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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SUCCESS STORIES

SWAN RIVER OPEN SWISS PAIRS (Perth)

3rd Joe Haffer - Ron Cooper (WA)

HGR MEMORIAL PAIRS (Perth)

2nd Sue Lusk - Viv Wood (WA)
5th Lori Smith - Angela Norris

COFFS COAST GOLD CONGRESS (Coffs Harbour)

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

2nd Justin Williams - Bruce Neill (NSW)

TERRITORY GOLD FESTIVAL (Alice Springs)

MATCHPOINT PAIRS FINAL

2nd Phil Gue - George Kozakos (ACT)
9th Wendy & Jim Smith

PLATE

1st Judy Hocking - Kevin Lange

TEAMS

1st KOZAKOS: Phil Gue - George Kozakos (ACT)
Joe Haffer - Simon Hinge (Vic)



Catherine Ellice-Flint and Robert Martin,
winners of the Christies Beach Congress

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020: HELPERS NEEDED

The Australian National Championships will be held in Adelaide in July 2020, at Morphettville Racecourse. The SABF needs the help of South Australian bridge players to ensure that these championships are successful. They are seeking assistance, which can be divided into two categories:

VOLUNTEERS/WORKERS

- Volunteers are required to help on the 'Help Desk', with the hospitality desk, and perhaps with pick up or drop off of interstate visitors. Volunteers will be offered free entry to a side event, and a bottle of wine, once their assistance has been completed.
- Caddies are needed to help move the boards during a session and to distribute/collect boards before and after sessions. Caddies will be paid for their work. Children and/or grandchildren are welcome to help too.
- People will be required to run BBO services, which require skills with computers and with following the play of a bridge hand. These are paid positions.
- The SABF would love assistance finding sponsors, so if you have contacts or could help with sponsorship, please let us know.

PARTICIPATING IN CONGRESS (SIDE) EVENTS

- You are encouraged to come and play in the various side events during the Championships. You will witness a national championship in play, potentially earn yourself some red masterpoints (and prizes), and just be 'part of the action'.

Set aside the dates: 11th to 23rd July 2020

WHEN UGLY IS BEAUTIFUL by Justin Williams

DOING IT THE INTERESTING WAY

The South Australian Youth Team enjoyed great success at this year's ANC, making it all the way to the final despite the lack of experience of several of the players in the team. Their fantastic effort was covered in the previous issue of this Newsletter.

A major part of their preparations were weekly sessions held at SABA on Saturday afternoons. These have continued since their return, in the form of general youth sessions held fortnightly. This hand appeared at the end of the first post-ANC Youth session.

♠ A Q 10 7 6
♥ A 9 5
♦ 10 3
♣ A J 7

♠ J 9 8
♥ Q J 10 7
♦ Q J 8 7 5
♣ 9

♠ 5 3
♥ 8 4 3
♦ A 6 2
♣ 10 8 6 4 2

♠ K 4 2
♥ K 6 2
♦ K 9 4
♣ K Q 5 3

North (one of the least experienced members of the team) found himself in 6NT after his partner had taken an extremely rosy view of his hand. East led the ♦A and continued with a diamond to dummy's King. Declarer now set about spades. When the suit broke 3-2, a more experienced declarer would have faced their hand claiming 12 tricks (5 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond, 4 clubs). However due to this declarer's lack of experience, he failed to attend to one of the most important steps in the art of declarer play – count your tricks. He continued to cash spade winners, discarding a club (!) on the fourth spade, missing the significance of dummy's club length.

The remaining spade was cashed, a heart being thrown from dummy, followed by two clubs. West (declarer's brother) parted with two diamonds and a heart to create the following ending:

♠ --
♥ A 9 5
♦ --
♣ J

♠ --
♥ Q J 10
♦ Q
♣ --

♠ --
♥ K 6
♦ 9
♣ Q

When the final club was played, West had no good discard. Aware that discarding the diamond would establish dummy's 9, he threw a heart in the hope that partner guarded the heart suit with 9-x-x. This was not the case and declarer's ♥9 took the twelfth trick.

In years to come our young declarer will be able to tell people his first squeeze was executed on his brother to bring home a slam (although he may need to read this article to remind himself of the details). Whether or not he decides to include the part about throwing away the twelfth trick in order to create the position is up to him.

Lesson:

Taking your 12 tricks in a slam is the recommended action. Relying on an extremely favourable layout such as this will not lead to winning bridge.

Justin Williams

EXPERTS v. NON-EXPERTS

This article appeared in Bulletin #4 at the World Championships in Wuhan, China, September 2019.

This deal from Round 1 of the Bermuda Bowl (Open Teams) is a simple but beautiful example of how experts solve certain defensive problems so naturally, almost without effort.

♠ K 8 7 3 2
♥ Q
♦ Q 6 5
♣ A K 9 2

♠ A 6 4
♥ K 10 9
♦ 10 7 4
♣ J 7 5 4

♠ Q J 5
♥ 5 3 2
♦ A K J 8
♣ Q 8 3

♠ 10 9
♥ A J 8 7 6 4
♦ 9 3 2
♣ 10 6

West	North	East	South
Greco	Lauria	Hampson	Versace
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ (<8 HCP)
All Pass			

Reluctant to lead away from his honours, Greco led a passive ♦4 (3rd highest). Hampson won with the ♦J and switched to hearts, hoping to find partner with an honour higher than the Queen. Greco won, and without losing a beat, cashed the ♠A before reverting to diamonds. East now won his top two diamonds and led his fourth diamond, promoting West's trump holding.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

After the diamond lead, a non-expert East would often be tempted to cash his diamonds without looking ahead; and a non-expert West would often 'rush' to return another diamond, again without looking ahead.

To see why cashing the ♠A is crucial, imagine South's hand had a singleton spade and the ♣Q (or seven hearts and a doubleton club). In this scenario, South would simply make the routine loser-on-loser play on the fourth diamond, discarding his losing spade.

FINAL POINT OF INTEREST:

At 11 tables, the contract was 2♥ by South, and at 6 of them the contract was made.

PLAYING DOUBLE DUMMY

This article, by Brian Platnick who represents the USA in world events, was published on BridgeWinners (an online bridge forum – www.bridgewinners.com). It is very relatable, even though it refers to hands from the Vanderbilt, one of the three annual North American Bridge Championships. It demonstrates that even 'the best' can do crazy things at the table!

One thing I have noticed is that the average club player has a completely different perspective than the true expert. Less experienced players often marvel when an expert, with only a couple of pieces of key information, is able to play or defend a hand double-dummy (i.e. as if they can see all the hands). I wish to present a couple of hands from the recent Vanderbilt, held in Memphis.

In the Round of 16, SELIGMAN was matched against MITTELMAN. The SELIGMAN team consisted of Platnick – Diamond, and Brogeland playing with Marty Seligman and Steve Beatty. Here is the first of my two hands. All red, in second seat, I pick up:

East
 ♠ void
 ♥ A 8 5 4 3
 ♦ A 3 2
 ♣ Q 7 6 3 2

My screen-mate /RHO, Ron Pachtmann, opened a Multi 2♦. On balance, I feel that playing Multi 2s is very effective. One disadvantage of the Multi 2♦ is that it allows an overcall of 2♥. Assuming RHO held spades, I took advantage of this opportunity and bid 2♥.

After my 2♥ bid, the tray came back in 4 seconds (much too fast, but that is for another article). LHO passed and partner bid 3NT. After two passes on my side of the screen, the tray went back to the other side. I was all set to collect my bidding cards, ask the kibitzer to play dummy, and take a short break. However, the tray didn't come back for a few minutes! When the tray finally returned, we saw the red card (double) and the blue card (redouble). Pachtmann asked about our agreements and I told him that the redouble is penalty. After considering whether to run or not, Pachtmann decided to bid 4♣. I had an easy double. This was passed around and Pachtmann redoubled. His partner bid 4♦ and my partner doubled, ending the auction.

While waiting several minutes for JD (Diamond) to lead, Ron – we are now on a first-name basis – and I chat. He asked to see my hand, and I showed him, then he showed me his hand. An additional minute or two go by, then Ron turned to me and said, "Wait a minute, I opened 2♦. It's your lead." After an embarrassed laugh, we both agreed to play the hand as if we didn't know the cards. Luckily there wasn't much to the play and we collected 800, giving new meaning to the term 'double dummy'.

(John Diamond adds: After 2 minutes of waiting for the opening lead, I was concerned that Brian did not know that it was his lead. But then after 4 minutes, I remember thinking to myself, "By now, they might have even shown each other their hands!")

PENLINE®

The second hand was even more unusual. I will give you the hand from the perspective of Boye Brogeland, who was dummy.

Favourable, he picked up:

North
 ♠ 5
 ♥ A J 6 4
 ♦ K 8 6 4 3
 ♣ 8 6 4

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

His RHO led the ♠K, which held the trick, LHO playing the ♠10 as suit preference for hearts. RHO shifted to the ♥3 – 4 – 9 – Queen. The next three tricks:

- Trick 3: ♣K – 2 – 4 – Ace (East on lead)
- Trick 4: ♣ 3 – Queen - ♠7 - ♣6 (South on lead)
- Trick 5: ♥4 – 5 – Jack – King

After everyone turned over his card for trick 5, Brogeland asked his partner, "Why does your last card have a yellow back, but the rest of your cards are blue like ours?" No one at the table had noticed that the ♥4, which was played from dummy at trick 2, made another appearance at trick 5. This table seemed to be playing 'quadruple dummy'.

The director was called and determined that the extra card was from the previous board. Declarer had only put back 12 cards and had accidentally left the ♥4 on the table. When he took his cards for the next hand, he picked up the extra card, never noticing during the bidding or play that he had 14 cards!

So the next time an expert opines about bridge, you should listen. Then you, too, can play double dummy like an expert.

Brian Platnick



Chris Brady and Barbara Keil (Bridge Barossa), winners of C Grade at Glenelg Congress

ONE IN A THOUSAND

This article appeared in the World Youth Championships bulletins, Opatija Croatia, 2019. Declarer is Giovanni Donati, approximately 20 years old, playing for Italy in the Youth Pairs - overtricks being important.

In his classic book *Reese on Play* the author writes that good players differ from average players in that the good player tries to play all 52 cards, while the average player only considers the 26 cards he can see. A player who does not try to reconstruct the unseen hands cannot be better than fair, while a player who does this, even if he knows little of elimination and nothing of squeeze play, is a player in a thousand.

With that in mind, let's look at this deal from Opatija:

♠ A K 8
♥ K 7
♦ A K J 4
♣ J 9 6 2

♠ Q J 3 2
♥ A 9 3 2
♦ 6
♣ A K Q 8

♠ 10 9 4
♥ Q 5
♦ Q 10 9 8 3
♣ 5 4 3

♠ 7 6 5
♥ J 10 8 6 4
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 10 7

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Double	3D (weak)
Pass	3NT	Double	All Pass

East hoped that he held 4 club tricks and his ♥A. He led the ♣K, receiving a count card from partner in the ♣7. Hoping that clubs were now 3-3, he continued clubs. Once he continued with the ♣A, the contract was cold! At the table, he led the ♠Q and partner had 5 diamond tricks, 2 spade tricks, 1 club and 1 heart.

To defeat the contract, he had to find the double dummy switch to hearts at trick 2. Look what happens if he finds the heart switch after cashing two top clubs. Declarer wins the heart switch and cashes the five diamonds, with East having to find four discards. Obviously, the ♣8 can be discarded as can one low heart and one low spade. But what can East throw on the fifth diamond. He has to keep ♠Q-J-3 or dummy's ♠10 becomes the ninth trick. He has to keep both the ♥A and another heart to retain communication with partner's hand, and he needs to keep the ♣Q.

Sadly, that means East needs to keep 6 cards but only 5 cards remain.

What that meant was that cashing the second club was fatal for the defence. East needed two top clubs, so that he could discard one of them on the last diamond, without giving up control of the club suit.

Additional comments about this hand:

North's 3NT was a very sound bid. There is far more to be gained by trying for 9 tricks in 3NT than playing for the 9 tricks required in 3♦. In fact, 3NT is far more likely to make than 3♦, where East can cash three clubs then make dummy ruff the last club before West does so. Given that the club gets ruffed, 3♦ always fails – 3 clubs, 1 heart and 1 spade loser – which is what happened to several pairs.

Perhaps some Norths opened 1♣ rather than 1♦ because the results indicate that several East-West pairs managed to play in 2♥ or 3♥. However, where North opened 1♦ it was invaluable to have the pre-emptive raise to 3♦ available, keeping West from the auction. [Note: the 3-level raise will not be a limit raise after a double, since you can use the redouble, plus other options, to show hands with 10+ HCP.]

Barbara Travis

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

West	North	East	South
	3♦	2NT	
Pass	3♠ (1)	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4C (2)
		All Pass	

- (1) Denies 4 spades
- (2) Good fit in hearts (cue bid)

West led the ♣6 and declarer won with dummy's Jack and drew trumps, West discarding the ♦2. When West played the ♣3 under dummy's Queen, declarer formed the opinion that West might well be 4-2-5-2. [People often make their first discard from their longest suit: Ed.] He played a fourth trump, pitching a spade from hand and West discarded a spade he led the three remaining rounds of clubs, pitching dummy's spades. West discarded two spades and a diamond to leave this position...

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

Declarer ruffed his remaining spade and played a diamonds – 10 (well done East) – Queen – King, and faced his cards – a beautifully played hand for a near maximum (at Pairs). [West had to lead from his ♦J-7 around to declarer's A-9.]

BID BETTER, PLAY BETTER by Barbara Travis

♠ A 7 5 3
♥ 10
♦ J 7 6 5
♣ K J 10 8

♠ K J 8 6 4
♥ 8 4
♦ 10 8
♣ A 9 6 2

♠ Q 10 2
♥ A K 6 5 3
♦ A K 9 3
♣ 3

♠ 9
♥ Q J 9 7 2
♦ Q 4 2
♣ Q 7 5 4

On this hand, 4♠ (by West) is cold, even with a trump lead. However, during the State Teams Phase 2, Round 4, only 6 pairs of the 26 in the event bid and made 4♠. 10 pairs played in 3♥ or 4♥ failing by one or more tricks – their bidding letting them down, and then another 6 pairs played in 4♠ - but their declarer play let them down.

Firstly, let's discuss the correct bidding on this hand:

West	East
	1♥
1♠	2♦
2♥ (false preference)	2♠
4♠	Pass

East should only rebid 2♦ at the second bid, showing their 5-4 and 12-17/18 HCP. West now gives false preference to hearts, showing 6-9 HCP with 2 hearts (perhaps 3 hearts if playing Acol). East, with a non-minimum hand, now rebids 2♠, which shows 3 spades, i.e. a 3-5-4-1 hand shape, and 15/16-18 HCP, invitational opposite the minimum response opposite. Now West can bid game (or invite via 3♠ if preferred).

Just by the way, if East had held a weaker opening hand, for example:

♠ Q 10 2
♥ A K 6 5 3
♦ A 10 9 3
♣ 3

the 'best' rebid is to raise to 2♠ immediately over the 1♠ response. This allows the recommended auction above to show the non-minimum hand.

I know at least one pair bid as follows:

West	East
	1♥
1♠	3♦
3♥	Pass

The 3♦ rebid by opener should be game forcing. This 16 HCP hand in no way qualifies, despite the nice potential spade fit. It is really important to use the auction to your advantage, taking every opportunity to describe your hand to your partner.

Justice prevailed, when those in the silly heart contracts went down, whereas those in the superior spade contracts should have made.

Now let's look at the way to play the hand. On a non-trump lead, declarer should make 11 tricks, as our opponent did (it can be tough playing the top seeded team).

You win the ♥10 lead, and embark on a cross-ruff, being wary of the heart suit because of the lead. So often, when an opponent leads dummy's first suit, they have a singleton. Win the heart, play a club to the Ace, club ruff, ♦A, ♦K, diamond ruff, club ruff, another diamond ruff, and another club ruff. That is already 9 tricks and you have the ♠K-J-8 left (or at our table: ♠K-8-6 because South ruffed the fourth diamond with the ♠9). Since you only have hearts remaining in dummy, you have to try the ♥K which North ruffs, but you will make 2 more trump tricks.

On a trump lead, you can only trump one club instead of three, but you will be able to draw trumps and make 10 tricks – 4 spades, 1 club, 1 club ruff, 2 diamonds and 2 hearts.

What should North lead? A trump – in fact, the Ace followed by a small spade. You know from the auction that East has a 3-5-4-1 hand shape, so you want to limit the ability to ruff. Furthermore, your spade spots are insignificant, and you also know that your partner has only one spade. Therefore, you must be the one to lead as many trumps as possible. Finally, one the 'rules' for opening leads is that you lead trumps when the opponents have bid three suits!

Strangely enough, there was a similar hand a few boards earlier in Round 3:

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

West	East
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♥ (poor East)
2♠ (3-5-1-4 non-min)	3♠
4♠	Pass

Although far more pairs reached 4♠ on this hand, only four Souths led a trump!

Barbara Travis



WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

ALLOWING FOR BAD BREAKS

This is an interesting hand from the European Championships, held in Istanbul Turkey in June 2019. It arose in the Open Teams event. Playing Teams, the most important thing is to ensure the safety of the contract, and it is only once the contract is safe that one considers overtricks.

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

- (1) Playing a strong 1NT (15-17 HCP), this 1-4-4-4 hand shape is particularly awkward. If you open 1♦, planning to rebid 2♣ over a 1♠ response, you may miss a heart fit; however, you are too strong for a 1NT rebid. Opening 1NT is a reasonable alternative, with a singleton King or Ace in spades, although it is not without its own hazards (such as a transfer to spades).
- (2) West transferred to hearts.
- (3) East's 2NT was a super-accept, showing 4+ hearts and a good hand.
- (4) West still wanted East to play the heart game, so re-transferred via the 3♦ bid, then settled in game.

South led a spade, won with the King. There is definitely one club loser, and possible one diamond loser. When everything is looking 'easy', you have to think about what could go wrong. On this hand, you must consider the 4-0 trump break. Declarer took that into consideration, leading the ♥10 at trick 2. If South had followed with a low heart, declarer would have ducked, allowing for South to have all 4 hearts. When South discarded, it was not difficult to pick up North's trumps for one loser – win the ♥K, then lead a small heart towards East, finessing North.

In the State Teams Phase 1, there was a similar situation, though the contract was 6♥.

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

East was playing in 6♥ and received a spade lead. Once again, the contract looked cast-iron. Therefore, the only thing declarer needed to worry about was a 4-0 trump break. As with the previous hand, it was important NOT to lead either the ♥K or ♥A first.

Having won the ♠A, you should lead a small heart from dummy – allowing for either North or South to have all 4 hearts. When North shows out, you win the ♥A and lead a small heart towards dummy's ♥K-9, forcing South to split their critical honours. On the other hand, if North follows, you can, in fact, win the ♥A. Then if South shows out, you lead back to dummy's ♥K, then lead another heart towards your Jack, catching North's Q-10 en route.

These types of safety plays require practice and experience, so you should fiddle around with these hands – testing what to do if North has all the hearts as opposed to South having the hearts.

Note: Safety plays should be used more in Teams than in Pairs, where overtricks are important. In Pairs you play safely when you have reached a contract that you think others won't reach (e.g. a super slam).

Barbara Travis

A TWO-WAY FINESSE

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

- (1) Jacoby 2NT, game forcing
- (2) Minimum
- (3) Asking for shortage
- (4) Short diamonds (low, middle, high)
- (5) Control cue bids

6♣ was easy to make, with the club finesse working but declarer proved he was not reliant on that risky option. Instead he found the far more stylish line of finessing both ways for the ♥K.

He ruffed the opening diamond lead, played a spade to dummy, then ran the ♥10. When that won, he trumped another diamond to his hand, then played the ♥Q, discarding a club from dummy. West won the ♥K, then declarer had the remainder of the tricks – he could discard two more clubs on his winning hearts.

RETURNING PARTNER'S OPENING LEAD SUIT

When you return the suit your partner led at the opening trick, the card you play should NOT be a random card. What card you return is 'disciplined' and is determined by how many cards you started with in the suit. This structure is designed to enable your partner to count the suit.

What this means is:

- If you started with 4+ cards in the suit:
Return your original 4th highest
- If you started with 3 cards:
Return your now highest (like a doubleton)
- If you had 2 cards in the suit:
You only have one left to lead

Here are some examples:

EXAMPLE 1

Dummy
Q 9 6 5

You
K 8 4 2

Against a suit contract, you lead the 2. Partner wins the Ace and declarer plays the 10. Partner returns the 3, declarer playing the Jack, and you win the King. From the card partner has returned, you should be able to work out that, despite declarer's clever 'false carding', it is your partner who started with the doubleton, so you can give them a ruff.

EXAMPLE 2

Dummy
10 9

You
K J 5 4 3

Against 3NT, you lead the 4. Partner wins the Ace while declarer plays the 6. Partner returns the 2, declarer plays the Queen, and you win the King. Assuming partner has 'followed the rules' in terms of the return that means that partner started with either 4 cards in the suit or 2 cards. If it was 4 cards, you need to lead a small card to their 8 so that you can then overtake their 7 with your Jack and be able to cash your long card. If you hadn't done this, you would cash your Jack but then the suit will be blocked, so that you only take 4 tricks instead of 5.

I bet you've had that happen sometimes!

EXAMPLE 3

Dummy
10 9

You
K J 5 4 3

This is the same situation as in Example 2, but your partner returns the 8 after winning the Ace. That is a higher card, so they started either with 2 or 3 cards. So now you cash your winners from the top, because declarer should have 3 cards in the suit (or 4 if partner started with 2).

There are also times when partner has 5 cards and you have 4, and you need to read their length to unblock the suit yourself!

EXAMPLE 4

Dummy
8 5

You
K Q 9 2

Against 3NT, you lead the 2 to partner's Ace, and declarer plays the 6. Partner returns the 5 and declarer plays the 7. You could win with the 9, and take 4 tricks – but first, let's analyse what's happening with this suit. The 4 is missing still. The Jack and 10 are also missing. If declarer started with J-10-7-6, surely they would have played the Jack or 10 on the second lead, to stop you from having 4 (or 5) immediate winners? So partner must have at least one of those cards; in fact, if you then solve the problem by checking what card partner has returned, they have at least A-J-10-5/4. If that is the case, you actually need to win this lead with the Queen, cash your King and then lead your 9 to partner's Jack and 10. Winning with the 9 is a Greek gift, giving you 4 tricks but not the 5 tricks that you crave.

Remember, you should return partner's lead, unless you can see a clearly better return. For example, if partner has overcalled but not led their suit – return their bid suit (they may well have A-Q-x-x).

But most importantly, do not return random cards in partner's suit. Try to help partner work out how many cards you started with so that you are working together as defenders.

Not only that, but as the opening leader, take note of the card your partner does return when they gain/regain the lead!

Barbara Travis

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MISSING THE POINT

This article, by Mark Horton, appeared in the Bulletin at the World Team Championships in Wuhan in September.

Counting at bridge comes in many forms – one of which is to keep track of the number of high cards each player has shown. This deal is a typical example:

South dealer

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South leads the ♣K and you win with the Ace, then play two rounds of hearts, South winning the second as North discards the ♠6. South exits with the ♦6 and you elect to put up dummy's Ace, draw the outstanding trump and lead the ♦5. North takes the King and plays the ♣5, South winning with the Queen and exiting with the ♦J. You win with the Queen and these cards remain:

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

Having lost three tricks, you need to locate the ♠Q. Any ideas?

Declarer cashed the ♠K to discover this was the full deal:

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

Were you counting South's points?

He has already shown up with the ♥A, ♦J. ♠K-Q but passed as dealer, making North an overwhelming favourite to hold the ♠Q. So the indicated play is to cross to dummy with the ♠A and advance the ♠J - hoping that South has the singleton or doubleton ♠10, as on this hand.

Mark Horton, UK



CLASSIC AUCTIONS

The first auction is a hand and auction from the World Championships, described as "a classic auction that, hopefully, club players could easily replicate if they play the Jacoby 2NT convention".

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

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2NT (1)
Pass	3♣ (2)	Pass	3♥ (3)
Pass	4NT (4)	Pass	5♠ (5)
Pass	5NT (6)	Pass	7♠ (7)
All Pass			

- (1) Jacoby 2NT, game forcing with 4+ spades
- (2) Splinter (some may use 4♣ as a splinter instead)
- (3) Cue bid
- (4) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (5) 2 key cards + trump Queen
- (6) Guaranteeing all the key cards
- (7) Now South can bid the grand slam, holding solid clubs

Then there was this hand on a recent Friday, bid almost perfectly by Marilyn Chambers and Di Lacy:

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

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass (?)	3♦ (1)	Pass	4NT (2)
Pass	5♥ (3)	Pass	5NT (4)
Pass	6♣ (5)	Pass	7♦

- (1) If West had overcalled 1♠, then Marilyn should respond 2♣ (cue raise). Personally, I would have responded 3♥, a splinter bid, showing a singleton or void in hearts with diamond support (the only different bid I would have made in their auction)
- (2) Roman Key Card Blackwood
- (3) 2 key cards
- (4) 5NT guaranteed all the key cards. I walked past the table at this stage and Di said to me, "If she has the ♣K, I will bid 7♦" – great thinking!
- (5) Their responses show specific Kings, so 6♣ showed the ♣K Well bid, Marilyn and Di.

A GAME AT THE CLUB by Barbara Travis

The other day I was playing with someone whose partner had not turned up, and had a series of interesting hands pass my way. Here's the first.

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

Admittedly, I was only in 1NT (West) when partner failed to notice my opening bid, but I was still focused on taking as many tricks as possible. North led the ♠5, and I ducked South's ♠J. South returned the ♠Q and North played the ♠2 as I won. That gave North five spades, so it was essential to remove any potential entry from the North hand before I started taking finesses towards South.

Consequently, I led the ♠Q at trick 3. When North won the ♠A, I was really happy with my play, because I had removed his entry for the long spades. He returned a spade, establishing his long spades, but now I was just going to take finesses towards his partner's hand. I won the ♠A, and led a small club, finessing dummy's ♠10. South won the Jack and erred slightly by returning a heart, giving me a free finesse. When the diamond finesse worked (North holding the Queen), I now had 10 tricks.

Despite missing game, I was fairly confident that this would be an above-average score, as it proved to be. It was essential to remove North's entry early; those who failed to do so went down in their 3NT contracts, the whole hand being:

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

A little later, I picked up this collection:

♠ 10 6
 ♥ A K Q 7 5 4
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ 8 7 6

Partner opened 1♣ and I responded 1♥. What would you bid after your partner rebids 1NT (12-14 HCP)? It seemed to me that, if game was making, nine tricks in No Trumps would be easier than 10 tricks in hearts. After all, partner had already limited their hand, but I was providing six tricks. I really like 3NT bids on such hands. Nine tricks were easy when partner held:

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

Any lead (apart from a heart) was going to help partner with her trick-creating endeavours. So when you hold a long solid suit, don't just think of it as "trumps"; consider whether 3NT is a better alternative.

We did miss a game on a slightly similar sort of hand:

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

1♣	1♦
2♣	Pass

I realise my 2♣ rebid should deny four spades, but I already suspected that partner did not hold a 4-card Major for her 1♦ response. Unless you plan to bid again, you should be showing your 4-card Major over 1♣ opening bids. This East hand was a tricky hand for rebid purposes. What would I bid over 2♣? I would bid 3♣, inviting game and showing some club support. This seems a sensible rebid, given the singleton spade. Over 3♣, I would rebid 3NT! Even though the clubs were 3-1, with North holding Q-6-2, 9 or 10 tricks were still easy in 3NT.

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

On the next hand, South 'failed' their bidding test. They held:

♠ A J 9 2
 ♥ 9 6 5 4
 ♦ K 5 2
 ♣ 6 4

North opened 1♣ and East overcalled 1♦. South chose to bid 1♠ but a better action over the 1♦ overcall is to double. A negative double here shows 4-4 in the Majors, so then North would have rebid 2♥ - a far better contract!

Not only that, but on this hand North didn't have spade support and was stuck for a rebid, so chose to bid 1NT without a diamond stopper because she held a 3-4-3-3 hand. Sometimes these 1NT bids work (they are the practical solution) but on this occasion 1NT failed, whereas 2♥ would have been a fine contract (4-4 fit).

I had to find a lead after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT (15-17)
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

My hand was:

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

The auction had revealed that North held approximately 9 HCP with four hearts, and South held a minimum, 15 or perhaps 16 HCP. I held 15 HCP, so partner had a Jack at most. Much as I dislike leading from A-x-x-x against No Trump contracts, all other lead options seemed worse. Therefore, I led the ♦3, a fairly passive lead. Dummy came down with:

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

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

Dummy's ♦9 held the trick, and declarer tried the spade finesse. Initially I had planned to continue diamonds whenever I was on lead, which would eventually establish a long diamond trick too. However, declarer's non-leading of hearts diverted me from my plans. I decided that perhaps partner held the ♥J, so I led a small heart. Wrong – I had just conceded a ninth trick to declarer. My original plan had been right all along – diamonds were 3-3 and partner held zero points.

Most of my thinking on the hand had been correct. When you anticipate your partner holding very few points and you are leading against a No Trump contract but with no long suit, it is good to be passive. Admittedly, I didn't have many passive options, with honours in every suit. Continuing my passive approach was the right thing to do. I definitely would have done so against 3NT, because I would have given declarer 16 HCP for accepting the game invitation. Keep listening to those auctions and drawing inferences to help you with your leads and defence.

Barbara Travis

PUZZLE CORNER

A simple mathematical poser this time:

One each of a bridge table, a table cloth, a bidding box and a pen cost \$67 in total.

Two tables plus two cloths cost \$120.

Two tables plus one table cloth plus one pen cost \$106.

Three bidding boxes plus one table cost \$63.

How much does it cost to equip a bridge room with one table, one cloth, four bidding boxes and four pens?

Solution on page 10

COUP EN PASSANT

Reprinted with the permission of Brian Senior.

A fairly common play technique is the Coup en Passant. The fancy name hides a pretty simple play. Declarer attempts to make her small trumps by leading a side suit through the right-hand opponent who has a bigger trump than the one with which declarer hopes to ruff. Take a look at this example:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--|
| Dealer South | ♠ 8 6 2 | | |
| EW Vul | ♥ 9 5 | | |
| | ♦ A Q 8 5 | | |
| | ♣ 9 7 5 3 | | |
| | | ♠ J 9 7 5 | |
| ♠ A K Q 4 | | ♥ 10 8 7 4 | |
| ♥ J 2 | | ♦ 10 4 2 | |
| ♦ J 9 6 3 | | ♣ J 10 | |
| ♣ Q 8 4 | | | |
| | ♠ 10 3 | | |
| | ♥ A K Q 6 3 | | |
| | ♦ K 7 | | |
| | ♣ A K 6 2 | | |

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Double	1NT	Pass	4♥ (!!)
All Pass			

South plays in 4♥. West leads the three top spades, and declarer ruffs the third spade, then cashes the Ace, King and Queen of trumps. An even break would have provided 10 top tricks but the 4-2 break creates a small problem.

No matter – declarer continues by cashing the two top clubs then the three diamond winners. She follows up by leading dummy's fourth diamond. Though East has the high trump, there is nothing she can do to prevent declarer from making her small trump en passant. If East ruffs high, declarer discards and makes the small heart (trump) later, while if East discards South ruffs the diamond.

Do you see the importance of cashing the top clubs before playing out the diamonds? If declarer fails to do this, East can discard a club on the fourth diamond and is now in a position to ruff the second club winner, leaving declarer a trick short.

Was there anything the defence could have done to prevent declarer from making the contract? Yes, but it was tough to see. West must cash two spade winners immediately or declarer can discard a losing spade on the third diamond and can then play three rounds of clubs to establish a long card in the suit for her tenth trick. However, the winning defence is to switch to another suit at trick 3.

Declarer cannot afford to overtake the ♦K, so has only one entry to dummy, but needs two entries to take two ruffs. In the fullness of time, she will lose both a club and a heart – and go one off.

Brian Senior



CHANNELING DEFENCE

From the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin, January 2019.

The Channel Trophy is an annual tournament between youth teams from England, France, the Netherlands and Belgium. France won all three categories: Under 26, Under 20 and Girls. This is an example of why – Julien Bernard from France found this excellent defence to defeat 4♥.

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

All Pass

Bernard, West, led his singleton club. Declarer took the ♣A and three top spades to dispose of the two clubs in South's hand. He had now arrived at an interesting moment – should he play a diamond from dummy towards his King, or should he lead the ♠J to see what happened?

The latter was the winning move: East would ruff with the ♥10 and South can over-trump with the Jack to play the ♥A and ♥Q, losing just one heart and two diamonds. In real life, South played a diamond to his King. West won with the Ace and crossed to East's ♦Q for a club through. Declarer ruffed with the ♥9 and West rightfully discarded a diamond. *[Overtrumping would not create additional heart winners but discarding allows the potential to do so...]*

Declarer played the ♥A and ♥Q to West's King. Bernard now exited with his last spade and, when East was able to trump with his ♥10, there was an uppercut, promoting West's ♥8 into a winner.



COACHING SESSIONS WITH BARBARA TRAVIS

**TUESDAYS in NOVEMBER
2.30pm to 4.30pm**

CONTESTED NO TRUMP AUCTIONS

12th November	Doubling 1NT and what to do next: What to do when you/partner doubles 1NT, What to do when your side's 1NT is doubled
19th November	Landy over 1NT opening bids - showing both Majors
26th November	Modified Cappelletti over 1NT opening bids (includes Landy) - showing singleton suited hands, showing two-suited hands
3rd December	lebensohl: dealing with interference over your 1NT opening bids, being able to differentiate between hands where you wish to compete and hands where you want to force to game

Cost: \$15 per person per session

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ACES ON THE ASTRAL PLANE by David Lusk

THE WIZARD OF THE PLANE TABLE

Reprinted from Australian Bridge, April 1997

"It's grossly unfair," complained the Imp after another drubbing at the hands of Olaf the Wizard. "Olaf can use magic whenever he likes, totally immune from detection, whereas everyone notices my little tricks, which is half the fun of the exercise anyway."

Mystrala was sympathetic, but stood firm in her opinion of the situation. "Don't you see, Imp, that Olaf rarely uses his spells to gain an advantage at the table because he doesn't need to. The real magic is simply a matter of consummate skill. I'll give you an example."

As the spirit implanted a hand into the Imp's conscious mind, he wondered idly whether this unique skill was ever exploited at the table by Mystrala when she was shackled to Sir Richard or Father O'Loughlin. In a rare moment of rationality, he decided that she would never stoop so high. This was the diagram which appeared to flicker before his eyes:

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

"The hand appeared in one of the early centenary matches. Olaf and I had agreed to play 1NT with 11-13 HCP at favourable vulnerability. At the other table, Banshee South passed, and North eventually declared 3NT. A club lead defeated 3NT without trouble." Mystrala paused as the Imp grunted in understanding.

"At our table, West led a small spade. Olaf was now aware of the problems which presented themselves as he attempted to establish the hearts. How would you play the hand, without magic?"

"I suppose I could put up dummy's ♠10 on opening lead..." mused the Imp. "It should provide a handy entry."

"Quite," agreed the spirit, "but with the certainty that West holds the ♠Q, you know that this chance will telegraph the club switch from West and you will be doomed unless East has five or more clubs, headed by the Queen only."

Olaf let the first spade come to his hand and played the ♠K firmly on East's ♠9. Now when he crossed to dummy's top diamond to run the ♥9 to West's ♥J, what do you think West assumed?"

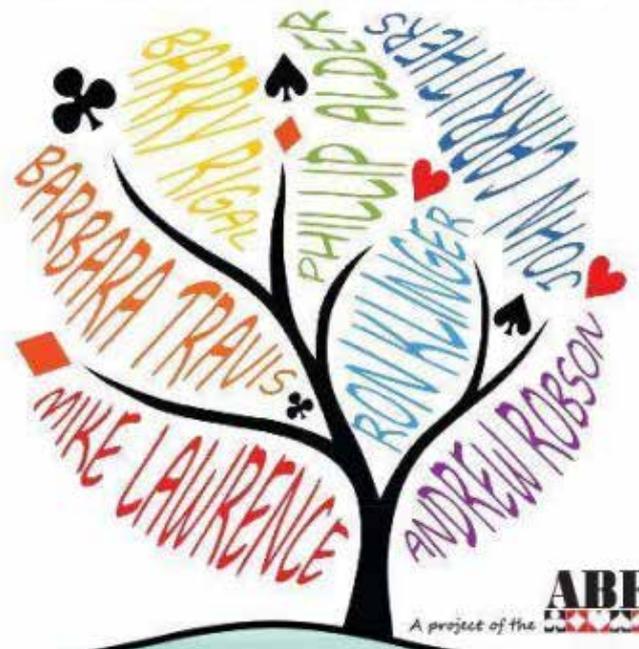
The Imp was quick to appreciate the point. "I see! West now places East with the ♠J and the defence appear to have two spade tricks, two hearts and the top club."

"Exactly." Mystrala was enjoying the recollection. "West continued a spade which Olaf now won with dummy's ♠10. A heart to the ♥10 and West's ♥A established the suit on the fortunate break and West's club shift was now harmless."

The Imp winced as Mystrala replicated the Banshee's screams inside his head. "The visuals were most helpful, Mystrala, but could you please turn down the sound?"

David Lusk

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- 1st Sharmini Hoole - Milton Hart
- 2nd Linda Babiszewski - Susan Emerson
- 3rd Anne Henesey-Smith - Tricia Lonn

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- 1st Chris Brady - Barbara Keil
- 2nd Helen Kite - Helen Rollond
- 3rd Meagan Zander - Owen Teakle

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- 1st Catherine Ellice-Flint - Robert Martin
- 2nd Carmel & Norman Thompson
- 3rd Ingrid Cooke - Dianne Marler

STATE EVENTS

STATE TEAMS PHASE 1

- 1st HARMS: Russel Harms - Jeff Travis
David Middleton - Zolly Nagy
Phil Markey - Justin Williams
- 2nd BLACK: David Black - Phil Cheney
Andrew Hill - David Shilling - Tim O'Loughlin
- 3rd CHAN: Peter Chan - Phil Gue - David Gue
Attilio De Luca - David Lusk

UNDER GRAND GNOT QUALIFYING

- 1st BARTLEY: George Bartley - Jessica Curtis
Jarrad Dunbar - David Gue
- 2nd ABDELHAMID: Adel Abdelhamid - John Kikkert
Ingrid Cooke - Milton Hart
- 3rd BROOKS: Bevin Brooks - Tim O'Loughlin
Jinny Fuss - Brian Leach

The winning team will represent South Australia at the GNOT in late November.

REGIONAL GNOT QUALIFYING

- 1st ABC 2: Libby Abbot - Di Dunne
Ken Nixon - Roy Schulz
- 2nd SA YOUTH: George Bartley - David Gue
Jessica Curtis - Bertie Morgan
- 3rd ABC 1: Phil Cheney - Andrew Hill
Carole Foreman - Margaret Walters

The winning team will represent South Australia at the GNOT in late November.

OPEN PAIRS QUALIFYING

- 1st Andy Babiszewski - Peter Popp
- 2nd Nic Croft - Justin Williams
- 3rd Judy Hocking - Kevin Lange

MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1st Lauren Travis - Howard Melbourne
- 2nd Susan Emerson - Attilio De Luca
- 3rd Gamini Amerasinghe - Sharmini Hoole

"B GRADE"

- 1st Linda Alexander - John Kikkert
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PUZZLE SOLUTION

One table costs \$45.

One cloth costs \$15.

One bidding box costs \$6.

One pen costs \$1.

The total cost of setting up and equipping one table is therefore \$88.

COMING CONGRESSES

BRIDGE IN THE CITY	Sunday 13th October	Mitchell Park
SABA PAIRS CONGRESS	Sunday 20th October	Unley
RIVERLAND CONGRESS: PAIRS	Saturday 26th October	Loxton
RIVERLAND CONGRESS: TEAMS	Sunday 27th October	Loxton
GAWLER TEAMS	Sunday 3rd November	Gawler
BRIDGE AT BEAUMONT BIRTHDAY	Sunday 17th November	Mt Osmond Golf Course
SABA GRADED PAIRS	Sunday 24th November	Unley

COMING SABF EVENTS

STATE TEAMS PHASE 2	Thursdays 19 September, 26th September, 3rd October, 10th October, 24th October
STATE PAIRS QUALIFYING	Thursdays 31st October, 7th November, 14th November
STATE PAIRS FINAL / CONSOLATION	Thursdays 21st November, 28th November, 5th December
SENIORS' PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP	November: check SABF website (date to be confirmed)

SABF CONTACTS

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9.30am - approx. 5.15pm

Where?
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What?
2-session Graded Matchpoint Pairs with Red Masterpoints
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Who?
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Barbara Travis
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by Thursday 7 November



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Sunday 13th October 2019

2 sessions 10am and 1.30pm

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Closes Wednesday 9/10/19

.....

Name ABF Number

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Riverland Bridge Club 2019 Congress



Pairs: Saturday October 26th
10am-1.15 & 2pm-5pm

Teams: Sunday October 27th
9.30-12.45pm & 1.30-4.30 pm

Director: David Anderson

Venue: Loxton Community Hotel

Entry Fee: \$35/player/day
(Includes light lunch, morning tea on arrival, tea, coffee)

Registration: David Anderson: revoke1@live.com
Enquires: Cathy Adams: 0460007222
riverlandbridge@gmail.com

Payment may be made on the day or direct deposit.
Bank SA Acc number: Riverland Bridge Club
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Please enter all players surnames as a reference when making deposits.

Optional evening dinner at the hotel \$23 /head
Please register your attendance with Cathy Adams
Entries and dinner booking closes Monday October 21st



GAWLER BRIDGE CLUB INC

spring teams congress

sunday 3rd november 2019
(Please register by 28th October)

10.00 am – 5.00 pm

Venue: The Gawler Elderly Centre, 14th Street, Gawler

Director – David Anderson

\$120 per team (to be paid on the day)
(Includes Light Lunch, Tea & Coffee)

Registration may be:

- recorded on the SABF website, in the Coming Events section
<http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au>
- emailed to moira5606@gmail.com

Contact Moira Smith 0452 208 998 for more details.
Or email – gawlerbridgeclub@gmail.com

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Name: ABF No:

Contact person for the Team: Phone: _____
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