

South Australian



Bridge Federation Inc

NOVEMBER 2022

Editor: Barbara Travis

barbara.travis@hotmail.com

SABF UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

STATE-WIDE PAIRS

Played at clubs throughout the State during the week starting 7th November.

No additional costs, just your normal table fees.

Deals and hand booklet created by Barbara Travis.

State-Wide scoring done by David Anderson.

At your club, scoring is done as usual, and you earn green masterpoints.

At the State-Wide level, you earn red masterpoints as well.

PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT

Sunday 4th December 2022

at Adelaide Bridge Centre,

starting at 1pm.

\$20 per person.

Pre-entry required: see flyer. (Payment on the day: cash or EFTPOS.)

An opportunity to players with fewer than 50 MPs to play a session with an expert/mentor, and gain invaluable tips and advice from the session.

SUMMER SERIES FOR KIDS

See page 8. The SA Bridge Federation is, once again, offering a FREE SERIES of beginner lessons to introduce school students to bridge. It will be held in the week leading up to Christmas, Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd December, 10am to 12 noon, at Beaumont Bowling Club. Please encourage any children, grandchildren, children's friends who may be interested to attend. Bookings required.

South Australian



Bridge Federation Inc

**THE S.A. BRIDGE FEDERATION
INVITES YOU TO PLAY**

PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT

on

**SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2022
1.00pm to 5.00pm**

at

**ADELAIDE BRIDGE CENTRE
Level 3, 548 Portrush Road, Glenunga**

COST:

\$20 per player

ENTRY CRITERIA:

Entrants must have fewer than 50 master points.
All players must be members of an affiliated bridge club.

TO ENTER:

Please email or text BARBARA TRAVIS
email: barbara.travis@hotmail.com
phone: 0437 919 928

*You enter as a 'single player' and are allocated an expert.
You play the whole session with an expert partner,
who will provide you with suitable feedback/advice/tips.*

ABF NEWS

ABF FOUNDATION PRO-AM FUNDRAISER

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

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

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

The flyer is on the next page. More information and the website can be found at:

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

NEW WBF PRESIDENT

Jan Kamras, from Sweden, is the new President of the World Bridge Federation (WBF). His term begins in January 2023. He will be playing some of the Gold Coast Congress, so participants may have the opportunity to meet him there.

WBF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Ben Thompson, from Melbourne, has been unanimously elected by the WBF Executive Council as the First Vice President of the WBF.

HISTORY – AUSTRALIANS AND BRIDGE

Keith Ogborn, the ABF Historian, has produced a paper that traces the market for bridge from the beginnings to the present. The document highlights various social and economic factors that have affected the growth, or otherwise, of the game, giving an insight into the longer-term perspective of issues as we come through the pandemic.

The document can be found at:

<https://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-history/australians-and-bridge>

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

The Board adopted the recommendation that only two scoring programs be accredited for use in ABF-licensed events, from August 2022. These programs are Compscore and the program run by Matthew McManus.

DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The Board has agreed to fund one trainee director at ABF-licensed events. States need to apply directly to the ABF prior to the event.

ABF NATIONAL TEACHING COORDINATOR

Joan Butts is retiring from the position of National Teaching Coordinator from 30th September 2022, after 10 years in the role.

The ABF Board is now considering options for how best to continue supporting teachers and is seeking input on State requirements for teaching.



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

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

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

and

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

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

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

Auctions open 1 November, 2022

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S ABF ACCREDITED TEACHERS

The ABF Teachers' Accreditation Program was launched in 2011, to develop the skills of new and established teachers, who earn recognition as ABF Accredited Teachers.

In South Australia, the people who have completed and registered enough teacher accreditation modules to meet the requirements to become Accredited Teachers are:

ALEXANDRINA BRIDGE CLUB	John Elliott Pat Elliott
BRIDGE IN THE BAROSSA	Jill Allanson Evan Allanson
BRIDGE IN THE CITY	Jinny Fuss
GAWLER & DISTRICT BRIDGE CLUB	Margaret Neumeister Herb Neumeister Ray Jones
GLENELG CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB	Arthur Porter Bill Jensen Judy Stafford Colleen Searle June Hammond Julia Hendry Bruce Hendry Julie Clark
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE ASSOC	John Smith Angela Norris Wendy Hopkins Ingrid Cooke

In 2017, the ABF gave special recognition to a small number of very experienced professionals, acknowledging them as Honorary Teaching Fellows, for being "outstanding teachers who have a long and successful teaching (or coaching) history". There were three such teachers recognised in South Australia:

Phil Gue
David Lusk
Barbara Travis

The ABF offers teacher training events around Australia each year to help new bridge teachers prepare for their first lesson and inspire current teachers with new ideas. These free workshops, which are made possible by the ABF and State bridge federations, aim to provide teachers with the necessary skills to run successful bridge lessons and help with play sessions.

SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE REPRESENTED AUSTRALIA AT WORLD EVENTS

The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) sends representative teams to a variety of international events. The primary focus for representative teams are World Championships, but teams are also sent to the Asia-Pacific Bridge Federation Championships, the Asia Cup and the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships.

The following lists those South Australians who have represented Australia at World Championships:

BERMUDA BOWL – World Open Teams, *from 1971*

Arjuna de Livera	2009
Phil Markey	2005
David Horton	2005
Phil Gue	2001, 1999

VENICE CUP – Women's Teams, *from 1978*

Sue Lusk	2017, 2015, 2013, 2009, 2005, 1999, 1997, 1995, 1991, 1989, 1987, 1985
Barbara Travis	2017, 2015, 2013, 2007, 2001, 1989, 1987, 1985, 1981
Cecile Miles	1991, 1978
Sue Edwards	1981

D'ORSI TROPHY – Seniors' Teams, *from 2001*

George Smolanko	2022, 2005
Arjuna de Livera	2019
Zolly Nagy	2013, 2007, 2005, 2003

WBG (WORLD BRIDGE GAMES) OPEN TEAMS (formerly Olympiad), *from 1960*

Zolly Nagy	2012
Phil Gue	2004, 1992
George Smolanko	1992
David Middleton	1992

WBG WOMEN'S TEAMS, (formerly Olympiad), *from 1960*

Sue Lusk	2012, 2008, 2004, 2000, 1996, 1992, 1984
Barbara Travis	2012, 2004, 1984
Cathy Chua	1988
Cecile Miles	1976
Margaret Choate	1976

For 2020, Lauren Travis qualified for the Women's Team.

WBG SENIORS' TEAMS (formerly Olympiad), *from 2000*

Arjuna de Livera	2012
Zolly Nagy	2008, 2004

WORLD YOUTH TEAMS

UNDER 26, from 1989

Mike Doecke	2006
Justin Williams	2006, 2005
Matt Porter	2006, 2005
David Wiltshire	2003
Nic Croft	2001, 1999
Luke Matthews	2001, 1999
Mark Jappe	1995

UNDER 21, from 2006

Lauren Travis	2012, 2010
Shane Harrison	2010
Sam Schulz	2010

GIRLS, from 2014

Lauren Travis	2014
---------------	------

For 2020, David Gue, Bertie Morgan and George Bartley qualified for the Under 26 Team.

WORLD YOUTH OPEN TEAMS, from 2009

UNDER 26

David Gue	2022
Jamie Simpson	2022
Josh Tomlin	2022
Lauren Travis	2013 (2nd)
Shane Harrison	2011

UNDER 21

Bertie Morgan	2022
---------------	------

WORLD MIND SPORT GAMES YOUTH TEAMS

UNDER 28 (2008 only)

Mike Doecke
William Jenner-O'Shea

Impressively, most of these representatives are still playing, though some have moved interstate. We are very fortunate to play a mind sport which allows us to compete against internationals in our 'everyday' games.

Summer Holiday Bridge Lessons

If you enjoy intellectual challenges and puzzles, you'll love bridge.

Come and learn the basics of the world's best mind sport.



Free lessons for 8- to 17-year-olds (Years 3-12)



Monday 19th December to Thursday 22nd December 2022

10am to 12 noon each day



Beaumont Bowling Club, 71 Devereux Road, Linden Park



You can come on your own. No prior knowledge or equipment needed.



As a youth bridge player you:

- ♠ Play one of the most interesting and challenging card games
- ♥ Meet like-minded bridge players at youth afternoons
- ♦ Can play online (and even with players all around the world)
- ♣ May represent your state or Australia in national or international bridge events



Please register your interest with

Barbara Travis

0437 919 928

barbara.travis@hotmail.com

Lessons organised by the

South Australian

Bridge Federation Inc

BLOOMING POSSIBILITIES

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a bridge player in possession of teammates, must be in want of a partner. Sophie Ashton – Dave Wiltshire – Lauren Travis... – Phil Markey. Those with experience will recognise me as a fool. Phil's approach to the game is some sort of bridge-poker hybrid only truly understood by him and attempted (often poorly) by his partners. Canberra in Bloom provided my latest opportunity to practise the simultaneously structured and wild 'Outback Acol' system refined by Phil over the past 30 years, with the objective of acquiring some Playoff Points (PQPs) for the Mixed Teams Trials.

A trademark feature of Outback Acol is its Specific Two opening bids, showing at least 4 cards in spades and another suit. These can make life quite tricky for the opponents, as seen on this hand.

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

As North, I opened 2♦ (4+ diamond, 4+ spades, 0-8 HCP since 9 HCP is an opening hand) and East passed. After considering his options, Phil chose to bid 2NT to enquire about my strength and shape, and I bid 3♥ to show a maximum with precisely 4-4 in my suits and ostensibly game forcing. He was in a bit of a pickle now, as 3NT had chances to make if I had something like ♦ A-K-x-x, but could also very easily be a terrible contract - and 5♦ was also unappealing. In the end, he opted for 3NT, which the opponents swiftly defeated by 6 tricks (-300). The opponents were definitely robbed on this hand; holding the majority of the points and a 9-card heart fit they never entered the auction. Perhaps their best chance was for West to double Phil's 2NT enquiry, but he understandably didn't as he assumed Phil had much more high card strength. Such is the power of the specific 2. Our team-mates bid to the normal 4♥, making 11 tricks, for 8 IMPs.

An aggressive approach to overcalling combined with a lack of documented system led to some comedy (for everyone but me) on another board:

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

Jodi Tutty, as East, opened 1♣ and Phil made the (Phil) standard overcall of 1♠ (note the vulnerability). After West passed, I faced two questions: how bad was Phil's hand and did we play cue raises? I sensibly concluded he could be Very Bad and opted for a simple 2♣ (cue raise), planning to pass if he rebid 2♠. When the auction proceeded with three passes, it became clear that Phil's hand was indeed Very Bad, but so was my assumption that we played one of the most common conventions. The defence found several spade ruffs and the contract was highly unsuccessful.

My final offering is exactly the sort of hand one usually wishes not to have in a final, although Phil seemed delighted at the excitement of our auction:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT (1)	5♦	5♥	6♦
Pass	Pass	6♥	7♦
Double	All Pass		

(1) 4NT = takeout, any 2 or 3-suited hand

On lead, Phil cashed the ♦A and, filled with adrenaline, didn't consider that I probably held a 5-5 so switched to clubs, with declarer claiming the remaining tricks (1 off instead of 2 off).

At the other table, our teammates took a slightly different approach to North's hand:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	2♥	Double
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Double	All Pass

5♠ went one off because of the diamond ruff so, remarkably, the board was flat.

Our team won the Val and John Brockwell Mixed Teams, squirrelling away enough PQPs for the Mixed Teams Playoffs. Mission accomplished. Fingers crossed for December's event.

Lauren Travis

Playing behind screens (Candice Ginsberg)



SPRING NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

I don't manage the time to play many national bridge events but, with my partner in Sydney, the Spring Nationals feature in my annual calendar. The program changed, including a Mixed Teams, so this year we opted to play only in the Open Teams (the Women's was several days later). My team comprised Candice Ginsberg – me, Howard Melbourne – Peter Reynolds.

Before the first match, I set myself up with my own bidding box, only to be laughed at because the qualifying rounds use bidding pads. At least my forward-planning was justified when we qualified for the Semi-Finals and I could use my bidding box.

Match 1 featured an interesting hand from a defensive perspective:

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

I led the ♠4, won by partner with the ♠J. I was hoping she would realise to cash her Ace and give me a ruff (since I hadn't supported spades, so was unlikely to hold 3 of them, and my ♠4 was the lowest spade out). Perfectly reasonably, Candice returned her singleton club to my Ace. Now, the correct technical play is the ♣J rather than the Queen, ensuring partner trumps, and retaining the suit preference connotations (lead spades please). The King was ruffed, the ♠A cashed, and a spade ruff led to one off.

If you lead the ♣Q, declarer can duck, severing communications, and providing them a later opportunity to discard a spade loser on the ♠K !

Whilst the opponents had a good save in 6♠X against our slam on the next hand, I think finding the save would be impossible given our auction.

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

West	North	East	South
4♠	5♣	1♠	Double
All Pass		5♠	6♥

I must say that, sitting North, I thought I had four extremely useful (red) cards for partner! She simply trumped a couple of diamonds and the contract was safe. Given the vulnerability, it is surprising that only two pairs found the 6♠ X save, though several managed to play in 5♠ X.

My next offering is a classic hand:

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

We played in 3NT, South. West led the ♠2 to the Queen. Most people duck here, but I think you should win. The lead of the (fourth-highest) 2 reveals that spades are breaking 4-4, so you only face three spade losers. If you duck, East may switch to a club and, if you duck, the defence can revert to spades, ensuring five defensive tricks (you can win the club safely with all those spot cards). The contract relies on the ♦Q being doubleton or tripleton onside, so play for it immediately. [*You can't tackle clubs – that leads to 3 spade losers, 1 club loser and the ♦A – regardless.*]

The point of the hand is, after the lead of the 2, you win. You can count the suit; practise doing so.

After the penultimate qualifying round, SMOLANKO (containing SA's George Smolanko and Arjuna de Livera) were lying 5th, and drew MILNE (team 1). TRAVIS was 0.16 VPs behind, but received a very fortunate draw, team 27 (of 40). A loss for SMOLANKO saw them drop out of the top 4. Several teams, including TRAVIS, scored 20-0 wins; ours moved us to 2nd place. Team 2, HAFFER (with SA's Joe Haffer and Phil Markey) did what they could with a 20-0 win, moving to 6th place.

In our Semi-Final we played a New Zealand team, JACOB (though Nick Jacob now resides in Sydney). We now played behind screens, with bidding boxes, and the match was shown on BBO and the ABF's BridgeTV.

Whilst this was a flat board, I appreciated the defence against 1NT:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
		1NT	All Pass

Candice found a very successful lead of the ♦6, won with my Jack. On the diamond return, she knew to throw her King under the Ace – since trick 1 had marked me with the ♦Q. Now we had transportation to my diamond winners. Declarer led a spade (ducked to dummy) then established his club winners, but we had seven winners before declarer did (his 6: 1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond, 3 clubs).

Howard and Peter were the only pair in the Semi-Finals to avoid a doomed 3NT on this hand:

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

Whilst many of our opponents throughout the tournament officially played a 15-17 HCP 1NT opening bid, in reality they tended to open 1NT on all 14 counts. In this case, the 1NT opening proved fatal, with a typical auction being:

	1NT
2♣	2♠
3NT	

South led a diamond and the defence could take the first 6 tricks (one North switched at trick 1!)

Howard and Peter gained IMPs simply by opening 1♣. South overcalled with diamonds, West responding 1♥. Subsequent bidding identified the diamond weakness, so they settled in 4♥, making 11 tricks in comfort.

Mind you, the other Wests ‘could’ have been more descriptive after the 2♠ response, and then East-West had prospects for reaching 4♥ too:

	1NT
2♣	2♠
3♣ (5+ clubs, 4hearts)	3♥ (3 hearts, concerned about diamonds)
4♥	

I know that some players prefer to tell the opponents less about the hand (perfectly reasonable), it’s still good to include partner in decision-making when one suit is rather risky, and I really admire the auction above.

The JACOB team conceded after the third session, trailing by more than 70 IMPs. MILNE (Liam Milne – James Coutts, Andy Hung – Shane Harrison) won their Semi-Final by 16 IMPs, a much tighter match. The MILNE team played better than we did through the Final, winning by 21.7 IMPs. Here are two hands that are similar in theme and could have swung the match our way.

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

At the other table, South played 3NT on a heart lead, which gave away a ninth trick immediately. At our table:

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

- (1) Double then 2♣ showed a good hand, so I had to find 'some' bid with my 8 HCP.
 (2) Showing a stopper in diamonds, looking for 3NT

I suspect that, if South had been declarer, we would have received a heart lead too. However, East opted to lead a small diamond. Now I had only 8 tricks and needed to keep West from the lead, fearing a diamond through. I crossed to the ♣Q, then led a spade towards dummy. Andy Hung, East, won, but switched to a heart, and I ended with the 8 tricks I started with. 12 IMPs away, and the opponents hit the lead at the end of session 3. The second-last board...

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

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

From my North seat, what was the killing lead? Since West must have spades held, I tried a club. I led the ♣2; perhaps I should have led the ♣10 to deny an honour. Candice tried to cash the clubs. However, imagine she had switched to a heart (exactly as happened on the earlier hand)! Now we have 5 tricks before declarer has 9 tricks. This time, at least, it was a flat board.

The tournament was very well-run, though attendance was down significantly. It was nice to get away from Adelaide after all this time, though my five-day trip ended up being ALL bridge. No complaints though. Congratulations to Team MILNE, winning yet another national event in 2022!

Barbara Travis

STATE MIXED PAIRS

The State Mixed Pairs was held at Adelaide Bridge Centre on Sunday 18th September. This year the event was held as a matchpoint pairs event, with a qualifying session and a final. Winners were Wendy Hooper and David De Bellis (on a roll after winning at Glenelg Congress too).

From the qualifying session, this hand had a 'matchpoint' lesson.

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

East played in 4♠, with no opposition bidding. South led the ♠10 – Jack – King winning. North returned a heart and now East had to realise that matchpoints is about overtricks.

The heart finesse was 'no cost'; if it worked, then you have a discard for the diamond loser. If it failed, you were back to square. On the other hand, if North had returned a diamond, you have to decide whether to hope it's from the King (unlikely) or whether to risk the heart finesse. If the heart finesse failed, you have four losers – 2 clubs, the ♦K and the ♥Q.

North's unfortunate choice of return gave declarer a winning option, which was to finesse, making 11 tricks for 72%, rather than 10 tricks for 18%.

This was an interesting hand for declarer, then the defence, from the final session:

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

East opened 1NT and was left to play there. South led the ♦3 – 4 – 5 – King. Note that the diamond play marked declarer with the K-Q-J. Declarer needed to establish extra winners – either in clubs or hearts. Meantime, once South gained the lead (♦A), the spade suit would be vulnerable. In effect, declarer needed the ♠A inside (with South), so they had to play for it.

The best option is to lead the ♥A then run the Jack. With the ♠A inside, you can reach dummy again, and you have 1 spade, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds, 1 club. What you cannot do is lead the ♥A, then lead the Jack, winning the King. Then you create two heart winners for the defence, especially if (when) South has unblocked their ♥9-8! You also have to be confident enough to try the ♠K if/when South switches to a small spade; playing the 10 can't win in the long-term.

Congratulations to Wendy Hooper and David De Bellis, State Mixed Pairs Champions 2022.

Barbara Travis

READING THE DEAL

Phillip Alder reported this hand from the Spingold Final, IBPA Bulletin August 2022.

This was surely the best-played deal of the Spingold Knockout Teams – and perhaps of the whole tournament. It was Board 52 of the 60-board final and, at the time, Street let by 10 IMPs over Zimmermann.

Dealer East, EW Vul

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

At the first table, after South's 1NT opening bid, North-South played in 4♥. East-West used suit preference signals when playing on the trump suit so, on the first round, East smoothly played the ♥9 (spades). On the second round, when West showed out, declarer won the Ace, so East completed his signal by playing the ♥3.

When West won the ♣Q, he cashed his ♠A and led a spade to East, for two down.

At the other table, South opened 1♥ (playing a weak 1NT), and ended in 4♥ with silent opponents. The play began the same way at this table: diamond to the King and Ace, ♥10 ducked (East playing the ♥9 – suit preference). What did declarer, Sjoert Brink, do now?

East had paused slightly over the ♥10, so declarer was sure he held the King. East had also produced the ♦K and had to have a high spade – otherwise West would have led the ♠A. Thus, West had to have the ♣Q or else East would have opened the bidding.

At trick 3, Brink led the ♣5 from his hand! (*Ed: Those of us watching on BBO had not been doing our 'counting' work and found this amazing.*) West ducked, so dummy's Jack took the trick. Still not out of the woods, declarer played a club to his Ace, cashed the ♣K, crossed to the ♥A and discarded a spade loser on the thirteenth club. Brilliant!

That gave the Zimmerman team 11 IMPs and the lead by 106-105. Over the remaining eight boards, the margin did not change, and Zimmerman won by 1 IMP.

Phillip Alder, USA

HANS BEATS NICKELL

The team of Sartaj Hans – Peter Gill, Nabil Edgtton – Michael Whibley met the #1 seeds in the Spingold, Nickell, in the Round of 16, and won. They then met the Bramley team in the Round of 8, which contained the only other Australians – Liam Milne and Andy Hung, with the Bramley team winning (they lost in the Semi-Final).

The following hand was written up in the IBPA Bulletin, August 2022, featuring Peter Gill. It demonstrates how top players think during the bidding.

“Peter Gill made a great bid to give his side a chance to reach a pretty decent slam.

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Hans</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
2♥	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

The author continues: “As I watched on BBO, thinking that 3♦ was the normal bid with the North hand at his second turn, Gill showed me how wrong I was: 3♦ is the reflex bid, whereas 4♦ was the imaginative, value bid. Could Hans have done anything different other than bid 5♦? (*Ed: bear in mind that they play a strong 1♣ system, so North had denied a good 15+ HCP.*)

He was reluctant to bid 4♥ on 10-x-x since, on the bidding, Gill could have had two small hearts. 4♠ and 5♣ would have shown extra length there, and 4NT would have been KeyCard. So, 4♥ would have been the only slam try and the question was, was he worth it? 6♦ is pretty good, depending on little more than 3-2 clubs, so long as all the missing diamonds are not with East.

The auction at the other table reveals just how good Gill’s bid was:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>
<i>Edgtton</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
	1♦	1♥	2♣
2♥	3♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

HOW WOULD YOU BID?

I subbed on a recent Thursday night and this hand arose. You, East, hold:

♠ A K 8 7 3
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ K Q
♣ K 10

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

Your options should be either rebidding 2♥ (non-forcing) or 3♥ (game forcing). This hand, with its ♦K-Q, is not worth forcing to game, therefore 2♥ is better than 3♥.

		2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	?	

What does partner's 3♣ bid mean?

You have bid spades and hearts, showing at least 9 cards in those two suits. Partner is expected to 'choose' between your suits when holding 6-9 HCP. Yet they've bid a new suit. Bidding a new suit shows their own long suit – so a 6+ card club suit in a weak hand. Now your options should be to bid 3NT or pass or support clubs.

Your decision should be based on your degree of fit for clubs. You pass with a poor fit for clubs. You can bid 4♣ or 5♣ with a 5-4-1-3 and a good hand. With your doubleton King, you now have to assess your hand in terms of partner's hand. Is it good or bad? Whilst the club fit is good, you only have 9 tricks (3NT) if partner's clubs are A-Q-x-x-x (or the A-J with the Queen onside) and the suit breaking. I think that this is against the odds, so I think that passing is correct.

What happened on the hand? Only one pair out of 24 tables played in a club part-score – scoring very well for their disciplined auction. Well done! The remainder overbid, and most contracts failed (or should have):

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

Barbara Travis

SHOOTING THE MOON

This article, written by Mark Horton, comes from the Bulletins from the recent World Bridge Series.

In the card game Pinochle (which involves the use of only 48 cards) a player who manages to take all the tricks, after announcing to do so in advance, is said to 'shoot the moon'. On this deal from the McConnell (Women's Teams), the opportunity arose to achieve the feat using all 52 cards.

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

North's 5♠ was asking for a diamond control for slam, and when Nicola Smith showed she could look after the first round via 6♦, North made a grand slam try by bidding 6♥. That was enough for Nicola to 'shoot the moon'.

When West led the ♣2 (low from odd), Nicola Smith was tempted to claim. She could be sure that West held a diamond void and, given that West must hold significant club length, there had to be a double squeeze. She took the lead in dummy and tested the trumps. When the suit divided, she crossed to dummy with the ♠K and cashed two clubs, pitching hearts from hand. Next came the ♦J, covered by the King and Ace, and that was followed by two more spades. This was the position:

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

When Nicola cashed the ♠4, West had to part with a heart. Having served its purpose, dummy's ♣6 went away. Had it been East holding the three hearts and the ♦Q, she would have been the one without recourse. It was a rare combination: precision bidding and perfect play that delivered 13 IMPs.

Mark Horton, England

WORLD TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2022

The 2022 World Championships were held in Wroclaw, Poland at the end of August. During our evenings, BridgeTV (an ABF initiative) showed a BBO match with commentary: www.bridgetv.com.au These are a few of the hands that attracted my attention.

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

North-South are vulnerable, East-West not vulnerable. North is dealer and opens 1NT. What action would you take as East?

This hand arose in the Mixed Semi-Final and Seniors Final. I was doing commentary and said that it would pay huge dividends for East to pass and await proceedings. (On the other hand, if the suit was NOT solid, it is better to bid immediately.) Ron Klinger agreed.

In the Seniors match, East overcalled 4♥, going down one trick (sometimes doubled), or bidding another level over 4♠ or 5♣, both making. In the Mixed matches, two Easts passed. South used Stayman, rebidding 3NT when North denied a major. East kept passing (sensibly) and then cashed the first eight tricks, scoring 400. Both outcomes were 11 IMPs – with the other table in each match overcalling 4♥ (doubled and down one) and 3♥ (doubled for takeout, leading to 3♠ making 10 tricks).

For those whose jaws are hanging open at the idea of passing 1NT with that East hand, firstly check the vulnerability, and secondly you can let them bid THEN decide what action to take, so really there is no hurry to come in. The favourable outcome is defending 1NT or 3NT, vulnerable.

The mostly-Australian HANS team (Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Nabil Edgton – Michael Whibley) qualified for the Round of 16. I enjoyed Michael Whibley's play on this hand:

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

East opened – usually 1♣ – leaving South ‘stuck’ for a bid. Over 1♣ (2+ cards), some people play that 2♣ and 3♣ are natural. Many Wests jumped to 2♣, a weak jump response. Team HANS, with Whibley sitting North, reached 3NT, after West had shown spades. East led the ♠K. Declarer won immediately (his ♠10 being a second stopper). He now led a club to dummy’s Queen, holding. Now he switched to diamonds, leading the Queen and finessing. Once East’s ♦K had been removed, he had 1 spade, 2 hearts, 1 club and 5 diamonds, for 600 and 11 IMPs.

The hand was not about trying to establish the clubs, but it was imperative to extract the extra trick (clubs) before entries between the two hands were severed.

There were two hands where Exclusion Key Card Blackwood (EKCB) was used well by the players, as one would expect in a World Championship. EKCB involves bidding a suit at a high level, asking for key cards excluding that bid suit – i.e. you are showing a void in the bid suit.

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

This hand was reasonably challenging, given that North had opened with 1♥, but 7 of the 16 pairs in the Round of 16 managed to bid the grand slam in diamonds, either by cue bidding (and finding North held no heart control) or by using EKCB.

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

On this hand, North opened 1♣ and the opposition interfered with spades, with their partner raising to 4♣. That usually simplified things, with South concluding that partner held a spade void for his 5♣ or 6♣ bid, then jumping to 7♦ themselves, though a few managed to use EKCB. About half of the teams in the Round of 32 bid to this grand slam, though 7♠ was a relatively cheap save.

My final offering comes from the Round of 32:

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

Where North opened 1NT, the final contract tended to be 3NT. Where North opened 1♠, many pairs ended in 4♠.

Against 4♠, many Easts led the ♦J. West should win the Ace then the King; playing ‘back-to-front’ indicates a doubleton. Then when West leads a club to East, they should continue diamonds, for the ruff. Surprisingly, many in 4♠ made their contract, even with the diamond lead.

In 3NT, East should lead a low heart (depending on your lead style). Now declarer has to be more careful. There is no time to establish diamonds because the heart stoppers will be removed before the diamond suit can be set up. You need to rely on spades breaking (5 spade tricks), 2 hearts and 2 club winners. That means you should win the ♥K in dummy immediately, and lead a club to your King. If the King wins, cross to dummy’s ♠A and lead the ♣10. You will still have to guess! On the other hand, if East wins the ♣A (obviously, an error), you will win the heart return in hand, cross to dummy’s ♠A, then lead the ♣10 and run it – for 9 tricks.

I was surprised by how many declarers in 3NT erred, winning the first trick in hand with the ♥A. I was also surprised by how many defenders erred, winning the ♣A on the first round.

Barbara Travis

AUSTRALIA-WIDE PAIRS RESULTS

Australian Bridge, the national bridge magazine, runs the Australia-Wide Open Pairs and the Australia-Wide Restricted Pairs each year. South Australia has had some outstanding results this year:

AUSTRALIA-WIDE OPEN PAIRS

1 st	Henry Dyll – Robin Pellen	Blue Lake BC (78.5% across the field!)
3 rd	Mick Koziol – Sam Brown	Gawler
10 th	Bea Stallbom – Richard Hooper	Gawler

Results can be found at: <http://www.australianbridge.com/2022AWOP.php>

AUSTRALIA-WIDE RESTRICTED PAIRS (Under 300 MPs)

(provisional until 5th November – 96% of results received)

2 nd	Anthony Gibbs – David De Bellis	SA Bridge Assoc
16 th	Bea Stallbom – Richard Hooper	Gawler
20 th	Jane Linde – Lyn Parnell	SA Bridge Assoc

Results can be found at: <http://www.australianbridge.com/2022AWRP.php>

Congratulations to everyone. Of particular note is Bea Stallbom and Richard Hooper’s results in BOTH events. (By the way, the last face-to-face version of these events was in 2019, with Gawler’s Hans Haan and Jane Stokes placing 1st in the Restricted event.)

ABF TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY IS AVAILABLE AGAIN

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

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

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

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

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



PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

To apply online: <https://abfinsurance.com.au/>
To phone TBIB: 07 3272 5254 (ask for Steve Weil)

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

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

USING THE AUCTION

This hand, written up by Barry Rigal, about the US national Spingold Teams, appeared in the IBPA Bulletin, August 2022.

♠ A Q 10 4 3
♥ A K 10 7 4
♦ 2
♣ K Q

♠ K 8 7
♥ 6 5
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 10 6 4 2

West opened 1♦ and South ended in 4♠ after North made a Michaels Cue Bid, showing 5-5 in the Majors. The opening lead was the ♥9.

Assuming this was from shortage, declarer won the Ace and drew trumps, cashing the Ace, followed by the King and Queen, with West following all the way (Jack on the third round). The ♥K came next, confirming the 5-1 break as West showed out. Now declarer followed through with his plan to endplay West who, from the opening bid, was likely to hold the missing minor suit honours.

The ♣K was used to drive out the Ace, with West exiting a club to dummy. Now, with West's safe exit cards removed (spades, hearts, clubs), declarer led a diamond to his ♦10 and West's Jack. West was endplayed. He tried to escape his predicament by leading the ♣J, but declarer simply discarded a heart loser from dummy, leaving West on play to resurrect the South hand. That was good for a game swing, with the full hand being:

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

Barry Rigal, USA



CAPITALISING ON THE INFERENCES AVAILABLE

These are your hands:

♠ J 10 8 6
♥ J 9 7 5 3
♦ 7 5
♣ 7 5

♠ K Q 4 3
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ A K J
♣ K 6

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

Whilst West's raise to 4♥ was somewhat 'enthusiast' opposite a 20-21 HCP hand, the key to the hand was South's total discomfort after the 2NT opening bid. At the table, South clearly wanted to make some bid, but finally passed. This is an important inference to consider when planning your play.

South cashed the ♥A, then switched to the ♠5, which North won to return a spade. On drawing trumps, you discover that South started with a singleton Ace. You then move to spades and find that South held a doubleton spade. What conclusion would you draw now, based on the hesitation?

South seems likely to hold a 5-5 in the minors and wanted to bid over 2NT. Your 4♥ contract seems to hinge on picking whether to play for the ♣A onside or finessing the ♦Q. However, another option now comes to mind, given the situation, and South's first discard showing liking for clubs (i.e. the ♣A). What if South holds both the ♣A and the ♦Q? Can you make the hand? The answer is 'yes'.

You can cash the ♦A, just in case, then run the rest of your spades then the remaining hearts. You bring the relevant hands – East and South – down to three cards:

	<i>East</i>
	♦ K J
	♣ K 6
<i>South</i>	
♦ Q 9	
♣ A Q	

When you lead the fifth heart from dummy, East discards the ♣6. What can South discard? If they throw the ♣Q, then you lead a club from dummy, South winning the Ace and having to lead a diamond into your K-J. If they discard a diamond, you lead a diamond from dummy to your King, dropping the Queen, and the ♦J is your tenth trick (3 spades, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds).

The morals of this story:

1. When bidding, don't reveal your discomfort and desire to bid, then pass (especially after a strong opening bid). Declarer, whilst drawing inferences at their own risk, can draw appropriate inferences during the play.
2. Think about the inferences available at the table!

By the way, with South's hand, a 2-1-5-5, she'd have done better to discard the ♣Q before the Jack, leaving declarer a little more 'doubt'.

Barbara Travis

AN ADDITIONAL CHANCE

This hand was written up in the IBPA Bulletin, August 2022, and shows how expert players find additional chances that others might not notice.

♠ A J 3
♥ 10 8 7
♦ J 6 4
♣ 9 8 4 2

♠ Q 10 9 8 7 4 2
♥ A Q
♦ A
♣ A 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The same contract was reached at all tables in a Teams event. (In Teams, one's objective is to ensure that you make the contract, rather than worrying about overtricks.)

West led the ♠K. Declarer considered the situation before he played to the first trick. He had two club losers and, if both major-suit finesses failed, the contract would be in jeopardy. Could the chances be improved?

The ♠K was allowed to win the first trick and West shifted to a low diamond – 4 – 10 – Ace. The ♣A and ♣6 followed; West unblocked the Queen, so East won the third round with his Jack. East returned a low heart but declarer won the Ace, then played a trump to the Ace (both defenders following), and discarded his ♥Q (loser) on the established ♣9. Declarer took neither major finesse, but he made his contract.

When clubs broke 3-3, declarer's line would only fail if the trumps broke 3-0. Note that it was crucial for declarer to duck the first club, enabling him to discover the club distribution before he decided what to do on a heart shift from East.

The full hand:

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

HOW WOULD YOU BID and HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

You are North and hold:

♠ A 9 8 6 4
♥ K Q J 10 9 3
♦ 8
♣ 5

Partner opens 1♦. You respond 1♥ and partner rebids 1NT. How are you going to continue the auction?

This 5-6 hand is strong enough to reverse, despite the lack of points. Firstly, 6-5 (in this case, 5-6) hands are stronger than their HCP; secondly, that heart suit is basically self-supporting. So you should rebid 2♠, a responder's reverse, at this stage showing 4 spades and 5 hearts with game forcing values. Opener rebids 2NT, so now you can rebid 3♠. Now, you are showing 5 spades but, since you reversed your first suit is longer, so you have 6 hearts. Partner now raises you to 4♠. Here's the auction:

North	South
	1♦
1♥	1NT
2♠	2NT
3♠	4♠

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

♠ J 7 3
♥ A 6
♦ K Q J 9
♣ Q 7 3 2

You could sit and stew, thinking, "4♥ would have been better, because you could use some of those diamonds to discard spades," but your time is better spent working out how you can make this hand (and, really 4♥ is the same). You have to lose the ♦A, the ♣A and hold your spades to one loser. *[Note: This is NOT a hand where the defence should hold up a minor suit Ace. You know North holds a 5-6 shape, so only 2 minor suit cards!]*

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

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

Classic... 4♠ makes if you play the trump suit according to the recommended line. Classic... Nobody made 4♠. If East can hold his nerve and play the ♠10 on the first round, declarer may decide it's a singleton and finesse the next round. However, most club players (at least) will rise with the King (and especially so with the Q-10 doubleton).

Barbara Travis

CHOOSING THE BEST CHANCE IN DEFENCE

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

GOOD HABITS #4

GUESSING THE SHAPE

When Sartaj Hans was still writing his bridge blog, he wrote a post in 2009 called, “Warning: This Post MAY Wreck Your Life”.

The crux of the post was that good technical players are **counting all the time**. A takeaway message was that it is often possible to accurately guess declarer’s shape very early in the hand and, after a couple of tricks, a fairly high degree of accuracy is available.

♠ J 10 5
♥ A 9
♦ 10 9 6 3
♣ Q 9 8 6

♠ Q 9 8
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K 7 4
♣ K 10 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦ (usually 5+)
Pass	3♦ (weak)	Double	All Pass

Trick 1: ♥4 – Ace – Queen – 2

Trick 2: ♣6 – 5 – Ace – 4

Trick 3: ♠2 - ?

After a difficult auction, declarer wins your heart lead (3rd highest), then crosses to the ♣A to lead a low club. What is declarer’s most likely shape, and how should you defend?

The logo for PENLINE, featuring the word "PENLINE" in a bold, blue, italicized sans-serif font, followed by a registered trademark symbol (®).

CHOOSING THE BEST CHANCE IN DEFENCE

GOOD HABITS #4

GUESSING THE SHAPE

SOLUTION

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

After a difficult auction where there were several options over partner's double, declarer has arrived in a seemingly cold doubled part-score. After the heart lead, partner played the Queen – a play they could probably only afford with a 5-card suit. In addition, you probably need to assume that declarer holds only 5 diamonds, together with only 3 hearts, to have any chance of beating this contract.

In the black suits, you can see 8 clubs (your hand and dummy) and 6 spades, so declarer's shorter suit is likely to be clubs, which is consistent with partner's takeout double too. Declarer's doubleton club is just about confirmed when partner plays the ♣5 (reverse count).

With no heart trick and, at most, one club trick, if we wish to defeat the contract, you might think that the only hope is to cash three spade tricks immediately. That is an unlikely layout. With nothing in spades, declarer would probably play for a different chance, such as endplaying partner (to lead clubs).

At the table, the only chance (on this layout) – of a smooth duck in clubs – was found. The club spots meant that declarer could, and did, play for an alternative line of ♣J-x-x or ♣10-x-x with West, first finessing the ♣9 then later leading the Queen, hoping to pin the 10 with a ruffing finesse.

So declarer lost 2 spade tricks, 2 trumps and a club, for one down. Playing the ♣K at trick 3 gives declarer 9 easy tricks.

LISTEN TO THE AUCTION

This is the auction:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
4♦ (1)	Pass	4♠ (2)	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠ (3)	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

(1) Splinter bid, showing 4+ spades and a singleton or void in diamonds.

(2) No slam interest

(3) 2 key cards + ♠Q (given I held 6 spades and partner 4 spades, the Queen is usually not relevant)

Sitting South, you hold:

♠ 6 4
♥ 10 9 7
♦ K J 5 2
♣ K 10 7 3

What would you lead?

Many years ago, Terence Reese (UK) made a remark, "*Blind leads are for deaf players*". Over time, the phrase has changed to: *A blind lead means you have had a deaf auction*. After all, he meant that the bidding will often tell you what to lead.

I was playing the BBO online "Schafer Game", a daily game that Walt Schafer (USA) has been organising for more than two years, since Covid-19 hit us. South was Jack Zhao, a Chinese world champion now living in the US. He listened to this auction.

His conclusion was that I (East) had denied heart controls, meaning that West needed heart control to bid the slam. It is also often advisable to make an attacking lead against a suit-slam. Therefore, he led his ♣3, finding the Ace opposite, and the club return defeated the slam.

Partner had, in fact, given away too much information. Those who bid the slam without a splinter bid received the lead of the ♥10 and 6♠ made 13 tricks (the clubs being discarded on high hearts and the small diamonds being trumps in dummy).

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

Barbara Travis

A GAME AT THE CLUB

This session you are playing 2 over 1 game forcing, meaning that your 1NT response is 6-11 HCP (but not forcing).

You are sitting South, dealer, and hold:

♠ 9
♥ Q 4 2
♦ A K 10 8 7 6 3
♣ K 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
Pass	1NT (6-11)	Double	2♦
2♠	2NT	3♠	?

What does partner's 2NT bid mean? I think it should indicate a diamond fit (probably Q-x or 3 diamonds, given you have shown 6+ diamonds), a spade stopper, and interest in playing in 3NT – if your diamond suit is 'running'. That should mean partner is likely to hold about 10 HCP, possibly with two Aces, or one Ace and a decent spade stopper (only 3 spades).

With 7 diamonds headed by the A-K, you should now raise to 3NT. This hand and auction is no longer about HCP but about your ability to take diamond tricks with partner, and your diamonds should now be worth 7 tricks. Partner held:

♠ A 10 2
♥ 10 8 7
♦ Q 4 2
♣ A 9 8 3

which is exactly what that 2NT rebid should show. It's almost good enough to try 3NT, but you need to be confident that partner's diamonds are headed by the top two honours.

The next hand was ideal for 2 over 1. You, South, hold:

♠ 10 2
♥ J 10 7
♦ A K Q J 9 3
♣ A 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

The 2♠ bid may have been 'forced' if opener was stuck for a rebid, though it will often show 6+ spades. But bidding a new suit at the 3-level (3♠ in this instance) shows extra values. However, playing 2 over 1, you can simply rebid 3♦, since the game force has already been established, and you show your 6-card suit and potential slam interest.

Opener held:

♠ A J 6 5 4
♥ 2
♦ 8 7
♣ K Q J 3 2

They 'should' now cooperate so that you can reach an excellent 6♦ contract. (Admittedly, this hand would be difficult to bid playing Standard, because of the lack of game force.)

Options for opener's third bid include 4♥ (a splinter) though it should show 3 diamonds (not 4 diamonds because you didn't splinter on the previous round – with such good clubs it is a reasonable option, or 4♦, setting diamonds and encouraging partner. Given that you did not bid 3♣ on the previous round, I believe 4♣ should be a cue bid for diamonds, which is possibly the best bid of all, though it may confuse partner.

Another interesting hand arose, primarily in terms of what to bid. Sitting North, you hold:

♠ K 8 5
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ A K 2
♣ K J 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣	1♠
Pass	?		

I chose to bid 2♣, a cue raise showing 10+ HCP and 3+ spade support, knowing it was forcing. Partner rebid 2♠ to show a minimum type of overcall. What next? I decided that I was interested in protecting my heart and club honours from the lead, so I now bid 3NT, to show the strength of the hand.

When East led the ♥4, the hand was a dream to play:

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

The heart ran to West's Jack and my Queen, marking East with most of the remaining points. It was simple to cash the ♠K, then finesse East's Queen. Cashing the five spades left East in a discarding dilemma (especially given South's ♥9). He threw one diamond and one heart. Now the ♦A-K were cashed, felling the Queen, so the remaining two diamonds exerted more pressure on East. He chose to throw two clubs, keeping his ♥A and ♥K, so now I had 3 more club tricks – making 13 tricks.

Whilst I was playing teams, so this was just a couple of IMPs, at Pairs it would have been a top score. Just remember that your target is as many tricks as possible, not the number required to make your contract!

Let's finish with the mandatory counting hands...

Declarer, South, has shown a strong 2NT opening bid (22-23 HCP). You're East:

Dummy

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ J 10 9 7 6
♣ 8 4

You

♠ A 10 4
♥ Q 10 3
♦ Q 5 2
♣ J 10 6 2

Partner leads the ♣3 to your 10 and declarer's King. Declarer tries the ♦A and ♦K, but your Queen doesn't fall. They exit with a small diamond (partner discarding a discouraging spade), which you win to continue with the ♠2, ducked to partner's ♠9. Partner leads the ♣Q next, ensuring that YOU have another entry with the last club (which means they want you to lead something through declarer). South wins the ♣A and leads the ♠K, which you win with the Ace. You cash the ♠J, declarer throwing a spade. What next?

Have you stopped to count? If you have, declarer has shown up with the ♣A-K, ♦A-K, likely ♠K-Q, given the exit – and that is already 19 HCP. Partner wanted you on lead to lead hearts through; lead the ♥Q or 10, to ensure that declarer's King can be captured. That's now 3 off, for 300 (1 spade, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, 2 clubs), since partner held:

♠ J 7 2
♥ A J 8 6
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 9 5 3

(Those who know my 'style' also know that I tend not to lead a 4-card suit headed by the Ace against a NT contract so, since I am likely to hold 4 hearts, I am likely to have the Ace!)

Counting is so essential, both for declarer play and defence. Keep counting. On this final hand, both declarer and defender should have got it right:

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

Whilst I am shocked at North's pass (I would have bid 2♦ as a cue raise, and then we should reach 4♠), the play of the hand is what is relevant.

West led the ♠J, won with the Queen in dummy. Declarer should be thinking, "West didn't lead a top diamond, so is unlikely to hold ♦A-K". In that case, East should hold a top diamond, so the trump Queen will be offside (count the points). Instead, she took a finesse at trick 2, with my Queen winning.

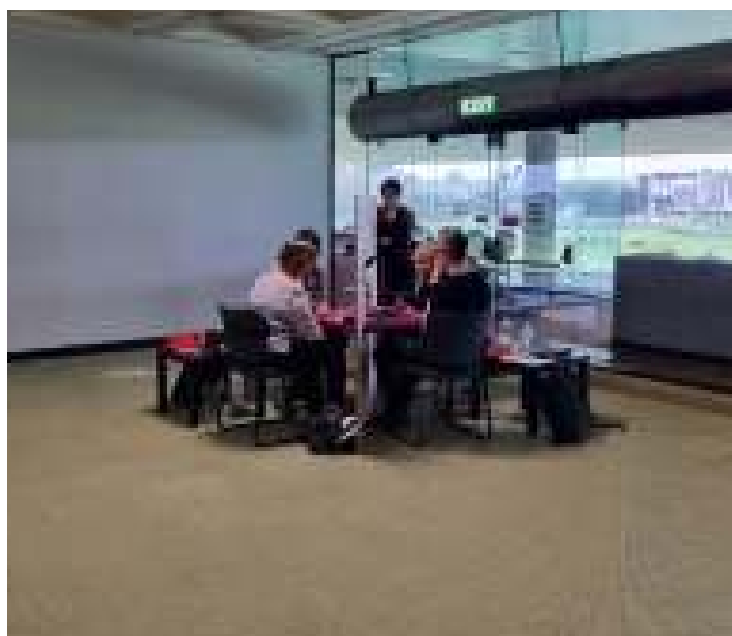
I continued with the ♠10, and partner ruffed. Officially, the 10 would have been a suit preference card, asking for hearts – IF I knew partner was ruffing, which I didn't. Partner returned the ♦4 to the Queen and Ace, so I now led the ♠9 (now suit preference), asking for a heart; partner could get a third spade ruff, for 1 off. Partner ruffed the spade, but tried to cash the ♦K – whoops.

Think about it. If partner had counted the HCP around the table, I must hold the ♥A, since I've opened the bidding (even with my 10 HCP). So the heart lead should come first, followed by the spade ruff, THEN try the ♦K, which can wait.

You have to train yourself to stop and count. It isn't an automatic action. Take your time, stop and regroup, and do your counting.

Barbara Travis

A (slightly blurry) photo of the final of the Spring National Open Teams - playing behind a screen, and on BBO.



COMING EVENTS

STATE EVENTS

STATE PAIRS From Thursday 3rd November Unley

OTHER

STATE-WIDE PAIRS Week starting 7th November Your club

PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT Sunday 4th December Adelaide Bridge Centre

SUBSCRIBE TO AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Australian Bridge Magazine will keep you up to date with what's going on in the bridge community, and provide you with ideas to improve your game from the best writers.

- Regular columns from David Bird, Andrew Robson, Ron Klinger, Larry Cohen, Sartaj Hans, Tim Bourke and Paul Lavings.
- Improve your skills with articles and quizzes for players of all levels.
- Compete with the experts in our bidding forum and bidding challenge features.

For enquiries, or to subscribe, email Brad at mail@australianbridge.com or phone 0412 335 840. Subscriptions are \$69 for one year (six issues), or \$129 for two years.

For less experienced players, we also have an online version of the magazine (\$25), aimed at players who have not yet entered the tournament world.

RESULTS

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

CANBERRA IN BLOOM

GOLDEN WATTLE OPEN TEAMS

2nd KOZAKOS: George Kozakos – **Arjuna de Livera**, Khokan Bagchi – David Lilley

VAL & JOHN BROCKWELL MIXED TEAMS (with Playoff Points)

1st ASHTON: Sophie Ashton – David Wiltshire, **Lauren Travis – Phil Markey**

Back row: Val Brockwell, Lauren Travis
Seated: John Brockwell, Phil Markey



SPRING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Sydney)

SPRING NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

2nd TRAVIS: **Barbara Travis** – Candice Ginsberg, **Howard Melbourne** – Peter Reynolds

DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS

1st **Phil Markey – Joe Haffer**

BOBBY EVANS SENIORS TEAMS

2nd BUCHEN: Peter Buchen – George Smolanko, Ron Klinger – Ian Thomson, Michael Courtney – Terry Brown

CONGRESS RESULTS

GLENELG PAIRS CONGRESS

A GRADE

- 1st Wendy Hooper – David De Bellis
- 2nd Catherine Ellice-Flint – Bill Bradshaw
- 3rd Sue Phillips – Judith Roberts

B GRADE

- 1st Joanne Bakas – Tassi Georgiadis
- 2nd Cynthia Brinkman – Patricia McGaffin
- 3rd Alice Handley – Owen Teakle

GAWLER TEAMS CONGRESS

- 1st DE LUCA: Attilio De Luca – Susan Emerson, Phil Gue – Margaret Walters
- 2nd GALLASCH: Phil Gallasch – Graham Pellen, Dianne Marler – Rex Whitford
- 3rd LUKE: Sally Luke – Josh Tomlin , Helen Gray – Peter Mika

RIVERLAND CONGRESS

PAIRS: FINAL

- 1st Jon Hunt – Jeff Travis
- 2nd Peter Colmer – Kevin Lange
- 3rd Peter Giles – Peter Williams

PAIRS: PLATE

- | | NORTH-SOUTH | EAST-WEST |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st | Wendy & Jim Smith | Rob Burnett – Michael Ward |
| 2 nd | Carolyn & Brian Leach | Maggie & Nick Truscott |
| 3 rd | Cynthia Brinkman – Stuart Tuck | Carolyn & Chris Mroczek |

TEAMS

- 1st DE LUCA: Attilio De Luca – Susan Emerson, Peter Colmer – Kevin Lange
- 2nd WILLIAMS: Justin Williams – Paul Hudson, Jon Hunt – Jeff Travis
- 3rd BOYCE: Julie Boyce – Christine Thomas, Moira Smith – Roz Newstead

David De Bellis and Wendy Hooper,
winners of the State Mixed Pairs Championship
and the Glenelg Pairs Congress



STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

OPEN PAIRS QUALIFYING

- 1st Nic Croft – Justin Williams
- 2nd Attilio De Luca – Russel Harms
- 3rd David Parrott – George Smolanko

STATE MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1st Wendy Hooper – David De Bellis
- 2nd Alice Handley – David Parrott
- 3rd Susan Emerson – Attilio De Luca

CONSOLATION

- 1st Lauren Travis – Jamie Simpson
- 2nd Helen Gray – Peter Mika
- 3rd Judy & John Zollo

STATE TEAMS PHASE 2

- 1st ZOLLO: Marc Deaton – George Smolanko, John Zollo – Roger Januszke
- 2nd DEMARCO: Therese Demarco – David De Bellis – Wendy Hooper, Pam Morgan-King – Andrew Eddie
- 3rd PORTER: Andy Babiszewski – Linda Babiszewski – Bob Clarke – Arthur Porter – Susan Emerson

STATE TEAMS FINALISTS

- 1st HARMS: Nic Croft – Arjuna de Livera – Zolly Nagy – Russel Harms – Justin Williams – Phil Markey
- 2nd ZOLLO: Marc Deaton – George Smolanko, John Zollo – Roger Januszke
- 3rd JAPPE: David & Sharmini Anderson, Peter Colmer – Kevin Lange, Mark Jappe – John Maddison
- 4th TRAVIS: Lauren Travis – Jamie Simpson, Barbara Travis – Bertie Morgan
- 5th DEMARCO: Therese Demarco – David De Bellis – Wendy Hooper, Pam Morgan-King – Andrew Eddie



StepBridge Australia

DECEMBER SWISS BUTLER IMP PAIRS CONGRESS



Open, Restricted & Novice
(An approved SABF red point congress)

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 2022 *Online on StepBridge*

Director	Alan Bustany
Movement	Swiss Butler IMP Pairs. Three separate fields of Open, Restricted & Novice. The number of boards and rounds will be at the discretion of the Director and StepBridge.
Conditions of Entry	SABF Approved Red Masterpoint Congress conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Butler IMPs scoring will be used. Masterpoints not guaranteed unless ABF number is provided. Green, blue & red systems, and Brown Sticker conventions and treatments, permitted in the Open Grade. Blue & green systems permitted in the Novice & Restricted fields. No Yellow (HUM) systems in this Congress. Novice players must have fewer than 100 Masterpoints as at 30 September 2022. Restricted players must have fewer than 300 Masterpoints as at 30 September 2022. Each pair must have 2 systemically identical current system cards. Players are responsible for ensuring their system classification is correct.
Start Time	11.00am (ACT, NSW, VIC & TAS) / 10.30am (SA) / 10.00am (QLD) / 9.30am (NT) / 8.00am (WA)
Closing Date	Thursday 8th December 2022, 12noon. Late entries accepted at the discretion of the Director and StepBridge.
Entries	Enter online at www.stepbridge.com.au/stepbridge-december-2022-congress-entry-registration/
Entry Fee	400 Participation Points per Player.
Payment	The cost will be deducted from your account at the time of entry. Please ensure you have enough Participation Points in your account.
Entry List	www.stepbridge.com.au/stepbridge-december-2022-congress-entry-list/ Entries will be posted on the entry list within 24 hours of submission, subject to enough participation points being in the account of each pair for payment.
Prizes	Cash Prizes will be awarded in the three separate fields of Open, Restricted & Novice. 1st \$300, 2nd \$200 & 3rd \$150, subject to 20 tables in the particular field.
StepBridge Username Registration	All players must be registered with StepBridge. Details on registration at www.stepbridge.com.au If registering solely for this Congress, you can have temporary membership with no membership fee payable and in addition 3 free SB tournaments to familiarise yourself with the platform. You will need order and pay \$20 for purchase of your Participation Points for this event. Account Name: StepBridge Australia BSB: 012013 Account Number: 302538455 StepBridge enquiries to Chris Larter chris@stepbridge.com.au