

January 2020

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SABF COMMITTEE

The SABF's AGM was held on Saturday 7th December 2019. Adel Abdelhamid stood down as President and Barbara Travis is the new President. Many thanks to Adel for his years of work, ensuring that the SA Bridge Federation is equipped to face the future. He will continue as President Emeritus and also as Organiser of the ANC, Adelaide, 2020.

President	Barbara Travis	barbara.travis@hotmail.com	0437 919 928
Secretary	Angela Norris	anorris@adam.com.au	0419 039 782
Treasurer	Paul Walker	pwwalker@gmail.com	0433 397 532
ABF Delegate	Barbara Travis	barbara.travis@hotmail.com	0437 919 928
Tournament Convenor	David Anderson	revoke1@live.com	0403 278 754
Education & Training	Jill Allanson	ejallanson@bigpond.com	0417 875 822
Director Development	<i>new Committee: pending</i>		
Finance	Paul Walker	pwwalker@gmail.com	0433 397 532
Newsletter	Barbara Travis	barbara.travis@hotmail.com	0437 919 928
Youth Development	Justin Williams	sayouthbridge@gmail.com	0407 979 610
Bridge in Schools	<i>new Committee: pending</i>		

ORGANISERS:

Autumn Nationals	Jinny Fuss	ANOT.Organiser@gmail.com	0474 074 005
ANC Organiser	Adel Abdelhamid	aabdelha@icloud.com	0402 433 674

Committee Members: David Gue (Adelaide Bridge Centre), Peter Teubner (Glenelg), Jill Allanson (Barossa), David Anderson (Bridge in the City), Dianne Marler (Beaumont), Adel Abdelhamid (SABA), Moira Smith (Gawler), John Elliott (Alexandrina), Jim Coffey (Whyalla), Sue Lusk (Bridge Around Adelaide). [*pending: SABA and Christies Beach*]

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 16, and everyone is encouraged to join in.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (2019)

The SA bridge community has enjoyed another solid year regarding session attendance and membership, as demonstrated by exceeding the budget for 2018-19. The year started with an estimated budget deficit of \$8,800 but we finished the year with a deficit of less than \$2,300.

Expenses for new items included the purchase of new cards, BridgeMates and new plastic boards, costing around \$8,300, with some funds being drawn from our Equipment Provision.

The Committee has achieved significant progress in the areas of succession planning, behaviour management, bridge software applications and coaching for women players. This progress was demonstrated by:

1. David Anderson documenting the procedures for his current tasks and explaining them to Rex Whitford, who can now act as back-up for David.
2. Development and approval of position descriptions for Autumn Nationals Tournament Organiser and Floor Manager.
3. Appointing Rex Whitford as Technology Officer.
4. Developing the Ethics Committee charter and selecting David Cherry (Chair), Russel Harms and Mark Jappe as committee members.
5. Delivery of successful coaching sessions to more than 70 women players.

The SA Bridge Federation has successfully delivered the standard yearly activities including:

1. Organising the Autumn Nationals – special thanks to Jinny Fuss.
2. Sending State Teams to the ANC – winning the Open Teams and reaching the final in the Youth Teams.
3. Organising all State events – special thanks to David Anderson.
4. Providing coaching to both the Youth and Women's Interstate Teams – thank you to all participating experts and to David Parrott for organising.
5. Organising Directors' and Bridge Teachers' training – special thanks to David Parrott.
6. Publishing interesting Newsletters – special thanks to Barbara Travis.

With a look to the future, I recommend the new SABF Management Committee continues the necessary planning and actions to meet our constitutional obligations, and to further develop the game of bridge in South Australia. The particular areas of interest are:

1. Broadening the base of youth players and implementing a structures development program to current youth players.
2. Attracting and training more Directors.
3. Defining the criteria to select suitably qualified candidates to join the ABF Council and the ABF Management Committee.

I would like to thank all members of the Management Committee for their support during the year. Special appreciation goes to John Zollo, Angela Norris and Paul Walker for their unconditional support to me and to the SABF.

Adel Abdelhamid
President
AGM 7th December 2019

CONSIDERED DEFENCE

Jon Hunt and Peter Chan won the State Seniors' Pairs Championship, held in November. Jon has provided this example of solving a defensive problem at the table.

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♥ (1)
Pass	3♠ (2)	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

- (1) Transfer to spades
- (2) Minimum hand, promising 4 spades

Dummy

♠ K Q 8 7 2
♥ J 9
♦ 10 9 7
♣ K 7 4

You

♠ 6 5
♥ K 7 6 2
♣ K 3 2
♦ Q J 10 6

You have an obvious lead of ♣Q. Declarer wins with the Ace. Partner contributes a less-than-encouraging spot card.

After drawing the outstanding trumps with the ♠A and ♠K (partner following with the ♠3 and the Jack), declarer runs the ♥J to your King, your partner following with a card that shows an odd number of hearts.

What next? The question is whether you should continue with another club or switch to a diamond.

Ask yourself, what do you know about the hand. What cards can you place in declarer's hand?

High cards: Counting the hand, you have 9 HCP as does dummy. With 15 or 16 HCP in declarer's hand, you can hope for about 6 or 7 HCP with partner. So far, you have seen the ♣A and ♠A from declarer so that leaves a further 7 or 8 HCP for their (minimum) 1NT bid.

Clues from the play? The choice now is whether to, somewhat passively, continue with another club hoping to establish a club trick for the defence or to make an attacking switch to a diamond. Why has declarer played the hearts? There are two possibilities. Firstly, declarer is trying to establish an extra heart trick on which to throw one of dummy's losers, holding perhaps ♥A-Q-x-x or similar. The other possibility is that declarer is simply delaying taking a diamond finesse hoping you might help out and switch to diamonds yourself. Leading a diamond into declarer's ♦A-Q would look very silly!

Often in such situations, where there are various possibilities, it pays to take an Occam's Razor approach; that is, the simplest explanation is most likely to be true. In this case, declarer is setting up a heart trick for a pitch from dummy. If shedding a club loser is declarer's aim, then the defence is already too late. However, if declarer is aiming to discard a losing diamond then the switch is required immediately. [*This gives declarer the ♥A-Q, so you can count 14 HCP. Ed.*] This was the case here.

Peter Chan found the necessary diamond switch to give us 94% for an equal top. Only one other of the 10 defenders in the field managed to gather their four tricks against a spade contract, given the same lead.

Jon Hunt

GRAND NATIONAL KNOCKOUT TEAMS

The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is an Australia wide event to select the 60 teams who attend the National Final, a 4-day event at the end of November in Tweed Heads.

The Final comprises a two-day qualifying, where each match is a knockout, with a Swiss repechage teams which the defeated teams drop into, generating two teams to play a repechage against the losing 'quarter-finalists'. The winners head into semi-finals against the remaining two undefeated teams, leading to a full-day final.

While the semi-finals are being played, there is a one-day Swiss Pairs Championship with medallions for winners, plus the best-performing pairs in the Rural, Provincial and Metropolitan classifications, available for all GNOT participants.

The entry fee for each South Australian team is paid by the SA Bridge Federation, with airfares to Tweed Heads being paid by the ABF. Gold points are awarded for Club, Regional and National Finals.

At this year's GNOT, there were four South Australian teams:

ADELAIDE 1:

Phil Markey – Russel Harms, Zolly Nagy – Justin Williams

ADELAIDE 2:

Nic Croft – Joe Haffer, Mike Doecke – David Parrott

ADELAIDE 3 (Under Grand):

Ken Nixon – Roy Shulz, Libby Abbot – Di Dunne

SA PROVINCIAL (non-SABA):

Jarrad Dunbar – David Gue, Bertie Morgan – George Bartley

Our South Australian teams have a history of performing rather well, although in recent years various Sydney teams have proved dominant:

In 2013, ADELAIDE 1 defeated ADELAIDE 2 in the final – a fantastic effort.

In 2014, ADELAIDE 1 lost the final to SYDNEY 2.

In 2015, ADELAIDE 1 lost the final to SYDNEY 1.

In 2016, ADELAIDE 2 lost in the semi-finals to SYDNEY 1 team.

In 2017, ADELAIDE 1 lost one semi-final, and ADELAIDE 2 lost the other semi-final.

In 2018, ADELAIDE 1 was steaming along, but lost in the last knockout round, then lost in the repechage.

This year's results were not quite as successful, although I'm sure all participants enjoyed the experience.

ADELAIDE 1: Lost in Knockout Round 3

ADELAIDE 2: Lost in Knockout Round 4

ADELAIDE 3: Lost in Knockout Round 1

SA PROVINCIAL: Lost in Knockout Round 2

GNOT SWISS TEAMS (top 2 to the repechage match):

ADELAIDE 1: 4th

ADELAIDE 2: 8th

ADELAIDE 3: 54th

SA PROVINCIAL: 29th

In this year's final, SYDNEY 2 (Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, Sartaj Hans – David Beauchamp) had a resounding win over CANBERRA 2 (Jodi Tutty – Stephen Fischer, Bill Tutty – Tony Marker).

The dates for this year's qualifying events in South Australia are listed under "Significant Dates" (page 4).

From the GNOT final, here are a couple of hands of interest. Firstly, would you and your partner be able to bid this grand slam?

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

At one table:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1♣	3♥	4♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

At the other table:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3♣	Pass	4NT (1)
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♣ (2)
All Pass			

(1) Using Roman Key Card Blackwood with a void is not recommended, because

(2) Bidding 7♣ remained a 'guess'.

My partner showed me this hand and asked what I would bid over the 3♣ opening. Her suggestion was to bid 5NT, the old-fashioned Grand Slam Force, asking partner about the quality of the agreed trump suit. This would work on the hand, since partner should obviously rebid 7♣ with solid clubs.

I responded that I would open the North hand a Gambling 3NT, showing a solid 7-card minor suit, with no Ace or King outside – per our agreement. Obviously, with the South hand, one could just bid 7♣ over a Gambling 3NT opening bid!

The other hand involves defending a game contract, and the difference an opening lead can make.

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

One table had this sequence:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥ (1)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

(1) An overbid opposite a passed partner. There is no suit that is a source of tricks.

West led the ♠10 which ran to declarer's King. A heart to dummy's Queen won, and the ♦K was led to West's Ace. Now West tried a club – Queen – King. The last diamond was ruffed. Declarer led a second heart, and now the defence should have prevailed, drawing two rounds of trumps, then leading diamonds. Dummy was out of trumps, so declarer would have to ruff with their last heart and West would have trump control. A defensive error allowed declarer home.

At the other table, the auction was beneficial for West's lead 'problem' against 4♥:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2♣ (nat)
Double	Redouble	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double (t/out)	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

With the decent trump length and her partner's diamond bid, Sophie Ashton, from the winning team, opted for the attacking lead of the ♦A. Her enterprise was rewarded by way of dummy's singleton King. She was now able to start forcing the declaring side's trumps at trick 2, with the ♦Q lead. Having ruffed in dummy, declarer followed the much the same course as the other table – a spade to the King, a heart to the Queen, then the ♣A and a club to the Queen and King. Now declarer tried the ♥K which West won, drawing another trump. Again, dummy was out of trumps, so West simply continued diamonds, taking out declarer's last trump. Sophie now had trump control and the contract went down 3 tricks, 300, and 14 IMPs.

Deep Finesse says the contract can always make, but declarer has to pick the heart suit. It does, however, demonstrate two essential elements to successful defence:

1. Keep counting. At the first table, West took her eye off the ball, not realising that she could use diamonds to draw declarer's last trump. You must count the trumps even when you are defending.
2. When you have 4 good trumps, the general principle is to lead a long suit rather than a short suit. The idea is to force declarer, thereby gaining trump control. After the takeout double, the lead of the ♦A became a little easier, and West did gain trump control, just as hoped.

Barbara Travis

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.

SIGNIFICANT DATES 2020

STATE WOMEN'S TEAM TRIALS QUALIFYING	Sunday 15th March
STATE WOMEN'S TEAM TRIALS FINAL	3rd to 5th April
STATE SENIORS' TEAM TRIALS 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 MASTER	Sunday 23rd August
STATE MIXED PAIRS	Sunday 20th September
STATE SENIORS' PAIRS	Sunday 4th October

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S and SENIORS' TEAMS PLAYOFF

WOMEN'S PLAYOFFS

Five of the eight teams included South Australians (one in each of those teams): HOFFMAN, TRAVIS, PITT, SMYTH, REYNOLDS.

QUARTER-FINALS

HOFFMAN	323.1	defeated	COLES	313
TRAVIS	306.1	defeated	REYNOLDS	210
COOPER	304.1	defeated	SMYTH	239
PITT	288.1	defeated	J-O'SHEA	241

Until three years ago, 64 board matches were played. However, several Open team players were advocates for longer matches for the Playoff events, insisting that 128 board matches (as played) would generate the 'correct' winner. (And in the Seniors', this year they finally played 128 board matches rather than 96 board matches.) See how the length of the matches would have impacted the results.

After 64 boards (halfway):

HOFFMAN	173.1		COLES	154
COOPER	117.1		SMYTH	154
PITT	135.1		J-O'SHEA	131

After 96 boards:

HOFFMAN	249.1		COLES	242
COOPER	212.1		SMYTH	200

SEMI-FINALS

HOFFMAN	396.1	defeated	PITT	179
<i>(conceded after set 7)</i>				

TRAVIS	284.1	defeated	COOPER	262
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After 96 boards:

TRAVIS	196.1		COOPER	200
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FINAL

HOFFMAN (npc)
 Sophie Ashton – Lauren Travis, Jessica Brake – Susan Humphies, Marianne Bookallil- Jodi Tutty
 TRAVIS
 Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Elizabeth Havas – Diana Smart, Rena Kaplan – Giselle Mundell

HOFFMAN	301.1	defeated	TRAVIS	268
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SENIORS' PLAYOFFS

George Smolanko, LORENTZ team, was the only South Australian playing amongst the six teams.

QUARTER-FINALS

LORENTZ	306.1	defeated	WATERS	274
REYNOLDS	318	defeated	ROBINSON	246.1

After 64 boards (halfway):

LORENTZ	139.1		WATERS	174
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After 96 boards:

LORENTZ	222.1		WATERS	233
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SEMI-FINALS

BRAITHWAITE	272.1	defeated	REYNOLDS	180
<i>(conceded after set 7)</i>				
LORENTZ	242	defeated	THOMSON	221.1

After 64 boards:

LORENTZ	74		THOMSON	152.1
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After 96 boards:

LORENTZ	146		THOMSON	202.1
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Lorentz proceeded to score 63-17, then 33-2 to win comfortably!

FINAL

LORENTZ	319	defeated	BRAITHWAITE	269.1
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Clearly, this year's Women's and Seniors' Playoffs wanted to demonstrate that these longer matches are, in fact, more suited to generating the national team. In both events there would have been one different finalist, let alone different semi-finalists.

Congratulations to both the winning teams, and to each South Australian winner – Lauren Travis (Women's Team), George Smolanko (Seniors' Team). Since the trials, the location and dates for the world championships have been announced - Salsomaggiore, Italy from late August. We wish them all the best for these events later in the year.

Here is an interesting hand from the Semi-Final:

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

This was the auction at my table:

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

- (1) The 3NT opening bid, a Gambling 3NT, showed a solid 7-card minor with no Ace or King outside.
- (2) North's double showed values, suggesting partner should bid.
- (3) My 4♣ bid was 'pass or correct', escaping from 3NT (and assuming partner held clubs).
- (4) South's double showed values.

When West showed diamonds, it seemed likely that North-South had game in hearts or clubs, so I saved in advance with the 5♦ bid. (Interestingly, the game that makes is 4♣, according to Deep Finesse.)

North cashed the ♣A, then switched to a diamond, to restrict dummy's ability to ruff. Candice Ginsberg could now make only 10 tricks – 7 diamonds, 2 club ruffs and the ♥A.

Our team-mates played in 5♠ X, which went down 1 after the ♥A lead, followed by a spade, ruffed.

In the other Women's match, North-South failed in spade contracts (4♠ and 5♠), though 4♠ can make.

In the Seniors' semis, one pair went down in 5♠ by South but the other three North-Souths 'failed' defensively. Admittedly, the pair who doubled 4♦ were never going to defeat the contract, but two pairs allowed 5♦ to make, one doubled. Each North led the ♠A, but clearly they did not appreciate the need to limit West's ruffing options. With no trump switch, West was able to trump all three remaining clubs in dummy, making 11 tricks.

In my semi-final, we played four sessions against a pair playing Moscito, a strong 1♣ system with transfer opening bids (i.e. 1♦ showed at least 4 hearts, 1♥ showed at least 4 spades, 1♠ promised both Majors and 1NT denied a 4-card Major, all being fewer than 15 HCP). It's a very active system, with a lot of relay sequences, but our opponents knew their system thoroughly and provided comprehensive explanations.

I sat East with

♠ K 9 6
♥ K Q 3
♦ A K 9
♣ 7 5 4 2

and heard my RHO open 1♦, showing 4+ hearts and 10-14 HCP. Naturally I overcalled 1NT and the auction proceeded:

West	North	East	South
	1♦ (hearts)	1NT	Pass
2♥ (spades)	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass (1)	Pass

(1) With such a balanced hand shape and good heart stopper, passing 3NT is obviously the superior option (despite those poor clubs).

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

Sitting West, Candice also knew that she held too many hearts, and offering 3NT had to be a wise action. 3NT was a fine contract, regardless of the lead. As it happened, South chose to lead a club, won in dummy. With South seemingly holding the ♠A, the other points were marked with North. I led a small spade from dummy, drawing the Jack and King – winning. A spade return was ducked to North's Ace. She tried the ♦Q, but nothing could now damage the contract.

Trying to separate my hand from dummy, the opponents went to bed with the ♥A, so I made 11 tricks. This was only a small gain, when our team-mates took the phantom sacrifice in 5♦ X over 4♣. 4♣ fails by one or two tricks, given the club ruff and, also, South's ability to ruff a heart (which would have happened at our table had we played in 4♣).

At most tables, North opened 1♦. This led to several 4♣ contracts. The other Women's semi-final saw 4♣ make on a

trump lead, but fail on a diamond lead. In the Seniors' semi-finals, both matches saw 13 IMP swings. One East played in 3NT making, with their counterparts going down two tricks in 4♣ by West on the club lead. The other match saw 4♣ by West fail on the club lead, and 4♣ by East make on a trump lead... I guess North didn't switch to their club?

Personally, I would not lead a trump on this South hand. It is weak, making more attacking options attractive, since partner will have values.

Here is a hand to test your declarer play:

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

You are playing in 6♣, West, after your RHO has overcalled spades, and LHO has made a weak jump raise, showing 4 spades. LHO leads a spade which you trump. This hand screams "strip and endplay" to me. Cash the ♣K, then cross to dummy with the ♠A and trump another spade. Trumps broke 2-1 with South having 2 clubs. Now cross to dummy with the ♦K to ruff a third spade. You can even cross to dummy with the ♦Q to trump the last spade, North following each time. Cash the ♦A, South following. You now know South started with 5 spades, 3+ diamonds, 2 clubs, leaving them with 2 or 3 hearts. Cash your ♥A, and lead another heart towards dummy's Queen.

You have come to this situation:

♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ 3 2	♥ Q 9
♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ Q	♣ 3

If North plays low, play the ♥Q and hope. You may have found South with a 5-2-4-2 hand shape, in which case South will be endplayed. If they have the doubleton heart King, now they have to return a diamond or spade and you will get a ruff and discard for your heart loser. On the other hand, North may hold the ♥K, so your contract makes.

On such hands, it always pays to give yourself a back-up plan in case the critical honour is placed poorly. On this hand, South did hold a 5-2-4-2 so your endplay would work (except North held the ♥K all along).

How would you play 3NT on these hands and this auction?

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

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

(1) At favourable vulnerability, showing 5 spades + 4+ card minor, less than opening hand

(2) Showing values (Lebensohl)

North led the ♣4 to South's King, the ♣10 was covered by the Queen and Ace, then North cashed the ♣J and led another club to you. You have 2 spades, 3 hearts, 1 diamond and 1 club trick.

At the table, declarer crossed to dummy's ♥A to finesse the ♠J. The finesse worked, but declarer had no way to the extra

winner in dummy.

Therefore, this line was flawed; rather, you need extra tricks from the diamond suit. In addition, it is important to use the information from the auction. You already know that South is 5-4 in the black suits from the auction then play. Therefore, it is best to cash the ♥K then cross to the ♥A. When South follows to two rounds of hearts, you must play for South to have a diamond honour. They have at most two diamonds, so lead the ♦J and finesse. North wins the Queen, but is endplayed (a bonus). A diamond repeats the finesse. A spade gives you a free finesse. A heart leads from the J-6 into your Q-9.

Regardless, you will now cash your ♦A and drop South's King, making 9 tricks. It was all about counting the distribution of South's hand, based on listening to the auction.

♠ 3 2
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ Q 4 2
♣ A J 7 4

♠ K J
♥ K Q 9 7
♦ A 8 5
♣ Q 9 8 2

♠ A 9 6 2
♥ A 5 4
♦ J 10 9 7 3
♣ 3

♠ Q 10 8 7 5
♥ 10 8
♦ K 6
♣ K 10 6 5

Lauren is writing an article about the finals for the ABF Newsletter, so I'll leave some hands for you to read about there. They outplayed us in the final. I hope their success continues at the world championships.

Information on a **fundraising Quiz Night** that she plans to hold (for playing in the Australian Women's Team at the Asia Pacific Bridge Congress in Perth) can be found on page 18 (back page). If you enjoy a well-organised Quiz Night, find a group of friends and book in!



Joanne Bakas and Tassi Georgiadis, winners of SABA's New Year's Eve Congress, A Grade - which supported the Bushfire Appeal

SAFETY FIRST (Playing Teams)

Most of us at our clubs play the majority of sessions at Match Pointed Pairs (Duplicate Pairs). With this form of scoring, unless we have reached a very good game or slam contract unlikely to have been bid by the rest of the field, we aim for as many tricks as possible. So, when we do play teams, there is a danger that we play on 'autopilot' and don't change our strategy. Teams is all about safety of the contract first.

Here is a simple example that came up in England in a Teams tournament.

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

Dummy

Declarer

6NT

2NT

Pass

South led a small diamond. Plan your play before reading on.

This is quite a good contract. Instinctively, one would immediately go for a maximum score by taking the club finesse, hoping for K-x on your right, and that's exactly what the declarer did.

However, this line is "Pairs autopilot". A careful count of your tricks will tell you that you only need 4 club tricks if the spade finesse is working. So, playing Teams, you should take the spade finesse first. If it loses, you need the club suit to behave, so then you take the club finesse. If it wins, you can make a safety play in clubs by cashing the Ace first, in case there is a singleton King on your left (6% of the time). Then you cross to dummy to lead towards the Queen.

Matches are often won or lost by such small chances. Who cares about missing a 1 IMP overtrick in a slam contract.

During the World Teams Championships in September 2019, this slam hand arose.

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

East was playing in 6♠ on the ♦ 2 lead. This contract was iron-clad as long as the spades did not break 4-0.

The American declarer won in dummy, crossed to hand with the ♥K and led the ♠10. When South played a low spade, declarer took the safety play of allowing for South to have all 4 spades – running the 10. On this occasion, North won with the Jack, but now the top two trumps could draw the remaining spades if they were 3-1. The contract made, for 980.

The English declarer won the opening lead, then cashed the ♠A, which is perfectly reasonable when playing Pairs but entirely unsafe when playing Teams. If South had held all four trumps (Q-J-7-4) she had just exposed herself to two trump losers. Her coach, who was commentating, said, "The English declarer should be shot" – harsh but true.

She risked her contract (14 IMPs) for the overtrick (1 IMP).

Her line was perfectly sensible at Pairs where you would try for as many tricks as possible, but at Teams the safety of the contract is paramount.

WAS THERE A BETTER LEAD? by Barbara Travis

♠ J 10 4
♥ 6
♦ 8 7 5 4
♣ K Q 7 3 2

♠ 7 3 2
♥ A Q 9 5 3 2
♦ A
♣ 9 8 4

♠ A K 8
♥ K J
♦ K Q J 9 6 2
♣ A J

♠ Q 9 6 5
♥ 10 8 7 4
♦ 10 3
♣ 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Penny Bowen</i>		<i>Barb Travis</i>	
	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	7NT	All Pass

Whilst many players like to play an automatic 2♦ response to 2♣ opening bids, I like to have natural positive responses when responder holds a good suit. After all, you've already lost a level of bidding to the 2♣ opening bid, so you don't want to have to start describing your hand at the 3-level after some suit (or 2NT) rebid by opener.

Penny Bowen showed her hand perfectly, showing 6+ hearts (and being willing to keep going if necessary). With her type of hand, it is important for opener to take control with Roman Key Card Blackwood because she could show her whole hand with her response, whereas the opener's hand was too much of an unknown to her. Her response of 5♠ showed 2 key cards plus the ♥Q, so I thought I could count 2 spade, 6 heart, 6 diamond and 1 club winner – hence the 7NT bid.

Just before the lead was made, I thought, "I hope that dummy doesn't have a singleton ♦A with a diamond lead, taking my entry out of dummy." Perhaps South had ESP, because she unerringly led the ♦10!

Rather than relying on the heart break, I decided it was important to apply maximum pressure on the opponents in case the hearts broke 4-1. Having won the ♦A, I crossed to hand with a heart to lead another five rounds of diamonds. I only needed one extra trick in hearts, so could discard two hearts, then decide which black suit to hold in dummy. Meantime, South had to find four discards, knowing she had to keep all her hearts. She threw three clubs first, so once the ♣10 had appeared, I kept two clubs in dummy, with the ♣9 now being the same as my ♣J (for squeeze purposes). Therefore, I discarded one club and two spades from dummy. South discarded a spade on the final diamond. North had a couple of spare clubs to discard.

My next step was to cash the ♠A, which would allow me to discard my ♣J on the top heart – should the hearts not break. South had to find another discard, so had to bare down to two spades. Finally, I led the ♥J to dummy's Queen, discovering the bad heart break and justifying the careful play. North now had to find two discards on the top two hearts. She could spare the ♣Q but the ♥A brought about this position:

♠ J 10 4
♥ --
♦ --
♣ K

♠ 7
♥ A 9
♦ --
♣ 9

♠ A K 8
♥ --
♦ --
♣ J

♠ Q 9
♥ 10 8
♦ --
♣ --

I was always planning to discard my ♣J, with dummy's ♣9 able to win the critical trick if the top club was thrown. On the other hand, when a spade was discarded, I knew my ♠8 had become a winner. South was known to hold one heart, so had two spades. North was known to hold the ♣K, so had come down to two spades too. So at trick 11, I led the spade to my hand and claimed the last three tricks.

After the hand, South asked, "Was there a better lead?" I responded that I would have claimed at trick 1 on any other lead! North: "But then you wouldn't have had the opportunity to make a grand slam on a (non-simultaneous) double squeeze." Quite right!

(Congratulations to Judy Hocking, who also made 7NT on a diamond lead.)

Barbara Travis

WHAT MAKES THIS DEAL SPECIAL?

♠ 8 5 2
♥ A K 5
♦ A K Q 8 7 6
♣ 10

♠ 9 6 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ J 9 5 2
♣ 9 8 3

♠ J 10 7
♥ J 10 6 4
♦ 10 4 3
♣ Q J 6

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

There are 12 tricks available in every denomination – clubs, diamonds, hearts, spades and no trumps! Even the 6-card spade fit can garner 12 tricks by ruffing one club and then drawing trumps. West will just make their long spade (as occurs in each other suit contract – a long or high trump winning).

With 34 HCP you should reach a slam and, with no fit but two good suits, one should reach 6NT, the best-scoring contract. One only pair did so.



DECEPTIVE DEFENCE

From the IBPA Bulletin, August 2019.

Losing big to a top team in the Spingold (US National) Round of 64 doesn't mean that you don't have your share of successes. This hand was written up by the losers, but demonstrated a subtle defence.

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

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	Lyon	O Rimstedt	Stephani
	1♥	Double	2♦ (1)
Pass	2♥	Double	3♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

(1) Constructive heart raise

North chose a good time to open light. He led out the ♥A and ♥K, followed by a low diamond switch. Declarer played the ♦9 from dummy, South winning with his King. A club return allowed North to ruff, and another low diamond was placed on the table. Mikael Rimstedt naturally played the ♦10 and South won with the Jack. Another club return was ruffed, followed by a diamond ruff, another club ruff and a second diamond ruff as declarer discarded his remaining club. However, another club allowed North to over-ruff declarer with his ♠J.

If you've been counting, that's 6 trump tricks (from 6 cards), 2 hearts and 2 diamonds – down six tricks!

Plus 600 was a nice pick-up of 9 IMPs against a less-successful defence at the other table.

SCINTILLATING DEFENCE

This deal appeared in the IBPA Bulletin, August 2019.

This board is an example of wonderful defence by Kalita and Nowosadzki during the Chinese National Championships.

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

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

Nowosadzki led the ♠7 which, by agreement, was an attitude lead. (He had raised the suit, so a high card was discouraging.)

Kalita won with the ♠A. He knew his partner did not have an honour in spades, which meant that as soon as declarer knocked out the ♦A, he would have 2 spade tricks, 1 heart trick, 6 diamonds and whatever club tricks he also had, making 3NT.

The problem for the defence was to establish five tricks before declarer could run the diamonds. Declarer had started with clubs, so they were unlikely to provide enough defensive tricks, given West's doubleton. If partner held five hearts, or even four good hearts, perhaps a shift to that suit might work.

Kalita shifted to the ♥9! When declarer ducked, he continued with the ♥K, unblocking the suit. Declarer ducked a second time, so now Kalita switched again – this time to clubs. East-West garnered 1 spade, 2 hearts, 1 club and the ♦A before declarer had his nine tricks.

WORLD CLASS BRIDGE

From the IBPA Bulletin, October 2019

Roughly one third of the field made 5♦ or 5♥ with the East-West cards on this deal from the quarter-finals, so those North-Souths who bought the hand in 4♠ were already ahead of the game. Making 4♠ was just the icing on the cake:

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3♠
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

Zheng Jun Shi (China) received the lead of the ♥K from Poland's Jacek Kalita, who continued with the ♥Q. Michal Nowosadzki overtook with the Ace and switched to the ♦10 – Jack – King – Ace. Shi ruffed a diamond, ruffed his last heart, then ruffed dummy's last diamond. Only now was it time to play on trumps, and when Kalita proved to have the bare Ace he was endplayed, forced either to give a ruff and discard or to lead away from the ♣K, either of which would give the contract, +420.

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3♠
Double	4♠	Double	All Pass

Gang Chen also led the ♥K. However, at trick 2, he cashed the ♠A before continuing with the ♥Q. Zejun Zhuang overtook, and he too found the wrong minor suit switch, but it didn't matter as, with the ♠A out of the way, Chen could sit and wait for declarer to take the club finesse – down one.

Well played and well defended by the Chinese.

A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

The auction has been:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♠ (F)	Pass	4♣	All Pass

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

Sitting North, what would you lead, and why, holding:

♠ 10 7
♥ 10 7 6 5 3
♦ 10 9 8 7
♣ Q 8

Although the ♦10 looks a 'safe' lead, I would probably try leading the ♣Q on this hand. I am definitely not an advocate for doubleton honour leads, but it seems a reasonable lead on this hand for the simple reason that your hand is so weak that your partner must have some points.

Here's the full hand:

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

The club lead happens to be the only lead to hold declarer to 11 tricks because it removes the quick entry to dummy for discards on the hearts, given that South is also short in hearts.

Next, you hold, South, hold:

♠ 4 2
♥ A K 8 4
♦ A Q 9 8 7
♣ 6 3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
2♥	Double	Pass	?

The vulnerability: North-South vulnerable, East-West not vulnerable. What to do?

I had this decision and took some time working out what to do. At teams (IMPs), I would always pass and take whatever penalty was coming our way. However, we were playing pairs, so I just needed to make the decision that scored best for us. Eventually I decided to pass; if partner didn't have enough for game, then the penalty would be sufficient recompense. On this hand I was wrong, because partner held 15 HCP and we could make slam (playing diamonds correctly to allow for a 4-0 break) or a vulnerable game.

West's hidden 5-card spade suit (or her added distribution) meant that we could only take 2♥ X down 3 tricks, for 500 (against the 660 we could make), so I'd got this wrong. However, I think I would take the same action next time, when partner may have an Ace less hand and game isn't making our way.

Declarer didn't star on the next hand. Whether he could have, or should have, got the hand right is debatable, given the bidding.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Double
Pass	2♥ (!)	2♣	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♠ (!)	All Pass

I thought my double (South) opposite a passed hand was borderline, given the ♠Q wasn't much value to the hand. North's 2♥ bid was somewhat of an underbid opposite a double – a known fit and a maximum pass – but the bidding worked well when she got to bid again.

I led the ♣K, ♣Q and then the ♣J, ruffed. Declarer will be in good shape if he draws trumps but, given the take-out double, they could well be 3-1 and then we may be able to draw trumps and stop diamond ruffs. Therefore, he continued with the ♦K, which partner grabbed with the Ace to lead the ♣A – a fine trump promotion! When partner could also manage a diamond ruff (the ♠9 being big enough for one over-ruff because declarer needed two ruffs), the contract failed by one trick.

PENLINE®

The next hand proved awkward for South (or North!).

♠ A Q 6 4 2
♥ 7
♦ 10
♣ A K J 8 6 4

♠ K 3
♥ 6 4
♦ K Q 9 8 7 6 3
♣ 10 7

♠ J 10 9 7 5
♥ K 5
♦ A J 2
♣ 9 5 3

♠ 8
♥ A Q J 10 9 8 3 2
♦ 5 4
♣ Q 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

West led the ♦K, overtaken by East with the ♦A. East returned the ♥5.

My initial thought was to finesse the heart, but I stopped to think. If East held ♥K-x, then a diamond return would make the ♥K a winner. At pairs, stopping overtricks is an important consideration! Furthermore, if West held ♥K-x and I finessed, I would lose the heart, then lose another diamond trick for one off. If West held the ♥K-x, then I could win the ♥A, then lead clubs. Additionally, if East held ♥K-x or ♥K-x-x, then I could do the same thing. Assuming that West held no shortage outside of hearts (pre-empters often lead a singleton non-trump), then I would be able to discard my diamond loser. If West held 2 clubs and the ♥K-x, then my losing diamond would go as he trumped with his winner. If East held the doubleton club, then she could trump and I could overtrump, then cross back to dummy with the ♠A and lead another club to discard my diamond loser. So many 'ifs'.

With all those 'ifs' sorted out, I rose the ♥A, and went down in 5♥. West trumped with his little heart, and East still held the ♥K. If she'd just led a diamond back, it would have held me to 11 tricks and a good score to them anyway. Meantime, three Easts did not realise to continue diamonds, ensuring their ♥K became a winner – and they allowed 6♥ to make (once doubled)!

It wasn't all doom and gloom since many North-Souths got too high in black suit contracts instead, but it was an interesting hand all the same.

Barbara Travis

THE SAFE HAND

From the IBPA Bulletin, October 2019

Often declarer will know that he can afford to lose the lead to one defender, the safe hand, but not to the other, the dangerous hand, and must play accordingly. Take this deal, for example:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	Double	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West usually led a fourth-best ♠6 to the ♠9 and Jack. With just six top tricks, declarer had to make tricks from the clubs. Thus, declarer led a club – 2 – Queen – 9. If the spades were 6-2, it appeared to be vital that declarer continue with the ♣K when the Queen scored. The point was that West could not do anything to threaten the contract as, with him on play, declarer had two more spade stoppers, so could afford to lose two club tricks.

See what happens if declarer instead continues with a low club, hoping to bring down a now bare Ace on his left. East wins the Jack and pushes a spade through, so West can establish the suit while still holding the ♣A.

A handful of declarers did make the contract after leading a low club off the dummy at trick 3. East won the ♣J and led his remaining spade through. West took the Queen and Ace, then led another, retaining the ♣A as an entry (he thought). With 8 tricks in and the clubs now useless, declarer discarded them on the spade continuations. Declarer then cashed three top hearts and one diamond to get a perfect count of the opposing hands. The fourth round of hearts ended with East into leading a diamond into declarer's split tenace for 9 tricks.

Antonio Sementa was shrewder than those defenders when Norberto Bocchi led his second spade through. Sementa cashed his two spades, waiting to see what declarer discarded from dummy. When declarer discarded a heart and a club, Sementa cashed the ♣A and got out with a diamond. Declarer was not stuck in dummy, losing two spades, two clubs and also a diamond.



TWO BRIDGE HANDS TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

At the 2019 World Championships in Wuhan, the Japanese Women's Team had a little disaster:

♠ 8 7 4
♥ Q 5 3
♦ 10 7 6
♣ 8 7 6 4

♠ K Q 5 2
♥ 10 6 4
♦ Q 5 4
♣ A K 10

♠ J 9 6 3
♥ J
♦ A J 8 3
♣ Q J 5 3

♠ A 10
♥ A K 9 8 7 2
♦ K 9 2
♣ 9 2

♠ A K
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K 9 8 6 2
♣ 10 9 5

♠ Q 10 9 8 6 4 3
♥ 9
♦ Q 7 5
♣ 7 3

♠ J 2
♥ A K 10 8 4 2
♦ A 10 3
♣ 6 4

♠ 7 5
♥ Q J 5
♦ J 4
♣ A K Q J 8 2

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	Double
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

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

When West made a support redouble (showing exactly 3 card heart support), North couldn't think of a sensible bid to make, however, some pairs play that a pass in this position is a suggestion to play for penalties.

South led the ♥J and declarer managed to take all the tricks. It was easy to pick the trump break after the lead and, once a diamond slipped past the Ace, South was squeezed out of all her honours.

1♥ XX making 13 tricks (vulnerable) added to +3120. With the other table making 12 tricks in 4♥, this was a 20 IMP swing to the US team. Remarkably, despite losing another 28 IMPs with slam and game swings, the Japanese won the match 56-50, demonstrating their resolve.

Reading about this hand reminded me of a hand from the World Championships in Veldhoven, The Netherlands, from 2011. I was the NPC of the Australian Women and feeling sad after a poor day's bridge, where our team had managed only 7 VPs out of a possible 75 VPs the previous day. When I ran into the Dutch Women's coach, he mentioned the following hand.

Each heart bid and each redouble was meant to be a transfer to spades.

The Bulletin, "One can only admire the symmetry of the auction from North's perspective – she did, after all, transfer into spades on each of the six occasions when required to bid."

The outcome: 7 down, redoubled, thankfully not vulnerable, so a mere -3400. With 4♣ X going down 3, with a trump promotion, this was just a 21 IMP loss. Again, the perpetrators (The Netherlands team) won the match.

I remember saying that I had little sympathy for North, despite South's repeated refusal to take the transfer. I think I would have been bidding 3♣ at least three rounds earlier, after 3♥ had been doubled! Partner was clearly 'away with the birds', so practical actions are then required.

Ed: It just goes to show that even the best players can have total disasters!

Barbara Travis



*Australian Women's Team (left to right):
Susan Humphries, Julia Hoffman (who was NPC for the Playoffs), Lauren Travis, Jodi Tutty, Jessica Brake,
Sophie Ashton, Marianne Bookallil*

ACES ON THE ASTRAL PLANE by David Lusk

Reprinted from *Australian Bridge*, December 1994

The tension around the Astral Plane was electric. The telepathic messages had quickly brought kibitzers rushing to the table. The Imp was playing in a grand slam. What was more unusual was that this one might even have a chance of making.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sir Richard</i>	<i>Mystrala</i>	<i>Olaf</i>	<i>The Imp</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

The Imp made his strongest opening bid. The spirit's response showed less than an Ace or two Kings. The Staffordshire Imp's 4♣ cue bid allowed Mystrala to show her ♥K. Now nothing could stop the Imp from bidding the grand slam.

Sir Richard, sitting West, had a strong temptation to double. In this godforsaken place, Aces had a nasty habit of failing to take tricks, so, with some reluctance, he allowed 7♣ to stand undoubled.

The crusader led his ♦A, more to avoid the jibes of the burgeoning gallery than with any hope of collecting a precious trick. The Imp surveyed dummy, and almost claimed at trick one. Something inside his afflicted brain, however, warned him that Olaf might have woven one of his sneaky spells over the hand.

The Imp ruffed the opening lead as Olaf played the ♦Q. Next came the ♠A. Sure enough, East's diamond discard revealed the 3-0 break. From here, it seemed that the best line would be to play three rounds of clubs, hoping that West held three or four. Then the losing club could be safely ruffed in dummy.

The Imp quickly rejected this line. Convinced that the wizard had placed a covert spell on the cards, he had enough faith in Olaf's magic to be convinced that West would hold just two clubs. Besides, the running of his 7-card trump suit would have a delightfully sadistic flavour. The Imp would enjoy watching East find seven discards.

Declarer ran off six spades and two top clubs. Olaf seemed untroubled as he found his six discards, leaving this ending:

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

The Imp cashed his last trump with a flourish. Sir Richard wisely discarded ♦6 as declarer parted with dummy's club. Olaf let forth a particularly foul Viking oath as he toyed with his next discard. Giving South the maximum chance to go wrong, he let go ♥4. The Imp cashed his ♣Q, forcing Sir Richard to part with the ♦K. Next came the ♥A, dropping East's ♥J. The final rites only required a correct guess in hearts. 7♣ was home.

"I had three cornered Jacks (*)," admitted Olaf.

The Staffordshire Imp leered. "Good for my soul, bad for your sole."

David Lusk



*Terry Healey and Patricia McGaffin,
winners of B Grade, SABA's New Year's Eve
Bushfire Appeal Congress*

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RESULTS

STATE EVENTS

STATE TEAMS FINALS

FINALISTS

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

POPP: Peter Popp – Andy Babiszewski, Paul Hudson – Chris Lorimer

HUNT: Jon Hunt – George Smolanko, Judy Hocking – Kevin Lange, Felicity Smyth

DE LUCA: Attilio De Luca – David Lusk, Phil Gue – Peter Chan – David Gue

PARROTT: David Parrott – Mike Doecke, Howard Melbourne – Barbara Travis – Nic Croft

ELIMINATION

DE LUCA 77 *defeated* PARROTT 62

QUALIFYING

POPP 107 *defeated* HUNT 42

SEMI FINALS

POPP 78 *defeated* HARMS 50

DE LUCA 87 *defeated* HUNT 43

PRELIMINARY FINAL

HARMS 68 *defeated* DE LUCA 58

FINAL

HARMS 117 *defeated* POPP 99

STATE INDIVIDUAL

1st John Smith
2nd Bob Clarke
3rd Kevin Lange

CONGRESSES

SABA NEW YEAR'S EVE BUSHFIRE APPEAL

This congress raised more than \$3,400 for the Bushfire Appeal (with free masterpoints from the ABF).

A GRADE

1st Joanne Bakas - Tassi Georgiadis
2nd Paul Hudson - Gary Deaton
3rd Carole & John Foreman

B GRADE

1st Patricia McGaffin - Terry Healey
2nd Anne Henesey-Smith - Mike Greening
3rd Ann Matthews - Bob Dunk

Autumn Nationals
30th April to 4th May

ANC and Congress
11 to 23 July

See page 16 for the
Congress Program -
locals are encouraged to enter

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

SABA SWISS PAIRS	Sunday 9th February 2020	SABA
GAWLER PAIRS CONGRESS	Sunday 8th March 2020	Gawler
TEAMS OF 3 WITH AN EXPERT	Sunday 29th March 2020 (afternoon)	SABA

COMING SABF EVENTS

Daytime State Teams	starts Wednesday 29th January 2020
Open Trials Final Open Trials Plate Under Life Master Butler	starts Thursday 30th January 2020 (check calendar for variations to sessions)
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

2019 McCUTCHEON AWARDS (Masterpoints)

As well as the overall awards, there are 'category awards' for those who have earned the most masterpoints, based on their MP Category at the start of the year. South Australian achievements during 2019:

OVERALL PLACINGS:

1st	Sartaj Hans
2nd	Sophie Ashton
3rd	Pauline Gumby
10th	George Smolanko

SILVER GRAND and ABOVE

10th	George Smolanko
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GRAND

8th	Therese Demarco
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GOLD LIFE

1st	Lauren Travis
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BRONZE LIFE

7th	Bill Bradshaw
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LIFE

2nd	Lori Smith
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NATIONAL: 2-STAR

9th	Christine Barnwell
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NATIONAL: 1-STAR

3rd	Ingrid Cooke
5th	David Gue
10th	Bevin Brooks

STATE: 1-STAR

5th	Herbert Neumeister
7th	Margaret Neumeister

REGIONAL: 1-STAR

3rd	Len Bell
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LOCAL: 2-STAR

10th	Christine Roberts
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LOCAL: 1-STAR

4th	Caprice Davey
10th	Zhihong Miao

LOCAL

10th	Deborah Cramer
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CLUB

6th	Peter Wood
7th	Bertie Morgan

NIL

6th	Lincoln Davey
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*Australian Seniors' Team (left to right):
George Smolanko, Paul Lavings, Gabby Lorentz, Robert Krochmalik, Stephen Burgess, George Kozakos*

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	Glenelg 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.

**THE SA BRIDGE FEDERATION
INVITES YOU TO PLAY IN
TEAMS OF THREE WITH AN EXPERT**

ON
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2019

1.00PM TO 5.00PM

AT
**SA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
243 YOUNG STREET, UNLEY**

**COST:
\$15 per player (experts free)**

**ENTRIES:
PLEASE NOMINATE EITHER ON THE NOMINATION SHEET
AT SABA
OR BY EMAILING INFORMATION TO
BARBARA TRAVIS:
barbara.travis@hotmail.com**

**FORMAT:
Each of the three players will partner the expert for one
8-board "Teams Match".
You will learn how Teams bridge works
and get useful tips from your expert team-mate.**

**Get two bridge-playing friends and enter as a three-some
(or as a single).**

South Australian

Bridge Federation Inc





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