



**VuGraphs – live & virtual!**

If you can make it to the Thursday night VuGraph at 7.30, you are in for a treat. There are lucky door prizes, a bar, entertaining commentary on 20 boards and a high quality display courtesy of BBO (state of the art in bridge broadcasting).

If you are following the ANC online, you can catch all 60 boards of the Open final on BBO.

Thanks to Nick Fahrer of The Bridge Shop and David Stern of Double Bay Bridge Centre for making the BBO broadcast and VuGraph display possible.

**Half way out**

Into the Pyrenees now, a long, hard slog. As the Open field starts to string out, Queensland have kicked clear of the peloton to join the breakaway group.

The Women are still jockeying for position as Victoria surge through from last to first.

WA are virtually unbeaten in the Seniors (okay they lost a match by 1 IMP), while tiring Queensland still cling to the lead in the Youth

**Butler Standings**

The *Steve Hurley* trophy goes to the “best” Open pair against the datums. (The figures are a bit soft because they don’t reflect the number of boards played, or take the strength of the opposing pair into account) Here are the category leaders at halfway:

Open		
1st	I McCance - B Thompson	151
2nd	K Bagchi - D Lilley	108
3rd	M Smart - P Reynolds	103
Women’s		
1st	J Hoffman - N Church	69
2nd	N Bashar - R Liepins	56
3rd	R Lachman - P Rankin	54
Seniors		
1st	L Dixon - G Riszko	133
2nd	J & R Hansen	112
3rd	N Moses - S Bock	100

**Senior Moments**

We start with a PJ hand from way back on Sunday night:

**Teams 5, Bd 4**

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Ruth J		Peter J	
no	no	1♠	2♦
2♠	no	4♠	end

North overtook the ♦K lead to switch aggressively to the ♥J-Q-K. Peter ruffed the next diamond to return a heart. South hopped on this to play the ♦Q. After drawing trumps and ruffing a heart, declarer crossed to the ♣A to run the trumps. This is the (known) ending:

W/Both	♠ —		
	♥ 10		
	♦ —		
	♣ ? ?		
	♠ —	♠ 9	
	♥ —	♥ 9	
	♦ 8	♦ —	
	♣ K J	♣ 2	
	♠ —		
	♥ —		
	♦ J		
	♣ ? ?		

It didn’t matter who had the ♣Q. South had to pitch a club on the last trump to hold the ♦J, then North had to pitch one to keep the ♥10. The ♣J had to win the last trick. +620.

The last match of the first round robin saw the leading Senior teams – WA & NSW – face each other. I watched a few boards featuring the pairs at the top of the Butler, John & Ruth Hansen vs Steven (not Stephen) Bock and Neville Moses:

**ANC Teams after 8 of 14**

**Open**

1st	ACT	169.5
2nd	NSW	138.7
3rd	VIC	99
4th	QLD	89.6
5th	SA	1.1
6th	TAS	-93
7th	WA	-116.9
8th	NT	-293.9

**Women’s**

1st	VIC	52
2nd	QLD	44.3
3rd	ACT	37.6
4th	TAS	23.5
5th	NSW	-7.2
6th	WA	-47.5
7th	SA	-104.5

**Seniors**

1st	WA	183.5
2nd	QLD	127.7
3rd	SA	76.1
4th	NSW	68
5th	ACT	16.6
6th	VIC	-105
7th	NT	-158.3
8th	TAS	-219.5

**Youth**

1st	QLD	88.7
2nd	SA	88.2
3rd	ACT	49.6
4th	WA	-28.4
5th	VIC	-90.2
6th	NSW	-111.7



*Four captains while away the three hours, waiting for their charges to emerge.*

### Teams 7, Bd 19

♠ 6  
♥ Q 9 8 7 3 2  
♦ J 10 9 8  
♣ J 9

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

♠ 9 4  
♥ —  
♦ A Q 7 6 2  
♣ A 7 6 5 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moses	John H	Bock	Ruth H
			2♥*
2♠	3♦*	4♠	5♦
5♥	no	5♠	end

2♥ showed majors or minors.

5♦ goes for -500 on a trump lead but Moses still had slam interest. True, partner could have had the ♣A but as it was, 5♠ was too high. After John Hansen led the ♠J, Ruth decided to play him for the ♦K, so led the ♦7 for a heart ruff. She was relieved to find partner didn't have a singleton club!

One thought is to double 5♠, which might have attracted a heart lead.

On Board 21, Bock - Moses had an awkward Aspro auction, sailing pass a good 3NT and a 5-3 heart fit to reach 4♠ with ♠Q7542 opposite ♠J8. Luckily, Ruth H with ♣A and ♠AKT63 made a respectful pass.

Their Aspro machinery was sorely tested again soon after:

### Teams 7, Bd 23

S/Both ♠ 10 5 4  
♥ 8 6  
♦ A 9 8 5 4 3  
♣ 10 8

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moses	John H	Bock	Ruth H
			1NT
2♣*	2♦	3♦	no
3♠	no	4♥	end

After a diamond to the ace (leading the ♦K! instead will shoot it), John H returned the ♣10. Bock won the ♣A, unblocked the ♠Q and exited with a club. After the ♦K was ruffed in dummy, declarer could play double dummy, knowing from the bidding that South was 4-4-3-2 with ♥QJxx. (Would you have passed as dealer?) Bock set up dummy via the deep heart finesse for an exciting +620.

I expected him to be pleased but his first words were "Have I told you lately how much I hate Aspro?"

People tend to misbid and misuse conventions they don't like, subconsciously reinforcing their opinion. It's easy enough for East to find partner's shape by starting with double. Then they should reach the best game - 5♣.

West(ern) Australia continue to do well in the Seniors, aided by bold bidding like this against South(ern) Australia, reported by npc Dennis Yovich:

### Teams 5, Bd 7

S/Both ♠ A  
♥ Q J 6 3 2  
♦ K J 9 6  
♣ A 6 5

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

♠ K 9 4 2  
♥ —  
♦ 10 8 2  
♣ K Q J 7 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	Richard G		Sue G
			1♣!
no	1♥	no	2♣!
no	3♦	no	4♦
no	5♣	end	

"This was a match between the two teams doing well. Sue Grenside decided - as many would - that the South hand was worth on opening bid.

"Sue's 2♣ was the vital bid, ensuring they reached the best game. It was worth 10 IMPs as the bidding at the other table gave no chance to reach game:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			no
no	1♥	no	2♣
no	2♦	end	

The board was vital in giving WA a 1 IMP win."

## Tuesday's matches

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

Rd	time	tbl	Open	Seniors	Women's	Youth
9 (2/2)	10.30	1	ACT v WA	WA v NT	ACT v SA	NSW v SA
		2	NT vs NSW	Tas v Qld	Tas v NSW	Vic v ACT
		3	Vic v SA	NSW v ACT	WA v Vic	WA v Qld
		4	Tas v Qld	Vic v SA	Qld bye	
10 (2/3)	2.45	1	Tas vs ACT	WA v Vic	ACT v WA	ACT v NSW
		2	WA vs NSW	Qld v NT	Qld v SA	Qld v Vic
		3	NT vs Vic	Tas v NSW	Tas bye	WA v SA
		4	SA vs Qld	SA v ACT	Vic v NSW	
11 (2/4)	8pm	1	SA v ACT	ACT v WA	NSW v ACT	tba
		2	Tas v NSW	Qld v Vic	Qld v WA	tba
		3	WA v Vic	NT v NSW	SA v Tas	tba
		4	Qld vs NT	Tas v SA	Vic bye	



### Support events - week 1

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. Scored across the field.



## ACT Youth Team

Mark Abraham

The perennial bridesmaids are back again to attempt to do what they've not be able to do in the last three years & win more IMPs in the final than South Australia. Two of the team are hot from the Australian Junior Team's 2nd place in the PABF Championships. Despite that part-



5/7ths of the team.

*Not with their backs to the wall just yet.*

nership being a core feature of the last three years, they're playing with fresh partners this time.

### Griff Ware

Griff has completed his ANC round-robin, but still hasn't managed to win one, or learn that overbidding sometimes hurts. Strangely, he uses either the fact that the opponents are good, or that the opponents are bad, to justify his bidding, and it seems to work against both.

### Nye Griffiths

Keeping Griff in line this year is Nye. Nye's wrestling coach was somewhat dismayed a few years ago to hear he was dropping wrestling for bridge, but Nye hasn't looked back. On the back of some strong Open performances this year with unheralded teams, Nye will be after his first national title!



## Anatoli Lightfoot

"Foot" was a late addition to last year's five-person team and carried himself well despite his inexperience. Big things are expected this year!

### Michael Delivera

Della Junior missed last year through serious illness, and will be a welcome addition to the team. Opponents beware. This man will open x xxxx AQxxx KJx, and say "What's the problem?" Come to think of it, Foot, you should beware too!

### Christy Bridgland

Back again this year after missing last year through work commitments is Christy. She completed her round-robin about a decade ago it seems, but still hasn't won any of the silverware (the second-place trophy is plastic on wood, you pedants). How will her last attempt go?

### Daniel Geromboux

Also on his "last legs" is Daniel Geromboux, in partnership with his lovely fiancée. Always a cool customer under pressure, he will doubtless enjoy his time off from catching Griff's wild fastballs.

### NPC Mark Abraham

Mark too, is sick of collecting second place gongs, having played with the team twice and captained once through the bridesmaid era.

Last year's secret weapon, the three-quarter time Chupa-chups didn't work, what will he use this year?

*Tony entertains the troops before battle, doing what a disconcertingly large number of young players seem to be doing these days – earning a bit on the side (maybe \$10 million?) by playing poker on line.*

*Nye Griffiths has a partypoker.com t-shirt.*

*Terence Reece believed the skill level required for poker was probably higher than for bridge.*

## 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, then tba  
Sun 10am

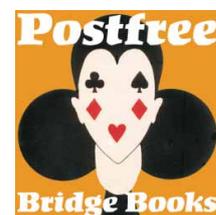
Stage 3 finishes Friday 5 Aug

### Youth triathlon at NSWBA

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

### World Youth Championships

7-17 August  
at Olympic Park Homebush



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