



Triathlon almost over

Just the final lap of the 42 km run today, finishing at 6pm. That's 442 boards in total. Too long without a rest day in the middle – some have suggested. Certainly, Stage 3 is as much a test of physical endurance as bridge ability.

Klinger - Neill narrowly lead the tightly bunched Open field, as the top seeds in the Women's and Seniors seem headed for comfortable victories. The Polish youth pairs are lying 1st, 3rd & 6th in the Swiss Pairs. Poland are highly favoured in next week's World Junior Teams.

Yesterday

In the morning I watched the mid-table clash between Richard Jedrychowski - Paul Wyer and Marilyn Chadwick - Kim Morrison.

First swing came when Morrison chose to lead his second best suit vs 3NT.

Stage 3, Rd 5, Bd 8

W/Nil ♠ K 6
 ♥ J 5 4
 ♦ A Q 6 2
 ♣ K 4 3 2

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

♠ J 10 9 8 5
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ J 10 7
 ♣ 10 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jed'i	Morrison	Wyer	Chadwick
2NT	no	3NT	end

Morrison led the ♣2, an unlucky choice – any other lead produces one off.

Jedrychowski won in hand, cashed the hearts then played ♠A-another, indeed fortunate to find North endplayed with ♠K-x. Morrison had to lead away from his minor honours to concede the ninth trick.

Soon after Wyer was on lead against an over-ambitious slam:

Stage 3, Rd 5, Bd 12

W/NS ♠ J 10
 ♥ 9 7
 ♦ A K 5 2
 ♣ K 8 6 5 4

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

♠ A 9 6 3
 ♥ A 8 5
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ A Q J 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jed'i	Morrison	Wyer	Chadwick
no	1♣	no	1♠
no	2♣	no	2♥
no	2♠	no	4♣
no	4♦	no	6♣
end			

Not impressive but cold on a non-heart lead, duly found by Wyer. Perhaps North should decline to cue with such a poor hand. If that's all South needed, she could have asked for aces over 2♣.

Stage 3, Rd 5, Bd 3

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

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Chadwick	Jed'i	Morrison	Wyer
1♠	4♥	4♠!	dbl
no	no	no	

That's the right seating – this is the table that switches after seven boards. Wyer thought for 38 seconds over Morrison's super-aggressive 4♠. I know because I counted in case there was a director call and I was called upon to give evidence. That's a very long pause by Wyer's standards – so

Stage 3 after 9 of 13

Open

1	B Neill & R Klinger	142
2	P Gill & M Bloom	141
3	A DeLivera & I Robinson	139
4	R Jedrychowski P Wyer	139
5	N Francis & M Moren	136
6	S Hinge & C Chua	129
7	S Hans & C Ritter	123
8	B Richman & M Derofe	122
9	G Gaspar & S Browne	121
10	K Morrison M Chadwick	117
11	M Chen & J Li	115
12	S Tishler & A Sarten	108
13	B Coles & A Braithwaite	99
14	E Barnes & C Feitelson	90

Women's

1	S Lusk & T Tully	163
2	R Kaplan & P Shroor	143
3	M Scudder & I Glanger	141
4	J Snow & H Borman	138
5	C Lachman & C Mill	131
6	K Neale & H Renton	126
7	W Driscoll & D Greenfeld	118
8	M Watts & B Folkard	117
9	V Goldberg & S Gerdan	115
10	E Berger & J Faranda	114
11	R Jamieson D McKinnon	114
12	J Abrams & E Whitby	107
13	A Anderson & B Stacey	104
14	P Rickard & J Twigg	92

Seniors

1	M Bourke & E Ramshaw	157
2	R Stuart & G Lane	145
3	B Noble & G Bilski	136
4	L Calcraft & P Fordham	130
5	G Atkinson & J Kahler	128
6	J Collins & S Klofa	124
7	R Gallus & M Dilks	124
8	M Askew & J Brown	122
9	D Brooks & P Hammond	121
10	A & F Halmos	121
11	L Lowe & P Kahler	115
12	P Bayliss & J McGeary	113
13	K Daws & F Lyons	95
14	R Liepins & M Draper	91

ANC Swiss Pairs (after 8 of 12)

1	J Kalita & K Kotorowicz	152
2	W Lazer & P Gumby	152
3	K Araszkievicz K Buras	148
4	D B'champ K Cumpstone	144
5	G Ware & D Geromboux	144

Jedrychowski couldn't remove to 5♥ as he probably wished. That would have been -500, still 5 IMPs out against the Datum of -300 NS. It seems most of the other Easts were defending 4♥x. J-W won by 7 IMPs.

Next match I watched Neville Francis & Magnus Moren – leaders at the time – play Martin Bloom and Peter Gill.

B-G started off by failing in some over-aggressive vulnerable games, as is their style.

Here's good card reading by Bloom:

Stage 3, Rd 6, Bd 17

N/Nil ♠ 10 6 5
 ♥ Q 9
 ♦ K J 7 6 4 3
 ♣ K 4

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

♠ A 8
 ♥ A J 6 4 2
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ A Q 7 3

WEST Moren	NORTH Gill	EAST Francis	SOUTH Bloom
	no	1♠*	2♥
no	3♦	no	3NT
end			

The Queenslanders play strong club, transfer openings. 1♠ showed 10-14, no major.

Bloom won the second spade to play a heart to the queen and East's king. He won the club switch in dummy then ran his heart and club winners, coming down to a 3-card ending.

He could have tried a diamond to the jack but he picked East's shape, exiting with a club to East's 10. Dummy's ♦K won the last trick.

Youth Triathlon

This weekend at the NSWBA. Starts Friday night at 7.45 with Teams, then Pairs, then Individual. Finishes around 1pm Sunday. Note that the Opening Ceremony of the World Junior Teams is on 5.30 Sunday at Homebush.

Ring Peter Edgton
 on 0437 290 184

Stage 3, Rd 6, Bd 21

N/NS ♠ J 10 8 4
 ♥ J 10 9 4
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ 5 2

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

♠ K 6
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K 10 9 8
 ♣ K J 9 7 6 3

WEST Moren	NORTH Gill	EAST Francis	SOUTH Bloom
	no	1♥*	no
2NT	no	3NT	end

1♥ showed spades, 2NT was invitational. They missed their heart fit -- maybe 3♥ by East would be canapé? 4♥ made at other tables but 3NT looks okay.

Gill led his better major, won in dummy. After a club to the queen held, Moren crossed to the ♥K but could no longer make.

He had to have either taken the deep club hook or the very deep heart finesse, running the ♥7.

This 22-8 loss was the Queenslanders' first. Tiredness was taking its toll and they slipped back to fifth overnight. *Incidentally, there have been Silver Grand Masters from outside Brisbane before Neville – Ivy for one. Neville was not the first but perhaps the fastest.*

There were plenty of slams on Wednesday night. The three Open declarers in this 6♣ all made it:

Stage 3, Rd 3, Bd 2

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

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

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

West finds out that partner has five clubs and off they go. 6♣ is not so

easy with the 4-0 break. You win the ♠A then play dummy's ♣K. The bad break means you have to "shake" your spade loser as you go. So ♦A-K, back to ♣Q, pitch on the ♦Q and take the trump finesse.

Before extracting North's ♣J, you take the heart finesse. North wins to play a spade but you ruff, unblock the ♥A-Q, winning the last two tricks with the ♣10 and ♥9.

Well done but North can make it hard by smoothly ducking the ♥K. Most of us would then return to hand with a trump to repeat the heart finesse, making whenever South has the ♥K. North wins the ♥K to lead a spade. Now you are down.

Ross Stuart noted this neat hand from last night:

Stage 3, Rd, 8, Bd 26

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

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

Online records suggest most of the Open declarers made 4♥. Should they?

East leads the ♦K, won in dummy. Declarer takes the heart finesse and needs two entries to dummy to collect West's king. Only chance is a spade to the ♠10, heart finesse, spade to the ace, finesse again. Claim. Did they all do that?

If so, did anybody point out to East that he could have shot it by inserting the ♠J?

All the results are now online. For the Butler, you can access a cross table, averages, round by round results for each pair. If you click on a pair, you get their board by board result for the current match. If you click on a board, you get all the scores on that board. A great service, especially for bridge journalists!

Tomorrow's issue will be internet only. See you in Adelaide next year.