

# The Jacaranda Teams

## Aggressive interference

by RAKESH KUMAR



*Rakesh Kumar describes himself as an enthusiast who makes enough errors to have plenty of material for bridge columns.*

This event, which is both a Congress and the Metropolitan Final for the State Teams, returned to face-to-face competition in 2022. The field of 15 teams was smaller than last year, when 28 teams played on RealBridge, but the competition was no less fierce. The tournament qualifies two teams to the State Final, of which one must be a club representative team – there were 5 of these competing in the event.

At the end of 6 x 9-board matches, the winners were the BLOOM team (Paul Dalley - Peter Gill - Martin Bloom - Tony Nunn - Liz Sylvester). In second place were the HUDSON team (David Hudson - Liam Milne - Steven Bock - Rakesh Kumar) and coming in third were the YOUNG team (Alex Glikin - Michael Young - Terence Palmer - Mick McAuliffe) who put in an excellent performance to finish top among the club representative teams. BLOOM and YOUNG thus go forward to the State Final in December.

As usual, there were lots of interesting deals through the day. I've picked out three that illustrate some differing outcomes of the modern approach to aggressive interference bidding on shape and not a whole lot else ...

On this deal from the morning session, at our table the auction began with 2 passes and then 1♥ by East. South made a weak jump overcall of 2♠ and West could choose between a 3♠ raise or a direct jump to 4♥. This mattered not at all to North, who bid 4♠ based on shortage and an assured 9-card fit. Of course East went on to 5♥, but with the 4-1 break in clubs, this contract had no play.

### Board 24

Dealer W | Vul None

<p>♠ Q64 ♥ J643 ♦ Q4 ♣ AQ52</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ JT2 ♥ 5 ♦ K8532 ♣ JT94</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ AKQ98 ♦ A76 ♣ K873</p>
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ AK9873  
♥ T72  
♦ JT9  
♣ 6

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	1	-	3	-
S	-	1	-	3	-
E	4	-	4	-	3
W	4	-	4	-	3

We lost 11 IMPs on the board when the opponents played in 4♥ at the other table. Across the field, 4 East-West pairs were pushed to a higher-level contract, one doubled 4S and took it 2 down, but the others made their game.

Later in the day came this deal, on which after 2 passes West opened 1♦, North passed and East bid 1♥. Now at our table, South backed in with 1♠. West jumped to 4♥, North returned serve with 4♠ and that was passed out.

**Board 14**

Dealer E | Vul None

♠ KT98  
♥ 82  
♦ AKJT86  
♣ 6

♠ J  
♥ QJT7  
♦ Q432  
♣ AKQ7

♠ A52  
♥ A9654  
♦ 95  
♣ T42

♠ Q7643  
♥ K3  
♦ 7  
♣ J9853

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	2	-	4	-
S	-	2	-	4	-
E	1	-	4	-	-
W	1	-	4	-	-

It turned out the game could not be defeated! In fact of the 7 Souths who played in 4♠, two were doubled and made their contract. Only one East took what proved to be a good save in 5♥. We lost 6 IMPs when North-South stopped in 3♠ at the other table.

Do you only ever open a weak two-bid in a major without 4 cards in the other major? Or do you have a 2♦ or 2♥ opening that shows a weak hand with both majors? It can be a useful weapon, but when you don't get to buy the contract it can give too much information away or even prevent the opponents from getting into a failing contract. That's what happened on this last deal:

**Board 19**

Dealer S | Vul EW

♠ 842  
♥ 8652  
♦ J9842  
♣ 8

♠ J9  
♥ A9  
♦ KT53  
♣ AQJ54

♠ AK  
♥ Q73  
♦ AQ76  
♣ KT96

♠ QT7653  
♥ KJT4  
♦  
♣ 732

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	5	4	-	-	5
W	5	4	-	-	5

At a number of tables, East-West found their way to slam, either 6NT (3 times) or 6♣ (once). Perfectly reasonable with 33 hcp between them, but these contracts had no chance with the two inevitable losers in diamonds and hearts. However, at our table the auction began with 2♦ by South, promising both majors. Now whether West overcalls 3♣ or not, North will bid hearts and East will end up in just 3NT. The two-suited pre-empt led to a 13 IMP swing in our match.

As they say, you pays your money and you takes your choice ... ♠