, showing two aces, you just bid 7NT, knowing you have 13 top winners.

Here's the actual hand:

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

Partner responds 6♣ and now you can bid 7♥.

One of the additional benefits of starting with 4NT is that the opponents are less likely to be able to interfere with your auction, which can make it more challenging to elicit the desired information from partner.

Bear in mind that whenever you use the 4NT opening, you must be willing to play at the 6-level if partner shows the ♣A, so the bid is not suited to this hand:

♠ 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 7 6 5 4
♦ 2
♣ void

Barbara Travis

RESULTS

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STATE TEAMS FINALS

FINAL

HARMS *defeated* POPP

HARMS: Russel Harms - Jeff Travis, Phil Markey - Justin Williams, David Middleton - Zolly Nagy

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Finish: approx. 5.15pm



\$50 per person (\$100 per pair)
includes the two-course Christmas lunch



Barbara Travis

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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

COMING CONGRESSES

GAWLER PAIRS CONGRESS	Sunday 8th March 2020	Gawler
SABF's TEAMS OF 3 WITH AN EXPERT	Sunday 29th March 2020 (afternoon)	SABA
GOLDEN BUNNY TEAMS	Good Friday, 10th April 2020	Mitchell Park
SABA RESTRICTED CONGRESS	Sunday 17th May 2020	SABA
ROTARY PAIRS	Sunday 31st May 2020	SABA
BEAUMONT's CHRISTMAS IN WINTER	Sunday 21st June 2020	Mt Osmond
BAROSSA CONGRESS:		
PAIRS	Saturday 27th June 2020	Tanunda
TEAMS	Sunday 28th June 2020	

COMING SABF EVENTS

Women's Trials Qualifying	Sunday 15th March 2020
Seniors' State Team Trials	Friday night 20th March to Sunday 22nd March 2020
Women's State Team Trials	Friday night 3rd April to Sunday 5th April 2020
GNOT Qualifying (SABA)	from Thursday 19th March 2020
Autumn National Championships	Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2020
State Swiss Butler	from Thursday 7th May 2020



ADELAIDE



South Australian
Bridge Federation Inc



Autumn Nationals 2020

Ridley Centre, Wayville Showgrounds

Thursday 30 April & Friday 1 May – Swiss Pairs
(Open, Women, Under Life Master)

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May – Teams
(Open, Under Life Master)

Monday 4 May – Consolation Teams and Pairs
(and Teams final)

All events attract Gold masterpoints
PQPs awarded in all events except Consolation and Under Life Master

Entry fees: Pairs \$280, Teams \$560
(Discount where entry fee paid in full in one transaction by credit card or EFT by 1 April)
Consolation \$15 per player

Tournament Organiser Jinny Fuss
04 740 740 05
AutumnNationals@gmail.com

See website for full details – www.abfevents.com.au/events/anot/2020

Not comfortable with computers or the Internet? Just ring Jinny

ANC 2020 - Programme

Events Available for SA Players to Enter

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Entry Fee</u>
Sat 11.07.2020	Paul Lavings' Bridgegear - Welcome Swiss Pairs - Open and Restricted	9.30am & 1.30pm	\$60 per pair
Sun 12.07.2020	SABA Teams Challenge	9.30am & 1.30pm	\$120 per team
Mon 13.07.2020	Bridge at Beaumont Pairs	9.30am & 1.30pm	\$30 per pair/session
Tue 14.07.2020	Bird in Hand Pairs	9.30am & 1.30pm	\$30 per pair/session
Wed 15.07.2020	Glennelg Bridge Club Pairs	9.30am	\$30 per pair
Wed 15.07.2020	Bridge in the City Pairs	1.30pm	\$30 per pair
Thu 16.07.2020	ANC Victory Dinner	7.00pm	\$100 per person
Sat 18.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Stage 1	10am	\$300 per pair
Sat 18.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Restricted Day 1	10am	\$230 per pair
Sun 19.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Stage 1	10am	Included above
Sun 19.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Restricted Day 2	10am	Included above
Mon 20.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Women - Stage 1	10am	\$260 per pair
Mon 20.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Seniors - Stage 1	10am	\$260 per pair
Mon 20.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Stage 2	10am	\$480 per pair
Mon 20.07.2020	ANC Swiss Pairs A - Day 1	10am	\$180 per pair
Tue 21.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Women - Stage 1	10am	Included above
Tue 21.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Seniors - Stage 1	10am	Included above
Tue 21.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Stage 2	10am	Included above
Tue 21.07.2020	ANC Swiss Pairs A - Day 2	10am	Included above
Wed 22.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Women - Stage 2	10am	\$240 per pair
Wed 22.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Seniors - Stage 2	10am	\$240 per pair
Wed 22.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Stage 2	10am	Included above
Wed 22.07.2020	ANC Swiss Pairs B - Day 1	10am	\$180 per pair
Thu 23.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Women - Stage 2	10am	Included above
Thu 23.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Seniors - Stage 2	10am	Included above
Thu 23.07.2020	ANC TBIB Butler Pairs - Stage 2	10am	Included above
Thu 23.07.2020	ANC Swiss Pairs B - Day 2	10am	Included above
Thu 23.07.2020	ANC Butler Pairs Drinks & Presentation	5pm	Complimentary

SA players are eligible to participate in all of the above events at the ANC in 2020.
Events in Red type offer Red Masterpoints, those in Black offer Gold Masterpoints.



QUIZ NIGHT

Hosted by
Lauren Travis

**BYO food and
drinks**

Maximum 10
people per team

**Enter by
March 16**

Bring gold coins
for side games!



MARCH 21

**7PM FOR
7.30 START
\$10 PP**

Fundraiser to assist with costs
of playing in the Australian
Women's Bridge Team at the
Asia Pacific Bridge Federation
Championships in Perth in April

**AT ADELAIDE
BRIDGE CENTRE**

Level 3
Abergeldie House
548 Portrush Road
Glen Osmond

CONTACT LAUREN | 0449 692 325 | LAURENCT@GMAIL.COM