

South Australian



Bridge Federation Inc

JANUARY 2023

Editor: Barbara Travis

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Welcome to 2023

SABF Annual General Meeting

The SA Bridge Federation held its AGM on Saturday 10th December.

ELECTIONS

All elected unopposed:

President	Michael Court
Secretary	Therese Demarco
Treasurer	Kathy Hartmann

Club delegates	David Gue	Adelaide Bridge Centre
	John Elliott	Alexandrina
	Sue Lusk	Bridge around Adelaide
	Dianne Marler	Bridge at Beaumont
	Graham Harms	Bridge in the Barossa
	David Anderson	Bridge in the City
	Dulcie Easley	Christies Beach Bridge Club
	Pat Sharpe	Glenelg Contract Bridge Club
	Sheila Bird, Caprice Davey	SA Bridge Assoc.

Immediate Past President	Barbara Travis
Tournament Committee	Felicity Smyth
Tournament Matters	David Anderson
Masterpoint Secretary	David Anderson
Ethics Chair	David Cherry
Legal Counsel	Russel Harms
Auditor	Chris Lorimer

SABF Capitation Levy

The capitation levy will remain unchanged in 2023, at \$7.70 per player per club. However, it is likely that the levy will increase by up to \$1.00 per player (plus GST) in 2024.

ABF Capitation Levy

The capitation levy is increasing from \$16.10 to \$16.40 per player per club from April 2023. The ABF Board is currently discussing an increase in the capitation levy for 2024; the increase may be up to \$5.00 per player.

Clubs should bear this in mind when setting their membership subscription rate for 2024.

Table fees for Thursday night State events

Table fees will remain unchanged, at \$14 per player per session.

For those who do not know our new President, Dr Michael Court:

Michael is retired and lives at Magill. He plays bridge at SA Bridge Assoc on Tuesday and Thursday morning and is a keen reader, gardener and night owls bowler. He has a degree in economics, an MBA and a doctorate in public administration.

Michael retired from his consultancy business in strategic management in 2019. Prior to his consultancy, he occupied senior management positions in both the public and private sectors. In community life, amongst many activities, he had a long involvement with overseas aid organisations, chaired a school council, coached junior sporting teams, and was president of an old scholars association.

His wife Ann was a primary school teacher. She is a social bridge player, avid scrabble player and belongs to 2 book clubs. Michael and Ann have 5 adult children from previous marriages plus 9 grandchildren - making for a very active family life on many fronts. In an earlier life, Michael and Ann enjoyed establishing a flower farm at Mt Torrens and ran a flower export business and florist shop for many years. They have travelled widely.

THE SABF STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP: 10.00-12.30pm Australia Day, Thursday 26th January

A reminder about the SABF Strategic Planning Workshop to be held 10.00am -12.30pm on Australia Day, Thursday 26th January at SA Bridge Assoc, 243 Young Street, Unley.

Why on Australia Day?? Because we have bridge events on most weekends in the Jan-Feb period and we need to get on with our Strategic Planning so that SA can make timely inputs to the ABF's Strategic Plan).

The subject: How can the SA Bridge Federation help grow and support the playing of contract bridge in SA over the next few years, particularly through our club network...starting this year.

This workshop follows on from the preliminary workshop that we held in October.

If you want to be involved and informed, please attend – preferably with ideas and enthusiasm. It will be in workshop format - working in small groups to identify issues and barriers to growth and the best ways that the SABF can support our clubs. Whilst the workshop will be in the morning, some of us will continue into the afternoon to work on detail. Those who are interested and want to stay on would be most welcome.

If you plan to attend, please advise Therese Demarco, secretary@sabf.asn.au

AUSTRALIA'S MIXED TEAM, 2023

South Australia will have two players on next year's national Mixed Team, plus the non-playing captain.

After six days of Playoff, the Australian Mixed Team for 2023 comprises:

Lauren Travis – Phil Markey, Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson, **Mike Doecke (NPC)**.

The team won their Semi-Final after a very uncomfortable 5th (of 8) sessions, however they proceeded to blitz the opposition in the Final, with the opponents conceding after 6 of the 8 sessions, when down by 169 IMPs (30 boards remaining).

There were too many interesting and exciting hands, so I've chosen just a few of the more educational hands. From a Quarter-Final match:

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

5♦ makes in comfort, West being able to trump two hearts and discard two hearts on the top clubs (two tables played 5♦, making). However, two tables played in 3NT on an auction similar to that below. The hand is an exercise in maintaining entries between the two hands.

West	North	East	South
	1♠	2♠ (♥ + m)	Pass
2NT (asks)	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠5, dummy's ♠J winning. Now declarer cashed the ♦A and ♦K, the suit not breaking. Another diamond established the diamond suit (North having thrown discouraging clubs), with South able to lead a spade back through declarer to North's 10, with the ♠A being cashed next (heart discards from East and South). We were down to this position:

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

Declarer had erred, because now a club exit would sever her communications – if she won the ♣Q, she would be stuck in dummy – able to win 5 diamonds, 1 club, 1 heart and 1 spade, but North could win a later heart and cash the setting spade trick; if she overtook the ♣Q, she would be stuck in her hand with lots of losers. Could North solve the position? The answer is: probably. South’s heart discard of the ♥3 probably indicated 4 hearts, giving declarer a void.

However, North exited a heart, so declarer won with the Ace, cashed her diamonds and could overtake the ♣Q for her 2 clubs tricks (5 diamonds, 1 spade, 1 heart, 2 clubs).

Should declarer have made the contract? Yes. She needed to retain her lines of communication between the two hands. At trick 2, cash the ♣Q to unblock the suit, then lead the ♦J. When it is won, the ♦10 gives you an entry back to your clubs; if it is ducked, you have 6 diamond winners to go with 4 other winners.

From the Semi-Final, I liked this defence – easy if you are confident:

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

The other table played in 4♣, which was an easy contract, so a game swing was at stake (one way or another). Phil Markey, sitting North, chose to lead his ♥8 and watch what happened.

Declarer only had 9 top tricks, so needed a diamond ruff to make – seemingly straightforward. She won the ♥A at trick 1, cashed her ♦A and led a trump to hand so she could lead and ruff a diamond. That looked like trick 10. The last diamond was thrown on the ♥K, but now she had to return to hand to draw trumps.

She led a club from dummy. Lauren Travis won the ♣A and started working on a trump promotion. She led the ♥Q; declarer did well, discarding a club from hand, Markey discarding a diamond. Travis continued with the ♥J, declarer discarding her other club loser. Markey could have discarded a club, but chose to retain his ♣K, throwing a diamond. Travis led her ♥10, and declarer was cooked. If she trumped low, Markey would over-trump with the ♠J. If she trumped high (Queen), South’s ♠10 was promoted into a winner. She had to try her ♠9, hoping South held the ♠J-10, but it wasn’t to be and she now lost a trump trick, and was down one. That’s a fairly obvious defence once you see it; at the table, many don’t see it.

Here's another defence: one where people fall at the first hurdle.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	2♣
3♣ (raise)	3♠	Pass	4♠ (?)
Pass (?)	All Pass		

East-West had missed the 4♥ bid at the other table (West might have bid more with 2 aces, 4 trumps and a singleton) and I'd have bid differently if South (rebidding 4♣) or West (doubling 4♠ with 2 aces opposite an opening bid). However, the defence is the issue:

East, Sophie Ashton, led the ♦4, interpreted as a singleton by West. Declarer won in dummy with the King, but couldn't lead trumps until she had dealt with her heart losers (need to trump). She led a heart from dummy, West winning the Ace. Many defenders would now give their partner a ruff, but West (David Wiltshire) was in no hurry, because he held the trump Ace. Instead, he returned his ♣9 – obviously a singleton – to the Queen – King – Ace. Declarer was stuck in dummy again! She led a diamond, ruffed by East. Now the cross-ruff started.

♦5 (low = suit preference for clubs), ruffed by Ashton.

♣3 (low = suit preference for diamonds), ruffed by Wiltshire.

♦7 (low), ruffed by Ashton with the ♠J.

♣10, ruffed by Wiltshire. Here he ruffed with the ♠A, which cost a defensive undertrick.

♦8, ruffed by declarer with the ♠7 – over-trumped with the Queen.

(If Wiltshire had trumped low the previous time, he would still have had a trick with his ♠A.)

That was 1 heart and 5 trump tricks, for 3 off. It could have been 1 heart and 6 trump tricks (and I love it when defenders make all the trumps separately), and probably a quick thought, "I wish I'd doubled".

Barbara Travis

SABF SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE END OF 2022

STATE-WIDE PAIRS

OPEN

- 1st Sam Brown – Earlston Gniel (Gawler)
- 2nd Len Bilney – Peter Jones (Christies Beach)
- 3rd David De Bellis – Wendy Hooper (Glenelg)

UNDER LIFE MASTER

- 1st Erica and Gordon Baker (SA Bridge, Walkerville)
- 2nd Val Hay – Beryl Liebelt (SA Bridge, Mt Barker)
- 3rd Ed Cottam – John Dawes (Riverland)

NOVICE

- 1st Andrea Dayman – Voytek Wielgosch (Glenelg)
- =2nd Robby Randall – Bob Williams (Glenelg)
- =2nd Georges Baume – Marvin Bunting (Glenelg)

PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT

SECTION 1

NORTH-SOUTH

- 1st Lindy Haselgrove – George Smolanko
- 2nd Juliet Britten-Jones – Arjuna de Livera

EAST-WEST

- 1st Julie Randall – Barbara Travis
- 2nd Bill Griggs – Mike Doecke

SECTION 2

NORTH-SOUTH

- 1st Mike Dayman – John Foreman
- 2nd Leonie Nancarrow – Felicity Smyth

EAST-WEST

- 1st Fulvio Pagani – Marc Deaton
- 2nd Margaret Marsh – Joe Haffer

QUIZ NIGHT

The Quiz Night raised in excess of \$4,500 to support our Youth players.

Thank you to all those who supported it: by attending or making donations. Your willingness to help our Youth players is greatly appreciated.

Pairs with an Expert Photos



Julie Randall – Barbara Travis

Mike Dayman – John Foreman



George Smolanko –
Lindy Haselgrove

PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT

The Pairs with an Expert is an event offered by the SABF, giving less experienced players the opportunity to play with, and benefit from the experience of, an expert partner. This year the event was restricted to players with fewer than 50 MPs and, whilst entries were not quite as high as in the past, those who played were eagerly asking when the next one would be held!

Mike Doecke offered a hand where he enjoyed defending with his partner, Bill Griggs.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Bill</i>		<i>Mike</i>	
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Bill, West, was on lead, and tried his ♦4, giving declarer an immediate discard problem for North. Trick 1 went ♦4 - ♠4 (not ideal) - ♦J - ♦A. The ♥J was led and ducked, with another heart led to the King, East ducking again. Now declarer switched to spades, trying her ♠Q, which Bill ducked – a very good move, because now the North-South hands were separated (that ♠4 at trick 1 now hurt). Another spade was led to the King, West winning the Ace. Bill did even better now, realising that his partner had to hold hearts, and leading the ♥6 to Mike's A-10 (over dummy).

With North-South no longer able to reach each other's hands, declarer was now stuck in one hand or the other. Whilst it seems that declarer should make 7 tricks, one way or another, she ended up going down four tricks (and I thought that our 150 for taking 3NT down 3 tricks was a good effort!).

When we played this hand, the auction was of more interest:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣ (1)	Pass	2♠ (2)
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

(1) North should have rebid 1♥ to show her 4-card heart suit, but possibly thought South didn't have 4 hearts, having responded 1♦.

(2) South's 2♠ was a responder's reverse, showing 4 spades and 5+ diamonds, and creating a game forcing auction.

After 2♠, North wasn't happy, so I offered to discuss the auction up to 2♠. My partner was very keen to learn, and loved seeing the responder's reverse. Her comment: "I reverse all the time accidentally!" My post-script: she didn't reverse inappropriately at all during our session.

The following hand had a 'counting' lesson, being a hand that I seemingly did something spectacular, however it had a ready explanation:

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

South led the ♣9 to North's Ace, and North switched to the ♠5. Having had partner underbid (1), I was paying the price for overbidding (2), with partner having taken me seriously, raising me to the 4-level. How could I avoid too many losers?

One of the things I try to do is to count. An ability to count is your 'friend' at the table. We had 22 HCP, leaving North-South with 18 HCP, probably divided 11-12 with North and 6-7 with South. It felt like South held the ♠K, 3 of their HCP. However, I was missing both the ♥A and ♥K; surely if someone had held both those honours, they would have led one? So I split the heart honours, one with North and one with South. That was South's HCP accounted for, giving North the ♦K. With the ♦K offside, things seemed somewhat gloomy. I led the ♦2 to the Ace, dropping North's singleton ♦K !! Now I could draw trumps ending in dummy, then use the two top clubs to discard my spade losers. The top hearts were my only other losers, giving me 10 tricks.

A little later, we played a part-score and partner was missing the top three hearts, with North shown a weak hand with 6 hearts. When she didn't lead hearts – after the hand, I explained to partner that you then tend to give North the ♥A-Q and South the ♥K. Why? North would lead a heart with the ♥A-K or ♥K-Q, so South has the ♥K.

These events are only possible due to the willingness of our better players to share their knowledge with less-experienced bridge addicts. Thank you, as always, to those experts who so freely give their time and 'give back' to the game that we all love.

Barbara Travis



Visit Adelaide for the
2023 Autumn Nationals

Thursday 4th May - Monday 8th May 2023

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

Gold Masterpoints awarded | PQPs in Open and Mixed events

Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Mixed, Under Life, Under Grand)

Swiss Teams (Open, Under Life, Under Grand)

New Event

One-day Rookie Pairs for players
with fewer than 35 Masterpoints,
on Thursday 4th May

**Final only on Monday -
No Consolation**

New Scorer Chris Carolan

Tournament Organiser: Barbara Travis

Phone: 0437 919 928 | **Email:** anot@abf.com.au

To enter or for more information, see MyABF



AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

The Autumn National Championships are conducted by the SA Bridge Federation under licence from the ABF. They are played at Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville.

What's new in 2023:

Thursday 4th May: Rookie Butler Swiss Pairs: one day only,
restricted to players who have fewer than 35 MPs at 31st March 2023.

StepBridge (online bridge site): www.stepbridge.com.au

have joined with the SABF to sponsor the Under Grand Master and Under Life Master events, both Pairs and Teams.

Early Bird Discount:

The Early Bird Discount for the two-day events will be 10% of the full entry fee, i.e. \$30 per pair for the Pairs events and \$60 per team for the Teams events. To be eligible for the Early Bird Discount your entry must be paid in full (both players in Pairs, all players in Teams) no later than 31st March 2023.

The Events:

TBIB Butler Swiss Pairs: Open and Mixed

Thursday 4th May and Friday 5th May (attendance at all sessions is compulsory)
8 x 14 board matches, 9.30am start each day (finish 5.45pm)

Full entry fee: \$300 per pair. Early bird discount: \$270 per pair

StepBridge Butler Swiss Pairs: Under Grand Master and Under Life Master

Thursday 4th May and Friday 5th May (attendance at all sessions is compulsory)
8 x 14 board matches, 9.30am start each day (finish 5.45pm)

To play in the Under Grand Master event, players must not have attained the rank of Grand Master by 31st March 2023.

To play in the Under Life Master event, players must not have attained the rank of Life Master by 31st March 2023.

Full entry fee: \$300 per pair. Early bird discount: \$270 per pair

Australian Bridge Rookie Butler Swiss Pairs

Thursday 4th May (one day only): 6 x 8 board matches (attendance for all matches is compulsory)
9.30am start, will finish by about 5pm

To play in this Rookie Pairs event, players must not have attained 35 masterpoints by 31st March 2023.

Full entry fee: \$120 per pair. Early bird discount: \$100 per pair

TBIB Open Swiss Teams

Saturday 6th May and Sunday 7th May (attendance at all sessions is compulsory)

The Final of the Open Teams will be held on Monday 8th May - at SA Bridge Assoc, Unley
8 x 14 board matches, 9.30am start each day (finish 5.45pm)

Full entry fee: \$600 per team. Early bird discount: \$540 per team

StepBridge Swiss Teams: Under Grand Master and Under Life Master

Saturday 6th May and Sunday 7th May (attendance at all sessions is compulsory)
8 x 14 board matches, 9.30am start each day (finish 5.45pm)

To play in the Under Grand Master event, all players must not have attained the rank of Grand Master by 31st March 2023.

To play in the Under Life Master event, all players must not have attained the rank of Life Master by 31st March 2023.

Full entry fee: \$600 per team. Early bird discount: \$540 per team

ABF NEWS

ABF FOUNDATION PRO-AM FUNDRAISER

Once again, the ABF Foundation will be holding a fundraising auction. Players can bid for a top-level partner, including some overseas players, to play in one of two special Pro-Am events to be held on RealBridge, or to play one-off sessions using BBO with specific players. Bidding starts from \$100 per player. SA players include:

REAL BRIDGE EVENTS: Arjuna de Livera, Phil Gue, Phil Markey, Mike Doecke, George Smolanko

BBO: Arjuna de Livera, Mike Doecke, Howard Melbourne, Justin Williams, Joe Haffer, Barbara Travis

More information and the website can be found at:

www.abf.com.au/abf-foundation-2023-fund-raiser-pro-am-tournaments



PROFESSIONALS AND LEADING PLAYERS AUCTIONED TO PLAY WITH THE HIGHEST BIDDER! ONLINE AUCTIONS

The **ABF Foundation** will be auctioning
Professionals and Leading Players to play in

**Red-Point Sessions at 7:15 pm (AEDT) on RealBridge
on Tuesday 31 January and Tuesday 7 March 2023**

and

**Two sessions on BBO at mutually agreed times
All proceeds go towards the **ABF Foundation****

Follow the links below to bid for a professional or leading player:

Pro-am Tourney – January 31, 7:15 pm on RealBridge
Pro-am Tourney – March 7, 7:15 pm on RealBridge
Play in a session on BBO at a mutually agreed time – 1
Play in a session on BBO at a mutually agreed time – 2

A CHRISTMAS STORY

I found this on BridgeWinners: www.bridgewinners.com and thought it might appeal to those who like brain teasers.

♠ J 3 2
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ A 8 6 5
♣ A K

♠ A 10 8 7
♥ A 2
♦ K 10 2
♣ 9 4 3 2

The North London Club held its Christmas Social last night. It was “Silly Bridge” with special rules, with a slip which affected the auction or play. The slip might say “Dummy plays its own cards”, for example. On board 2, I reached 6NT by South and opened the slip with trepidation. It said, “THE PARTNER OF ANY PLAYER WINNING A TRICK WILL LEAD TO THE NEXT TRICK”. West led the ♣Q, East played the ♣7. The fortunate lie of the cards allowed me to make my contract.

Two boards later, on board 4, the North-South cards were the same, but it was not mis-boarded as the East-West cards were different. Again we reached 6NT by South. This time the slip indicated, “THE RANK OF THE CARDS IS REVERSED SO ACES BECOME TWOS AND TWOS BECOME ACES, ETC.” Again West led the ♣Q and East played the ♣7. After recovering my composure at this seeming setback, I managed to make my contract – again.

“Curious hands,” commented OO. “Without the special rules, 6NT cannot make.”

If you like a challenge, solve the hands and play for each contract with its given stipulations.

Paul Lamford, UK



Phil Markey and Lauren Travis – Australian Mixed Team 2023.
Phil has represented Australia previously in the Open Team;
Lauren in Youth events (and she qualified for the 2020 Women’s Team)

ABF TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY IS AVAILABLE AGAIN

After a lengthy break, ABF members, family and friends are again free to leave home and explore Australia and the rest of the world. Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB) have reinstated their travel insurance policy offer for bridge players (and their family and friends).

**They offer annual multi-trip cover from 1st March 2022 to 28th February 2023.
They also offer single trip insurance deals.**

The insurance policies are available to travellers up to (and including) the age of 90, with the option to include cover for pre-existing medical conditions via a simple online application (brief online screening).

- **Choose multi-trip or single trip cover, cover worldwide – and you can opt in or out of travel to the US and Canada for a premium saving**
- **Cover for travel in Australia and New Zealand**
- **Cruising included**
- **Unlimited medical expenses and emergency assistance**
- **24-hour emergency assist**
- **Personal claims assistance, 24/7 based right here in Australia**
- **And if you contract Covid 19 while you're overseas, you have unlimited medical and emergency cover.**

There is also enhanced Cruise Cover. The policy includes cruise cabin confinement cover, missed port cover, pre-paid shore excursion cover.



PLAY YOUR CARDS **RIGHT**

To apply online: <https://abfinsurance.com.au/>
To phone TBIB: 07 3252 5254 (ask for Steve Weil)

Of course, you can also contact them about any other insurance need/enquiry (building and contents insurance, car insurance, business insurance etc).

[Ed: I use it every year, and I've had to make a claim. It was so straightforward and easy.]

WHAT DUMMY CAN AND CANNOT DO

A few people have asked me about some rulings recently, so I thought I'd include some summaries of general situations.

The Laws of Bridge state what dummy is allowed to do and what rights dummy has.

Dummy ALWAYS has the following rights (under Law 42):

(a) To give information – dummy may give information regarding fact or law, in the Director's presence.

MEANING:

If the Director is at the table, dummy may answer questions or clarify facts. or

To inform the opponents, BEFORE play starts, if there has been a failure to alert or any misinformation.

(b) To keep track of tricks won or lost.

MEANING:

Dummy can tell declarer that he has turned a trick the wrong way BUT only before declarer has played to the next trick. Once partner has played to the next trick, dummy must remain quiet.

(c) To play the cards in his hand as directed by declarer.

MEANING:

Dummy is not to play cards without direction by declarer. or

Dummy is NOT to prompt declarer about playing any card.

It is particularly relevant to note that IF declarer calls for a 'spade' from dummy, then dummy (by Law) must play the lowest spade in their hand.

Dummy also has the following 'limited' rights, ie they can be 'lost' if Law 43 is breached:

(d) To check with declarer when he has failed to follow suit whether he has cards left in that suit:

MEANING:

He can ask partner, "Having none, partner?"

(e) To attempt to prevent an irregularity by declarer.

MEANING:

Dummy can try to prevent declarer from leading from the wrong hand (prevent an irregularity) BUT once declarer HAS led from the wrong hand dummy cannot take any action (the irregularity has occurred).

[Once declarer has led from the wrong hand, it is up to the opponents to decide whether they want to accept or reject the lead.]

or, a rare example,

Declarer had only 12 cards showing and dummy was entitled to advise partner to find the other card (prevent an irregularity).

(f) To draw attention to an irregularity ONLY after the play of the hand has finished.

MEANING:

Dummy is not actively involved in the play, so CANNOT point out that an opponent has revoked DURING the play of the hand but can do so after the play of the hand has finished. or

If the opponents claim and declarer concedes, dummy can point out any false claim because play has finished.

However, there are limitations to the above rights (numbers 4-6):

(a) Dummy CANNOT call the Director during the play unless another player has already drawn attention to an irregularity.

(b) Dummy CANNOT call attention to an irregularity during the play.

EXAMPLE (repeated from above):

He can try to stop declarer from leading from the wrong hand, but once declarer has already led from the wrong hand he can no longer comment.

(c) Dummy CANNOT participate in the play nor can he communicate anything about the play to partner.

EXAMPLE:

Dummy cannot play his own cards, nor can he question which card declarer wishes to play (in any way).

(d) Dummy and declarer MAY NOT exchange hands with each other at the end of the bidding.

(e) Dummy MAY NOT leave his seat and watch declarer play the hand.

(f) Dummy MAY NOT look at the cards in either defender's hand.

If dummy breaches these limitations, then he loses those 'limited' rights (number (d), (e) and (f) earlier).

For instance, if dummy draws attention to a revoke and calls the director – during the play – then there may be an altered penalty for the revoke (although equity may be restored).

Or, if dummy has looked at an opponent's hand and then says, "Having none, partner" and declarer has revoked, that revoke will be established (dummy had extra information having seen the opponent's hand). Meantime, the Director would also make declarer play the correct card before play proceeds.

Basically, if you are dummy, try to PREVENT your partner from leading from the wrong hand or turning a trick the wrong way or revoking, but once play has moved on, remain silent – until the end of the hand. Once play has finished, you can correct the number of tricks, point out a revoke or even call the Director.

SQOT: SUIT QUALITY OVERCALL TEST

During the Pairs with an Expert, North (an opponent) overcalled 2♣ over my partner's 1♦ opening bid, with

♠ A
♥ 8 4 3 2
♦ A Q 9
♣ J 10 8 6 4

Apart from not knowing what to do after her partner responded 2♠ (forcing), this hand really is not suited to a 2♣ overcall. When her hand was tabled as dummy, I commented that I would never overcall 2♣ with that suit. Both North and partner – the non-experts – asked why, given they held 11 HCP.

To quote Andrew Robson (England): “A good 5+ card suit in a hand of wide-ranging point count, from about 7 or 8 HCP (with a very good suit) to 17 or 18 HCP; that is what a suit overcall looks like. It's the strength of the suit that matters, not the strength of the hand.”

“Use as a guide the Suit Quality Overcall Test (SQOT): Add up the number of cards in the suit (5+) to the number of honours in the suit (including the 10). The total should reach at least the number of tricks bid for. (And, in marginal situations, be more cautious when vulnerable).”

Using the North hand above, there are 5 clubs and 2 honours, adding to 7, not the necessary 8 to be bidding at the 2-level.

On the other hand, another hand from the Pairs with an Expert was:

♠ 8
♥ K J 5
♦ K Q 9 8 3 2
♣ J 9 4

South opened 1♠. Start counting your SQOT points: 6 diamonds + 2 honours = 8. You can bid 2♦. However, if you held only 5 diamonds, you should Pass (5+2).

In an article from Andrew Robson's website, he gives these example hands after a 1♣ opening bid:

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

Hand 1: Bid 1♠. Whilst you don't have many HCP, the SQOT count is 8, with the ♠10 bolstering the suit texture. 1♠ also consumes plenty of bidding space, maximising your nuisance value.

Hand 2: Pass. You have 11 HCP but what a poor suit (you would far prefer a 5-4-3-1 shape), and soft defensive honours.

Hand 3: Bid 1NT. You could bid 1♦ but bidding 1NT an an overcall shows your point count and you have a balanced hand with a stopper in their bid suit.

Hand 4: Double – a takeout double.

In The Australian on Wednesday 30th November, Robson wrote another article on the topic:

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

Both vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	2♦
Double (penalty!)		All Pass	

Regarding the overcall of 2♦, he says: “Ugh. The suit failing SQOT is only part of the problem. The heart holding (opener’s suit) is terrible – the danger of ♥A, ♥K and a ruff is great – and the 5-3-3-2 shape is distinctly uninspiring.”

“What happened?

West led the ♥9, East won the ♥K, cashed the ♥A and led the 10 (suit preference for the higher-ranking suit – spades). West ruffed and duly led the ♠8. East won the Queen, cashed the ♠A to void herself, then led the ♣8. West won the ♣A and led the ♠7, East trumping. West still had two further trump tricks and that was four down, 1100, on a part-score deal.

“What should have happened?

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥ (false preference)		All Pass	

“A good guideline to help you to decide whether or not your suit is good enough to bid as an overcaller is the Suit Quality Overcall Test: the number of cards in the suit (minimum being 5) added to the number of honours in the suit (including the 10) should reach the number of tricks you’re bidding for (ie 8 at the 2-level).

“It’s not gospel. Overrule it with a nice shapely hand and a good holding in RHO’s suit (eg a singleton or a well-placed A-Q-x-x, not x-x-x or Q-J-x). However, players are overly wont to make particularly dangerous 2-level overcalls on flat, trickles hands and SQOT-failing suits...”

Ed: Another way to think about your 2-level overcalls (and the suit quality), especially with a minor overcall, is to think about the most-likely game. The most-likely game is 3NT (for your side) and, if that’s the case, your suit needs to give your partner tricks!

Andrew Robson (England)

HOW WOULD YOU BID and HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

You are North and hold:

♠ A 9 8 6 4
♥ K Q J 10 9 3
♦ 8
♣ 5

With no opposition bidding, partner opens 1♦. You respond 1♥ and partner rebids 1NT. How are you going to continue the auction?

This 5-6 hand is strong enough to reverse, despite the lack of points. Firstly, 6-5 (in this case, 5-6) hands are stronger than their point count; secondly, that heart suit is basically self-supporting.

So you should rebid 2♣, a responder's reverse, at this stage showing 4 spades and 5 hearts with game forcing values. Opener rebids 2NT, so now you can rebid 3♣. Now, you are showing 5 spades but, since you reversed your first suit is longer, so you have 6 hearts.

Partner now raises you to 4♣. Here's the auction:

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦
1♥	1NT
2♣	2NT
3♣	4♣

East leads the ♣J and you see this 'not very suitable' dummy:

♠ J 7 3
♥ A 6
♦ K Q J 9
♣ Q 7 3 2

You could sit and stew, thinking, "4♥ would have been better, because you could use some of those diamonds to discard spades," but your time is better spent working out how you can make this hand (and, really 4♥ is the same). You have to lose the ♦A, the ♣A and hold your spades to one loser.

[Note: This is NOT a hand where the defence should hold up a minor suit Ace. You know North holds a 5-6 shape, and therefore has only 2 minor suit cards!]

This trump suit is a text-book 'suit combination'! Cashing the Ace will only work if one opponent holds the doubleton King-Queen (very small odds). Instead, the recommended play is to lead a small spade from North, towards the Jack in dummy. You are hoping that East holds the K-10 or Q-10 and jumps up with their honour (and, of course, sometimes defenders play the Queen here with Q-x-x!). On the next round of trumps, you lead the Jack from dummy, finessing West's honour and crushing East's 10. Whilst it won't work all the time, it gives you a very satisfying feeling when successful.

Here's the hand (over the page):

♠ A 9 8 6 4
♥ K Q J 10 9 3
♦ 8
♣ 5

♠ Q 5 2
♥ 7 4
♦ 7 5 4 3 2
♣ A 8 6

♠ K 10
♥ 8 5 2
♦ A 10 6
♣ K J 10 9 4

♠ J 7 3
♥ A 6
♦ K Q J 9
♣ Q 7 3 2

Classic... 4♠ makes if you play the trump suit according to the recommended line.

Classic... Nobody made 4♠.

If East can hold his nerve and play the ♠10 on the first round, declarer may decide it's a singleton and finesse the next round. However, most club players (at least) will rise with the King (and especially so with the Q-10 doubleton.)

Barbara Travis



“ADELAIDE 3” (Catherine Ellice-Flint, Tassi Georgiadis, Bill Bradshaw, Jo Bakas) sent this photo from the GNOT (Grand National Knockout Teams) which was held in Brisbane at the end of November. They absolutely loved the experience playing against strong teams.

PLANNING THE PLAY

Bill Bradshaw thought that this hand, from the Gawler Teams Congress, was worthy of discussion since several high profile players failed in their contract, 4♠.

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

A typical auction – all vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Some Wests opened 2♥ (hearts and a minor), whilst some may have upgraded the hand to a 1♥ opening bid. In these instances, East led the ♥10. *[Where East led the ♦K, the contract was easy to make, losing 1 club, 1 diamond and 1 heart.]*

It seems that most declarers relied on the double finesse in diamonds, a 75% chance. However, the auction is your guide to a superior line.

As Bill says: you know that East has two hearts at most (and one shouldn't use a Multi 2 two-suited bid with 6 cards in the major), and it is likely that West has a 5-5 in hearts and clubs. The hand is ripe for an elimination play, rather than the double finesse.

Win the heart lead with the ♥K, remove the trumps and lead a club. West wins and will continue with a top heart. You win the ♥A in dummy, and now your elimination is ready. East has no more hearts nor clubs. Lead the ♦J – if West covers, you will have one diamond loser; when East has both diamond honours, he will be end-played when he wins. If he leads a diamond, that picks up the suit for no more losers. If he leads a club, you can trump in dummy and discard your losing heart from hand, then try the diamond finesse again. No matter what, your contract is safe.

Always remember that, having found one line of play, to check whether there is a better line of play available. Whilst the double finesse in diamonds is a 75% prospect and lured declarers to failure, thinking about the auction will lead you to an elimination, which is a 100% line of play.

Bill Bradshaw and Barbara Travis

A GAME AT THE CLUB

Today's session seemed to be about declarer play (with some hands being bidding and declarer play based).

You, South, are playing in 4♠, holding:

♠ 9 7 4
♥ A 6 2
♦ A 7 6 3 2
♣ K Q

♠ K Q 5 3 2
♥ K 8 3
♦ K 8
♣ A 10 9

West leads the ♥Q. You should stop and develop a plan before playing, as I keep saying. You should be thinking about whether you can dispose of your potential heart loser. On this hand that job is relatively easy: you have two options – either hoping diamonds break 3-3 (35.5% odds) or using the ♠A to discard your third heart, then ruffing a heart in dummy (excellent odds).

Win the ♥A (get it out of the way), then lead a spade towards hand, hoping the ♠A lies with East: ♠4 – 6 – Queen – Ace. West returns another heart to your King. Now cash the ♣K and ♣Q, cross to hand with the ♠K, then lead your ♠A, discarding your heart loser. Now you can lead the ♥8 and ruff it in hand, simply losing two spade tricks.

Keep thinking about whether you can use dummy's trumps (the short trump hand). In this case, it was a little 'hidden', given that you used your winning clubs (the short suit) to create a different short suit in dummy.

On the next hand, you are East holding:

♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ Q J 6 2
♦ A 10 7 4
♣ 5

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

3♣ should be a game try, asking for help in clubs. You have help aplenty, with your singleton plus 4-card trump support. In fact, your 2♥ bid was an underbid on the hand; if I'd been in your seat, I'd have made a cue raise. Bid 4♥.

Now you are West, playing in 4♥:

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

At the table, the defenders cashed the first two spade tricks, then switched to diamonds, the Ace winning. Declarer now drew two rounds of trumps, so was able to trump only two clubs in dummy. (Imagine if trumps had been 3-1 and she'd drawn three rounds of trumps; she would have lost two club tricks!)

This hand looks like a hand for cross-trumping. You have 4 trumps in dummy to ruff 4 clubs, and can ruff the other suits to hand. Don't draw any trumps.

Win the ♦A. Cross to your ♣A and trump a club in dummy. Trump a diamond, then trump another club and keep the cross ruff going. You end up trumping the last four tricks with high trumps. 11 tricks, rather than 10.

The next hand is simply a question of what to open (vulnerable v not vul) holding:

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

Whilst this hand complies with the 'rules' of a vulnerable pre-empt, there is a flaw to the hand. In general, you should NOT open a pre-empt with two first round controls outside of your suit. This hand has the diamond void and the ♥A, two first round controls. That makes it too strong offensively for a pre-empt. If you plan to open this hand, you are better off opening 1♣, and rebidding clubs.

Partner held:

♠ A Q 6 5
 ♥ K Q 5
 ♦ J 8 5 2
 ♣ 9 5

which isn't good enough for a bid, but was plenty good enough for 11 tricks in 5♣, simply needing something good in spades.

Of course, you don't plan to leave partner in 3NT. After a typical auction of:

1♣ 1♠
 2♣ 3NT

you correct to 4♣ and they should rebid 5♣ on their hand, given you have shown 6+ clubs and 3 spades – and must have some red suit shortage to be removing 3NT.

I don't really know why the following hand was an equal top! What are people doing in the bidding?

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

West opened 2♥ and played there. North's opening lead was the ♦J, which held. North then led a club, won with the Ace. A club to declarer's King then provided a club ruff. A diamond was ruffed to hand and the ♥K led to South's Ace. South exited a club, ruffed. Declarer now cashed the ♥Q and exited a heart to South's Jack, with hearts breaking 3-3.

CHOOSING THE BEST CHANCE IN DEFENCE

This series comes from an Expert Speaker Talk at the NSWBA (June 2018), given by Liam Milne.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

At the table, there is usually a lot going on. Staying 'on task' can be difficult, which is why we need winning habits that will keep us on the straight and narrow.

Next time you play, try putting these habits into practice each time you defend a hand:

- 1 Work out partner's likely strength during the auction, and adjust when dummy appears.
- 2 When the defence seems clear, take control of the hand or help to make it clear for partner.
- 3 Guess declarer's most likely shape during the auction, adjust when dummy appears, and adjust again after each of the early tricks.

Knowing who has what strength, what the likely shape of the hand is, and keeping an eye on partner's problems as well as your own will lead to much smoother defences.

Here's one last deal where my play was second-best:

♠ A Q 8 5
♥ 9 6
♦ J 10 8 2
♣ A 5 3

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ J 10 7
♦ A 9 7
♣ Q 8 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣ (ask)	Pass	2♥ (4 cards)
Pass	2NT (inv)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Trick 1: ♠3 – 5 – 2 – King

Trick 2: ♦3 – Ace – 2 – 5

At the table, I jumped up with the ♦A and played a heart. Where did I go wrong?

CHOOSING THE BEST CHANCE IN DEFENCE

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

SOLUTION

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣ (ask)	Pass	2♥ (4 cards)
Pass	2NT (inv)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

My spade lead proved unsuccessful at trick 1, as declarer was marked with 4 spade tricks by partner's failure to play the Jack. Declarer's shape looks like 2-3 spades, 4 hearts (auction), 2-3 diamonds, 3-4 clubs. It is likely that declarer has 3 diamonds, because with 4 they would have opened 1♦ or raised to 2♦, while with 2 diamonds declarer might not be playing on diamonds.

Declarer's diamond club at trick 2 looks mostly likely to be from Q-x-x. With just the ♦K declarer would be leading the suit from dummy, while with the K-Q they would have led a high card.

Counting the points reveals that partner has 8-9 HCP. If we defend passively, you can see 7 tricks from spades (4 tricks), diamonds (2 tricks) and dummy's ♣A, and declarer should be able to find two more tricks in their hand. Assuming partner holds the ♦K, partner holds 5-6 more HCP.

You will need most of those points to be in one suit, either hearts or clubs, to have a chance. You must win the ♦A, to preserve partner's diamond entry to their long suit. But which suit should you switch to?

Both times they followed with their lowest card, so we should trust these plays to be some sort of suit preference indicator, and switch to clubs. If partner wanted a heart switch, they would have played a higher spade and/or diamond.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAIRS AND TEAMS

When you are playing Matchpoint Pairs, you need to consider what might be happening at all the other tables as much as what is happening at your table, because your score is being compared with every other pair sitting in your direction, whereas at Teams you are in a head-to-head battle with only one other team (or score).

This means that, at Pairs, you have to make as many tricks as possible but, at Teams, you have to ensure the safety of your contract first, even if that might cost you an overtrick.

PLAYING A HAND DIFFERENTLY

Consider the following hand:

♠ K 5 3
♥ K 9 5 3
♦ 5 4
♣ K J 5 3

♠ A Q J
♥ A J 8 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A Q 10 2

You are playing in 4♥ and the opponents cash the first two diamonds, then lead a spade. How many tricks you take depends on the trump suit. How would you play? The answer depends on whether you are playing Pairs or Teams.

At Pairs, you should play the ♥K, then finesse the ♥J on the way back. This will succeed whenever there is a singleton ♥Q or when hearts break 3-2, and if you pick the heart correctly you will make an overtrick. However, you would go down if West held the ♥Q-10-x-x. Therefore, in a Teams match, where the safety of the contract is paramount, you should tackle the hearts differently.

With this combination in trumps, to allow for any 4-1 break (but not 5-0), you should cash the ♥A first (counter-intuitive), then lead low towards the K-9-5. If West follows suit, they are the only defender who can now hold 4 hearts, so you simply cover whatever card he plays, in case he holds Q-10-x-x. On the other hand, if West shows out, you win the ♥K and lead back towards your ♥J-8, losing only to the ♥Q. This play may sacrifice the overtrick, but you have lost 1 IMP in order to ensure the safety of your contract; if the hearts break 4-1, you will gain 12 IMPs – a cheap investment.

This hand illustrates that Pairs is about maximising your tricks/score, whereas Teams is about making your contract/getting a positive score, especially in games and slams.

BIDDING A HAND DIFFERENTLY

Here is another hand to think about:

♠ A 9 8
♥ A K 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ J 6 5 4

With everyone vulnerable, your RHO opens 2♠, you pass and LHO jumps to 4♠. Your partner doubles 4♠, which is essentially a takeout double. RHO passes and now you must decide what to do. Your decision should be affected by whether you are playing Pairs or Teams.

Let's consider the various scenarios:

They could go down two tricks in 4♠ X, giving you 500, when you may be able to make 11 tricks at the 5-level (scoring 600+).

They could go down one or two in 4♠ X, giving you 200 or 500, when you cannot make any 5-level contract.

They could be down one in 4♠ X, scoring 200, when you can make 11 tricks at the 5-level.
They could be down three (or more), giving you 800+, when you can make game (600+). *[You are unlikely to bid a slam after this high-level start to the auction.]*

AT TEAMS

At Teams your first concern should be to get a positive score/outcome. In all likelihood, you have game making your way (4♥ or 5♣ depending on partner's hand), but the opponents are pushing you around.

Taking the listed outcomes in order:

- If they go down 500, instead of your 650, you lose 4 IMPs.
- If they go down 200, but you can't make anything, you will gain IMPs – gain 7+ IMPs.
- If they go down one (200) and you can make game (650), you lose 10 IMPs.
- If they go down three (800), against a making game, you gain 4 IMPs.
- If they go down three and you can't make anything, you gain 13-14 IMPs.

The small gains and losses are insignificant (4 IMPs or less), so we look at the large swings. On the whole, it is more effective to Pass and take your plus score.

AT PAIRS

At Pairs (matchpoints), the decision on this hand is far more difficult. Collecting 500 instead of scoring 650 could lead to a bottom score. You have to think about what is likely to happen at other tables in the field, and whether others will face the same decision as you. On this hand, many pairs will have a similar auction, so you have to make the 'right' decision on this particular hand! However, being consistent with your decision-making will help you to 'win' more often. Some people always Pass and take their defensive plus score; others always bid 5♥, hoping to score 650.

Barbara Travis

AUTUMN NATIONALS BUTLER SWISS PAIRS:

The scoring is like TEAMS, rather than PAIRS, even though you are playing as a Pair.

Each individual score is compared with the 'average' of all the pairs in your field, so that average effectively becomes your team-mate. The difference is converted into IMPs, and then the total margin is converted to Victory Points (VPs).

Your next match (opponents) will be a pair doing equally well (or poorly) as your partnership:

1st plays 2nd, 3rd plays 4th etc, unless you have already met each other.

Give it a try!

COMING EVENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS

Thursday 4 th May to Monday 8 th May	Autumn National Championships Rookie Pairs (Under 35 MPs) TBIB Open Pairs TBIB Mixed Pairs StepBridge Under Grand Master Pairs StepBridge Under Life Master Pairs	Ridley Centre
Thursday 4 th May		
Thursday 4 th – Friday 5 th May		
Saturday 6 th – Sunday 7 th May	TBIB Open Teams StepBridge Under Grand Master Teams StepBridge Under Life Master Teams	
Monday 8 th May	TBIB Open Teams Final	Unley

STATE EVENTS

Wednesday 1 st February onwards	Daytime Teams Qualifying	Unley
Thursday 2 nd February onwards	Open Trials: Final and Consolation	Unley
Saturday 18 th March	State Women's Team Trials: Qualifying	Unley
Friday 24 th – Sunday 26 th March	State Women's Team Trials: Final	Unley
Friday 28 th – Sunday 30 th April	State Seniors' Team Trials	Unley

CONGRESSES

Sunday 5 th February	Adelaide Bridge Centre Pairs	ABC
Sunday 12 th February	SA Bridge Assoc Swiss Pairs	Unley
Sunday 5 th March	Gawler Pairs	Gawler
Saturday 1 st April	Bridge in the Barossa Congress: Pairs	Tanunda
Sunday 2 nd April	Bridge in the Barossa Congress: Teams	Tanunda
Friday 7 th April	Bridge in the City Golden Bunny Teams	Clarence Park
Saturday 15 th April	StepBridge Congress	StepBridge

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

STATE SENIORS' PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1st Adel Abdelhamid – John Kikkert
2nd Keith Barrie – Tim O'Loughlin
3rd Andrew Hill – David Shilling

STATE PAIRS

- 1st Russel Harms – Phil Markey
2nd Mike Doecke – George Smolanko
3rd Zolly Nagy – Justin Williams

CONSOLATION

- 1st Peter Colmer – Kevin Lange
2nd Ingrid Cooke – Anne Harris
3rd Brian Leach – Peter Mika

STATE TEAMS

- 1st HARMS: Russel Harms – Phil Markey, Justin Williams – Zolly Nagy, Nic Croft – Arjuna de Livera
2nd JAPPE: Mark Jappe – John Maddison, Peter Colmer – Kevin Lange, Sharmini & David Anderson

AUSTRALIAN MIXED TEAM 2023

Lauren Travis – Phil Markey, Renee Cooper – Ben Thompson, Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, NPC Mike Doecke

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IT MUST BE CHRISTMAS

by John Elliott

This has just appeared in the ABF Newsletter, so you may have already read it.

Dealer North
N/S Vul.

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

Christmas comes but once a year
And so do hands like this
Although October is now here
The Red Man I could kiss.

Three Losers did I see at once
No Aces in my hand
And my style is taking punts
That's my normal stand.

From partner I would need two Aces
To satisfy requirement,
Be still, my heart, make sure my face is
Showing no excitement.

An opening bid I now must make
And carefully proceed
There is a prize that's here at stake
Errors I do not need.

Two No Trumps becomes my bid
My meaning's in this packet
It shows two 5-card Minor suits
With opening points to back it.

Undaunted, East now has his say
Those lovely Hearts to call
And strongly hope that partner may
Support and then stand tall.

In South's mind there rings a bell
We have at least nine trumps
It doesn't matter which I tell
We'll show that we're not frumps.

So what to say, I'll cause some trouble
Equal length in D & C,
With two good suits, my bid is "Double"
Look to North and see.

Meanwhile West sees chance for Game
I have five Hearts as well
And earn ourselves distinguished name
As far as I can tell.

But North is not so easily cowed
And bids 5 Clubs to boot
East counters with 5 Hearts out loud
With wisdom that is moot.

South is made of sterner stuff
And leaves 5 hearts alone
And wonders now if North's a bluff
Will he do it on his own?

West now thought my turn has come
To bid OUR slam and say
Our High Card Points and DP sum
Are going to save the day.

Six Hearts bid West with confidence
That'll put them in their place
With all our points and logic sense
We'll win this bloody race.

A Sacrifice it surely seemed,
It shouldn't make at all,
Double now for penalty,
Opponents then did call.

But North continues calmly fishing
Little did they know
What it was he had been wishing
To cook them nice and slow.

Pass, pass, pass, the auction's done
Now let's look at play
The Ace of Hearts was meant to run,
Declarer ruffed instead.

The auction up to now was piecemeal
To make opponents think
There was a slam that they could steal
And they'd be in the pink.

A dozen trumps Declarer counted,
Only one not seen,
The Grand Slam play could be un-mounted
Only by a Queen.

But North upset the apple cart,
A spanner in the works,
7 Clubs was bid above the Heart.
From where his cunning lurks.

But those us who read this must
See as plain as day,
The Queen of D's will hit the dust
The Slam will surely stay.

On the night that this hand was played, we were the only pair who bid 7 Clubs. The Double was expected and not a surprise. But the gods were smiling at the time and maybe Santa Claus as well, but when the BridgeMate came up with a score of 2330, few of us had ever seen such a score, the nearest being a rare 7NT vulnerable making 13 for 2220.

One East-West pair bid 6H (Not Vulnerable) making 13 tricks for -1010, three others bid 6H making 11, four played in 5H making 13 for 510, and one other N/S pair played in 5 Clubs making 13 for 640.

In the bidding of this contract, I tried to make it seem that my 6 Club bid was a sacrifice, but I was taken aback by the auction going to 6H. At that point my courage faltered with indecision, but at the critical moment when I reached out to my bidding box for the pass card, I changed my mind and went for the Grand Slam. If it hadn't been for that last-second correction, I would not have earned the right to write this story; the verse is a bonus.

John Elliott, Alexandrina BC