



Final straight

With three rounds to go, the same six are out front in the Open Butler, jockeying for positions.

Cummings and Feitelson are maintaining their lead in the Women's from Beale & Smart. Defenders Lusk and Tully look to have left their run too late.

Ramshaw and Bourke have hit the lead in the Seniors' from the Rothfields. Jessel still thinks he might have taken the plunge to Seniors' a bit too soon, a view shared by Bobby.

The Butler Presentation and Interstate draw is held tonight at 6pm. See page 2 for details.

States do battle from tomorrow

The five one day pairs event start tomorrow afternoon, with the Teams events commencing on Sunday. There will be a Captain's meeting on Sunday morning at 9.30 (or is it 9am?)

You can ring the Chifley on Northbourne on **6249 1411**.

Now for some hands:

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

First, a Courtney / Mollo special:

Stage 3, Match 4, Bd 23

S/Both ♠ 9 7 4

♥ 8 4

♦ J 10 8 4

♣ K Q 6 2

♠ Q 8 6

♥ A K Q 3 2

♦ Q

♣ J 9 4 3

♠ 5 2

♥ 10 6 5

♦ A K 6 3

♣ 10 8 7 5

♠ A K J 10 3

♥ J 9 7

♦ 9 7 5 2

♣ A

Kieran Dyke played the hopeless 3♠ on the best defence of three top hearts. One thought is to unblock the ♣A, hoping to get to dummy with the ♠9.

Kieran instead tried the squeeze without an entry. He ran the ♠9, won the trump return and cashed all the trumps. East was convinced that declarer held ♣A-x, in which case he had to keep all his clubs. So he pitched three diamonds on the trumps as dummy also pitched diamonds. This would have been right if partner had started with ♦Q-x.

As it was, declarer felled the ♦A-Q in one swoop and won the last four tricks in hand with the ♣A and three diamonds!

Should Ish have gone down here:

Stage 3, Match 7, Bd 7

S/NS ♠ A Q 2

♥ A K Q J 10

♦ Q 10

♣ 10 6 5

♠ 10 9 5 4

♥ 9 7 5 3 2

♦ 6 4

♣ 7 4

♠ K J 6 3

♥ 8 6 4

♦ 7 5 3 2

♣ K 8

♠ 8 7

♥ —

♦ A K J 9 8

♣ A Q J 9 3 2

Stage 3 - after 10 of 13 rnds

The top 6 of 14 get playoff points

Open

1st	Del'Monte & Hans	203.7
2nd	Marston & Thomson	199
3rd	Hinge & Chua	196.2
4th	Neill & Roberts	191
5th	Gaspar & Richman	189.7
6th	Seres & Nagy	182

Women's

1st	Cummings & Feitelson	208.7
2nd	Beale & Smart	197.7
3rd	Folkard & Kaplan	189.7
4th	Booth & Shiels	184
5th	Kalmin & Urbach	181.2
6th	Lusk & Travis	171

Seniors'

1st	Ramshaw & Bourke	204.7
2nd	Rothfield & Rothfield	197.2
3rd	Westwood & Januszke	196.7
4th	Ali & Riszko	192
5th	Thorp & Skinner	180.2
6th	McDonald & Walsh	177.2

It's easy to overstep to grand slam. Gumby - Lazer bid and made 7♣ after a disagreement over the meaning of 5NT. 7NT is the best grand but Ish found himself in 7♥. When Klinger led the ♣8, declarer flew ace, crossed to the ♦Q and ran trumps then diamonds. In the two card ending, Ron was down to the black kings but Ish misguessed, hooking the ♠Q to lose the last two tricks. Rena Kaplan made the same successful lead against 7NT.

In fact, 7NT will usually fail on a red suit lead. The normal play is to cash the ♣A then finesse in spades.

I think Zia might have made 7NT on the ♣8 lead. He has a dictum along the lines of "In a shaky grand, the best line is often a finesse at trick one."

Kinga Moses writes: "Now that bridge is an official sport, it's just as well to realise timing is of the essence. Here's my partner, Wendi

Halversen, waltzing through a hand from Stage 2:

Stage 2, Match 14, Bd 11

S/Nil ♠ J 10 6
 ♥ A Q J 10 5
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A 8 6 2

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

♠ 9 7
 ♥ K 7 3 2
 ♦ A 9 6 5 2
 ♣ K 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No	1♥	2♠	No
No	4♣	No	4♥
End			

The ♠K lead was overtaken by West and a spade returned. On the spade continuation, Wendi simply pitched a diamond from dummy, saving dummy's trumps for club ruffs. Vital not to waste trumps. Some declarers really do have two left feet!

Compound squeeze technique:

Stage 3, Match 1, Bd 7

S/Both ♠ 10 9 6 3
 ♥ Q 7 6
 ♦ 10 9 6 4
 ♣ 10 9

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

♠ Q J 7
 ♥ J 4 3 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ J 8 5 4 3

7♦ is a good spot while 7NT has heaps of possibilities. Forget the stray helpers like the ♥J and ♣10 (which I've moved from the EW hands to NS!). 7NT is cold if you just take your tricks in the right order. This is a compound squeeze. South is positionally squeezed in clubs while the majors are both jointly held.

On a heart or spade lead, you win in dummy and start running diamonds. South will abandon hearts, then you must cash dummy's heart(s) before playing the last diamond. If you

don't, South pitches the idle ♥J and dummy is squeezed. This is known in the trade as "tightening the position".

Say South leads a club instead. If you run this to your ace, you're down (according to Deep Finesse). That's a surprise. You need to save the ♠A in order to retain a late entry to hand (in case South forces you to cash spades early by abandoning them).

Here's a costly double:

Ord Minnett, Match 3, Bd 23

S/Both ♠ A 8 6 5
 ♥ A J 4
 ♦ K 9 8
 ♣ J 8 6

♠ K Q 10 ♠ J 7 2
 ♥ K 10 7 ♥ Q 9 6 2
 ♦ A Q 10 3 2 ♦ 6
 ♣ 9 5 ♣ A K 7 3 2

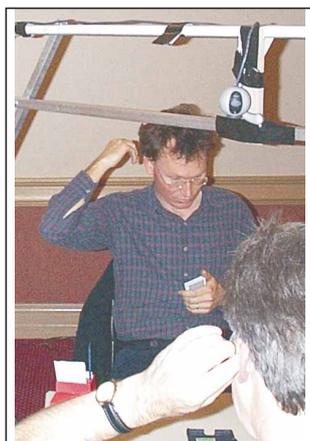
♠ 9 4 3
 ♥ 8 5 3
 ♦ J 7 5 4
 ♣ Q 10 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moir	Hughes	Prescott	Giura
			No
1♦	Dbl ?	1♥	No
1NT	No	3NT	End

Debs did well to treat her 14-count as a strong notrump so they reached the fair 24-point game.

I led a spade to the king. Declarer ducked a club, so we cleared spades. On the run of the clubs I pitched a heart and a diamond. Debs had no real problem in the endgame anyway, since I was marked with the ♦K.

If I had passed over 1♦ and come



Are these guys wired?

Butler Presentations and Interstate Welcome

On Friday the 20th, from 6 –7pm, a cocktail party, which will include some innovations, will be held in the Menzies Room.

The ACT Minister of Sport and Recreation will be attending this party as our guest and will present medallions to the place getters in the Open, Women's, Seniors' and Restricted Butler and conduct the draw for team numbers for the Interstate Teams Championship.

Many of the Team Captains will be there and all who wish to attend are welcome.

Complimentary tickets will be provided to all players who reach Stage III and Seniors' B.

This is a reminder to all who need to purchase tickets to do so as soon as possible from the Congress Desk (Cost: \$15).

down to ♥AJ4 ♦K, I think we'd have gone plus. Declarer would probably try to drop the ♥J then take the diamond finesse for -200.

Ulrike Liss thought my double was okay. She asked Paul, who said "Automatic." That made me feel better but perhaps he wasn't told that partner was a passed hand.

In the same match at the other table, Marlene Watts had just put down a dummy with ♥AKQJ. The lead was a heart. As Ulrike thought about the play, Marlene said "They're all the same", whereupon the leader quipped "Not quite. Some have tits and some have balls."

Another Canberra attraction

There will be an auction of rare cars at Exhibition Park, very near to the Chifley.

The cars are on display and they sound fantastic. Anyone can go and admire them.

Talking of cars, Who owns "Finess"? How about ACT "4"?

RULES ARE RULES!!!

Peter Kahler

A while ago, I think at the pleasant Adelaide ANC, a new event was added to fill the hole on Wednesday and Thursday for people who did not qualify for the latter stages of the butler. It was called the Consolation Butler. In practice, it was open to all comers and became a success.

This year, in Canberra, the event has been restricted to partnerships that played together in the earlier rounds of the Butler. This effectively gives two days off to other people at the ANC even if they had individually played in the Butler but now played with different partners. No alternative event was provided.

Upon inquiring, I was told that this was to maintain the standards for a Gold Point event. It needed a qualifying stage. I found this odd because, in fact, it was a non-qualifying stage because only non-qualifiers could enter. Surely, the integrity of a Gold Point event would be better maintained to open it up to all comers to improve the standard. After all, there was no carry forward or other impediment.

More important than any discourse on master points is the requirement for the ABF to look after the average bridge player. Some have come to Canberra from as far away as Darwin, Perth and even from Cincinnati. I am advised that about 40 people all told will have the opportunity to enjoy Canberra when they had intended to have a week or two off work to play bridge.

The organisers and the ABF became aware of the problem at least several days before the event. There was time to look after their clientele in a considerate and sensible manner. But, rules are rules!!!! When the Gold Masterpoint argument was not readily accepted, they pointed to the fine print in the program. Who reads the fine print especially when it has not been enforced over the years? The principle of not changing the rules was cited. There was even a resentment that anyone would dare to question whether the rules were sensible.

Look, I live in Canberra - the home of the bureaucrat - and work in the Public Service. Lack of flexibility was put to bed many years ago. Now, if something is wrong, we are encouraged to fix it. A simple announcement changing the entry condition, similar to the change in start times, would have kept about 40 people off the cold windswept Canberra streets.

In the end the ABF and the organisers are here to look after the interests of all bridge players. No one would have been disadvantaged by opening the Consolation Butler to all players. The strength of the event would have been improved. But as Sir Humphrey would say "Rules are rules!!!!"

A letter to the Editors

I must take issue with the editors' arguments for staying out of a grand slam (Stage 2, Match 13, Bd 1) in Bulletin 5. Nick asserts that the bid risks losing 19 IMPs to gain an extra 6. Nick ignores the fact that the grand was a 90% chance.

Bidding it stands to lose 19 IMPs 10% of the time and gain 6 IMPs 90% of the time. Therefore the odds for bidding it are almost 3 to 1 on.

Sorry to confuse you with facts and figures, Nick. What do you do for excitement if all grand slams are a no-go area?

George Riszko

PS This is the second time you have been critical of my bidding 25 HCP grand slams.

I guess 90% is pretty good odds. In teams, it's considered okay to bid a 70% grand (eg one needing a 3-2 break at worst). In a Butler, you need a bit more to forgo your bird in the hand. - Ed.

1989 ANC

Held at the Sydney Resort Macquarie. Michael Courtney and Cathy Chua did the Daily Bulletin. Ian Thomson & Hugh Grosvenor won the Butler; Patsy McArtney & Ruth Walcott (Jamieson) the Womens. Victoria won the Interstate (I recall Gallus bidding 7♦).

Stage 3 datums

Bd	Open 6	Women 6	Seniors 6
15	80	-80	-10
16	-690	-690	-700
17	-120	-120	-120
18	-320	-330	-430
19	-240	-180	-560
20	630	440	250
21	-130	-130	-120
22	370	420	420
23	60	100	100
24	-660	-930	-640
25	370	380	370
26	-150	-130	-110
27	-300	-260	-210
28	1610	1760	1760
Bd	Open 7	Women 7	Seniors 7
1	-10	30	130
2	-100	-20	120
3	110	40	0
4	-440	-180	-170
5	-430	-430	-440
6	-470	-540	-190
7	1440	1550	1430
8	-450	-440	-440
9	-60	170	20
10	620	630	620
11	440	380	280
12	-100	-180	-130
13	-60	-20	-110
14	420	410	420
Bd	Open 8	Women 8	Seniors 8
15	30	-30	70
16	140	150	140
17	-390	-120	-60
18	80	70	0
19	400	220	220
20	200	160	170
21	-450	-440	-440
22	420	420	270
23	70	90	20
24	270	270	250
25	-510	-250	-310
26	-20	80	200
27	40	120	40
28	630	410	640
Bd	Open 9	Women 9	Seniors 9
1	60	110	-90
2	-230	-240	-230
3	150	130	180
4	-660	-570	-660
5	0	30	-70
6	80	80	70
7	160	130	150
8	-130	-120	-80
9	-90	-10	-60
10	250	260	40
11	410	440	340
12	-830	-820	-820
13	540	340	470
14	140	130	150
Bd	Open 10	Women 10	Seniors 10
15	10	10	-20
16	-140	-120	-90
17	-690	-710	-690
18	-20	20	-40
19	-620	-620	-630
20	-640	-660	-640
21	0	480	170
22	-660	-820	-680
23	-30	-160	-320
24	440	450	380
25	10	10	20
26	-60	-10	-190
27	-410	-330	-420
28	-340	-440	-450

