



New South Wales Bridge Association

♠ ♥ Newsletter ♦ ♣

Editor: Steve Hurley

Chairman's corner

Welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter for 2016. As usual the start of the year is a busy time for bridge players with many of us heading to Canberra and then to the Gold Coast. I trust everyone who went had a good time. The playoffs for the Australian team also took place in Canberra recently and NSW players made up over half the field. Congratulations to Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Andrew Peake and Peter Gill who, together with Bill Jacobs and Ben Thompson from Victoria, won the right to represent Australia this year.

Since the last edition the NSWBA has held its AGM and elected the 2016 Council. Several changes took place this year, especially amongst the special councilors who represent the different zones of NSW. Thanks to all those that came off Council for their work and to their replacements for volunteering their time:

Area	Retiring	Joining
Northern zone	Graeme Payne	Bruce Tier
South/west zone	David Reddel	Kaye Hart
Outer metro zone	Louis Koolen	Helen Milward
NSWBA	Michael Wilkinson	Sophie Ashton

We also still have one vacancy. Cath Whiddon stepped down as Metro zone representative (although remains on Council). At the moment therefore, we are still looking for someone to represent the interests of the Sydney metropolitan clubs on the Council, a very important group. If you are in that area and interested, please get in touch.

Another important vacancy is also coming up. Are you involved in convening bridge events? Are you interested in getting involved in the Spring

Nationals? After 7 years Marcia Scudder will be stepping down in November following this year's event. Marcia, ably assisted by husband John, has done a fantastic job and the tournament is very highly regarded in the National calendar. So it's a great opportunity to get involved in a successful established event. Ideally the person taking it on in 2017 would be available to shadow Marcia and John during the preparations this year. Details are on the NSWBA website - please contact us if you have any interest (yes it is paid!). Being in Sydney would be an advantage but is not essential.



Happy bridging!

Julian Foster



Tales from the GNOT National Final

The story of the GNOT semi-finalists and finalists, and their 48+64 boards, will doubtless be told in the ABF Newsletter. However, there were 60 other teams at the National Finals, who also played the first 140 boards and had plenty of fun along the way. Of course there were innumerable stories of "the one that got away" and also some very instructive hands. I'd like to tell you about a few in each category. But first, a couple of questions for you.

1) With both sides vulnerable, the bidding commences 1C on your left, pass from partner, 1D on your right. This is your hand:

♠A9864
♥62
♦J9
♣KT74

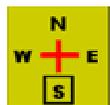
Will you overcall 1S?

2) Again, with both vulnerable, the bidding starts with 1C on your right, 1D on your left, 1NT on your right showing 12-14 hcp, 2C checkback, 3S showing a maximum with 4 spades but not 4 hearts, and opponents settle in 3NT. What will you lead?

♠J7542
♥T
♦9874
♣642

Returning to the first board, let's say that – unwise or not – you do overcall and opponents reach 3NT. Partner leads the ♠7 (you lead high-low from a doubleton) and dummy turns up with the hand below. Declarer calls for a low card.

♠K32
♥QT74
♦AKQ64
♣J



♠A9864
♥62
♦J9
♣KT74

What will you do now?

Meanwhile, let's talk about slam bidding, always a source of significant swings. The hand below, from Round 9 of the Swiss, was a real challenge. Standard

bidding is likely to commence with 1H and some sort of raise. If that raise is only to 2H, slam is not going to be reached. An upgrade to show a 3-card limit raise is better, but 5 losers opposite 8 losers suggests 11 tricks rather than a slam. One method that would work well is a mini-splinter showing 8 losers or a strong hand, with 3+ support and club shortage. Our opponents were playing a strong club relay system and had no trouble reaching 6H. How would you fare?

Board 20 ♣75
Dealer W ♥AKQ742
Vul Both ♦AT
 ♣AJT
♠KJ84 ♠QT932
♥86 ♥95
♦Q83 ♦J
♣K852 ♣Q9764
 ♠A6
 ♥JT3
 ♦K976542
 ♣3

		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
18		N	-	5	7	-	4
9	5	S	-	5	7	-	4
8		E	1	-	-	1	-
		W	1	-	-	1	-

In fact 51 pairs languished in 4H and only 12 bid 6H. One pair (Steffensen-Miller of Gold Coast 1) actually bid and made 7H, for a 13 IMP gain when 6H was indeed bid at the other table. Getting those swings can be hard work!

While on the topic of slam bidding, I'd like to include one board from the first set of the semi-finals, which would be a challenge for many of us. In this case, the problem is how to show a strong 4441 hand. Typical natural bidding would begin 1D-1H. What would your partnership do after that? You could upgrade East's 4-loser to the equivalent of 19+ hcp and rebid 4H, although this fails to show the club shortage. Or you could make a splinter rebid of 4C, but how much extra strength does that promise in your methods?

Board 2 ♠T8
 Dealer E ♥T4
 Vul N-S ♦8743 ♣QT962

♠A4 ♥A98532 ♦K ♣AJ85

♠KQ92 ♥KQJ6 ♦AQ96 ♣7

♠J7653 ♥7 ♦JT52 ♣K43



Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
2	N	-	-	-	-
16 17	S	-	-	-	-
5	E	2	4	7	4 7
	W	2	4	7	4 7

With several of my partners, I play a simplified version of the 2C opening - 2NT rebid described by Chris Ryall, which caters for 4441 hands with 4 losers or better (for more, see <http://www.chrisryall.net/bridge/two/clubs-4441.htm>).

This hand is very suitable for our methods as it would allow showing the club shortage, 16+ hcp and 4-5 losers, an ace and 2 kings, so it would be simple to reach 7H. Three of the four semi-finalists did bid the grand slam – would you have done so?

OK, back to that first board. It's from Round 2 of the Swiss. Of course our opponents had lost their way somewhat, because 4H is glacially cold and that's where 44 pairs played. However, against 3NT, when partner led the ♠7 I knew for sure that we were not going to hurt declarer in the spade suit. Dummy looked very threatening indeed. Was there any hope? Well, maybe if partner had a couple of club honours it might make sense to take my ♠A and lay down the ♣K ... but this all seemed a bit too optimistic, so I didn't.

Board 7 ♠K32
 Dealer S ♥QT74
 Vul Both ♦AKQ64 ♣J

♠75 ♥J83 ♦732 ♣A9632

♠A9864 ♥62 ♦J9 ♣KT74

♠QJT ♥AK95 ♦T85 ♣Q85



Makeable contracts

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
15	N	-	5	5	- 1
5 8	S	-	5	5	- 1
12	E	2	-	-	- -
	W	2	-	-	- -

I wish I had!! As it turned out there were 11 North-South pairs in 3NT who made their contract, all of whom received a spade lead. However, 6 went down, and in all of those cases West got off a club lead, no doubt because East did *not* bid 1S. The moral of the story seems to be that as partner is very likely to treat your overcall as suggesting a lead, you really ought to have a good enough suit – and if you don't then you had better learn how to defend well!

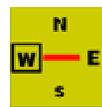
Here's an interesting play problem from Round 3 of the Swiss, which was another potential plus that got away.

Board 16 ♠Q4
 Dealer W ♥AJT6
 Vul E-W ♦63 ♣J9643

♠JT5 ♥Q95 ♦KQJ95 ♣A2

♠A8 ♥K743 ♦74 ♣KQ875

♠K97632 ♥82 ♦AT82 ♣T



		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		N	-	-	-	-
13	12	S	-	-	-	-
7		E	2	2	2	- 4
		W	2	2	2	- 4

We reached 3NT by East after South had made a weak jump overcall. A low spade was led and the first trick went ♠J-Q-A. South ducked the first round of diamonds, took the second, then cashed the ♣K and made the safe exit of a spade to the 10. A third round of diamonds revealed that they did not break, so with only 4 tricks in the bag it was time to tackle the clubs. The ♥A clearly was with North, but when the ♣A dropped South's ♣10, I puzzled over whether to play South for 6-2-4-1 or 6-1-4-2 shape, in the latter case possibly holding ♠J10. Fortunately for me, on the next round of clubs North inserted the ♣9, so I should now have made the contract, but I didn't. Across the field, 23 pairs in 3NT went down, while 20 were successful.

Finally, that lead problem, from Round 6 of the Swiss. This is one that partner made sure didn't get away.

Board 7 ♣AQ
 Dealer S ♥K642
 Vul Both ♦QJ63
 ♣873

♠J7542		♠98
♥T		♥A98753
♦9874		♦A2
♣642		♣AJ5

♠KT63
 ♥QJ
 ♦KT5
 ♣KQT9

		Makeable contracts				
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12		N	2	3	1	1 2
1	13	S	2	3	1	1 2
14		E	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-

On the lead of the ♥10, declarer has no escape. Across the field, 19 pairs made 3NT but 39 went down.

Rakesh Kumar

The John Arkinstall NSW State Teams

At the end of each year before Christmas, the John Arkinstall NSW State Teams final is held at the NSWBA. This is the culmination various qualification rounds in Sydney and across the state, leading to 5 Sydney teams and 3 country teams playing in the premier teams event for the state. Each team plays each other team and the two highest placed teams play off head-to-head in the final. Also the two highest placed country teams play off for the best country team. And if a country team makes the main final, they are deemed the country champions, as was the case in 2014 when the Potts team from (Northern Zone) made the main final.

There were some interesting hands:

- ♠ AK
- ♥ A87
- ♦ KT9
- ♣ AQJ93

- ♠ Q974
- ♥ 52
- ♦ J87642
- ♣ K

After North shows the big flat hand, South plays in 6♦ on a small ♣ lead. What is your line of play?

This is an instructive hand. You retain control in ♥ so South's ♥ loser goes on the high ♣. The only worry is getting the ♦ right. With all the high ♦ pips, you can afford to lead the J♦ from hand, then left hand opponent (LHO) plays the 5♦. Do you rise with the K♦ or not?

It is a simple exercise in possibilities how the suit could break. There are two cards not yet shown, the A and Q. The remaining possibilities are RHO has singleton A, RHO has singleton Q, and RHO has no ♦ (LHO has both A and Q). (If RHO has both A and Q, it does not matter, so forget that). The odds then are 2 chances the Q is on your left and 1 chance it is on your right. I back the 66% everyday which works over the long run. But today, you lose. RHO had the singleton Q.

♠ AK
♥ A87
♦ KT93
♣ AQJ9

♠ J3 ♠ T8652
♥ J643 ♥ KQT9
♦ A5 ♦ Q
♣ T8643 ♣ 752

♠ Q974
♥ 52
♦ J87642
♣ K

Later in the event you hold:

♠ K6
♥ 65
♦ Q
♣ KQJ98632

With both sides not vul, partner opens with 2NT, showing 5/5 in majors or minors and less values than an opening hand. RHO doubles. Your go.

If partner has the minors, they are both void in ♣s. And if partner has the majors, your ♣ are just so strong that you do not care anyway. This also means that they are odds on to make a lot in ♦. So as the wise man answered when asked what he calls an 8 card suit: he said "Trumps". You bid 5♣.

With a balanced hand, South chose to not bid ♦s and instead doubled, and 5♣ doubled became the final contract.

Here is the full layout:

♠ AT54
♥ K72
♦ AT973
♣ A

♠ Q9872 ♠ K6
♥ AJT83 ♥ 65
♦ 82 ♦ Q
♣ 5 ♣ KQJ98632

♠ J3
♥ Q94
♦ KJ765
♣ T74

With the ♠ suit being able to provide two tricks, NS should make 5♦ (400), and you go off 2 doubled, losing a trick in each suit (300). That's 3 IMPs in.

With long suits, just bid them to their max – do not allow the opposition that extra round of bidding to explore.

The main final was held between the BUCHEN team (Peter Buchen, Terry Brown, Mike Hughes, Avinash Kanetkar, Kim Morrison, Ron Klinger) and VAN DER VLUGT (Maurits Van Der Vlught, David Beauchamp, Carola Hoogervorst, Sartaj Hans, Helena Dawson, Andre Korenhof), with the final being a tight race with BUCHEN keeping their nose in front over the first thirty boards. With 10 boards to play, BUCHEN lead by 10, lost by 7 IMPs over the 10 boards, so won the final by 3 IMPs.

The Country Final was played out between the NORTHERN (Ian Price, Ros Roworth, Greg Mayo, Sharon Mayo) and OUTER METRO (Ken Wilks, Michael Simes, Margaret Geddes, Rosalie Broughton) divisions. Northern galloped to a lead of 45 IMPs after 10 boards and were never headed, winning impressively by 101 IMPs.

Steve Hurley

Major raises

When partner opens, responder can have many types of hands to make a raise. This can be from the solid 5 card support to three little pips, with a balanced hand or holding singletons and voids, and with a few high card points (HCPS) to a fistful; there are all sorts of combinations.

Majors are the 'boss' suits in bidding, outbidding minors and needing less tricks for game, and so raises in a major typically have a different treatment than those for minors. The traditional method is a simple raise (1H:2H) to show say 6-10HCPS with 3+ card support and a jump raise (1S:3S) forcing, with game values. Given the different types of hands described above, these are very blunt tools. Other options are needed, and have been developed.

Before looking at some methods, an important principle in bidding is fast arrival. This is where your side does not hold the balance of points so they own

the contract. But you have a long suit that could be trumps, and even if you do get doubled (likely), you expect to give away less than what they can make by bidding game or slam. So your side should bid as high as possible as quickly as possible based on this long suit. This leaping around is aimed at jamming up the opposition's ability to explore how high they can go, to game or to slam. That is why there are pre-empts.

If instead you do hold good HCPs (enough to open at the 1 level) along with a long suit, you should be opening at the 1 level, not the 3 level, as your side could quite likely win the contract and need all the room you can to explore how high to bid. This principle of fast arrival is also used in raises. Say you hold 6 hearts and no points, and partner opens 1H. Partner will have most of his points in hearts, many of these useless in defence when the opposition will have at most 1 heart loser. You should bid game straight away. This is fast arrival. Like a pre-empt, it says "I have long trumps (with you), and I want to jam the bidding as they likely own the contract". (If you had more points, you would have bid more slowly because your side is likely to own the auction.) The opposition may bid 4S over your 4H bid, but this could be wanting to play there with one of many types of stronger hands. The responder to the 4S bidder will then have difficulty exploring further and could easily pass. Your job is done.

Of course any pre-empts and fast arrival bidding is in context to vulnerability and shape. You don't want to be trump happy and lose the first 7 tricks in side-suits when both hands are balanced. So what are some better types of raises for majors? There are many styles, and one method is Bergen raises. And within Bergen raises, there are different finer tunings that are comfortable for the partnership.

The main principle of Bergen is the use of 3C and 3D bids in response to partner opening 1H or 1S (5 card opening). In traditional Bergen, these both show a 4 card raise, where 3C in response to 1H or 1S shows 7-10 HCPs and 3D shows 10-12 HCPs. This emphasises the power of a 5/4 trump fit over that of a 5/3 trump fit.



The classic Bergen structure is =>

After 1H or 1S

- 2H or 2S (Simple raise) – 3 card raise, 7-10 HCPs.
- 2NT 3+ card raise, 16+ HCPs
- 3C 4 card raise, 7-10 HCPs
- 3D 4 card raise, 10-12 HCPs
- 3H or 3S (Jump raise) 4+ card raise, 6 or less HCPs, pre-emptive
- 3NT 3 card raise, 12-15 HCPs
- 4H or 4S (Double jump raise) 5+ card raise, 6 or less HCPs, pre-emptive

The gap here is 3 card raise with 11-12 HCPs, which is shown by responder first bidding another suit, then jumping in opener's first bid suit. This seems awkward.

Another treatment of Bergen raises is =>

After 1H or 1S

- 2H or 2S (Simple raise) – 3 (or 4) card raise, 5-8 HCPs, many losers
- 2NT 3+ card raise, 12-15 HCPs
- 3C 3 card raise, 10-12 HCPs
- 3D 4 card raise, 10-12 HCPs
- 3H or 3S (Jump raise) – 4+ card raise, 7-9 HCPs, less loses than simple raise
- 3NT 3 card raise, 16+ HCPs
- 4H or 4S (Double jump raise) – 5+ card raise, 6 or less HCPs, pre-emptive

Note the single rise and jump raise overlap. This is a value judgement. A single raise could be balanced and/or have weak trumps, even 9 HCPs. And the jump raise plays stronger, with a fourth trump, good trumps, with a singleton, even with 6-7 HCPs. These are value bids, with flexibility looking at winners and losers.

A further treatment, moving away from Bergen 3C / 3D treatment =>

- 1H: 2H 3 (or 4) card raise, 5-8 HCPs, many losers
- 2S 3+ card raise, 16+ HCPs
- 2NT 3+ card raise, 13-15 HCPs
- 3C 3+ card raise, 10-12 HCPs
- 3D 3+ card raise, 7-9 HCPs (slightly better than 1H:2H)
- 3H 4+ card raise, distributional, 0-6 HCPs, to play
- 4H 5+ card raise, 6 or less HCPs, pre-emptive

- 1S: 2S 3 (or 4) card raise, 5-8 HCPs, many losers
- 2NT 3+ card raise, 16+ HCPs
- 3C 3+ card raise, 13-15 HCPs
- 3D 3+ card raise, 10-12 HCPs
- 3H 3+ card raise, 7-9 HCPs (slightly better than 1H:2H)
- 3S 4+ card raise, distributional, 0-6 HCPs, to play
- 4S 5+ card raise, 6 or less HCPs, pre-emptive

Essentially the slower you go (except for the simple raise), the more HCPs responder has. But these do not place any emphasis on distribution or 3 card vs 4 card fits.

There are many more raise structures, from simpler to complex (with bidding using steps to show a tight range of HCPS, long suits, exact distribution, and where aces, kings, and queens are. Whatever you use, raises are very much an agreement between you and your partner and what is comfortable to use.

A final thought. How do you show your raise where the opposition are competing? Again, there is some finer tuning needed rather than using blunter simple raises and jump raises. Some pairs use support doubles, where an immediate raise shows 4 card support and a double shows 3 card support. Alternatively, cue raises (bidding their suit at different levels) could be used to show constructive or invitational HCPs along with trump support as opposed to raising or jump raising partner's suit to show a raise base on distribution and trump length. This gets back to the fast arrival principle.

Steve Hurley

When bidding and play tells you what you need to know ...

You sit West with the following hand:

♠ AKT6
♥ T74
♦ AT3
♣ 985

Not vulnerable, you are first to speak. Do you bid?

Only 11 HCPs, but they are all working, and you have good pips. 1C is bid then.

The bidding proceeds

West	North	East	South
1C	X	1H	1NT
P	P	2C	P
2H	2NT	All pass	

There is no clear lead so best to lead partners' suit, through dummy's expected ♥ suit given North's T/out double). After the 7H was lead. Dummy comes down.

♠ QJ53
♥ AK6
♦ 752
♣ KT2

♠ AKT6
♥ T74
♦ AT3
♣ 985

What now?

The bidding is very informative. And it is a case of not only what has been bid, but what has NOT been bid.

Firstly, it looks like everyone has some values (as everyone is bidding), and South has more than 6 HCPS to push to 2NT. RHO does not have 4 spades. Partner has 4 clubs to bid 2C. South has a stopper in hearts to bid 1NT.

After the ♥ lead, declare wins with the ♥A, (with partner showing an even number of hearts), and leads a small ♦ to the 9 and your 10. What do you make of this ♦ play?

Seemingly declarer sees ♦ as a source of tricks and likely has a broken 4 card suit headed by the KJ9 for trying to finesse the 9. Moving on, no need to switch; lead the 10♥ (playing MUD – Middle Up Down – to show three hearts with no honor).

Declarer wins the K♥ and plays another ♦ to the K and you're Ace. (Partner now expectedly has the Q♦.) You continue with your last ♥ and declarer wins with the Q♥.

Declarer is still searching for tricks and the ♥ leads have given declarer no free tricks. Declarer can establish a trick by playing the ♦ now but repeated ♥ leads have killed the guaranteed entry. So declarer opts for leading a ♣ and finessing the 10. No good there – the J♣ wins. And West shows an odd number of ♣s.

At this point, there is so much information, East and West can defend double dummy. East know West has a 4333 shape from bidding (better minor) and play (showing 3♥ and 3♣), and has no high cards in ♥, the A only in ♦, and as West opened has at least 11 HCPs, should have at least the AK♠ for the opening. And West knows East did not bid 1♠, showed some values bidding 1NT, has 4♣, has 4♥ missing the AKQ), has 3♦ (including the Q), and has nothing in ♠. So partner must have the AJ♣ to justify the bidding.

East plays the last ♥ and declarer and dummy are under pressure. Declarer lets go a ♠ and dummy lets go a ♦. East returns a ♠ to the K and West returns the 9♣ (knowing East has 4), South winning with the Q♣.

After the smoke clears, East West picked up 3♦, 3♣, 1♥ and 2♠, a total 9 ticks. NS bid 2NT, and EW made 3NT. It must be said that declarer picked everything wrong, but the key to bridge is how to best use your assets with the given circumstances. And here, you have worked out who has what cards and what the shape is, taking full toll of your luck.

The full hand was:

♠ AKT6	♠ 84
♥ T74	♥ J983
♦ AT3	♦ Q84
♣ 985	♣ AJ74
♠ 972	
♥ Q52	
♦ KJ96	
♣ Q63	

Ethyl Sevre

Handling those big unusual hands – discussing a few principles.

In a recent event I picked up:

♠ AKT9
 ♥ AK65
 ♦ -
 ♣ AKQ74

It's a powerhouse! But how do you handle it?

At the table, I was spared the agony. After partner passed as opener, my right hand opponent bid 3D. This made it easier to bid. I doubled and partner bid 3H. Depending what partner had (Queens and distribution), this hand is so powerful that the combined hands could very easily make 13 tricks. So I forced partner to bid again by cueing their suit and I bid 4D. Partner replied with 4S. And now, did partner have 5 hearts, did partner have just 4 hearts with 4 spades as well, or did partner feel obliged to bid another suit, this one being only three cards? This was not your usual auction and interpretations were loose. Thinking about the higher levels, any number of things could go wrong, so I bid 6H rather than 7H. With partner having the expected 4-4 in Hearts and Spades, this looked a good contract. But alas, I chose the suit that broke 5-0. Partner played it carefully for one off. 6S makes. But with my luck, if I had bid 6S instead, THAT would have been the suit that broke 5-0.

But the question remains; if your right hand opponent had instead passed, what would you open the hand?

This particular hand has 23 HCPs. It is possible to open 1C and hope partner bids. You will be red-faced if partner has anything at all in clubs, hearts or spades and does not bid. Often with more distributional hands (say 5/5 or 5/6) and with less HCPs you can open at the one level, because with the opposition having more HCPs and more cards in suits you do not have, they will bid. Then you can leap in your other suit. Here partner could leave you dying in 1C.

Typically 2C shows game going hands, but this is usually based on one, maybe two suits. (If it is two suited, it should be stronger than a 1 level opening then leaping as mentioned above). This hand has

three suits. Some systems have bids or even sequences of bids to cater for big three suiters, but reserving bids for a rare occasion is not economical, and such bidding sequences can easily be forgotten and lead to some strange contract. How then do you show your suits after opening 2C?

A small aside first. Partnerships should explore and be in agreement to what bids after a 2C opening really mean. Many use 2D as a weak hand or even a waiting bid. What does 2H by responder mean, or 2NT, or 3C? These should be defined. My preference is to show how many Aces and Kings responder has. This uses 2D to show 0-1 control where an Ace = 2 controls and a King = 1 control. Then 2H = 2 controls, 2S = 3 controls and so on. There are variations on this theme but you get the idea. The benefit here is that responder show Aces and Kings to the opener, the one with the BIG hand. After partner responds, opener then responder now bids naturally. Mind you there have been a number of auctions that have gone 2C:2S(3 controls):6H.

Getting back to handling the three suiter, an important tool to help with handling this is the use of a second negative. That is, where 2D in response to 2C shows 0-1 control (a first negative), when opener rebids, responder is again forced to bid, showing a little bit (say 4-6 HCPs) or a second negative. The second negative is the cheapest NT bid being either 2NT or 3NT. And if you are worried about the weak hand being declarer in 2NT or 3NT, the 2C bidder would have rebid NT with the big balanced hand after opening 2C, else would have now bid their suit again or another suit. In other words, the weak hand should typically not get to play the hand.

So for bidding this three suiter, you open 2C, partner bids 2D (0-1 control, or negative, or waiting), and opener bids 3C, FORCING for one more round. Responder bids say 3NT, and now opener can bid 4S. You have bid two suits, you still have not shown your third. This is not perfect – but you have at least you shown two suits, and you are not left dangling in 3C. And for those readers that want to ensure that the hand arrives at the correct contract, please look into the use of relay systems, such as symmetric relay. The downside is that they are memory intensive and can be bombarded by opposition interference, but they will get you to the right contract.

And for those readers that want to ensure that the hand arrived at the correct contract, there is the option of relay systems.

An overview of relays systems.

Normal bidding using say Standard or Acol is an exchange of information to show and deny things. If you open 1C and partner bids 1S, by bidding 4 card suits up the line, partner has (initially) denied 4 Diamonds or 4 Hearts. I say initially because after you rebid say 2C, partner may now bid D or H, showing a 4 card suit. And this now means that Spades are longer. The bidding then continues, to show and deny.

Relays take the exchange of information and turns it on its head. One person asks: the other person shows, all the way through the bidding. So the asker will take in the information, assess that looking at the two hands, then placing the contract. The asker forces continuation of the bidding by making the cheapest bid each time, then partner responds.

Such systems are usually big clubs (where opening 1C is 16+ HCPs, like Precision). If partner opens 1C, responder bids 1D to show less than game going values (up to 9 HCPs), and all other bids show game forcing values (so the asker knows that at least game is on and can continue bidding to that level). So after 1C:1H, opener then rebids the cheapest bid (1S, and responder describes their hand again.

I mentioned that the responder shows their hand, but not that 1H specifically shows Hearts. It could do, depending on the version of system you want to use. But many partnerships agree that this shows Spades. Why? So that when the asker asks again with 1S, if Spades is the contract, the asker has not shown their hand but is instead playing the declarer.

Anyway, the principle of relay bidding is for one person to show suits first, then length/shortage, then number of Aces and Kings, then where these Aces and Kings are, and for slam bidding, even where the Queens and Jacks are.

A major drawback with using relays is remembering all the steps. The original system drained people with their intensity. Then around the 70's symmetric relay was devised so that whatever path you take, you arrive at a common point to show shapes, so you only need to remember a few structures.

Back to the problem at hand. How could symmetric relay deal with this hand:

AKT9	J954
AK65	Q853
-	T85
AKQ74	65

The bidding would proceed:

1C (16+HCPs)	1D (less than 9 HCPs)
1H (cheapest bid)	1S (less than 5 HCPs)
2C (GF, BIG)	2S (balanced)
2NT (cheapest bid)	3D (two suits, same rank)
3H (cheapest bid)	3N (doubleton C, so 4432)
4C (cheapest bid)	4H (No king, but 1+ Queen)
4S (cheapest bid)	5C (Denial cue bids, denies QS, shows QH)
6H (to play)	Pass

So the asker knows the exact shape, strength of the hand, and key cards. Consider also that at the point where opener can bid 4C, asker knew the exact shape and strength. Now if responder had bid 4D showing not even a Queen, asker could not be able to bid 4H to play (as this would have been a relay and continuing the bidding). But asker was ready for this and is also happy to play in 4S instead and this would have been the final contract (as bidding 4S is NOT the next cheapest step). In other words the asker has to be careful about what the possible responses will be when getting towards what the final contract should be.

This looks pretty good, so why do many people not play it? It is memory intensive, takes time to bid that regular club events do not cater for, and a lot of work needs to go in to discuss the usual sequences as well as where there are interruptions (opposition bidding). And often the mere mention of symmetric relay at the table is like a red flag to a bull and the opposition interrupt by bidding aggressively.

But if you put the effort in, it is worth it.

Steve Hurley

His and hers books from our members ...

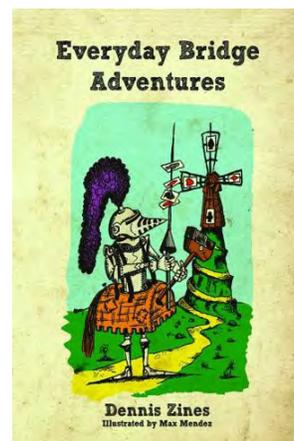
Tina Zines has published a book



Trumps Publishing is soon to release a book titled *Intermediate Bridge Play Problems*, which presents 50 play and defence problems (in more or less increasing difficulty) inspired by my many years of teaching/ supervising at the NSWBA in the nineties and up till 2006. The price should be about \$16.95, a good price for bridge books these days.

And so has Dennis ...

Every time we go to the bridge table we have high expectations. We have read learned books, studied hard, practiced and searched for the perfect partner who doesn't mess up but still we are successful too little of the time. Let's face it; for the average bridge player there are highs and lows, ups and downs, joy and despair. Fortunately the human condition allows us to continue to return to the table refreshed with new hope despite any disappointments that have come before. However, along the way there are always stories that are funny, tragic or at least worth re-telling. In this collection Dennis Zines relates what happened on a number of deals that piqued his interest. No doubt you will recognize similar circumstances and outcomes and hopefully will enjoy the journey. This is not an educational book but potentially one where you can pick it up at any time for a slight bridge diversion from whatever else that you were doing that you really didn't want to do.



Teaching

Joan Butts, the ABF National Teaching Coordinator, is coming to Orange again in May, 7-9, to run more ABF Education Programmes for teachers and to do two workshops for bridge players.

The first day (May 7) will consist of Phase 1 of the programme, a Teacher Training Programme (TTP). This is available for all people interested in learning how to teach bridge or involved with Help with Play groups.

The second day (May 8) will be a follow up day, a Professional Development Day for teachers (focusing on content for later lessons after beginners, and to upgrade teachers' own bridge skills). It is open to those who have completed a TTP.

The third day (May 9) will be one or two workshops with Joan Butts, for all bridge players interested in attending.

The first two days are free of charge and they will receive Teacher Training and other material from the ABF as well as free lunches and other refreshments - a great offer from the ABF and NSWBA.

There will be a charge for the third day, (usually around \$30, exact amount to be decided by the host club).

All in all, we hope it will be of great value to local clubs supporting or starting to teaching bridge!

Dorothy Woodside at the Orange Bridge Club will be the liaison person for this.

Cath Whiddon
NSWBA Councillor(responsible for Education)

Gold Coast Congress

Congratulations to Avi Kanetkar, Bruce Neill, Warren Lazer and Pauline Gumby, winners of the Gold Coast Open Teams 2016.

Ethics and Etiquette in Bridge

National congresses now offer more than just playing bridge. As a time and place for players and officialdom to congregate, it is also an opportunity for getting together on a range of issues. There are meetings about the business of running bridge, and there are also presentations on teaching, bidding, playing and more. At the recent Gold Coast Congress, Hugh Grosvenor (who has played overseas and represented Australia, and is currently the President of the Tasmanian Bridge Association) provided a presentation on a sensitive area in our pastime, that of 'Ethics and Etiquette in Bridge'. The following is an excerpt from this presentation and is aimed at providing some general information in this area.

Introduction

Bridge is governed by laws of the game and regulations framed by the organizing bodies. These laws and regulations help to define the codes of ethics that are expected to be followed by all participants. While these appear technical, the aim is simply to:

- Foster a pleasant and courteous environment.
- Ensure a fair contest where only authorized information is used by a partnership, and that all partnership agreements and understandings are disclosed to the opponents as required.

Etiquette

Etiquette concerns how the way a player interacts with their partner, their opponents, the director and any other official. This is just good manners and friendly behavior. But the Laws also provide for correct procedure.

Bridge etiquette is not an optional extra. The Laws of bridge dictate what is required:

LAW 74 – CONDUCT AND ETIQUETTE

A. Proper Attitude

1. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times
2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause

annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game

3. Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and play.

B. **Etiquette**

As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from:

1. Paying insufficient attention to the game.
2. Making gratuitous comments during the auction or play.
3. Detaching a card before it is the players turn to play.
4. Prolonging play unnecessarily when a player can claim, for the purposes of disconcerting the opponents.
5. Summoning or addressing the Director in a discourteous manner.

C. **Violations of Procedure**

The following are examples of violations of procedure:

1. Using different designations for the same call.
2. Indicating approval or disapproval of a call or play.
3. Indicating the expectation or intention of winning or losing a trick before play is completed.
4. Commenting during the auction or play so as to call attention to a significant occurrence, such as the tricks needed to make the contract.
5. Looking intensely at another player or player's hand.
6. Showing an obvious lack of interest in proceedings.
7. Varying the tempo of your actions for the purpose of disconcerting the opponents.
8. Leaving the table needlessly before the round is called.

This is all part of the Laws and adherence is expected otherwise breaches may be penalized by the Director.

Ethics

Ethics is harder to define under the laws as there is only a general reference to ethical behavior in the Laws.

LAW 72 – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. Observance of Laws

Duplicate bridge tournaments should be played in strict accordance with the Laws. The chief object is to obtain a higher score than other contestants whilst complying with the lawful procedures and ethical standards set out in these Laws.

This clearly implies that the intention of the laws as a whole is to set out what is allowed and what is not – good ethical behavior **IS** complying with the laws. Being actively ethical is complying with the laws to the fullest extent and trying to play to the spirit of the game.

Full Disclosure

One of the clearest areas where good ethics should be applied is with full disclosure of your partnership agreements. The Laws do not allow secret agreements. If an opponent asks about a bid or play, you should give as much information as you have on your agreements. It is also one of the more difficult areas for Directors to police as they are not privy to a partnership's agreements. Players should be as open and accommodating in this as possible. In simple terms, players should take the view to treat others as they themselves would like to be treated.

Authorized Information

Players are only allowed to base their actions on authorized information. If you have unauthorized information, you are only allowed to make choices that not affected by any unauthorized information. Unauthorized information may come from a change in a player's tempo, demeanor, comments, failure to alert, poor and even excessive explanation of bids, and a myriad of other sources. Players should be mindful that generally authorized information only comes from what is actually bid and the cards that are played.

Incorrect Explanations

There are occasionally situations where the opponents are given inaccurate or insufficient information on an agreement. There should be full disclosure, as mentioned above. Where there is an incorrect explanation, the Director is required to be called at the first legal opportunity for their attention. If you are on the declaring side, this should be before the opening lead is made. And if you are on the defending side, this is immediately at the end of the hand (so partner is not alerted to anything particular during the play of the hand).

Tempo

Players should aim for even tempo in the bidding and play. This is obviously not always possible since some situations call for thinking. But by aiming for good even tempo, this will minimize any ethical problem partner may face as you are not showing you have something to think about.

It is specifically forbidden by the Laws to vary your tempo with the intention of attempting to deceive the opponents. Some common examples of unlawful deception are where you have a singleton and hesitate (you only have one choice so no thinking is required), and where you hesitate for a long time when you had no intention of bidding.

Conclusion

In conclusion:

- Be courteous and pleasant to your partners, opponents and directors. After all, you would like them to be pleasant to you.
- Avoid criticizing your partner and opponents (even though they may thoroughly deserve it).
- Avoid post mortems when there are more hands to play. Discuss later in a more convivial atmosphere.
- If you think there's a problem, call the Director!
- Accept rulings with some grace. If you feel duded, there are always appeals.
- Be consistent. Maintain an even tempo.
- Aim to be pleasant, fair, and polite.
- And above all, HAVE FUN. It is still just a game.

Ethics and etiquette is not in the forethought of bridge players when sitting down to play, but it is an essential part of our game. And discussing concerns in this area could easily extend into week long exercises.

Hugh has touched on important topics in his presentation, with the aim of highlighting certain concerns and salient points that players should be aware of. These points are presented again here, so that we as a bridge community are all aware of our responsibilities at the table to our partner, opponents, directors, and most importantly, to ourselves.

Around the State

Clubs across NSW are strongly encouraged to submit articles to the editor to promote activities, events, successes, etc, in their club. Please send articles to editor@nswba.com.au.

The 2016 Country Zonal Teams playoffs

In recent years, this has been scheduled for the beginning on July. This year all country divisional finals for the John Arkinstall teams will be held on the weekend of 16-17 July. Please check with your local club where the final will be played.

Far North Coast



Upcoming congresses

- Ballina Swiss Matchpoint Pairs
Sat/Sun, Mar 19-20
- Tweed Bridge Club Autumn Swiss Teams
Sun, Apr 10
- Yamba Bridge Club Swiss Pairs
Sat/Sun, Apr 30 - May 1
- Twin Towns Bridge Club Birthday Congress Teams
Sun, May 29

North Inland



Upcoming congresses

Armidale Swiss Pairs
Sat/Sun, Mar 12-13
Tamworth Bridge Club Teams
Sat/Sun, Apr 2-3
Inverell Delvyn Bridge Club Pairs
Sat/Sun, Apr 16-17
Port Macquarie-Hastings Bridge Assoc
Sat/Sun, May 28-29

Mid North Coast



Upcoming congresses

Taree Bridge Club Swiss Pairs
Sun, Apr 24
Coffs Harbour Bridge Club Teams
Sat/Sun, May 14-15

Hunter



Upcoming congresses

Tilligerry Bridge Club Swiss Pairs
Sun, Apr 10
Maitland Bridge Club Teams
Sun, May 1

Central Coast



Upcoming congresses

Central Coast Bridge Club Super Congress
Fri/Sat/Sun, Apr 1-3

Blue Mountains



Upcoming congresses

Hawkesbury Bridge Club
Sat/Sun, Apr 9-10

Sydney



Upcoming congresses

Kings and Queens Autumn Swiss Pairs
Sun, Mar 6
Trumps Autumn Teams
Sun, Mar 13
Trumps Bridge Centre Good Friday Pairs
Fri, Mar 25

Trumps Bridge Centre Easter Teams
Sun, Mar 27

NSWBA Swiss Pairs
Sun, Apr 17

Peninsula Bridge Club Teams
Sun, Apr 24

NSWBA Swiss Pairs
Sun, May 15

NSWBA Autumn Swiss Pairs
Sun, May 22

Strathfield Bridge Club Teams
Sun, May 29

South Coast



Upcoming congresses

Kiama & District Bridge Club Restricted Swiss Pairs
Sun, Mar 20

Far South Coast



Upcoming congresses

Batemans Bay
Fri/Sat/Sun, Mar 4-6

South West



Upcoming congresses

Griffith Ex-Servicemens Wine Country
Sat/Sun, Mar 5-6

Leeton Soldiers Bridge Club
Sat/Sun, May 14-15

Central West



Upcoming congresses

Forbes Swiss Pairs
Sun, Mar 6

Wellington
Sat/Sun, Mar 19-20

Bathurst and District Bridge Club Congress
Sat/Sun, Apr 30 - May 1



Congress Results

Double Bay Valentine's IMP Pairs

Dave Wiltshire, Fiona Brown

Great Lakes Teams

Sharon Mayo, Greg Mayo, Ken Wilks, Michael Simes

Trumps Summer Teams

Margaret Foster, Helen Lowry, Julianne Rocks and Liz Quittner

Kings and Queens Summer Swiss Pairs

Shu Liang Yang, Judy Zhu

Double Bay Pre-Canberra Swiss Pairs

Nick Hughes, Nicoleta Giura

Trumps Festival of Bridge

Trumps Swiss Pairs:

Devorah Lees, Egon Auerbach

Australian Bridge Teams:

Derrick Browne, Joshua Wyner, Al Simpson, John Newman

Open Pairs:

Adam Edgton, Helen Horwitz

Restricted Pairs:

Jill and Karl Buchmann

1-Session Pairs:

Nicky Strasser, George Bilski

Gourmet Pairs (Wed)

NS: Elaine Dignan, Carmel Bourke

EW: Mischa Solar, Angie Boulton

Bridge Shop Teams:

Derrick Browne, Joshua Wyner, Richard Douglas, John Newman

Gourmet Pairs (Thu)

NS: Myra Katz, Darryl Almeida

EW: Margaret Draper, Michael Draper

Gourmet Pairs (Fri afternoon)

NS: Peter Gill, Merrilee Robb

EW: Maurice Loomes, Rachel Loomes

Gourmet Pairs (Fri night)

NS: Helen Lowry, Julianne Rocks

EW: Elizabeth Fanos, George Finikiotis

Individual:

David Burton

Festival Pairs:

Tony Burke, Peter Gill

Festival Teams:

Sue Ingham, Michael Courtney, Jeanette Reitzer, Terry Brown

NSWBA Summer Swiss Pairs

Witold Chylewski, John Scotford

Wollstonecraft Swiss Pairs

Henry Chu, Margaret Klassen

Goulburn Teams

Peter Reynolds, Arjuna De Livera, David Appleton, Margaret Bourke

Ballina Open and Restricted Teams

Janet Brown, William Powell, Marjorie Askew, Eric Hurley

Manly Margaret Smith Memorial Teams

David Hudson, Anita Curtis, Garry Clarke, Sally Clarke

Taree Teams

Rosalie Broughton, Ken Wilks, Michael Johnson, Michael Simes

NSWBA Spring Pairs

Donald Knaggs, Albert Tjahja

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