

ANC Bulletin – Canberra 2001

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Congress events prove popular

After a slow start, the side events are doing well, with big fields for the Ord Minnett (JP Morgan) Teams and the Consolation Butler.

Meanwhile, it's early days in Stage 3, with no clear leaders.

Tuning in to Channel 11

Thankfully, we missed Stage 3 by a fair margin so I took the chance to snooze and watch a bit of live bridge-cam from our room at the Chifley.

It's early days for this technology and the presentation has a few problems. The images are bit fuzzy (due to data loss through many metres of cable) but you can still make out the bids and the cards.

Before each hand, we get a full size hand diagram. It's best to try to remember the cards, because the thumbnail displayed during the live streaming is virtually illegible.

However, I was provided with a hand record which helped a lot.

I watched Bob Richman & George Gaspar play Warren Lazer and Pauline Gumby:

Stage 3, Round 2, Bd 18

E/NS ♠ K Q 9 6 4 2
♥ K 10
♦ Q 9
♣ K 5 2

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

♠ A J 10 7
♥ 8 3 2
♦ 5 3 2
♣ Q 10 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gumby	Richman	Lazer	Gaspar
		1♥	No
1NT	2♠	4♥	End

Gaspar thought for a bit over 4♥ then passed and led ♠A-another.

Lazer ruffed and naturally enough played a low trump to dummy's jack and North's king. What did Bobby return?

If he ploughs away in spades, declarer ruffs, draws trumps and ducks a club. Then he'd be favourite to pick the ending. (Datum in the open was -360 NS)

But Bobby did something very mean. He returned the curse, the ♦9!

Lazer naturally hopped the ♦K and headed for the endgame. This had become a hand of poker. Was it from Q-9 or 9-x? Eventually Warren guessed wrong, hooking into the ♦Q for -100 and 10 IMPs out.

Stage 3, Round 2, Bd 23

S/Both ♠ 10 9
♥ Q 10 8 4
♦ A K 6 4 3
♣ J 3

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

♠ A K J 8 7 6 4 2
♥ —
♦ Q J 10
♣ 10 6

How do you score 1390? Normally by making an overtrick in six of a minor.

On this hand, Gumby doubled Gaspar's 4♠ opening, leading the ♥A when partner passed. Three doubled overtricks meant -1390, a score repeated three times in the Open, where datum was +1150 NS.

That was 6 IMPs out while cashing the shorter AK (usually right) would actually have gained IMPs.

In Match 5, Gaspar - Richman played the leaders, Chua - Hinge and smashed them. This hand helped:

Stage 3, Round 5, Bd 9

N/EW ♠ A 9 8 7 5 4 2
♥ 9 7 5
♦ —
♣ A 10 6

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

♠ Q J
♥ J 8 4
♦ A Q 9 8 6 4
♣ 9 8

After the ♠Q to the ace, North has to be careful to shoot 5♥. On the normal looking ♠2 return, declarer ruffs, draws trumps, then leads the ♣K-Q. Even if North ducks, his ♣A gets used as a stepping stone to the high ♠10 to pitch the singleton diamond for a bizarre -850.

Consolation Controversy

Anthony Hutton

The rules of the Consolation Butler require the contestants to have played in Stage 1 or 2 of one of the major Butler events, with the same partner.

Why, may we ask, is this partnership rule being enforced, when in previous years it was virtually ignored? This year at least seven pairs have been ruled ineligible, because they had played in Stage 1 with partners who were not able to

ABF events

Exact times to be confirmed!

Stage 3 (& Seniors' B)

Wed 11am, 1.30, 7.30
Thur 11am, 1.30, 7.30
Fri 11am, 1.30

Restricted Butler

Wed - Fri 1.30

Butler Presentation

Fri at 6pm in the Menzies Room.
Also interstate welcome.

Pairs (all 5 categories)

Sat 21st 1.30 & 7.30

ANC teams (4 categories)

Sun - Fri 10.30, 2.30, 8pm

Victory Dinner – Fri at 7pm

at Great Hall, Uni House, ANU

play in the Consolation. Other groups wanted to swap line-ups to prepare for next week's teams and were not permitted to do so.

Players from interstate make travel arrangements hoping to make Stage 3. There ought to be suitable events available for players marooned in a foreign state for three days. John Pettitt (who has played every NOT) left yesterday because there wasn't enough bridge to hold him here. He was not all that concerned but the ABF has missed some revenue.

Who makes these rules?

How many players have to be disadvantaged before we can have them changed?

Who gains from these rules?

Certainly not the players, who feel aggrieved that they are not catered for. Certainly not the States, who may find players reluctant to play in this event in future years.

We also received a letter from Peter Kahler on this subject, which we may publish tomorrow. I'm told the rule exists to preserve the Gold Point status of the Consolation. Maybe just make it red points in future? - Ed.

Never give up

Phil Gue

This hand shows that when defending you should never give up. Never assume that the hand looks as easy for the declarer.

	Fordham		
N/NS	♠ 6 4 2		
	♥ A 4 3		
	♦ 9		
	♣ Q 8 6 5 4 2		
Neill		Roberts	
♠ AKQ		♠ 10 9 8 7 3	
♥ KQ9		♥ J	
♦ AKJ10 6 2		♦ Q 8 7	
♣ 3		♣ J 10 9 7	
	Prescott		
	♠ J 5		
	♥ 10 8 7 6 5 2		
	♦ 5 4 3		
	♣ AK		

After West showed a game-force, and East showed a 5-card spade suit and became declarer in 4♠. Prescott led the ♣A from South. Looking at the West cards as

dummy, there seemed little hope of getting four tricks for the defence but Mike persevered with the ♣K and dummy ruffed. Next declarer tried a low heart and North rose with the ace and played the ♣Q, forcing dummy to ruff with another top spade as South threw a diamond.

The last trump was cashed from dummy and declarer had to decide how to get back to hand to draw the remaining trumps without having his club ruffed by South. Fearing that North might hold the ♠J and be able to give South a club ruff, he chose to cash dummy's two hearts, throwing the ♣J and a diamond. Now a diamond to his queen allowed him to play a spade, taken by South's jack.

Unfortunately for declarer South still had a diamond to lead which North trumped with his last trump to beat a seemingly unbeatable contract. Good, positive defending beat an almost impregnable contract. Can you see how declarer could have prevailed?

My popular Clare Country Club weekend is on September 14th to 16th. Numbers are limited and it is advisable to book early. Phone the Adelaide Bridge Centre on 8379 2044 for details. - Phil.

Stage 3 - after 5 of 13 rnds

The top 6 of 14 get playoff points

Open

1st	Neill & Roberts	114
2nd	Marston & Thompson	111
3rd	Gaspar & Richman	110.7
4th	Del'Monte & Hans	105.7
5th	Seres & Nagy	101
6th	Hinge & Chua	100.2

Women's

1st	Cummings & Feitelson	121.7
2nd	Beale & Smart	119.7
3rd	Booth & Shiels	112
4th	Kalmin & Urbach	106.2
5th	Robb & Bashar	105.7
6th	Folkard & Kaplan	104.7

Seniors'

1st	Ali & Riszko	118
2nd	Westwood & Januszke	115.7
3rd	Rothfield & Rothfield	113.2
4th	Ramshaw & Bourke	109.7
5th	Thorp & Skinner	105.2
6th	Klofa & Collins	100.5

Stage 3 datums

Bd	Open 1	Women 1	Seniors 1
1	500	460	580
2	-70	50	40
3	-610	-670	-790
4	-320	-40	-520
5	340	250	220
6	570	470	460
7	-1570	-1460	-1590
8	-420	-420	-330
9	-90	-120	-70
10	-640	-780	-710
11	-10	270	140
12	-410	-380	-330
13	-390	-460	-360
14	460	450	450
Bd	Open 2	Women 2	Seniors 2
15	-150	-180	-210
16	-100	-30	-80
17	-420	-420	-430
18	-360	-190	-180
19	-20	80	20
20	-230	-260	-160
21	-140	-310	-110
22	-40	-240	-110
23	1150	900	1110
24	20	20	-140
25	-80	-110	-20
26	180	40	190
27	30	120	70
28	40	100	380
Bd	Open 3	Women 3	Seniors 3
1	-120	-200	-190
2	-80	-80	210
3	220	350	310
4	240	240	260
5	-120	-140	-50
6	450	430	430
7	-740	-660	-550
8	40	-50	0
9	0	-70	-40
10	-100	-30	60
11	-200	-120	-190
12	-110	-60	-110
13	-130	-120	-100
14	-80	40	50
Bd	Open 4	Women 4	Seniors 4
15	80	100	100
16	-30	-150	-160
17	160	150	260
18	-260	-150	-70
19	310	-20	140
20	-640	-660	-660
21	-110	-50	-240
22	-40	80	50
23	-100	-120	60
24	10	20	10
25	220	270	180
26	-550	-420	-620
27	-90	100	210
28	-140	-120	-130
Bd	Open 5	Women 5	Seniors 5
1	80	150	30
2	-330	-110	-40
3	420	440	430
4	-120	-30	20
5	100	0	90
6	-120	-300	-110
7	310	370	440
8	-30	-140	-110
9	0	0	110
10	40	50	-170
11	390	330	150
12	-460	-120	-290
13	-120	-120	-160
14	760	560	920