



Spring Nationals Bulletin



Day 5 No 1 Monday, 17th November
Editor: Anne Bates

Welcome to the 2003 ABF Spring Carnival. We have some exciting developments this year. Particularly exciting is the web casting of the Spring Nationals final, however the session times, parking and lunch arrangements are similar to last year.

On most days play will finish by 7pm so it will be possible to eat at one of Bondi's excellent restaurants.

We wish you all good Bridge.

Frank Budai, Convenor

Parking

On-street parking is metered and the Hakoah car park is generally unavailable so go to the Secure Parking under the nearby Swiss Grand.

*Before retuning to your car collect a ticket from one of the ABF officials. Go to the Secure Parking pat station insert your original ticket followed by **this** ticket to pay as you are leaving the parking station. Parking for the whole day and/or evening will cost only \$3.50.*

No Evening Sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday

This is good for locals and visitors. Now you can devote 8 hours to bridge, with shortish breaks (1 hour for lunch, 15 mins at 3pm and 5.15pm).

The SpNOT

The field is about 50 teams, the same as last year.

Qualifying is over twelve 16-board matches, then the top 2 play a 64 board final on Sunday.

Winners receive 36 playoff points (PQPs), and the runners up 18.

Masterpoints

In the Open Teams, (16 bd matches), 5.12 Gold Points per team, divided between all team members.

Signing In

You will need to sign in each time you arrive at the club.

Smoking

The smoking area at the Hakoah Club is on the ground floor, in the gaming area. Any player found smoking in any other area, in particular the stairwells, will be suspended for either the remainder of the current session, and/or for the following session.

There will be no warnings. **Smoking in the stairwells is against the law!**

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones must be switched off in the playing area. A procedural penalty of 3 VPs (or 9 IMPs) applies to any player whose mobile is switched on unless the director determines that there is a valid (e.g. medical) reason.

Lunch Menus

Menus will be provided during the morning sessions for collection before 12.30. Coffee, including cappuccinos etc, is available. There is a bar on the ground floor.

Charity IMP Pairs

for Mission Australia

This will be held next Thursday 20th November, with a 10 am start.

There will be 3 x 16-board matches.

The boards will be the same as those being played simultaneously in the SpNOT final and scores will be IMPed against the closed room results.

ABF Alert Regulations

Alert by circling partner's call and saying "Alert" but don't offer an explanation unless asked. Then aim to be concise not complete.

Don't alert these 'self alerting calls:

- any double or redouble
- any call beyond 3NT
- a bid in a suit *bid* by an opponent

At the end of the auction the declaring side should offer an explanation of any 'self-alerting' calls.

Do alert:

- All other conventional calls (including Stayman)

Note: This natural-sounding bid:

2 H = hearts & a minor

is conventional because it conveys a meaning other than a desire to play in hearts.

- 'unusual' natural bids

These include: weak jump shift responses, pre-emptive jump raises, inverted minors, canapé tendency, negative free bids, transfer accepts that deny four trumps, etc.

Pre-alerts

The Pre-alerts section of your system card should include 'unusual' self-alerting calls, such as a double of 1NT that shows a 1-suiter; lack of negative doubles.

Also list methods that may require a prepared defence - complex defences to 1NT or a strong club, RCO Twos, transfer pre-empts, etc.

Scoring and Datums

Normal result sheets will not be used in this tournament. Instead datum sheets must be completed at all tables and handed to the director at the completion of each round.

From these, the match result will be computed.

As an ongoing service, each pair will receive a datum analysis, by board for each match, and in total for the whole tournament. There will also be a cross table on display, showing the results of all matches.

In order to achieve this, the datum sheets must be completed and returned.

ABF Convention Cards

Would you like your system card prepared on computer, using the ABF Convention Card Generator? As a service to Spring National's participants, Spring National's staff will prepare 2 copies of your system card, and give you a floppy disc with the computer files on it for a \$10.00 fee to cover costs.

Results of the Spring National Women's Teams

The final was played yesterday between Margaret Bourke's team, (Sue Lusk, Felicity Beale, Di Smart, Teresa Tully and Meredith Woods) and Dagmar Neumann's team. (Val Cummings, Helene Pitt, Rita Nailand and Candice Feitelson.)

And the winners were Margaret Bourke's team 175-109 IMPS.

Program

Spring National Open Teams

Monday 17 th	Rounds 1 – 4	1.15pm; 3.30pm; 7.15pm; 9.30pm
Tuesday 18 th	5 – 8	10.00am; 1.00pm; 3.15pm; 5.30pm
Wednesday 19 th	9 – 12	10.00am; 1.00pm; 3.15pm; 5.30pm
Thursday 20 th	SpNOT	Final from 9.00am. Start time to be confirmed.

Thursday 20th **Mission Australia Pro-Am IMP Pairs 10.00am \$50.00 per pair**

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Qualifying	Friday 21 st	10.30am -- 11.30pm
	Saturday 22 nd	10.00am -- 11.30pm
Semi Final	Sunday 23 rd	from 9.00am
Final	Monday 24 th	from 9.00am at Double Bay Bridge Club
Provincial Pairs	Sunday 23 rd	For details contact John Brockwell

Chief Tournament Director: Matthew McManus
Tournament Committee/Unit: Eric Ramshaw, Chris Diment
Computers & Scoring: Edward Barnes
Appeals Committee: Ivy Dahler
GNOT Convenor: John Brockwell
Spring National Convenors: Frank Budai John Mottram



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Meet the Tournament Committee

Matthew McManus - Chief Tournament Director

Profession: Speech Pathologist
Home: Bondi
Interests: Golf, contemporary music, theatre
Bridge Involvement: Most recently accredited Grade A1 national director.
Chief Director, NSWBA since 1995
President, Australian Bridge Directors' Association for 4 years.
Australian Open Bridge Team, 2002

Eric Ramshaw - Tournament C'tee/Unit

Profession: Scientist
Home: Ballarat
Interests: All-consuming small rural land holding.
Bridge Involvement: 'Eminence grise' of the ABF for more than a decade.

Chris Diment - Director

Profession: Tournament Director
Home: Wollongong
Interests: All kinds of music except C&W, comic f antasy, wine - chiefly drinking
Bridge Involvement: Started directing at club level in 1980. Now a National Congress Director as well as a World Bridge Federation director since 1997. Has been a member of the ABF Tournament Unit since its inception. Member of the executive of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) which disseminates information to journalists.

Edward Barnes - Computers and Scoring

Profession: Caterer, Bridge Director
Home : Bondi
Interests: Bridge, cooking, bad films. Dilettante at large
Bridge Involvement: Stepping into the large footprints left by Martin Wilcox to do the scoring this year.

Ivy Dahler - Appeals Committee

Profession: Legal Secretary, Bridge teacher

Home: Toowoomba
Interests: 10 Grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren (Wow), arts and crafts
Bridge Involvement: Internationally accredited director; member of winning Australian team in 3 Far Eastern Championships; Australian representative player at Bridge Olympiads in Miami and Monte Carlo; director at Ron Klinger's bridge holidays.

John Brockwell - GNOT Convenor

Profession: Agricultural Scientist
Home: Canberra
Interests: Gardening, Outback Touring, Photography, Philately
Bridge Involvement: A former president of the ABF; Australian representative in the seniors' competition at the Bermuda Bowl, in Bermuda 2000; GNOT convenor for 18 years.

Frustrating Puzzle

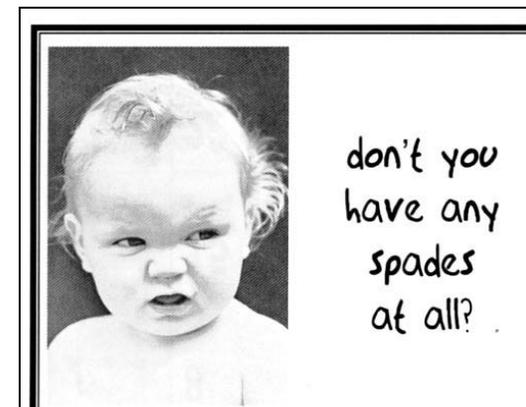
♠ 10 8 7
♥ Q 9 8
♦ J 8 7 5 4
♣ 7 8

♠ ---
♥ A K J 10 6 5
♦ A K Q
♣ A Q 6 2

The contract is 6 Hearts. West leads ♥ 2.
Can the contract be made? What assumptions must be made? (Solution tomorrow)

A Little Light Relief

Definition of a Bridge expert: a player who is so knowledgeable that he can criticize his partner's game without exposing his own ignorance.





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In perhaps the most dramatic finish in Bermuda Bowl history, USA I gained 12 IMPs on the last board of the event to emerge with an amazing 304-303 victory over Italy.

The issue was not settled, however, until an appeals committee had rendered a ruling on a disputed ending to the final board. In the closed room, Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth had gone plus 400 against 4♥ by Italy's Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin.

In the open room, Paul Soloway had doubled Lorenzo Lauria in 5♦. If Lauria could get out for down one – minus 100 – it would be an 11-IMP gain and the match would be tied.

As play wound down, Lauria had already lost two tricks and still had the trump ace out against him – plus the losing ♥9 in his hand. With a singleton spade in his hand, Lauria had played the king from dummy's holding of ♠K Q to five. Soloway could have cashed the ♥10 to guarantee two down, but he played back a spade instead.

Lauria's partner had left the table after putting down the dummy, so

Lauria was playing the cards himself. Lauria apparently expected Soloway to cash his winning heart, so he pulled the ♠7 from dummy – which held only clubs and spades – realizing too late that a spade had been played. He tried to change his play to the queen, which would have allowed him to discard the losing heart and get out for minus 100. Hamman, who had started with the ♠J 10 doubleton, had played the jack to the first lead of the suit, and he covered the ♠7 with the 10.

A tournament director was called, and the ruling was that the ♠7 was a played card, resulting in two down for minus 300. That gave the Americans a 12-IMP gain and a 1-IMP victory.

The Italians appealed the ruling, but the appeals committee, citing rule 45B from the law book, backed the director. The rule states that when a card is touched it is played.

In the World Transnational Open Teams, the Italian Lavazza squad cruised to a win over Zhuang of China.



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Vugraph of the Women's Final

Yesterday an audience of 300 people world- wide watched the final of the Spring Nationals Women's Open Teams. The final was between the Margaret Bourke and Dagmar Neumann teams.

Commentators from Canada, Poland and New Zealand interpreted the play. Tim Bourke, viewing in Canberra, was able to watch his wife's play.

The four sets of the final were on Vu Graph but as the day drew on the audience dwindled to about 100. After all, bedtime in the US had come and gone, and as Margaret Bourke's team established a firm lead perhaps there was less suspense to hold viewers.

All About Jack

The World Championship Competition Program, JACK, will be playing some of the hands in the Open. In one direction,. JACK

will be North/South, playing Standard. In the other direction JACK as East/West will be playing ACOL. The contracts and results of this contest will be published.

An Up-Market Systems Card

Why not have your systems card prepared on computer using the ABF Convention Card Generator? For \$10.00 to cover costs, SpNats staff will prepare 2 copies of your card, and provide you with a disc with the computer files for future use.

Bridge Base on Line

Using Bridge Base on Line it is possible to play Bridge on the Internet, watch Vu Graph of major competitions throughout the world, access an extensive Bridge library and buy Bridge memorabilia, to mention just a few uses.

And Bridge Base on Line is free.

If you bring your computer in, for a fee of \$20.00, the Spring Nationals staff will load Bridge Base on Line onto your computer.