



Victors and Victims

Captains, some time today (Monday) we need to know how many of your players will be coming to **Friday night's Victory Dinner**. You can advise numbers and/or purchase tickets at the Hospitality Desk.

Settling Down

Just over a third of the way, the Open field is following the expected pattern while the Women's is still very tight, scrapping for every IMP.

Western Australia is doing fine in the Seniors but they have two married couples and there is plenty of time to fall apart, though Dennis Yovich (npc) runs a tight ship. Dennis reminded me that he and Deidre Greenfeld were the joint winners of the Mixed Pairs in 1997.

In the Youth, Queensland are unbeaten after the first round robin. They have a team of four so stamina could be a problem.

House-keeping

From now on, it's "No smoking in the smoking room" Reminds me of those jokes about signs on Chinese toilets.

It gets noisy in the score-up area towards the end of a session. Feel free to shush each other, especially if you hear "Did you guys bid the grand on a finesse?"

Mobile phone fines

Richard Grenside reckons the 3 IMP fine is arbitrary and unfair. As he points out, three or four phones have gone off but only one player has been pinged. In Australia we don't do that, so the one guy who registered on the directors' radar can feel very unlucky.



Better to have a monetary fine (\$20/whatever). I'd be happy to do that, or accept a bribe to keep quiet.

By the way, I happen to know people

who have their phones turned to vibrate. Damn hard to catch them.

And please directors, remind people to turn their phones on after the session. I lost track of half my team when they wandered away with their phones still off.

Back at the table

Open contenders NSW and Victoria clashed on Sunday morning. The four in the Open room seemed likely to generate action or swings.

First up, Sartaj Hans and Tony missed this perfect slam.

Teams 3, Bd 7

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

After Nunn opened 1NT as West, they had no real chance.

Then Cathy Chua and Simon Hinge took 10 bids to reach a no-play slam on Bd 8.

Teams 3, Bd 10

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

What should West do over East's weak notrump? Nunn bid 4♥, rather than transfer and invite, which would display the shapely hand.

Hinge swung ♠A-another, as good a guess as any, then ducked the ♦9. After a diamond ruff and a club up, there were 10 tricks. Nunn picked trumps in the ensuing cross ruff for 11 tricks. At the other table, Chris Sundstrum cashed his aces, then declarer played trumps from the top.

ANC Teams after 5 Rds

Open

1st	NSW	126.4
2nd	ACT	96.3
3rd	Vic	56.5
4th	Qld	24.6
5th	Tas	19.2
6th	SA	3.3
7th	WA	-143.9
8th	NT	-185.7

Women's

1st	ACT	38.9
2nd	NSW	12.8
3rd	Tas	10
4th	Qld	-4.7
5th	SA	-15.1
6th	WA	-18.9
7th	Vic	-23

Seniors

1st	WA	126
2nd	NSW	58
3rd	Qld	50.7
4th	SA	43.6
5th	ACT	25.5
6th	NT	-69
7th	Tas	-110.1
8th	Vic	-112.9

Youth

1st	Qld	109
2nd	SA	67.2
3rd	ACT	34.1
4th	Vic	-13.5
5th	WA	-59.2
6th	NSW	-137.6



Tony impresses star kibitzer John Gurewitz by turning 1 down into an overtrick

Teams 3, Bd 11

S/Nil ♠ K 9 7 6
 ♥ J 9 7 6 5 4
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ 2

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

♠ A Q J 3 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q J 7 2
 ♣ J 9 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nunn	Hinge	Hans	Chua
			1♠
dbl	4♠	dbl	end

Normal enough. Nunn led the ♥A – as you do – for -590. Has to be a trump, a tough ask.

Teams 3, Bd 2

E/NS ♠ A 6 5
 ♥ AK J 7
 ♦ J 6 4
 ♣ 9 4 3

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

♠ 10 9 4
 ♥ 9 5 2
 ♦ AK Q 10 9 3
 ♣ 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nunn	Hinge	Hans	Chua
		2♣ majors	2♦
3♣	3♥*	no	4♦

The Ekrens-style 2♣ opening was bound to make an appearance at some stage. After ♣A-K, Chua could have made 10 tricks by endplaying East.

Quite dull but in our Youth game, South Australia opened in both rooms and had uninterrupted auctions to 3NT, making both times:

At one table, East opened 2♥ – hearts and another – West tried 3NT. North led a low spade then switched to the wrong minor when in with the ♠A. 10 tricks.

East passed at the other table. North bid 3NT over South's 3♦ opening. 10 tricks on a heart lead. There's a case for West to limit the possible damage by saving in 4♣.

Then my PDA started to vibrate and I had to leave. NSW won the match by a maximum.

Who bid this grand?

Teams 3, Bd 18

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

2♦ 1♠
 3♠ 3♣
 5♣/♦ 4NT
 7♠

Surely this is a possible auction, where West's RKC response shows 3 key cards. 6 of the 8 Open pairs managed it, 3 of 6 Women's, only 1 of 8 Senior Pairs, 2 of 6 Youth (that's disappointing, guys & girls).

This info was easy to garner from the net with a few clicks – choose a team, a round, then a board; the hand record pops up, together with the datum and contract at each table, plus each pair's datum scores for the match. Marvellous. The technology will be used in the World Ju-

nior Teams. Now if they could get the bidding and cardplay online I could do the whole Bulletin from home. That's what BBO is for, I guess.

I watched a bit of Queensland vs Victoria Women's. The eight boards I sat through were very flat, including these two:

Teams 4, Bd 19

S/EW ♠ K Q 3
 ♥ A J 10 8 6 4
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ 10 9

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

♠ 8 5
 ♥ 9 7 3
 ♦ J 9 8 6 2
 ♣ 6 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tucker	Woods	Millar	Collins
			no
2♦*	2♥	3♣	no
3♠	no	4♣	end

2♦ was the usual multi. 4♣ is an okay spot but -100 this time with 3NT cold. Greer Tucker had little choice but it's different if West opens 1♠, as many would. After

1♠ - (2♥) - 3♣ - (no)

it's clear for West to rebid 3NT. Two Open pairs managed 3NT, while two made 5♣ on a heart lead. North might have doubled that for a spade lead.

Monday's matches

First-named team is Home (I think) and has choice

Rd	time	table	Open & Seniors	Women's	Youth
6	Mon – 10.30	1	Tas v Vic	SA v ACT	WA v NSW
		2	Qld v ACT	Qld v Tas	Qld v ACT
		3	NT v WA	WA v NSW	SA v Vic
		4	SA v NSW		
7	Mon – 2.45	1	Qld v Tas	Qld v SA	NSW v Qld
		2	ACT v Vic	Tas v ACT	ACT v SA
		3	SA v NT	Vic v WA	WA v Vic
		4	NSW v WA		
5	Mon – 8pm	1	tba	tba	

Support events – week 1

Mon	Kings & Queens	1.30
	Double Bay	7.30
Tue	Lindfield	1pm
	Kings & Queens	7.30
Wed	Willoughby	7.30
Thu	Double Bay	10am
	Kings & Queens	10am
	Willoughby	10.45
	Lindfield	11am

There is a \$200 prize for the top score out of the four Thursday games.

The Lindfield ANC Danish teams, held yesterday, was won by **Elly Urbach, Henry Dyall, Judy Marks & Egon Auerbach**. They were unbeaten.

Is this a good Precision hand:

Teams 4, Bd 24

W/Nil ♠ A J 10 7 2
♥ A 3
♦ K Q 8 5 3
♣ A

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tucker	Woods	Millar	Collins
no	1♣ *	no	1♦ *
no	1♠	no	no ?!

South has an awful hand but it's worth a raise in this Precision auction. That's one of the ways you hope to gain – bidding game when a heavy natural 1-opening is passed out at the other table.

Margaret Millar led a heart. Meredith Woods called for dummy's ♥Q and soon had 11 tricks for a flattish board.

Of course 4♠ is not a good spot and will fail routinely on a minor lead. In NSW vs ACT Open, Hans - Nunn played 1♠ to gain 8 IMPs when Reynolds - Smart reached 6♠! at the other table. You'll have to ask them.

How did Neville go down here?

Teams 3, Bd 21

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

"They did it to me again!" he said, almost gleefully. "I opened 1NT as North, Stephen Bock transferred to diamonds. When I didn't super-accept he gave up on slam, preferring 5♦."

"East led the ♠5 and I figured my only chance was to run it. -200. But spades were 6-1 and East had both the entries! You wouldn't read about it!"

Pay attention to the spot cards

by Roland Wald, Denmark

Roland co-ordinates BBO vugraphs of events round the world, including this Thursday's ITS finals.

The European Youth Team Championships took place in Riccione, Italy, and finished a few days ago. Poland were outstanding and won the double for the second year in a row. Gold in the juniors as well as the schools series. In the girls' event Netherlands won the gold medal.

Here is a very instructive deal from junior match between Denmark and Turkey:

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

At both tables the normal 3NT was reached with West as declarer. The heart suit is blocked for the defence, but on a heart lead the defence will still prevail, because South has an entry to cash the setting trick.

In the open room Gjaldbaek led ♥7 to West's jack, Schaltz following with the ♥6. Declarer could do nothing better than advance ♣9 to South's jack. Martin Schaltz now returned the ♥2 and carefully played the ♥3 and ♥4 to the next two tricks. Gjaldbaek trusted his partner and returned a diamond. Down 1.

At the other table the lead was the ♥Q (equally good). The Turkish South also played the ♥6 to trick 1. When in with ♣J moments later, he returned the ♥3 and next followed with the ♥4. North was wondering why the deuce never appeared and came to the conclusion that his partner wanted a spade return.

Do you see what happens now? On the last club South will get squeezed in spades and diamonds, and that was exactly what happened. 12 IMPs to Denmark on the way to a 25-5 victory.

A holding of 65432 in a hearts is best

suited for poker, agreed, but spot cards can be quite important at bridge too.

<Start gripe>

24 boards is waaay too long! I guess it gives bored captains and out-sitting pairs the chance to catch a film, visit a massage parlour and/ or do the bridge climb.

16 or even 14 boards would be more civilised. The idle players might even hang around to give some hands to the desperate editor.

A double round robin of 24-board matches means 336 boards of qualifying, and fills five days.

3 x 20 bds a day, like Canberra, would be no better. Most states have teams of six, in which case 40 bds per pair per day is under-doing it. Agreed that 48 is better but it should be 3 x 16, plus a sit-out for pairs in a team of six.

How about a 4 x 16 round-robin over four (3½) days, a mere 224 bds?

Then either expand the matchpoint events, or start a day later, or give us a recovery day after/before the endless Butler.

Try the civilised European-style twilight sessions. Hmm. Snag ...

I understand these were not so well-received in Canberra this year; we are back to 20-board matches there as well. Sigh. I guess people are still stuck in the rut of breakfast - bridge - lunch - bridge - dinner - bridge - sleep. As you wish, but most city dwellers are used to grazing and players don't want a 3-hour match after a heavy meal. Take a cue from the Stage 2 Butler timetable!

Nick Hughes

PS. Tomorrow – the world record 24-board sit-out in the Women's.

<End gripe>



www.bridgeshop.com.au

Restaurant Deals

These four restaurants – grouped around the intersection of Oxford and Crown – offer special dinner deals (6pm - 7.30) for bridge players.

Typically a choice of entrees, main course and a glass of wine.

WHOOPEE'S

Italian – 241 Crown St – \$25

rq

Asian – 294 Crown St – \$30

THE CLOVE

Indian – 249 Crown St – \$26.90

GREEN CHILLIES

Thai – 113 Oxford St – \$25

Restaurant Guide

There are dozens of good cafés and restaurants near the NSWBA. *Café Sqizito* on our ground floor is open weekdays till 5pm, and also this Sunday so you can order lunch before you play.

On Oxford or Crown you will find Indian, Thai, Cajun and a host of others. For quick and cheap, try Subway (corner Brisbane & Oxford), Hungry Jacks or Sushi Train (in the arcade on the Eastern corner of Oxford & Pelican).

By the way there's a new coffee shop just opening on the corner of Goulburn & Brisbane Sts, open 7 days a week till 7 pm! Very convenient!! And they make good coffee! Called *2 Good Eggs*.

Nibbles available during play – thanks to Judy Frazier, William Zhang and Tommy Kiss.



Downstairs at the NSWBA

Order lunch in the morning.

They are open week days till 5pm.

Congress events in Week 2

All these events at the **Masonic Centre**, 279 Castlereagh St.

All start at 10am with no play in the evenings, to give you a chance to experience some of Sydney's night life.

Swiss Teams

Monday 1st Aug

Swiss Pairs

Tuesday 2nd Aug

Restricted Pairs

Wednesday 3rd Aug

ANC Swiss Pairs (gold points)

Wed - Fri, 3-5 August

Open to everyone! Not just drop-outs from Stages 1,2 & A.

You can enter at the Hospitality Desk or ring the Convener on 0411248 248.

The Sunshine Girls

This Happy Band!

Rosa Lachman

Serious scientist, keen animal rights activist. A great mentor, gentle, sweet and nurturing.

Pele Rankin

Our baby. Bright, intelligent, in love with bridge. A true team player, talented and considerate.

Toni Bardon

Stalwart and heart of the Queensland Contract Bridge Club. A true leader and strong anchor in our team.

Sandy Johnston

Cool, relaxed and unfazed. An experienced player, giving heaps of encouragement to the team.

Margaret Millar

Indispensable – she is our rock. Organised, caring and always positive. Go Margaret!

Greer Tucker

Our special Scorpio. Intuitive, decisive, fiercely loyal and an asset to the team.

Jill Broad



Timetable – at NSWBA

Interstate Teams

(Open/Women/Seniors/Youth)
Sun - Wed 10.30, 2.45, 8pm

Interstate Finals

Thu **10am**, 2.45
Vugraph at 7.30

then, at Masonic Centre

Interstate Pairs (5 categories)

Fri 10.30 & 2.30

Victory Dinner

Fri 7.30

Stage 1 Butler

Sat 30th 10am, 2pm, 7.30
Sun 10am & 2pm

Stage 3 finishes Friday 5 Aug

Youth triathlon at NSWBA

5-7 August, Fri - Sun
Teams, Pairs then Individual!

World Youth Championships

7-17 August
at Olympic Park Homebush

Parking

Special rates have been arranged with Goulburn St Parking, corner Elizabeth. Daily subsidised rate is \$5. Vouchers can be purchased from the Hospitality Desk during session times.

Public transport is abundant. Both venues are within 5 minutes' walk of Museum train station.

Contacts

The editors will be at the venue most of the time. The mobile is 0414 601 175, deadline is midnight. You can email

nhughes@bigpond.net.au

Or just drop something in the Bulletin box at the venue.

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