



Spring Nationals Bulletin

No 2 Sunday 14th November 1999
Editor Nick Hughes

Six pack

It's down to six in the GNOT with *Sydney 2* and *Perth 1* earning a Sunday morning sleep-in as the only unbeaten teams.

The repechage starts 10am today, same time as the Congress Teams and Provincial Pairs.

Adelaide 2 face *Sydney 1*, hoping to emulate last year's Adelaide team, who won the event after dropping to the Swiss. *Sydney 3* play *Melbourne 2* in the other repechage.

This event is a long grind, 80 boards per day. Nobody has complained but perhaps shorter sets are worth considering. Canberra is 60 boards a day, Surfers is 56. If sets were 14 boards, that would be 70 a day, leaving time for a little relaxation.

The Story So Far

The top teams for the capital cities soon established their dominance on Friday with just one provincial team, Far North Queensland, making it through to the Round of 16. Ivy Dahler's *Darling Downs* team had an unusual flat board against *Perth 1*. Ivy watched her opponents freely bid to 7NT. She held the $\diamond A$ and a few bits and pieces but

refrained from doubling. This went for -800! when partner found the best lead. It looked a handy pickup but her partners had a similar accident, conceding -800 in $5\clubsuit$ doubled.

Only one of the R of 16 matches was close at half time, so I sat down to watch its second half. In *Sydney 6* vs *Brisbane 1*, card play took a back seat as game and slam swings were traded on the bidding pad.

First Peter Hainsworth and Ralph Parker missed an easy vulnerable game, then this happened at both tables:

Round 5, Bd 3. S/EW

\spadesuit A 2	\spadesuit J 5 3
\heartsuit AK 6 5 4	\heartsuit 3 2
\diamond A 8 3	\diamond K 9
\clubsuit AK 8	\clubsuit Q J 10 6 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2NT		3NT	End

$6\clubsuit$ should be easy enough to reach after $2\clubsuit : 2\Diamond : 2\heartsuit : 3\clubsuit$, especially if $3\clubsuit$ shows values. Some would use it as a second negative, while the auction is awkward after a Benjamin $2\Diamond : 2\heartsuit : 2NT : 4\clubsuit$?? I wonder how many got there.

On this next hand, both declarers were disappointed to find that hearts were 4-4:

Bd 8, W/Nil

\spadesuit A Q 9 5	\spadesuit K
\heartsuit J 8	\heartsuit 10 4 2
\diamond Q 7 4	\diamond A K J 5
\clubsuit A K 3 2	\clubsuit Q J 9 7 5

Hainsworth - Parker bid 1NT : 3NT on a spade lead. With hearts 4-4, this looked to gain 3 IMPs only. However, Murray Green & David Kalnins mis-cued to $6\clubsuit$ at the other table. With hearts breaking, there was no possible upside so another 11 IMPs changed hands.

Another slam swing:

Bd 16. N/NS (rotated)

\spadesuit K J 10 5 3	\spadesuit A Q 4 2
\heartsuit A K 8 5 3	\heartsuit 6
\diamond —	\diamond Q J 6 3
\clubsuit 9 6 5	\clubsuit A Q J 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Chadwick		Morrison	
	1 \diamond	No	No
2 \diamond	No	4 \spadesuit	End

For my money, East should overcall 1NT, despite the defensive vulnerability and the stiff heart. To which the approved riposte is "Good hindsight. I didn't notice you playing!"

Then we get $2\heartsuit$ transfer : $3\spadesuit$: followed by red suit cues by West.

Bill Haughie and Gary Malinas did well to bid this slam at the other table after a 1NT opening by North. Another 11 IMPs to *Brisbane* who won by 14 IMPs.

The Round of 8 was a canter for the favoured teams with *Perth 1* and *Sydney 1-2-3* racking up an IMP a board to win by 28, 29, 34 and 29 respectively.

Last round

Both the final knockouts were virtually level going into the last round. *Sydney 1* ended 10 IMPs adrift against *Perth 1*. One miss was Kanetkar - Lazer reaching $7\Diamond$ two off, to discover their counterparts had languished in partscore! At least it didn't go one off ...

I used to live at 5/206 Victoria Rd, so I would have liked Bd 20 (pto):

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Sun 14th GNOT quarters & semis, 10am start for repechage. Congress Teams, 10am start. \$80 per team. (1/2 price entry for GNOT players). Provincial Pairs, 10am start (for GNOT players)

Spring National Open Teams (SNOT)

Mon 15th SNT begins. 9-round Swiss with a final. Session times are 11.30, 3pm and 8pm. GNOT final, 10am start
Tue/Wed SNT rounds 4-6, 7-9

Spring National Womens Teams (SNWT)

Thu 18th SNWT starts. 9-round Swiss with a final. Session times are 11.30, 3pm and 8pm. Also SNOT final.
Fri/Sat SNWT rounds 4-6, 7-9
Sun 21st SNWT final
Congress Swiss Teams, 10am start.

W/Both ♠ AKQ10 6
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ —
 ♣ AK 8 7 4 3

♠ — ♠ 9 8 5 4 2
 ♥ KQ10 9 6 4 ♥ —
 ♦ AKJ 8 2 ♦ 10 7 5 3
 ♣ J 9 ♣ Q10 6 2

♠ J 7 3
 ♥ J 8 5 3 2
 ♦ Q 9 6 4
 ♣ 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	2♥	No	2♠
3♦	4♦	No	4♠
No	6♣	Dbl	6♠
No	No	Dbl	End

This looks fair enough. You can't crime North for driving to slam, a fair spot. -800 was a common score, leaving a few disappointed East-Wests at score up.

Solid minors belong in notrumps. In every match there seems to be a 22-point 3NT based on a 6-card minor. Here's the one from round 2:

Bd 28. W/NS

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	No	1♥	No
?			

3♣ is about right on strength but it doesn't show a solid suit so partner won't know that a club fit is not required for 3NT.

Best is to bite the bullet and bid 3NT, which should show this – solid clubs, a stiff heart and stoppers outside.

North finds South with ♦A-K-4 so you win the third diamond, take the losing heart finesse but find the ♠A outside. Another easy 7 IMPs.

Parking

We have a special arrangement with SUN parking on the corner of Kent and Margaret streets, **but not on weekends**. All day parking for \$16, evening for \$5. Note that exit after 10pm is only available to voucher holders. Available from John Mottram.

Strong SNT Field

53+ teams, much the same as last year, will line up for the SNT which starts tomorrow at 11.30.

There are around 10 very strong teams, ensuring some good tussles the nine round Swiss. For the first time, two top NZ teams have crossed the Tasman to recoup some pride after losses to Australia in netball, league and union. My top 10 (in order of entry):

Val Cummings, Kieran Dyke
 Matt McManus, David Kalnins
 Tony Nunn, Ted Chadwick

You figure the partnerships.

Jan Cormack - Stephen Lester
 Nigel Rosendorff - Peter Reynolds
 Ron Klinger - Jim Biggins

Can that be Jim Biggins who left Sydney 15 years ago?

Paul Marston - Malcolm Mayer
 Tim Seres - Zoli Nagy
 George Smolanko David Middleton

Most experienced of the locals

Richard Solomon - Alan Turner
 Tom Jacob - Brian Mace

A top Auckland team

Mike Cornell - Dwayne Crombie
 Martin Reid - Peter Newell

Close to the top in NZ

David Beauchamp - Andrew Peake
 Mathew Thomson - Mike Hughes
 Ben Thompson

Who's the floater?

Bob Richman - Matt Mullanphy
 Stephen Burgess - Tania Lloyd
 Henry Christie - Ron Cooper

Jessel & Carole Rothfield
 Seamus Browne - Khokan Bagchi
 Ish Del'Monte - Peter Newman

Defending champions

Barry Noble - Terry Brown
 George Bilski - Phil Gue
 Peter Fordham - Michael Prescott

Simon Hinge - Peter Markey
 Cathy Chua - David Horton

There were 52 teams last year, with Carole & Jessel Rothfield, Seamus Browne - Khokan Bagchi, Bobby Richman - Ishmael Del'Monte winning the final comfortably.

Crucial Appeal

ACT 2 just missed the repechage. This Appeal from the last round of the Swiss was their last chance:

Rnd 10, ACT 2 vs Adelaide 2. Bd 27

S/Nil ♠ QJ10 7 6 4
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ Q7 4
 ♣ 9 7

♠ 3 ♠ AK 9 8 5
 ♥ K10 8 4 3 2 ♥ A
 ♦ 10 2 ♦ KJ 6 5
 ♣ 6 4 3 2 ♣ Q10 5

♠ 2
 ♥ 9 7 6 5
 ♦ A 9 8 3
 ♣ AKJ 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zollo	Hills	Chan	Delivera
No	1♠	1NT	No
4♥	4♠ ?	Dbl	End

This went for 500 but West had alerted 1NT as weak takeout, as per their agreement. Grenside ruled no infraction and NS appealed, hoping for +500 against 4♥.

In the Appeals Room, East cast doubt on the agreed meaning of 1NT, saying that his actual hand was a possibility. The Committee therefore decided that West's explanation at the table may have been incomplete. The result was adjusted to 4♥ two off, not enough to affect the qualifiers.

Two points. (1) Jesse Chan deserves credit for correcting the explanation in the Appeals Room. If he had simply said, "John's right, I misbid" the Appeal would have been thrown out in two minutes, perhaps with a 3 IMP slap on the wrist.

(2) North made an awful 4♠ bid. The Committee spent a lot of time deciding whether to award a split score (NS -500, EW -100).

If you have a story of interest, the Editor will be here much of the time or contactable on 041 487 6175. At home on 9387 6175.

Or just pass your gem on to Richard, Chris, or John.