

RELAYING TO THE GRAND

How often does an opponent's interference help you in the bidding? Quite often, but not normally to the extent afforded on the deal below. Round 3 of Stage I of the Open Butler.

East deals, all vulnerable

♠ J 9 8 7 4 3

♥ A 10 8 6

♦ A 6 2

♣ ---

♠ 10 5

♥ J 9

♣ J 8 7 5 3

♠ J 10 6 5

♠ 6

♥ Q 7 5 3 2

♦ K Q 10 9 4

♣ 8 7

♠ A K Q 2

♥ K 4

♦ ---

♣ A K Q 9 4 3 2

WEST	NORTH <i>Ewart</i>	EAST	SOUTH <i>Howe</i>
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♣ ³	Dbl	2♥ ²
Pass	7♥ ⁵	Pass	6♣ ⁴
Pass	Pass	Dbl ⁶	7♠ ⁷
		Dbl ⁸	All Pass

- 0-3 or 10+ HCP
- Artificial game-force for South (natural to North)
- Splinter agreeing hearts
- Bidding what he thinks he can make
- Ditto
- Inopportune? Greedy?
- Relay to spades after the penalty double
- In for a penny, etc.



Blaine Howe & Neil Ewart

TODAY'S TIMETABLE

Championship Event:

Open & Women's Butler Stage II

10am, 2.30pm, 8pm

Senior's Butler Stage A

10am, 2.30pm, 8pm

Congress Event:

Mikasa Eclectic Pairs 1 & 2 of 4

10am, 2.30pm

Eclectic pairs with best 3 of 4 scores to win event prize, sessional prizes awarded

One session Walk-In Pairs

7.30pm

We can question East's wisdom in making a penalty double of 7♥, as an escape to 7NT or 7♠ might not prove to be as much of a success (as we can see). It is rare for the opponents, however, to 'agree' a suit and then run to another unbid suit at the seven-level—especially when it does not look as if they know what they are doing.

While the story is fun in the telling, I am not sure what it says about artificial methods in slam bidding. Two good things come from this hand for the NS pair: they now know the score for 7♠ doubled vulnerable making (2470), and they also know that artificial bidding is still on after intervention.

I was told another story about this same deal by Andrew Mill. After a 2♣—2♦ start (2♦ being a positive), East, Phil Markey bid 3♦. South bid 4♣ and Andrew, West, jumped to 5♦. North, with two aces and a void in his partner's suit decided a penalty double was the best option.

+1100 NS, however, was 12 IMPs out.

The deal caused quite a few swings in both fields. In the Open, 9 other pairs bid the spade grand (10 IMPs), 3 bid only a small slam (-6 IMPs), 5 were in a club slam (-7 IMPs), 2♥X and 5♦X were -12 apiece. The one 5♣ contract was -15 IMPs and 7♣ one down was -18 IMPs. In the Women's 5 pairs bid the grand (11 IMPs), 1 bid the making (!) 7NT, 7 bid 6♠ (-6 IMPs), 3 bid 6♣

IT CAN PAY TO LISTEN

The Age, May 24, 1973

Being a good listener can reap big benefits at the bridge table.

Australian team captain Eric Ramshaw demonstrates this technique on today's hand from the first national teams championship held in Sydney last week.

West deals, all vulnerable

♠ 10 9 8 5
♥ A K 5 2
♦ A J 8 5
♣ 6

♠ A K 7 4
♥ 8 7 6
♦ 10 3 2
♣ A K 7

♠ 2
♥ 10 9
♦ Q 9 6 4
♣ Q 10 9 5 4 3

♠ Q J 6 3
♥ Q J 4 3
♦ K 7
♣ J 8 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Ramshaw</i>			
1♣	Dbl	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		



Eric Ramshaw

South's 3♠ bid was reasonable, as his partner's raise in hearts might have been made on a three-card suit. However, this gave Ramshaw the information that East had at the most two spades and he was able to double, confident in the knowledge that the defence could take at least two spades and a ruff plus a club trick.

The play was straightforward. Two top spades were led and then ♠4, which East ruffed. A club return to the king was followed by another spade ruff for two down and a penalty of 500.

Jim Borin

Some 33 years later, Eric can still be found at the bridge table. In the sixth round of the Butler, he was called in to substitute for Rex Livingston's partner. I kibitzed Eric to see whether his listening skills are still as keen as they once were, and was hoping that in the six hands I watched I would find something to write about.

I have to report that most of the deals were quite pedestrian—some good results, some not so good. However, Eric has obviously not listened to the advice given about preempting—with a bad suit and defence outside the suit, prefer a pass. On the deal below, 3NT and 4♥ are both possible, but Eric's 3♦ withered on the vine. 6 IMPs out too.

Board 17, West deals, all vulnerable

♠ J
♥ A 4
♦ Q 9 8 7 5 4 2
♣ J 10 4

♠ 10 8 3
♥ K 9
♦ A J 6 3
♣ Q 8 7 5

♠ K 9 7 5 2
♥ 8 6 3
♦ K 10
♣ K 6 2

♠ A Q 6 4
♥ Q J 10 7 5 2
♦ —
♣ A 9 3

Dr Eric Ramshaw has been a tireless worker for the Australian Bridge Federation for almost 40 years, in a variety of roles. His present title is Chairman of the Tournament Unit. Eric graduated from Cambridge University with a Ph. D in Organic Chemistry, and worked for the CSIRO in the field of dairy and food research. He resides in Ballarat, Victoria.

DRIVING MISS DAISY

or how to use the website successfully

I was interested to see how many (and which) Norths followed the Ramshaw path of opening 3♦ with the hand above (quite a few). Martin Willcox showed me how to get to the screen on *bridgeunlimited.com* which shows every contract at every table, the perpetrators, and the IMP score (as well as the best contract according to *Deep Finesse*). Clicking blue text activates the programme. To get there:

1. Click Results
2. Click on the round number you want to see
3. Click on a pair's name
4. Click the board number you want to see



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

CLAIRE LESTER 1942–2006

The photograph above, reproduced courtesy of the Brisbane Courier-Mail, shows Claire Lester at the clubrooms of the QBA in Brisbane, 1972, when she and Wendy Driscoll (Claire was Claire Grigg, Wendy was Wendy Golding then) made the Women's Team to represent Australia in the World Teams Olympiad in Miami. Claire, while not a relation, was close to my heart and a treasured friend. When Wendy kindly brought the photo with her from Perth, it gave me goosebumps to see Claire in her glory days.

Claire succumbed to complications from lung cancer in late June, after being diagnosed with the disease in January. This anecdotal report is written in consultation with some of the many people whose lives she touched. Claire was cranky, zany, brilliant, loving, caring – a whole gamut of different adjectives could be used to describe her.

One player at this event remembers Claire and Michael Courtney turning up to play at the Surfers Congress many years ago – with Claire in the leather hotpants featured above. This certainly added to the male players' enjoyment of the game.

Claire lived in Perth for most of her life, before settling in Sydney, then returning to Perth in 2001. She is survived by her son Jeremy Grigg, who came home from New York to care for his mother in the last six months of her life. Jeremy was asked how old his mother was, as it was a closely-guarded secret during Claire's lifetime. Jeremy replied that she was 63, and went on to add that

finally he was able to reveal his true age of 37. In the past, when people asked Claire how old her son was she always told them he was 11 (he was only eight for a good 20 years or so). Her other trick, when asked about her son, was to open her wallet and take out a snap of Jeremy, aged around three.

Claire was a talented bridge player, enjoying international representative partnerships with Cecile Miles, Wendy Driscoll and Jill Courtney. Unfortunately, bridge records are scant, but here are some of the highlights I have gleaned from Google and the ABF website:

1972: World Teams Olympiad in Miami, partnering Wendy Golding. Captain was George Jesner, and the late Ivy Dahler was part of the team.

1977: Claire, in partnership with Cecile Miles was part of the winning at the Far East Championships in Manila.

1978: 5th World Championships in New Orleans, in partnership with Cecile Miles.

1979: Part of the team which finished 3rd in the Far East, in partnership with Cecile Miles.

1987: 28th World Teams Championships in Ocho Rios, in partnership with Jill Courtney.

In recent years, Claire shunned competitive play, but still managed to win the Hans Rosendorff Women's Teams in 2002 - 2003 in partnership with Jill Courtney.

It is true that bridge was good to Claire, but her many friends remember her more for her quick repartee, her gregarious nature, her use of colorful 'pet names': the Princesses 'Pushy' 'Precious' and 'Precocious', 'Born to Blab', 'Madame Mao' name but a few. There are hundreds of 'Claire' stories, and those that knew Claire have their favourites. I remember Claire in her Sydney days, and always looked forward to a visit to her lovely home.

Claire had exquisite taste, inherited from her mother Sylvia Wishart, and she liked to do things correctly, whether it was serving a glass of her favourite 'redders' or sending a 'thank you' note after a social engagement. She had no time for 'charlatans', and if you stepped out of line, she would soon put you in your place.

But we loved her – her indefatigable spirit, her differentness, her spark. Memories of Claire are vivid, because she was colorful. Claire would go to great lengths to do things for her friends, and it was fitting that at the end, friends like Wendy Driscoll were there at Claire's side in hospital. While she has long been missed as a part of the bridge entourage, we all lament that she will never brighten our lives again. But the stories about her will live on, and she will live on in our hearts.

God bless you Claire, and I hope there are no 'bad hair days' wherever you are.

OPEN BUTLER STAGE I AFTER 12 ROUNDS

NS FIELD

	Total	Total	Wins	Last	Last
		VPs	IMPs	VPs	IMPs
1 Wiltshire & Dyke	222	134	9.5	20.0	17
2 Moren & Francis	207	93	9.0	23.0	26
3 Dawson & Demuy	205	85	8.0	25.0	30
4 Snashall & Nixon	201	76	6.5	22.0	22
5 Samuel & Samuel	193	44	7.5	19.0	14
6 Chadwick & Lowry	191	37	7.5	16.0	3
7 Lilley & Klinger	103	42	4.0	14.0	5-
8 Zollo & Eddie	187	46	6.0	14.0	2-
9 Reynolds & Appleton	186	18	5.0	24.0	27
10 Lange & Hocking	186	14	6.0	13.0	7-
11 Ewart & Howe	185	18	7.0	6.0	29-
12 McLeish & McLeish	184	10	7.0	11.0	13-
13 Geddes & Jenner-O'Shea	183	11	6.0	22.0	22
14 Smith & Pringle	179	8-	6.0	9.0	19-
15 Case & Ashton	178	6-	7.0	3.0	40-
16 Scerri & Scerri	173	28-	5.0	20.0	16-
17 Livingston & Hill	171	37-	5.5	13.0	8-
18 Mill & Howard	163	57-	5.5	17.0	8
19 Dib & Mickevics	150	94-	3.5	10.0	16-
20 Couzner & Staiff	142	117-	3.5	15.0	1-
21 Bennett & Bennett	135	143-	3.5	4.0	35-
22 Kemp & Kemp	130	152-	3.0	3.0	38-

EW FIELD

1 Markey & Mill	228	159	10.0	14.0	3-
2 Middleton & Smolanko	203	89	8.0	8.0	22-
3 Neill & Peake	201	78	7.5	25.0	40
4 Cherry & Horowitz	199	61	7.5	5.0	30-
5 Schwabegger & Klofa	198	54	7.0	19.0	13
6 Gold & Stark	197	70	7.5	11.0	14-
7 Noble & Bilski	197	48	8.0	16.0	2
8 Rosendorff & Zeller	191	54	6.0	24.0	29
9 Gill & Gosney	191	38	5.5	21.0	19
10 Robb & Thenuwara	180	6	5.5	25.0	35
11 Prescott & Hughes	177	1-	6.5	7.0	26-
12 Adams & Beauchamp	176	6-	5.5	25.0	38
13 Tishler & Sarten	173	26-	5.5	17.0	7
14 Thompson & Thompson	172	26-	5.0	10.0	17-
15 Zurawel & Coffey	170	30-	4.5	15.0	1
16 Rhodes & Rhodes	169	36-	5.5	20.0	16
17 Kahler & Davis	158	81-	4.0	10.0	16-
18 Morgan-King & Thompson	156	77-	4.0	8.0	22-
19 Fischer & Bookallil	154	79-	4.0	6.0	27-
20 Morcome & Gue	154	86-	3.5	17.0	8
21 Finikiotis & Fanos	149	99-	5.0	5.0	33-
22 Liepins & Chadwick	146	111	-4.0	13.0	8-

WOMENS BUTLER STAGE I AFTER 12 ROUNDS

NS FIELD

	Total	Total	Wins	Last	Last
		VPs	IMPs	VPs	IMPs
1 Schroor & Kaplan	214	110	8.5	11.0	14-
2 Evans & Herden	196	48	7.5	21.0	19
3 Wilson & Wilson	194	62	5.5	19.0	12
4 Driscoll & Greenfeld	190	40	7.0	5.0	31-
5 Warthold & Herring	189	39	8.0	17.0	7
6 Alexander & Marler	188	24	7.0	6.0	28-
7 Obenchain & Talbot	186	21	7.0	14.0	5-
8 Weal & Yule	184	21	6.0	25.0	41
9 Jagelman & Frazier	183	11	4.5	10.0	17-
10 Emerson & Harris	178	7-	6.0	20.0	16
11 Kahler & Hopwood	177	11-	5.0	14.0	5-
12 Rasmussen & Daws	176	3	6.5	25.0	39
13 Anderson & Stacey	167	34-	5.0	12.0	9-
14 Renton & Watts	159	69-	5.5	14.0	2-
15 Yuill & Lund	158	58-	3.5	13.0	6-
16 Boxall & Plush	156	86-	5.0	16.0	2
17 Motteram & Wagner	155	72-	5.0	10.0	16-

EW FIELD

1 Lusk & Tully	224	146	9.5	16.0	5
2 Bashar & Moses	204	73	7.5	25.0	31
3 Fallon & Marrett	203	78	9.0	20.0	17
4 Glanger & Scudder	198	66	8.5	3.0	41-
5 Sharp & Chadwick	198	59	7.5	24.0	28
6 Ingham & Folkard	195	47	8.5	16.0	5
7 Stewart & Hill	192	39	5.5	19.0	14
8 Bird & Creet	180	4	5.0	17.0	6
9 Roberts & Buttrose	180	1	6.5	20.0	16
10 Eddie & McMahon	173	21-	6.0	18.0	9
11 Stephens & Pettigrew	171	31-	6.0	16.0	2
12 Kelly & Narita	167	42-	4.5	14.0	2-
13 Mellings & Spurrier	166	51-	4.0	10.0	16-
14 Walters & Hampton	153	84-	4.0	3.0	39-
15 Broad & Martin	152	94-	4.0	13.0	7-
16 Clyne & Collins	147	107-	3.5	9.0	19-
17 Norman & Dennis	142	125-	2.0	11.0	12-

After battling it out for 12 rounds, the field is now down to 14 tables in both Butler fields. In the Open, R Brightling & I Thomson, A & S Richman join the field.

In the Women's, G Tucker & M Millar, H Snashall & S Murray-White, T Manford & S Clements and S Phillips & W Andrews join the field.

Good luck to those pairs about to start in Stage A of the Senior's Butler at 10am Monday.