

# au revoir Jean



**President Gwen Wiles presenting Jean Field with a token of the club's appreciation for her work over the last 7 years.**

Also inside this quarter:

- ♥ Club Championship winners
  - ♥ Albert Benjamin—A memoir by Ursula Harper
  - ♥ A Brief Look at Vacant Spaces—Peter Smith
  - ♥ Wild and Crazy Bidding—Richard Fox
  - ♥ And more, plus all our regular features

# CONTENTS

## SPECIAL ARTICLES

Farewell to Jean Field	7
Club Championship Winners	14
An Enduring Partnership	27

## BRIDGE ARTICLES

False Carding	7
<i>The Wednesday Game</i>	
Book Review	9
<i>Fiske Warren</i>	
Double Disaster at the Swan River	11
Swiss Pairs	
<i>Maura Rhodes</i>	
A Brief Look at Vacant Places	12
<i>Peter Smith</i>	
Adelaide ANC	14
<i>Noelene Law</i>	
Wild and Crazy Bidding	16
<i>Richard Fox</i>	
Albert Benjamin	21
<i>Ursula Harper</i>	

## CLUB NEWS AND REGULAR FEATURES

Ron Klinger Column	4
	17
The Friday Morning Group	18
The Rueful Rabbit	26
Canadian Bridge and Fishing Report	24
<i>Marcey Spilsbury</i>	
Library Notes	31
<i>Val Krantz</i>	
Membership Notes - Date Diary - Solutions	32 on

# Editorial



Hopefully, the world of winter is slipping into the past, and sunny days are almost with us, tempting us out into the courtyard. The onset of spring marks one other event that many of us will not have noticed, and that is the wind-up of the year's interclub teams competition. Over one hundred members have participated in the interclub teams this year. I don't have the numbers for past years but I would think that the number involved this year must be something of a record. We have had two Open teams, three Intermediate teams, and four Restricted teams. For those who don't know how the teams work, each team plays a home and an away match against each of the teams from the other clubs, giving members an opportunity to meet players from other clubs and to get to know about those other clubs. For example, in the past couple of weeks an intermediate team and a restricted team have travelled to Kalamunda to play teams there, and shortly the Kalamunda teams will visit us for return matches. So when you see two tables of players over by the window on either side of the playing area, seemingly divorced from the normal activities in the room, you are seeing these team competitions in action. Opportunities to play in Teams for next year will be announced in the opening weeks of the year and I do encourage you to participate. Teams matches are great fun, as I am sure all those who have been involved this year would agree, and provide the opportunity to experience different playing styles to the ones we normally face in our day to day competitions.

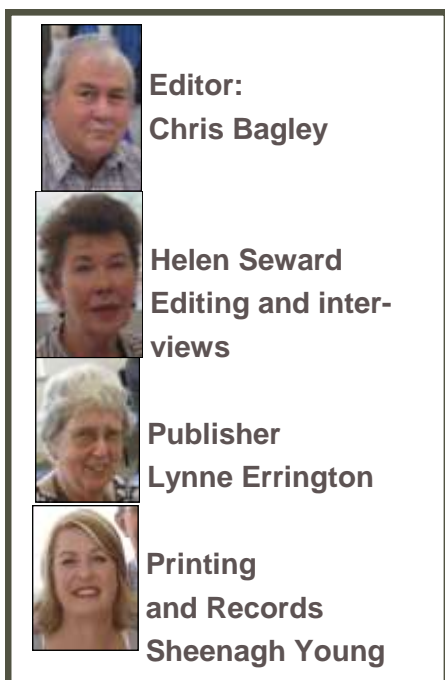
Now for this edition and back to our world of bridge. In addition to our normal list of articles we have a very interesting book review from Fiske, a blast from the past from a 1975 edition of the Women's Weekly, a report on the Canadian bridge scene from Marcey Spilsbury, and a fascinating description from Ursula Harper of one of the greats in bridge, Albert Benjamin, inventor of the eponymous Benjamin Twos. I hope you enjoy them all.

Finally, I regret to say that our assistant editor, Val Krantz, is leaving us. Val has made a great contribution to Trumps Plus, having been in the action from the very start in May, 2008. We will sorely miss her editing expertise. However we are pleased to say that she will still be seen in our pages as she will continue with her personal column, Library Notes. Thank you very much for all your work Val.

Once again, if you would like me to include anything please give me a call on my mobile 0422 381 253, or email me at

[bridge@wabridgeclub.com.au](mailto:bridge@wabridgeclub.com.au).

**Chris Bagley**



# President's Report



We have had a very rainy introduction to Spring this year, however it means more seats at the bridge table and we welcome all players.

New membership applications have slowed but we still have over

1000 members to date. The Saturday afternoon Youth Sessions started by Jonathan Free and Ron Cooper are particularly encouraging. It is wonderful to see the youthful faces, serious in their concentration, and learning at such a rapid rate that is envious to some of the older members. We all must encourage their participation as they are the future of bridge. The Supervised sessions are still well patronised and I thank all the members who give up their bridge days to run these sessions. Many of these players segue into the main room and are keen to improve and enjoy their bridge playing at the club.

We are in a very good financial position and have an experienced team on the Financial Committee who have given purposeful advice and have suggested that the Management Committee look into some Strategic Planning after the AGM. We intend to involve any interested members so that we can plan for the future. We also intend to resurrect the Social Sub Committee to oversee the many events throughout the year that require special planning. The Sub Committees are very important elements in the successful running of the club and

their recommendations make it easier for the Management Committee to make the right decisions.

The Tournament Committee has overseen a very full calendar of events this year and they have worked hard to ensure that you, the members, have had a variety of events to enter. It is probably the hardest job at the club to be on this Committee as the backlash is fast and furious when something goes wrong. We try hard to get things right but in future, I urge all members to understand that this is a bridge club, it is about playing bridge and it is about enjoying a wonderful, social pastime.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work that these members and the Directors do each and every month which is often under appreciated by many members.

The Management Committee is pleased that we have had continuing support from members who volunteer their time to help in the successful running of the club. We urge you to put your name down for something this year. The smallest deed helps us all out as the club relies on its volunteers.

The Annual General Meeting is being held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October and I encourage as many of you as possible to attend. The popular Melbourne Cup luncheon will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Tickets will be on sale very soon so don't miss out. The Hans Rosendorf event will be completed by the time this goes to print and then we look forward to the Christmas Congress, Christmas Party and prize giving to round out the year of events. The Novice Pairs championship which was cancelled earlier in the year has been rescheduled to be played on two consecutive Monday Mornings 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**Happy Bridging!**  
**Gwen Wiles**



Ron Klinger  
Says:  
Try  
This  
Problem

## STRANGE AND STRANGER

This deal arose in the finals of an Interstate Teams:

South dealer : Nil vulnerable

### THE AUCTION:

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	Pass
1H	Dble	1S	1NT
2H	3D	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

### THE PROBLEM:

What should West lead from:  
42  
K1097542  
7  
AK3?

**Compare the results in the Open  
Teams, Women's Teams,  
Seniors' Teams.**

Courtesy of  
[www.ronklingerbridge.com](http://www.ronklingerbridge.com)

♥(Solution Page 32)



# WINNING NO TRUMP LEADS

By David Bird and Taf Anthias

A BOOK REVIEW by Fiske Warren

Let me start by giving you 3 problems from the book. In each case, the opponents bid 1NT on your right and 3NT on your left. What do you lead from the following hands?

- ♠AK3 ♥862 ♦K96532 ♣8
- ♠J86 ♥95 ♦KQ72 ♣KJ72
- ♠KQ72 ♥KJ72 ♦J86 ♣95

David Bird is a prolific writer of bridge books and is probably best known for his humorous books about the bridge playing monks of the St Titus monastery. This book, by contrast, is a serious and ground breaking work solely about opening leads. This is a subject that is generally avoided by most bridge authors, other than at a very basic level. The reason is that it is far easier to write about the latest bidding systems and gadgets or about clever declarer play and defensive signals. Opening leads can tend to be a hit or miss affair and it is often hard to say in advance which is the "best" opening lead. Until now. Bird and Anthias both have I.T. backgrounds and they have used a computer to generate many thousands of hands to see which leads turn out best in practice. A lot of the results are surprising. Computers are still not very good at playing bridge at an expert level because they lack judgment in the bidding and have little concept of the psychological aspects of the game. Where they excel is in the analysis of the play of a hand, as witnessed by Deep Finesse which demoralises us all each week by telling us how many more tricks

we **should** have won.

Let's start with the first problem hand:

♠AK3 ♥862 ♦K96532 ♣8

Many of us would lead ♦5, following the well known advice of "4<sup>th</sup> highest of our longest and strongest suit". Our reasoning is that we can set up our diamonds and use our spade honours as entries. Bird and Anthias asked their computer to construct 5,000 possible deals giving us this exact hand and where the opposition would have bid 1NT-3NT. Let's see the results of how leading each possible suit works:

	Beats contract	Average number of defensive tricks
♠A	37.6%	4.10
♥6/2	21.2%	3.41
♦5	19.6%	3.32
♣8	17.9%	3.30

A diamond lead is almost half as likely to defeat the contract as a leading ♠A. Even a heart lead is likely to be more successful! How can this be? Have we been taught wrongly all these years?

Well, let the authors explain. The fact that the responder did not use Stayman significantly increases the odds of the opponents holding greater length in the minors and therefore generally makes leading a major suit more attractive than a minor. Our partner is quite likely to hold a singleton diamond which will make it impossible to set up diamonds for tricks. By contrast, the odds are good that partner holds 4 or more spades. Also, after leading ♠A and seeing dummy and

partner's signal, we may be able to switch to a different suit and still beat the contract.

This major suit bias is at work again when we are on lead with the second hand:

♠J86 ♥95 ♦KQ72 ♣KJ72

The lead most likely to succeed is ♠6, closely followed by ♥9. Leading a minor is less attractive. Intriguingly, leading ♣2 is slightly better than ♦2. Yes, a diamond is actually the worst choice... so much for 4<sup>th</sup> highest of our strongest suit!

The majors and minors are changed around for the third hand:

♠KQ72 ♥KJ72 ♦J86 ♣95

You will be relieved, as I was, to discover that a spade is now the most likely lead to succeed. But don't congratulate yourself too soon because the computer tells us that ♠K is better than ♠2. Why?

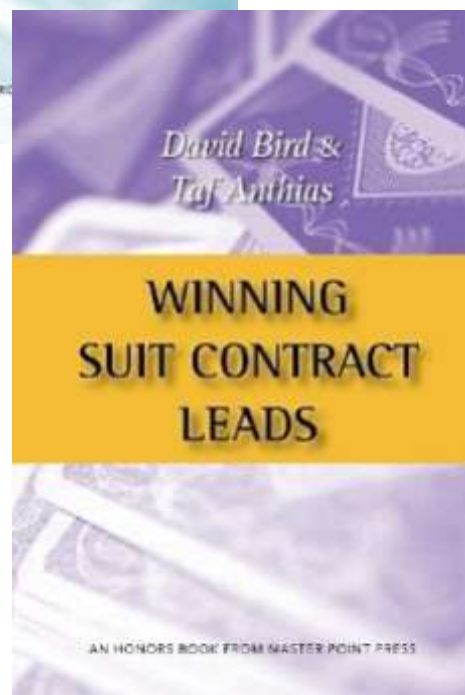
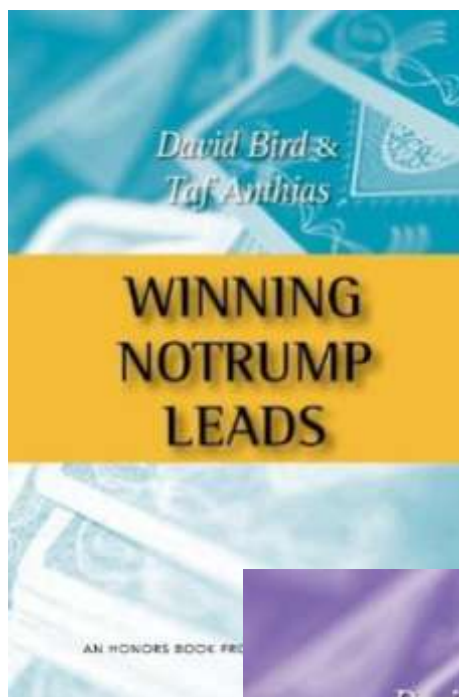
Well, you'll have to read the book to discover all its secrets.

The book contains 200 pages, crammed full with example hands and statistics, with different chapters on how leads turn out against different sequences that end in a No Trump contract. For example, there are chapters on when the opponents have used Stayman, when they have bid one or two suits, when the contract is 1NT or 6NT, and when they have opened 2NT. Finally, there is a chapter on the computer methodology used, which is double-dummy like Deep Finesse. This means that both declarer and defenders are assumed to play perfectly after the opening lead has been made and, as we all know, this will often not happen in practice. The authors acknowledge that this has some implications on the validity of the conclusions drawn from the problem hands but nevertheless they present a strong case that the relative merits of

each opening lead remain accurate.

What do I think of the book as a whole? I absolutely **hate** it.....

I shall have to re-write all my lessons on opening leads. Seriously, I would very highly recommend it to all players at an intermediate or advanced level. It teaches you to think about the auction and to question whether the leads you have been making all these years are actually right after all. The book covers new ground in a clear and easy way and is certainly one of the most eye-opening books on bridge that I have read. If you want to improve your opening leads take my advice and borrow it from the WABC library. But be careful not to be trampled in the rush!



# au revoir Jean



At the end of August Jean Field said farewell to directing at WABC. Jean has made a tremendous leap to life in the country surrounded by lush gardens,

horses and dogs and seems to have left the bridge world behind for the present time.

Jean contributed an enormous amount of her energy to our club over the years. She was very much involved with the development of new sessions at the club, particularly the Monday afternoon session which she helped to grow to the enormous success it is today. She was also a strong supporter of players starting out with bridge and directed the Friday morning Supervised sessions with great skill and sensitivity. In addition, she helped establish the club's mentoring days which have been highly

successful and a great help to emerging players.

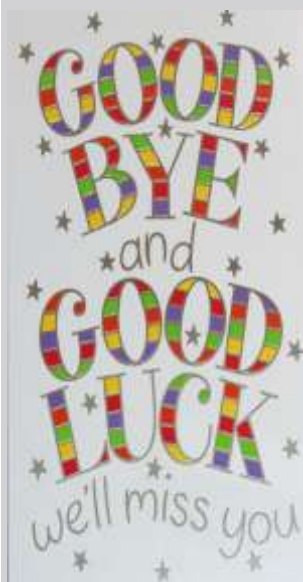
All in all, she directed at WABC for seven years, two at the Dalkeith premises and a further five years from the inception of our premises here in Swanbourne. She also directed at the Weld Club for two years where a number of our members enjoyed her directing.

Jean has a strong sense of civic duty. She initiated our Christmas raffle and was heavily involved in the Food Bank bins being left at the club and rallied members to contribute. She also spent a number of years on both the Management Committee and the Tournament Committee.

We need more active members like Jean who was not only a member of the Directing staff but volunteered in many capacities. Her boundless energy will be hard to equal.

After a little whisper in her ear when she was visiting this past Saturday she has agreed to return one Saturday each month to direct the Supervised Session.

**Au revoir but not quite!  
Gwen Wiles**



# False Carding

*Here we look at situations where either the Declarer or a defender plays the non-standard card with the intention of fooling the other side. False carding is a lot safer for Declarer, of course, he does not have to worry about misleading Partner.*

	♠ A952 ♥ 9 ♦ Q87543 ♣ 96	
♠ JT ♥ A752 ♦ AK62 ♣ J74		♠ KQ73 ♥ KQT8 ♦ JT ♣ AQ2
	♠ 864 ♥ J643 ♦ 9 ♣ KT853	Dlr East Vul Both

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

East plays in 4♥, and, looking just at the E-W hands, how would you play the trump suit? If they are divided 4-1, you'll want to play North to have the four, because if South started with J9xx you cannot pick up the suit anyway. So, let's say that you start with the King, then, assuming that both defenders follow with a low card, you'll play a Heart to the Ace. However, suppose that North follows with the Nine. Now, you have a choice, you can pick up Jxxx in *either* hand. It may seem obvious to assume that the Nine is more likely to be a singleton than from J9xx, in which case you'll want to cash the Q♥ on the second round, and run the Ten or the Eight next if

North shows out.

"So what?", you may be asking. Well, put yourself in the North seat next and imagine that you are holding J964 in Hearts. Dummy is on your right with that A752. Declarer lays down the K♥ and Partner follows with the 3. You can see that a competent Declarer will play a Heart to the Ace next, and that you will be finessed out of your Jack. Can anything be done about this? Yes! North must play the Nine! Now, Declarer has a losing option. Instead of being able to cater with just one of the 4-1 breaks, now he can pick up either if he guesses right. But, he'll probably guess wrong, playing for the Nine to be singleton, and the false card will have conjured a defensive trick out of thin air. It's another one of those "obligatory false cards", so called because the play of the Nine is the only way to offer Declarer a losing option.

However, Declarer could have done better. On the first round of Hearts it was a mistake to lay down the King, letting North see Partner's low Heart before it was her turn to play. If Declarer had crossed to Dummy and played a low Heart from the board instead, the false card of the Nine would be far from obligatory, and would blow a trick if Partner started with the singleton Ten. Remember this suit combination from both Declarer's and the defender's point of view.

	♠ K85 ♥ T97 ♦ AQ542 ♣ 93	
♠ A72 ♥ A2 ♦ KJT97 ♣ KT7		♠ Q964 ♥ Q64 ♦ 3 ♣ AQJ42
	♠ JT3 ♥ KJ853 ♦ 86 ♣ 865	Dlr West Vul Both



It's obvious to assume that Declarer will win the opening Diamond lead with one of his intermediate cards, but it might be fun to win with the King! Not only fun but potentially profitable too. Here are the two possibilities that Declarer is envisaging as he casually plays the K♦ at Trick One:

(a) South has the K♠, which takes Dummy's Queen. A Diamond comes back, Declarer playing the Seven, won by North's Queen. South's return of the Diamond Six might be somewhat strange from JT96, so North should smell a rat. But maybe she'll already be in the mind-set that the Diamonds are running and she'll continue the suit. She'll be quite right, of course, the Diamonds are indeed running, but it's Declarer's Diamonds!

(b) North has the K♠ and pops up with it at Trick Two. North should cash a high Diamond first, and when South plays the Six, she'll no doubt assume that her Partner started with JT986 and persist with the suit, and that would be 10 tricks without requiring the Spade break. Another possibility is that North underleads one or both of his Diamond honors, giving Declarer a mirthful 11 tricks!

That K♦ looks to us like a risk-free false-card to us. But, if North is not a trusting soul, she might see through the ruse by counting up the HCP's. If Declarer really is trying to sneak a Spade trick with the Diamonds wide open then he cannot have more than 8 tricks, and that would give him the A♠, A♥, K♦, and K♣. That's 14 HCP's, where's the 15<sup>th</sup>? If it's a major suit Jack, then Declarer had a legitimate play for 9 by simply taking a major suit finesse. So, perhaps the 15<sup>th</sup> point is the J♦. Then again, which is more likely, a bizarre false card or a 14-point 1NT?

# WABC MELBOURNE CUP

5TH NOVEMBER



11.00 am LUNCH  
1.00 pm BRIDGE

PLAN YOUR HAT AND  
GET YOUR ENTRY IN  
NOW.

REMEMBER PLACES  
FILL UP FAST!

# ADELAIDE ANC 2013



The acronym ANC stands for Australian National Championships and is held in July every year with the capital cities, including Canberra, holding the event in rotation

every 8 years.

The event is currently held over 12 days beginning with the National Interstate Teams Championships concluding after 6 days on a Friday with the Victory Dinner that night.

This is followed by the 6 day Open, Women's and Seniors' Butler events which anyone may enter. Depending on entry numbers these may consist of either a Round Robin or qualifying rounds followed by semi-finals and a final. This is an opportunity to play against some top Australian players.

Alongside the Teams event and the Butler there are side events which are usually filled by the local bridge community and carry prizes donated by sponsors.

This year's ANC was held in Adelaide and despite very cold weather the first week and intermittent rain it ran very smoothly.

WA had teams in all 4 categories, Open, Women's, Seniors' and Youth with the Women winning the National title for the second year in a row and the Youth once again making the finals, but alas, not repeating their winning performance of 2012.

The Women's Team Captain, Allison Stralow got off to a bad start on the first day by allowing her GPS to direct her into the city instead of the Wayville Showgrounds just over 1 km away. That same night, Allison, being the keep-fit

person she is, decided to walk home from the restaurant with a couple of others and in the poorly lit side streets went over on her ankle. To cut a very long story short, x-rays next day revealed a very bad sprain which put her on crutches for a couple of days and severely hampered her normal activities. In the meantime, the tea (1 weak black/ 1 weak white), coffee (2 white) and water run for her team members each session was taken over by myself. Talk about pampering your team! However, the results speak for themselves!

Annabel Booth kindly went off the day we arrived to do some food shopping and in the bucketing rain on her way back lost her mobile phone. Annabel was most distraught about the loss of grandchildren photos and had her husband cancel her phone. Next morning I received a text on my phone asking if anyone had lost a phone? Annabel rang the number and the finder who had put Annabel's simcard in his phone, was staying next door to Val Biltoft and Leone Shiels apartment just in front of ours. The phone was useless but the photos were saved, hence Annabel's ability to concentrate on bridge to deadly effect!

NSW will hold the 2014 ANC followed by Perth in 2015. Despite being 2 years away a huge amount of organisation will be required by our Tournament Organiser, Sheenagh Young, and a dedicated band of workers. I urge all of you to support this event, which will, I assure you, be an ANC to remember.

**Noelene Law**



# Double Disaster at the Swan River Swiss Pairs

With Maura Rhodes

The Swan River Swiss Pairs took place in August at the excellent premises of WABC. Ninety-six pairs played in this premier Gold Point event, which was directed most efficiently by Matt McManus, to whom we would like to convey sincere thanks. A special thank you must also go to Dave Parham, who stepped in at the last minute to co-direct with Matt, because Bill Kemp had to go interstate unexpectedly. Of course, we must not forget Hilary Yovich, who convened this great event for the 13<sup>th</sup> time. Hilary does an excellent job, which must require a great deal of organization and planning. Let us also say a big thank you to Renee Cooper, who was a superb caddy in spite of it being her TEE year. We all wish her every success in her TEE and have no doubt that a girl of her ability will excel. Here is a hand, which proved absolutely disastrous for us.

South	West	North	East
(Rick )	(Sathi)	(Maura)	(Bob)
1C	1NT	?	

What would you bid as North? If I bid 2H or 2S, that is not forcing after the 1NT overcall, as it shows fewer than ten points and not enough to double. I needed a forcing bid to show both Majors. I didn't know what to do, so I doubled, which is penalty. As you can see West has nine top tricks on any lead. A Heart was led to Rick's King and a Heart returned to my Ace. Another Heart put Sathi in dummy to take the marked Club finesse for a stupendous result of 14 Imps. I don't know what you think of the off-beat 1NT overcall, but it certainly worked well here. After the event, I asked Ron Klinger for his advice on this hand and he advised us to adopt a 2NT bid after the 1NT overcall, which is a forcing bid showing any two-suiter hand. As of now, that is in our repertoire.

Congratulations to Henry Christie and Peter Buchan for winning this event yet again! Well done, guys. Gerry Daly and Karol Miller were second and Wendy Driscoll and Shizue Futaesaku were third.

<b>Board 6</b>	♠ KT6542	
<i>Dealer E</i>	♥ AJ9853	
<i>Vul E-W</i>	♦	
	♣ 2	
♠ A		♠ 83
♥ 64		♥ QT7
♦ KQJT976		♦ A854
♣ A63		♣ JT98
	♠ QJ97	
	♥ K2	
	♦ 32	
	♣ KQ754	



The Bridge Club is about friendship, as well as Bridge, so I would like to say a big thank you to all my Bridge friends for their well wishes and interest in our longed-for first grandchild, Sebastian.



# A BRIEF LOOK AT VACANT PLACES Or: Eight Ever, Nine Never??

If you thought this article was an invitation to make a short visit to remote wilderness areas, you'd be mistaken. In bridge, Vacant Places refers to the number of unknown cards in a player's hand. For example, if someone makes a standard three level pre-empt showing a 7 card suit, this leaves 6 Vacant Places (unknown cards) in their hand. This is an important concept when considering options in card play since the normal (*a priori*) odds for various plays are 'bent' proportionately once Vacant Places information is known about the opponents' hands.

To illustrate how the odds may change, consider two different settings for the following hand.

♠	8 6 4
♥	K 10 4 2
♦	8 5 3
♣	K 9 3
	N
	W   E
	S
♠	7 3
♥	A J 6 5 3
♦	K Q J
♣	A Q 7

Firstly, South is declarer in 4♥ after this uncontested auction:

South	North
1♥	2♥
4♥	All pass

West leads the ace of spades and East encourages with the ten, so West continues with the king of spades then a low one to East's queen, which you ruff.

With two spades already lost and the ace of diamonds missing, the contract requires no heart loser. Those who are familiar with the adage "Eight ever, Nine never" will know that the percentage play with a nine card fit is to play for the queen to drop rather than taking a finesse (which is what you'd do with eight cards or less between you). However, before simply playing banging down the two top hearts, it may be worth finding out who has the ace of diamonds. For example, if it's with West, there may be a case to play East for the queen of hearts regardless, even being prepared to finesse, as West would be known to have 11 high card points by then and may be judged unlikely to have the queen of hearts too. So you now lead the king of diamonds. It proves though that East has the ace so you're none the wiser about the queen of hearts. So after regaining the lead simply cash hearts from the top and hope for the best. The odds of success are 53%.

Now let's say you're playing the same contract but after a different auction:

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
4♥	All Pass		

Again, West leads the ace of spades and after East encourages West continues with the king of spades then a low one to East's queen, which you ruff. Again, before committing immediately to the play of hearts you discover East has the ace of diamonds, still leaving you none the wiser about the location of the queen of hearts. After regaining the lead you play a

# A BRIEF LOOK AT VACANT PLACES

## Or: Eight Ever, Nine Never??



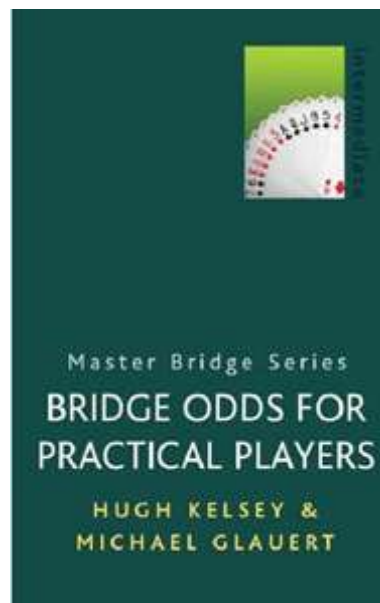
low heart from hand, West follows low, and dummy's king wins as East plays low. You now play a second heart from dummy and East again plays low. If you're programmed simply to play for the drop every time in every circumstance and go up with the ace here you will be making the wrong play. And the reason is due to Vacant Places.

From the second auction we have information about the opponents' distribution that we didn't have first time around. We assume West has five spades and East has three. This leaves eight Vacant Places for West compared with ten for East. Due to this the odds of East having the queen of hearts have become ten to eight. (Once we also factor in the heart cards played up to the critical point of deciding whether to finesse the jack or to go up with the ace this changes to eight to seven but still of course favours the queen being with East.) Here's the full hand:

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

The odds of success have switched. Taking the finesse at the critical point is now around 53% compared with playing for the drop being about 47%.

For those of you who are averse to anything mathematical you needn't be familiar with these calculations or even how they're arrived at. What a relief! The main point is that when the opponents are known to have a 5-3 fit the odds have changed. You should finesse through the hand with more Vacant Places when the queen is missing, even when you have a a nine card fit – unless of course you know conclusively the location of the queen due to an opponent's honour count. This rule applies generally when one opponent has at least two more Vacant Places than their partner. The odds of a finesse being successful at the critical time simply increase the greater the disparity in Vacant Places.



For more information about Vacant Places see the excellent book *Bridge Odds for Practical Players* by Kelsey and Glauert - available in our library.

# CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013



CLUB PAIRS  
CHAMPIONS:  
Nerilyn Mack  
and Verna  
Holman

## CHARLES PEARCE CUP:

OPEN  
WINNERS:  
Ted and Marilyn  
Van Heemst



UNDER REGIONAL  
MASTER WINNERS:  
Peter Jewell and Joanne  
Ellison

# CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

## CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONS



Geoff Yeo, Jenny Fairweather, Helene Kolozs, Ann Youngs



### RUNNERS UP IN THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Carla Sullivan, Kate Pinniger, Deana Wilson, Virginia Seward

Jo Sklarz, Mal Clark, Pat Morrison, Rhona Barton enjoying post teams celebrations.





# Wild and Crazy Bidding

The second last round at Bribie Island Congress Teams proved wild and woolly. I was partnering Jan Peach, who is normally a well-behaved bidder, and facing Tony Hutton and Malcolm Carter, who are not.

## Which Contract to Double?

I got to open a strong 1NT (15-18), West came in with a 2D bid, which showed a single-suited hand, could be any suit. Partner went 2NT Lebensohl, East passed sneakily and I gave the compulsory 3C reply. This was passed round to East, who piped up with a 3S bid. I didn't mind this development with my spade holding, and West pulled to his suit with 4D.

Dealer S (rotated) All Vul	♠ ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ J 2 ♣ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 2	5Cx by S 8S lead
♠ 8 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ K Q 9 7 5 3 ♣ J 4 3		♠ A Q 10 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ A 6 ♣
	♠ K J 4 3 ♥ A 9 8 5 ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ A K	

East must have been confident I would take some action as he passed, and it turns out I could have done the same for a good result. Isn't 20-20 hindsight wonderful? I felt compelled to double, planning to lead trumps whenever I got in. Partner really couldn't stomach this with an 8-card suit and no defensive prospects at all so she bid 5C. This came back to West and he doubled.

The play was a little unfortunate although I possibly shouldn't have gone all-out to make but settled for one down. West led his spade, which I didn't read as a singleton, and I decided to throw a diamond loser and leave East on lead. Malcolm cashed the AD, making it look like a stiff by following up with a small heart. I had little choice but to let this run to dummy, but the king won and West played the KD.

Now I could ruff this, but with what? If East could ruff with the singleton jack I'd be irked, so I went up with the QC, hoping for any 2-1 break. This was not to be, so I went down two for -500. This was a 5-IMP loss, as the other table were also in 5C but undoubled and down 3.

Tony agreed that his double carried no message about who had the trumps. We'd tried to sign off in 3 and ended up bidding 5, so he thought we were too high, and he would have done the same with 0, 1, 2 or 3 trumps. It turns out that 4Dx would have gone down, but Malcolm was never playing there. He would have pulled to 4S, I would have confidently doubled with my KJxx of spades and 3 quick tricks, and would have scored -690.



## Playing for Bigger Stakes

A couple of boards later the casino came back to the bridge table.

West (Tony)	North (Jan)	East (Malcolm)	South (Richard)
	1D	2D	4NT
5H	6D	Pass	7C
Pass	Pass	7H	Double
7S	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Jan opened 1D and Malcolm bid 2D Michaels, showing both majors. I didn't need much to make slam; if there weren't two quick diamond losers I was almost there. I asked for key-cards with 4NT; this had been an area of partnership discussion because I wanted to keep 4D as a pre-emptive raise rather than minor-suit key card, so 4NT had to be my ace ask. Tony doesn't pass if there's any legal alternative and he duly stuck in a 5H bid. Our partnership had also not yet discussed DOPI/ROPI (double with no keycard, pass with one etc.) to cope with this sort of interference. Partner thought I was looking for a diamond slam and made what seemed the practical bid of 6D. I was a bit short of options, but my clubs were likely running and Jan probably had AK to some number of diamonds for her bid. Bidding seven at teams is always a big position to take, can go horribly wrong, but I decided to take the plunge.

Dealer N NS Vul	♠ A 9 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ A K 9 5 3 ♣ 9 6 5	7Sx by West JC lead
♠ 10 8 7 5 4 ♥ Q 8 4 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ J 4		♠ K Q J 6 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 3 ♦ J 10 2 ♣
	♠ ♥ A J 2 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A K Q 10 8 7 3 2	

Malcolm decided that if Tony couldn't find an excuse to double, we were probably making so he extracted full value from the favourable vulnerability and bid 7H over me. I doubled and Tony admitted to another suit with 7S. Jan clobbered that, and I had another cogitation before passing. I seriously considered 7NT (which is of course laydown) but I decided it was just too big a gamble when we were in line for a chunky penalty.

We could have taken this six down but I inadvertently crashed one of partner's heart tricks, not expecting one there. The 1100 penalty only lost us 7 IMPS compared to 6C at the other table.

We seemed to have been out-manoeuvred on both these boards and at score-up we were astonished to have edged a win in the match. We stopped in 3NT on one hand where the other table tried for slam, and then a couple of scattered IMPs got us over the line.

# Friday Morning:

Our Friday morning sessions—both regular and supervised—are the ideal lead in to the week end and leave you plenty of time to prepare for whatever the weekend holds, They are becoming very popular: try one of them next Friday and avoid that afternoon traffic!



Sue Erickson



Rob and Pauline Kelly



Caroline Bartolo, Jan Meredith, Ros Smith, Karen Darbyshire

# The Weekend Starts Here!



Dan Greig, Kim Crossing



Dee Sinton, Gloria Carlson



Kate Nadebaum,  
Val Keevil

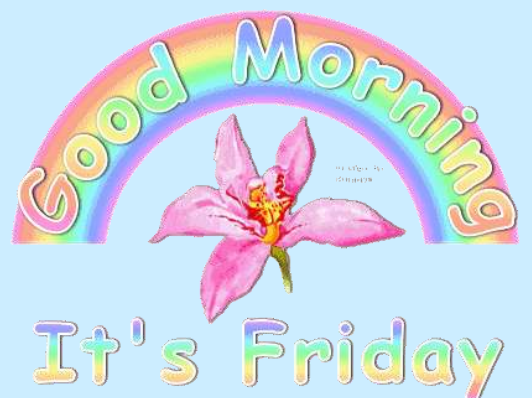


Vicki Bakker,  
Margaret Sands

Mary Woodliff,  
Norma Curnow



Alice Buzza Jan McNab





# Albert Benjamin – The Lion Of the North

A memoir by Ursula Harper

When I arrived in Australia some three years ago, I was both pleased and astonished to see how many players played “Benji Twos”. One of the greatest privileges in my life was to know Albert Benjamin and playing with him. I eventually forced him to play his Benji twos. He used to say that he “invented them for the opposition”.

Albert was a delightful and most charming man with an interesting history. He was the son of Russian immigrants and was brought up in Glasgow. I think his parents thought they were going to land in America! – as was often the case.

Albert told the story that when living in the “Gorbals”, one of the poorest areas in Glasgow, plagued not only by poverty but also gang warfare – mostly Protestants against Catholics – an endemic enmity, he was walking home from school one day when he was accosted by a gang of youths who menacingly asked him if he was a “Proddy” or a Catholic. Albert disarmingly lifted his hand and said that he was a Jew. “We do not care about that” said the leader – “are you a Protestant Jew or a Catholic Jew?” Albert, however, escaped.

He was a bright man and studied medicine at Glasgow University – but he suffered from the “bridge bite”. That is to say that he gave up medicine to play bridge and became world famous. He owned a bridge club in Glasgow as well

as an electrical business. And what a club! A breakaway from the stuffy other bridge club in Glasgow which, unaccountably, would not accept Jews or Catholics. Albert’s club soon topped the league. His club was a home to all – more like someone’s drawing room, with a kitchen and a dining room and you could eat breakfast, lunch and dinner there seven days a week, and always followed by bridge and more bridge.

Albert was the most patient of men, always listening to the many who thrust bidding problems in his face, and he always had a playing problem secreted in a waistcoat pocket. He was a charismatic man, tall, burly with a shock of gray hair and the loveliest of smiles.

After his time at University, he soon became an international player. Two of his pupils were Barnett Shenkin and Michael Rosenberg. His talents did not end at the bridge table. He was one of the finest after dinner speakers. The stories about him became legend. In his later years he was playing against the English and, while defending against a slow dummy player, actually fell asleep. His partner woke him and he quickly pulled the wrong card, allowing the contract to make. He was very apologetic to his team mates who told him not to worry since they had actually gained on the board.

Not long after we joined his club, Albert and his wife Judy adopted me. I won my first trophy playing with him, despite going down in a cold slam!

I gave up playing bridge for about 10



years when the family were young but, refreshed, returned to the refreshing care of Albert. He was never short of a story and travelled down to London for my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party, where he regaled and astonished the other guests.

One of my best memories is playing with him at the Isle of Man congress where we won the teams. In the final the local club champion announced that they were playing “Benji Twos”.

Little did he know that he was playing against the founder and I did not disclose. In fact, to add fuel to the fire, I said “Oh, that was named after Benjamin – is he still alive?” Albert was inscrutable. In the course of defending a slam Albert held J953 of the trump suit and dropped the 9 on the first round. An old dog with an old trick. It worked! The club champion did not recover and, despite the fact that my husband was playing in the next room, we won. After the drop of the 9 and the slam going off, I smiled sweetly at the declarer and said:” by the way, Have you met Albert Benjamin?” Collapse of the stout party.

Albert and I played together for many years. I was the luckiest person in the world. I adored him. He may no longer be with us but his memory will last forever.

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME: PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD MATERIAL OR SUGGEST TOPICS.  
CLOSING DATE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE IS 1ST DECEMBER.**



## TIM SERES: Australia’s Master of Deception

Tim had a strong preference for three no-trumps over other games. Consider this hand from the 1990 Interstate Selections.

	S	10984		
	H	Q3		
	D	J42		
	C	KQ96		
		N		
W				E
		S		
	S	AQ		
	H	AK10762		
	D	Q5		
	C	1054		

<b>The</b>	<b>Bidding:</b>		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Brandweiner	Courtney	Kalmin	Seres
		1S	1NT
Pass	3NT	All pass	
Contract 3NT;		Lead S2	

East-West were playing Blue Club, the Italian canapé system, where the long suit is usually bid on the second round. Many would overcall two hearts with the South hand but Tim chose one no-trump. He had a source of tricks, two spade stoppers and about the right high card strength. North had an easy raise to the superior contract of three no-trump.

West led the two of spades, East was keen to switch to diamonds and so erred by rising with the king of spades. Seres won the ace and played a low club to the king which held. When he cashed the heart queen East discarded a small spade. This might have worried some declarers, but Tim smiled for he now knew the ghastly fate of the likely contract of four hearts. Play on!

Solution page 30

**2014 SILVERSEA CRUISE  
with Ron and Suzie Klinger  
on Silver Whisper  
Stockholm, Sweden, to Southampton, England,  
August 28 – September 9**



**The Silver Whisper is a luxury 6-star ship with a maximum of 382 passengers. The fare is 'all-inclusive', with all suites ocean-view, butler service, open-seating dining, in-suite dining, complimentary beverages, plus all gratuities and 24-hour room service.**

**Ron Klinger will conduct bridge workshops in the mornings and the afternoons while the Silver Shadow is at sea, plus afternoons by arrangement when in port. The Improve-Your-Bridge Group will proceed with 10 passengers or more in the group. To take part in the workshops it is essential that you join the I-Y-B Group and make your booking through Ron Klinger. No one outside our Group will be entitled to participate in the workshops. Maximum Number: 40.**

**Itinerary: Stockholm, Tallin, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Warnemunde, Kiel Canal, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Zeebrugge, Southampton**

**For further details and how to join the group, please contact:  
Ron Klinger, (02) 9958 5589 or 0411 229 705  
or you can use [suzie@ronklingerbridge.com](mailto:suzie@ronklingerbridge.com) for email.**

# Canadian Bridge and Fishing Report

With Marcey Spilsbury

OK, now that I have the attention of the men...! More about that later. Just returned from our annual pilgrimage to Mother Canada and had the opportunity to play several times at several different clubs and also at a Regional Tournament. They do things a little differently over there so I thought it was worth sharing my observations.

We have a family home in Nanaimo, B.C. on Vancouver Island and during July/August, it's exclusively ours to enjoy. Wayne keeps a little fishing boat there and we seem to suddenly have Aussie friends we don't know yet who are in the area who pop over for a few days. It's a quick 15 minute flight from Vancouver in a float plane.

Nanaimo's club is small, operated out of the Royal Canadian Legion (equivalent to the RSL) so it means setting up and clearing up every session. Typically, there are 10 to 14 tables and the standard is good. They only meet 3 times a week so if you want more you have to travel to cities either north or south – which is a bit of a packed lunch and camel ride – but you see the same faces so they all do it! Being small clubs, the first major difference is No Dealing Machine! Before start of play, each table will shuffle 3 old boards and make up new ones. That means, no hands printout at the end of play so its very difficult to remember a hand long enough to discuss anything at the end of the day. I found it actually prevented a lot of coulda, shoulda, woulda grief between partners at the end. Gone, finished, go home!

Most people play Standard American with some 2 over 1, oddly some play 5 card majors with weak NT and very few play

Precision. When partner opens 1NT, responder must immediately announce the point range (as we are now doing at WABC).

The other major difference is that you are not allowed to play complicated systems that have several meanings such as MULTI 2s unless you are prepared to give your opponents a DETAILED defence – well, who wants to do that?! It really cuts down the number of conventions played with most people opting to play very natural overcalls in suits and NT. Not much alerting, director is hardly every called (but he's busy playing anyway and doesn't want to be called!) and it's a pretty level playing field with card play and not conventions being the forefront of the game.

Also noticed not a lot of interfering preemptive overcalls for some reason and opening psych bids were a no no. Therefore, no opening weak 2s with 10 high as they judge it to be an unethical attempt to mislead the opposition as to your point count.

Another really big difference is that all sessions are Stratified. Even though we sit randomly, after the overall scoring is done, the director then produces a Stratified result for sections A, B, and C. He can adjust the levels according to who is playing that session. ("C" is usually 0 to 300). Then points are awarded to the winners of each section. So you can have a lousy day and still get points because you competed well amongst others of your own standard.

At the Regional Tournament, we gave an average of the pairs or teams masterpoints when we registered so again after the overall result, it was





## NANAIMO — BRITISH COLUMBIA

stratified to produce leaders and winners in each A, B or C section. It's a suggestion but wouldn't it be great to have something like this on Red Point Day/Week? It would mean your pair average would mean you sit in a designated section.

At other clubs, this very thing is done right as you enter the door. The room is divided into A, B and C and you sign up for a table in that section. You can get a "bye" for the day if you have a good reason for not playing in your own section.

Our good friends, Julie and Mark Norton, came over from Perth to join us in late July. The day after arriving the boys hopped into the big Silverado truck and off they went to play hunter/gatherer in the very northern end of Vancouver Island in Quatsino Sound. Julie and I

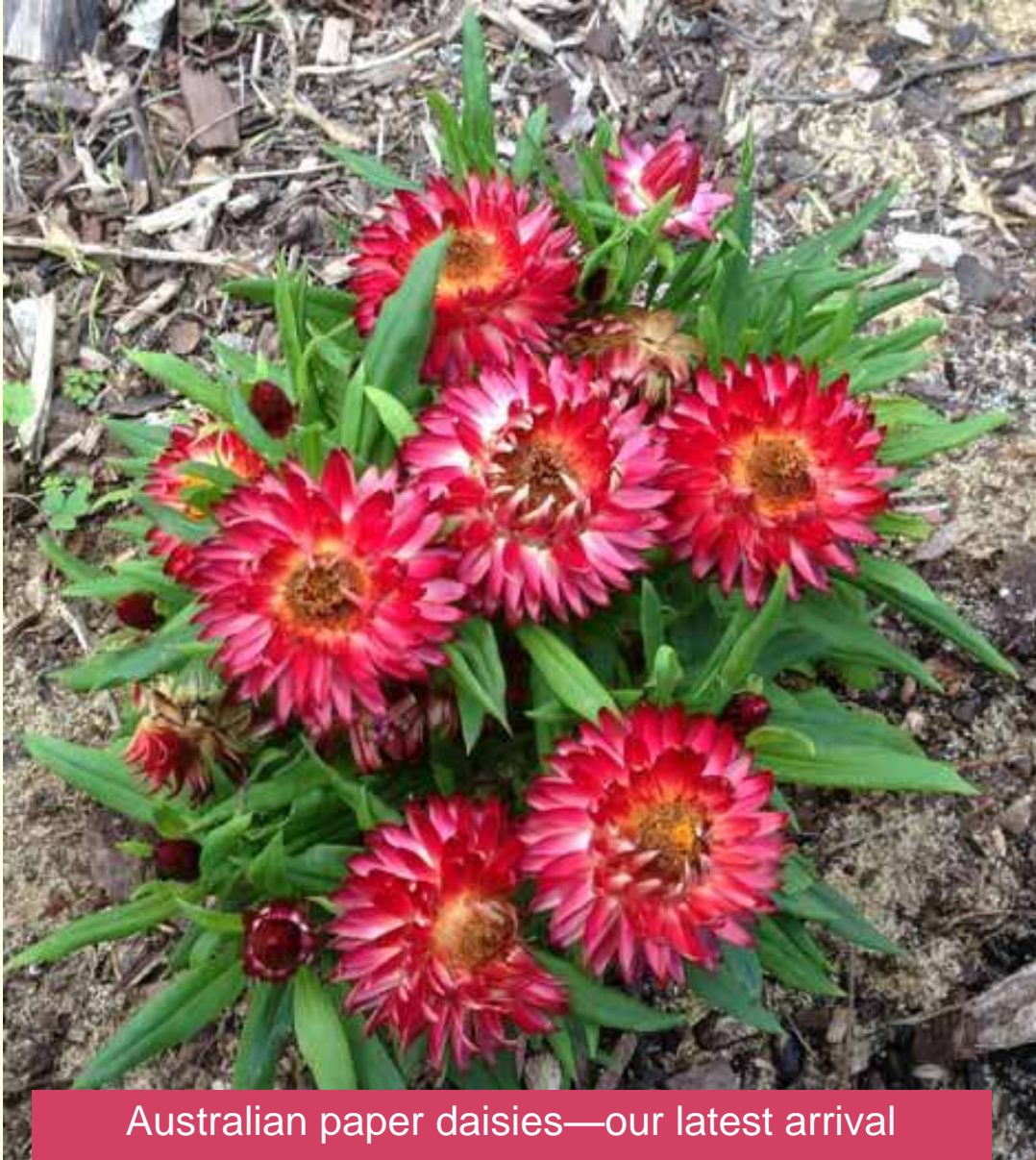
couldn't believe our good luck at how fast we got rid of the boys and the boys were revelling in their grog about how they managed to escape the women! Fishing was nothing short of fantastic and you could have sent down a green toothbrush and caught a fish! They limited out in 2 days and came back with 100 lbs of salmon!

Julie and I took ourselves off to some satellite clubs in Qualicum Beach, Duncan and Victoria. I would announce at the beginning that we are playing ACOL and we were very amused at the stunned looks on people's faces. "Well..... what's that? You know you'll have to alert everything" they would say. It was worth it table after table just to see the deer-in-the-headlights look!



# The Rueful Rabbit

*springs back to W. A. B. C.*



Australian paper daisies—our latest arrival

The arrival of Spring is a wonderful time for wildflowers for everyone, including we rabbits – lots of new green shoots on plants in the Club's gardens – some however a tad tough. A visit to Kings Park or Wireless Hill Park show great displays of colour.

In our Club's gardens there are lovely flowerings – bottlebrushes, banksias and yellow hibbertias everywhere. The honeyeaters just love Spring. Walk through the gardens and listen.

The new colour as you walk to the Club front door are Australian paper daisies – a hybrid variety of everlasting - *Bracteanthum bracteata* -!!!

For those of you who are energetic there is a great colony of these daisies' original parents on the slopes of Mount Bakewell in York. Hopefully ours will thrive and multiply filling the garden with colour

So now that Spring has sprung – get out in the bush and enjoy it as we rabbits do. A great one-day drive is down the Brookton Highway to the Boyagin Rock Reserve – and back through Wandering.

**Have a great Spring – R.R.**

# AN ENDURING AND FORMIDABLE PARTNERSHIP

Annabel Booth and Lauren Shiels, both long standing members of WABC are to be congratulated on their recent success at the Australian National Championships, this year held in Adelaide in July. They were victorious in the Women's Team Event after competing over 6 days of fierce competition.

They are no strangers to this event, having competed 7 times, now winning again after victory in 2005, and twice finishing as runners up. A very formidable partnership and team from Western Australia.



Annabel and Lauren met whilst playing in state events and formed a partnership in 1992, one that has been both successful and rewarding for both of them.

Of course, along the way both ladies have attained the status of Grand Master. Several other successes include twice winning the Hans Rosendorff Cup and coming second on several occasions. They have also successfully represented the state in the National Women's Team competition and have had success at several BAWA events.

Annabel developed good card sense from childhood games and as a young married woman she joined up with Sue

Connors and Helen Bunning to have private lessons with Hans Rosendorff. They then played together socially before joining WABC and all three relished the competition of club bridge.

Lauren began her bridge life at UWA whilst doing a science degree when she joined three medical students and together they had lessons with Nigel Rosendorff at his Broadway premises. They soon became addicted to the game and then Lauren joined WABC. Lauren's sister, Leonie Fuller is also an accomplished player and was also part of the

winning team in Adelaide this year. Continuing the family tradition, Lauren's children, Rhys and Renee Cooper are also proving to be extremely successful competitors. Rhys at 15 represented Australia at the Bridge Olympics in Beijing in 2005 whilst Renee at 16 won a silver medal at the ANC this year. When time permits Lauren enjoys playing club bridge with her children.

Annabel now a member of our club for 40 years, served as the Treasurer for two years and for the past four years has run the Supervised Sessions at WABC on Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. She has also been in the ANC

Senior Team on 2 occasions with Noelene Law.

Lauren and Annabel continue to play ACOL system but of course with some sophisticated variations! They believe their 21 year harmonious and successful partnership is based on not being critical of play while at the table, rather sorting out strategies together before and after events.

We hope this partnership will continue to represent W.A. for many years to come.

## BRIDGE SEAMUS BROWNE

**W**he harder I work the luckier I get" has been variously attributed to Sam Goldwyn and Gary Player. Let us not quibble.

It was no doubt true for both of them – and is still true for many others. In bidding, especially, the more work a partnership puts in, the more fluent and intelligible their bidding language. Apparently consanguinity is also a useful attribute in developing bidding skills. Therefore the hot pair of Adam and Nabil Edgton decided – wisely – both to work hard and to be brothers. At 14 and 15 years old, instead of fighting about who gets the last biscuit, they fight about second-degree inferences. On this hand, from a recent Sydney tournament, Adam was offered some tempting bait.

Dealer: W	♠ 976	
Vul: EW	♥ AJ53	
	♦ J9842	
♠ KQ1052	♣ A	♠ 843
♥ KQ962		♥ 1074
♦ 6	♠ AJ	♦ 73
♣ 109	♥ 8	♣ Q8642
	♦ AKQ105	
	♣ KJ753	

West's 1♦ opening was artificial, showing either a balanced hand of 10-12 HCP, or both majors and 10-14 points. In Adam's position many players would choose a policy of masterly inaction, and rack up the 100s against 1♦. Masterly inaction, however, seldom appeals to the young – and, curiously, Adam and Nabil had discussed this very situation. They had agreed that when an artificial bid was passed round to one of them, a cue-bid of that suit showed a good hand with five of the suit. The auction continued:

Pass	4♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	4♥
All pass		Pass	6♦

Nabil's 4♣ call showed a diamond fit, a good hand (in the context of his original pass) and a singleton club. 4♥ showed first- or second-round control in hearts. Nabil's 5♦ bid denied the ♠K, and Adam went into a brown study. The ♥A alone would not be enough to occasion a 4♣ jump. Since Nabil had no diamond honour, Adam eventually decided that Nabil must hold either the ♥AK or the ♥A and a singleton ♣A. He bid 6♦ – and beamed happily as the two aces duly came down in dummy. Let the oldies collect their +600 against 1♦.

**Seamus Browne's article**  
courtesy of *The Bulletin*

*When about to blunder one should think for a long time so that one has some defence in the post mortem*



# WINNING BRIDGE BY RON KLINGER

A COLUMN FROM THE WOMEN'S WEEKLY

20TH August, 1975

*HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED?*

ONE of my firmest beliefs is that husbands and wives should not partner each other at bridge.

The setting of bridge seems to have an unhappy knack of bringing into the open marital tensions from other areas. At each of my classes I point out the caution on page one of "Bridge Basics": "You may agree to play in certain partnerships, for example husband and wife against the other couple (probably the **worst** arrangement!) . . ."

The offenders are usually males . . . not that nastiness is a peculiarly masculine trait, but it is the husbands who usually let the vitriol flow. With anyone else, a mistake is forgivable: "That **was** a tough decision. How could you tell?" But with you, the wife, it's "For heaven's sake, what makes you think you're a genius? Can't you just . . ." or if he is given to sarcasm, "Sorry, dear, my fault. I know how you hate to return my suits, so I should have led a **club** and then you'd have . . ."

One great expert, usually the mildest of the mild, once roared at his wife (and at the hundreds within earshot): "To think that this is the mother of my child!" Nor does it help if he promises not to speak:

first, he'll sit there rolling his eyes and making faces, and second, you'll have to listen to him later, oozing virtue, claiming he "never said a word all night."

A number of bridge divorces had their ostensible origins at the bridge table and the only "bridge murder" on record is a wife shooting her husband at the table. This is the famous Bennett Case in Kansas City, 1931. Mr and Mrs Bennett were playing against another married couple.

		NORTH		
		♠ A1063		
		♥ 1085		
		♦ 4		
WEST		♣ A9842	EAST	
♠ Q72			♠ 4	
♥ AJ3			♥ Q94	
♦ AQ1092			♦ KJ763	
♣ J6			♣ Q753	
		SOUTH		
		♠ KJ985		
		♥ K762		
		♦ 85		
		♣ K10		
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	
Mr Bennett		Mrs Bennett		
1 ♠	2 ♦	4 ♠	All pass	

Mr Bennett, as husbands often do, opened the bidding without sufficient values. West led the ace of diamonds and switched to the jack of clubs. Mr Bennett could have made the contract, but was down by playing too many rounds of trumps. Here the figure of speech of one's life depending on the play of a card became literally true.

Mrs Bennett commented that Mr Bennett's play was not the best. He replied that her bidding left something to be desired. The actual language used was, on my imagination, a little less temperate. Mr Bennett got up, went into the bedroom, took her husband's automatic, came back and shot him. That broke up the game.

At her subsequent trial for murder, Mr Bennett was amazingly acquitted, apparently on a defence of irresistible impulse.

So be warned. Husband and wife playing together can be a health hazard. But, girls, if you **must** play with your husband, I advise you **NEVER, BUT NEVER** ask him what you did wrong while you are at the table . . . no matter how clenched his teeth are!

Happy bridging!

## SOLUTION TO THE TIM SERES PROBLEM

S 10984

H Q3

D J42

C KQ96

N

S J72

S K653

H J9854

W

E

H ----

D K7

S

D A109863

C J72

C A83

S AQ

H AK10762

D Q5

C 1054

Tim crossed to the heart king as East signalled with the diamond ten. He ran the club 10 which held. Now he made the key play: he cashed the queen of spades. This prepared a variety of endplays for the unhappy defenders.

Seres now exited with a club. East won his ace and had to choose between spades and diamonds. He chose a spade to his partner's jack. West now on lead wished he wasn't. Hearts was out of the question so he played the diamond king and exited with a diamond. If East wins the ace he must give dummy the last three - the last spade, the last club and the top diamond. He ducked to declarer's bare queen.

In the three card ending, Tim played low from his K107 of hearts endplaying West who held J98 of that suit. Making three no-trumps. East avoided being endplayed but at the cost of endplaying his partner.

The field floundered in the hopeless contract of four hearts.

# Club Evening Pairs Championship

7.30 pm Wednesday 16th and 23rd  
October



Always a great  
event.  
Get your  
entries in now.

# LIBRARY NOTES

By Val Krantz

Someone cleaning out their bookshelves recently passed on a copy of *The losing trick count* by F Dudley Courteney and GGJ Walshe. It was published in 1936 and I was surprised that what I'd thought of as a modern idea had its genesis in the early days of contract bridge. Courteney and his partner Walshe advocated a new way to

assess the value of hands once a fit has been established. Ely Culbertson's honour trick system was firmly entrenched in the USA and while good players always considered distribution in judging their bids the idea of LTC failed to take off.

Years later the influential British player-writer Maurice Harrison-Gray revived it. Italians Walter Avarelli and Georgio Belladonna built it into their Roman System and won seven world championships. Evaluation of hands using the losing trick count became more widespread.

Many top bridge players, writers and teachers now advocate using the LTC to help evaluate hands once a fit is established. Marty Bergen is perhaps the best known but Australia's Ron Klinger recommends its use too. We have books in the library by both including Bergen's Booklets which are brief with lots of

exercises. It can help a partnership with shapely hands and not a lot of high card points reach optimum contracts. So the Courtenay-Walshe book makes fascinating reading for those interested in the evolution of the game. It is in the Archived books on the top shelves with many golden oldies such as Ely



Culbertson's *Contract Bridge Blue Books* which swelled the ranks of bridge players in the 1930s as well as Ely's pockets. Several top players from WABC believe we should not forget bridge writers like Terence Rees, Mike Lawrence, Hugh Kelsey and Marshall Miles to name a few, just

because they published years ago. One is Derek Pocock who has an extensive bridge library of his own and very kindly offered to lend any of them to anyone interested.. He has given us a list of his titles marking those that he's found particularly enlightening. It is in the front of the printed library catalogue (on the table in the library) with a contact phone number - 9381 8172 - if you don't see him around the club. We have some of his titles on our shelves but Derek has many lovingly collected over the years that we don't have and which are a true treasure trove.

And of course we have new books coming in all the time. Check out the library door for titles or the list in front of the catalogue on the library table. I found Alan Truscott's *The great bridge scandal: the most famous cheating case in the history of the game* quite fascinating. Published in 2004 Truscott gathered witnesses who gave their version of the case brought against the great British player Terence Reese and his British partner Boris Shapiro. It happened at the World Championship in 1965 and became known as the Buenos Aires affair. Could players of the stature and ability of these two men want or need to cheat using finger signals to win tournaments? It seemed unbelievable. The case tore the international bridge world apart. Read Reese's rebuttal *Story of an accusation* published in 1966 which is on the library shelves, then look at the evidence that Truscott presents. His book brings to life many personalities of the time and shows the unenviable task world bridge authorities had in judging a very difficult case. Both Reese and Truscott's book attempt to convince the reader that their account is the right one. See what you think?

Good reading and good bridging.

### **SUGGESTION BOX:**

Keep enjoying our excellent collection and improving your bridge. If you have any ideas for purchases, there is a Suggestion Book in the library. We have a good kitty right now so let me know your ideas.



## **NEW & REJOINING CLUB MEMBERS**

***WE WARMLY WELCOME THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF OUR CLUB***

### **JULY**

**Maxine Litwin  
Chris Riley  
Paul Riley  
Margaret Caine  
Jennifer Smith  
Elizabeth Killerby  
Jenny Sales  
Penny Mollett  
Melva Ruffin  
Margaret Jackson**

### **AUGUST**

**Kay Lane  
Maureen Douglas  
Hugh Pinniger**

### **JUNE**

**Stella Steer  
Anne Durack**

## ***THOSE WE WILL REMEMBER***

**Rob Mazzucchelli  
Maira Gaff**



**SOLUTION TO Ron Klinger  
Problem from Page**

**Strange and stranger:  
The full hand**

	North KQJ9 8 AQJ1064 Q8	
West 42 K1097542 7 AK3		East A1073 3 85 J107542
	South 865 AQJ6 K932 96	

**OPEN TEAMS**

Lead: CA!

The defence took the first six tricks and declarer lost two more for down four. E-W +200. As it happens declarer would not make 3NT on any lead, but as South has not shown any fear despite West's heart rebid, West sensibly led the CA. If partner did not encourage there would be time to try something else.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	Pass
4H?	Dble	All pass	

Lead: SK

It is true that West has only six losers and so seven playing tricks, but with two defensive tricks outside hearts and a poor quality suit for a 4-level opening, the West hand looks more like a 1H opening. Check opening points: 10 HCP + 10 cards (length in two longest suits) + 2.5 quick tricks = 22.5 total. With 22+ opening points, you have a sensible 1-opening in first or second seat, not a pre-emptive opening. Perhaps West thought he was playing in the Youth final. Declarer took the SK lead with the SA and continued with the H3: six – seven – eight. I bet North was not expecting to make that trick. The result was three down for +500 and 12 Imps to N-S.

**WOMEN'S:**

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	Pass
4H?	Dble	All pass	

Lead: SK

Maybe this 4H opening is a disease? Here declarer took the SA and played the H3 to the king. She finished two down for –300.

**At The Other Table:**

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	Pass
1H	Dble	Pass	2NT
3H	3NT	All pass	

Lead: H10

Declarer won with the HQ and continued with a spade to the king and ace. East had no trouble switching to a low club and the defence took the next six tricks. E-W +150 and +10 Imps.

**IN THE SENIORS:**

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	Pass
3H?	Dble	All pass	

Lead: SK

West has too much playing strength for 3H and too much defence for 4H. A 1H opening with the intention of rebidding hearts is quite adequate. Everyone wants to be a hero, but this is not the hand for it. Declarer won with the SA and played the H3: six – ten – eight. He finished one down for –100.

**At the other table:**

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	Pass
1H	2D	Pass	2H (1)
Dble	2S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3H (2)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Strong diamond raise

(2) Worried about the hearts

Lead: HK??

This will not feature in West's notebook under 'Great leads of the year'. No doubt he was hoping to be a hero by pinning a singleton honour in dummy. Not this time. North-South had a very sensible auction and collected +400 after that super-friendly lead for +7 Imps.

# Diary dates 2013

OCTOBER		
Saturday 5		NZ CHAMPIONSHIPS end
Sunday 6		BAWA GNRP FINAL
Tuesday 8	AGM – Red Point Duplicate	Annual General Meeting 4:30pm
Wednesday 16	Club Evening Pairs Championship 1 of 2	
Monday 21	Novice Pairs Championship 1	9.15am Start
Wednesday 23	Club Evening Pairs Championship 2 of 2	SPRING NATIONALS start - SYDNEY
Monday 28	Novice Pairs Championship 2	9.15am Start
Thursday 31		SPRING NATIONALS ends
NOVEMBER		
Sunday 3		BAWA Masters in Teams of Three
Tuesday 5	Melbourne Cup Lunch Duplicate	Melbourne cup lunch – 11am start
Friday 8	Friday Jackpot Final	
Saturday 9	Saturday Jackpot Final	
Monday 11	Monday Morning Jackpot Final	
	Monday Jackpot Final	
Tuesday 12	Tuesday Jackpot Final	
Wednesday 13	Wednesday Jackpot Final	
	Wednesday Evening Jackpot Final	
Thursday 14	Thursday Jackpot Final	
Saturday 16		ABF Golden West
Sunday 17		ABF Golden West
Friday 29	Christmas Congress Friday Pairs	GNOT NATIONAL FINAL starts - NSW
Saturday 30	Christmas Congress Saturday Pairs	
DECEMBER		
Sunday 1	Christmas Congress Teams – 10am start	
Monday 2		GNOT NATIONAL FINAL ends
Tuesday 10	Christmas Party Duplicate	Christmas party & prize giving following session
Wednesday 25	Christmas Day	NO BRIDGE at WABC
Thursday 26	Afternoon Duplicate only – 1:00 pm start	Boxing Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 31		New Years Eve

RED POINT EVENTS

GOLD POINT EVENTS



# DUPLICATE SESSIONS

PO Box 591 Cottesloe 6911  
7 Odern Cres, Swanbourne. Phone 9284 4144

## SUPERVISED – FOR BEGINNERS

Monday (P)	12.30 – 3.15	Peter Smith	Except Public Holidays.
Wednesday (P)	7.30 – 10.15	Annabel Booth	Ideal for the novice player.
Friday (P)	9.30 – 12.15	Annabel Booth	Ideal for the novice player.
Saturday (P)	2.00 – 4.45	Guest Director	Ideal for the novice player.

- *These sessions are supervised – you may ask for help during play.*
- *(P) You don't need to bring a partner, no need to book, just turn up in the teaching area.*

## OTHER SESSIONS - UNSUPERVISED

Monday am	9.15 – 12.30	Peter Holloway	Small & friendly. Not held on Public Holidays.
Monday pm	1.00 – 4.30	Dave Parham	Graduate to this from Supervised.
Tuesday	1.00 – 4.30	Bill Kemp	The premier session.
Wednesday	11.30 – 3.00	Peter Smith	Advice given by Peter – after the session.
Wednesday Eve	7.30 – 11.00	David Burn	Very popular, good atmosphere.
Thursday	1.00 – 4.30	Peter Holloway	Popular with newer players.
Friday	9.15 – 12.15	David Burn	Intermediate players
Friday	1.15 – 4.45	John Beddow	Our most popular session.
Saturday (P)	1.30 – 4.45	David Burn	Relaxed and social.

- *All sessions marked (P) indicate you may attend without a partner.*
- *If you need a partner for any other session phone Dee Sinton 9383 1320 8.30am – 8.30pm only*

TABLE MONEY PER SESSION: \$6.00 Members, \$8.00 Visitors, \$3.00 Youth players

(SUPERVISED: \$7.00 Members, \$9.00 Visitors, \$3.00 Youth players)

All results posted at [www.wabridgeclub.com.au](http://www.wabridgeclub.com.au).

Licensed bar open after most sessions.



**THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE CLUB**

# **CHRISTMAS CONGRESS**

## **2013**



At the WABC CLUB ROOMS  
7 ODERN CRESCENT SWANBOURNE

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup>, Sat 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, Sun 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**

Tournament Organisers	KITTY GEORGE	9447 5303
	SHEENAGH YOUNG	9284 4144
Tournament Director	BILL KEMP	9447 0534

Entries Via  
BAWA Website [www.bawa.asn.au](http://www.bawa.asn.au)  
Ph: 9284 4144

FRIDAY PAIRS	1.00pm	\$15 per person
SATURDAY PAIRS	1.30pm	\$15 per person
SUNDAY TEAMS	10.00am	\$30 per person

**Presentation of prizes after play each day**  
**CASH PRIZES and RED POINTS all events**



**Season's Greetings**