

The Same Old Story

How often are we told that the decision at trick one is critical? I saw yet another example in the first round of the Seniors Teams when Bill Haughe and Zolly Nagy were playing Valerie and John Rose. Bill had shown a variety of hands (including a minor 2 suiter) with a multi 2D but John grabbed the helm with a 3H bid.

Bill led the 3 of clubs and John had to decide what to play from dummy, looking at:

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

John went with the King, which led to a fairly brutal defence on this complete layout.

Dealer: S	♠ Q 9 7	
	♥ Q 8 5 3	
Vul: EW	♦ 5	
	♣ A Q 8 7 5	
♠ 10 8 5		♠ K J 4 3 2
♥ J 4		♥ A K 10 9 6 2
♦ J 9 6 4 2		♦ A Q
♣ K 10 9		♣
	♠ A 6	
	♥ 7	
	♦ K 10 8 7 3	
	♣ J 6 4 2	

Zolly played the Ace and John ruffed. Two rounds of trumps saw Bill discard a diamond. John tried Ace and Queen of diamonds next, with Zolly pitching a club on Bill's King. Bill continued a club to Zolly's Queen and John pitched a spade. Two further rounds of clubs followed as John continued to pitch spades. Zolly exited a spade to John's Jack and Bill's Ace for the first undertrick and Zolly still had the Queen of trumps coming.

If John can find the 9 of clubs at trick one, then he would be able to play 3 rounds of trumps without having to worry about being tapped off, as dummy's King would protect against continued club plays. Declarer could then concede a couple of spades to make his contract.

John and Valerie got some back when John made a couple of good bidding decisions on board 15.

Looking at

♠ Q J 10 6 5 ♥ 9 ♦ A K 8 7 4 ♣ A 5

He saw Bill open 1C, and Zolly reply 1H. John chose a simple 1S and after the auction continued 2H from Bill and 3C from Zolly, John opted for 3D. This lit Valerie's fuse: perhaps not surprisingly, on this layout.

Dealer: S	♠ K 9 4 2	
	♥ K 10 7 4	
Vul: NS	♦	
	♣ K 7 6 4 2	
♠ 8 3		♠ Q J 10 6 5
♥ A 6 3 2		♥ 9
♦ Q 10 9 5 3 2		♦ A K 8 7 4
♣ 8		♣ A 5
	♠ A 7	
	♥ Q J 8 5	
	♦ J 6	
	♣ Q J 10 9 3	

Valerie's bid of 5D did not present many problems for John. Other partnerships managed the auction to less effect; an inspection of the datum sheets showed a number of East-Wests playing partials, going down in 4S or defending North-South part scores. Admittedly, two declarers joined John in 5D but were lucky enough to get doubled!

Bill and Zolly were in unforgiving defensive mode throughout the match. Board 9 saw John and Valerie having doubts about Zolly's veracity in the auction and ending up overboard.

Dealer: N	♠ Q	
	♥ J 9 7 6 3	
Vul: EW	♦ A K 10 3	
	♣ K Q 9	
♠ K J 8 4		♠ 9 6 5
♥ 10 8 5 2		♥ A K Q
♦ Q 9 6 4		♦ 8
♣ J		♣ A 7 6 4 3 2
	♠ A 10 7 3 2	
	♥ 4	
	♦ J 7 5 2	
	♣ 10	

Zolly opened an impeccable 1H from North, but John was the first to have doubts about this peccability when Valerie responded 2NT to his 2C overcall. Valerie's time for doubt came when John put his dummy down after bidding the nine trick game – AKQ of hearts were somewhat unexpected.

The 6 of hearts lead was taken on table and Valerie tried the effect of running the 9 of spades. Zolly took that and switched to the King of clubs. Valerie ducked and ducked again when Zolly persisted with the Queen, on which declarer dropped a heart. The Ace, King and a small diamond followed putting

Valerie in hand. Bill still had the Ace of spades and a diamond trick to come for 3 off.

This same board caused Ted Chadwick a certain amount of wry amusement as he followed his own teaching precepts on defence. Ted tells me that one message he instils strongly into his students is not to lead declarer's first bid suit. He disobeyed his partner in refusing to do this with gratifying effect.

(Hand repeated for convenience)

Dealer: N	♠ Q	
	♥ J 9 7 6 3	
Vul: EW	♦ A K 10 3	
	♣ K Q 9	
♠ K J 8 4		♠ 9 6 5
♥ 10 8 5 2		♥ A K Q
♦ Q 9 6 4		♦ 8
♣ J		♣ A 7 6 4 3 2
	♠ A 10 7 3 2	
	♥ 4	
	♦ J 7 5 2	
	♣ 10	

North opened 1H and subsided in 2D. Martin Bloom led the Ace of clubs and continued the 2 for Ted to ruff. The 2 instructed Ted to return a heart but his pedagogic principles would not allow this. Perversely, he decided on a spade return, choosing the King in case declarer had a singleton Queen! This had a most pleasing effect. When the smoke cleared, it showed a plus in the Bloom/Chadwick column. If Ted returns the demanded heart, then he will get a second ruff, but declarer now has trump control and can ruff out the heart suit for his contract.

Tim Bourke's Problem

2. ORDERLY

Dealer West; Nil Vul.

NORTH

♠ 6
♥ A J 9 8 4 2
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ J 7

SOUTH

♠ A K 2
♥ Q
♦ A 9 8 6 5
♣ A 9 5 4

West North East South

1♠ 2♥ Pass 3NT

All pass

West leads the queen of spades against and while you have nine easy tricks when diamonds are 2-2, what are your plans to cater for a 3-1 or 4-0 diamond break?

**THE AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday 9:30am 22nd January
(downstairs Rydges)**

**Everyone welcome, whether a member
teacher or not!**

Items for discussion:

- 1) Elections.
- 2) Website to solve problems with hints for teachers.
- 3) Allocation of funds from recent ABF grant.
- 4) Seminars.
- 5) Travelling teachers and subsidies.

**For any enquiries phone Lorraine Harkness
Mobile : 0409 220 761 or I will be available at
enquiry desk for 15 minutes after each seniors
session at Rydges for Discussions.**

Exploring Possibilities

Board 9 in the second round of Seniors qualifying saw all sorts of defensive possibilities against 3NT – though none were fated to succeed.

Dealer: N	♠ 5 2	
	♥ A K J 9 6 2	
Vul: EW	♦ K 7 5	
	♣ 10 9	
♠ Q 10 8 6		♠ 9 4
♥ 10 8		♥ Q 7 5 3
♦ 10 8 6 4		♦ Q J 3
♣ A 7 5		♣ K J 4 3
	♠ A K J 7 3	
	♥ 4	
	♦ A 9 2	
	♣ Q 8 6 2	

At the table I kibitzed, South shot 3NT after North had twice offered hearts. A diamond was led to East's Jack and declarer allowed this to hold. The Queen of diamonds was continued to the Ace and declarer took a losing heart finesse. What now for East? The situation is obviously desperate. Declarer has 2 diamond tricks and 5 hearts (just look at those defensive heart spots). The defence needs 3 tricks quickly. Some possibilities:

- 1) Try spades, maybe partner has got declarer's spades surrounded?
- 2) Try the King of clubs and a small club. An attempt to con declarer into believing that you have either the Ace or Queen and then, maybe he'll waste his honour – if it's the Ace partner may have spade control and if it's the Queen maybe he'll play it.
- 3) Play the Jack of clubs. If partner has the Ace of clubs or Ace of spades and Queen of clubs then the key card becomes the 8 of clubs. Transpose the 8 and 7 of clubs above and the Jack is highly successful.

Of course, on the actual layout, it was all just a mental exercise. Even I would make 9 tricks.

SOLUTION TO TIM BOURKE'S PROBLEM

After taking the first trick with the ace of spades, cash the ace of diamonds. If all follow, your next move should be the queen of hearts, intending to run it if West plays low. Should East produce the king of hearts you will need either diamonds 2-2 or the ten of hearts to fall in three rounds of the suit. On the other hand, when the queen of hearts holds you can make certain of your contract! Simply play a diamond to the king and cash the ace of hearts, discarding a club from hand. When diamonds turn out to be 3-1, concede a diamond. You will make two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and a club or your contract. If diamonds are 2-2 the result is an overtrick.

A careless play of the ace-king of diamonds before hearts may see you never getting a second heart trick when diamonds are 3-1.

If diamonds prove to be 4-0, as here:

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

You have to fall back on the heart suit to produce five tricks. Again lead the queen of hearts at trick two. Of course West will play low from this holding and if you do likewise the contract will fail. You must counter by overtaking the queen of hearts with the ace and continuing with the jack of hearts. It is the only way to make five tricks in the suit; you scoop East's doubleton ten of hearts and make ten tricks. Any other plan sees the contract fail.

An Important Lead

Board 14 in the second round of Seniors qualifying saw one North face a lead decision with lots at stake. Unfortunately, I don't have the auction but put yourself as North on the layout below and select your lead against 6Hxx.

Dealer: E	♠ Q 9 7 6 5 2	
	♥ 10 2	
Vul: Nil	♦ K 9 5 4	
	♣ 6	
♠ 10 4		♠ J 8 3
♥ A K Q J 9 8 6 5		♥
♦ 2		♦ A J 7 6
♣ A Q		♣ K J 10 9 7 4
	♠ A K	
	♥ 7 4 3	
	♦ Q 10 8 3	
	♣ 8 5 3 2	

This was at one of the datum tables and the sheet shows -1820 as North failed to find a spade.

The datum sheet didn't show anyone else making slam. There were some 510's and 450's together with a couple of 50's. Two Wests chose to defend

4S (one doubled) which shows a lot more self-discipline than I possess. Paul Wyer felt that his opponents were a little unlucky though his opinion may have changed after the score-up. East opened the bidding with a Precision type 2C and West blasted into Keycard. The Ace of diamonds and King of clubs saw East bid 5H and become declarer in 6H. This (good news) hid the opening bid from defensive sight but (bad news) meant the Ace and King of spades were on lead.

Paul had some hopes that his team-mates might find their way to 6H from West, however... a wee breakdown in communication saw the other table try 5C!.

DeepFinesse has this as make-able but in real life it was too tough and that was just another push.

DINING AT RYDGES

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Seafood Buffet in BG Skyline Restaurant – 15th floor

King prawns
Morton Bay bugs
Fresh Australian oysters
Fresh cracked crab
Smoked Rainbow trout
Tasmanian Atlantic salmon
Fresh nori
Green lipped mussels with aged sherry salsa
Lakeside antipasto with premium selection of
smoked meats
Marinated baby octopus sweet chilli calamari
Hokkien noodle and soy chicken salad
Balsamic roasted vegetable salad

◆

A selection of roast meats and sauces
Seafood pasta
Butter chicken

◆

Rich assorted gateaux's and tortes
Fresh fruit pavlova
Warm white chocolate bread and
butter pudding
Selection of Australian cheese
Fresh seasonal fruit

**\$34 (normal price \$48)
Book on 2496**

**Bobby McGee's Buffet
Thursday**

Thursday

Cream of mushroom soup
Bakers presentation of farmhouse white,
wholemeal and sourdough rolls
Roast leg of pork with braised apple
and prunes
Garlic scented mash
Summer vegetable medley
Trio of summer salads
Apple and wildberry crumble
with brandy custard
Fresh fruit platter

**\$15 pp
Book on 2496**

The Loo Coup

It had been a long session. By the end of board 19 certain needs were pressing. Tania Lloyd sorted her cards while partner, Jill Courtney took off for a comfort stop. Tania was contemplating

♠ J 10 9 6 5 ♥ K ♦ Q 10 9 7 5 ♣ A 9

Jill returned and dealer, to Tania's left, started the auction with a pass. Two more passes followed and Tania was left to decide whether or not to open. Pearson count suggests that she should and she couldn't see 1S getting into too much trouble. She and Jill play 5 card weak 2's so she wasn't going to be faced with a 2H response. Tania took the plunge – 1S. Pass from dealer and then an unexpected development – Jill leapt straight to the spade game. Tania awaited dummy with interest. The 6 of clubs was led and this layout eventuated :

Dealer : W

♠ K 7 4 2

♥ A 7 5

Vul : All

♦ K J 8 3

♣ K Q

♠ Q 8

♠ A 3

♥ Q 9 8 3 2

♥ J 10 6 4

♦

♦ A 6 4 2

♣ J 10 7 6 3 2

♣ 8 5 4

♠ J 10 9 6 5

♥ K

♦ Q 10 9 7 5

♣ A 9

Yes, Jill had been sufficiently distracted by her break from the table as to pass a flat 16.

The lead was covered by dummy's King and declarer's Ace. The Jack of spades drew 100 honours and East continued clubs, enabling Tania to make 11 tricks for a 1 imp pickup.

The Pearson decision to open 1S, however, represented a 12 imp gain over passing the board in.

Karapet The Unlucky

By Hilda Lirsch

This deal occurred in a friendly rubber at the Griffins.

Papa the Greek sat North, facing Karapet the Unlucky Armenian while the Hideous Hog was West in tandem with the Rueful Rabbit.

Dealer : East	♠ K 3		
	♥ K 10 9		
Vul : EW	♦ K 9 7		
	♣ Q 9 3 2		
♠ 6 4 2		♠ J 7	
♥ 7 5 4 3		♥ A Q J 8 6	
♦ J 10 8 4 3		♦ A Q	
♣ 5		♣ 10 7 6 4	
	♠ A Q 10 9 8 5		
	♥ 2		
	♦ 6 5 2		
	♣ K J 8		

West	North	East	South
HH	Papa	RR	Karapet
		1H	1S
P	2H	P	3S
P	4S	end	

The Hog led the 3 of hearts to dummy's 9 and the Rabbit's Jack. He Rabbit switched to the 4 of clubs, won by Karapet's King.

As an expert, Karapet easily found the "safety" play of immediately running the 10 of trumps; a classic avoidance play to guard against the unlucky layout of the Hog holding Jxxx in trumps.

The Rabbit choked on his cherry brandy when his Jack of trumps took a totally unexpected trick. He led another club for the Hog to ruff. A diamond return saw the Rabbit cash the Queen and Ace before giving the Hog a club ruff. The Hog played a third diamond for the Rabbit to ruff – unlucky 4 off when 11 tricks were available by simply playing trumps from the top.

"You idiot!", Papa yelled, "you should have seen that the Rabbit switched to the 4 of clubs and he always plays fourth best!"

DATUMS
Womens
Session1

Board	Score
1	-60
2	-100
3	20
4	1290
5	70
6	-10
7	-90
8	-20
9	60
10	-360
11	-110
12	60
13	-520
14	430
15	40
16	380
17	-430
18	-140
19	160
20	-170

Session2

Board	Score
1	-420
2	620
3	-70
4	-60
5	-240
6	200
7	110
8	-310
9	350
10	-80
11	40
12	560
13	-20
14	-420
15	0
16	40
17	-80
18	550
19	-120
20	-10

Session3

Board	Score
1	-400
2	-20
3	-210
4	-20
5	-330
6	-470
7	-470
8	100
9	260
10	480
11	-10
12	-120
13	760
14	-160
15	-250
16	-550
17	-150
18	70
19	-430
20	640

Seniors
Session1

Board	Score
1	100
2	-40
3	40
4	1430
5	30
6	40
7	-140
8	-50
9	90
10	-180
11	-100
12	50
13	-460
14	430
15	-290
16	460
17	-420
18	-150
19	110
20	-110

Session2

Board	Score
1	-460
2	620
3	-80
4	-30
5	-300
6	170
7	50
8	-430
9	280
10	-150
11	50
12	640
13	60
14	-500
15	20
16	120
17	-50
18	380
19	-120
20	-10

Session3

Board	Score
1	-450
2	0
3	-200
4	-140
5	-260
6	-500
7	-620
8	90
9	270
10	600
11	50
12	-100
13	910
14	-130
15	-330
16	-630
17	-150
18	60
19	-480
20	630

Progress Scores Seniors

Place	Name	Score	Imps
1	Neill	71	134
2	Puskas	68	143
3	Chadwick	68	129
4	Buchen	65	123
5	Bock	64	92
6	Wyer	62	91
7	Dudley	61	81
8	Gaspar	60	112
9	Gallus	60	76
10	Griffiths	60	76
11	Hoffeins	60	75
12	Krochmalik	59	100
13	Halmos	59	72
14	Varadi	59	67
15	Prince	59	67
16	Rutkowski	58	65
17	Elson	57	104
18	Thorp	57	63
19	Chrapot	56	60
20	Clifton	54	57

Womens

Place	Name	Score	Imps
1	Bourke	67	115
2	Mott	67	111
3	Creet	61	77
4	Kaplan	59	72
5	Greenfeld	59	67
6	Travis	58	67
7	Free	56	62
8	Zotti	56	54
9	Evans	53	36
10	Hawke	52	43
11	Broad	52	41
12	Watts	51	25
13	Yuill	50	27
14	Molloy	50	25
15	Bashar	50	22
16	Motteram	49	25
17	Neale	48	16
18	Courtney	48	10
19	Stralow	46	21
20	Obenchain	46	11

Non-Life

Place	Name	Score	Imps
1	Reitzer	61	84
2	Moss	60	69
3	Cariola	57	56
4	Gilbert	55	58
5	Starr	54	80
6	Woodward	53	41
7	Christiaen	53	37
8	Kieran	53	35
9	Boxall	52	38
10	McAlary	51	31
11	Carter	51	27
12	Smart	48	11
13	Kennedy	42	-13
14	Houghton	41	-15
15	Gooley	41	-19
16	Crompton	41	-19
17	Barrett	40	-6
18	Slaughter	40	-23
19	White	39	-34
20	Day	38	-33

Novice

Place	Name	Score	Imps
1	Muir	65	100
2	Lam	62	89
3	Higgins	55	51
4	Leckie	52	39
5	Swanson	51	27
6	Phelan	49	19
7	Jowett	48	11
8	Carr	47	12
9	Allen	47	10
10	Mitchell	47	6
11	Dalziell	46	11
12	Collins	46	7
13	Parker	45	-3
14	Schultz	43	9
15	Breden	42	-13
16	Donaldson	42	-17
17	Bertuna	39	-34
18	Williams	38	-32
19	Brown	36	-46
20	Ng	35	-53