

# South Australian



# Bridge Federation Inc

NOVEMBER 2021

Editor: Barbara Travis

[barbara.travis@hotmail.com](mailto:barbara.travis@hotmail.com)

## **NATIONAL EVENTS MOVE ONLINE**

The remaining national events for 2021 are going online, using RealBridge, an online platform that combines the play style of BBO with the images and ability to chat of Zoom. In October, Sydney held a condensed version of the Spring Nationals.

The postponed ANC (which was supposed to be held in Perth in July) will also be held on RealBridge from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November. The **Interstate Teams** will be held with shortened matches, and there will be some of the second week's Butler Pairs. There will now also be some **ANC Butler Pairs – Open and Restricted** – held online from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November.

At the end of November, the **Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)** will also be held online, using a straight knockout format, with two one-day consolation events.

And the **Victor Champion Cup**, which has suffered two postponements, will now be held online from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December.

The 2022 **Summer Festival of Bridge** has been cancelled as a face-to-face event, with a shortened programme to be held online in January. SA Bridge Assoc. will hold its "Summer Festival" in January.

The **Gold Coast Congress**, on the other hand, has chosen to be proactive, and has opened entries to determine whether it is viable to hold the event. So, if you are planning to attend, the organiser (Kim Ellaway) has asked that you enter as soon as possible. Entries must be completed using the MyABF portal and to do this you must be registered with MyABF <https://www.myabf.com.au/view>. The QBA has appointed a MyABF Officer and, coincidentally, this person is also the Entry Coordinator, Pele Rankin. If you have any problems with MyABF, call Pele on 0439 949 060 or email her on [gccentries@qldbridge.com.au](mailto:gccentries@qldbridge.com.au).

Full refunds will be given to all entries if the event is cancelled because of the pandemic or border closures (or if the QBA cancels the event). They are asking everyone who intends to come to enter, so they can work out whether there is enough support for the event.

## **ABF MANDATE FOR GOLD POINT EVENTS IN 2022**

The ABF has determined that, for gold point events in 2022, it will be a requirement that all players (and officials) be **fully vaccinated** against Covid-19. For those who are ineligible to be vaccinated for medical reasons, a medical certificate confirming such ineligibility along with confirmation of a negative Covid-19 test conducted within 3 days of commencement of the event will be required.

## **ANC INTERSTATE TEAMS**

The Interstate Teams, originally scheduled for July in Perth, then postponed to November, will now be held online. We wish all our teams and players great success, and look forward to watching the results, which will be posted on the ABF's website:

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

The event will be played on RealBridge, an English-based online platform that combines online play with the benefits of Zoom (so that you can see one of your opponents). The ABF website will, no doubt, provide a link to RealBridge for those who may wish to watch or to have a look to see what it's like. (The kibitzing experience is a far-cry from being a player.)

Our teams have had a few changes due to the changes in timing and format.

### **OPEN TEAM**

Nic Croft – Arjuna de Livera

Roger Januszke – John Zollo

Phil Markey – Justin Williams

NPC: Mike Doecke

### **WOMEN'S TEAM**

Therese Demarco – Lori Smith

Ingrid Cooke – Sue Lusk

Caprice Davey – Alice Handley

NPC: David Parrott

### **SENIORS' TEAM**

Attilio De Luca – David Lusk

Russel Harms – Jeff Travis

David Cherry – John Horowitz

Playing Captain: Russel Harms

### **YOUTH TEAM**

David Gue

Bertie Morgan

Lincoln Davey

Fletcher Davey

Anne Davey

Playing Captain: David Gue

Good luck to all our teams.

## **SABF NEWS**

### **STATE-WIDE PAIRS**

The SABF will be conducting its own State-Wide Pairs during the week commencing Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. All clubs will play the same hands (though there will be only one such session per club in that week). Your club can score the results locally, but then all results will be sent to the SABF to be scored across all the participating clubs in the State.

Red masterpoints will be awarded to placegetters, while clubs will also be awarding their regular session credits.

The hands have all been chosen by Barbara Travis, who has also provided a commentary for each hand. After the session, you will receive either a printed copy of the hands and commentary, or you can check out the same information online at the end of the week.

If this event interests you, check with your club for their State-Wide Pairs session, which will be played during the week starting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. We need your support to add this to the State calendar on an annual basis, after a lengthy hiatus.

### **PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT**

**THIS EVENT IS NOW FULL. WATCH FOR NEXT YEAR'S VERSION.**

The ever-popular **Pairs with an Expert** will be run by the SABF on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December, at **Adelaide Bridge Centre** (see flyer on the back page), from 1pm to 5pm.

Pairs with an Expert involves an individual nominating for the session, and being allocated an 'expert' as their partner. That expert acts as a mentor, offering advice between rounds and/or after the session. You can even ask to focus on a specific area of play or defence if that's what you want.

It's all about having a learning experience in a friendly and supportive environment, with the sort of partner you usually only aspire to have.

### **AGM**

The AGM for the SA Bridge Federation will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

If you are interested in being involved or in attending, please contact Angela Norris:

[southaustbridgefed@gmail.com](mailto:southaustbridgefed@gmail.com)

### **FROM HELEN ROLLOND:**

Helen and Peter Rollond were able to donate \$400 to Heart Kids and \$420 to Childhood Cancer from the sale of daffodils (and other flowers). They wish to thank the many bridge players who supported them and also the bridge clubs who allowed them to conduct their fundraising.

Great job all!

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SUCCESSES IN NATIONAL EVENTS**

Congratulations to South Australian players who have been doing well in national events, mostly online.

### **HGR WOMEN'S SWISS PAIRS**

This became a "Western Australian" event due to border closures, though it was held face-to-face. **Sue Lusk** enjoyed a long-awaited holiday to Perth and, together with Viv Wood they comfortably won the event.

### **MARGARET BOURKE INVITATIONAL TEAMS (online)**

On the October long weekend, the Margaret Bourke Invitational Teams was held on RealBridge. The THOMPSON team, Ben Thompson – Renee Cooper, **Joe Haffer – Phil Markey** were dominant during the Qualifying Swiss, finishing on 131.61 VP (from 8 matches), with the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team accruing 95.65 VP. However, they lost in the Semi-Finals, with the other winning Semi-Finalist team, ASHTON winning the title.

### **CANBERRA IN BLOOM CONGRESS (online)**

This event was posted online at short notice, so lacked a huge field. Our fully South Australian MORGAN-KING team, **Pam Morgan-King – Alison Fallon, Therese Demarco – Lori Smith**, finished a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the 5-match Open Swiss Teams.

### **SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS (online)**

The first of the various events, held over 10 days, was the TBIB Open Teams. In the Qualifying rounds, the NUNN team, including **Jon Hunt**, finished 1<sup>st</sup>, and the GUE team, including **Phil Gue – Tony Burke, Peter Chan – Attilio De Luca**, finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place with a massive last match win.

In the Semi-Finals, the ASHTON team had a big win over GUE, and JOHANNSSON scored a surprise win against NUNN. ASHTON won the final.

## VALE AUDREY PORTER

Audrey Porter, a stalwart of Glenelg Contract Bridge Club, recently died.

She had been a member of Glenelg Bridge club for many decades and only retired from competition bridge in recent years, whilst in her 90s.

Audrey was born in 1924 in Croydon, South Australia, one of three children. At the age of 13, her family moved to Wollongong, NSW, in search of work during the Depression. In 1942, she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and was posted to the RAAF base at Richmond, NSW.

Whilst at Richmond, she met Arthur Porter, who was a Paratrooper. Arthur and Audrey married in January 1944, and in December of that year, they had their first child, Arthur Porter, a keen bridge player. (Arthur "Jnr" was a long-time President of Glenelg Bridge Club.)

Audrey was a tireless volunteer throughout her life, helping at Meals on Wheels for 35 years, making sandwiches at St Andrews Church for 20 years, and working in church basketball for 35 years. She received the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club for outstanding service to the community.

She was also Treasurer of Glenelg Bridge club for 11 years. Audrey and Arthur began playing bridge in earnest after Arthur's retirement, though Audrey had already played for 29 years and Arthur for longer!

Audrey will be remembered at Glenelg for her sense of fun and for her conscientious nature. She was admired and respected by the members.

*Helen Wetherell, Secretary, Glenelg CBC*

Audrey and Arthur Porter



## SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS

As well as playing in the online Spring National TBIB Open Teams, Nick Hughes produced a Daily Bulletin.

Ian Thomson reported this nice play by Jon Hunt (his partner), albeit with some assistance from the defence:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
4♥	Double	All Pass	

4♥ X was due to go for 500 on the ♦9 lead to the King – Ace, but Peter Gill switched to spades, not picking partner for a singleton diamond given her takeout double.

Reprieved, Jon Hunt cash two top hearts then led a club towards dummy. When North continued spades, it was all over (i.e. she had set up a trump coup). This extra spade lead allowed Jon to shorten his trumps once more, and look what happened.

He led a club to dummy's King and trumped a club, reducing his trumps to ♥Q-9, sitting over South's ♥10-8. Now two diamonds, ending in dummy, couped South's trumps, for +590.

Nick Hughes: The field really messed this one up (most going down in 3NT):

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

Only two pairs reached 5♣, both via this sequence:

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

(1) The 3♣ bid showed a singleton spade and at least 3 cards in each other suit (not 5 hearts), GF.

Special mention was made of the one pair to reach 4♥ – Attilio De Luca and Peter Chan. This was also a fantastic contract.

## HOW TO WIN SWISS MATCHPOINT PAIRS: BAROSSA CONGRESS PAIRS

The Treasurer of the SA Bridge Federation, Rod Macey, together with Ceda Nikolic, won the Barossa Congress Pairs, not losing a match.

The event used the Swiss Matchpoint format, which involves playing longer 'rounds' (matches) against pairs, using matchpoint scoring, but with each pair's average score for the match being converted to Victory Points (VPs). After each match, the next draw is based on position, with 1<sup>st</sup> playing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> v. 4<sup>th</sup> (except that one cannot play an opponent more than once). *[On the other hand, Swiss Butler Pairs uses teams-type scoring and IMPs, converted to VPs, with a Swiss draw after each match.]*

The Swiss Matchpoint format means that you need to focus on higher scoring contracts and making overtricks. Here's a hand on which Rod and Ceda scored 95%.

Dealer West

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

Whilst many pairs played in 5♣ by North, making 12 tricks and scoring +420, that result scored only 40% against those who played in 4♠ by South. Rod and Ceda played in 4♠ and were already going to score well, given that those 12 tricks will score +480. However, when East led a diamond, declarer capitalised, taking all 13 tricks when trumps broke 2-2 and scoring +510.

A little luck can go a long way at Swiss matchpoints, but only if you take advantage of it.

Dealer North

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

I don't know the auction, but expect that, for many, it started like this:

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

South may now use fourth suit forcing, but should subside in 3NT. (Read Jeff Goldblum's Rules on page 14.) Most pairs played in 5♦ by North. If the spade finesse fails, the contract will go down! If 5♦ can make, you will make more tricks in 3NT (and if East has doubled, then the spade finesse should work), which outscores a minor suit game.

5♦ making 11 tricks scored 50%. 3NT making 10 or 11 tricks scored 88% or 95% respectively.

The most important aspect of any game of bridge is knowing what scoring format is in use. At matchpoints (Pairs), you must aim for the highest scoring contract and look for overtricks, whereas at teams (IMPs), you must focus on the safest contract and making your contract first and foremost.

Having had to move their Congress due to the July lockdown and number restrictions, the Bridge in the Barossa put on another successful weekend, with 21 tables playing in the Pairs and 20 teams playing on Fathers' Day.

Congratulations to everyone involved, including the successful players.



Bridge in the Barossa Pairs winners:  
Rod Macey (SABF Treasurer) and Ceda Nikolic, 1<sup>st</sup> in Section A

-

## OPEN QUALIFYING TRIALS

The Open Qualifying Trials is a Butler Pairs event, so it involves teams (IMPs) scoring. On the previous page, I mentioned the difference between Pairs and Teams. I filled in for a few hands one night during the Open Qualifying Trials, and this hand perfectly demonstrated this difference.

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

(1) Less than opening hand, with 5 spades and a 5-card minor

The ♥K was led, and then the ♥Q was continued and ruffed. I led a spade towards dummy's Jack and East won the King. I expected a heart return, to shorten my trumps further (especially given East's 4-card spade suit), however East returned the ♣6. With dummy holding the ♣K-Q-J, this seemed like a singleton.

The club was won in dummy and a top spade was cashed, revealing the 4-1 break. If clubs were 4-1 as well, I had to be careful!

Whilst at Pairs, one targets as many tricks as possible, at Teams one ensures the safety of the contract first. This seemed such a hand. I could continue with the other top spade in dummy, then cross to my ♦A to draw the last trump, relying on clubs breaking. If clubs were 3-2, you can overtake the last club and you have the remainder of the tricks. However, if clubs were 4-1, then the ♣10 becomes a winner, and the contract fails.

So, on this hand, it was necessary to give up on the overtrick, ensuring that the contract made. I cashed dummy's top trump, then led top clubs, allowing East to win their trump. Now, however, I still had a trump and the ♦A, so when East continued with their remaining heart, I could ruff, cross to dummy's top club, then return to hand with the ♦A to lead my club winners.

The hand is much trickier on a heart return at trick 4, though you can still manage the 4-1 trump break (mainly because hearts are 6-3).

The most interesting element to this hand is that, at Pairs, East's club return might lead you to the winning line of play anyway! So be careful not to give away too much information when you are defending, because you don't want declarers to find a winning line that they wouldn't otherwise consider.

*Barbara Travis*

## THE KELLER CONVENTION

This article, by Steve Nellissen (New York City), was published in *Australian Bridge*, [www.australianbridge.com](http://www.australianbridge.com), August 2021. It was originally published in *The Bridge World*, February 1991.

### EASY TO LEARN, HARD TO PLAY

Would you like to average 20 more matchpoints per session? How about 8 more IMPs per match? Who wouldn't? Well, I've got a secret weapon that always works, 100% of the time.

The name of my secret is "Keller". My partner, Adam Wildavsky, patiently trained me in this non-alertable convention and, I assure you that if you adopt it, it will win you more matchpoints, IMPs and masterpoints than any other convention you are now using.

Keller is by far the most difficult convention to play. Most experienced, winning partnerships play Keller, but none of them have actually extolled its virtues to the point of listing it on their convention card.

Here is an example of Keller in action. Adam and I were playing against Hamman and Wolff in the 1988 Spingold, and we were dealt something like:

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

(1) Not forcing

(2) "Standard" down-15 IMPs late in the final quarter, world champion miracle action!

I led the ♠2 (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> highest). Adam won the ♠A as Hamman played the Queen. Adam returned the ♠3 to Hamman's King and my (thoughtful, suit preference) ♠7. (Would the ♠4 have been better?)

Hamman played a round of trumps. I carefully played the ♥3 to show an even number. Hamman then led the ♦8 to my ♦2 and partner's King.

Partner now thought and thought...

Uh oh! My mental chalkboard projected the largest, roundest club I have ever mentally imagined. Partner played... a trump! "Oh \*&^%", I said to myself.

With the aid of the diamond finesse, Hamman makes the hand in about 2 seconds, as a stunning blonde kibitzer lets out a 'my hero' sigh of admiration. Adam and I resemble a broken stop-light, simultaneously red and green.

At this moment of ignominy, I remember Keller, thank God! I stand up, excuse myself and go to the restroom. In the restroom, I stagger to the sink, toss a little cold water on my flushed face, look in the mirror and say, “We’ve been beating these guys all day. We can still win!”

Returning to the table, I remove my hand for the next board. Adam proceeds to play perfectly for the rest of the quarter. We win by 6 IMPs.

### **KELLER (after HELEN KELLER)**

There is NO discussion of hands or agreements during the session.

There is no reason to show adverse emotion.

There is no reason to make partner feel anything except the same unified desire to win that you both share.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge state:

*“A player should maintain at all times a courteous attitude towards his partner and opponents.”*

(100% courteous, that’s us. Right?)

Keller is hard to play with all your partners, especially the ones you care about the most. Write it on both your cards, and when partner asks, “What wa..” – cut him off, take his finger and run it over the word “Keller” that’s written on his card. You don’t even have to be a “Miracle Worker” to win!

*Steve Nellissen (New York City)*



Winners of the Bridge in the Barossa Congress Teams:  
Phil Markey – Russel Harms, Arjuna de Livera – Nic Croft  
*(with prizes of Seppeltsfield 25 year old Para Port!)*

## BOOK REVIEW: PLAY THESE HANDS WITH ME, Terence Reese

*Terence Reese introduced the world to the format of presenting a hand in the 'over the shoulder' style. "Play These Hands With Me" was the inevitable outcome, and allow the reader to understand how an expert thinks. The hands were played by Reese himself, and are excellent for improving the play of already-established bridge players.*

*Here's an interesting example, which I solved as I read the book, and would like to think I could solve at the table!*

### FAINTLY FAMILIAR

"Most of the themes that one encounters in problems turn up at the table sooner or later. The difficulty is to recognise them in time.

Playing in a qualifying round of the Gold Cup, I am last to speak and hold:

♠ Q 5  
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4  
♦ A  
♣ A Q 4

Both sides are vulnerable and West, on my left, opens 1♠, partner passes, East bids 1NT, and I enter with 2♥. West bids 2♣ and my partner raises to 3♥. My hand looks quite good after this trump support, so when East passes I go 4♥, which is passed out.

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

West leads the ♠K and I am glad to see that the first two cards partner lays down are the Ace and King of trumps.

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

♠ Q 5  
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4  
♦ A  
♣ A Q 4

West begins with the ♠K and ♠A. East plays the ♠6 on the first round and on the second round the Jack, after a slight shuffle. No doubt, his choice of the Jack is meant to inform partner that he holds a high honour in diamonds, but not in clubs. So much the better. If the ♦K is on my right, I can pick it up with a ruffing finesse and make 11 tricks, unless trumps are 3-0.

But West switches to the ♥Q and suddenly I realise that everything in the garden is far from lovely. Whether he planned it or not, West has made a damaging assault on my entries to the table. Just look at the position after two tricks when West leads the ♥Q:

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

♠ ---  
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4  
♦ A  
♣ A Q 4

I can win the ♥K, cross to the ♦A, return to dummy and lead the ♦Q. But East will cover and, owing to the infuriating blockage in the trump suit, I won't be able to get back to dummy, and will be left with two losing clubs.

Some vague memory is stirring at the back of my mind and, just in time, I refrain from calling for the ♥K. There was a hand once... Yes, I can let the ♥Q hold. Then, if West hasn't got another trump to lead, I can play off the ♦A before crossing to dummy.

West, looking a little puzzled, switches to a diamond, and the rest of the play is simple. I win with the Ace, cross to the ♥K, and take a ruffing finesse against the ♦K. This gives me the contract, the full hand being:

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

  

♠ Q 5 ♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 ♦ A ♣ A Q 4	
---	--

"Well played," said my partner, gracious as always. "I don't know why it took you so long. There was a hand just like it in one of your own par contests."

### POST-MORTEM

The deal to which my partner referred was part of a Par Contest for invited players, held at Selfridges in 1957. The hands were composed by Harold Franklin and myself, and this one was called "Curtsey to the Queen".

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

  

♠ K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 ♥ K ♦ J 9 5 4 ♣ void	
--	--

South plays 6♠ after East has opened 1♦. West leads the ♦2. Declarer wins with the Ace, crosses to the ♥K, and leads a low spade. West's Queen is allowed to hold the trick, and whatever he plays next gives dummy the extra entry he needs to get the hearts going.

That hand, I remember, took ages to compose. It is interesting to see that the same basic theme – losing a trump trick unnecessarily to preserve an entry – can occur in a much more ordinary setting."

*An excellent book for improving your card play, whilst following an expert's thought processes.*

*Barbara Travis*

## **PROFILE: NICOLAS HAMMOND**

*The Alt-online Bulletins often have slightly off-beat interviews, conducted by Christina Lund Madsen, editor. This particular interview was with Nicolas Hammond, who has become the online "Cheating Detection guru".*

*Where do you come from, where do you live, are you willing to reveal your age and family status.*

Nottingham, England. Atlanta, Georgia, USA. 29. Divorced. Three kids: 18, 19, 21.

One of those statements may not be true.

*When and why did you move to the US?*

Two days after graduation. Thatcher mini-recession; could not get a job in the UK.

*What do you miss most about your home country?*

Sausage rolls. Yorkshire pudding. Intellectual humour. Oh... and my family.

*What is the main difference between Brits and Americans?*

Got to an American supermarket, buy an English cucumber and an American cucumber. Hold one in each hand.

*What is your professional background and what do you do for a living?*

BA/MA from Cambridge.

Computer security is my specialty. I set up the security of the first online bank, did the first-ever Internet banking transaction, started a company doing security audits of online banks/stock markets etc. A professional bank robber, but always white-gloved. Self-employed for the last 25+ years, I now do boutique consulting.

*How did you begin to play bridge?*

My grandmother was a huge whist player and we played at the local village hall on Friday nights. A kind couple took me to play at the Nottingham Bridge Club when I was about 17. The wife is still alive and I am still in touch with her son. I restarted in the early 2000s and went to the local bridge club in Atlanta. Lot to re-learn.

*What has been the highlight of your bridge life so far?*

This. (And winning the B Final of the World Mixed Pairs with Lindsey Weigner in 2016; qualifying for the finals of the World Mixed Pairs with Kristen Onsgard in 2018.)

*How has your life been during the pandemic?*

Much less travel. Ridiculously busy with the cheating. Otherwise little has changed.

*Can you tell us something about your methods to detect cheating in bridge, especially regarding online bridge?*

Various methods. Start with calculating data.

For top players, comparing their ability face-to-face (FTF) with their new-found ability with online play.

For collusive cheaters, comparing their ability to lead and defend compared with those who do not cheat, comparing their defensive ability with their declaring ability.

A number of top players from early online play would have been the #1 player in various categories in the FTF world.

For the lower-level players, the number of successful unusual leads is the easiest way to detect cheating.

*What is your motivation for doing all this work detecting cheats?*

Someone cheated against me in Chicago in 2015. No cameras, nothing I could do. On the train back to the airport, I came up with a method of detecting cheating from the data, implemented it and saw the results.

Later that month, the Fisher/Schwartz scandal started.

I had an amazing piece of Bridge software (ACBLScore+), a method, some time, and now some usefulness for the methodology.

I will continue until the player that cheated against me back then gets caught, which – ironically – may be very close to happening...

*Have you ever felt caught in a moral dilemma upon discovering that someone close to you or you felt sorry for was suspected of cheating and how did you cope with it?*

The hardest is the kids. There are some Juniors reading this, both U25 and U21, that quite clearly have been cheating, and have not been outed and are continuing to play. So far, I've done nothing because there are so many other cases. When they read this, they will know who they are. If they go honest from now, should I report them later?

*How often are you wrong?*

52% of the time when I declare. 48% of the time when I defend.

With the cheating, unfortunately I have rarely been proven to be wrong, much to the chagrin of a few players who cannot yet be named, but currently are not playing. The stories obviously cannot be told, but some are now privately confessing to their friends, which is a start.

*What has surprised you the most about the online cheating scandals?*

The number of players, about 10-20% of top players when the first online events started.

(With ACBL BBO, it is about 3-5% of all boards involve a cheating player.)

Who they are. There are some players widely respected in their own country, and who have represented their country, who have been cheating.

The hypocrisy. Some of those defending some of the cheating players are, in fact, cheating themselves, just not outed yet. Their time will come.

*What were you like as a child?*

Perfect. Annoyingly good. My parents' words, not mine.

*I once heard a rumour you can solve the Rubik's Cube in record time. Would you share your story with us?*

In high school, my Math teacher showed us a Rubik's Cube back in 1979 from a Mathematics conference. They were not on sale yet. I bought one from Professor David Singmaster in London; when it broke, I wrote to him and bought another and described my progress. I was the fastest in the world at the time and he wrote it up in "Cubic Circular". This led to a book, several TV appearances, newspaper and magazine articles. On my first TV appearance, my time was 37 seconds, which was a record at the time.



Julie Boyce and Christine Thomas,  
winners of Bridge in the Barossa Pairs, Section B

## A LITTLE-USED BID

The following hand comes from the Online European Qualification 2021, and features the Seniors' teams from England and France. It was reported in the Daily Bulletins for the event.

How would you bid these two hands? Perhaps you should test yourself with your favourite partner before you read the auctions. I have chosen this hand because the auctions feature a bid that is not 'taught' because it doesn't occur too often.

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

West	East
Marill (France)	Pilon (France)

	1♣
1♥	4♣ (1)
4♥	Pass

(1) Game forcing, showing 4 hearts and 6 solid clubs

Marill had an easy 4♦ bid over 4♣, since Pilon had to be short in one of diamonds or spades. Pilon could not bid on, believing that there were two diamond losers, given the lack of cue bid for diamonds. With both hearts and clubs breaking 3-2, declarer had no difficulty taking all the tricks. +510 to France.

Hassett (England)	Holland (England)
-------------------	-------------------

	1♣
1♥	4♣ (1)
4♦ (2)	4NT (3)
5♠ (4)	7♥

- (1) Game forcing, showing 4 hearts and 6 solid clubs
- (2) Cue bid, showing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> round control of diamonds
- (3) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (4) 2 key cards + ♥Q

7♥ is not exactly a great contract. It basically needs hearts and clubs to be 3-2 so that declarer can discard his diamonds on dummy's clubs, then ruff dummy's second diamond. A priori, these odds are about 45%, though higher when no opponent bids. That was +1510 to England and 14 IMPs.

The little-used bid is opener's jump rebid to 4-minor after responder's 1-Major bid. It is used to show exactly this type of hand: game forcing with 4 card support and a solid 6-card minor. It's a fabulous bid when it comes up, and extremely useful for slam bidding, especially when combined with good cue bidding. Ed.

## A HAND FROM THE EBL ONLINE QUALIFIER

Board 27, Dealer South, Nil Vul

♠ void  
♥ J 10  
♦ Q J 10 6 5 3  
♣ Q 6 5 4 2

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	2♥	1♠ ?

This hand was played in the Women's Teams, which comprised 20 teams (10 matches). What surprised me was that East was allowed to play in 4♥ 15 times and 3♥ twice. This means that only three tables managed to get North's minors into the auction.

South may double 2♥ (or 3♥) for take-out. West will undoubtedly raise East to 4♥. What should North do now? I would have thought that, with a 6-5, North should now bid 4NT, which shows both minors. Given that South must be short in hearts on the auction and, assuming they haven't rebid their spades (given the lack of quality), then they must have a fit for one of the minors.

Only two pairs played in 5♦ (and one in 3♦!), both by North – presumably after South doubled East's overcall.

All but two of the pairs in 4♥ went down, with South leading the ♠A and giving North two spade ruffs. However, I was surprised that, at this level (national teams from European countries), so many teams defended 4♥ when they had slam making in either minor suit, though you should only be in game!

*Barbara Travis*

Best Gawler team at the Gawler Teams Congress:  
Paul Walker, Mick Koziol, Arthur Davies, David Shilling (4<sup>th</sup> overall)



## **SOME OF JEFF GOLDSMITH'S RULES OF BRIDGE**

*Jeff Goldsmith is an American bridge player, who posted Edgar Kaplan's revised hand evaluation system online: <http://www.jeff-goldsmith.org/cqi-bin/knr.cqi>. These rules of his were posted on BridgeWinners, [www.bridgewinners.com](http://www.bridgewinners.com).*

- 1 4-3-3-3 hands suck. If you have 4-3-3-3, don't balance. You won't make, and they can bid one more and make, or double you at their whim. Don't double with 4-3-3-3 unless you have them dead to rights in your hand, and then consider bidding No Trump instead.
- 2 5-4-2-2 is a suit shape. If you have a 5-3 fit and partner suggests No Trump, normally prefer the suit contract.
- 3 5-4-4-0 hands don't play great in 4-4 fits. Be conservative unless you have a 5-4 fit. Same with 4-4-4-1 hands.
- 4 The best defence to 2D openings showing 4-4-4-1 is to lead trumps.
- 5 5-3-3-2 is No Trump distribution. It's also very dangerous for balancing.
- 6 Be very aggressive with 6-4-2-1 shape.
- 7 Points, schmoints. Shape rules.
- 8 Be good to partner; try to keep him on your side. It's easy to convince him to join the enemy.
- 9 Forcing bids are forcing. It might be right to pass a forcing bid on this hand, but you lose ten times over when partner jumps the next few times, fearing your passing.
- 10 Don't push to thin slam on 4-4 fits. Be more aggressive with 5-4 fits.
- 11 If your team-mates don't want to talk about it, don't push. If they push after you tell them you don't want to talk about it, lie to them. Try not to be believable.
- 12 Partnerships are very synergistic. The sum can be anywhere from a large negative constant to something much greater than the sum of the parts.
- 13 Try very hard to avoid letting opponents play 1NT not vulnerable at matchpoints.
- 14 It ought never be necessary to apologise to partner if you are a real team.
- 15 If partner makes severe errors two hands in a row, offer to get him a Coke (or equivalent). It will break the losing rhythm and maybe get you back on the right track. If you make an error two hands in a row, offer to get your partner a Coke (or equivalent). Same reason.
- 16 If at all possible, set the trump suit before embarking on a complex or slam auction.
- 17 Be generous with praise, stingy with anger.
- 18 Be extremely careful to concentrate on the first board and last board.
- 19 Never give up. That 38% sometimes turns out to be 205 [Ed: I had to look up the meaning of "205" – it's worth checking out.].
- 20 Get to the playing site at least 15 minutes early.
- 21 At matchpoints, never pull partner's penalty double (for a minus score).

- 22 Don't lead doubletons slowly.
- 23 You see a good line. Bravo! Stop for a second and reconsider... is there a better one?
- 24 If you think you played perfectly and your partner was hopeless, you are deluding yourself. Consider how you could have helped partner to play better.
- 25 Play more slowly, especially at trick 1.
- 26 If you hold a 6-card suit, your partner's 2NT bid is 'forcing'. If the suit runs, you'll make 3NT. If it doesn't, you'll go down in 2NT.
- 27 Try to avoid doubling for takeout with a void in their suit. If partner passes, it tends not to work out.
- 28 Don't pre-empt with a limit raise for a side major suit (i.e. 9 or 10 HCP and 3 cards in a major).
- 29 Don't win a trick cheaply if you are about to shift to a singleton!
- 30 Make opening leads face down. If you regularly fail to do this, when you eventually lead out of turn or generate some bad result by doing this, expect partner to be rather upset with you. When your face-up opening lead causes a problem, do not expect a favourable outcome/ruling.
- 31 Disclosure is for the opponents' benefit, not yours.
- 32 Thy take-out doubles promiseth support for all the unbid suits. 4-3-3-3 take-out doubles should be avoided unless you have overwhelming strength. If you have a singleton spade, to make a take-out double of any bid other than spades requires about the strength of a strong 2-bid.
- 33 Don't be too greedy.
- 34 Be aggressive when holding length in a known long suit that's been bid on your right. Be conservative when it's bid on your left.
- 35 Invite if the normal perfect minimum will make game or slam laydown (Culbertson's Rule). At matchpoints, however, be somewhat more conservative about making game tries, and accept them more aggressively. +170 isn't as bad at matchpoints as it is at IMPs.
- 36 If something goes wrong, call the Director! Don't try to make your own ruling.
- 37 Hartman's Law: 4♦X always makes. Jeff's corollary: all doubles of 4♦ are take-out. [Ed: Agree!! Past history.]
- 38 Grant Baze says: "6-5, come alive". It often pays to bid with 6-5 hands, even when you think it's nuts.
- 39 Never ruff partner's trick and then go into the tank. Decide what you will do before trumping.
- 40 Responses to Blackwood, Roman Key Card Blackwood or the Grand Slam Force are not judgement calls.
- 41 Don't bid bad suits in slam auctions.
- 42 When the auction is not going your way, try hard to limit your hand. Thereafter, bids will be looking for the best strain; partner should be able to resolve the problem of what level.

*Jeff Goldblum, USA*

## PERCENTAGE PLAY

This article, written by Larry Cohen, appeared in Australian Bridge magazine, August 2021. [www.australianbridge.com](http://www.australianbridge.com)

This deal comes from the Tucson Regional, where I lost just about every match. I did find a lesson, however, in this deal. South was the dealer, both sides vulnerable, holding:

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

What do you like? Surely you wouldn't pass, so it is just a question of how many spades to open. This hand is much too good for 2♠ or 3♠, so we can narrow it down to 1♠ or 4♠. I think that 1♠ is the mature action – it could lead to the most scientific auction. Many players would open 4♠, however, a stab at combining pre-emption with maybe reaching the right contract.

Whatever your choice, let's say that your side ends up in 6♠. The ♣K is led, and this is what you see:

♠ A 10  
♥ Q J 10 2  
♦ K J 9 2  
♣ A J 2

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

How did we get so high? I'm not telling. What will you do on this lead of the ♣K?

If you duck, and West doesn't find a heart shift, you'll be in decent shape. That's quite a chance to take. Let's say you win the ♣A at trick 1. Now what?

You draw trumps and find they are 2-2. If you play a club or a heart next, you are basically giving the defence two tricks. They might make an error, but don't rely on it. What is the legitimate line? Play on diamonds.

If the diamonds behave (four tricks), you have the first 12 tricks (7 spades, 4 diamonds, ♣A). So, how should you play the diamonds?

You could lay down the Ace and then finesse the Jack. This guards against a singleton Queen in the East hand, but it is much better to start without playing the ♦A first. You should play a low diamond to the Jack on the first round of the suit. Yes, you're down if the ♦Q is singleton with East, but that is very unlikely. A much livelier possibility is that East started with the ♦10 singleton OR doubleton. If you play the ♦A, then low to the Jack, collecting the ♦10 from East, you are in dummy with no way back to your hand.

Let's look at the full real deal:

♠ A 10  
♥ Q J 10 2  
♦ K J 9 2  
♣ A J 2

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

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

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

If you play the ♦A and lead to the Jack, you are down. The ♦10 falls, but you can get back to your hand to repeat the finesse.

Now, watch what happens if you start diamonds by leading low to the Jack. You come off dummy with a diamond to the Ace and, when the ♦10 falls, you are now in the right hand to finesse the ♦9 and make your contract. Surely a singleton ♦10 and any doubleton ♦10 with East is much more likely than a singleton ♦Q with East.

You don't have to be a percentage guru to get this one right, but you do have to be careful and use logic – good traits for winning bridge.

*Larry Cohen, USA*

The winning team at the Gawler Teams Congress:  
Pam Morgan-King – Andrew Eddie, Lori Smith – Therese Demarco



## SCORING TOPS

The following hands come from an online session. In each case, the hand has a play for an extra trick.

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

(1) *Personally, I would overcall 4♥, but this worked fine!*

North led the ♣10 – 3 – King – 5. South now tried to cash the ♦A, ruffed by declarer. Ten tricks are easy – you have 7 hearts, ♠A and can ruff 2 clubs. 4♥X should be a good score (it was an equal top), but can you do better?

What about leading the ♣Q and, rather than trumping, discarding a small spade from dummy. Then the ♣J will be a winner, on which you can throw your other spade loser. This loser-on-loser play means you have 11 tricks, for a sure top – 7 hearts, 1 club, ♠A and 2 spade ruffs.

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

Only one pair made 11 tricks on this hand, for an outright top. You should only have 1 heart loser and 1 club loser, so I'm not sure why people only made 10 tricks. Perhaps they simply forgot that Pairs is about making as many tricks as possible – to get those tops.

You do need to manage your entries, taking a club finesse early on the hand – perhaps after one round of trumps. However, with East having length in hearts, you should be playing them for the shortage in clubs.

East will lead the ♥A at trick 1. You only need to trump one heart, because you can discard one on the top diamonds. Therefore, it's simply about ensuring that you can finesse clubs twice. My guess is that most declarers used their entries to the South hand early, then could only finesse clubs once.

The last hand that caught my attention involves partner opening 1NT. You (East) hold:

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

Yes, the hand has 8 HCP and a 4-card Major. My question is: what is attractive about that hand? Given that partner is known to have 15-17 HCP, game is against the odds. To invite game with 8 HCP, you need a good hand, which means you need a decent 5-card suit (source of tricks) or lots of 10s and 9s. This hand has neither. Simply pass 1NT and get your plus score.

Every East used Stayman, then invited game with a 2NT rebid. Most Wests passed with a 4-3-3-3 shape and 16 HCP. What happened?

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

Everybody made 7 tricks, for a string of minus scores. The simple +90 would have been a top for East-West.

I often quote one of my Non-Playing Captains from the 1980s, who said: *If the MAXIMUM HCPs you can hold is the absolute MINIMUM you need for game in NT, don't go looking (without something extra).* As responder, you know that your maximum combined HCPs are 25, the minimum you need for game, so you shouldn't invite. (Note: the same principle applies for NT slams too.)

Barbara Travis



Barossa Pairs Congress: Best Country Pair,  
 Mick Koziol and Jane Stokes

## HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

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

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

East-West Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♥
Double	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦ (1)	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

West led the ♠J, overtaken by East with the Queen. East returned a club, declarer tried the Jack, West winning the King, and continuing with the ♦7. Plan your play before reading on?

Taking the diamond finesse is simply too risky. Count your winners – you have the ♣A and ♦A, so you need nine more tricks. With so many high trumps, you should plan to cross-ruff the hand – taking nine tricks in trumps. If you lead two rounds of trumps, you have only eight trump tricks, so you will be reliant on the diamond suit breaking 4-3 (providing a long suit trick).

Win the ♦A and trump a diamond with the ♥5. Cash the ♠A and then trump a club. Now you trump diamonds in your hand (your trumps are impregnable) and trump spades in dummy (knowing East has long spades, so you can trump low or over-trump West). You now have the remaining tricks.

Here's the full hand:

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

Those who drew two rounds of trumps and relied on diamonds breaking 4-3 failed in a 5♥ contract which should be made.

*Barbara Travis*

## A GAME AT THE CLUB

Defending well with your partner is a very important part of the game; after all, on average, you should defend on half the hands. Being confident about your partner's signals is paramount.

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

You are North and hold this hand:

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

*Dummy*

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

South leads the ♥9, an obvious short suit lead. You check the spot cards and note that only the ♥2 is unsighted. You win the ♥A and declarer drops the Jack, which he should also do when holding the Q-J-2. It would be simple to defeat this contract if South had a singleton heart. However, it is dangerous to assume this because, if declarer actually holds Q-J doubleton, the King will provide a free discard.

Given that you have a couple of quick entries (Aces), you can take a different route. At trick 2, cash the ♣A. Partner should give you a clear signal: with a singleton heart, they will play a discouraging club (high) and you will know to return a HIGH heart, suit preference for spades; on the actual hand, South encourages clubs with the 5 (low, given declarer played the 2 and you can see dummy's clubs). A club continuation to partner's King provided the club ruff, then you can cash the ♠A for one off.

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

Finding such a defence is not a brilliancy. It is a matter of stopping at trick 1 and 'solving' your defensive options.

I was filling in for one hand, and was particularly impressed by partner's defence on the next hand:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	1♥	Double
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Partner led the ♣6, clearly a singleton. Declarer tried the club finesse, which I won with the King. Knowing partner was going to trump, I returned a suit preference ♣2. The previous time I had played with this particular partner, she had forgotten to watch my signals, so I was curious about how she would defend. She starred!

At trick 3, she cashed her ♦K!! Then she led a diamond to my Ace. By cashing the diamonds in this order, she had ensured we took all our diamond tricks. If she had just led a diamond to my Ace, I can't cash the diamond AND give her the club ruff! Now I led another small club (I didn't want partner to open up the spade suit for declarer). Declarer tried the ♥10, over-trumped with the Jack. Partner tried her ♦J, ruffed by declarer.

Now declarer had to use her only entry to dummy (the ♠A) to lead a heart towards her King. I flew with my ♥A to continue the club attack, promoting partner's ♥Q. This sequence of plays gave us four trump tricks (the Ace, and 3 club ruffs!), and maximised our result on the hand.

I liked this hand, from a declarer play perspective:

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

  

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

Nobody in 4♠ made the 12 tricks available. Perhaps they failed to appreciate the need to trump heart losers in dummy, because the trumps were the K-Q-J? I then used this hand with a group of Novices, teaching them to make use of dummy's trumps. Most of them made 12 tricks!

They won the ♦K with the Ace, crossed to hand with the ♠A, cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart, then discarded their remaining diamond on the ♣K. Trying to establish dummy's clubs now won't succeed because dummy has only two trumps remaining (so you can't draw trumps ending in dummy), therefore you have to embark on a complete cross-ruff.

Ruff a diamond to hand, trump another heart in dummy, trump another diamond to hand (East's double has shown 4-4 in the red suits), and use dummy's last trump to ruff another heart. Now you trump dummy's last diamond, and claim your two top spade tricks, losing a heart at the end. You have made 8 spade tricks, the ♥A, ♦A and ♠A-K, for 12 tricks.

Don't forget to maximise your use of dummy's trumps, even when they are high.

One more declarer play hand, but this one relates to managing your entries.

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

North is playing in 4♥ with no opposition bidding. East leads the ♦Q, continuing with the ♦J when you play low from dummy. If the spade finesse fails, you need the ♣A onside. However, with that weak dummy, you need to maximise your entries because you would like to take three finesses in spades!

At trick 2, you should trump with a HIGH heart, in order to keep your three lower hearts as entries to dummy. Trump with the ♥A or ♥K! Cross to dummy by leading to the ♥9, to take a spade finesse. Return to dummy with the ♥10, to take a second spade finesse. And now you lead your ♥J to dummy's Queen, drawing the last trump and repeating the spade finesse. You are now able to discard a club loser on the ♠A. Whilst you can no longer return to dummy, so have to lead clubs from hand, you now have 5 hearts, 4 spades and a club ruff (in dummy) for your 10 tricks, and a perfect demonstration of managing your entries. Well done.

*Barbara Travis*



Helen Kite and Helen Rollond won Bridge in the City Pairs, A Grade.

## CLASS SCHEDULING

*This article, by Roberto Martinez Montevideo, appeared in the IBPA Bulletin, March 2021.*

When I meet a new student who wants to take a class and says he plays well, I give him a declarer play exercise. Mondays are for beginners, Wednesdays are for intermediates and Fridays are for advanced players. This is the exercise.

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

South plays in 4♥ and receives a low spade lead. Think about how you would play the deal. There is nothing special about it. There are three losers: the trump Ace and King and the ♦A. You can discard the spade loser on the third diamond.

Some players win the spade lead in either hand and play trumps – they take classes on Mondays. Others win with the ♠K and play on diamonds. That is not best, but if the defence wins the ♦A, declarer can succeed. (A defensive hold-up and spade continuation leads to declarer’s defeat.) These players take classes on Wednesdays. A few players win the opening lead with the ♠A in dummy and continue with the ♦K. That allows them to discard the spade loser on the third diamond, whether the defence wins the first diamond or not. Those players take Friday classes.

Timing and transportation issues are important factors to take into account in planning your play. What day can I schedule you?

*Roberto Martinez Montevideo, Uruguay*

Best local team at the Barossa Teams Congress:  
Chris Brady, Halena Frick, Sandy Blythman, Louisa Eggleton (*players may not be named in order*)



## **COMING EVENTS**

### **STATE EVENTS**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November                      STATE PAIRS FINALS and CONSOLATION                      Unley

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November                      BEAUMONT'S BIRTHDAY CONGRESS                      Mt Osmond Golf Club

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December                      PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT                      Adelaide Bridge Centre

## **RESULTS**

### **STATE EVENTS**

#### **OPEN TRIALS QUALIFYING**

- 1<sup>st</sup>     Peter Colmer – Kevin Lange
- 2<sup>nd</sup>     Howard Melbourne – Zolly Nagy
- 3<sup>rd</sup>     Andy Babiszewski – Marc Deaton

#### **STATE MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 1<sup>st</sup>     Dianne Marler – Rex Whitford
- 2<sup>nd</sup>     Rita Pringle – Andrew Hill
- 3<sup>rd</sup>     Lori Smith – David Cherry

#### **"B SECTION"**

- 1<sup>st</sup>     Linda Alexander – John Kikkert
- 2<sup>nd</sup>     Julia and Bruce Hendry

#### **STATE TEAMS PHASE 2**

- 1<sup>st</sup>     SMOLANKO: George Smolanko – David Middleton, Roger Januszke – John Zollo
- 2<sup>nd</sup>     POPP: Peter Popp – Paul Hudson, Jon Hunt – David Gue
- 3<sup>rd</sup>     HARMS: Russel Harms – Phil Markey, Jeff Travis – Justin Williams

#### **STATE TEAMS FINALISTS**

- 1       HARMS: Russel Harms – Phil Markey, Jeff Travis – Justin Williams
- 2       POPP: Peter Popp – Paul Hudson, Jon Hunt – David Gue
- 3       SMOLANKO: George Smolanko – David Middleton, Roger Januszke – John Zollo
- 4       LANGE: Kevin Lange – Peter Colmer, Judy Hocking – Greg Sargent
- 5       CHERRY: David Cherry, Phil Gallasch, John Horowitz, Joff Middleton, Graham Pellen

#### **STATE SENIORS' PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 1<sup>st</sup>     Ingrid Cooke – Bob Clarke
- 2<sup>nd</sup>     Di Marler – Rex Whitford
- 3<sup>rd</sup>     Tassi Georgiadis – Bill Bradshaw

## **CONGRESS EVENTS**

### **BAROSSA CONGRESS**

#### **PAIRS: SECTION A**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rod Macey – Ceda Nikolic
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ingrid Cooke – Tim O’Loughlin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jill Allanson – Angela Norris

#### **BEST COUNTRY PAIR:**

Jane Stokes – Mick Koziol

#### **PAIRS: SECTION B**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Julie Boyce – Christine Thomas
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meredith Coleman – Carolyn Toh
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sally Luke – Ken Nixon

#### **TEAMS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> CROFT: Nic Croft – Arjuna de Livera, Russel Harms – Phil Markey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> DEMARCO: Therese Demarco – Lori Smith, Andrew Eddie – Pam Morgan-King
- 3<sup>rd</sup> TRUSCOTT: Maggie & Nick Truscott, Sue & Gary Hollands

### **GAWLER TEAMS CONGRESS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> DEMARCO: Therese Demarco – Lori Smith, Pam Morgan-King – Andrew Eddie
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SMYTH: Felicity Smyth – Sheila Bird, Jeff Travis – David Parrott
- 3<sup>rd</sup> HUNT: Jon Hunt – Mike Doecke, Arjuna de Livera – Justin Williams

#### **BEST GAWLER TEAM:**

Arthur Davies – David Shilling, Mick Koziol – Paul Walker

### **BRIDGE IN THE CITY CONGRESS**

#### **A GRADE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Kite – Helen Rollond
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharmini & David Anderson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Catherine Ellice-Flint – Bill Bradshaw

#### **B GRADE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bernadette Henderson – John Gilchrist
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meredith Coleman – Carolyn Toh
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann Matthews – Bob Dunk

### **SA BRIDGE ASSOC. TEAMS (Sponsored by Andrew Eddie)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> HAFFER: Joe Haffer – Phil Markey, Nic Croft – Howard Melbourne
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SMYTH: Russel Harms, Jon Hunt, Felicity Smyth, Jeff Travis, Justin Williams
- 3<sup>rd</sup> EDDIE: Andrew Eddie – Sue Lusk, Peter Colmer – Kevin Lange



**60TH INTERNATIONAL**

# **GOLD COAST BRIDGE CONGRESS**

**2022**



**18TH - 26TH FEBRUARY**  
**GOLD COAST CONVENTION CENTRE, BROADBEACH**

Kim Ellaway · [manager@qldbridge.com.au](mailto:manager@qldbridge.com.au)  
+61 412 064 903 · +61 7 3351 8602  
[qldbridge.com.au/gcc](http://qldbridge.com.au/gcc)



# BRIDGE AT BEAUMONT'S BIRTHDAY CONGRESS



AT

**MT OSMOND GOLF CLUB**

60 MT OSMOND RD,

MT OSMOND

ON

**SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**START TIME: 9.30AM**

**FINISH: ~ 5.00PM**

2-SESSION GRADED MATCHPOINT PAIRS

WITH A TWO-COURSE LUNCH.

RED MASTERPOINTS AWARDED.

**COST**

**\$60 PER PERSON (\$120 PER PAIR)**

**INCLUDING THE TWO-COURSE LUNCH**

**DIRECTOR**

**BARBARA TRAVIS**

**EMAIL: [BARBARA.TRAVIS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:BARBARA.TRAVIS@HOTMAIL.COM)**

**PHONE: 0437 919 928**