



BFACT News



Editor: Rebecca Plush

February-March 2005

From the President:

Hi all – Congratulations to Griff Ware and all those who are helping to increase interest in Youth Bridge in the ACT.

BFACT are now moving into one of the busiest time of the year for BFACT events for the selection of players, to represent ACT in the various categories at the Australian National Championships in Sydney July & August.

Well done to all of the players who took part in the Senior's Trials which concluded last weekend. Congratulations to the winners (see below for their names)!

As there were only three pairs entered in the Youth Trials there will be no playoff for this event.

Membership of all representative teams will be confirmed early May.

Congratulations to the pairs who qualified for the Open Pairs Final, which will be played on April 2, 3.

The Womens' Team Selection, will be held in April. The final dates depned on entries. All the details are under 'Upcoming Events'. I would urge all Women players to consider entering this fine event. As one who has had this honour I can tell you that there is no finer feeling, in relation to bridge, than to play for your State/Territory.

Details for the GNOT qualifying and final events for 2005 are later in this Newsletter. Thank you to all who have assisted in finalising the proposal for this event.

Results for Selection events are available at the Canberra Bridge Club Home Page (www.canberrabridgeclub.com.au), under Results – Selection events.

We have received 5 Restricted and 7 Seniors' team's acceptances for the 'Interclub Teams Champion-ships' which commence April 9.

Happy bridging.

Val Mitchell - President



Upcoming Events:

As the President mentioned in her message, there are a lot of things coming up. For your convenience, here is a list of the key events. Please note, all events held at the CBC unless otherwise stated.

- Klinger Tour 1, 2 & 3 April in Canberra, Cooma & Cootamundra. See article and flyer for more details (both later in this News).
- Interclub Teams – 9 April, 18 June & 24 September. Venues TBA.
- Open & Women's Butler Pairs Selection – 11, 18, 25 April plus 2 & 9 May.
- ANC Women's Team Selection – 23 & 24 April, plus the previous Friday and Wednesday if needed. Cost \$70 per person.
- Club level Director's Course – 8 May. To be held at the **Southern Cross Club, Woden.**
- ANC Open Pairs Selection – 16, 23, 30 May plus 6 June.
- BFACT Simultaneous Pairs – Week beginning 20 June.



2005 GNOT Format:

The Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) is a first-class bridge event on the ABF calendar. Teams from all across the nation compete for the right to participate in the final, this year 18-21 November at Tweed Heads. BFACT fields three teams, Canberra 1, Canberra 2 and ACT Provincial.

Canberra 1

The winning team from the Knockout Teams held at the CBC in June & July will be invited to form the Canberra 1 team. Should the winners be unable to accept nomination, the runners-up will be invited. Should that team also be unavailable, the team will be selected the same way as Canberra 2, via the GNOT Regional Swiss Pairs event (see entry under Canberra 2 for details). If a four person team is selected, they may augment two additional players who need not have played in a selection event, but they must be a member of a BFACT affiliated club.

Canberra 2

The top quarter of the fields of designated events will be invited to participate in the GNOT Regional Swiss Pairs selection event (to be held in September or October), unless they have already accepted the invitation to be part of the Canberra 1 team. The designated events are the Barry Turner Teams (CBC – March & April), the Knockout Teams (CBC – June & July), the daytime GNOT Butler Pairs (CBC – August & September), the GNOT Teams (CBC – August & September) and the South Canberra Bridge Club Congress (Southern Cross Club, 28 August).

The three highest ranking pairs from the GNOT Regional Swiss Pairs selection event will be invited to form the Canberra 2 team. Should pairs not accept the invitation, further pairs will be invited in rank order until a six person team has been formed.

In the event that Canberra 1 also needs to be selected at this event, the top two pairs will be selected and they can choose a third pair

from 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th. Canberra 2 will then be selected from the remaining highest ranked pairs.

ACT Provincial

Eligible players are members of BFACT affiliated clubs who either (1) reside in Canberra but have not yet attained the rank of Life Master or higher at 1 January 2005; or (2) reside outside of Canberra (no masterpoint limitation for this category).

There will be a number of qualifying events throughout the year, including those for Canberra 2 plus the GNOT Restricted Butler pairs (CBC – August). In addition, other BFACT affiliated clubs will be invited to run their own selection events for entries in the Open and Provincial events.

The top quarter of the Restricted field in all selection events (both Open and Restricted) will be invited to participate in the GNOT Provincial Teams selection event. This event will be a Teams event so if pairs are eligible through qualifying in a pairs event they will be able to form a team (four or six players) with other pairs who have qualified. In addition, if a team has qualified but one of the pairs cannot play, the other pair will be able to form a team with another qualifying pair.

The final, the GNOT Provincial Teams selection event, will be run in parallel to the Open event. The winning team will be invited to form the ACT Provincial Team

More Information

Entry costs and more information about each event will be displayed on the entry forms on the notice boards at CBC as they become available. If you would like further information, contact Mark Abraham, BFACT Tournament Secretary at mark.abraham@anu.edu.au.



Problems of Discipline: Call the Director!

Recently the Laws & Ethics Committee has received a number of apparently minor cases, most of which would have been better [and more quickly] sorted out at the time by the Director. Some cannot be [for example, if the complaint is against the Director himself!] but many of them seem to have just started with players not calling the Director when things started to go wrong. That is what he is there for. The Director's job is to help people have a good time. He does that by making sure the game runs smoothly, that the rules are followed, and that players are polite or perhaps friendly. Experience shows that these conditions make it easier for everyone to have fun.

The nastiest happenings have been known to start with the words "I won't call the Director, but .": anything up to a full accusation of cheating has been known to follow! If someone says that to you then you should be on your guard. You may find it helpful to call the Director immediately. A player who starts with these words can be genuinely trying to be helpful, and may even be genuinely knowledgeable: however often neither of these admirable traits is present. Furthermore, if your opponents or partner is rude, whether to you or not, call the Director: let him sort the problem out.

Many people think that a "friendly" game is one in which the Director is not called. Experience suggests otherwise. Serious incidents are more likely to arise when the Director is not called straight away. A good Director often calms situations and calling him leads to a friendlier and fairer game. Give him a chance, please!

David Stevenson, EBU

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Manners at Bridge Table:

When I speak to students and club players, they tell me that a reason they haven't taken the next step to compete in EBU events is that "only nasty aggressive people play in those events, and we're not like that". I know that not everyone is "nasty and aggressive" but I have heard stories of players shouting at Directors when they do not like rulings; players saying unforgivably rude things to their partners; players swearing at opponents and so on.

Even when it is not as bad as that there is a lot of nit-picking, vaguely unfriendly comment, and the like. Please think about the effect of rude or unfriendly behaviour on the others at the table. Their enjoyment of their game of bridge is very likely to be reduced.

In any case, what good does it do? Let us try for a gentler approach! When the Director gives his ruling, he has done his best [and if it is a judgment ruling, then others have been involved in the decision]. When your partner gets the system or the defence wrong he did not mean to! Even if an opponent or a waiter has annoyed you, I am sure it was not deliberate! So try to look on the good side and be generous.

David Stevenson, EBU

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http://www.ebu.co.uk/laws_ethics/articles/general/manners.htm and

http://www.ebu.co.uk/laws_ethics/articles/general/calltd.htm.



If you would like to submit an article, ask a question or update your e-mail address, please contact the editor via e-mail on bfactnews@dpotech.net or leave something at the CBC.

**November 2004 ACT Region
Simultaneous Pairs:**

On this occasion we had 68 pairs from 5 clubs participate in this event. (2 Clubs unfortunately had problems duplicating the boards, and their results could not be scored with the other clubs). The results were as follows, when scored across the field:

Overall Winners

George Jesner & Bernie Waters
South Canberra Bridge Club

Overall Second

Hazel Adamson & Suzanne Donoghue
Bega Valley Bridge Club

Overall Third

Earl & Susanita Dudley
Canberra Bridge Club

The leading places from each club were as follows:

BEGA VALLEY – Hazel Adamson & Suzanne Donoghue

CANBERRA – Earl & Susanita Dudley

MORUYA – Maureen Corniah & Jenny Lora

MONARO (Cooma) – Margot Brennan & Andrew Struik

SOUTH CANBERRA – George Jesner & Bernie Waters

The obvious point to note here is George Jesner appearing as an ordinary player in the South Canberra club field. He has now essentially retired from bridge directing, and has made Wednesday at South Canberra his regular night for a game of ordinary club bridge. So, for the rest of us, these events could be a lot tougher to win from here on.

Hand of interest

The following was supplied by **Earl Dudley**, President of the Canberra Bridge Club.

I succeeded in enticing my favourite partner (in life) to have a game with me at the Canberra Bridge Club on Friday 26 November to test our skills in the 2004 BFACT Simultaneous Pairs.

Susanita and I play only occasionally these days and we prepare for such rare events by having a systems discussion lasting about 18 minutes (the time it takes to drive from Fadden to Deakin). Since the priority in such discussions is to learn and memorise the extended Stayman responses to the 2♣ enquiry to a 1NT opening, there is little opportunity to come to grips with any sophisticated bidding conventions.

Still, we managed somehow to muddle our way in the bidding to reach playable spots on the night. I found the following hand interesting.

Nov 2004 BFACT Simultaneous Pairs
Board: 23: All Vulnerable, Dealer: West
(Directions rotated for convenience)

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| | ♠ KJT9 | |
| | ♥ 976 | |
| | ♦ AQ3 | |
| | ♣ 642 | |
| ♠ 84 | | ♠ AQ72 |
| ♥ T82 | | ♥ 5 |
| ♦ T92 | | ♦ KJ854 |
| ♣ KQT85 | | ♣ J93 |
| | ♠ 653 | |
| | ♥ AKQJ43 | |
| | ♦ 76 | |
| | ♣ A7 | |

Bidding

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | Pass | 1♦ | 1♥ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

Opening Lead: ♣K
Result: +620

The bidding sequence will not make it to any coaching manual. A possible winning sequence is (1♦) 1♥ 2♦: 3♦ 3NT. Now East has to choose a club lead (or the improbable singleton heart lead) to defeat the contract. By responding 1♠ to my 1♥ overcall, partner had ruled out an opening lead from East's four card suit to a 3NT

contract and had thus condemned a 3NT contract to almost certain defeat. We nudged our way to 4♥, which also figured to fail. West led the ♣K and I won with the ♣A, drew trumps and tackled spades. As expected, my ♠J lost to the ♠Q and West played a club to West who switched to the ♦T. I rose with the ♦A and knocked out the ♠A. The contract now hung in the balance. East must choose between cashing a club winner or the ♦K. Lucky for me, East picked the ♣J which I ruffed and the 4th spade took care of the diamond loser.

In the post-mortem, East berated herself for not cashing the ♦K when in with the ♠A. East reasoned that West's failure to raise the opening bid of 1♦ suggested that West started with three diamonds not four diamonds. A fair comment maybe though West might have elected to pass with only 5 HCP and a 2-3-4-4 distribution.

The key to the defence which would have overcome the need to make a winning guess in the endgame lies with the play of the spade suit. On the first lead of spades, West should play the ♠8, a count signal showing an even number of spades (or the ♠4 if playing reverse signals). Now, when declarer plays a second spade after winning the ♦A, East can duck. On winning the third round of spades, East can play the ♣J with perfect safety since declarer cannot reach dummy to enjoy the 4th spade for a diamond discard.

Thanks Earl.

Till next time.

George Stockham – Convenor



Results of the Youth Bridge Workshop:

In February, a Youth Bridge Workshop was organised by Griff Ware. The special guest was David Lusk, a member of the ABF Youth Committee and very successful Youth sub-committee convenor for the South Australian Bridge Association (SABA). Attendees included BFACT

councillors, youth players and other interested parties.

There were many good ideas floated at the workshop, some of which will be implemented shortly, others will be longer-term projects.

The first outcome was to re-establish the ANU Bridge club. Universities are an ideal location to set up and run bridge clubs and have been highly successful in the past. Nye Griffiths, Mark Abraham and Griff Ware have done an excellent job and at sessions to date they have had about six tables! Well done!

Another project is to get bridge into Marist College. BFACT was approached by Marist to teach bright students bridge. Frank O'Shea and Val Hopwood are currently working with the teachers of Marist to make this happen! Both Frank and Val are volunteering their time and energies to help out. Thank you Frank & Val!

The third project is to start holding a Friday afternoon session of bridge at the CBC. This will start in the first week of Term 2 (29 April) after school at the CBC. Val Mitchell is organising this – thanks Val!

Griff Ware has been doing an excellent job as Youth Coordinator for BFACT (he has been appointed a supplemental councillor). The Youth weekend was a great success and you can expect to see more news on Youth Bridge in future!

If you have a young person in your life (son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc) who is interested in bridge, or perhaps you are interested in donating some time to help out youth bridge players. In either case, please contact Griff on thegruffle@mac.com or any other BFACT councillor.



Gold Coast Congress Results:

The 2005 Gold Coast Congress was held 19-26 February at the ANA and Gold Coast International hotels – long term venues for this prestigious event. There are pairs and teams events. This year there were 334 Open teams, 84 Restricted and 44 Seniors teams entered – a huge field! Here is a summary of the results, with BFACT region players in *italics*. I apologise now if I miss anyone:

Youth Pairs: Winners were *G. Ware-N. Griffiths* tied with F. Brown & D. Wiltshire.

Open Pairs: Winners were M. Brunner & J. Holland. There was also a plate plus eight additional finals sections! Winners of the Plate were B. Neill & R. Klinger.

Senior's Pairs: Winners were *P. Kahler & J. Collins*. There was also a plate plus an additional consolation section. Winners of the plate were A. Doddridge & J. Lennart.

Restricted Pairs: Winners were G. McCarthy & B. Carroll tied with P. Trenerry & R. Groom. There was also a plate plus an additional four consolation finals. Winners of the plate were D. Johnson & J. Watson.

Open Teams: J. Holland, M. Brunner, J. Armstrong, H. Melbourne, P. Marston defeated B. Noble, G. Bilski, T. Brown, P. Gue, *K. Bagchi* in the final.

Senior's Teams: *T. Marinos, G. Danta, T. Davis, P. Grant* defeated *P. Kahler, J. Collins, H. Ali, B. Krishan* in the final.

Restricted Teams: M. Lindsay, B. Lindsay, P. Penlington, R. McArthur defeated K. Moschner, P. Wells, *A. Pettigrew, A. Stephens* in the final.

More details at www.abf.com.au



Results of BFACT Selection Events:

Some selection events have already been run and won. Teams will be ratified in May by BFACT.

Women's Pairs: 1st – A. Pettigrew & A. Stephens; 2nd – P. Back & J. Kahler; 3rd – N. Church & J. Hoffman. There were nine more pairs entered.

Senior's Teams: 1st – L. Dixon & G. Riszko; 2nd – P. Back & J. Kahler; 3rd – R. Curnow & D. Hoffman.

Youth Teams: There were only three pairs entered who will form the team. They are D. Geromboux & C. Bridgland, M. de Livera & A. Lightfoot, G. Ware & N. Griffiths.

Mixed Pairs: 1st – D. McKinnon & P. Reynolds; 2nd – A. Pettigrew & B. Thorp; 3rd – S. Coleman & R. Hills.



Klinger is Koming!

BFACT regional clubs are again fortunate to have Ron Klinger, one of the best bridge teachers in the world, coming to Canberra, Cooma & Cootamundra to give lessons on a variety of topics. Ron has been to BFACT before and his lessons are always jam-packed and there is always something new he can teach you. Ron appeals to both the beginner and to the expert.

All the details are on the flyer attached to this News. Please talk to your local contact for more information and to indicate you are coming!

As the first lesson in Canberra is similar to last years topic, competitive bidding, I think it is a good idea to explain the focus this year. The focus will be on when to come into an auction, when to stay out [*something I need to learn – Ed*], how to compete, what factors indicate trying to play the hand and which ones scream “DEFEND”.

This event is sponsored by the ABF, BFACT and Your club!



KLINGER IS KOMING!

See one of the best bridge teachers in the world at a place near you!

CANBERRA BRIDGE CLUB

(Duff Place, DEAKIN)

Friday, 1 April 2005:

1:30pm Competitive Bidding - When, Why and How to Compete.

7:30pm Multi-Twos - Many Meanings, One Bid.

Contact: Sandy Hinson - 02 6282 2382

manager@canberrabridgeclub.com.au

Just \$14

Per Session

MONARO BRIDGE CLUB

(Cooma Ex-Services Club, 106 Vale Street, COOMA)

Saturday, 2 April 2005:

1:30pm Signals - Let Partner Know What You've Got!

Contact: Andrew Struik

02 6456 5079 or zastruik@snowy.net.au

Just \$12

COOTAMUNDRA BRIDGE CLUB

(Cootamundra Ex-Servicemens & Citizens Memorial Club,
Parker St (cnr Wallendoon St), COOTAMUNDRA)

Sunday, 3 April 2005:

10:00am Not Sure of a Game? To Trial Bid or Cue Bid.

1:30pm Improve Your Defence - Put that game DOWN!

Contact: Carmel Herald

02 6942 1575

melin@dragnet.com.au

Just \$14

Per Session

(Note - Contact Carmel to pre-order lunch and save time and money).