



S.A. STATE-WIDE PAIRS

2015

Played in SABF bridge clubs from 7-15 November 2015

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The SABF would like to thank the Queensland Bridge Association for generously providing the SABF with the hands and Tony Jackman's commentary.

Board 1
 Dealer: N ♠ AQ
 Vul: Nil ♥ Q108632
 ♦ K942
 ♣ 5

♠ 8653 ♠ K942
 ♥ 5 ♥ AKJ
 ♦ 765 ♥ A3
 ♣ A9864 ♣ QJ103

 ♠ J107
 ♥ 974
 ♦ QJ108
 ♣ K72

Suggested contract: 2HN Lead: ♥K
 A black partscore is on for EW but here we defend 2H. After ♥K, ♣Q. N ruffs the next and plays ♥3. East wins ♥J, cashes the ♥A and plays ♣10 ruffed by declarer who plays ♦K. East ducks but has to win the next. The defence has five tricks. A careless spade switch gives the contract. Keep on with clubs. ♠K must win later.

Board 2
 Dealer: E ♠ KQ84
 Vul: N/S ♥ J953
 ♦ A7
 ♣ 843

♠ AJ9532 ♠ 10
 ♥ 7642 ♥ AK10
 ♦ 5 ♥ KQJ832
 ♣ K5 ♣ A106

 ♠ 76
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ 10964
 ♣ QJ972

Suggested contract: 3NTE Lead: ♣Q
 There are only five certain tricks (1S, 2H and 2C). We need four more. They can only come from diamonds. Easy if 3:3 but 4:2 is more likely. Win ♣K in dummy. This protects the suit against a lead from South. Next we play ♦5. Often it would be correct for North to rise and return partner's suit while he has one - but not now as it would set our suit up. When North ducks, we should insert ♦8. South wins ♦9 and (best) plays ♠7. We rise ♠A, cross to ♥K and play diamonds. At best the defence get four tricks (2D and 2S).

Board 3
 Dealer: S ♠ KQ6
 Vul: E/W ♥ 985
 ♦ K9
 ♣ 109642

♠ A92 ♠ J10
 ♥ K4 ♥ AJ3
 ♦ AJ107532 ♥ Q864
 ♣ 3 ♣ AKJ5

 ♠ 87543
 ♥ Q10762
 ♦ -
 ♣ Q87

Suggested contract: 6DW Lead: ♠K
 You win ♠A and play ♦A. No good! We must pitch our two spade losers before the defence is in. If either heart or club finesse is on we're OK. What's best? There's an extra chance. Cash ♣AK pitching ♠2. Now ruff ♣5. Here you are rewarded. ♣Q drops and ♣J will give the extra spade discard. Had ♣Q not appeared (a good thing it did!) you must try the heart finesse.

Board 4
 Dealer: W ♠ 6
 Vul: All ♥ A2
 ♦ AQJ954
 ♣ J876

♠ Q105 ♠ 2
 ♥ QJ8 ♥ K10953
 ♦ 862 ♥ K103
 ♣ AQ43 ♣ K1092

 ♠ AKJ98743
 ♥ 764
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 5

Suggested contract: 4SS Lead: ♥Q
 A good contract but maybe four losers (1S, 2H and 1C). Best is to duck the ♥Q lead — West can't play trumps. All over unless East overtakes and plays ♠2. Declarer can still get home but only if he guesses the ♦K correctly.

Board 5
 Dealer: N ♠ 972
 Vul: N/S ♥ 84
 ♦ AK972
 ♣ 875

♠ AKQJ85 ♠ 1043
 ♥ A6 ♥ KJ953
 ♦ Q4 ♥ 65
 ♣ 962 ♣ AQ3

 ♠ 6
 ♥ Q1072
 ♦ J1083
 ♣ KJ104

Suggested contract: 4SW Lead: ♦A
 After cashing ♦AK North switches to ♣8. Given North didn't open it seems ♣K is off-side. Best is to duck. South wins ♣10, ahead of your great ♣9. His best return (he can't continue clubs) is ♠6. Win ♠A and ♠K. Play hearts, ruffing the third high. Next cross to ♠10 to ruff ♥9. ♣A is an entry. You pitch your losing ♣6 on the setup ♥J.

Board 6
 Dealer: E ♠ J106
 Vul: E/W ♥ K765
 ♦ A83
 ♣ J64

♠ 752 ♠ 83
 ♥ 1093 ♥ QJ4
 ♦ 2 ♥ KQJ1095
 ♣ K98752 ♣ A3

 ♠ AKQ94
 ♥ A82
 ♦ 764
 ♣ Q10

Suggested contract: 2SS Lead: ♦2
 It's a suit contract - count your losers! There are five (1H, 2D and 2C) – more if you have unwisely held up! There are eight obvious winners but a ninth trick can be garnered - vital if EW were off 100 in diamond contracts elsewhere. Win ♦A, draw trumps and play ♣Q. East can win, cash two diamonds and (best) play a heart. Win ♥A in hand and play ♠10. ♣J in dummy (♥K as entry) becomes the extra trick.

Board 7
 Dealer: S ♠ AKQ
 Vul: All ♥ A4
 ♦ KJ72
 ♣ AQ73

♠ 9863 ♠ J10542
 ♥ 53 ♥ 98762
 ♦ Q85 ♥ -
 ♣ J1062 ♣ 984

 ♠ 7
 ♥ KQJ10
 ♦ A109643
 ♣ K5

Suggested contract: 7NTN Lead: ♥9
 OK - You've found 7NT looking for the pairs top. In fact, 7D has the same problem - 12 tricks on top with the only worry the ♦Q. Do you play ♦A or ♦K first? You try to find out. How? Four rounds of hearts show East had five. He follows to three spades and clubs - so, East can't have more than two diamonds. West can! Play ♦A.

Board 8
 Dealer: W ♠ J10943
 Vul: Nil ♥ J5
 ♦ 1094
 ♣ K82

♠ A82 ♠ K75
 ♥ K843 ♥ AQ6
 ♦ 6 ♥ KQ73
 ♣ AJ954 ♣ Q103

 ♠ Q6
 ♥ 10972
 ♦ AJ852
 ♣ 76

Suggested contract: 3NTE Lead: ♦5
 In NT count your certain tricks. On the lead there are seven (2S, 3H, 1D and 1C). Clubs can provide the extras. ♦9 from North at trick one. Do we duck? The 'Rule of 11' suggests North has ♦109(xx) while the 'Rule of 7' suggests a double duck. It's right! If ♣K is off we are gone if we win the first or if we ducked that but covered the next. A good West will duck your honour. Duck at tricks one AND two. You are home now if diamonds are 5:3 or 4:4.

Board 9
 Dealer: N ♠ 863
 Vul: E/W ♥ QJ6
 ♦ KQ982
 ♣ Q7

♠ J ♠ 52
 ♥ K10832 ♥ A975
 ♦ J76 ♥ A3
 ♣ AJ92 ♣ K10854

 ♠ AKQ10974
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 1054
 ♣ 63

Suggested contract: 3SS Lead: ♥3
 An intrepid EW pair may get to (and make) 4H but 3S from South often bought the contract. Best defence is to win ♥A, cash two clubs and exit a trump. Declarer now can afford only one diamond loser. Without ♦10 and ♦9 he would need ♦A on side. As it is, if East takes ♦A and (best) returns a heart declarer should ruff, then finesse ♦J to make. It works here, but if East had ducked ♦A on the first lead declarer would surely have failed.

Board 10

Dealer: E ♠ K974
 Vul: All ♥ A954
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ K5

♠ J62 ♠ Q1085
 ♥ Q7 ♥ KJ3
 ♦ K108 ♦ 953
 ♣ J10632 ♣ Q84

 ♠ A3
 ♥ 10862
 ♦ A742
 ♣ A97

Suggested contract: 4HN Lead: ♠5
 Viewed from declarer's hand there could be five losers (2S, 2H and 1D) on a 3:2 trump break. We can try to trump two spade losers but the last could be over-ruffed. OK if by the master trump but not if by the doubleton. Draw trumps? Yes, but only two rounds. Best line is to win ♠A and duck a trump round. Win the return, cash the trump ace and then arrange the two spade ruffs.

Board 11

Dealer: S ♠ 742
 Vul: Nil ♥ 9
 ♦ J742
 ♣ QJ1092

♠ QJ63 ♠ AK10985
 ♥ Q8653 ♥ 107
 ♦ AQ3 ♦ 96
 ♣ 3 ♣ 865

 ♠ -
 ♥ AKJ42
 ♦ K1085
 ♣ AK74

Suggested contract: 5CN Lead: ♠A
 Some bought this in 4S EW (10 tricks make) but we're in 5C with two very likely diamond losers. Winning line is to ruff the ♠A high, cross to ♣Q and ruff ♠4 high. Next cash ♥AK (pitch ♠7) then draw trumps. You have two left. Now concede a diamond. Ruff the return, give up another diamond and you are home when they break 3:2.

Board 12

Dealer: W ♠ 73
 Vul: N/S ♥ 1087
 ♦ 10732
 ♣ A752

♠ K82 ♠ Q104
 ♥ 43 ♥ AQ652
 ♦ KJ4 ♦ AQ5
 ♣ KQJ96 ♣ 108

 ♠ AJ965
 ♥ KJ9
 ♦ 986
 ♣ 43

Suggested contract: 3NTW Lead: ♠7
 3NT by East is cold but needs careful play from West when North led his partner's overcalled suit. On the lead we have five certain tricks (1S, 1H and 3D). Ducking at trick one fails if South has ♠A. Winning ♠K fails if North has that card. If the ♠10 is played, South covers with ♠J - same possibilities exist. Foolproof is to rise ♠Q. South's overcall and the lead place him with ♠AJ9xx. South has no winning counter.

Board 13

Dealer: N ♠ 862
 Vul: All ♥ Q64
 ♦ KJ65
 ♣ 1083

♠ QJ10 ♠ AK543
 ♥ J103 ♥ A52
 ♦ A742 ♦ 9
 ♣ KQ6 ♣ AJ42

 ♠ 97
 ♥ K987
 ♦ Q1083
 ♣ 975

Suggested contract: 6SE Lead: ♦3
 There are two likely heart losers and only 11 winners (5S, 1H, 1D and 4C). Best - win ♦A, ruff ♦2, back to ♠10, ruff ♦4 high, back to ♠J and ruff ♦7 high. Cross to ♣Q, draw the last trump (pitch the ♥2 from hand). Cash ♠K, ♠A, ♣J and ♥A. ♥5 is conceded at trick thirteen. A dummy reversal has got you home.

Board 14

Dealer: E ♠ Q109
 Vul: Nil ♥ KQ732
 ♦ J108
 ♣ J8

♠ 76 ♠ AK85
 ♥ A109 ♥ 654
 ♦ AK632 ♦ 954
 ♣ K75 ♣ AQ6

 ♠ J432
 ♥ J8
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ 109432

Suggested contract: 3NTW Lead: ♥3
 We can count eight tricks (2S, 1H, 2D and 3C). We want one more. It must come from diamonds. Do we hold up on South's ♥J? Yes (Rule of 7). The suit is returned but now South is out. North, the danger hand must be kept off lead - but we must lose a diamond trick to set the suit up. Cross to ♣Q and play ♦4. When South plays ♦7, rise ♦K. Back to ♠A to play ♦5. When South plays ♦Q, duck! No return from him can hurt. A pretty avoidance play.

Board 15

Dealer: S ♠ 109
 Vul: N/S ♥ AJ
 ♦ 753
 ♣ AK9642

♠ 642 ♠ A3
 ♥ KQ108 ♥ 9642
 ♦ K1064 ♦ Q982
 ♣ J8 ♣ Q107

 ♠ KQJ875
 ♥ 753
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ 53

Suggested contract: 4SS Lead: ♥K
 The best of several possible game contracts. There are four obvious losers (1S, 2H and 1D). We could try for a heart ruff - win ♥A, play ♥J but the defence counter by playing two trump rounds. Best is to duck the ♥K lead. Now if they play trumps we can set up clubs and ♥A is still there as an entry. If they do anything else we can't be stopped from getting a heart ruff.

Board 16

Dealer: W ♠ AQ1043
 Vul: E/W ♥ Q10863
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 96

♠ 87 ♠ K62
 ♥ A974 ♥ K5
 ♦ A54 ♦ KQ82
 ♣ K1054 ♣ J872

 ♠ J95
 ♥ J2
 ♦ J10973
 ♣ AQ3

Suggested contract: 3SN Lead: ♥K
 Competition has driven us to 3S with both opponents involved. After ♥K, ♥A and ♦A are cashed and ♦5 continued it looks like declarer needs one black king on side. One expert found a swindle. He ruffed the diamond and played ♠4 away from hand. If West had ♠K he believed ♠K should be with East. But if East had it he might not rise. He didn't. ♠J won, back to ♠A. The ♥Q cooked East who now could only make his trump king. Dummy's ♣3 and ♣Q went on the hearts and declarer could now ruff his club loser with dummy's last trump.

Board 17

Dealer: N ♠ AQJ
 Vul: Nil ♥ K86
 ♦ 652
 ♣ K654

♠ 1082 ♠ 954
 ♥ J7 ♥ 10932
 ♦ K943 ♦ J1087
 ♣ J1097 ♣ 83

 ♠ K763
 ♥ AQ54
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ AQ2

Suggested contract: 6NTS Lead: ♣J
 You have the points but there only 11 top tricks (4S, 3H, 3C and 1D). A 3:3 break in hearts or clubs, or ♦K outside could give the extra. How? Win ♣Q, cash ♠AQJ, then ♥A and ♠K. All throw diamonds. Now ♥KQ, ♦4 from West, ♠A and ♠K. They don't break either. Do we finesse ♦K as the last chance? No - we claim! West is counted as 3:2:4:4 so we lead ♠6 from dummy. West wins but has to lead into our ♦AQ.

Board 18

Dealer: E ♠ Q73
 Vul: N/S ♥ A43
 ♦ 10982
 ♣ K72

♠ 104 ♠ KJ2
 ♥ Q8 ♥ KJ95
 ♦ AKJ653 ♦ 4
 ♣ 864 ♣ Q10932

 ♠ A9865
 ♥ 10762
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ AJ

Suggested contract: 2SS Lead: ♦A
 Where West opened 2D NS did well to buy the hand in 2S. East cashed ♦AK and switched to a club. You win ♣J and cash ♠A. The problem? There are two hearts to lose so we must play spades for one loser. Run ♠5. East wins ♠J and plays a club. ♠K holds up. West is counted for at least nine minor cards so it's best to play him for the shorter spade holding. Play ♠Q and hope for ♠10 bare at West, it is!

Board 19

Dealer: S ♠ Q76542
 Vul: E/W ♥ 5
 ♦ 852
 ♣ KJ10

♠ AJ ♠ -
 ♥ QJ1064 ♥ AK9832
 ♦ 643 ♦ AJ109
 ♣ AQ8 ♣ 962

♠ KJ1083
 ♥ 7
 ♦ KQ7
 ♣ 7543

Suggested contract: 5HE Lead: ♠K
 The spade save would be cheap if EW can make 5H. Not many did when all the minor honours were wrong. Try this line. Duck the spade lead (pitch ♣2). South's best is now a club. Rise ♣A, cash ♠A (throw ♣9) and ruff ♣8. Back to ♥Q and ruff ♣Q. Across to ♥J and play ♦3 to ♦9. South wins but is endplayed to lead into the diamond tenace or give a 'ruff and sluff'.

Board 20

Dealer: W ♠ 3
 Vul: All ♥ 1064
 ♦ AJ7632
 ♣ 1073

♠ A54 ♠ KQJ1086
 ♥ 73 ♥ AQ5
 ♦ KQ854 ♦ 10
 ♣ K62 ♣ AQ5

♠ 972
 ♥ KJ982
 ♦ 9
 ♣ J984

Suggested contract: 6SE Lead: ♦9
 Think at trick one! Those who failed in this also failed in their contract. It looks obvious to put up ♦K but North wins ♦A and later you are on the heart finesse. Not today! Instead, duck the ♦9. Use your pips. North wins ♦J. If he returns a low diamond, ruff high, draw trumps and lead ♦K from dummy. North will play ♦A but you ruff and later ♦Q and the mighty ♦8 give you discards for your heart losers.

Board 21

Dealer: N ♠ 975
 Vul: N/S ♥ KQ4
 ♦ AK642
 ♣ 53

♠ AKQJ3 ♠ 104
 ♥ A2 ♥ 86
 ♦ 7 ♦ J10983
 ♣ 98642 ♣ QJ107

♠ 864
 ♥ J109753
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ AK

Suggested contract: 3HS Lead: ♠A
 As the cards lie EW can make 3S (or 4C). We've sold out to 3H so we must at least try to defeat it. When West plays ♠10 on our ♠A it looks like a singleton or top of two. We can see four tricks (3S and 1H). Our best chance for another (given partner was silent in the bidding) seems a diamond ruff. Switch at trick two to ♦7. Jump up and win the first trump lead then cash ♠K and lead ♠J. East must ruff and return a diamond (or go looking for another partner!).

Board 22

Dealer: E ♠ A7
 Vul: E/W ♥ K96
 ♦ Q1062
 ♣ AQ96

♠ J105 ♠ Q9842
 ♥ Q874 ♥ J32
 ♦ K843 ♦ 75
 ♣ 54 ♣ K72

♠ K63
 ♥ A105
 ♦ AJ9
 ♣ J1083

Suggested contract: 3NTN Lead: ♠4
 Only six certain tricks (2S, 2H, 1D and 1C). Three more needed. Do we duck West's ♠10? Yes, it will guard against a 5:3 break. We win ♠A at trick two. Which minor to try first? It must be clubs to kill the possible entry in the danger hand. East has ♣K and knocks out our last spade stop. We must finesse ♦K to setup our ninth trick. It's offside also BUT West has no more spades and we are home.

Board 23

Dealer: S ♠ 9643
 Vul: All ♥ 64
 ♦ KJ52
 ♣ 763

♠ A82 ♠ KJ7
 ♥ KQ10 ♥ AJ987
 ♦ AQ63 ♦ 4
 ♣ AJ10 ♣ KQ98

♠ Q105
 ♥ 532
 ♦ 10987
 ♣ 542

Suggested contract: 7HE Lead: ♦10
 Grand slams are rare but you might reach this one. It looks to be on one of two finesses but the lead suggested ♦K is off-side. There are better chances. Win ♦A and cash ♥KQ. Good, a 3:2 break. Ruff ♦3, back to ♣10 and ruff ♦6. If ♦K falls we're home now. No, well back to ♣A to ruff ♦Q. Cross to ♠A to draw the last trump (pitching your ♠J). Back to ♠K and claim. A fine example of a dummy reversal.

Board 24

Dealer: W ♠ J8
 Vul: Nil ♥ KQJ2
 ♦ 1085
 ♣ Q1073

♠ 97654 ♠ AK3
 ♥ A73 ♥ 8
 ♦ AQ4 ♦ KJ762
 ♣ 82 ♣ J654

♠ Q102
 ♥ 109654
 ♦ 93
 ♣ AK9

Suggested contract: 4SW Lead: ♥K
 Count your losers. Could be five (1S, 2H and 2C) on a 3:2 trump break. We could trump one heart in dummy but any more would promote extra trump tricks for the opponents. Best to use the diamonds. Can we draw trumps? Yes — but only two rounds. Win ♥A, cash ♠A and ♠K then play on diamonds. East can ruff the third with his boss trump and cash two clubs but the lovely ♠3 in dummy can ruff a heart and let us at the boss diamonds.

Board 25

Dealer: N ♠ 94
 Vul: E/W ♥ AKJ643
 ♦ KJ9
 ♣ 64

♠ AKQJ1072 ♠ 85
 ♥ Q7 ♥ 5
 ♦ AQ2 ♦ 654
 ♣ 9 ♣ AKQ7532

♠ 63
 ♥ 10982
 ♦ 10873
 ♣ J108

Suggested contract: 6SW Lead: ♥A
 Hard to reach a slam after opponents open. Here 6C is cold but 6S can be beaten on the right switch a trick two. Did you find a club? On anything else declarer is easily home. When dummy has a long solid suit playing that suit early can cut declarer off from its long tricks. Here declarer can get one pitch but then must take the ♦K finesse. Bad luck - one off.

Board 26

Dealer: E ♠ 543
 Vul: All ♥ AK72
 ♦ 73
 ♣ A954

♠ 72 ♠ AKQJ6
 ♥ Q984 ♥ 6
 ♦ 9652 ♦ KQJ8
 ♣ K82 ♣ 763

♠ 1098
 ♥ J1053
 ♦ A104
 ♣ QJ10

Suggested contract: 2DE Lead: ♣Q
 With spades 3:3 2S is cold but West can't be blamed, after dredging up a poor 1NT response, for his decision to pass the 2D rebid. 2D also looks frigid. On the lead there seem to be five losers (3C, 1H and 1D) but the defence can do better. Declarer should duck clubs until the third round (♣A may be short). North, after winning ♣A, should cash ♥A and see the best chance for EW as a trump promotion. The play of his last club will give South two tricks with his actual trump holding - provided that, should declarer ruff the club high, South discards on this trick.