



NSBC Newsletter



2020 APR Vol 4. Issue 4

Editors: Kevin Davies and Ian Maclaren

Welcome Ian



Welcome to **Ian Maclaren** who has volunteered to take on the role of co-editor of the NSBC Newsletter.

Corona Virus Update: ABF recommends Bridge Clubs close temporarily

The ABF recommends that Bridge Clubs be temporarily closed for four weeks as from Wednesday 18th March 2020 (or a date this week set by the club) with the situation to be reviewed at the end of that period.

NSWBA to Close

Bridge sessions meet this definition of a static meeting too well, so, given the ABF's recommendation, **the Council of the NSWBA has voted to close the NSWBA (trading as Sydney Bridge Centre) at midnight on Tuesday 17th March.**

NSBC to close

NSBC Closed for 4 weeks due to Covid-19

Due to advice from the Australian Bridge Federation on Covid 19 the NSBC committee and management have agreed that the club will be closed from **Monday 16th March till Thursday 16th April. If these dates change in any way, we will inform all members ASAP.**

We apologise for any inconvenience but keeping all members, staff and players healthy at NSBC is our number 1 priority. We want you all healthy fit and well so we can all return to the wonderful game we all love.

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The AGM was set for 11.30am Saturday 4th April. This will be tentatively **postponed** till **11.30am Saturday 2nd May**. This will mean we need new Nomination and Proxy forms with the adjusted dates which will be distributed in due course - when we are confident that the AGM can be held on that date. All members will be notified if we can't proceed on May 2nd.

Stay safe and healthy. We are all hoping this comes to an end real soon and I look forward to seeing you all back at the club.

Kind regards **Mike Prescott** 0435 528 872

The NSBC has established a **Coronavirus sub-committee** chaired by **David Fryda**, including **David Hudson, Mike Prescott & Dr Steven Bock**. They will monitor & advise the club on issues & possible reopening dates.

2020 Club Champion Progress

The current leaders are:

Rank	Player	Championship Points
1=	David Weston	20
1=	Leo Goorevich	20
3	Kevin Davies	13
4	Sunny Pang	11
5=	Lester Kalmin	10
5=	Lorna Ichilcik	10
5=	Lynn Kalmin	10
5=	Margaret Owen	10
5=	Ros Howes	10
5=	Tony Howes	10

Link to Full [CC Results](#) to date

Bidding and Play Challenges

Challenge Hand 1

North	
West	East
♠ 6	♠ 2
♥ AQJ8	♥ KT7543
♦ AKQ4	♦ 8762
♣ AT64	♣ 32

Matchpoints, South dealer, EW vulnerable.

South passes but **North will overcall 4♠**.
Suggest your actions to the best EW spot.

Challenge Hand 2

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

All non Vul, Dealer: East
Can you bid your cards to the best spot?

'Why are you so glum?'

The doctor told me I can't play bridge.
Aha. So, he's played with you, too?



THE
BRIDGE SHOP
15% OFF
for NSBC members

The Bridge Shop has partnered with the North Shore Bridge Club and we are delighted to offer all club members a 15% discount.

We welcome you to drop into our store at 182 Penshurst Street Willoughby or redeem your discount by using the code **NS15** at checkout on our web site.



Profile:
Angie Boulton

**Club Bridge
Director**

I was born in Cremorne and raised in a card playing family. Eventually I left home to travel, work in Melbourne, settle down to get married and raise our family. In 1984 my husband (back then) was relocated to Sydney and as soon as the children were old enough to be left at home, I took bridge lessons at The Lindfield Bridge Club. The bridge teacher told the class that bridge could change our lives. How right she was. At that time, I was working as a book-keeper for an inbound tour operator and had Tuesdays off so I could play in the afternoon game at Lindfield.

There was no such thing as Supervised or Rookie sessions, one just got thrown in the deep end, you had to become thick skinned to survive some of the more aggressive old biddies. However, most of the players were very welcoming of us newbies, and occasionally we might even get a good board against them. One of my early bridge partners was John McIlraith who much later became my boss at North Shore Bridge Club.

In 1994 there was a notice in the Lindfield Bridge Club newsletter advertising for an office administrator. I was appointed to this position and negotiated Tuesday afternoons off so I could continue to play in that session.

I managed the day to day running of the club under the guidance of the Committee and having passed my directors exam in 1998, began directing the Thursday Morning and Tuesday night sessions as well.

I remained as the club's book-keeper until the end of 2017 and continued as the Director of the 2 Club Willoughby sessions that I had started doing at the old Lindfield club.

I have worked in one capacity or another with the club for nearly 26 years, and playing bridge for over 30. So, you could say that **bridge really changed my life!**



Anita



Jessica

In 2020, our teachers will be Anita Curtis, and Jessica Brake

All lessons are postponed until further notice



Congratulations

Well done NSBC teams winning the 2020 Margaret Smale Inter-Club event at Peninsula on **Sun 8th March**.

Interclub results from Peninsula		Tables	Pts
1	NSBC (Club Willoughby)	8	17
2	Peninsula	8	10
3	Trumps	7	8
4=	NSBC (East Lindfield)	1	5
4=	Manly-Warringah	5	5
6	Dee Why	5	0

Special mention goes to our East Lindfield team, who reached = 4th with only 1 team competing! (maximum was 8)



NSBC team photo @ Peninsula

See detailed article on the event by Mark Guthrie later in the bulletin.

Our first congress of the year was at our East Lindfield venue, the **Pauline Evans Swiss Pairs** on **Sun 15th March**.

Pauline Evans - Swiss Pairs Congress		VP	CC
1	Kim Morrison & David Weston	97.1	10
2	Liz Fanos & George Finikiotis	95.0	7
3	Warren Dobes & Steven Bock	94.1	5
4	Kevin Davies & Leo Goorevich	92.5	4
5=	Bruce Edwards & Joyce Edwards	87.0	3
5=	Ian Plummer & Fiona Ballard	87.0	3
7	Derek Tyms & Ado Hardy	86.7	
Restr	Ming Xie & Wenjie Liu		
Intr	Bruce Edwards & Joyce Edwards		

Congress Swiss Pairs: [Full results](#) [Honour board](#)



David, Renna & Kim



Liz & George



Warren & Stephen



Joyce & Bruce



Ming & Wenjie

The Mixed pairs has been completed over two rounds with the third round cancelled. Likely the first 3 pairs will be representing NSBC at the state finals.

Club State Mixed Pairs		%	CC
1	Tony Howes & Roslyn Howes	59.4%	10
2	Leo Goorevich & Fiona Lavery	56.4%	7
3	Liz Sylvester & Peter Gill	56.3%	5
4	Liz Wilkinson & Hymie Osie	56.2%	4
5	Wei Zhang & Wayne Zhu	55.9%	3
6	Witold Chylewski (Jun) & Linda Aubusson	55.0%	2

Club Mixed Pairs: [Full results](#) [Honour board](#)



Roslyn & Tony

Members did well at the ABF Gold Coast Congress

Gold Coast - Open MP Swiss Pairs		VP
1	Lynn Kalmin & Lorna Ichilcik	143
3	Lester Kalmin & Mannie Ichilcik	123
6	Helena Dawson & Richard Douglas	119
Gold Coast - Butler Swiss Pairs		VP
N 2	Ian Plummer & Margaret Owen	79
N 3	Liz Fanos & Julianne Rocks	79
E 2	Sally & Gary Clarke	92

Gold Coast - Open Pairs (C-Final)		MP
3	Terry Brown & Jeanette Reitzer	912
Gold Coast - Open Pairs (I-Final)		MP
1	Anne Morris & Patricia Lacey	515
2	Les Varadi & Eva Shand	490
Gold Coast - Intermediate (B final)		MP
2	Allan Pike & Robin Devries	349

Gold Coast - Senior Teams Final	
2	David Parrott, David Lusk, Bob Sebesfi , Gary Chua, Ian Hilditch, Peter Chan
Gold Coast - Intermediate Teams Qual	
2	Sue Moffitt & Ken Moffitt, Margaret Rogers & John Rogers
4	Neil Williams & Peter Fitzmaurice, Rob Holgate & Kevin Murray

Members who did well Congresses

Griffith Congress - Swiss Teams		VP
1	Niek Van Vucht & Vicky Lisle , Richard Hills & Chris Stead	98
Wellington Congress - Swiss Pairs		VP
1	John Mottram & Liz Quittner	91
Wellington Congress - Swiss Teams		VP
1	Richard Douglas & Helena Dawson, Val Brockwell & John Brockwell	84
2	John Mottram & Liz Quittner, Neville Nott & Jane North	79

Club Championship nights

For the strongest competition of the week, come and play on our Championship nights, when we run a series of events throughout the year that all award red points and that bring together our most competitive players.

East Lindfield, Championship night Tuesdays at 7:30pm

GNOT Metro Qualifying **Postponed**

EL GNOT Qualification Winners	
2019	Margaret Gidley-Baird, Patrica Lacey, Robert Case, Margaret Pussell

In May at EL, the Swiss Pairs over 3 Tuesday nights is planned.



Swiss Pairs
East Lindfield
3 Tuesday Night Sessions: 7:30pm
5th May
12th May
19th May
Red Points
\$45 Members
\$60 Non Members

Swiss Pairs ' [Web Entry](#) and [Honour Board](#)

EL Swiss Pairs Winners	
2019	Gary Lane & Kevin Davies

Club Willoughby, Championship night - Thursdays at 7:30pm

The **Club Mixed Teams Championship** is **Postponed**

Club Mixed Teams Champions	
2019	Peter Jeffery, Yumin Li, Witold Chylewski (Jun), Judy Osie



The **GNOT Direct Teams Championship** to be held over 4 Thursday nights, starting the 7th May @ 7:30 at Club Willoughby. The winner books a ticket directly to the GNOT National finals in Tweed Heads.

Club Champion Qualifying Event

This Club championship event is worth double points.



GNOT Direct Qualifying

Club Willoughby
Thursday: 7:30pm
4 Sessions
7th, 14th, 21st and 28th
May

GOLD POINT EVENT

\$72 Members
\$92 Non Members

GNOT Direct ' [Web Entry](#) and [Honour Board](#)

GNOT Direct - Winners to Tweed heads	
2019	Peter Jeffery, Yumin Li, Wayne Zhu, Simon (Yixiang) Zhang, (Wei Zhang sub for Peter in Tweed Heads)

Club Willoughby, Tuesday Daytime Competitions

State Open Pairs qualifying in May



State Open Pairs Qualifying

Club Willoughby
3 Tuesday Sessions: 1.00pm
19th May
26th May
2nd June

Red Point Event
\$45 Members
\$60 Non Members

Masterpoint Promotions

From East Lindfield:

Member	HOME CLUB	Promoted to RANK at end of Feb
Burton, Judy	EL	*Local
Daridis, Marg	EL	Local
Smith, Vicki	EL	Local
McDonell, Christine	EL	Local
Boylan, Ruth	EL	Club

And from Club Willoughby:

Member	HOME CLUB	Promoted to RANK at end of Feb
Koorey, Peter	CW	State
Weber, George	CW	*Regional
Thieben, George	CW	*Regional
Pender, Christina	CW	Regional
Chey, Tien	CW	Regional
Smee, Sigrid	CW	Regional
James, Mary	CW	**Local
Willoughby, Chris	CW	**Local
Waddell, Shane	CW	**Local
Miley, Jan	CW	**Local
Zachert, Dee	CW	*Local
Perkowski, Anne	CW	*Local
Hoekstra, Margie	CW	Local
Lippey, Carol	CW	Local
Sharratt, Liz	CW	Local
Czinner, Gael	CW	Local
Reddy, Pamela	CW	Club
Clark, Helen	CW	Club
Cargill, Ann	CW	Club
Walker, Susie	CW	Club
Grant, Lyn	CW	Club
Curtis, Maureen	CW	Graduate
Taylor, Allison	CW	Graduate
Rutovitz, Simone	CW	Graduate
Goodyer, Marianne	CW	Graduate
Scahill, Libby	CW	Graduate





When to Cover the Heart!

By Pat O'Connor

We are East. Our hand is

♠ 74 ♥ K75 ♦ J83 ♣ A6432

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
Bidding Notes			
1♠	Normal, 5S opening		
2NT	Jacoby, Game force in ♠		
4♠	Minimum No shortage		

South opens 1♠, West passes and North bids 2NT, the Jacoby convention showing four card support for spades and at least an opening hand. We pass and South bids 4♠ showing a minimum 1♠ opening. All pass, partner leads the ♦K and dummy comes down.

	Dummy	Me
Lead ♦ K	♠ AQ953	♠ 74
	♥ QJ9	♥ K75
	♦ T76	♦ J83
	♣ KQ	♣ A6432

South plays the ♦2.

What is partner's likely diamond holding?

We lead the ace when we have both the ace and king in a suit, so partner does not have the ace. Partner is almost certainly leading from a four card or longer suit headed by the ♦KQ.

What card should we play to the trick?

We have the ♦J to go with partner's king and queen so we should play the ♦8, an encouraging card (we play High encourage).

Declarer holds up the ace and partner continues with the ♦Q; we play the ♦3 and declarer wins

with the ♦A. Declarer then plays the ♠K and leads a spade to dummy's ♠A. Partner follows to the first trump trick but discards a diamond on the second.

Declarer then leads the ♥Q from dummy.

Do we cover this with the ♥K?

Having learned about second hand play we know the rule here. We must cover the last of touching honours led from dummy. So, we duck the ♥Q and if declarer continues with the ♥J, we cover it with the ♥K, hoping to promote partner's ♥10.

	North	
	♠ AQ953	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ T76	
	♣ KQ	
West		East
♠ 8		♠ 74
♥ T652		♥ K75
♦ KQ94		♦ J83
♣ T875		♣ A6432
	South (D)	
	♠ KJT62	
	♥ A84	
	♦ A52	
	♣ J9	
		Full deal

Declarer was unable to avoid losing a heart, two diamonds and a club, one down. If we covered the ♥Q with the ♥K, declarer could win with the ♥A and then lead another heart finessing against partner's ♥10 and losing no heart tricks. By not covering the first honour we guaranteed a heart trick for the defence. If declarer continued with the ♥J, we would cover it and partner's ♥10 would then be the highest heart.

Post Mortem

It is a good idea to inspect dummy when the opening lead is made, looking for suits in which there are honours in dummy and your hand. Then you can plan in advance what you will do if declarer leads an honour from dummy. This way you can play without hesitation when the time comes.

From our NSBC Librarians**Title: Useful Books for Intermediate Practice and Study**

Have you ever heard of the Ten Thousand Hours Rule? According to this rule, if one wishes to become an expert at something, then be ready to practice for 10,000 hours. **Barbara Seagram** can help you direct your 10,000 hours at the Bridge table to best effect.

Amongst the plethora of Bridge authors, **Barbara Seagram** (either alone or with a co-author) stands out for producing well written and easy to read books. With over 25 titles to her name, she focusses on practical ways for players to improve their bidding, declarer play, and defensive play.



The **25 Ways series** uses 25 short four-page chapters, with large font and enough whitespace, to impart a clear and concise explanation of the subject matter – be it bidding, declarer play, or defensive play. She includes two practice hands per chapter. Each practice hand offers a one-page explanation on how to employ the subject matter. The **Quizbook series** use a similar font and whitespace layout with 50+ practice hands followed by a detailed explanation for each hand.

For example, *25 Ways to Take More Tricks As A Declarer* is complemented by *Declarer Play at Bridge – A Quizbook*. Topics include proper

finessing with attention to the safe and danger hands, crossruffing and dumping losers, creating extra entries to a hand, establishing a long suit by losing the lead early, and counting Defenders' points and distribution. The quizbook offers 54 practice hands, spread over 145 pages, with detailed explanations on how Declarer should play the hands.

If you and your partner are serious about improving your game, you can do a lot worse than both of you buying a copy of one of her books and practicing the lessons together. This author can attest that Seagram's books have been quite useful in lifting his game to the Intermediate level.

By Member:

Ray Walsh

In our club library

Barbara Seagram has a number of "**Novice**" **books** available in the library:

1. Planning the Play,
 2. Planning the Defence;
 3. Planning the Play - the next level.
- Each has a quiz book and a course book.

Intermediate Books

- 25 Ways to Take More Tricks As A Declarer
- Declarer Play at Bridge – A Quizbook
- 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know
- Bidding At Bridge: A Quizbook
- 25 Ways To Be A Better Defender
- Defensive Play at Bridge: A Quizbook

Additionally, she has written Convention specific practice books on Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Jacoby 2NT, Four-Suit Transfers, RKCB Blackwood, and Splinter bids.

All available for your loan from the NSBC library.

Barbara Seagram's books are also available at The Bridge Shop on Penshurst St, Willoughby, Amazon or other online sellers, and from her website <http://www.barbaraseagram.com/>.

4th best leads, against a NT contract

When the bidding has been uncomplicated (for example your RHO opens 1NT and responder says 3NT), and partner is on lead, you can expect their opening lead to be the 4th highest of their longest suit.

So, if partner leads a 2, you know that they have exactly a 4-card suit. Why? Because if the 2 is their 4th highest card they must have 3 cards that are higher, and they can't have any cards that are lower than the 2!

If they lead the 3 and you can't see the 2 in dummy or your hand, partner might have led from a 5-card suit, or declarer has it and partner started with 4 cards. From this you can usually work out how many cards each player holds in the suit. Very useful, but wait, there's more!

The Rule of 11 says that if we subtract the "spot" value of the card led from 11, that is how many cards are between you, dummy and declarer that are higher than the card led.

An example:

Partner leads the ♠2, dummy puts down ♠Q87 and you hold ♠T65. You can first work out that declarer has 3 spades: partner started with 4 cards, dummy has 3 and you have 3. Easy! But now you can use the Rule of 11 to work out how many spades declarer has, that are higher than the lead (the 2).

Subtract the spot value of the card led (the 2) from 11, you get 9. Subtract the cards in dummy that are higher than the 2 (all 3), you get 6. Subtract **your** cards that are higher than the 2 (all 3), you get 3. In fact, declarer had A43.

Here was the layout:

Partner	Dummy	You	Declarer
KJ92	Q87	T65	A43

A different example:

Partner leads the ♠5 and dummy puts down ♠QJ2. You hold ♠A83. You can see the ♠2 and the ♠3, but not the ♠4, so partner has 4 or 5 spades.

The formula says declarer has $11 - 5 - 2 - 2 = 2$ cards higher than the 5.

Here was the layout:

Partner	Dummy	You	Declarer
T7654	QJ2	A83	K9

Why does this work and how is it helpful?
That's for another month!

Attitude Signals

An **attitude signal** is the most common signal in bridge.

- Using standard discards, a high spot card encourages the lead of a suit, whereas a low spot card discourages.
- Using reverse signals, a low card is encouraging.

These articles will focus on the use of **standard signals**. Attitude signals are used when following suit to partner's lead, or when making the first discard in a suit. Of the three types of defensive signals, attitude signals have the highest priority:

1. Attitude
2. Count
3. Suit-preference

By default, a signal is for attitude unless the situation clearly warrants a count signal or suit-preference signal.

Example: Following Suit

Against South's 5♣ contract, partner leads the ♦A:

North	You
♠ AK76	♠ JT98
♥ Q43	♥ 8752
♦ 963	♦ Q82
♣ A32	♣ 64
Lead ♦A	

Which card do you follow suit with?

Assuming that partner is leading from ♦AK, the correct card is the ♦8. Since you hold the ♦Q, you want to give partner an attitude signal indicating that it's safe to continue leading diamonds. The full deal:

The full Deal	North	East
West	♠ AK76	♠ JT98
♠ 432	♥ Q43	♥ 8752
♥ J96	♦ 963	♦ Q82
♦ AK54	♣ A32	♣ 64
♣ 875	South	
	♠ Q5	
	♥ AKT	
	♦ JT7	
	♣ KQJT9	

The defence must take its first three tricks in diamonds to defeat the contract. If you play the ♦2 at trick one instead, partner would read this as discouraging. He may well cash his two top diamonds before switching suits, thereby enabling declarer to make his contract.

Example: Discarding

This is an example of discarding to show attitude in another suit. Against South's 3NT contract, partner leads the ♦Q:

North	You
♠ K5	♠ AQJ2
♥ Q43	♥ 8752
♦ 963	♦ 872
♣ KQJT9	♣ 64
Lead ♦Q	

You follow suit with the ♦2 (discouraging) and declarer wins the ♦A. Declarer now leads a club to dummy's ♣K, continues with the ♣Q, and then the ♣J. What do you discard?

The objective is to advertise your spade strength to partner. Discarding a diamond would discourage diamonds, but wouldn't tell partner anything about your major suits. Discarding the ♠2 would discourage spades due to the diminutive size of the card.

The only suit that's left is hearts. Discarding the ♥2 is an attitude signal that discourages partner from switching to hearts if he gains the lead. Having seen your ♦2 at trick one, partner should know that you're not interested in diamonds either, and that a spade switch is implied.

The full Deal	North	East
West	♠ K5	♠ AQJ2
♠ T94	♥ Q43	♥ 8752
♥ J96	♦ 963	♦ 872
♦ QJT5	♣ KQJT9	♣ 64
♣ A87	South	
	♠ 8763	
	♥ AKT	
	♦ AK4	
	♣ 532	

Once partner wins the ♣A, he can switch to the ♠T to defeat the contract.



Mark



Ian

How Ian and I won the Margaret Smale Trophy

By Mark Guthrie

I didn't enquire as to how many others had turned it down before I became the top pick, but I suspect quite a few since I was only given 25 minutes to knock this article out.

One of the wonderful things about bridge is the incredible number of ways there are to organise and score bridge events. You can go all the way from individuals (my partner thinks this is the only form of bridge there is), through pairs and up to teams. Once or twice a year you get to play as an entire club so the people who usually make your session of bridge a misery through playing for the 3-3 trump break rather than taking a losing finesse, playing in 3NT for a top board because they couldn't be bothered with that Stayman thing and generally being better players than you, suddenly become your extended teammates for the day. I don't know half of these people but as we pushed each other out of the way to get to the hand records and fought over the last piece of fruit cake you could feel a connection that you rarely get in bridge. Or maybe those people were from Trumps and I wasted my love on actual strangers.

The Margaret Smale Metro North Interclub Teams, to give it its full name, this year consisted of 4 graded divisions, and North Shore had 8 teams participating in every grade. There was even an East Lindfield Team. It is an excellent event which is really well organised by David Farmer. This year it was held at Peninsula Bridge Club, David's home club which if you haven't been is a really nice venue with a big bright room and great catering.

Unfortunately, their club building has a little crack in the wall and the council has condemned it, so they need to find somewhere else to move to this year. I told David that we might be moving,

and he could use Club Willoughby if it wasn't raining but he didn't seem too keen.

Similar points are awarded in each division (top 3 finishers score points) and this year North Shore had a full complement of teams. We took out all three places in the D Division, which is an excellent achievement, and won the A Division, but it all came down to what happened in the B Division (actually I don't think it made any difference, but let's pretend it did). As North Shore 2, consisted of me, Ian MacLaren and a couple of randoms. We had a very strange run through the event often returning to the table to score up with both sides apologising for the terrible round we had only to find that somehow our mistakes were cancelling out and we had won.



The Margaret Smale Trophy

So, much later, with lunch a distant memory and the wine not yet poured, we headed into the last round. It is a great day's bridge at a lovely location with free food and they give you wine at the end. Plus, our club pays for it so it's free. It doesn't get much better really, well only if you win and the pressure was on going into the last round. With the other divisions quite likely already sorted out (who knows?), the whole world was focused on what was happening in **Division B** and the reputation of the club, possibly even the whole country, rested on Ian and I.

We had a small lead, so everything depended on me not completely stuffing it up over the next 8 boards, and frankly, history wasn't favouring us in that regard. Apparently, you have to put in hand records or it's not a bridge article, plus they take up a chunk of space. So here it is, I was East on the last board with everything to play for:

EW - Precision Bidding			
West	North	East (D)	South
			Pass
1♣	2♥	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	All Pass		
Precision - Bidding Notes			
1♣	16+ any shape		
2♥	weak Jump - "bloody annoying!"		
2NT	8+hcp - unknown 5 card suit		
3♣	Natural 5+ spades		
4♦	Keycard (♦)		
4NT	2 keycards, but No Q♦		
6♣	55 minors, Pass or Correct		

Board 31 Dealer S		North		East	
West		North		East	
♠ AKQ964		♠ JT4		♠ -	
♥ -		♥ QT7642		♥ A5	
♦ AJ2		♦ Q3		♦ KT854	
♣ QT82		♣ 94		♣ AJ7653	
		South (D)			
		♠ 8753			
		♥ KJ983			
		♦ 976			
		♣ K			
		Inter-Club Teams			

Pass or correct at the 6 level, maybe someone will write this hand up in an article?

Unfortunately, I took a dim view of the finesses in the minors. As they say, 50% of finesses work, 100% of my opponents and none of mine. I chickened out and **passed 4NT** so we didn't really get to 6♣. The good thing about playing bridge with your wife is that you can have a reasoned, quiet discussion about the hands all the way home in the car and it turns out that she thought 4NT was keycard in spades and I couldn't pass it. It's a tough game this one.

However, the drama wasn't over on this hand. Oh no! With only one stopper in hearts how would it go on the obvious heart lead? Maybe a real bridge player can tell you. I could play two top diamonds and see the queen drop, then cash 3 top spades and see the Jack and ten come down. But what if neither event happens? No, I had avoided the slam because of the minor suit finesses, now I needed to know if they worked. I won the heart lead, crossed to dummy with the A♦ and ran the Q♣. I was right! The K♣ was offside. Only 12 tricks for +490.

But hang on, the defence can now cash 5 heart tricks, holding me to 7 tricks for -150 when 7 of just about anything is cold. How can this be? Did they not lead a heart at trick one?

The poor defenders had looked at the early bidding then got a bit bored and looked at dummy with the clubs on the left and naturally assumed we were in a minor suit slam. When I didn't ruff the heart lead, what was the point putting up a high card in third seat? So, the 3♥ was followed by the 2♥ and my 5♥ held the first trick. We all sat there for a few minutes waiting for someone else to lead to trick two before my ever-patient partner pointed out I had won the trick. And people say there is no point ducking when the opponents have an 11-card fit, nonsense. Despite my best efforts we only lost 10 imps on that board and 5 overall that match which was just enough for Ian and I to claim the Margaret Smale Trophy!

Oh, and these people helped too:

How our NSBC Teams performed?		Pts
A Grade	Helen Lowry & Julianne Rocks, Mischa Solar & Frances Lyons	4
B Grade	Ian MacLaren & Elaine Dignan, Mark & Julie Guthrie	4
B Grade	Maria Remedios & Anne Symons, Lois Chambers & Pamela Potter	0
C Grade	Paulina Martin & Ming Li, Wenjie Liu & Ming Xie	5
C Grade	Diana Neale & Peter Whitford, John & Alison Pick	0
D Grade	Jann Cathels & Narelle Clark, Susan Feeney & Kathryn Stewart	4
D Grade	Robyn Rogers & Michael Bishop, Sarah Seldon & Denzil Seldon	3
D Grade	Jo Ampherlaw & Brian Emanuel, Jamileh Mirzadeh & Mary Carter	2
D Grade	Pat McVean & Anne O'Donnell, Alex Conway & Susie Junankar	0

In all seriousness, the work was really done for us in Division D with an excellent performance by our teams. The future of the club and bridge everywhere is in our newer players and it is great to see that our excellent teaching programs are reaping such great rewards. Get your names down early for the **Pair's version** of the same event later in the year, (**Sunday 27th Sep**) it should be a cracker!



The ABF Daily Column has provided these articles for the last 12 months. It has now been discontinued. The last column was published on Feb 29.

A previous example follows:



Safety Play By BARRY RIGAL

West		North (D)	East	
♠ AKQ7		♠ J95	♠ 643	
♥ 2		♥ AJ53	♥ T876	
♦ JT973		♦ 86	♦ 52	
♣ 532		♣ 8764	♣ QJT9	
		South		
		♠ T82	Full deal	
		♥ KQ94		
		♦ AKQ4		
		♣ AK		

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	
Bidding Notes			
2NT	20-21 Bal		
3♣	Simple Stayman		
3♥	4 hearts		
4♥	To play		

West: Opening lead: ♠K

In third seat South has a normal opening bid of 2NT, and should not worry about the unguarded spade suit. 50 years ago, players worried about open suits when opening at no-trump. I would try to avoid opening a strong no-trump with a five-card major and a small doubleton, with either 15

points (I might downgrade) or 17 points, where I would upgrade.

But there is no sensible way to bid hands that fall into the 2NT opening range except to bite the bullet. North has the right hand because of his small doubleton to use Stayman, and when he finds the heart fit, he signs off in game.

Although 3NT would have played fine today, North's decision makes perfect sense.

West takes his three spade winners, then shifts passively to the ♦J. South wins this in his hand and counts nine top tricks; four hearts, three diamonds, and two club tricks. If trumps split, life is easy, but there is no harm in taking precautions. He carefully takes the ♥A and ♥K (one honour from each hand is essential) but calls a halt to drawing trumps when he finds the bad break.

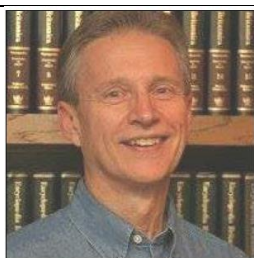
Declarer has nine top winners and needs to create one more winner by ruffing a loser in hand or in dummy. Which way should he go? Since ruffing clubs is not convenient, the solution is simply to play a second diamond winner, then to ruff the diamond four with the high ♥J.

East can't overruff, and now declarer can draw trumps with the aid of the finesse of the ♥Q-♥9 of hearts, after which his hand is high and 10 tricks are made.

Editor:

Alternate bidding using Puppet Stayman

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North (D)	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
Bidding Notes			
2NT	20-21 Bal (may have 5 card M)		
3♣	Puppet Stayman		
3♦	1 or 2 - 4 Card Majors		
3♣	I have 4 hearts		
4♥	To play		



Brent Manley

Look before you leap Brent Manley

Brett Manley was a guest co-editor of the Gold Coast daily bulletin. IPBA executive member and WBF bulletin editor.

DLR: SOUTH	North
VUL: BOTH	♠ A 9 4
	♥ J 7 5
	♦ J 9 3 2
	♣ J 8 4
	South
	♠ Q J 7
	♥ A K Q 6
	♦ A Q 10 8
	♣ Q 9

In a Teams match, you South open 2NT (20-21 hcp, Bal). Partner checks for a 5 card Major using Puppet Stayman, then signs off in a 3NT game.

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All pass	
Bidding Notes			
2NT	20-21 (may have 5 Major)		
3♣	Puppet stayman		
3♦	Have 1 or 2, 4card Majors		
3NT	Too Play ..		

West leads a fourth-best ♠2. What is your plan for taking nine tricks?

The first declarer played low from dummy without apparent thought. East won the ♠K trick and took some time before continuing. South had advertised at least 20 HCP and dummy had 7. Considering that he had 10 HCP himself, East saw the futility of continuing with spades. The defence might be able to take one more ♠ trick if partner had the queen and either the jack or the 10, but that would not defeat the contract. East decided that it must be a better chance to

play West for three or four clubs and a red-suit king or the club queen. So, after first cashing the ♣K, East continued with a low ♣5.

Declarer won the trick with the ♣Q, then quickly crossed to dummy in hearts to run the ♦J. West took this with the ♦K and continued by returning a club. East won the 3rd club trick with the ♣A and a club to West's ♣10 **defeating the 3NT contract.**

Solution

At the other table, declarer did not immediately rush play to trick one. He wanted to **plan the play first.**

Declarer counted eight tricks: the ♠A, four hearts and three diamonds. A ninth would come from either of the black suits, but declarer saw the danger in playing low at trick one. If East had the ♠K, he could shift to a club at trick two, something declarer would not welcome.

Accordingly, declarer called for the ♠A at trick one and ran the ♦J at trick two. West won with the ♦K and declarer claimed the contract: the defenders could take a spade and two clubs but that was all. South would make the ♠A + seven tricks in the red suits and a ninth trick in a black suit.

The full deal:

DLR: SOUTH	North
VUL: N-S	♠ A 9 4
	♥ J 7 5
	♦ J 9 3 2
	♣ J 8 4
West	East
♠ 10 8 6 2	♠ K 5 3
♥ 9 3	♥ 10 8 4 2
♦ K 6 4	♦ 7 5
♣ 10 7 3 2	♣ A K 6 5
South	
♠ Q J 7	
♥ A K Q 6	
♦ A Q 10 8	
♣ Q 9	

Solution: Challenge Hand 1

North	
West	East
♠ 6	♠ 2
♥ AQJ8	♥ KT7543
♦ AKQ4	♦ 8762
♣ AT64	♣ 32

Matchpoints, South dealer, EW vulnerable.
South passes but North will overcall 4♠.
Suggest your actions to the best EW spot.

This hand was played on Monday 11th
November at Club Willoughby.

The full hand:

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

Suggested bidding:

System Notes: The key to this hand is EW having a bidding agreement over **4-level pre-empts**. Most competitive players do have agreements for what the key bidding options mean:

X Penalty of 4♠,
But takeout if preempt was 4♣, 4♦, 4♥
4NT Support for at least 2 other suits, asking partner to please bid something
New suit big 1-suiter

Here, the preempt is 4♠, so **X** is for penalty. However, West has support for all suits, a strong 20 HCPs and 4441 hand, and EW are likely to get a poor match point result in 4♠**X**. Partner must have a fitting long suit, so 4NT (takeout) is the **standout bid!**

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East	South (D)
			Pass
1♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
X or 4NT	Pass	5♦ or 5♥	5♠
X or 6♥	All Pass		
Bidding Notes			
1♦	Normal, not strong enough for 2♣		
4♠	Standard pre-empt as partner has passed		
Pass or X or 4NT	Pass - too timid!		
	X is penalty, it should go off		
	4NT - Bid one of the suits partner		
5♦ or 5♥	You opened diamonds		
	It's MPs, and you do have longer hearts		
5♠	Extending the vulnerable preempt		
X or 6♥	X for penalty, don't want to be in 6		
	6♥ is a gambling overbid		

Over the 4NT (takeout bid), East chooses between 5♦ (partner opened 1♦) or 5♥. I would find the 5♥ bid at the table as partner must have 2+ hearts for their 4NT bid. South may then extend the preempt to 5♠, even though Vulnerable! East will now most likely **X** for penalty or chance an overbid to 6♦/♥.

Computer predictions

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
North	-	-	-	3	-
South	-	-	-	3	-
East	1	5	5	-	-
West	1	5	5	-	-

Here, the computer who can see all 4 hands, suggests

- 9 Tricks are available in ♠ for NS,
- 11 Tricks are available for EW in either red suit ♦/♥

In the open section, most EWs get to the 5-level and score well: 5♦ (50%), 5♥ (74%) or 5♠**X** (95%)

Actual results in Open field

CW Mon 10.00am Dup - Open

B15 CW Open 11/Nov					EW Matchpoints		
Contract/Tricks/Lead					Score	MP	%
3♣	N	9	8♦	1	-140	0	0%
6♥	W	11	K♠	1	-50	2	5%
4♣	N	9	5♥	1	100	4	10%
4♣X	N	9	5♥	5x	200	12	29%
5♣X	N	10	3♣	1	200	12	29%
5♣	N	9	3♣	1	200	12	29%
5♦	E	11	4♣	2x	400	21	50%
5♥	E	11	4♣	8x	450	31	74%
5♣X	N	9	6♥	1	500	40	95%
6♥	E	12	J♠	1	980	42	100%
Played 22 Tables					Max MP = 21x2 = 42 = 100%		

Link to full open results in [Pianola](#)

Play of the hand in 5♥ by East

Best lead by South?

♠4, count card (♠4 - 4th best or 3 to ♠J honour).

Planning by East in 5♥ on ♠4 lead

Looking good.

Winners: 6♥+3♦+1♣=10 tricks

Top losers ♠A + deep club trick + deep d trick
if the diamonds don't break, then will likely go off.

Card by Card					5♥ by East	EW
T1 S	♠4	♠6	♠A	♠2	4th highest, or maybe Jxx?	0-1
North	East has 2+ clubs? Club switch will ID our club tricks					
T2 N	♣Q	♣2	♣8	♣A	♣Q as ♣J9 are sitting over ♠T	1-1
T3 W	♥A	♥2	♥3	♥6	Draw trumps	2-1
T4 W	♥Q	♠3	♥4	♥9	Trumps out	3-1
T5 W	♦A	♦3	♦2	♦5	Test diamonds	4-1
T6 N	♦K	♦J	♦6	♦9	Diamonds break 3/2	5-1
East	I can claim, 6♥+4♦+1♠=11, just lose 1 more club					11-2
5♥ by East making 11 tricks for 450 (EW 95%, NS=5%)						

Solution: Challenge Hand 2

West

NV

East

D NV

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ 9 3
♦ K 4
♣ A Q J 5 3

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ A 10 8 4
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ K

All non Vul, Dealer: East
Can you bid your cards to the best spot?

Solution:

January 04 CW Sat 1:00 pm Dup - Open

This hand was played at CW on Saturday 4 Jan over 21 Tables.

The Full Hand on Board 14

North

NV

♠ K 8
♥ J 7 6 2
♦ J 10 5 3
♣ 10 8 7

West

NV

East

D NV

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ 9 3
♦ K 4
♣ A Q J 5 3

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ A 10 8 4
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ K

South

NV

♠ 10 5 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ 7 6 2
♣ 9 6 4 2

HCPs
5
16 14
5



The suggested bidding solution

Standard or 2/1 Bidding			
West	North	East (D)	South
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠, 6♠, 6NT	All Pass		
Bidding Notes			
1♦	Normal Opening		
1♠	Normal - Forcing 4+♠		
2♠	Min 4♠, maybe 3 with shortage		
3♣	Long suit trial, asking for ♣ help		
4♠	4♠ & ♣ help (♠K)		
4NT	Keycard (♠)		
5♥	2 keycards, but No Q♠		
5♠	To play - I have ♥ weakness		
6♠	MP, To play - Hope ♥ stopper A or Kx		
6NT	Very Poor, Weak ♥ & missing a Keycard		

After partner supports Spades, West uses a long suit trial 3♣ (forcing to 3♠), to consider if trying for a slam. East bids 4♠, with an extra spade and supporting feature in Clubs (♠K)

Keycard identifies 2 keycards (I have the Q). Now a choice of bids missing a keycard:

- 5S pessimistic, poor H
- 6S Optimistic (my choice)
- 6NT Very poor when missing a keycard

The actual results:

B14 CW 4/Jan					EW Matchpoints		
Contract/Tricks/Lead					Freque	Score	MP %
6♠	W	11	6♥	1x		-50	0 0%
2♠	W	11	3♥	1x		200	2 5%
3NT	W	10	3♥	2x		430	5 13%
4♠	W	11	6♥	2x		450	9 23%
3NT	E	11	K♥	4x		460	15 38%
4/5♠	W	12	5♥	5x		480	24 60%
3NT	E	12	9♠	1x		490	30 75%
6♠	W	12	6♥	4x		980	35 88%
6NT	W	12	J♦	1x		990	40 100%
Played 21 Tables					Max MP = 20x2 = 40 = 100%		

The full results in link to [Pianola](#)

Actual scores

- 5 pairs in 6♠ (one went down! and scored a bottom). But 6♠ can be made with careful play, and a shared Top (88%) was missed.
- 480 for 80% match points
- 450 for only 23% match points

- Staying low in 3NT also scored very well
- 6NT (top) but this cannot be made on a heart lead!

Computer predicted results:

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
North	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	-	-
East	6	5	4	6	5
West	6	5	4	6	5

Play of the hand in 6♠ by East

Best lead by South?

I would lead an aggressive ♥K, as I have no other tricks and it gives my partner the best chance to defeat the contract.

Planning by East in 6♠ on the ♥K lead

The contract looks ok

Winners: 5♠+3♦+1♥+3 or 4♠ = 12

Losers: The ♥K lead is a worry if N has ♠K

Strategy:

- Win ♥A
- Quickly cash 3 diamond tricks, Pitching ♥9 on third ♦ winner, (Note if 3rd Diamond is ruffed then the ♠K must be onside)
- Then Finesse ♠K

Leader	Card by Card				6♠ by East	Cnt
T1 S	♥K	♥3	♥6	♥A	Win ♥A, need to drop ♥9 before taking the ♠ Finesse	1-0
T2 E	♦9	♦2	♦K	♦5	Try & throw ♥9 on 3rd ♦	2-0
T3 W	♦4	♦3	♦A	♦6	Back to ♦ honours	3-0
T4 E	♦Q	♦7	♥9	♦T	Throw ♥9 loser on 3rd diamond winner	4-0
T5 E	♠4	♠5	♠Q	♠K	Missing ♠T, so small towards the ♠Q	4-1
T6 N	♥2	♥T	♥Q	♠3	North tries to Tap west with ♥2	5-1
T6 W	♠3	♠7	♠K	♠4	Unblock ♠ suit	6-1
T7 E	♠J	♠2	♠3	♠8	Cash ♠, planning to be in Dummy	7-1
T8 E	♠7	♠T	♠A	♦J	Have drawn Trumps - Clubs cashed	8-1
East	1 can Claim 12 tricks 8 already Plus 3 club tricks & last Tru					12-1
EW = +980 scores near top 88% of EW matchpoints (NS=12%)						

NSBC Calendar:

CW - Tournament Events (APR-JUN)				
Thursday Championship nights @ 7:30pm				
Date		Event Details	Status	
2/Apr	1/3	Club Mixed Teams—	Cancelled	
9/Apr		Closed for Easter		
16/Apr	2/3	Club Mixed Teams—		
23/Apr	3/3			
30/Apr		Closed for ABF: ANOT (Adelaide)- Cancelled event		
7/May	1/4	GNOT - Direct (Tweed Heads Qualifier)	All Calendar events are in doubt	
14/May	2/4			
21/May	3/4			
28/May	4/4			
4/Jun		Closed ABF Melbourne VCC (no night Session)		
11/Jun	1/4	Morgans Swiss Pairs Championship		
18/Jun	2/4			
25/Jun		Closed - Festival Swiss pairs (no night		
2/Jul	3/4	Morgans Swiss Pairs Championship		
9/Jul	4/4			

CW - Daytime Special Events (APR-JUN)				
Date		Event Details	Status	
13/Apr		EASTER – Monday Red points 1:00pm	Cancelled	
27/Apr		ANZAC Hol – Monday Red points 1:00pm	Cancelled	
19/May	1/3	CW Daytime - State Open Pairs Qual	All Calendar events are in doubt	
26/May	2/3			
2/Jun	3/3			
Thursday 25/Jun 10am		NSBC Festival - Thursday Congress SWISS Pairs		
Friday 26/Jun 10am		NSBC Festival - Friday Congress SWISS Teams		
Saturday 27/Jun 10am		NSBC Festival - Saturday Congress SWISS Pairs		
Sunday 28/Jun 10am		NSBC Festival - Sunday Congress "TBIB" SWISS		
22-28 June		Festival Red Point Sessions		

EL - Special Events (APR-JUN)			
10/Apr	CW Closed Good Friday Cancelled		
13/Apr	Easter Monday red points 9:30 & 1:00 Cancelled		
7/Apr	1/3	EL Evening - GNOT Qual (7:30)	Cancelled
14/Apr	2/3		
21/Apr	3/3		
27/Apr	ANZAC Hol - Monday red points 9:30 & 1:00		Cancelled
5-May	1/3	EL Evening - Swiss Pairs Championship	All Calendar events are in doubt
12-May	2/3		
19-May	3/3		
9-Jun	1/3	EL Evening - Butler Pairs Championship	
16-Jun	2/3		
23-Jun	3/3		
9-Jun	1/3	EL Daytime - State Open Pairs (Qual)	
16-Jun	2/3		
23-Jun	3/3		
Saturday 20/Jun 10am	1/3	NSBC Festival - "Two Men & a Truck" Restricted & Novice Swiss Teams	
	2/3		
	3/3		
Sunday 21/June 10am	1/3	NSBC Festival - "Two Men & a Truck" Restricted & Novice Swiss Pairs	
	2/3		
	3/3		
22-28 June		Festival Red Point Sessions	

ABF News and Coming Events

Link to [ABF calendar](#)

Upcoming NSW Club events

Link to [NSWBA](#) website

Congresses/Events cancelled due to COVID-19 (21/Mar)

- State Novice and Restricted Pairs, March 21-22
- Toronto Directors Course, March 22
- Tasmania Festival of Bridge, March 26-29
- Kiama Novice Swiss Pairs, March 29
- Inverell Delvyn Pairs, April 4-5
- Central Coast Super Congress, April 4-5
- Sapphire Coast Congress, April 4-5
- APBF Congress, April 15-22
- Taree Teams, April 18-19
- Peninsula Teams, April 19
- NSW State Individual, April 26
- Autumn Nationals, April 30 - May 4
- Barrier Reef Congress, May 1-4
- Tilligerry Swiss Pairs, May 3
- Coffs Harbour Teams, May 16-17
- Maitland Teams, May 17
- NSWBA SITS Swiss Pairs, May 17
- NSWBA Autumn Swiss Pairs, May 24
- NSWBA Teams of Three, May 31
- The Killara Golf Club Pairs, July 12



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