

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009



Daily Bulletin

Number 15 Friday 17 July



Day Four and, following the narrow loss of the ACT Open Team to Victoria, there is now no unbeaten team. The ACT Open team would have to do a lot wrong today to fail to make the final and only SA and NSW are in contention for the second spot. SA have been finishing the week very strongly. NSW are to play WA and Tasmania today and SA play Victoria and Qld.

Qld looks locked in for the Women's with the other finalist probably the NT (who, apart from a glitch in session 10 have been improving their position steadily over the last couple of days) or NSW. The NT plays Victoria and SA. NSW meets the ACT and WA.

The Seniors is by far the closest with four teams in contention. The ACT is leading but has only one match to play (against Victoria) and will have an anxious wait on last match results if they do not do well. SA and NSW play each other. SA also play against WA and NSW plays Tasmania.

In the Youth Victoria have looked to be a lock almost from day one and they now seem certain to play a final against NSW.

ANC Open Teams after S12

	S10	S11	S12	TOTAL
ACT	+32.5	+32.4	-5	290.3
SA	+32.5	+30.3	+8	218.7
NSW	+30	+30.6	-8	183
Vic	-30.8	+20	+5	1.3
Tas	+30.8	-32.4	+15	-28.9
WA	-35	-30.3	+13	-106.9
Qld	-34	-30.6	-13	-271.5
NT	-30	-20	-15	-296.3

ANC Women's Teams after S12

	S10	S11	S12	TOTAL
Qld	+2	+8	+4	151.1
NT	-31.7	+23	+20	70
NSW	+10	-18	-20	52.1
WA	+14	-8	+16	16.6
ACT	-14	-12	-4	3.7
Vic	+31.7	+18	-21	-45.9
Tas	-2	-23	+21	-78.5
SA	-10	+12	-16	-170.9

ANC Seniors Teams after S12

	S10	S11	S12	TOTAL
ACT	+32.3	+28	-25	148
SA	0	Bye	+25	133.3
Vic	Bye	+3	-16	114.8
NSW	-4	+31.3	+16	100.7
Qld	0	-28	Bye	-81.2
WA	+4	-3	+30.1	-162.4
Tas	-32.3	-31.3	30.1	-256.6

ANC Youth Teams RR3

	S10	S11	S12	TOTAL
Vic	Bye	Bye	+32.5	155
NSW	+32	-15	+26	102.7
SA	-32	+15	Bye	-10.4
ACT	-2	+31.8	-26	-33.9
WA	+2	-31.8	-35	-218.2

Max is Smart

By Khokan Bagchi

Michael Smart, known to his friends as Max, was in the winning Interstate Team for the ACT two years ago and some of the hands that he has played lately show exactly why.

Exhibit A: Round Robin 5 Deal 2

♠T	♠AQ95
♥Q953	♥J
♦5432	♦J987
♣JT42	♣KQ63
♠742	♠KJ863
♥AKT764	♥62
♦T	♦AKQ6
♣A87	♣95

Max reached 3NT from the East seat after South overcalled 1♠ over Max's 1♦ opening. South Attilio de Luca started well by leading a high diamond and shifting to the ♣9. Max won in hand to run the ♥J. North, David Lusk, kept the defence afloat by ducking the ♥J. Max now played the ♦J out of hand and South won to lead another club, which Max won in hand to lead a third diamond. South won and exited a fourth diamond to leave the following ending, with Max having lost three diamond tricks.

♠T	♠AQ95
♥Q95	♥—
♦—	♦—
♣JT	♣63
♠74	♠KJ863
♥AKT	♥6
♦—	♦—
♣A	♣—

Max read the ending perfectly as he led a club to dummy and cashed the ♥A pitching a spade. He then led a spade to the ♠A and threw North in with the ♣J to lead into the ♥K-T. Well played!!

Exhibit 2: Round Robin, Deal 3

♠AK94	♠6
♥J74	♥KQT9863
♦T4	♦872
♣9854	♣T7
♠QT853	♠J72
♥A5	♥2
♦65	♦AKQJ93
♣KQJ6	♣A32

The auction proceeded:

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	1NT	2H
3H	P	3S	P
5D	All pass		

After bidding his hand to the hilt, Max ducked the ♣K opening lead and won the second club to lead the ♠J, a key play. West covered and Max won the ♠K and ran five rounds of trumps to produce the ending below, with West to discard.

♠A94	♠—
♥J	♥KQT986
♦	♦
♣98	♣
♠T85	♠72
♥A5	♥2
♦	♦3
♣J	♣2

West tried his best by throwing the ♥A. Max threw a heart from dummy and led a heart to the jack. East won and perforce led another heart which squeezed poor West, who gave up. Note that West cannot succeed by keeping the ♥A as an entry to cash the ♣J as Max would now play the last trump and if West throws the A now Max can set up the last club in dummy for the 11th trick—a fascinating hand! Let's hope he keeps up his excellent form.

The beautiful and the not so beautiful by Helen Lowry

Round 7 board 3, women's teams. Partner W, I'm East

Dealer S EW Vul	♠AK94 ♥J74 ♦T4 ♣9854 ♠QT853 ♠6 ♥A5 ♥KQT9863 ♦65 ♦872 ♣KQJ6 ♣T7 ♠J72 ♥2 ♦AKQJ93 ♣A32	Dealer N All Vul	♠J6 ♥T43 ♦Q9 ♣865432 ♠43 ♥QJ9 ♦AJ84 ♣AQT7 ♠KT72 ♥K876 ♦532 ♣KJ
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The bidding goes

S	W	N	E	
1D	1S*	2C**	P (me)	PASS! Yes, promise I
3C	P	3D	P (still)	passed
3S	P	3NT		

*I've seen better suit quality partner

**Another lovely

I'm on lead, and decide that now is the time to show my 7-card suit. (I wonder if partner has the Ace) . So, I table my HK, overtaken by partner's yummy ace, and 7 tricks later we have 150 in the bank. The other table settled for +200 defending the EW heart contract. Good –oh.

A bit later in the match, at board 19, over North's opening of 1D, I decided to jump in with a 2H weak jump overcall. In principle this was a fine idea, except that when Partner doubled their 5D contract, I should have led that heart Ace and left the rest to partner. Not good. I found myself writing down -550. Serves me right. Or so partner said.

Board 13 was a tricky one for declarer and for the defence:

N	E	S	W
P	1S	P	2C
P	2D	P	3D
P	3H*	P	3NT

*4th suit force

Leading from the north hand was not much joy, so I settled for the old “dummy's 2nd suit/4th suit”, and led my ♥3. Partner rose with the king, and played back a small heart, taken with west's ♥J.

West then played to East's ♠9, taken by partner's ♠T, and the heart return dropped the Ace and Queen.

East went back to hand with ♦A, and tried the spade hook again, through north's J-east's Q to the south ♠K. South then cashed the last heart. This is where it all went wrong for declarer. After West's ♣7 discard, North discarded ♣8, and declarer discarded ♣9 from the table.

This gave South an easy exit with a diamond through North's queen to the table. West had given up her opportunity for the club finesse, and had to settle for 8 tricks. At the other table, West managed a comfortable 9 tricks on a club lead.

Eye on Youth Bridge: Earning 420 the hard way

By Leigh Matheson

Session 6 of the state teams saw NSW play WA in the youth. Board 17 saw plenty of happy declarers, even if the road was a rocky one.

Dealer: East ♠-

Nil vul ♥AQ9

 ♦KT652

 ♣QJ987

♠742	♠AJ653
♥KJ652	♥T843
♦4	♦J73
♣K653	♣T

♠KQT98

♥7

♦AQ98

♣A42

S	W	E	N
			P
1S	P	2D	P
3D	P	3H	P
4C	P	4S	All pass

Lead: ♠2

The only thing going for this contract is that they at least managed to avoid playing hearts. 3♦ set diamonds as trumps and all subsequent bids are cues. The less said about 4S and South's final pass the better.

Declarer won the opening trump lead with the ♠8. The ♠K went to the Ace and a club was returned. Declarer rose with the Ace and played trumps from the top, dummy pitching a heart, diamond and two clubs, leading to this ending.

Here's how WA bid it:

S	W	N	E
			P
1S	P	2D	P
3H*	P	3NT	P
4C	P	4H	P
5D	All pass		

*= splinter

♠-	♠6
♥AQ	♥T843
♦KT65	♦J73
♣QJ	♣-
♠-	♠9
♥KJ65	♥7
♦4	♦AQ98
♣K65	♣42

You might be wondering why they stopped short of slam. The truth is that North didn't recognise 3H as a splinter and 4H was a raise to game. The play was routine; ruffing out two hearts, drawing trumps and playing on clubs for an overtrick—+420

East returned the last trump (every return is hopeless) and the ♥Q went from dummy. A club established the 10th game-going trick.

NSW had much more of an auction. Here was their auction.

Result +420 and a flat board!

Not make the finals? Feeling depressed and at odds with the world? Wondering if you will ever find a bridge partner worthy of you? Why not do something on Saturday to lift your spirits?

Play bridge!!! The pairs event has two sessions at 10 am and 2pm. Or

Watch the finals— in the Aegean room

