

April 2020

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

## LATEST NEWS

Club bridge in South Australia has come to a standstill, in the interests of containing Covid-19 and looking after player health. Thank you to our bridge clubs for being so responsible, despite the cost to their businesses.

### ONLINE BRIDGE OPTIONS

Bridge Base Online (BBO) is a free website that you can go to if you want to play some casual bridge. It also has BridgeMaster if you want to get in a bit of practice and keep your skills honed. You can join BBO (free) which will enable you to start your own table and invite your friends to join you. [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)

Stepbridge is a registered online (South Australian-based) bridge club. Membership for Non-Home club members is just \$5 per year. Once you join, you can play in a normal bridge session for just \$3 per session. Be aware that this is a normal session like you would play at the club, so you can't just leave partway through. You can play in a session with your regular partner or register to play with a partner they allocate to you. They currently run 14 sessions each week on BBO.

### AUTUMN NATIONALS

The Autumn National Championships, which were due to be held in late April, have been cancelled.

Now, I hope you can enjoy reading about some bridge in this Newsletter (instead of reading about coronavirus). Stay safe and healthy.

*Barbara Travis, Editor (and President), SABF*

## GOLD COAST CONGRESS RESULTS

*(South Australian players' names are capitalised)*

### BOBBY RICHMAN OPEN PAIRS

#### FINAL A

6th PHIL MARKEY - Ron Klinger  
17th MIKE DOECKE - Will Jenner-O'Shea  
also GEORGE SMOLANKO - Peter Buchen

#### FINAL B

8th THERESE DEMARCO - Fraser Rew

#### FINAL C

1st PETER CHAN - Bob Sebesfi  
11th JOE HAFFER - Stephen Fischer  
12th IAN HILDITCH - DAVID PARROTT

### BOBBY RICHMAN INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

#### FINAL B

7th CHRIS NETTLE - MICHAEL WARD  
also HELEN KITE - HELEN ROLLOND  
KATRINA HEWINGS - TERRY DRIVER

#### FINAL C

9th JOANNE BAKAS - TASSI GEORGIADIS  
also PENNY BOWEN - BILL BRADSHAW  
MILTON HART - NEIL WELCH

#### FINAL D

2nd CHRIS BARNWELL - MERILYN PARIS

### WEEKEND MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS: OPEN

13th FELICITY GUNNER - PRUDIE WAGNER  
24th GENEVIEVE PAGE - PHIL GUE

### WEEKEND MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS: 0-500 MPs

24th ROD MACEY - David Spencer

### MONDAY BUTLER SWISS PAIRS: OPEN

#### NORTH-SOUTH

10th PHIL GALLASCH - MARK JAPPE  
16th INGRID COOKE - SUE PHILLIPS  
20th JUDY HOCKING - KEVIN LANGE

#### EAST-WEST

9th JULIE BOYCE - CHRISTINE THOMAS  
20th HELEN and ROBERT FLEET

### MONDAY BUTLER SWISS PAIRS: 0-500 MPs

3rd BEVIN BROOKS - JOHN LOKAN

### OPEN TEAMS

#### WOMEN'S TEAM PLAYOFF:

LUSK 126 defeated BILTOFT 96.1  
[LUSK: SUE LUSK - Viv Wood, Steph Jacob - Rochelle Pelkman]

#### SENIORS' TEAM PLAYOFF:

KROCHMALIK 143.1 defeated LUSK 96  
[LUSK: DAVID LUSK - GARY CHUA, PETER CHAN - Bob Sebesfi,  
DAVID PARROTT - IAN HILDITCH]

### SERES-McMAHON PAIRS

1st MARGARET WALTERS - PHIL GUE  
2nd DIANNE MARLER - Jane Davies  
19th LINDA ALEXANDER - ANGELA NORRIS  
21st HELEN and ROBERT FLEET

### IVY DAHLER SWISS PAIRS: INTERMEDIATE

17th VICKI TAYLOR - Gwyneira Brahma  
19th MILTON HART - NEIL WELCH  
25th PENNY BOWEN - BILL BRADSHAW

# THE LAST THREE BOARDS by Barbara Travis

## THE GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS FINAL

We often hear that finals are lost, rather than won, because it seems that people can be tired by the time they reach a final. At the Gold Coast Congress, the Open Teams final was a classic example of a team snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. With three boards remaining, WARE (Michael Ware – Nick Jacob, GeO Tislevoll – Terje Lie, Max Henbest – David Wiltshire) led CORNELL (Mike Cornell npc, Ashley Bach – Alex Antonios – Nabil Edgtton, Matthew Brown – Michael Whibley) by 150 IMPs to 120.1. Watch what happened.

Board 22	♠ 6
EW Vul	♥ K J 9 4 3 2
	♦ Q 10 7
	♣ Q J 4
♠ A 10 7	♠ K Q J 8 4 2
♥ A Q 7	♥ 8
♦ K 4 2	♦ 9 5
♣ K 8 7 3	♣ A 10 6 2
	♠ 9 5 3
	♥ 10 6 5
	♦ A J 8 6 3
	♣ 9 5

The CORNELL East-West explored a little, but stopped in 4♣, making 11 tricks. However, WARE's auction:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♣ (GF)	2♥	2♠	3♥
4♥ (big)	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Slam was unmakeable, so CORNELL recovered 13 IMPs, to trail by 16.9 IMPs.

Board 23 was just the sort of board you need when you are behind:

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

Table 1:

West	North	East	South
Ware	Whibley	Jacob	Brown
			Pass
1♠	Double	3♣ (1)	Pass
3♠ (2)	Double	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

(1) 6-9 HCP and 4+ spades.

(2) Assuming 3♣ promised 4♣, Marty Bergen's "rules" for opener say that one should bid game with a 6-card suit and a singleton or void in hand. Doubling doesn't achieve anything.

4♥ just had three losers, CORNELL +620.

Table 2:

West	North	East	South
Edgtton	Wiltshire	Bach	Henbest
			Pass
1♠	Double	3♣	Pass
4♠ (1)	All Pass		

(1) Taking the 'system' action.

4♠ also had just three losers, CORNELL +620. Another 15 IMPs meant that CORNELL now trailed by 1.9 IMPs with one board remaining.

One table had already played the board, and potentially it looked like a flat slam hand:

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

Table 1:

West	North	East	South
Ware	Whibley	Jacob	Brown
Pass	1♦	1♠	Double
3♦ (1)	5♣	Pass	5♥ (2)
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

(1) 4+ spades, 8-9 HCP

(2) Probably some sort of grand slam try in clubs, since they are already committed to small slam.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES 2020

ANC + CONGRESS EVENTS	11th to 23rd July
GNOT REGIONAL (non-SABA teams)	Sunday 9th August
GNOT UNDER GRAND	Sunday 23rd August
STATE MIXED PAIRS	Sunday 20th September
STATE SENIORS' PAIRS	Sunday 4th October

## A 24 IMP SWING

Only a heart lead stops 13 tricks. On the spade lead, declarer made 13 tricks, CORNELL +940.

Table 2:

As long as North-South reach 6-minor, WARE would win. What could go wrong?

West	North	East	South
Edgton	Wiltshire	Bach	Henbest
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠ (1)
Pass	3♦ (2)	Pass	4♣ (3)
Pass	4♦ (4)	Pass	4♥ (4)
Pass	4♠ (4)	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣ (5)	Pass	5♦ (6)
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♣ (7)	Pass	Pass
Double (8)	All Pass		

- (1) Fourth suit game forcing
- (2) Choosing to show 6-4, given the strength of the diamonds, rather than rebidding 3♣ (showing 5-5)
- (3) Setting clubs
- (4) 1st or 2nd round cue bids
- (5) I am assuming 4NT was RKCB. North showed 1 key card
- (6) I am assuming this asked for the ♣Q – the 'fatal bid'
- (7) North decided that, since 5♦ had committed their side to 6♣, once he showed the ♣Q they had all the key cards. With his solid diamonds, the grand slam looked a sure thing.
- (8) A Lightner double – lead directing – asking partner to lead dummy's first bid suit: hearts

Ashley Bach led a heart, as demanded, and the slam went down one trick, CORNELL gaining 14 IMPs. A 30 IMP deficit had turned into a 12 IMP win!! CORNELL 162.1 to WARE 150. Never give up!

*Barbara Travis*

*Whilst talking about disasters - names withheld!*

I noticed that a team suffered a 24 IMP swing during the Gold Coast Open Teams. I can't recall ever seeing a 24 IMP swing before – it requires a 4,000 point difference, which is challenging unless both sides bid grand slams.

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

Deep Finesse says that North or South can play in 3NT, making, which a mere 18 pairs managed (out of 236 tables!). Another 21 pairs made 4♣, and 7 pairs made 4♣ X, (and one made 4♣ XX). On the whole, people got into trouble on this hand, going down some number of tricks in their contracts.

However, one team were extremely successful on the hand. One table made 4♣ X for +790, whilst at the other table some the wheels must have fallen off during the opposition North-South auction, and North ended up as declarer in 5♣ XX! Declarer made five tricks, and six down redoubled resulted in a score of -3,400. Any combined score in excess of 4,000 leads to the maximum swing of 24 IMPs.

The team lost by only 10 IMPs, meaning that they stabilised rather well after this disaster.

I've asked around, and haven't yet found a similar experience. 24 IMP swings must be as rare as smother plays (see next column).

*Barbara Travis*



Sue Lusk, Viv Wood (WA), Rochelle Pelkman - Steph Jacob (NZ) - the S LUSK team - winners of the Women's Playoff of the Gold Coast Open Teams.

This article comes from Bulletin 6 of the Gold Coast Congress.

Kieran Dyke reported this hand, played by his partner Paul Dalley.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	<i>Dyke</i>		<i>Dalley</i>
		Pass	1♣ (1)
1♦	Double (2)	Pass	1♥ (3)
All Pass			

- (1) 1♣ can be opened with any hand that is a weak 1NT rebid, even containing a 5-card Major.
- (2) Showing 4+ hearts.
- (3) Showing 3 hearts and a minimum opening hand, hence the Pass.

The play's the thing. West led the ♠A then ♠K, then switched to a diamond to the Ace. The diamond return was won with the King, and the Jack was cashed, pitching a club from dummy. Now the ♠A, then ♠K and another club allowed declarer to ruff with his ♥9. The ♠Q was led and ruffed by West with the ♥7, over-trumped with dummy's ♥8. Dalley cashed the ♥A and led dummy's last club in this position:

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

East and South discarded spades and West ruffed with the ♥K, but was forced to lead a diamond. When dummy ruffed with the ♥5, if East over-trumped, South could then play the ♥Q and dummy's ♥6 was a winner; if East played his ♥4 under dummy's ♥5, declarer could discard, winning the last trick with the ♥Q. East's heart trick had vanished – a smother play! [If West had not trumped with the ♥K, then the defence score two heart tricks and the smother play doesn't eventuate.]

*Ed: This smother play may only have produced an overtrick, but just executing a smother play is special. I've only ever seen one – and it was against me! Jeff Travis, with quite a lot of help from my partner, managed a smother play against my trumps to make 4-minor.*

**STATE EVENTS**

**DAYTIME TEAMS FINALS**

**SEMI-FINALISTS**

- WILLIAMS: Justin Williams - Cathy Chua - Phil Markey, David Parrott - George Smolanko - Mike Doecke  
 SMYTH: Felicity Smyth - Sheila Bird, Pam Morgan-King - Jeff Travis, Lori Smith - Therese Demarco  
 DUNNE: Di Dunne - Genevieve page, Maggie & Nick Truscott  
 HILDITCH: Ian Hilditch - Sue Lusk, Alison & Gordon Fallon, Barbara Marrett - David Lusk

**SEMI-FINALS**

SMYTH	62	<i>defeated</i>	WILLIAMS	30.1
HILDITCH	95	<i>defeated</i>	DUNNE	23.1

**PRELIMINARY FINAL**

WILLIAMS	89	<i>defeated</i>	HILDITCH	50
----------	----	-----------------	----------	----

**GRAND FINAL**

WILLIAMS	versus	SMYTH
----------	--------	-------

*(to be concluded in due course)*

**OPEN TEAMS FINAL**

*These three pairs become the South Australian Interstate Open Team for the ANC.*

- 1st Phil Markey - Justin Williams
- 2nd David Middleton - Zolly Nagy
- 3rd Lauren Travis - George Evans

**OPEN TEAMS PLATE**

- 1st Mark Jappe - John Maddison
- 2nd Sheila Bird - Jon Hunt
- 3rd Gordon Fallon - Luke Matthews

**CONGRESSES**

**GAWLER PAIRS**

**A GRADE**

- 1st Therese Demarco - Lori Smith
- 2nd Ingrid Cooke - Tim O'Loughlin
- 3rd Julie Savage - John Puskas

**B GRADE**

- 1st Samuel Brown - Mick Koziol
- 2nd Maureen Wilson - Terry Healey
- 3rd David Brooks - Tony Tompkin

**C GRADE**

- 1st Adelaide Abbott - Hugo Van Der Moer
- 2nd Dot Slattery - Anthony Kennard
- 3rd Louisa Eggleton - Halena Frick

## THE TWO & ONLY DECLARERS

This article comes from the IBPA Bulletin, February 2020, and relates to a hand played at the World Championships, held in Wuhan in October 2019. I remember watching this hand and being very impressed with Jill Meyers' play.

Quarterfinals ♠ Q 2  
 Dlr South ♥ A Q 10 6 4  
 Both Vul ♦ 8 2  
 ♣ A 8 5 3

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

At 23 of 32 tables in the 16 Quarterfinal matches, 6NT by South was the final contract. 20 declarers faced an opening lead of the ♠10. How would you proceed?

Assuming no luck in either hearts or clubs (no further discussion is needed if either suit behaves), you have only 1 spade, 3 hearts, 4 diamonds and 3 clubs. Therefore, some kind of squeeze or endplay would be needed.

Most declarers, actually 17 of them, put up dummy's ♠Q. Here was the full deal:

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

All 17 of those declarers' East opponents won with the ♠A and returned another spade. There would have been a double squeeze available if East had switched to some other suit, because East and West would have had to guard hearts and clubs respectively, so neither of them could have covered the spades. But, after a second spade, the transportation between declarer and dummy for the double squeeze was broken. The only chance left was a simple squeeze against West if he held length in both hearts and clubs. All those declarers finished down one.

Only three declarers managed to bring home 6NT, and all of them played a low spade from dummy at trick 1. Sato, of the Japanese Women's Team, made 6NT easily when East took her ♠A immediately, giving declarer 2 spade tricks. It was more exciting to watch Hans Vergoed (Netherlands Seniors' Team) and Jill Meyers (USA Women's Team) complete their task.

Both Vergoed and Meyers won trick 1 with the ♠K in hand after East had ducked the Ace. They then ran three clubs and four diamonds. On observing East's discards of the ♠7 and ♠J, they cashed the ♥K (and the ♥Q as well for Vergoed), and end-played East with the ♠A, forcing him/her to lead away from the ♥J.

A nice strip-squeeze and well played by both players!

So, which line is better, or was it pure luck? Actually, the successful line is also the superior one. Why?

If you play dummy's ♠Q with the predictable continuation of another spade, for the squeeze against West to work, it requires West to have length in both hearts and clubs. (*There is no squeeze against East because both menaces are with North, and East would be discarding after North.*) Playing a low spade from dummy, for the strip-squeeze against East to be effective only requires East to have long hearts. Even if East has club length only, it may provide enough clues for the decisive heart play at the end.



This year the Gold Coast Open Teams contained new categories for the best Seniors' and Women's Teams. The Lusks seemed to appreciate this addition.  
 D LUSK team: David Parrott, David Lusk, Bob Sebesfi (NSW), Gary Chua, Ian Hilditch, Peter Chan made the Seniors' Playoff, finishing second.

# MY FAVOURITE BOOK: RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK

## RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK: A Bridge Fantasy

by Robert Darvas & Norman De V. Hart

This book, which was first published in 1948, contains 52 bridge stories, each one narrated by a different card. Here is a sample:

### A MIRACULOUS GRAND SLAM: The Tale of the Eight of Diamonds

It was a partnership evening at the club, and there was one pair in whom I found myself taking a strong interest. They were a man and a girl, she in her early twenties and he a few years older.

Johnny, who was a first-rate player, had done his best to help her in her ambition (to play bridge well) by teaching her the game. The result was she knew all the rules and maxims of good play but was quite unable to apply them.

However, I was not much interested in how she played. Directly I learned Johnny loved her, I was all agog to find out whether she loved him. The next time I was dealt to her I concentrated on interpreting the throbs of her heart in the soft tips of her slender fingers.

She liked Johnny a lot, it seemed, and loved him quite a little. But with you humans, I am given to understand, there is always one who kisses and one who is kissed. She was the kissed one. She wasn't sure she wanted to marry Johnny. But also she wasn't sure she didn't. Just at that moment Julie, I sensed, was ready to be swayed either way.

And Johnny had decided to propose marriage to her that night when he took her home after their evening of bridge. He felt that after several hours of successful partnership, she would not view unfavourably turning it into a wider and more permanent affair.

Did he make it a successful partnership that night? Yes and no. Julie's greatest failing at the game was her inordinate fondness for Forcing Bids. Johnny knew this and feared her Forcing Bids like the devil. The difficulty was that sometimes, of course, they were justified. Then, if he held back and made discouraging responses, a slam would be missed – to Julie's indignant disappointment.

Well, that night they held goodish cards most of the time. But twice she forced, and twice Johnny held back fearfully, and twice a slam was missed. He apologised and took all the blame – rightly, for her Forces happened to be thoroughly sound. Then he held a really good hand and bid and made a small slam. Julie's delight was tinged with a touch of jealousy that her two big hands had gone astray.

They came to the last rubber of the evening, and each side had won a game. Julie was now out for blood if there was the slightest sign of it being about. And then Johnny, sitting South, dealt me (♦8) to himself thus:

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

Johnny bid 1♥ (playing Goren, 4 card Majors and 16-18 1NT). From her face, I could see that Julie rather fancied her hand. It was:

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

South (Johnny)

1♥  
2NT  
5♥ (2 aces)

North (Julie)

2♣  
4NT (Blackwood)  
7♥

It was not till West led the ♠K and she had to put her hand on the table that doubts began to ruffle her serenity.

"I think I've rather overbid this collection," she remarked, with a tremulous gaiety.

I felt Johnny draw in his breath sharply as dummy went down, but he recovered quickly. "No," he said bravely. "It's all right, Julie. Perhaps the small slam would have been safer..."

He set himself to examine the situation. I was more moved than I can say. It seemed so hopeless, and I could see his thoughts so clearly through his troubled eyes. At first they were not analytical.

"If I can land this ridiculous slam," he told himself, "she'll be terribly pleased. I somehow feel it'll just make the difference when I tell her what I'm going to, tonight. It's odd, but I believe that if I fail at this, I shall fail afterwards with her. I've just got to make the contract. But how? Suppose luck is with me: is there a possible distribution of the opponents' hands that will give me a chance? Can something be done with that miserable club suit?"

"Let me see. Suppose everything breaks right and all the finesses work. Then I can make four club tricks by ruffing the third round – that's five tricks – and three trump tricks, three diamonds and one spade. That's twelve tricks. Where's the thirteenth to come from?"

"What about ruffing a diamond in dummy? Let's see. Take the first trick with the ♠A. Then finesse the ♦J. A low heart from dummy, double finessing the ♥9. Over to the ♦A. Another low heart, finessing the ♥J. Cash the ♦K, discarding one of the spades. Ruff a diamond with the ♥K. Back to hand with the ♣K. Draw the last trump with the Ace. ♣A and ruff a club. Clubs are now good, but there's no entry to dummy to cash them. That won't work."

I was feeling distraught myself, and gazed pityingly at him, trying to catch his eye. At last I succeeded, and I gave him a sympathetic smile which I tried to make encouraging, for I had a feeling that I was the key to the solution. He looked at me, and I saw hope lighten the despair in his mind.

"Could it be possible? Can I set up the ♦8 without ruffing? Then I could discard two spades from dummy on the King and 8. Yes – it can be done, but only if West has the ♦Q-10-9 and just two trumps, the ♥Q-10. In that case, there should be a squeeze at the end. It's absolutely the only hope. Here goes!"

And he began to play. Here is the complete deal:

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

Johnny won the first trick with the ♠A, then finessed the ♦J, West playing the ♦9. He laid down the ♦A, dropping West's ♦10. The ♥K and ♥A dropped West's 10 and Queen, and then the ♦K and I were played, two spades being discarded from dummy. Johnny now ruffed the ♣4 in dummy, and returned to hand with the ♣K. The ♥J was played, West discarding spades, then the position was:

	♠ ---	
	♥ ---	
	♦ ---	
	♣ A 9 5	
♠ Q		♠ ---
♥ ---		♥ 8
♦ ---		♦ ---
♣ Q J		♣ 8 7
	♠ 7	
	♥ 9	
	♦ ---	
	♣ 3	

Johnny drew the last trump by leading the ♥9, and West was squeezed. If he threw a club, he would make dummy's ♣9 good. So he gave up his spade, faintly hoping his partner held the last spade. Johnny's ♠7 and dummy's ♣A took the last two tricks.

He looked across at Julie and said, triumphantly, "Made it!"

Julie, who had watched the play at first anxiously, but afterwards, as Johnny gathered in trick after trick, with relief and pleasure, now said in a voice of placid content: "It was lucky the diamond finesse came off. I know it was wrong of me to bid the grand slam on a finesse, but otherwise it was all right, just as you said. And not so difficult to make, after all."

*You'll have to read the book to find out more!*

*Barbara Travis*

Therese Demarco and Lori Smith,  
winners of the Gawler Pairs Congress, A Grade

## BASIC ARITHMETIC

*From the GC Bulletin, No. 4, this hand was written up by Barry Rigal, and comes from the Open Pairs final.*

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

We had remarked earlier that our field was struggling with basic arithmetic. Let's see two vastly different pieces of declarer play, although only one declarer will be named.

Both Norths opened 1♠ in fourth seat and played in 2♣ on an uncontested auction. The first declarer received the lead of the ♥Q, and ducked. He won the second heart to try a club to the 10 and Queen. Back came a third heart; he ruffed and led a spade to the Jack and Queen. West led the fourth heart, declarer discarding a small diamond, and then West continued with a club, with the finesse failing. Declarer won the club exit. At this point, after he drew trumps ending in dummy, East had shown 8 HCP in hearts and clubs, so a diamond to the King was the marked play for one down.... Or so one would have thought. Down 200 – when declarer took his eye off the ball (didn't count).

At the other table, Justin Mill played in 2♠ against Smederevac's lead of the ♥Q. (Smederevac and Wernle won the Open Pairs final.) He took the ace immediately and advanced the ♣J. When Wernle played low without a flicker, he decided that both club honours were likely to be offside. East gave him a little help when she shifted to a diamond at trick 3, won with the Ace. When West reverted to hearts, Mill ruffed the third round and decided that East rated to hold 8 HCP in clubs and hearts, and the low diamond shift suggested the ♦Q. There was no room for her passed hand to have the ♠Q. Accordingly, Mill played ♠A and ♠K, dropping the Queen, then drew the last trump and ruffed the fourth heart back to hand. East now had to discard from her ♦Q-9 and ♣K-8-2. She discarded a club and was endplayed in that suit to lead diamonds into declarer's K-J, for nine tricks, and all the matchpoints.

*Barry Rigal*



# MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Board 23      ♠ Q 3  
 All Vul      ♥ A Q 10 4  
 Dealer South    ♦ A 6 4  
                  ♣ K Q J 7

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

The Australian Mixed Teams selection event was held in Sydney over the Australia Day long weekend. The 64-board final was played between FISCHER and FOSTER. This board comes from the final set, when FISCHER was about 30 IMPs ahead.

On the above deal, North-South bid to 6♠. On the ♦10 lead, Julian Foster must have felt quite confident. It looks like a straightforward contract, assuming spades break, with six spade tricks, one heart, three diamonds and two club tricks able to be established for heart discards.

The diamond lead was won with declarer's Queen. Julian Foster played spade to the Queen and spade to the King – when West discarded on the second spade it looked like the contract had to go one down, with a club and a spade loser.

This hand is an interesting demonstration of how declarer can capitalise on a defender's error. If you were playing this contract, how would you play the trump suit? Unless East has doubled, you play small to the Queen and when both players follow with small cards, you would play for spades to be 3-2 and play a spade to the King or Ace. If, when you play a spade towards the Queen, West follows with the Jack, you have to decide whether West has a singleton Jack, in which case you can finesse for the ten, or whether s/he is being sneaky with J-10. If West plays the Jack, then restricted choice would suggest playing East for the 10 – but you might like to gauge whether you are playing against a sneaky West!

Now put yourself in the East seat. You know from the bidding that declarer has six or seven spades and when he played a spade towards the Queen, partner followed suit with a small one. So, declarer has six spades and partner has no more. When a small spade is led from dummy, do you play the Jack, 10 or 8?

*Dummy*

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

*You*

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

When you are defending, it is good to think about what declarer might do and be ready to play the right card – no fumbling! On this hand, see what happens when you play the Jack or 10 on the second round of the spade suit, as happened in the match.

Declarer won the second spade with the King and West showed out. It now looked like declarer had to lose the ♣A and a trump. When things look hopeless, a good declarer will look for a possible winning line. East now has ♠J-8 sitting under declarer's ♠A-9-7-6. If declarer can shorten his trumps, he can be successful via a trump coup. Julian played a club towards dummy, which West won with the Ace, returning a diamond to the Ace. Julian now played the ♣K on which he pitched his winning ♦K, then ruffed a diamond – the first stage in shortening his trumps. He needed two more entries to ruff another card (completing the exercise in shortening his trumps) and to finish up in dummy at the critical moment.

Julian played a heart to the Queen, followed by a high club, discarding a heart. The four-card ending was:

	♠ ---	
	♥ A 10 4	
	♦ ---	
<i>irrelevant</i>	♣ J	
		♠ J 8
		♥ J
		♦ ---
		♣ 10
	♠ A 9 7	
	♥ 6	
	♦ ---	
	♣ ---	

He ruffed ♣J, reducing his trumps to the same number as East's, then played heart to the Ace and was left with ♠A-9 trumps sitting over East's ♠J-8. Contract made by a trump coup. If East had played the ♠8 on the second round of trumps, this ending would not be possible, as the ♠J-10 would have to take a trick.

Double dummy, declarer can play a spade to the nine on the second round to make his contract, but who would do that?

Julian Foster played this hand very well, capitalising on a defender's error, though it was not enough to win the final. The winners of the final were the FISCHER team (Stephen Fischer - Pele Rankin, Leone and Trevor Fuller). They become the Australian Mixed Team for 2020, with Hugh Grosvenor and Tania Lloyd being augmented (for a team of six players), and Julian Foster as non-playing captain.

*Sheila Bird*



Hugo Van Der Moer and Adelaide Abbott,  
C Grade winners, Gawler Pairs Congress

## JUST BECAUSE: Part 2 by Matt McManus

*This article, written by Matt McManus (Tournament Director), is reprinted from the eCongress News of the NSW Bridge Association.*

Here are some more common misconceptions and examples of inaccurate conventional wisdom. Just because you think you know the laws, be prepared...

**Just because** an opponent concedes one more trick to you, it does not mean that you will get it if there is no possible way that you could win it. For example, declarer claims saying, "I have got the rest, apart from your high trump." Declarer has forgotten that neither you nor your partner has any more trumps. It is unethical to accept this trick which you could not possibly win. And similarly...

**Just because** an opponent claims a certain number of tricks, it does not mean that that is the result if they have already won more than that. For example, declarer is in 1NT and takes the first seven tricks. He then concedes the rest, saying, "One off". You have a responsibility to correct him!

**Just because** you say you counted your cards it doesn't mean that you will have 13 of them at the end of the hand. The Laws require players to count their cards before looking at them at the start of the hand. It also requires that this count ensures that you have 13. If, at the end of the hand, you find you are missing one or more card/s, expect the worst when the director comes.

**Just because** the opponents gave you the wrong information about the meaning of one of their calls, it does not mean that the director will adjust the final score in your favour. For the director to award an adjusted score, first he has to establish that the explanation you were given was not according to their system, and then you have to demonstrate how the wrong information adversely affected your side. Only then will the director consider changing the score.

**Just because** everyone has turned over the cards to the previous trick, it is not too late to correct a revoke. In fact, a member of the non-offending side may even have led to the next trick and it can still be corrected. The moral of this is: if you revoke, say something as soon as you realise. The sooner you say something, the less damaging it is likely to be for your side.

**Just because** you have a board left to play, it doesn't mean you have the absolute right to play it. If your table is slow, the director has the power to (and should) tell you not to play the board, giving you an average, or some other ruling. If you are told not to play a board because of slow play, accept this gracefully.

**Just because** a player hesitates, this does not mean that you call the director. A hesitation, a break in tempo, longer than usual thinking is a normal part of the game. It does not constitute an infraction or mean that the player has done anything wrong. If you wish to draw attention to the hesitation, you can ask their partner if they agree that a break in tempo occurred. If they do not agree, it is their responsibility to call the director at that point...

**Just because** a player hesitates then passes, it does not mean that his partner must pass. This is one of the most misunderstood and misquoted aspects of the Laws. There is a responsibility on their partner not to take advantage of any information they get from the hesitation, but there is no requirement that they pass.

**Just because** a player hesitates and his partner then makes a bid, it does not mean that you have to call the director immediately. The appropriate time to call the director is when the player's hand is revealed at the end of play (or as dummy) and you believe he may have taken an action influenced by the hesitation.

**Just because** a defender leads a card after you tell them it doesn't matter what they play, it doesn't mean that you will benefit if it turns out there is a better lead. Under the Laws, your statement that it doesn't matter constitutes a claim. When a claim is made, there is no more play. If it is disputed, the director determines the result of the hand.

**Just because** an opponent revokes, it does not mean that you will do better than you would have done normally. There is a set of rules which the director applies. In many cases (and ideally), this will mean that the result which should have happened is also the final result. There is no automatic penalty just because there has been a revoke. The director's primary responsibility is to ensure that the offenders do not benefit when they revoke against you.

**Just because**, as dummy, you can tell that partner has forgotten that your ♣2 is a winner, you can't play it for them. You can't play any card for them!

*Matt McManus*



The Gold Coast Congress has a 'Theme Day';  
2020's was Feathers to Fauna.  
Brian Leach looks pretty normal,  
but Carolyn "Turtle" Leach went all in.

# ALERTING

*You should be alerting any artificial bids that you make. Alerts are part of the game, ensuring that the opponents are not damaged by any artificial bids we may make.*

## WHY DO WE ALERT?

The opponents are entitled to know when an artificial or unusual bid has been made by being alerted.

## WHAT IS AN ALERT and HOW DO YOU ALERT?

If a player makes an artificial bid that player's partner **MUST** alert the bid.

In written bidding, the correct procedure for making an alert is by **CIRCLING** the bid. You should also say "ALERT" to give you time to circle the bid.

With bidding boxes, the correct procedure for making an alert is by **PLACING THE ALERT CARD** on the table where the opponent can see it – before they make a bid. It is also recommended to say "ALERT". (You do not need to offer an explanation—the opponents should ask if they want to know.)

At his/her next turn to bid, either opponent may ask for an explanation of that bid. Bear in mind, either opponent can ask what **ANY** bid means, as long as it is their turn to bid or lead or play, even during the play of the hand.

The partner of the player who made the alerted bid must give a full explanation. Don't just name the convention – explain what the bid means...

## WHO MAKES THE ALERT?

The partner of the player who made the artificial bid is the one who makes the Alert.

## WHAT BIDS ARE ALERTABLE?

Any artificial bid or any bid which contains an unusual meaning, including:

- 2♣ opening bid (strong, artificial) and 2♦ response (any weak hand)
- 2♣ opening bid (strong, artificial) and your responses if they show point values (artificial) or controls
- Transfers over 1NT and 2NT opening bids and overcalls
- 2♦ response to Stayman (but not 2♣ Stayman); 3♣ Stayman over 2NT opening bid/overcall
- 2-suited opening bids, such as 2♥ showing hearts and another suit
- Multi 2♦ opening bid, which shows a weak 2 in hearts or spades
- Unusual 2NT, eg 1♠ - 2NT overcall shows the minors
- Splinter bids (below 3NT)
- Opening bids at the 4-level that are artificial (if 4♣ shows hearts and 4♦ shows spades)
- Any artificial responses to opening bids or 'unusual' natural bids - such as a weak jump shift or fit showing jump or inverted minor raises

## WHAT BIDS ARE NOT ALERTABLE?

Some bids are considered 'self-alerting'. They are not to be alerted during the auction but you should offer an explanation to the opponents when the auction ends (if you are declarer):

- 2♣ Stayman (BUT the 2♦ artificial response to Stayman is alertable) in an uncontested auction
- Doubles (ALL doubles are non-alertable) and Redoubles
- Any cue bids of a suit bid (or shown) by the opponents, such as 1♥ - 2♥ to show a 2-suited overcall or when you cue bid the opponents' suit as a forcing bid or as an attempt to play in 3NT
- Any jump raise in a contested auction
- All bids from the 4-level up (but 'post-alert' the opponents before they lead) EXCEPT artificial opening bids at the 4-level.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF PARTNER STUFFS UP?

**DECLARER OR DUMMY:** If partner fails to alert or provides an incorrect explanation, you should wait until the end of the auction before enlightening the opponents. You may also want to call the Director if you think the opponents have been damaged.

**DEFENDING SIDE:** You must wait until the end of the hand before giving the opponents a correct explanation. (If you speak up earlier, you are giving partner unauthorised information.)

If you fail to alert and damage the opponents by your failure to do so, you may find the director awards an adjusted score against you.

Even in Supervised and Intermediate sessions, you should be alerting - keep practising.



Bob Sebesfi and Peter Chan  
won the Bobby Richman Open Pairs, C final  
at the Gold Coast Congress

# PENLINE®

## BRIDGE TIPS FROM THE MASTERS

In the 1970s, Bols supported a competition in which internationally famous experts were invited to submit their bridge tip, with a panel judging their worth. The first three years' worth of tips were collated into an anthology, *Bridge Tips from the Masters*, in 1980.

Many of these tips are now familiar to most players, but the tips and hands illustrating the advice are still relevant to the game. Read the summarised tips and see how many of them you incorporate into your game.

### TIPS 1-8 (first year):

#### 1. ROBERT HAMMAN:

If you are ever to amount to anything at this game, you must build up a picture of the unseen hands.

#### 2. RIXI MARKUS:

When, as a defender, you are about to attack from a holding such as J-x, Q-x or K-x, consider the possible advantage of leading a low card.

#### 3. GABRIEL CHAGAS:

When you have to develop a shaky suit, consider whether you can prepare for an intra-finesse by ducking with an 8 or 9 on the first round.

#### 4. TERENCE REESE:

Study the early discards and consider this point: from what holding would the defender most readily have made those discards?

#### 5. TIM SERES:

When you can see that declarer is bound to succeed by normal play, look for a chance to give him a losing option.

#### 6. GIORGIO BELLADONNA:

When, as a defender, you hold the Ace of trumps, consider whether to hold up this card when trumps are first played.

#### 7. BOBBY WOLFF:

Do not be content simply to work out the high cards a defender is likely to hold; try to assess his distribution as well.

#### 8. CHARLES GOREN:

As a defender, consider the advantage of ducking to conceal the lie of the cards or to spoil the timing for a squeeze.

### TIPS 9-15 (second year):

#### 9. HOWARD SCHENKEN:

When on defence in third position, cultivate the habit of playing slowly to the first trick.

#### 10. JEREMY FLINT:

Instead of stolidly pushing out an unimaginative small card from three or four to an honour, you should consider whether to lead the honour.

#### 11. JIM JACOBY:

When a good opponent seemingly gives you a present, stay alert! Watch for a trap. Beware of bridge players bearing gifts.

#### 12. JEAN BESSE:

Beware of your trump tricks. When you see a chance for an easy overruff, don't be in too much of a hurry to take it.

#### 13. PIETRO FORQUET:

Count the opponents' hands – but when you have counted them, play intelligently.

#### 14. PIERRE JAIS:

When you have not been able to show length in a suit on the first round, indicate the length of your remaining cards at the first opportunity.

#### 15. ANNA VALENTI:

Don't rush to draw trumps. On some hands, you may be unable to draw them successfully; on others, even if you could draw them, you will be left with too few tricks.

### TIPS 16-24 (third year):

#### 16. DOROTHY HAYDEN TRUSCOTT:

Against No Trumps, indicate attitude to the opening leader's suit with your first spot card.

#### 17. P-O SUNDELIN:

If you won't beat the contract by winning the trick, duck it.

#### 18. TONY PRIDAY:

If you can mislead declarer in one suit, he may form a wrong conclusion about another.

#### 19. BENITO GAROZZO:

Against a slam contract, attack with the opening lead.

#### 20. MICHEL LEBEL:

When dummy is short of entries, be prepared to hold up with J-x.

#### 21. SCHMUEL (Sam) LEV:

Do not automatically play 'third hand high' from a holding such as A-Q or A-J.

#### 22. BILLY EISENBERG:

Play low from dummy when this may put pressure on third hand.

#### 23. PEDRO-PAULO ASSUMPCAO:

Having decided what plays are necessary, give thought to the best sequence of plays.

#### 24. JEFF RUBENS:

Work out your partner's problems and help him to solve them.

*Next issue, I'll write up Dorothy Hayden Truscott's recommendation.*

*Barbara Travis*



Mick Koziol and Samuel Brown,  
B Grade winners, Gawler Pairs Congress

# A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

A few regular issues cropped up in my most recent game.

You are North and the auction has been:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
	♠ 9 7 3		
	♥ K J 8 5		
	♦ A Q 2		
	♣ 9 6 5		

What would you bid? My opponent raised to 2♠ - a mild underbid, more so as a passed hand. Cue raises (unassuming cue bids) are an important convention when partner overcalls. The cue bid of opener's suit shows a hand with trump support and 10+ points. By using a cue raise, you don't jump to the 3-level, allowing partner an 'out' should they have overcalled on a weaker hand. At the same time, you get to show your hand to partner, enabling you to stop at the 2-level, have partner jump to game or even invite game via the 3-level. This hand qualified for a cue raise of 2♣ which would have simplified the overcaller's rebid dilemma. The 2♠ raise showed only 6-9 TP, and the overcaller took a negative view, passing.

The next hand resulted in some unusual bids:

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	3♠ (1)	1♥	2♠
5♠ (3)	6♠ (4)	4♥ (2)	Pass
Double	All Pass	Pass (5)	Pass

- (1) Timid
- (2) A mild overbid, but liking the spade singleton
- (3) Exclusion Key Card Blackwood (EKCB) – asking for key cards outside of spades (showing the void)
- (4) Much better
- (5) Double would say to stop, so passing was encouraging – although I wasn't sure whether I should try 7♥ if we were in a 6-2 fit

It took me a moment or two, as East, to realise that the 5♠ bid was EKCB, because I was expecting a 5♥ bid instead! A voluntary bid of our suit at the 5-level asks the partner for control of the opponents' suit, and I still thought my singleton was useful. Initially I couldn't compute partner's void, meaning that North-South had a 12-card fit!

The pass of 6♠ was forward-going since we were already bidding to slam. Our responses to EKCB are:

Step 1	0 key cards
Step 2	1 key card, no ♥Q
Step 3	1 key card + ♥Q
Step 4	2 key cards, no ♥Q
Step 5	2 key cards + ♥Q
Step 6	3 key cards

Therefore, my response to 5♠ would have been 6♠, meaning we would play in 7♥. We hadn't discussed EKCB with interference though, so I decided to pass, implying interest. Perhaps I could have bid 7♥ anyway, given that my response would have forced us to that level.

7♥ makes but may prove challenging if clubs had divided 4-1 (rather than diamonds).

After the hand, we discussed bidding options with North (and South). Given that she was prepared to save in 6♠, she should have bid more initially. Some things to consider:

- with 6-card support for a weak jump overcall, you know you have no defensive tricks in that suit;
- your hand has absolutely no defence outside of spades either, and partner must have the ♠A, so less outside defence;
- increase the pre-empt as high as possible as quickly as possible.

North would have been better-served to bid 5♠ immediately (and 6♠ if necessary) before any fit had been found by East-West. The 6♠ save was an excellent recovery action, but it's wiser to take the pre-emptive save earlier.

Your partner opens 1NT and you hold:

♠ Q 8 3
♥ J 7
♦ A 10 8 7 6 4
♣ K 2

If you play that 2♠ is a transfer to a minor, then that particular transfer should only be used on weak hands where you do not want to play in game. That leaves your response being 3NT – game.

If you play four-suit transfers, where 2♠ transfers to clubs and 2NT is a transfer to diamonds, opener will know which suit you have, but you also need to discuss and agree what the continuations means. For instance, I 'teach' that a new suit shows a shortage (singleton or void) so that you can determine whether to play in 3NT, 5-minor or even 6-minor. If you transfer to a minor then rebid 3NT, it should show mild slam interest with no shortage. Since this hand does not qualify on that count, once again it qualifies as an immediate 3NT response.

Here is an auction for you to analyse:

West	North	East	South
1♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♠	2♣ (1)	2♥ (2)
		Pass	?

- (1) Non-forcing – we would use a redouble to show 10+ HCP
- (2) 2♥ was no longer a forced bid; it was a voluntary bid, showing some values

North's double then bid of her own suit showed a good hand, one she thought was too good for a 1-level overcall. Given that South had bid voluntarily, 2♠ should now be forcing, and I think South has to make a bid in this auction. (Basically, the auction has revealed that at least one of East or West is weak.) Passing, as South did, was not an option. Here are their hands:

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

What would I have bid as South? I would raise partner to 4♠, given the doubleton support and an outside Ace-King.

There were also a few declarer play hands. Partner opened a multi 2♦ and I ended up playing in 3♥ (no opposition bidding, though North did stop and think over the 2♦ bid) with:

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

South led the ♣Q (top of touching honours, therefore a shortage), won with the Ace. I led a heart to dummy's King, ducked. North won the next heart, with South showing out. North exited with a trump, won in hand, to lead a club towards dummy's 10, hoping some key spot card (the 9 or 8) would appear from South. However, South showed out, with North winning and returning the ♣9. I couldn't arrange a discard on the clubs now, so had to find a way to maximise the prospects of two spade winners.

South was now known to hold 1 heart and 1 club. Therefore, North was far more likely to be short in spades than South, so I would have to lead a spade from West towards my hand. I won the club exit, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond to dummy. Now it was time to tackle the spade suit by leading towards my Queen. North played the ♠J and my Queen won the trick. Now I could just duck a spade to North's Ace, since she started with doubleton ♠A-J. That led to 10 tricks – 1 spade, 1 heart and 1 club loser.

Keep counting!

How would you play your spade contract as South – whether game or part-score – on these hands?

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

You receive a heart lead which runs to East's ♥6 and your Jack. One thing you shouldn't do is lead trumps. To do so leaves you exposed to 3 potential club losers along with the ♦A and, perhaps, a trump loser. It is superior to lead diamonds first, establishing discards for those clubs. Another option is to lead clubs yourself, hoping to trump one in dummy, however this line leaves you exposed to a heart ruff.

Lead a diamond from the South hand towards dummy. If dummy's ♦J wins the trick, cross to hand with a spade to lead another diamond towards dummy. West has to win the Ace on this lead. Now, whilst the ♥K is still an entry, you have created two diamond winners for discards.

Keep in mind that, when playing Pairs, you must try for as many tricks as possible in every contract.

Barbara Travis

## GOOD TECHNIQUE

*Written up by Barry Rigal in the IBPA Bulletin, January 2020.*

Brian Senior (England) was playing in the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs (NABC) and made a series of nice plays to bring home the maximum number of tricks.

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

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

On the lead of the ♣8, Senior passed the first test, rising with the Ace and unblocking the ♣9 from hand. Then he ran the ♦Q, followed by the Jack. North covered and Senior won in hand, drew the last trump, and then advanced the ♥K. South won and returned a spade. Senior took the last hurdle in his stride, putting up the Jack from dummy. When North played the Ace, Senior dropped the King. Now he could ruff the next heart, then cross to dummy with the ♠Q to lead the ♣7. Thanks to his unblock at trick 1, he could remain in dummy to repeat the club finesse and make 11 tricks.

*Ed: It is essential to take every possible trick at pairs, in order to out-score the other pairs playing your direction.*

*When someone pre-empt then leads another suit, the lead is usually a shortage; therefore, he knew the club finesse was working. The lead of the ♣8 had made all the club spots 'equal', so playing the ♣9 at trick 1 gave him the opportunity to keep finessing clubs.*

*With regard to the spade play, if he had played low from dummy, North will duck the lead. East wins then leads another spade, but North still has a heart exit. By playing the Jack, Senior forced North to win the Ace. Now he had to unblock again, throwing the King away in order to use the Queen as an entry to dummy. (He had no need of a discard, so the spade honours were important as the entry.)*

*Note, if Senior led spades himself, North could deny him the entry to dummy, which is why he led the ♥K first, leaving the opponents to lead spades, and thereby ensuring his entry to dummy.*

Barry Rigal, New York, USA

## ACES ON THE ASTRAL PLANE by David Lusk

*Reprinted from Australian Bridge, February 1995*

Three players and one kibitzer stared in disbelief at the stone effigy of Cupid now occupying the North seat. Only a few seconds before, the Staffordshire Imp had occupied the same spot as dummy. The only clue as to the statuette's origins could be gleaned by examining the normally cherubic face of the deity – its features bearing a disturbing resemblance to the Imp himself.

"He's just sulking," observed Olaf calmly. "He'll be himself again when he gets over it. Perhaps Mystrala could sit in until he thaws."

The action that had precipitated these remarkable events is worth recounting.

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

West <i>Olaf</i>	North <i>The Imp</i>	East <i>Paxacotl</i>	South <i>Fr O'Loughlin</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	1♦
All Pass			3NT

The only bid which made no sense in this auction was Paxacotl's restrained Pass over 1♠. Later, he quietly revealed to Mystrala that a curious aspect of the eternal curse placed upon him frequently caused him to mis-sort his black cards. He had, in fact, sorted not one, but two, clubs with his spades.

Wise to Father O'Loughlin's heart stopper, Olaf searched for a lead which gave the best chance of putting his partner on play. The ♣9 appeared to be the logical choice. The priest called for dummy's ♠K, and Paxacotl, quickly re-sorting his cards on seeing dummy's ♠10, won with the ♣A and propelled the ♥10 across the table. Playing unusually well on consecutive tricks (to little avail), Father O'Loughlin played low, hoping for a 7-1 break and a blockage. When Paxacotl produced the ♥7 on the next trick, declarer resignedly contributed the ♥K.

Olaf collected the balance of the heart suit as East shed a diamond and three spades before the ♣2 came shooting through dummy's ♠J-x. At this stage, Mystrala, who had been tuning into the NBC sport programme on the ether waves, started to pay attention to the hand. (Father O'Loughlin was grateful for the fact that Mystrala could keep him informed of the sports results, but eternally frustrated that he could not tune in himself.)

Paxacotl pounced on the ♣J with relish, and slowed collected tricks 8 to 12 for the defence. The defrocked cleric let out a pathetic sob as the Aztec cashed the last club. Down to just two Ace, Father O'Loughlin had to decide which Queen lurked in the East hand. Predictably, he discarded the ♠A. With a triumphant scream, Paxacotl produced the ♠Q to complete the rout.

"Nine down," observed Mystrala mischievously. "That places you in the same fame category as a golfer who has scored 20 on a hole."

"That's roight," muttered the dejected human. "Oi've done that, too."

*[Ed: Note South's excellent play of the ♣K at trick 1, an attempt to keep East from gaining the lead - and switching to hearts.]*

*David Lusk*



Gold Coast Congress Trivia Night:  
Who says all bridge players are old?

## DEFENCE CHECKLIST

*This article comes from the NSW Bridge Association, Expert Talks, and was provided by Paul Lavings in 2016.*

Defence, defence, defence. Converting those -620s into +100s, or the -90s into +50s will transform your scoresheet and your results. Most players and partnerships put far too little time into their defence.

Try this defensive checklist to see what you can be doing to improve your defence:

1. Every defence starts with an opening lead and the science of opening leads has been turned on its head in the past five years. Do you prefer major suit leads against No Trump contracts? Do you prefer short suit leads – doubletons and singletons – against suit contracts? Do you avoid leading from honours against suit contracts? You should – very much so.
2. These days there is much more emphasis on suit preference signals (SPS). When dummy has a singleton, third hand should give suit preference when the opening leader is clearly going to win the trick.
3. When the opening leader's partner is known to hold a certain number of cards in the suit led, they revert to SPS.
4. Do you signal SPS in the trump suit? SPS in the trump suit is arguably one of the major advances in bridge over the last 20 years.

5. You may even be able to give suit preference with your lead when you have a void and want partner to give you a ruff.

6. How do you count trumps? Counting is very ingrained and it is difficult to change the way we count. However, it is much easier to count how many are in the other two hands looking at your hand and dummy.

7. Try to count your winners as early as possible in the hand, since this is the clue to the winning defence. If declarer is in 4♥, you need four tricks. Where will they come from?

8. Try to construct declarer's hand in your mind. Let's say you lead the 4 from Q-8-6-4-2 against 3NT, and dummy has 7-5. Partner plays the Jack, losing to declarer's Ace. What is going on? *[Ed: Declarer holds A-K-10. Work out why.]*

9. Are your signalling methods effective? Sometimes attitude is necessary, and sometimes count is more important. If you play reverse count, you should be playing the highest card from three, even if it's a 10. (After all, if you play standard count, you wouldn't play the middle one to show an odd number – you would always play the lowest.)

10. Avoid odd-even discards. You will always have a high card or a low card, but you won't always have the right odd card or even card!

*Paul Lavings*



Phil Gue and Margaret Walters,  
winners of the Seres-McMahon Matchpoint Swiss Pairs  
at the Gold Coast Congress



Jane Davies (UK) and Di Marler,  
finished in 2nd place  
in the Seres-McMahon Matchpoint Swiss Pairs  
at the Gold Coast



PLAY YOUR CARDS **RIGHT**

**TONY BEMROSE  
INSURANCE BROKERS**

[www.tbib.com.au](http://www.tbib.com.au)