

AUSSIE YOUTH BRIDGE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editors: Andy Hung, Laura Ginnan

ISSUE 2

Australian U25 & U20 Intense Training Underway

On the weekends prior to and following the ANOT, Alex Smirnov (coach of the AUS U25 and U20 teams), ran two training programmes in Sydney. There were five eligible pairs who took part as members of the U25 squad, from whom the ABF Youth Committee selected three pairs at the end of the training weekends. The three pairs chosen were:



- Partnership work at the beach -
Ellena Moskovsky and Lauren Travis

Nabil Edgtton - Andy Hung, Justin Howard - Peter Hollands, and Adam Edgtton - Liam Milne with Dave Thompson as NPC.

The U20 Team consists of Ellena Moskovsky - Lauren Travis, Daniel Braun - Rhys Cooper, Jamie Thompson - Renee Cooper with Nye Griffiths as NPC.

The WBF has recently introduced an U25 Girls Category (as of 2010), and the Zone 7 (Oceania) Girls team is: Lucy Henbest (VIC), Pascale Gardiner (VIC/NZ), Ella Pattison (VIC), Jennifer Black (NZ/NSW), Andi Boughey (NZ) and Laura Ginnan (ACT/VIC) with Peter Gill as the NPC.

A summary of the Youth Training Weekends can be seen on page 4 and an interview of Alex Smirnov can be seen on page 11.

Without your help the Aussie Youth Bulletin will be full of all our random rants and raves. Have your say - Email pix or articles or any suggestions to youthbridge.au@gmail.com



PRE-ALERTS!

For 2012			
DATES	EVENT	WHERE	
<u>JUN</u> 7 - 11	VCC	Melb.	
<u>JUL</u> 1 - 6	European Youth Pairs	Vejle, Denmark	
<u>JUL</u> 7 - 19	ANC	Darwin	
<u>JUL</u> 9 - 15	6 th World Uni Champs	Reims, France	
<u>JUL</u> 25 - 4	<u>AUG</u> 14 th World Youth Team Champs	China	
<u>AUG</u> 9 - 23	<u>AUG</u> 2 nd World Mind Sports Games	Lille, France	

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THESE ARE SHORTCUT HYPERLINKS!

CHECKBACK (Results)

2012 AUTUMN NATIONALS

26 APR - 30 APR, 2012 (Adelaide)

Open Teams	Place	Players
	4th	Kennet Christiansen, Nabil Edgtton, Paul Gosney, and Ervin Otvosi
	8th	Peter Hollands, Justin Howard, Philip Markey, and Justin Williams
	14th	Ellena Moskovsky, Lauren Travis, Adam Edgtton, and Liam Milne
	24th	Russel Harms, Shane Harrison, Luke Matthews, and Jeff Travis
	29th	Garry Khemka, Denise McKinnon, Chris Quail, and Michael Smart
	44th	Laura Ginnan, Lucy Henbest, Stephen Williams, and Sebastian Yuen

Womens Pairs	Place	Players
	=1st	Laura Ginnan - Lucy Henbest

Restricted Teams	Place	Players
	3rd	SA Youth - Alexander Dunbar, Jarrad Dunbar, Andrew Morcombe, Sam Thorpe, Jennifer Black, and Jessie De Garis

2012 AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFFS

31 MAR - 5 APR, 2012 (Sydney)

Open Team	Place	Players
	=3rd	Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Paul Gosney, and Nabil Edgtton

! Did you know, computer generated hands are actually a lot more closer to a truly random deal than a hand shuffled deal? This is because hand dealt boards are rarely shuffled enough, which leads to "flatter" distributions.

CHECKBACK (Results)

2012 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP YOUTH TEAMS 7 JUL - 19 JUL, 2012 (Darwin)

Youth Teams	State	Players
	QLD	Nathan van Jole (C), Thomas Wix, Chris Larter, Jessica Brake
	NSW	Ed Burrowes, J Ferguson, Jenn. Black, Nabil Edgtton, Liam Milne, Adam Edgtton, Dave Wiltshire (NPC)
	VIC	Ella Pattison, Angus Munro, Nathan Howard, Peter Bolling, Ellena Moskovsky, Jamie Thompson
	ACT	Stephen Willams, Sebastian Yuen, Jack Tarlinton, John Yoon, Saisai Zhang, Qiao Zhou, Christy Geromboux (NPC)
	SA	Alex Dunbar, Jarrad Dunbar, Shane Harrison, Lauren Travis, Jessie De Garis, Sam Thorpe, Phil Markey (NPC)
	WA	Rhys Copper, Michael Bausor, Tim Knowles, Renee Cooper, Kirstyn Fuller, and Jane Reynolds.

For more information about the ANC, click [here](#)



**SUPPORT THE ZONE 7 GIRLS TEAM!
TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO PAGE 10!!!**



14th WORLD YOUTH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 25 JUL - 4 AUG, 2012 (Tai Cang, China)

U25 Team	Players
	Nabil Edgtton/Andy Hung, Justin Howard/Peter Hollands, Adam Edgtton/Liam Milne, Dave Thompson (NPC)
U20 Team	Players
	Ellena Moskovsky/Lauren Travis, Jamie Thompson/Renee Cooper, Daniel Braun/Rhys Cooper, Nye Griffiths (NPC)
U25 Girls Team	Players
	Laura Ginnan/Lucy Henbest, Pascale Gardiner/Ella Pattison, Jennifer Black/Andi Boughey, Peter Gill (NPC)

For more information about the World Youth Team Championships, click [here](#)

Australian U25/U20 Training

By Andy Hung

If you have not already heard, Alex Smirnov of Germany, a well recognised international bridge player and teacher (also a regular visitor to Australian bridge tournaments) has been assigned as the Australian Junior team coach for both of the U25 and U20's. As part of the formal coaching program two bridge training weekends were held in Sydney that consisted of intense preparation and practice for the upcoming World Youth Championships. They also constituted the final selection stage to determine which three pairs (from a squad of five) would play for the Australian U25 team in China.

The training weekends were held at the NSWBA, and I want to specially thank Alex Smirnov, David Stern, the NSWBA, Dave Thompson and Nye Griffiths for making both weekends a great success.

The first weekend was targeted for both of the U25 and U20 teams and it started off with a few practice playing sessions on the Friday night. Saturday consisted of a full gruelling day of bridge from 10am to 10pm with which Alex had provided talks in declarer play and defence. In between these talks, lots of bridge hands were played under full world championship conditions including using screens. Here was an interesting and an insightful hand:

IMPs ♠ 9 4 3
 S/N-S ♥ 9 6 4
 ♦ A T 6 5 4
 ♣ A J

♠ K ♠ 8

♠ A J 2
 ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ Q J 7 2
 ♣ K Q 6

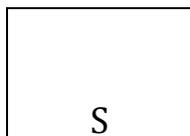
W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1NT
2♣*	3NT	All Pass	

2♣* = Both Majors

It seems intuitive to duck the ♠A but a fairly close look at the auction and the play suggests that if we duck West will most likely switch to a heart (assuming the ♠8 was not an encouraging signal). However if we win with the ♠A then our contract would hinge on the ♦K being onside or East having the singleton ♦K (so we would play a diamond to the Ace and give up a diamond). A better way to counter this is to play the ♠J at trick 1! West will most likely continue spades so we win the second spade and run the ♦Q not caring who has the ♦K. If East has the ♦K and returns a spade we then know spades are 4-3, but if spades are 5-2 East won't have another spade to lead back.

On Sunday Alex provided a talk in bidding and here was an interesting bidding problem:

E/Nil



- ♠ 8 6
- ♥ A 8
- ♦ K J 6 4
- ♣ Q T 9 8 6

W	N	E	S
-	-	1♥	Pass
4♥	Dbl	Pass	?

At first glance it seems like 4NT "minors" is the obvious bid - with the opponents very likely to have a 10 card fit (giving partner a singleton or possibly a void) and with our two suited hand, declaring seems indicated. It seems likely that partner is 4-1-(53/44) or even (4/3)-0-(54/55) and so with a possible 9 or a 10 card minor suit fit, declaring rates to get us a better score. Also, sometimes partner's hand is good enough and may jump to 6m which might be cold when 4♥X does not yield us anywhere enough of a good score.

However, let's assume the role of the devil's advocate. We have xx in spades (in which partner is likely to have 4 cards) and along with the trump Ace we could possibly get a ruff. Maybe the opponents aren't always in a 10 card fit, maybe West

has raised with say a singleton minor and 4 hearts, thus giving partner a doubleton heart. The opponents are not vul and given that it's imps it may be wise to just take the money. Getting 300 instead of 400 may not be the end of the world, but getting -50 when 300 or 500 was on offering would be a disaster. Sometimes partner might even double with a 5-1-(43) shape and the 5-level could be dangerous in an eight card fit if the trumps don't break.



So what's the correct solution? Well, there isn't one :) After careful analysis of the auction it appears that 4NT and pass are both reasonable actions - you be the judge.



! Did you know, Adam and Nabil used to play 4♣ as Gerber with a follow-up of 4NT as RKCB?

The second training weekend was just aimed at the U25 pairs along with an additional U20 pair who had the higher finishing place in the Australian Youth Butler/Playoffs. During this weekend Alex had provided talks mainly in bidding as it gave all the players a chance to discuss and make agreements on every day bidding auctions. Here is an example:

W	N	E	S
(1 or 2♠)	Dbl	(4♠)	4NT

What's the best treatment for 4NT? "Expert standard" I would say is that 4NT is two places to play (♥+m or both minors) or an invitational "hearts only" hand hoping to utilise the sequence 4NT-5♣-5♥. The one slight problem with this method is that North may bid 5♦ over 4NT and now 5♥ over that would mean "hearts and clubs" and you'll be stuck for the invitational "hearts only" hand. Some may think that it is OK because if North bids 5♦ they are already suggesting they prefer diamonds and hearts and so South may be able to use that info and jump to 6♥ directly with some of those "hearts only" hand. Another fallback with this method is that over 4NT and North's 5m bid, this gives both West and East a chance to compete to 5♠ before South has even had a chance to speak so South would have to guess with the "invitational with hearts" hand.

A possible work-around is to switch the immediate and delayed 5♥ bids. That is, with an "invitational with hearts" you would immediately bid 5♥ over 4♠ and the "competitive with hearts" hand would go via the slower route of 4NT. This would remove any doubt about 4NT-5♦-5♥ being invitational and although it still gives both West and East the chance to compete with 5♠, North now does not need to worry about South having an invitational hand.

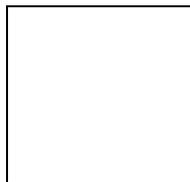
A corollary to this switch of course, is that North might have the stronger hand and wanted to play in slam opposite the long heart suit of "5♥ to play" but not if it was a two-suited hand and when an opponent bids 5♠ North will have no idea about South's hand.

Also, North may be unsure whether to bid slam in a minor or not if either opposition competes to 5♠ because South has not had a chance to disclose if they have a two suited hand or a "competitive with hearts only" hand. What this means is that North might have a hand that wants to play slam in a minor opposite a 4NT meaning of "two suited or invite with hearts" (invite with hearts is protected by the extra values) but in this "switch method" North will have no time in finding out if it was opposite a 4NT meaning of "two suited or competitive with hearts" because the 5m bid may be passed out.

Well, what is best? Both methods have their gains and losses and it's up to you and your partner to decide which one - assuming you will remember of course!

Lots of boards were also played with screens but this time there was an extra element mixed with the play - they would be broadcast live on BBO. Dave Thompson was glad to help organise and set up the broadcast from a table to mimic what it would be like playing on vugraph in the World Champs. Here's a play problem:

W/Nil ♠ T9
 ♡ QT52
 ♦ J765
 ♣ AQ6



♠ KJ74
 ♡ AK4
 ♦ AT4
 ♣ 942

W	N	E	S
2♠*	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♠ = 6♠ 8-11

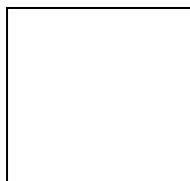
West led the ♣10 and nine tricks seemed like a distance far away. With all of the black suit honours (most definitely) offside I would need specific layouts to make my contract. Firstly, my LHO has shown six spades and 8-11 high cards. LHO won't have any club honour(s) due to East's double so even if West has the ♡J, West must have one diamond honour but probably not both diamond honours since West's style is not to open 2♠ with a "good 11 count".

The lead of the ♣10 meant there's an instant club loser, and if I were to set up any spades I would have to lose two spade tricks to West. Given that it's more likely for clubs to be 2-5 than 1-6, my first task was to put in dummy's ♣Q to force East to return a spade. If that does happen then my eighth or ninth tricks would probably come from some form of endplay or a minor suit squeeze against East. I then thought that there are some layouts which don't require any fancy moves, and that was to hope West, assuming he has two clubs, has a shape of 6-1-4-2 giving East exact diamond holdings of H9 or H8. This would provide me with 3 diamond tricks, and along with 1♣+2♠+3♡ it would give me 9. Even if East has ♦Hx I still might have a chance to endplay or squeeze East depending if West wants to take their ♠A or not.

So I played ♣Q taken by the ♣K. ♠8 came back, West winning with the ♠Q and returned the ♣5 which I now rose with dummy's ♣A. I now played dummy's ♠T, East **discarding the ♡8** and West let this trick win. The ♡8 was a discouraging signal and that gave me a bit of hope - it meant that East was likely to have started off with heart length and given that dummy has four hearts, East looked like a man with 5♡'s.

W/Nil

♠ --
♥ QT52
♦ J765
♣ 6



♠ KJ
♥ AK4
♦ AT4
♣ 9

W	N	E	S
2♠*	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♠ = 6♠ 8-11

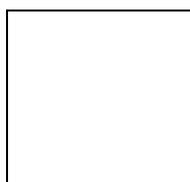
I now played a low diamond from dummy but East produced an unhelpful ♦2, I put in the ♦T and West won with the Q. West now starts to think and I thought I still had chances. If West had begun with a 6-1-4-2 shape then the defence is helpless. If West cashes the ♠A and exits with a low spade I win in hand and we have a 6-card ending. Dummy has ♥QTxx ♦J7, my hand is ♥AKx ♦A4 ♣9 and East must find a discard from ♥J9xx ♦K ♣J8 - whatever he does he is squeezed. If West does not cash the ♠A and instead exits with a low heart I can win in hand and exit with the ♠K. If West takes this then we are in the same end position but if West ducks the ♠K then instead of a minor suit squeeze against East, I can cash the two diamonds (the ♦K drops) and come to my hand with the other top heart and in the process forcing East to come down to ♥J9 ♣J. Now I exit a club and endplay East.

Another case is if West started off with ♠AQxxxx ♥Jxx ♦Qx ♣Tx then West had better not cash the ♠A followed by a low spade or else this would rectify the count for me to squeeze East in the minor suits. Well, West did cash the ♠A but exited with the ♦9. My last hope now was for West to have erred with the ♦9 with ♦98x but of course that was not to be. Full deal:

W/Nil

♠ T9
♥ QT52
♦ J765
♣ AQ6

♠ AQ6532
♥ J7
♦ Q98
♣ T5



♠ 8
♥ 9863
♦ K32
♣ KJ873

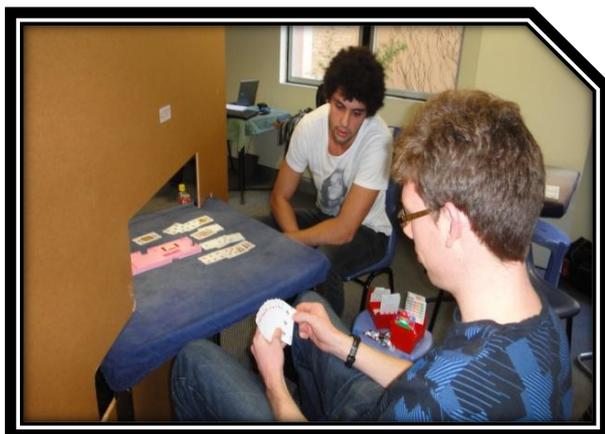
W	N	E	S
2♠*	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♠ = 6♠ 8-11

♠ KJ74
♥ AK4
♦ AT4
♣ 942

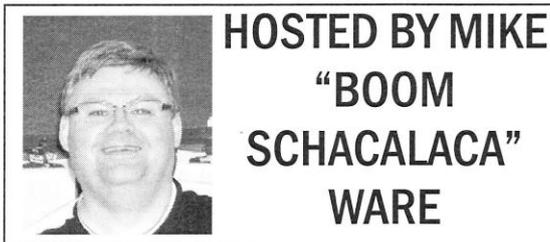


Overall I think the training programmes turned out to be a great success (as is always the case) because not only does it bring in the teams together to practise in a face-to-face environment, but it provides us with the opportunity to completely focus and concentrate on bridge for a full weekend like a 'boot camp' so to speak. I believe these training programmes should be regarded highly in the future because based on this year's as well as previous years' training sessions (2010 with Ishmael, 2008 with various speakers), they have all been an immensely great help in preparing the junior teams for the World Youth Team Championships.





Sunday June 10 In Melbourne

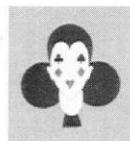


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Interview with Alex Smirnov (Smirny)

With Andy Hung

Andy: Let me start off by asking something that most people are dying to know. Are you in any way related to Smirnov, founder of vodka?

Alex: Sorry to disappoint, but I'm not.

Andy: How and when did you start to learn to play bridge?

Alex: My dad taught me as I was 5 years old with my first duplicate game at 9. Actually it was me who asked him to teach me bridge, as I knew that he always played bridge until very late at night and I had to go to bed earlier than him. So I thought if I could play bridge I would also be allowed to stay up.

Andy: What's your favourite system?

Alex: Any 5card Major systems...prefer 2/1

Andy: And your favourite convention?

Alex: Exclusion RKCB

Andy: Tell us about your successful bridge results to date.

Alex: National German Champion (13 times), Bronze World Championships (3 times), 2nd place in Reisinger (USA) Championships (twice), and Silver in the European Championships

Andy: Which one were you most proud of?

Alex: 2nd place in Reisinger and bronze in world pairs championship in Philly 2010.

Andy: Who is your regular bridge partner and what is he/she like?

Alex: Josef Piekarek. He is also a bridge teacher running a bridge club in Hamburg.

Andy: What's your favourite drink?

Alex: Champagne.

Andy: How many languages do you know?

Alex: 5 (German, English, Russian, Spanish, French).

Andy: Say something in another language other than English.

Alex: ¿qué pásas?

Andy: How many times have you been to Australia?

Alex: 6 times.

Andy: Do you think you will move here?

Alex: It's certainly an option .

Andy: What is the most bizarre thing you have seen at the bridge table here in Australia?

Alex: We were playing together for this. It was the hand where you opened 1♦, I responded 1♠, you rebid 2♣ and I raise that to 3♣ passed to my RHO. Our RHO, not willing to give up now balanced with 3♥ and this was passed around to you and you doubled. This wasn't for penalties but I passed as I thought defending would get us the best score. I led a trump and I was confused when your ♥J won. You then continued with the ♥Q and somehow that won too. When you then cashed the ♥K and the ♥A, I could not believe what I had seen. I thought, "is this standard bridge in Australia?"

Andy: *Yes, I remember it quite well :)*

Andy: What's your favourite quote at the bridge table?

Alex: "I upgraded my hand because I had three jacks. It's a good thing that I didn't have four of them"

Andy: Tell us about the Junior Players in Germany. For example, how many junior players are there approximately, and do they also have an annual Youth Bridge Week like we do here in Canberra?

Alex: There are some keen (unfortunately not many) junior players in Germany. Youth week in Canberra is always the trials for the national youth team so that means it's not a bridge week just for fun and entertainment. Over in Germany we also have trainings and trials but they are on separate days as we also have a bridge camp for 10 days which is just for fun. Well you've been there before, why don't you say something about it.

Andy: *Yes I remember it - I loved it immensely. Breakfast at noon, lunch at 6pm and dinner at midnight with lots of fun bridge in between just makes you love the game even more, and I would imagine it also attracts more youth players. I especially liked the entertainment performance night because what's a camp without one! One idea of the bridge camp that I quite liked and was surprised about was that once you have participated in the bridge camp in your junior days, then you are welcomed back any time even when you're over age. It was quite neat to see older bridge players there at the camp with their kids. I wish this idea of a bridge camp was somehow possible for us.*

Andy: Is there one thing you would like to see get changed that currently exists in German Bridge but not in Australian Bridge?

Alex: Oh yes, the starting times...not earlier than 11AM

Andy: The Australian U25 team has come out winning in the Asia Pacific Bridge Federation U25 Team Championships (APBF) in 2010, 2009, and 2007. However, in the 2010 World Junior Team Championships (WJTC) the Australian U25 team qualified in 8th (of 17) in the Round Robin which was followed by a defeat in the Quarterfinals by China. In the 2008 WJTC the U25 team came 3rd (of 18) in the Round Robin and it was also followed by a defeat in the Quarterfinals but this time against Chinese Taipei. Do you have any idea why this might be? Do you think you will be able to help break that "choke point" ?

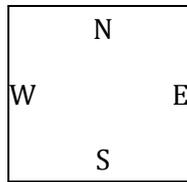
Alex: The knockouts are sometimes just a matter of luck, but it also has a lot to do with the condition of the players. I hope I will be able to take care of it and bring luck as well!



R15, B15
S/N-S

♠ 8
♥ - - -
♦ A J 6
♣ 6 4

♠ - - -
♥ J 2
♦ 7 4 2
♣ - -



♠ - - -
♥ - - -
♦ K T 8 5
♣ Q 8

♠ T 4 2
♥ - - -
♦ Q 9
♣ K

Based on West's club plays, I decided that clubs were more likely to be 2-4 thus placing East's shape with 3-1-5-4. I now needed to guess the location of the ♦K and here is how I played out the rest of the hand. I played off two trumps - West discarded two hearts, I discarded the ♦6 from dummy, and East discarded two diamonds. I now played the final trump discarding the ♦J from dummy and East was now helpless to the criss-cross squeeze. If East discarded the ♦T I would then play a diamond to the Ace and with the ♦K dropping, I can come back to hand with ♣K to get to my good ♦Q. If East discarded a club I would then cash my ♣K and with the fourth club in dummy becoming good, the ♦A was the entry to get there. This was particularly satisfying because the hand was broadcasted on vugraph!

Andy: Very nicely played! I now have one final question:

Andy: If there was a Guinness World Record of who can talk for the longest non-stop, who do you think would win out of Barbara Travis or Peter Gill?

Alex: Hmm...this seems to be the hardest question. I know they're brother and sister but are they twins?

Andy: Thank you for your time in sharing us with your insightful thoughts. We wish you the best of luck for the upcoming European Championships and see you at the World Junior Championships in China!

Alex: Dankeschön!





PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS



Paul Lavings is a frequent supporter of the Australian Youth Bridge scene as he generously donates bridge books as prizes for the Australian Youth Bridge Week. He has represented Australia in our Open team many times, including his recent success in the winning team at the 2012 Australian Open Team Playoffs and the 2012 Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide. He also owns a bridge book and supplies company so make sure to visit his website at www.bridgegear.com and contact him if you are in any need of a bridge book or CD. (P.S. Paul offers a good price on bridge books for youth players so be sure to check his website out!)

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE

By Paul Lavings, Sydney

Reading bridge books is the best way to improve, and *How to Improve Your Bridge* is the title of one of Hugh Kelsey's (1926-1995) excellent books. Kelsey created a sensation in 1966 with the first of his 45 bridge books, *Killing Defence at Bridge*. Although the 100-odd defensive problems are mostly bread and butter situations, the majority of experts rate below 50% in solving them. This deal is from the chapter *More Counting*:

S/Nil

- ♠ Q5
- ♥ T7
- ♦ AKQ
- ♣ AQJ932

	N	
W		E
	S	

- ♠ KT63
- ♥ 943
- ♦ 9742
- ♣ K5

W	N	E	S
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

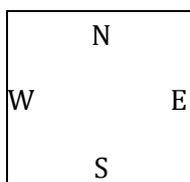
Lead: ♠ Jack

Your partner leads ♠2 and the ♠5 is played from dummy. How do you plan the defence? Your partner figures to have ♠A, otherwise ♠Q would be played from dummy. If declarer has ♠J and ♥A it would be fatal to duck, since declarer would now have nine tricks. You must play ♠K and switch to ♥9.



S/Nil

♠ A 9 7 2
♥ K J 8 2
♦ T 6 5
♣ T 7



♠ J 8 4
♥ A Q 6 5
♦ J 8 3
♣ 8 6 4

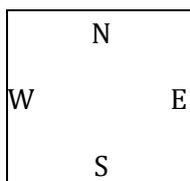
W	N	E	S
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lead: ♠ Jack

If West is allowed to win ♥J, it will be clear to switch back to spades:

S/Nil

♠ A 9 7 2
♥ K J 8 2
♦ T 6 5
♣ T 7



♠ Q 5
♥ T 7
♦ A K Q
♣ A Q J 9 3 2

♠ K T 6 3
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ K 5

W	N	E	S
-	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lead: ♠ Jack

Most of Kelsey's early books feature card play situations in the problem format, with solution overleaf. But beware, in those days English books were reprinted in the USA under a different title, though they were the same word for word.

In 1972 he brought out *More Killing Defence at Bridge*, solely devoted to discarding problems. In 1979 he wrote, with Geza Ottlik, the amazing *Adventures in Card Play*. About 10 years back I decided to re-read "Adventures". Despite reading it every day it took me three months to finish, so condensed and difficult are the hands. This hand is one of the simpler ones, and features the "either-or" squeeze, technically called the two-suit positional trump squeeze:

E/All

♠ KQJ T97

♥ - - -

♦ AK9

♣ QJ53

♠ - - -

♥ 87653

♦ Q8652

♣ A64

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A86532

♥ AK

♦ 743

♣ 92

♠ 4

♥ QJT942

♦ JT

♣ KT87

W	N	E	S
-	-	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♥
Dbl	4♠	Dbl	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♣ Ace

West leads ♣A and continues with a second club to your ten. You finesse in diamonds and cash three rounds, discarding your spade. Next you lead ♣Q, squeezing East in the majors. If East pitches a spade, you stay in dummy and continue with ♠K. If East pitches a top heart, you overtake ♣Q with ♣K and ruff a heart in dummy. What fun.

It takes an initial low club lead to defeat the contract.

Kelsey's books became more and more specialised, and from 1985 to 1990 he wrote a series of four wonderful hard-cover books on squeezes, *Simple Squeezes*, *Double Squeezes*, *Strip-Squeezes*, and *Triple Squeezes*. About that time he also wrote a series of a dozen or so "Test Your" books, with the familiar problem on one page, and the answer overleaf.

I don't say Kelsey's books are mandatory reading, but if you wish to boost your technique immeasurably, and have a lot of enjoyment doing it, then get into Kelsey. He'll teach you to THINK.

Email: paul@bridgegear.com

for all things bridge

Paul Lavings Bridge Books & Supplies

www.bridgegear.com

All Look Round

By Peter Hollands

S/Nil ♠ Q6
 ♥ Q762
 ♦ AQJ
 ♣ KJ95

♠ K98542
 ♥ A9
 ♦ T432
 ♣ 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J3
 ♥ T8543
 ♦ K75
 ♣ A64

♠ AT7
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ 986
 ♣ QT832

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♠ Jack

West's view point (Part 1): Trying to formulate a plan to beat this contract, west can realise that they need to set up spades to be able to defeat 3NT. Declarer has two spade stoppers and as you only have one entry outside of spades, this must be used to get in to run spades, therefore you need partner to get in before you and to knock out the second spade honour. In order to do this partner needs a spade (*Ed: This isn't so clear since that would give declarer ♠Qx and it would be unusual to be bidding 2NT with that. Another plan might be to push a diamond through as the ♥A allows you to do that twice if required*). This requires you to duck the first spade when dummy plays low instead of winning the king and continuing spades.

Declarer's view point: Counting your tricks, you have two spades, four clubs (once the ace is knocked out) and at least one diamond. You can set up the extra tricks in either hearts or diamonds as long the opponents can't run their spade winners. In order to do this you want to knock out West's entry before East wins and sets up West's spades. Outside of spades there are three crucial cards (♥A, ♦K, and the ♣A). If West has none of those cards or the diamond king you have no worries as they won't have an entry to their good spades. The danger situation is when they have one of the aces, in which case you need to knock it out first. If you lead a heart most defenders in the East position looking at king-jack in dummy won't fly ace, and also most defenders in the West's position will find it hard to duck their ace when dummy's card is winning. Hence if you lead a heart you are likely to be able work out which ace West has and knock it out. If the heart wins you should switch to clubs.

S/Nil
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ Q762
 ♦ AQJ
 ♣ KJ95

♠ K98542
 ♥ A9
 ♦ T432
 ♣ 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J3
 ♥ T8543
 ♦ K75
 ♣ A64

♠ AT7
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ 986
 ♣ QT832

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	Pass
2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♠ Jack

East's view point: You are currently the danger hand since your partner ducked to preserve communication in spades, therefore only you may attack spades. To beat this contract you need to win a trick before your partners outside entry has been used, to do this you should fly with your ace if they lead the suit of your ace, you shouldn't worry about crushing a possible singleton king of clubs as if this is what partner has you wouldn't be able to beat 3NT.

West's view point (Part 2): If declarer does lead a heart to the jack or king you should duck smoothly, as to beat 3NT you must let partner win first. Ducking smoothly might convince declarer to change suits.

Playing Cards Assisted American Prisoners Escape During the War (Source: [Click here](#))

An interesting fact about playing cards is that specially-constructed decks were sent to American soldiers who were being held in German camps during World War II. The United States Playing Card Company collaborated with the government in the production of these cards. What made these cards so unique was, once they became wet, they peeled apart. Inside, the prisoners found parts of maps that would lead them to freedom.

HOW TO CALCULATE DBL-ED AND RDBL-ED (MAKING) CONTRACTS

Very big scores

By Andy Hung

Ever wondered what 2♣XX+2 scores you? Or maybe your opponents double you in 4♠ and you can be 95% sure that this contract will make but as you contemplate whether to redouble or not, you are also afraid they might run to 5♥X and you are unsure which of 4♠XX= or 5♥X-3 will score more. Here is a method of how I calculate these scores!

(Why learn about this? Because looking at the bridge scoring card is not legal during the auction of a hand)

Note: This is **not** the official way to calculate these scores, but it is a crude method that I use.

Here are a few assumptions that you need to know before calculating the scores:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1) Not Vul / Vul Game bonuses | = | 250 / 450 |
| 2) Making doubled Non-Vul overtricks / Vul overtricks | = | 100 / 200 |
| 3) Making redoubled Non-Vul overtricks / Vul overtricks | = | 200 / 400 |

To calculate a making doubled contract:

- 1) What is the score of your contract if it was a part score, **not including** overtricks? (E.g. 4♥ making 10 is 170, 2♠ making 12 is 110) Whatever that score is, double it.
- 2) Is the contract at the game level? If so, add game bonus. If not, do nothing. To recognise if the contract is at the game level or not, double your contract level and see if it's past game. E.g. 2♣X is "4♣" - therefore no game bonus. 2NTX is "4NT" therefore add game bonus.
- 3) Subsequent Non-Vul overtricks are worth 100 each, and Vul overtricks are 200 each.

*(E.g.1) Non-Vul 2♣X+2 = 90*2 = 180 (part score of 2♣ is 90, so double that)
2♣X is "4♣" so no game bonus. Two Non-Vul doubled overtricks = 100*2 = 200
Therefore, NV 2♣X+2 = 180+0+200 = 380*

*(E.g.2) Vul 5♥X+1 = 200*2 = 400 (part-score of 5♥ is 200, so double that)
5♥X is "10♥" so a vul game bonus of 450. One Vul doubled overtrick = 200*1 = 200
Therefore, Vul 5♥X+1 = 400+450+200 = 1050*

For a redoubled contract: Instead of doubling the numbers within the three conditions stated above, quadruple them. Oh, and subtract a random 50.

*(E.g.3) Non-Vul 2♣XX+2 = 90*4 = 360
2♣XX is "8♣" so a non-vul game bonus of 250. Two Non-Vul redoubled overtricks = 200*2 = 400
Therefore, NV 2♣XX+2 = 360+250+400 - 50=960*

*(E.g.4) Vul 5♥XX+1 = 200*4 = 800
5♥XX is "20♥" so a vul game bonus of 450. One Vul redoubled overtrick = 400*1 = 400
Therefore, Vul 5♥XX+1 = 800+450+400 - 50 = 1600*

*(E.g.5) Vul 1NTXX+3 = 90*4 = 360(part score of 1NT is 90, so quadruple that)
1NTXX is "4NT" so a vul game bonus of 450. Three Vul redoubled overtricks = 400*3 = 1200
Therefore, Vul 1NTXX+3 = 360+450+1200 - 50=1960*

*(E.g.6) Non-Vul 6♦XX+1 = 170*4 = 680 (part score of 6♦ = 170)
6♦XX is "24♦" so a vul game bonus of 250. 6♦ is slam so add another 500 for the Non Vul slam bonus.
One NV redoubled overtrick = 200*1 = 200. Therefore, NV 6♦XX+1 = 680+250+500+200 - 50 = 1580*



Did you know, Sam Schulz and Shane Harrison used to play a convention called Fishbein, and after raving about it to Barbara Travis they received another convention to their arsenal - CMOBDOR. What are they? Ask them to find out!



SUIT COMBINATION

This Issue

(Assume unlimited entries)

K 9 6 2

Target:
4 tricks

A J 5 3

Be careful about the 9's in suit combination problems because they always serve a purpose! The normal instinctive play is to lead dummy's King first and then a low one to the Jack, winning when Q x or Q x x is onside. However you can go one step further. You should lead dummy's 2 planning to finesse with the Jack on the first round of the suit. Although this will lose an extra trick when LHO has the singleton Queen (but is irrelevant since we need 4 tricks), it will gain whenever RHO has the singleton Queen. Playing the King on the first round of the suit will only yield 3 tricks when the suit splits 10 8 7 4 --- Q.

For Next Issue

(Assume unlimited entries)

A Q 6 4 3 2

Target:
5 tricks

8 5

K Q T 9 8 7 3

Target:
5 tricks

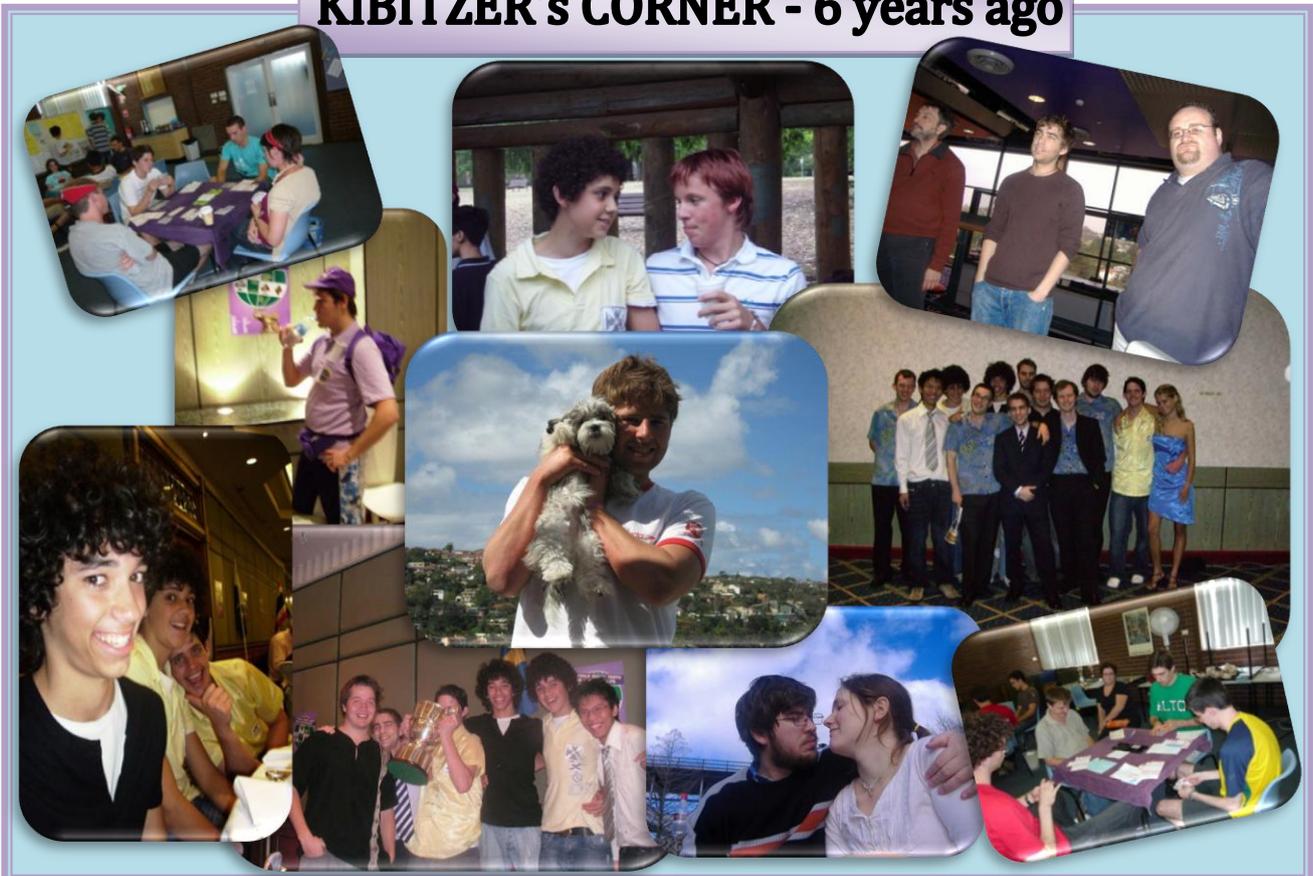
4

J 6 2

Target:
2 tricks

Q T 5 3

KIBITZER's CORNER - 6 years ago



FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER - BEEFING UP BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

Bridge conventions are fun to play with because it gives you the ability to bid out different types of hands where natural bidding may prove to be ineffective. However, before adopting any bridge conventions there should (must) be three things that need to be satisfied:

1. EASILY MEMORABLE - even if you think a particular convention has lots of upsides and very little downside, it is not worth playing if either partner will forget it or if it's prone to confusion. One such example is that I hear many bridge players adopt conventions such as "minorwood" or "Good-Bad 2NT" and I will often hear them say 'I didn't know if that was natural or (insert convention name)' or 'I wasn't sure if (insert convention) applied after a double' etc. and those boards would always end up costing a bundle of IMPs.
2. FREQUENT - Good conventions are conventions that come up frequently rather than "once in a blue moon".
3. PRACTICAL - A good design in a convention is based on how practical it is. For example, it is not practical if you play a 2♦ opening which contains **a lot** of hand types. You may think that it gives you more opportunities to open 2♦ but once an opponent interferes it may be hard to sort out what opener has and often responder is unable to bid intelligently without knowing what opener's hand type is.

Another example of this is one of my pet peeves - transfer pre-empts. Playing transfer pre-empts gives up a useful bid (2NT, assuming that is a pre-empt in clubs) at the (huge) cost of opening a transfer pre-empt which allows the opponents to use additional bidding sequences to show more hands. All for what? Just to open 3♠ gambling to right side 3NT and to open 3NT which is a 4 level minor opening (allowing opponents free bids of 4m)? No thanks!

Anyway enough of that. What I want to focus on in this issue is how to improve on a very common convention - and that is the Jacoby 2NT.

Improving Jacoby 2NT

The standard responses to the Jacoby 2NT are as follows:

1M	2NT	GF, 4+M
3♣/3♦/3♠	11+, Shortages	
3M	15+, No shortage	
3NT	13-15, No shortages	
4x	Good second 5 card suit	
4M	11-13, No shortages	

The meanings of 3M, 3NT and 4x may vary from what one might think "normal Jacoby" is, but that is not the main point.

There are two major problems with this:

- (1) After bidding a shortage (which then proceeds into cue bidding), no one is sure about opener's strength as it could be from 11 HCP to 17 HCP.
- (2) Opener's 4M bid showing a minimum with no shortages destroys any possible slam investigation if responder has a good hand.

A much better improvement would be to use 3♣ over 2NT as "any minimum" and subsequently 3♦ over that asks for a shortage. This way you can differentiate opener's strengths when they have a shortage, and over 3♣ "any min" responder can now bid game if they have no slam interest thereby preventing any information leakage to aid the opponent's lead/defence.

1M	2NT	GF, 4+M	
3♣	Any minimum (roughly 11-14)		
	3♦	Shortage Ask	
		3♥	Club (Low) Shortage
		3♠	Diamond (Middle) Shortage
		3NT	Other Major (High) Shortage
4x	Cuebid, No shortage		
3♦	15+, No shortage		
3♥	15+, Club (Low) Shortage		
3♠	15+, Diamond (Middle) Shortage		
3NT	15+, Other Major (High) Shortage		
4x	Good 2nd Suit		
4M	Does (should) not exist		

Note that a direct or delayed 3♥/3♠/3NT bids show a shortage with different strength.

Bridge Software Review

By Laura Ginnan

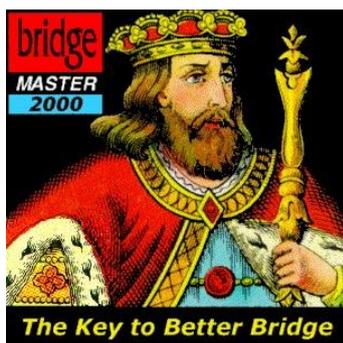
Thanks to Peter Hollands, the Victorian Youth Bridge Club has been able to set up a bridge training computer at the Waverley Bridge Club in Melbourne. This computer is available for all youth players to use at any time and also available for the Waverley Players to use (for which we encourage a small donation).

The computer has allowed the club to operate smoothly when weird and wonderful numbers of players come to sessions and has also provided a way for players to work on their individual games. As youth players, it can sometimes be hard to schedule in training sessions with partnerships and people may find that when they want to work on bridge their partner isn't free. One thing that players can easily work on by themselves is card play!! Bridge Master and Audrey Grant's Better Bridge Edition offers players a modern and user friendly way for players to work on this. It is also great as you can see why the lines you are taking aren't working and go through the hand trialling different lines (this you can't do with a book unless you read the answer).

Between the two programs we have been able to entertain players from ages 6-90, from players who know what contracts are but don't know how an auction works through to state representatives and national representatives.

If you're looking for a way to work on your bridge by yourself this is it!

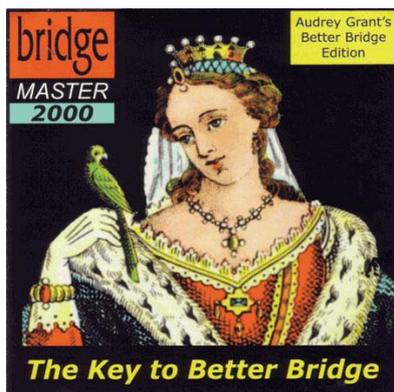
Bridge Master 2000 (From Bridge Base published review)



Bridge Master is an educational program for improving your declarer play skills. The program presents you with a series of instructional deals to play. You are always declarer. The deals that you play are not randomly dealt. They are carefully constructed exercises designed to illustrate an important declarer play technique. If you take the correct line of play you will always make your contract. If you make any mistake as declarer, the program will defend **perfectly** and defeat your contract. Each deal is accompanied by an animated **bridge movie** that will explain the correct line of play as well as the thinking process that leads to the solution.

Bridge Master's instructional deals are organised into 5 levels of difficulty. **Skill Level 1** is suitable for new bridge players. Deals on **Skill Level 5** are extremely challenging, even for world class players. The deals on **Skill Levels 2, 3, and 4** are suitable for most club and tournament players as well as experienced social bridge players.

Audrey Grant's Better Bridge Edition of Bridge Master 2000 (Published review)



Audrey Grant's Better Bridge Edition of Bridge Master 2000 contains 177 bridge deals intended as an introductory course on play of the hand. Audrey Grant, North America's premier bridge teacher and best-selling bridge author, created 117 of these deals and wrote the text for the **bridge movies** in this edition. Audrey's 117 deals are all on **Skill Level 1**. The program also includes 36 more deals at Skill Level 1 which are a little more difficult than the Audrey Grant deals and 6 deals at each of the other 4 Skill Levels. By the time a new player has worked through the Audrey Grant deals, they will have a solid foundation in declarer play. The user will then be ready for more challenging refill deals.

If you would like to purchase one of these programs please contact Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies.

**Did reading this make you feel like a run...
Come to the 2012 Youth Triathlon!**



Youth Events: Pairs, Teams and Individual

Dates: TBA (towards the 4th quarter)

Venue: TBA

45th annual Australian Youth Bridge Championships.



Youth Events: Pairs, Teams, Crazy Pairs, & More!

Dates: TBA (mid January 2013)

Venue: Most likely same as 2012



STATE ASSOCIATIONS - UPDATES

	EVENT	DATES
	QLD Youth Trials --- QLD ANC Youth: Nathan van Jole (C), Thomas Wix, Chris Larter, Jessica Brake and Andy Hung) Contact: http://www.qldbridge.com/	

	EVENT	DATES
	NSW Youth Trials Completed NSW ANC Youth Team: Ed Burrowes, J Ferguson, Jennifer Black, Nabil Edgtton, Liam Milne, Adam Edgtton, Dave Wiltshire (NPC) Contact: http://www.nswba.com.au/	

	EVENT	DATES
	ACT Youth Trials Completed ACT ANC Youth Team: Stephen Williams, Sebastian Yuen, Jack Tarlinton, John Yoon, Saisai Zhang, Qiao Zhou, Christy Geromboux (NPC) Contact: http://www.bfact.com.au/	

	EVENT	DATES
	VBA Youth Trials Completed VIC ANC Youth Team: Ella Pattison, Angus Munro, Nathan Howard, Peter Bolling, Ellena Moskovsky, Jamie Thompson Contact: http://www.vba.asn.au/vbaHome.php	

	EVENT	DATES
	SA Youth Trials Completed SA ANC Youth Team: Alex Dunbar, Lauren Travis, Shane Harrison, Jessie Glutard De Garis, Sam Thorpe, Jarrad Dunbar, Phil Markey (NPC) Contact: http://www.sabridgefederation.com.au/	

	EVENT	DATES
	WA Youth Trials --- Rhys Copper, Michael Bausor, Tim Knowles, Renee Cooper, Kirstyn Fuller, and Jane Reynolds. Contact: http://www.bawa.asn.au/	

	EVENT	DATES
	NT Youth Trials ? Contact: http://www.ntba.com.au/	

	EVENT	DATES
	TBA Youth Trials ? Contact: http://www.tasbridge.com.au/	

