

STAGE II UNDER WAY

The ballroom has swelled again after looking a little deserted last night. 11 tables of Seniors are seated at the yellow tables. This format now continues until Tuesday evening, with Stage III and the Seniors Stage B due to start on Wednesday morning.

A few players from Stage I are now in the Seniors event, some in new partnerships. My pick of the Seniors has to be the seasoned partnership of Eric Ramshaw – Margaret Bourke. When I polled the directing staff to see whether they agreed I was greeted with hoots of derision – but one agreed (ask me who later, Eric).

Congratulations to winners of the four-session *Bridge in the City* event, which was won by Jan Harrison and John Smith, from Luke Matthews and Justin Williams and Ruth Chapman and Janice Hepburn.

CO-OPERATIVE MISDEFENCE

On Round 9 of the Butler, Stage I, I decided it was time to brave the women's end of the room. Settling in behind Therese Tully, I kibitzed most of Therese and Sue Lusk's match. I couldn't help but be impressed with the table presence of the two women, their highly-developed partnership understandings, and their seemingly effortless technique.

Exhibit 1: Therese at the wheel in a hopeless contract -

Board 5, North deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 5 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ K 10 8 7 2 ♣ Q 9 3 2			
♠ 7 2 ♥ A J 9 7 4 ♦ Q J ♣ A K 10 5		♠ K 10 9 8 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 8 7 6 4	
♠ A Q J 6 4 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♣ J			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tully		Lusk	
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♥ ¹	All Pass

1. Alerted as weakish raise with 3+ trumps

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 3 & 4 of 4

10am, 2.30pm

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

Cavendish Pairs—2 of 2

7.30pm

Play in both sessions required for prize eligibility



Sue Lusk and Therese Tully

The first two tricks were easy – ♠5 to South's ♠J and ♣J switch. Therese won ♣A, and looked at dummy for a moment, realizing the futility of her mission. She played a heart to dummy's queen and a heart back to hand. A spade to the nine and queen was followed by ♦A and a diamond to North's king.

North had an easy heart exit, but instead, playing South for ♠10, continued with a low club. Therese won ♠6 in dummy, and was able to remain in dummy thanks to her ♣5. ♠K was covered by South's ace, and now there was no escape for the defense. Therese ruffed high in hand, crossed to ♥K, drawing North's last trump, and discarded her losing club on the established ♠10. South, of course, had to play low on ♠K; if North is out of trumps there is no defense at this stage of the play.

Exhibit 2: Sue, in a less testing contract, made 10 tricks in double quick time:

Board 10, East deals, all vulnerable

♠ K Q 10 8 6
♥ Q 6 3
♦ 8 6 5
♣ Q 10

♠ J 9 2
♥ J 8
♦ 10 4 3 2
♣ A K 8 4

♠ 5 3
♥ A 7 5
♦ A K J 9 7
♣ J 3 2

♠ A 7 4
♥ K 10 9 4 2
♦ Q
♣ 9 7 6 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tully		Lusk	
		1NT	All Pass

South led ♥4 to dummy's ♥J, North's covering with the queen, and Sue ducking. Technically this might not be the best play, as with the spade suit wide open, North might switch to spades at trick two. However, it set the stage for a pseudo-squeeze on South which would not have worked if ♥A had been won at trick one.

North thought momentarily about switching to ♠K at trick two, but continued ♥6, which Sue won with her ace. When ♦A dropped the queen, Sue unblocked dummy's ♦10 and cashed the rest of the diamonds.

Meanwhile South, intent on keeping all her winners, discarded two clubs, and when Sue played a club to dummy's king, and cashed the ace, she capitalised on the defense, unblocking ♣J and winning four tricks in the suit for +180.

This may not appear to be a very momentous deal, but it was the breezy way the hand was played which impressed me.

Sue and Therese have been representing Australia in the women's arena since 1999, and watching them, it is easy to see why.

IF YOU ARE BUYING OR SELLING OR
REQUIRE ANY DEALING IN REAL ESTATE
YOU WILL NEED A CONVEYANCER

CONTACT GRAHAM ALEXANDER
(CONVEYANCER OF THE YEAR 2006)
ALEXANDER BOTTEN & ASSOCIATES,
162 FLINDERS ST ADELAIDE SA 5000

PHONE (08) 8232 0677
FAX (08) 8232 2913

ONE OF THE LEADING CONVEYANCING
FIRMS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BETTY AND THE BOYS

The youngest competitor at the 2006 ANC was 16-year old Andrew Morcombe. Andrew learned bridge six years ago but has only recently become hooked on the game. Andrew's grandparents, Mary and Robert Hecker enrolled him in a course of beginners' lessons at Adelaide Bridge Centre when he was only 10.



Andrew Morcombe & Joel Gue

Andrew played in Stage I of the Butler with Joel Gue, 25. Theirs was a first-time partnership, and although the young men did not make it to Stage II, it was great to watch them in action. Andrew is about to move to Melbourne, where he will be staying at the home of Andrew and Cathy Mill, enthusiastic promoters of youth bridge in Australia. We wish Andrew all the best in Melbourne, and hope to see his name up in lights in the future.

I kibitzed the guys in their round against Nathan Howard and Betty Mill. On the following deal, Andrew made a practical bid which worked out well:

Round 11, Board 7, South deals, all vulnerable

♠ A K J 9 5 2
♥ A 9 5 3
♦ 6 5
♣ 8

♠ ---
♥ Q 10 2
♦ Q J 10 9 3
♣ A K 10 9 7

♠ Q 10 4
♥ J 7
♦ A K 4
♣ Q J 6 5 3

♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ K 8 6 4
♦ 8 7 2
♣ 4 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gue	Howard	Morcombe	Mill
1♦	1♠	3NT	Pass
			All Pass

The defence and play was over in a flash. Betty Mill led ♠8, which Nathan ducked. Andrew tabled his hand, claiming 11 tricks. Joel was worried that they had missed six of a minor, but Andrew quickly told him that they were off two cashing heart tricks.

The match was most enjoyable to watch, and the maturity shown at the table defied what most players think is typical of youth bridge.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN II

Being closely associated with a bridge club, where the members are ageing - along with me - it is our sad duty to farewell members who pass away.

In late 2005 we lost Nathan Crafti, one of the most ardent supporters of bridge at the club. Nathan had only just taken up a position of responsibility in Darwin, when he died suddenly following a heart attack. His wife Judith returned to Melbourne to carry on life without Nathan, and bridge has been a great solace to her.

More recently, Antonia Murray, a brave and courageous woman, lost her fight with cancer. She is survived by her husband and bridge partner Don, as well as Alistair, her son, who partnered his mother with great success at club, state and interstate levels.

The picture below, was taken just last year in Darwin.



Nathan Crafti, Graham Rusher, Antonia & Alistair Murray

PLAYING TO THE GALLERY

In Round 2 of Stage II of the Women's Butler, I kibitzed one of the two Kiwi pairs at this year's ANC, good friends Kathy Yule and Sue Weal. Kathy and Sue are both experienced Women's international players, and are frequent visitors to Australian bridge events.

Their EW opponents were Catherine Herden and Pauline Evans. I made my appearance 15 minutes after the start of play, as Sue was huffing and puffing declaring a difficult 4♠ contract – the second board of the match.

At a nearby table, Helen Snashall called me over to rescue her abandoned drink from the bar, and when I returned, a few minutes later, the excruciatingly slow board had finally finished – with success for Sue.

Now some players are intimidated by the Bulletin Editor at the table, but not our Sue. She played magnificently throughout the match – and everything she touched turned to gold.

Witness the defence to 3♠ on the following deal:

Board 13, North deals, all vulnerable			
♠ K 9 7			
♥ A 5			
♦ J 4			
♣ A J 10 7 6 4			
♠ J 6 5 2		♠ A Q 8 4 3	
♥ 10 8 6 3		♥ K J 7	
♦ Q 8 7		♦ A 6 3	
♣ K 2		♣ 9 3	
♠ 10			
♥ Q 9 4 2			
♦ K 10 9 5 2			
♣ Q 8 5			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Evans	Yule	Herden	Weal
	2♣ ¹	2♠	3♠
3♠	All Pass		

1. 11-15, 6+ clubs

The Kiwi women impressed with their well-defined partnership understandings in both the bidding and defence. Weal led ♣5 to dummy's king and Yule's ace. Yule switched to ♥A, Weal encouraging with ♥2. Yule continued ♥5 and Herden went up with her king. With no entry to dummy, she cashed ♠A and continued with a second spade to dummy's jack, as Weal played an odds-and-evens ♦5, encouraging. Yule won ♠K, and switched to ♦4.

Herden was at the crossroads. Going up with the ace would lead to a certain two down, but if Yule was leading away from ♦K, the contract would be only one down. She ducked, and Weal was quick to win ♦K and cash ♥Q, as Yule discarded ♦J. Weal cashed ♣Q then delivered Yule a diamond ruff. When the smoke cleared, the contract was three down for +300 NS.

Yule's defence had been sure, but slow, and was based on trusting her partner's carding.

"I decided to believe your carding", Yule said.

"That'd be a first" grumbled Weal.



Kathy Yule & Sue Weal

**OPEN BUTLER STAGE II
AFTER 7 ROUNDS**

NS FIELD

		Total VPs	Total IMPs	Wins	Last VPs	Last IMPs
1	Neill & Peake	140	126	6.5	19.0	14
2	Markey & Mill	132	87	6.0	25.0	34
3	Snashall & Nixon	110	19	4.5	16.0	2
4	Noble & Bilski	109	14	4.0	16.0	3
5	Geddes & Jenner-O'Shea	109	14	4.5	16.0	4
6	Ewart & Howe	105	0	3.5	16.0	3
7	Prescott & Hughes	103	3-	3.5	13.0	6-
8	Fischer & Bookallil	96	27-	2.5	16.0	2
9	Dawson & Demuy	94	34-	2.5	21.0	19
10	Gold & Stark	91	41-	2.5	12.0	9-
11	Tishler & Sarten	90	50-	1.5	11.0	14-
12	Lange & Hocking	89	49-	2.0	14.0	4-
13	Brightling & Thomson	86	61-	2.5	7.0	26-
14	Klinger & Lilley	82	74-	2.5	3.0	41-

**WOMENS BUTLER STAGE II
AFTER 7 ROUNDS**

NS FIELD

		Total VPs	Total IMPs	Wins	Last VPs	Last IMPs
1	Tully & Lusk	142	124	6.0	14.0	2-
2	Chadwick & Sharp	131	85	5.0	20.0	17
3	Stephens & Pettigrew	111	24	5.0	16.0	5
4	Bashar & Moses	111	19	4.0	6.0	27-
5	Weal & Yule	109	14	4.0	15.0	0
6	Bird & Creet	109	14	4.0	25.0	34
7	Manford & Clements	98	24-	3.0	21.0	20
8	Emerson & Harris	98	25-	3.0	23.0	25
9	Fallon & Marrett	95	28-	2.5	11.0	12-
10	Eddie & McMahon	87	57-	1.0	12.0	9-
11	Warthold & Herring	85	66-	1.5	4.0	34-
12	Rasmussen & Daws	85	73-	3.5	20.0	15
13	Plush & Boxall	83	69-	2.0	5.0	31-
14	Ingham & Folkard	79	84-	2.5	17.0	8

EW FIELD

1	Adams & Beauchamp	122	52	5.5	17.0	6
2	Moren & Francis	120	58	3.5	19.0	14
3	Wiltshire & Dyke	119	42	3.5	14.0	4-
4	Gill & Gosney	116	32	5.0	16.0	4
5	Zollo & Eddie	112	23	4.5	9.0	19-
6	Rosendorff & Zeller	112	19	4.0	11.0	14-
7	Smolanko & Middleton	112	18	3.0	23.0	26
8	Robb & Thenuwara	107	7	4.5	14.0	2-
9	Reynolds & Appleton	106	5	3.5	14.0	2-
10	McLeish & McLeish	105	5	2.0	25.0	41
11	Zurawel & Coffey	95	29-	3.0	4.0	34-
12	Richman & Richman	93	40-	4.0	18.0	9
13	Chadwick & Lowry	89	51-	2.5	9.0	19-
14	Livingston & Hill	86	62-	1.0	14.0	3-

EW FIELD

1	Snashall & Murray-White	140	125	5.0	25.0	31
2	Kahler & Hopwood	127	71	5.5	16.0	2
3	Schroor & Kaplan	124	61	5.0	14.0	5-
4	Glanger & Scudder	119	44	4.5	24.0	27
5	Stewart & Hill	110	20	4.5	19.0	12
6	Alexander & Marler	101	8	3.0	7.0	25-
7	Tucker & Millar	100	10-	3.0	25.0	34
8	Driscoll & Greenfeld	100	17-	3.0	13.0	8-
9	Mellings & Spurrier	100	17-	2.0	9.0	20-
10	Liepins & Chadwick	99	19-	3.5	10.0	15-
11	Evans & Herden	98	24-	3.0	10.0	17-
12	Andrews & Phillips	97	12-	2.5	15.0	0
13	Wilson & Wilson	94	36-	3.0	18.0	9
14	Jagelman & Frazier	90	48-	3.5	4.0	34-

**SENIORS BUTLER STAGE A
AFTER 4 ROUNDS**

NS FIELD

1	Berger & Berge	71	62	3.0	17.0	8
2	Hunt & Lachman	71	37	3.0	22.0	23
3	Clarke & Colmer	69	27	3.0	18.0	10
4	Dilks & Gallus	65	18	3.0	20.0	16
5	Samuel & Samuel	60	0	2.0	14.0	4-
6	Scerri & Scerri	59	3-	2.0	8.0	22-
7	Mann & Hairfield	55	14-	1.0	15.0	1
8	Bourke & Ramshaw	54	9-	1.0	13.0	6-
9	Rhodes & Rhodes	51	27-	1.0	9.0	20-
10	Motteram & Wagner	47	43-	1.0	11.0	14-
11	Klofa & Schwabegger	36	79-	1.0	16.0	3

**SENIORS BUTLER STAGE A
AFTER 4 ROUNDS**

EW FIELD

1	Kahler & Davis	79	70	3.0	21.0	20
2	Bignall & Januszke	74	41	2.5	15.0	1-
3	Grant & Hancock	73	40	3.0	13.0	8-
4	Marks & Rocks	72	36	3.0	22.0	22
5	Piper & Ashworth	68	29	2.0	17.0	6
6	Renton & Lund	66	21	2.5	19.0	14
7	Rutkowski & Tobin	53	21-	2.0	16.0	4
8	Watts & Yuill	51	31-	1.5	14.0	3-
9	Kemp & Kemp	51	31-	1.5	12.0	10-
10	Thompson & Thompson	49	36-	1.0	10.0	16-
11	Kelly & Narita	35	87-	1.0	8.0	23-