



Day 2 No 1 Friday 14th November
Editor Anne Bates

Bridge in the Northern Territory

Each year a few brave players from the far north enter major Bridge competitions in the big southern cities. In fact, in the last few, David Hurst from Darwin has been seeking another pair to play with him and Tony Chamberlain in the Open next week. (PH: 9744 5364)

As an aside: many years ago, early in the life of the GNOT. the Northern Territory was represented by a team which included 3 members of one family: the Nunns. Tony Nunn is now a leading NSW Bridge player, but at that time he was 13 years old and played with his parents.

So what kind of Bridge environment do David Hurst and the Nunns come from?

There are only about 100 club Bridge players in the whole of the Northern Territory. Surprisingly, there are 4 Bridge clubs, three in Darwin, and one in Alice Springs, where there is one session each week.

Judy Miller, treasurer of the NTBA, says that Northern Territory Bridge players are an enthusiastic crowd, and to cater for them, in Darwin there are 7 sessions each week. One of these is for beginners.

At the moment 8 beginners are taking lessons at Darwin Bridge Club. A number of players, such as Stephen Hughes, Meryll Howley and Elizabeth Jeffries teach beginners from time to time.

The problems of Bridge in the NT are not so different from those in the south, but they are exacerbated by isolation and the small population.

Players do not have a wide enough pool of competitors to develop their skills.

Then there is the 'stratification' of Bridge: the better players remain in their own stream, with the result that developing players don't have the opportunity to improve through stiffer competition. So, says Judy, the same players always represent the Northern Territory.

Remedies? One simple remedy would be if groups of players from the south could visit for long weekend or Easter congresses. Through such competitions the quiet waters of Northern Territory Bridge could be infused with new expertise and energy.

Expense would obviously be a problem. A possible solution to that – a kindly bridge sponsor or two might think of taking his team to Darwin for congresses, as a service to Bridge.

Intriguing Puzzle

♠ K 6 3
♥ A J 5 2
♦ A
♣ 9 6 4 3 2

♠ 9 2
♥ Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 8 7 2
♣ K J 8

♠ 8 5 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ 9 6 5 4 3
♣ Q 10

♠ A Q J 10 7
♥ 4
♦ K Q J 10
♣ A 7 5

The contract is 6 Spades. Can you make 12 tricks? What assumptions must you make?
Solution: next bulletin.

On the lighter side:

The trouble with women is that they treat bridge as a game. They do not realize that it is a war.



DATUMS

LOVE THEM

HATE THEM

Pairs are being provided with a Datum match record sheets and these can be also be found at:

<http://www.abf.com.au/events/spnot/2003/results.asp>

then choose the session, followed by individual result. The quickest way to find a pairs datums is: Edit, Find on page, then the players name.

With the complements of the Spring Nationals Organising Team the datum excuse list will complete the picture:

A datum negative occurred due to:	Tick Here
Opponent bid a making game	
Opponent bid a making slam	
Opponent staid out of a good game that fails on the layout of the hand	
Opponent staid out of a good slam that fails on the layout of the hand	
We play Acol and the hand fails because of our system	
We play Standard and the hand fails because of our system	
Partner was on lead	
Partner was declarer	
Partner was dummy	
Crazy datum - who thought of this idea	



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Player Profile: Sue Lusk

Profession: Computer systems analyst

Home: Adelaide

Interests: One daughter studying acting, theatre, basketball, reading (Sci Fan, crime and almost everything else.)

Bridge Achievements: Only the ones closest to Sue's heart will be mentioned as there are too many to detail

- Australian Women's Team every year between 1982 and 2000 except '83, '88, '93, and '98.
- Favourite Achievement: Being part of the winning team at the Far Eastern Championships (now the Pacific Asia Bridge Championships), in 1985, 1990 & 1995.

Current Bridge Involvement: Co-editor of the *ABF Newsletter*.

Sue says that the variety of levels and styles in the Newsletter seem to satisfy most readers. A reasonable number of players are interested in the reports of hands and congresses.

For the foreseeable future the *Newsletter* will retain its present format and size because of costs.

The web version could possibly have an increased number of pages but even this would involve greater editorial and layout costs.

The *Newsletter* will continue to be free and to be distributed to clubs at the rate of one copy for every four members.

It remains the most obvious return most players see for their ABF capitation fees.

Solution to the Intriguing Puzzle

♠ K 6 3
♥ A J 5 2
♦ A
♣ 9 6 4 3 2

♠ 9 2
♥ Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 8 7 2
♣ K J 8

♠ 8 5 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ 9 6 5 4 3
♣ Q 10

♠ A Q J 10 7
♥ 4
♦ K Q J 10
♣ A 7 5

North's Spades are too weak and entries too few for ruffing Hearts to generate a twelfth trick. Strange though it may seem with Clubs being dummy's longest suit, ruffing a Club in dummy provides the answer. After putting up the ♥ A, cash the ♠ A and duck a Club. After that, draw a second trump with the Queen and unblock the minor-suit Aces (the exact order depending on East's return.) Then finish the Diamonds, discarding Clubs from dummy. East who holds the outstanding trump, has to follow to the Diamonds. Declarer finishes by ruffing a Club with the ♠ K.

Assumptions:

- Trumps are 3 – 2
- Defender with 3 trumps also has 4 Diamonds