

## Australian National Congress Restricted Butler Canberra, 22-23 July 2017

This year the Australian National Championships (ANC) is being held in Canberra. The first week of the ANC is the Interstate Teams competition in which only those selected in the state teams are eligible to compete. This week-long event is followed by another week of bridge competitions which are open to all bridge players.

Again, the ABF is providing generous subsidies to two pairs of restricted players from each State to compete in the ANC Restricted Butler pairs.

The SABF are conducting a one-day competition to select the two lucky pairs from South Australia. The event will be held in the SABA clubrooms on Sunday 9 April. Enter on the SABF website by 6 April.

**I only play Bridge on days that end in 'Y'**

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## Youth Bridge News

*By David Gue*

George Bartley and I felt extremely privileged to be able to participate in Youth Week 2017 (in Canberra) and are grateful for the good support from the SABF. Even though George and I didn't make the Australian Youth team, we came quite close and both had a lot of fun.

In the team Datums, we came 15<sup>th</sup> out of 20 – enough to put us into the butler for the national youth team, which was our main goal for the event. After round 1 of the butler, we were 1<sup>st</sup> however after the 4<sup>th</sup> round we floated around 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. By the last round we were 6<sup>th</sup> and were playing against the pair coming last, at this point we were only about 6 VPs behind 5<sup>th</sup>.

When we had finished playing, George and I had had a big loss which we were quite upset about because we had been so close to making the play-off but upon reviewing the scores we realised that two of our boards had been scored the wrong way. This turned our big loss into a big win, 19.29 VPs, which put us into 4<sup>th</sup> (only 0.98 VPs behind 3<sup>rd</sup> which would have put us directly into the team) and into the play-off. Sadly, we got demolished in the play-off by 77 imps. This hasn't discouraged me or George as we both have so many years of youth left; in fact, it has probably made us more encouraged.

We both have big plans about getting better at bridge; we play regularly at the Adelaide Bridge Club on Saturdays, where youth players get to play against each other, eat some sausages and have fun.

## STATE PAIRS – Restricted Section

(<300 masterpoints) *by Bevin Brooks*

There is some truth to the suggestion that my nickname should be 'Haversack' because Ingrid Cooke has 'carried' me to win several recent events. We managed to win this event by the narrowest of margins (0.1 VP). Placegetters were:

1. Bevin Brooks and Ingrid Cooke
2. Bill Bradshaw and Simon Morgan
3. Joanne Bakas and Tassi Georgiadis

During the course of the final two matches, several boards demonstrated the importance of:

1. Finding the best opening lead (or at least, not the worst)
2. Appropriate upgrading of a hand on the basis of voids in a suit contract
3. Recognising the value of a singleton ace in a suit contract

### 1. Opening Leads

♠	QJ	♠	986542
♥	Q73	♥	A95
♦	KJT42	♦	AQ5
♣	Q86	♣	7
♠	3	♠	AKT7
♥	KJT2	♥	864
♦	963	♦	87
♣	JT432	♣	AK95

The bidding:

N	E	S	W
P	P	1♣	P
1♦	1S	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

Now, before you start criticising the bidding, please remember that this part of the article is about opening leads.

West led the ♥10. Dummy played the ♥3 and East was faced with a choice: duck the ♥10 or play the ♥A. When you can see all four hands, the choice is easy. East played the ace and returned the ♥5.

At this stage, I could see four spade tricks, one heart trick and three club tricks. Could I get the

ninth trick from clubs if they broke 3-3 or somehow steal a diamond trick? As it turned out, I could not. Eight tricks. One down.

At the end of play, West conceded that the ♥J would have been a better lead. However, would East then have been certain of what to do? Probably! Ducking is always the best play here. The eighth trick was crucial in determining the overall placings. What was the best lead? The ♥J, probably.

### 2. Voids

♠	-	♠	Q73
♥	82	♥	Q5
♦	KJ8754	♦	32
♣	KQT87	♣	AJ9642
♠	AKT954	♠	J862
♥	J7543	♥	AKT9
♦	A	♦	QT96
♣	5	♣	3

A competitive auction saw N-S arrive at 5♦. This was makeable through the power of distribution.

Partnerships evaluate the power of hands in varied ways:

- high card points
- total points
- losing trick count
- combination of the above

I suggest a slightly different way of looking at things. The spade void virtually eliminates 10 of the HCP leaving 30 'in play' – although the club singleton could be said to reduce the HCP by a further five.

So it is not 19/40 that we (ie North-South) should look at, but 19/25. This is 76 per cent of the points in play. This is more than 70 per cent (28 out of 40) which is normally considered enough to make game in a minor contract.

Did I make 11 tricks? No! I made 10. It is not easy to see how. I plead temporary insanity or the onset of senile dementia.

## STATE PAIRS – Restricted Section (Continued)

### 3. Singleton Aces

♠	AKJ653	♠	T2
♥	A	♥	K9752
♦	A87	♦	965
♣	KT3	♣	J97
♠	98		
♥	QJT4		
♦	KQJ4		
♣	654		
♠	Q74		
♥	863		
♦	T32		
♣	AQ82		

North-South found their way to 4♠ (by North) and quite comfortably made 12 tricks due to the 3-3 club break.

How could N-S have reached 6♠? (I am not considering 7♠ or 6NT in the context of this article.) Perhaps the methodology employed in point 2 could have been employed (as well as standard methods). N-S have 27 HCP – not normally considered enough for slam. The six spades are a key factor, but so is the singleton Ace. The singleton Ace reduces the number of HCP from 40 to 34, and 27 out of 34 is just less than 80 per cent of the points. If you have 80 per cent of 40 HCP, you have 32 HCP. This is a level at which slam will always be seriously considered. My main point is this: a singleton Ace is worth far more than 4 HCP no matter how you value your hand!

### 2017 ANC RESTRICTED BUTLER TRIALS

9.30am – 5.00pm  
Sunday 9 April 2017  
Venue: SABA

Eligible players will have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 31 December 2016.  
Register your entry on the SABF website.

*The first two placegetters will be given free entry into the ANC Butler Pairs and a subsidy to cover travel and accommodation costs*

Free entry for players from clubs more than 100 klms from the CBD.

## COULDA...WOULDA...SHOULDA!

by Morah Tickle

Experienced players are invited to move smoothly to the next article without reading on: this column is not for them. This column is for novices who, like me, still have much to learn about this enticing, alluring, endlessly beautiful game we love to play. This column is for those whose post mortems are tinged with chagrin over the ones that got away. I urge those readers to think carefully and commit themselves to a line of play before turning the page and discovering the answer!

Sitting West, you find yourself in 6♠ on the lead of the ♥7:

♠	K9763	♠	AQT42
♥	A4	♥	3
♦	A976	♦	T842
♣	Q3	♣	AK4

You can count 10 top tricks immediately (five spades, one heart, one diamond and three clubs) and you are assured an 11<sup>th</sup> trick if you ruff a heart. The task can be defined quite simply: you must play the diamond suit for one loser only, even though you are missing three honours. Yes, dear friends, the simple finesse – even the double finesse! – is not going to cut it. Picture how the outstanding diamonds might lie and how you might use that information to your advantage. I **COULDA** got this right. Ruefully, I admit that I didn't, but perhaps you **WOULDA** found the right play? Turn to page 4 and find out...

### St Vincent Bridge Club

#### Swiss Pairs Congress

Sunday 11 June  
Rotary Hall, Brixton Street, Christies Beach

## COULDA...WOULDA...SHOULDA!

(Continued from page 3)

Here is the full deal:

	♠ J85	
	♥ KT875	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ T82	
♠ K9763		♠ AQT42
♥ A4		♥ 3
♦ A976		♦ T842
♣ Q3		♣ AK4
	♠ -	
	♥ QJ962	
	♦ K53	
	♣ J9765	

The hand lends itself to an elimination and throw in. I drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand, ruffed a heart and played three rounds of clubs ending in dummy, having thrown a diamond from my hand, to arrive at this position:

	♠ -	
	♥ KT8	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ -	
♠ K9		♠ 4
♥ -		♥ -
♦ A97		♦ T842
♣ -		♣ -
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ K53	
	♣ J9	

*'Bridge is a game that separates the men from the boys. It also separates husbands and wives.'*  
George Burns

Sigh! I ran the ♦T hoping for something I couldn't see to work out for me. This will succeed only when North wins the trick with a singleton honour – not even close to an even money chance! Of course, North won her ♦J and played the ♦Q and now I must lose a second diamond trick.

I **SHOULDA** played ♦A and another diamond, hoping that diamonds are 3-2 and that the hand with the doubleton wins the trick and must lead a club or a heart, giving me a ruff and discard. (I will take the ruff on the table, discarding another diamond from the West hand, enabling me to ruff my last diamond in hand.) With North holding QJ of diamonds exactly, the plan cannot fail. Not even an alert South who understands the danger their partner is facing can help by overtaking with the ♦K, because that will simply promote my ♦T. In fact, if the doubleton consists of any two of the three outstanding honours, the contract is guaranteed!

**Tip:** If you can see at trick 1 that you are heading for an elimination and throw in of this kind, lay down the ♦A early, before you eliminate the clubs and hearts. Otherwise, a perceptive defender who begins with Kx of diamonds may foresee your plan and unblock the ♦K under the ♦A so that their partner who started with QJx will win with the ♦J on the second round and cash the ♦Q to defeat the contract.

### Clarence Park Bridge Club

Golden Bunny Teams  
Easter Friday 14 April

12.30 – 4.30pm  
Edwardstown Bowling club  
Raglan Avenue  
South Plympton

\$8 members/ \$9 Visitors  
Afternoon Tea provided  
Come as a pair or team of four

Bookings close 10 April

Phone Sue : 8376 6565  
Email: [bridgeincity@chariot.net.au](mailto:bridgeincity@chariot.net.au)

## The more things change ...

By Ingrid Cooke

It was interesting, in view of the SABA's current policy to target slow play, to read an article written by Maurice Harrison-Gray back in the 1950s. Harrison-Gray was a top ranking British player, multiple European championship player and one of the originators of the Acol system. He played in the 20s and 30s and later contributed a most entertaining series of articles to Country Life.

In 1956, he described the following appeals made by the British players against their opponents (not named) at the European championships held in Stockholm. Make up your own mind on how you might have ruled had you been on the tournament committee panel.

### Case A

West held

♠	KJT76
♥	A4
♦	K83
♣	T54

South dealt (nil vul) and the bidding proceeded thus:

S	W	N	E
1♣	1♠	4♣	P
P	4♠	P	P
X	P	P	P

East queried the meaning of 4♣, was told it was natural and hesitated for a long time before passing. 4♠ was unbeatable.

### Case B

South held

♠	9
♥	JT986
♦	6432
♣	QT7

Dealer was E with EW vulnerable. The bidding was:

S	W	N	E
			1♥
P	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♦	P	2♥
P	4♥	P	P
X	P	P	P

North had a series of slow passes during the bidding.

### Case C

South holds

♠	T97
♥	A8432
♦	KT6
♣	95

North deals at nil vul and the bidding proceeds thus:

S	W	N	E
-	-	1♣	P
1♥	1♠	3♦	P
3♥	P	6♥	6♠
P	P	X	P
7♥	P	P	P

During the bidding, North thought for a full 5 minutes before doubling 6♠ and South went into a 13 minute trance before bidding 7♥ which made.

A dozen neutral countries overwhelmingly supported the British appeal.

How would you have ruled on these hands?

The ruling that was handed down by the Tournament Committee of European Bridge League ruled:

**Case A** "was unable to accept the suggestion that West was influenced by partner's query or hesitation."

### Case B and C

1. "it was reasonable of the British team, under the circumstances, to have made both protests."
2. "that the protests must be rejected."
3. "the Committee desire to direct the attention to all players (and particularly the X team) to the fact that in no circumstances may the hesitation of a player's partner be permitted to influence a player's bid."

How often have we seen similar behaviour at the table? The rapid pass to let partner know they are weak, the reluctant pass to suggest some values, even the body language can give a bid meaning. Quite often these signals are innocent and unintended but they do exist.

Thank goodness long delays are now being targeted (although some players still take longer than necessary). Delays of 13 minutes waiting for a player to pass could easily result in murder, although a bridge playing jury would acquit the offender on the grounds of justifiable homicide.

## CLUB NEWS

### Riverland Bridge Club

On 1 December 2016, 12 members of the Riverland Bridge Club travelled to Mildura to play for the RiverSun Bridge Trophy: a competition held twice a year between the Riverland Bridge Club and Mildura Bridge Club. Jenny Tozer and Peter Andersen, of Mildura, won on the day and Mildura kept the trophy.



*Photo: Glenda Moyle, Mildura Bridge Club President, accepting the trophy from Ed Davey, Riverland Bridge Club President.*

The Riverland Bridge Club held their Annual Club Championships over the past three weeks in January/February. 81 Boards were played over three days. After 12 hours of play, the top three pairs were separated by only 2%. Club Champions are Marg Phillips and Grace Altschwager, equal second: Sue Britton and Peter Moller; and Jan Sunstrom and Kate Yates.



*Photo: Winners of the Handicap Trophy, Chris Kimber of Loxton and Kaye Quast of Sunlands.*

## Bridge Down Under - What a Difference!

*by JoAnn Sprung 10 Feb 2017*

*[This post on Bridgewinners.com is reprinted with permission of the author.]*

Danny and I are traveling around Australia prior to playing in the Gold Coast Congress (one of my bucket list events).

We found a bridge club in Adelaide and thought it would be fun to play. Boy, were we right. We emailed the club owner, Phil Gue and asked a few questions about system limitations at the club. His response was "play (almost) anything you like - this is Australia".

Arriving at the bustling club (the game was 22 tables plus some supervised play) we were warmly greeted and interested to find that the club had a restaurant style lunch menu with sandwiches, fancy coffees and alcohol. Once your order is prepared they deliver it to the table. After the Friday game they serve appetizers and have a cash bar. Boy those Aussies know how to party!

We discovered a few interesting differences. Many players played multi and other "out there" stuff. It was very relaxed and we were given a heads up that unusual bids/carding may not be alerted. We were also informed that a multi bid may have two or three meanings. There are no strats. The masterpoint awards are low by US standards.

Evidently bridge is thriving in Australia with new clubs opening. So perhaps it time for the US to question why bridge is declining here and thriving elsewhere.

Some differences -

Style of play/game - more relaxed but still fairly serious. Players are not separated into strats and everyone competes in an "open" event. We used bidding boxes and bridge mates. The event was split into several sections with 4 boards per round.

Systems - Pretty much anything goes.

Atmosphere - Fun! People socialize before and after the game.

Our experience really got me thinking about the ACBL approach to bridge. It seems that our "playthrough" mentality and shortened lunch/dinner breaks have cut down on the social aspects of the game. Clearly the flighted/strat approach to the game with the ACBL pushing masterpoints as the goal isn't working. Severely restricting systems and experimentation do not seem to have the desired effect.

*Editor's note: Sometimes it good to reflect on what we are doing well and these observations from an "outsider" are a reminder that bridge is a game and meant to be fun.*

## RESULTS

### UNDER LIFE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Terry Driver & David Schofield
2. Jim & Wendy Smith
3. Bevin Brooks & Ingrid Cooke

### STATE PAIRS QUALIFYING

1. Therese Demarco & Judy Hocking
2. David Middleton & Zolly Nagy
3. Jarrad Dunbar & Justin Williams

### RESTRICTED BUTLER PAIRS

1. Bevin Brooks & Ingrid Cooke
2. Bill Bradshaw & Simon Morgan
3. Joanne Bakas & Tassi Georgiadis

### CONSOLATION STATE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Peter Colmer & Andrew Eddie
2. Roger Januszke & John Zollo
3. Susan Phillips & Judith Roberts

### STATE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2016 – FINAL

1. Joachim Haffer & Howard Melbourne
2. Greg Sargent & George Smolanko
3. Jarrad Dunbar & Justin Williams

### 2016 STATE TEAMS FINAL

1. Peter Colmer/Andrew Eddie/Judy Hocking/Kevin Lange
2. Peter Chan/Attilio De Luca/Joel Gue/David Lusk
3. David Anderson/Roger Januszke/George Smolanko/John Zollo

### 2017 DAYTIME TEAMS QUALIFYING

1. Mike Doecke/Joachim Haffer/David Parrott/Yadi Parrott/George Smolanko/Justin Williams
2. Peter Colmer/Attilio De Luca/Gary Deaton/Andrew Eddie/Susan Emerson
3. Bob Clarke/Leonie Clarke/Ceda Nikolic/Arthur Porter

### 2017 OPEN TRIALS FINAL

1. Nicolas Croft & Joachim Haffer
2. Philip Markey & Justin Williams
3. David Anderson & George Smolanko

### 2017 OPEN TRIALS PLATE

1. Phil Gue & David Middleton
2. Gordon Fallon & Greg Sargent
3. David Cherry & John Horowitz

### INDIVIDUAL SWISS PAIRS

1. Adel Abdelhamid
2. Attilio De Luca
- =3. Bill Bradshaw
- =3. Bill Lockwood

### INTRA CLUB PAIRS - Gawler

1. John & Terry Pearson
2. Milton Hart & Sharmini Hoole
3. Janet Faber & Helen Rollond

### INTRA CLUB PAIRS – Handicap

1. Chris Brady & Zhihong Miao
2. David Brooks & Frank Van Den Heuvel
3. Herb & Marg Neumeister

### SABA SWISS PAIRS CONGRESS

#### Section A

1. Roger Januszke & John Zollo
2. Howard Melbourne & Barbara Travis
3. Chris Barnwell & Marilyn Paris

#### Section B

1. John & Terry Pearson
2. Carolyn & Chris Mroczek
3. Rodney Macey & Judy Zollo

#### Section C

1. Sally Fraser & Sally Luke
2. Herb & Marg Neumeister
3. Helene Maddern & Margaret Softley

### ABC Adelaide Cup Pairs

#### Championship

1. Margaret Walters & Mark Fairlamb
2. Terry & John Pearson
3. Tim O'Loughlin & Keith Barrie

#### Plate

1. Carole & John Foreman
2. Lyn & Michael Harris
3. Mike Greening & Pat Mesmer

#### Consolation

1. John Smith & Wendy Hopkins
2. Sue Hapek & Margaret Porter
3. Colleen Duffy & Les Wozniczka

### 2017 WOMENS STATE TEAM TRIALS

1. Judy Hocking & Therese Demarco
2. Yadi Parrott & Felicity Smyth
3. Jackie Ward & Sue Phillips

## SABF MATTERS

### 2017 Management Committee

<b>President</b>	John Zollo	gzollo@bigpond.net.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Angela Norris	southaustbridgefed@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Walker	pvwalker@gmail.com
<b>Education &amp; Training</b>	David Parrott	yadi.david@bigpond.com
<b>Chairperson of the Tournament Subcommittee</b>	David Anderson	revoke1@live.com
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	Phil Gue	adelaidebridge@bigpond.com
<b>Committee</b>	David Anderson	revoke1@live.com
<b>Committee</b>	Bob Clarke	rclark01@ozemail.com.au
<b>Committee</b>	Jill Allanson	ejallanson@bigpond.com.au
<b>Committee</b>	David Parrott	yadi.david@bigpond.com
<b>Committee</b>	Sue Phillips	suejohnp@tpg.com.au
<b>Committee</b>	Margaret Walters	margaret.walters@bigpond.com
<b>Committee</b>	Jinny Fuss	vfuss@pacific.net.au
<b>Committee</b>	Jeanette Lunnie	jeanette.lunnie@bigpond.com

#### Tournament Committee

- David Anderson
- David Parrott
- Phil Gue
- Carole Foreman
- Bob Clarke
- Arthur Porter
- Felicity Smyth

*Contact members of this committee about issues relating to the timing, format, and organizing of SABF events.*

This newsletter is published quarterly. Send contributions by email to the editor. **Copy deadline** for the next issue is **1 June 2017**

## Autumn National Open Teams

### Adelaide Showground, Wayville

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 — 10.00am to 6.15pm

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 — 9.30am to 5.45pm

### Open, Senior, Women and Under Life Master Swiss Pairs

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May — 9.30am to 6.45pm

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May — 9.00am to 6.00pm

### Open and Under Life Master Teams

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 9.30am – 4.30pm

### Open Teams Final, Consolation Teams and Graded Pairs

Enter online at the [SABF website](#)

## SABF Youth Bridge and Cards Club

Every Saturday afternoon, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Adelaide Bridge Centre, 209 Glen Osmond Rd, Frewville

For players between 7-24 years keen to learn bridge. Includes a free Sausage Sizzle lunch.

If you are coming for the first time please contact the Adelaide Bridge Centre, phone 83792044 or email [adelaidebridge@bigpond.com](mailto:adelaidebridge@bigpond.com)



## SABF EVENTS

### SABF Club Congresses

Friday 14 April	Edwardstown	Golden Bunny Teams
Tuesday 25 April	ABC	ANZAC Day Swiss Pairs
Sunday 4 June	SABA	Rotary Pairs
Sunday 11 June	Christies Beach	St Vincent Swiss Pairs Congress
Saturday 8 July	Tanunda	Bridge in the Barossa - Pairs
Sunday 9 July	Tanunda	Bridge in the Barossa - Teams
Saturday 2 September	Glenelg	Glenelg Congress
Sunday 8 October	Edwardstown	Bridge in the City Congress
Saturday 28 October	Loxton	Riverland Congress - Pairs
Sunday 29 October	Loxton	Riverland Congress - Teams
Saturday 4 November	Gawler	Gawler Teams Congress
Sunday 31 December	ABC	New Year's Eve Congress

### SABF Events April – June 2017

The full Calendar of Events for 2017 is available online at:-

[http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/docs/Calendar\\_of\\_Events/SABF\\_Calendar\\_2017.pdf](http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/docs/Calendar_of_Events/SABF_Calendar_2017.pdf)

Seniors State Team Trials Venue: SABA Fri, Sat, Sun	7.30pm Friday 7 April; 9.30am Saturday 8 April; Sunday 9 April
ANC Restricted Butler Trials Venue: SABA Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 9 April
Autumn National Teams Venue: Wayville Showgrounds	Thursday 4 May – Monday 8 May
State Swiss Butler Pairs Venue: SABA Thursdays 7.30pm	Thursdays 11 May, 18 May, 25 May, 1 June, 15 June
State Teams Phase 1 Venue SABA Thursday 7.30pm	Thursday 22 June, 29 June, 6 July, 13 July, 3 August

### GNOT Qualifying

SABA GNOT Qualifying Thursdays 7.30pm	23 March; 30 March; 6 April; 20 April; 27 April
Regional GNOT Final	Tanunda – 13 August
Under Grand Master GNOT Qualifying	St Vincent – 27 August

WELCOME

## ALEXANDRINA BRIDGE CLUB

Players meet at the Lutheran Church Hall, 2 Commercial Rd, Strathalbyn  
For session times contact Norman Bullen: [n.r.bullen2@internode.on.net](mailto:n.r.bullen2@internode.on.net)