



2006 DAILY BULLETIN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Editors: Stephen Lester & Dianne Marler

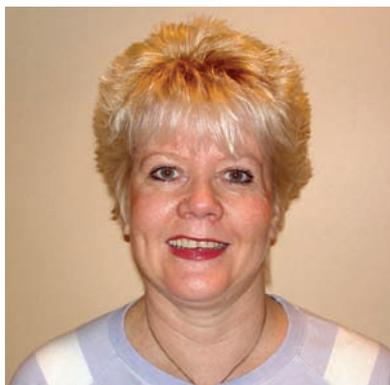
Email us at: dianne.marler@santos.com

Issue 1

Sunday, July 23, 2006

67TH ANC, ADELAIDE

As a first time Convenor of an ANC, I am delighted to welcome you all along, to what I, and my hard working committee, believe will be the 'social bridge' occasion of the year – some of us may even play some great bridge too!!!!



Dianne Marler, Convenor

Some items of note are:

In order to reduce the strain on your pockets, we are not providing coffee at the venue. Rather you can purchase a cup of coffee for as little as \$2.00 by taking a short stroll across the road to Hungry George, or up the street to Kosha Coffee. There are other coffee outlets scattered along Hindley Street. The bar on the ground floor of the hotel provides a coffee service as well. You may bring your coffee back to the hotel if you wish.

As you walked up the stairs to the mezzanine floor you will have noticed our hospitality desk. The volunteers manning this desk for the duration of the ANC are there to serve you. They have all kinds of information at their fingertips and can help with any of your "where do I go for" questions.

Many of our local restaurants can see that the best way to get your business is to offer you something in return. Consequently, they are offering discounts of between 10% and 15%. To make it a little easier for them to identify bridge players, we have prepared a simple ANC 2006 name card. These are available at the hospitality desk. Please grab one, write your name on it, put it in your wallet or purse and use it as many times as you like to enjoy some fine food and wine while you are in Adelaide.

Friday at 8pm was the start of the Butler – Open and Women's. We are playing in the Hindley Room, the main ballroom, and as you enter, you will see that there

TODAY'S TIMETABLE

Saturday 22 July

Championship Event:

Open & Women's Butler Stage 1

Times: 10am, 2.30pm & 8pm

Congress Event:

Bridge in the City

Eclectic Pairs 1 & 2 of 4

Times: 10am & 2.30pm

is plenty of room to accommodate us all. Sessions times are on the noticeboard across from the hospitality desk, but if you would like another copy of the programme, then please just ask one of the hospitality volunteers to get you one.

As the Butler moves from Stage I to Stage II, some of us may find ourselves needing to find another event to play in. There are several side events that should take care of our need to have 13 cards in our hands at all times. Please register with the hospitality desk if you wish to enter another event.

The Victory Dinner this year has been moved forward to Friday night, August 4. It will be held in the hotel ballroom, commencing with a short farewell cocktail party. Tickets, at \$80.00, may be booked and paid for at the hospitality desk. Printed tickets will be available from the same desk on Monday July 31.

Adelaide in winter - not usually known for sunshine, blue skies and no rain – while it's here 'though, let's make the most of it!!

If I can make your stay in Adelaide more enjoyable or less stressful, then you only have to ask. I'd like to think that you, like me in Sydney 2005, find some wonderful things to say about our Adelaide ANC.

Cheers,
Di Marler, Convenor

Welcome to the 2006 Australian Championships in beautiful Adelaide. I hope you all have a wonderful time, and appreciate—as well as enjoy—the experience of playing bridge against some of Australia’s finest.

This is my first experience of editing an ANC Bulletin, but after having edited Australian Bridge for 12 years and producing the NOT News in Canberra a couple of times under the able guidance of Martin Willcox, the task is not as daunting as it once would have been.

I know from experience that there are many generous contributors who provide instructive and entertaining material for bulletins, and I thank you in advance for your copy. The Contributions Box can be found at the Hospitality Desk, and we accept anything from quips scrawled on paper napkins to formatted Word documents to emails sent to dianne.marler@santos.com.

As you may be aware, Rena Kaplan and I have been proprietors of Borin Bridge Centre in Melbourne for the last year or so. When we took over the club, we were lucky enough to inherit many of Jim Borin’s bridge treasures, collected over a long and distinguished bridge career. The following article, penned by Jim in 1990, is one of my ‘finds’ from the back cupboard, and reflects the importance of the ANC as Australia’s premier bridge event. In later editions of the Bulletin, I will reproduce some Borin articles from ‘The Age’. Mostly from the 1970s, these articles showcase players of the day – who are still part of our wonderful Australian bridge world.

Stephen Lester, Editor



Jim Borin - 17.3.35 - 13.10.03

MY FIRST ANC OR HOW THE UNBEATABLE CAME CLOSE TO LOSING

Sydney was the venue for the 1962 ANC, and New South Wales were hot favourites for the Open Teams. I was the ‘baby’ of a team that included the ‘big names’ of the era – Tim Seres – Denis Howard, Dick Cummings – Roelof Smilde.

I was privileged to be partnered by Don Evans, one of the game’s great personalities. A brilliant theorist, Don was responsible for introducing many of the developments that today are part of the standard armory of the tournament player – fourth-suit forcing, splinters, negative doubles, to name a few. Don enjoyed (one is tempted to say reveled in) the reputation of something of an ‘enfant terrible’. His first foray in this direction had arisen at his ANC debut a few years earlier. Defending against a grand slam with Kxx of trumps sitting over dummy’s AQJ, he ducked the first round. Declarer’s elation soon turned to anguish (perhaps Angst is a more appropriate word).

A tough opponent, he was also a very demanding partner. There was never any shortage of pressure, but it was always great fun.

Don’s only weakness centred around his assessment of what he perceived to be a good result. On his scorecard, he used a system of stars. One star was a reasonable score, two stars an anticipated small pick-up, and so on up to the super result which required seven stars. His partners and teammates grew to fear the seven star notation. In the three years of our partnership, I don’t think we ever gained an IMP on one of those, and my guess is that we averaged a 5 IMP loss.

Back to the ANC. Our captain, Denis Howard, gave the team just one instruction – **Don’t bid a grand slam unless you can count 13 tricks!**

On the second morning, Dick Cummings did the unforgivable, bidding and making 7♠ - on a finesse. He and Smilde were immediately benched for the rest of the day – none of that ‘Mr Nice Guy’ image that Denis has strived so hard to develop with maturity.

Early on in the very next match I picked up:

♠ 8 3
♥ A K 8 6 2
♦ A 6 2
♣ A 6 3

Don opened 1♦ and over my 1♥ response jumped to 2♠. That showed a heart raise with spade control in our methods, with a club shortage. (Not bad for nearly 30 years ago!) *Ed: This article was written in 1991.*

If ever a hand screamed **GRAND** this was it. But could I be sure of 13 tricks? What if we were missing either red queen? I had no means of finding out (we weren't that good in those days). My captain's instructions surged into my mind. If Cummings could be ditched, I was certainly dispensable. However, could I live with myself if I settled for 6♥?

Then the thought occurred to me – we couldn't be dropped – Cummings and Smilde would not be around until the following day. That made it easy. I bid the grand, Don had all the key cards. My bridge integrity was preserved. It was only afterwards that I realized that if I'd gone down, Howard would not have compromised. He would undoubtedly have forfeited the remaining matches that day.

Jim Borin

Inserting this blast from the past prompts a mention of the enormous volume of bridge literature written since the early days of bridge. At our club, we have hundreds of bridge books, thousands of bridge magazines, as well as lesson plans going back some 40 years. In the powder room of many a 'bridgies' home, one can often find a well-thumbed Australian Bridge or The Bridge World.

Not just nostalgia leads us back into a magazine or book decades old. While bridge has changed dramatically from the Culbertson days, the theories and techniques inherent to the play of the game have not. I still get a kick out of reading about the Lenz – Culbertson match of 1931 - 32, and unless I pick up a magazine like Dansk Bridge (in Danish with many squiggles, dots and hieroglyphs) I can pretty much follow what is going on. What is more, I enjoy reading about some long-dead hero's antics.

Hopefully, the great bridge literature will survive the test of time, and some of our fine plays will not be forgotten. With online archiving of material like ANC Bulletins and ABF Newsletters, some of those tattered hard copies can reluctantly be discarded. Ed.

THE BUTLER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

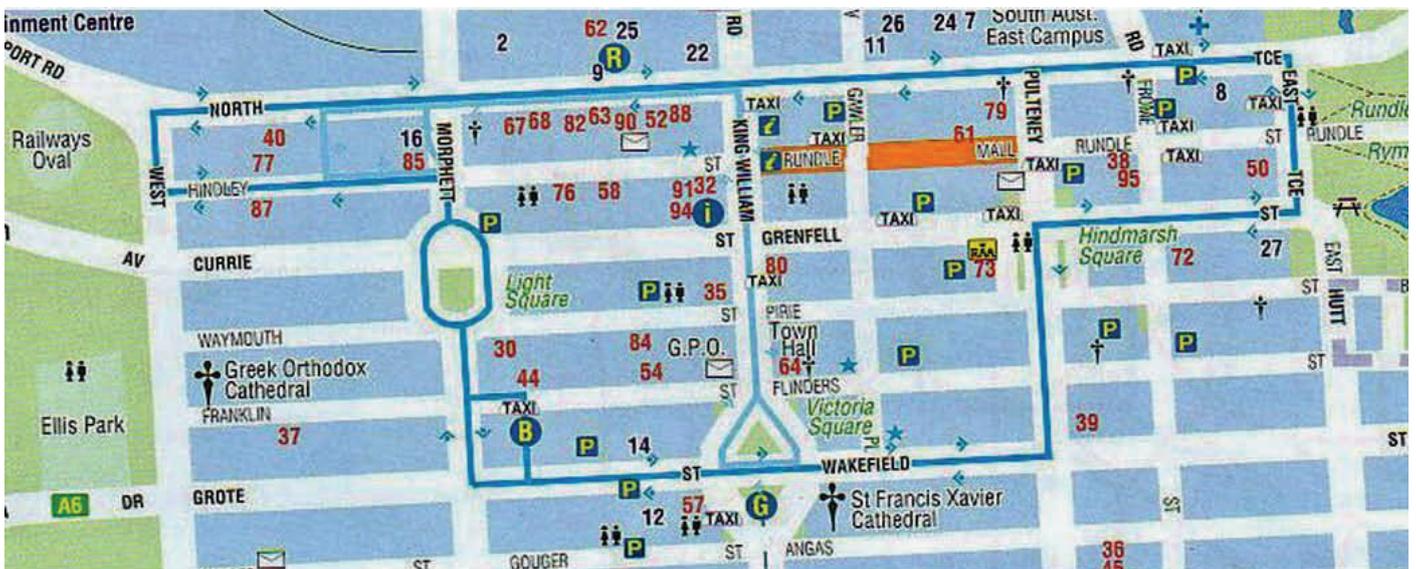
OPEN BUTLER

- 2000: Ashley Bach, Keiran Dyke: Terry Brown, Phil Gue: Seamus Browne, Ishmael Del'Monte
- 2001: Paul Marston, Matthew Thomson: Bruce Neill, John Roberts: Ishmael Del'Monte, Sartaj Hans
- 2002: David Beauchamp, Peter Fordham: Matthew McManus, Michael Ware: Kieran Dyke, Ron Klinger
- 2003: Nic Croft, Jo Haffer: Peter Reynolds, Nigel Rosendorff: Ron Klinger, Zolli Nagy
- 2004: Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill: Avi Kanetkar, Nigel Rosendorff: Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer
- 2005: Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill: Magnus Moren, Neville Francis: Richard Jedrychowski, Paul Wyer

WOMEN'S BUTLER

- 2000: Sue Lusk, Therese Tully: Jillian Hay, Debs Moir: Nafi Bashar, Merrilee Robb
- 2001: Val Cummings, Candice Feitelson: Felicity Beale, Di Smart: Berri Folkard, Rena Kaplan
- 2002: Berri Folkard, Rena Kaplan: Val Cummings, Candice Feitelson: Sally Murray-White, Helen Snashall
- 2003: Val Cummings, Candice Feitelson: Berri Folkard, Marlene Watts: Sue Lusk, Therese Tully
- 2004: Margaret Bourke, Meredith Woods: Jillian Hay, Helen Lowry: Jill Courtney, Rena Kaplan
- 2005: Sue Lusk, Therese Tully: Rena Kaplan, Paula Schroor: Cathy Lachman, Cathy Mill

ADELAIDE CITY CENTRAL MAP



On the map above, the Holiday Inn is No.58



ANC 2005 & 2006 –AN EARLY COMPARISON

Sydney, July 22 – August 5, 2005

Around 80 pairs entered Stage I of the 2005 Australian Open Butler, which started on the Friday of the second week and ended on the second Sunday afternoon. There were also a number of young overseas pairs, using the event as a warm-up for the World Youth Teams. Session times were 10am, 2pm and 8pm.

The format in the Open and Women's was 12 10-board rounds of Swiss with separate NS and EW fields. The Stage II field was 14 tables, but around half those spots went to pairs nominated from the various states, or overseas youth players. So it was tough to make it through.

At the end of Stage III, Ron Klinger and Bruce Neill were winners on 226 from Neville Francis and Magnus Moren on 222. Two pairs tied for third in the Open Butler, and after applying the tie-break procedure, Paul Wyer and Richard Jedrychowski were in, and Martin Bloom and Peter Gill were out – both on 216.

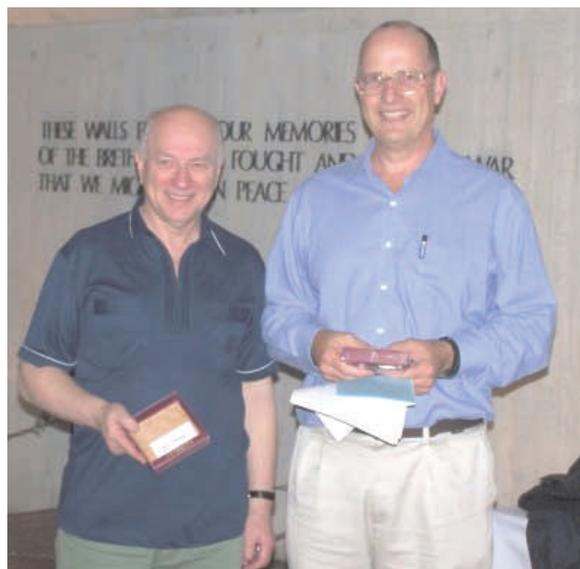
The winners of the Steve Hurley Trophy for the highest score in the Open Teams datums were Ian McCance and Ben Thompson.

The main change in 2005 was the swapping of the Interstate Teams with the Butler, which also meant that the Victory Dinner took place before the Butler was to start – how many 2005 Butler contestants can now admit to feeling a little 'under the weather' as the Butler got under way?

Adelaide, July 21 – August 4, 2006

Session times remain almost the same as 2005, with the afternoon session starting 30 minutes later, at 2.30. Stage 1 ends on Sunday afternoon, but at the front end of the Championships, not in the middle.

The playing format is much the same, but the number of entries is down. Disappointing, perhaps, but reflecting the fact that there has been an awful lot going on in bridge, both at home and overseas.



Open Butler winners Ron Klinger—Bruce Neill, who was also the 2005 ANC Convenor

A number of top players are in Chicago competing in the North American Spingold Challenge. That takes Tony Nunn and Sartaj Hans, Bob Richman and Zolli Nagy out of the equation.

This year it is back to the conventional format. Who will head the field this year, making it to the hallowed hall of fame? Too early to tell? Of course, yes, with a number of players seeded straight through to Stage II. It has been argued that this can be a disadvantage, as you come to the table with less match fitness than those who have slogged it out through Stage I. Whatever the outcome, we can be sure that those lucky three who head the Butler Trials in all three fields (Open, Women's and Seniors) will be proud of their achievement.

WHAT'S IN STORE

In subsequent issues of the 2006 Daily Bulletin, expect articles from Ron Klinger (thanks, Ron) and Barbara Travis (thanks to you, too, Barbara).

I will relate some deals from the recent New Zealand Nationals, which fielded a large number of Australians in 2006.

Space permitting, there will be a wealth of deals, and bridge stories from those whose arms can be twisted.

Please remember to fill the Bulletin Articles box at the Hospitality Desk. The aim this year is to make the ANC especially social. Hopefully, you will look forward to picking up your copy of the Bulletin. It just might help you settle down for the night after a tough day with the cards!