



# Bulletin

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## National championships in Canberra

By now anyone in the Canberra Bridge Club who doesn't know that the ACT is hosting the Australian Championships next year is either a recent arrival or doesn't want to know. The purpose of this piece is to update everyone on the progress of the preparations for this event.

### Festive Teams

This one-day event was held as a fund raiser and the ANC 2001 Committee would like to thank the Canberra Bridge Club, Sean Mullamphy and David Hoffman for their assistance in minimising the operating costs of the day. Everyone who participated would also like to thank the principal organisers and workers: Pat Back, Janet Kahler, Andrew Leslie, Val Mitchell and John Hempenstall. A good day which raised just under \$1500. The open winners were M Abraham J Courtney J Hunt N Jonsson; and the restricted C Bridgland D Geromboux R Plush G Ware

### Raffle

Anyone who has not yet sold a book of tickets or, at the very least, bought a ticket should remedy this situation as soon as possible: speak to Sean or Jill at the Club. This is a suitable way, and one of the very few such avenues available, to secure some funding from outside the bridge community. The main prize is the attractive painting by local artist, and club member, Jan Weir which is on display in the Clubrooms. Drawing of the winners will take place just before the final session of the NOT (26 January) at Rydges (Lakeside) Hotel. Remember to return your money and butts before then!

### Work in progress:

The unremitting search for sponsors continues... Several accommodation providers have agreed to "in kind" sponsorship in return for promotion in the flyer, already out and about, and the entry brochure which will be distributed in April 2001. Please urge

your out of town friends to "support those who support bridge" and QUOTE "ANC 2001" when making bookings – additional benefits will accrue for bookings identifiable as being for bridge players.

The relevant providers are the venue (Chifley on Northbourne) and Hyatt Hotel Canberra, James Court Apartment Hotel, Novotel Canberra, Rydges (Lakeside) Hotel, Saville Park Suites, Waldorf Apartment Hotel and the Canberra City Backpackers.

Blessedly, we have been successful in our application to the ACT Bureau of Sport and Recreation for a grant of \$2000 for operational assistance. The ANC 2001 website is "under construction" and will be posted by April next year – please contact the ANC 2001 committee if you know anyone who may wish to be promoted in this way. Any member who knows of a potential provider of pens, bearing that provider's logo, should contact me.

### Helpers

We have already had a gratifying volume of offers of assistance. The sorts of activities with which we will require assistance are *compilation of the Score Booklets* issued for all championships events (1200); *manning the Hospitality desk*; Boy/Girl Fridays for "tasks miscellaneous" during the ANC; and *advice about any interesting cultural or tourism events* in July 2001 so that we can broaden the ANC experience for our visitors

For the compilation of the Score Booklets we need approximately three long staplers – anyone who can provide one (for 4 working bees) should contact Nola Church (62824103).

**Julia Hoffman**  
**ANC Convenor**

*As well as showing the rest of Australia how well we can do things here, it will also be a great opportunity for bridge. More details of events are inside.*

# “Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics!”

The club has almost 600 members. But who are we? How many members are left-handed, listen to country music or have extra-marital affairs. The answers to all of these questions are not to be found in the club statistics but there are some interesting figures.

## How Old Are We?

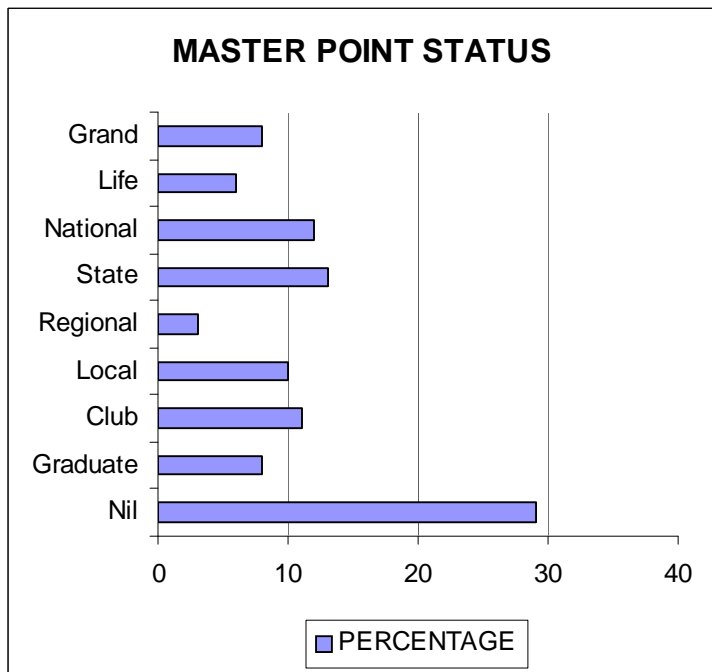
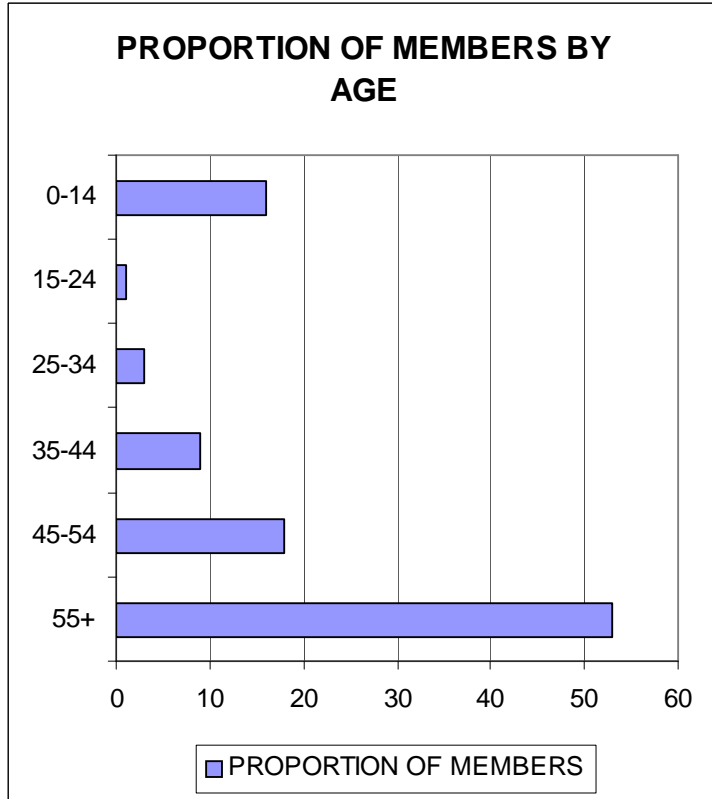
The great thing about bridge is that you can keep doing it a lot longer than many other things we did when young. Over 50% of the club members are now over 55. About 75% are over 40.

When we look at the younger ages it appears at first sight as if the current effort to get more young people interested in bridge is paying off, particularly among the very young. All the 10-14s are, in fact, under 10, and a substantial proportion are under 5. Our youngest life master is just eighteen months old and our youngest grand master is four.

Another possible explanation is that the records were corrupted when the current membership file was created and date of joining the club has ended up in the birthdays column. Some of the youngsters do look suspiciously well-developed for their age. If this is the case, then it appears even more crucial to support the work that is currently being done in schools.

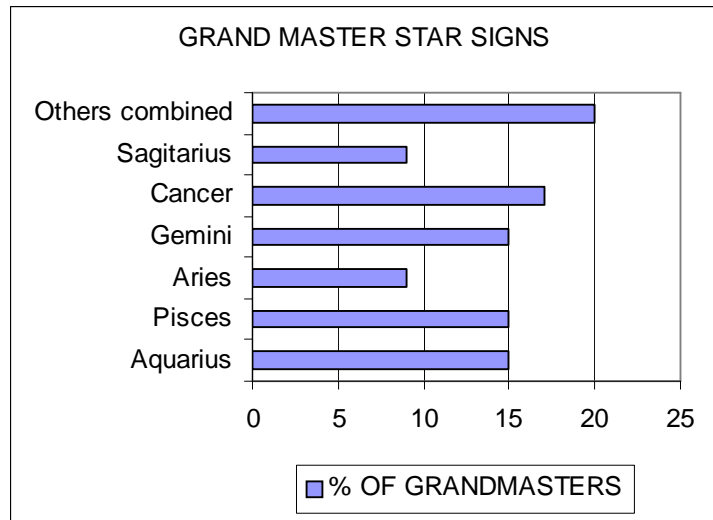
## Brownie points

This shows that the club is roughly equally divided between those who chase masterpoints and those who don't. From a future competition and development point of view there probably needs to be more people moving up through the middle master point rankings to be the new life and grandmasters in the next decade.



## The Stars?

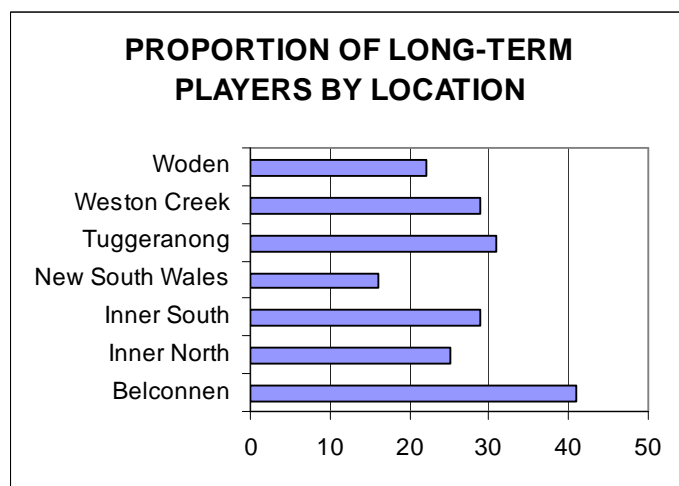
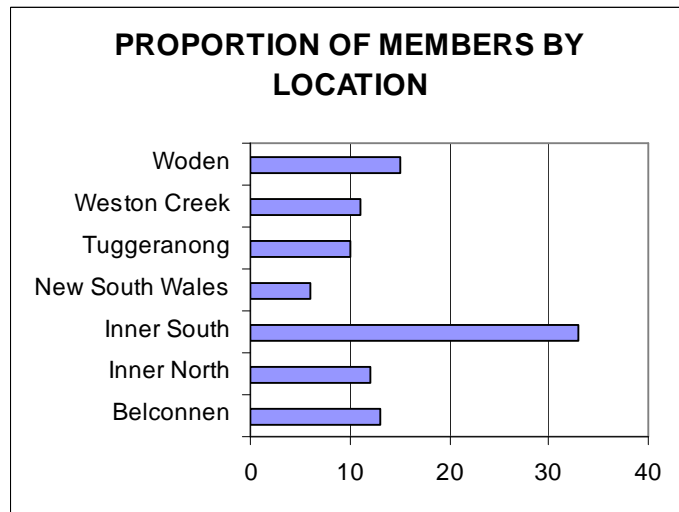
The club's Astrologer is very busy at the moment doing the Tournament Secretary's horoscope so that he can set the dates of events. At her request, we surveyed the star signs of the members. In terms of general membership, there is a relatively even spread of the zodiac—illustrating the wide appeal of bridge. Success, however, is a different issue. Grand master status is largely the preserve of a smaller number of star signs. The results are probably not very surprising. If you are lucky enough to be a Leo, for example, who has much time for bridge when you are running the world?



The statistics do indicate that we may have to change our advertising of bridge books and software. For example, we may have to say that if you are a Capricorn we do not warrant that this book/software/calendar will improve your bridge as the statistics seem to indicate that you are never likely to be much good.

## At Home

The statistics on where we live are probably quite predictable. All areas of Canberra and neighbouring NSW are represented but the largest groups are the from the inner south and Woden.. Interestingly, looking at the proportion of long term members (defined as national masters and above) by location, there is some correlation between being far away and being committed. As most people have cars and travel times are not very long in Canberra, maybe there is some scope for more members in some areas?



*[Technical note for the 60% of club members who work for the ABS or are professional mathematicians. Figures were regarded as statistically reliable if the editor thought they looked OK. Rounding problems were resolved by taking some from those the editor thought had too much. Data was checked if the editor had the time or energy. Where sources were inconsistent the one involving the least effort was used. The workings will be available to anybody who wishes to review them between 9 and 9.01 am on 14 February in Beijing]*

# Reflections on a wet weekend

## By Peter Grant

It had been a great weekend, the one before, they assured me. Maybe, but since I'd arrived on the Monday afternoon it had been raining as only Melbourne can. The Melbourne Festival concerts (Bach unlimited) and Lygon Street restaurants had been great, but the daytimes were cold, wet and bleak. Two games of bridge on spec had been less than rewarding.

I decided to try again, one last time, at the Saturday afternoon game at Prahran and was surprised to see the VBA clubrooms already full on my arrival. It turned out to be the play-off weekend for selection of next year's Victorian team: 16 pairs vying in a Butler contest for State selection honours. I quickly cancelled my interest in a game of duplicate and turned to kibbitzing instead. For five of the final six rounds of the Butler I watched Bob Richman and his partner, George Gaspar.

I made the right choice, I suspect; certainly, there was no shortage of interest at this table. Richman and Gaspar were lying second when I began my kibbitz – some 20 VPs or so behind the leaders Felicity Beale and Di Smart – but the relative comfort of that position was misleading. In their last 5 matches, Richman and Gaspar had to play the five top-ranked pairs in the field, themselves aside: Gallus and Silver, Snashall and Kilvington, McCance and van Riel, Beale and Smart, and Chua and Hinge. With their easiest games now behind them, they would need to play well to maintain their position in the top two. I didn't have long to wait for action.

Dealer: East Vul All

	North (Richman)		
	♠95		
	♥75		
	♦AJT654		
	♣JT6		
West		East	
♠QJ		♠A6432	
♥T62		♥AQ8	
♦K73		♦82	
♣AK743		♣Q52	
	South (Gaspar)		
	♠KT87		
	♥KJ943		
	♦Q9		
	♣98		
Bidding	N	E	S
	1S	P	1NT*
	2S	P	3D
	3C	P	3NT
	P	3H	P
	P	P	X
	P	P	X
		P	*= forcing

The lead was 7H, to the ace in dummy, followed by a club back to the ace in declarer's hand. Decision point, or so declarer thought. Surely, with all the hearts so clearly with South, Richman must have KS for his vulnerable overcall? Wrong. QS lost to the king, after which declarer lost the next six diamonds and four hearts. Seven off doubled in a 25-point 3NT game cost a cool 2,000.

Not that it was all Richman's way. Here is **Board 28 of match 10** with West the dealer and NS vulnerable.

	North (Richman)	
	♠AK765	
	♥J2	
	♦T6	
	♣KT65	
West		East
♠T82		♠943
♥Q93		♥KT654
♦87		♦AQJ2
♣J9873		♣Q
	South (Gaspar)	
	♠QJ	
	♥A87	
	♦K9543	
	♣A42	

	Bidding	N	E	S	W
		1S	P	2C*	P
		2S	P	2NT**	P
		3C	P	4S	P
		P	P		
			* = relay	** = forcing	

The heart lead was ducked to West's queen, and the continuation taken by the ace in dummy. Concerned to retain entries in dummy, but also control in trumps, Richman led a small diamond to his 10, losing to the jack. Ruffing the heart continuation in hand, he led another diamond towards dummy, East rising with the ace. East now continued with 2D, and Richman was at decision point. Playing for a 3-3 break in diamonds he rose with the king, ruffed by West with the 10 and over-ruffed with declarer's king. Declarer now played out dummy's queen and jack of spades and cashed the ace of clubs, felling East's bare queen – but to no avail. A club to the 10 was trumped by East's 9S, after which the JD continuation forced declarer's final trump. With a further club still to lose, Richman was down 2 for -200. The LoLs in the back room would probably have done better, score-wise.

Following a comfortable win in this match Richman  
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and Gaspar took the lead, albeit narrowly, from Beale and Smart. Match 11 was against Gallus and Silver, and the fireworks began at **Board 2**.

North (Gallus)	
♠T9	
♥J5	
♦AKQT654	
♣J4	
West (Richman)	East (Gaspar)
♠7652	♠Q43
♥AQT62	♥K4
♦8	♦J97
♣QT2	♣A9853
South (Silver)	
♠AKJ8	
♥9873	
♦32	
♣K76	

Bob Gallus as North played in his customary 3NTXX after West had overcalled in hearts along the way. The KH lead and heart continuation gave the first 5 tricks to the defence (would that dummy's 9H had been the 10!). A club to the Ace raised the meter to -1,000 for Gallus, and a revoke on the club continuation pushed it to -1,600. It says something for Gallus' long experience in these matters that he not only took this early disaster in his stride, but shrugged it off to record a 21 VP victory in the match. It could easily have been more:

North (Gallus)	
♠T92	
♥AJT6	
♦864	
♣QT7	
West (Richman)	East (Gaspar)
♠K54	♠AQJ76
♥753	♥82
♦KJ97	♦AQT3
♣A82	♣65
South (Silver)	
♠83	
♥KQ94	
♦52	
♣KJ943	

What East-West contract would you and your partner hope to reach on these cards? 4S looks best and 5D not unreasonable, but 3NT? That's where Richman and Gaspar landed, after a confused bidding sequence in which a 3S bid by Gaspar was taken by Richman to show a singleton spade! The lucky 4-4 heart break was more than they deserved.

**Match 12** was against Charles Snashall and Grant Kilvington. It started somewhat luckily for Gaspar and Richman on **Board 17**:

North (Richman)				
♠AT6				
♥T542				
♦KQT76				
♣T				
West		East		
♠95		♠KQJ87432		
♥AKJ86		♥Q7		
♦A4		♦3		
♣9873		♣62		
South (Gaspar)				
♠-				
♥93				
♦J9852				
♣AKQJ54				
Bidding:	N	E	S	W
	1D	4S	5C	X
	P	P	P	

What would you lead, as West, after the auction shown? Kilvington tried 9S, yielding a heart discard and giving Gaspar a quick claim. The LoLs in the back room would have done well, again.

The power of the simple pre-empt was demonstrated several times in these matches. Look at the trouble it caused Richman on this deal (**Board 24, Match 12**).

Dealer: West      Vul: Nil

North (Richman)				
♠KJ6				
♥KQ2				
♦Q5				
♣AQT52				
West		East		
♠75		♠T32		
♥T		♥J9875		
♦K97432		♦J		
♣K764		♣J983		
South (Gaspar)				
♠AQ984				
♥A643				
♦AT86				
♣-				
Bidding:	N	E	S	W
	3NT	P	4D	P
	4H	P	4NT	P
	5S	P	6H	P
	P	P		

Richman's 3NT was strong and natural – the least of available evils? – and Gaspar's 4D was presumably strong, forcing and major-oriented. The final contract of 6H, sensibly passed by East, was clearly hopeless. Richman claimed that both 6S and 6NT would have had chances. Would they?

Only one board in the five matches I watched drew the director to the table.

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**Board 21, Match 12**

North (Richman)

♦A653  
♥T95  
♦7  
♣A9832

West (Kilvington)

♠KJ9874  
♥J73  
♦T85  
♣6

East (Snashall)

♠Q  
♥AQ86  
♦KQJ4  
♣KQJT

South (Gaspar)

♠T2  
♥K42  
♦A9632  
♣754

Contract: 3NT by East. Lead ST.

On the 10S lead declarer called for a small spade from dummy, but within perhaps three seconds – before North had played a card – asked whether he could repeal that request. The director's ruling was that a card once played could be withdrawn and replaced only if its initial play had been "inadvertent"; he went on to explain the tight definition of that word, for bridge purposes, and ruled that the lowly 4S sitting forlornly on the table should stay right there. Declarer looked longingly at dummy's king, but it scarcely mattered: nine tricks came home easily regardless. As Snashall put his cards back into the board he remarked wryly to his partner: "Next time I do that, pard, make sure you remind me to say quickly: 'How very inadvertent of me'!"

Match 14 saw the two leading teams drawn to play each other. Honours were evenly shared. This is **Board 23, Match 14**

Dealer: South

Vul: All

North (Richman)

♦Q876  
♥KT98742  
♦8  
♣3

West(Beale)

♠AKT3  
♥3  
♦Q  
♣AQ98642

East (Smart)

♠52  
♥QJ65  
♦KT9543  
♣T

South (Gaspar)

♠J94  
♥A  
♦AJ762  
♣KJ75

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
		1D	2C
3H	P	3NT	4S
X	P	P	P

3NT by South on a club lead would have been no thing of beauty, but West's 4S on a thin 4-2 fit was equally ugly. Beale did well to keep the loss to 3 down, but –800 was costly nonetheless.

Retribution came a few boards later on **Board 30, Match 14**

Dealer: East

Vul: Nil

North (Richman)

♦J543  
♥K7  
♦J4  
♣AK972

West (Beale)

♠A9  
♥QJ84  
♦AQ8  
♣JT83

East (Smart)

♠KT86  
♥A3  
♦KT75  
♣Q65

South (Gaspar)

♠Q72  
♥T9652  
♦9632  
♣4

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
		1NT	P
X	P*	2H	X
2S	X	P	P
P	Lead: D5	*=no 5 card major	

2SX got its just reward: a balancing 800 for Beale and Smart. Richman told Gaspar he should have passed 2CX. Would Beale have redoubled this, I wonder, and if so, would Smart have passed the re-double?

Richman was annoyed not to reach slam on the following board (**Board 25, Match 14**)

Dealer: North

Vul: EW

North (Richman)

♠KT53  
♥2  
♦QJ764  
♣AK6

West (Beale)

♠J986  
♥974  
♦A983  
♣82

East (Smart)

♠Q742  
♥JT5  
♦T2  
♣J943

South (Gaspar)

♠A  
♥AKQ863  
♦K5  
♣QT75

Bidding:

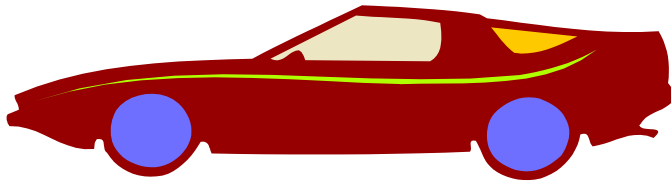
N	E	S	W
1S	P	2C*	P
3D**	P	4NT	P
5C	P	5H	P
5NT	P	P	P

\*= relay

\*\*= 13-14 with 5D &amp; 4S

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The lead was S6. 6NT appears to have lots of chances, it's true, although how best to combine those chances is rather less obvious. It seems right to test the hearts first, placing the ace of diamonds in the hand (if any) with shorter hearts – but Roger Curnow will tell me there's a flaw in that analysis.

Beale and Smart won the match by a slender 2VPs – a fair reflection of the contest. With one round to go the top of the field was tightly packed, and at least half a dozen pairs had chances. Richman and Gaspar were still leading on 112 VPs, followed by Beale and Smart on 92VPs and several others within close striking distance.

And so to the final match, in which Richman and Gaspar were to play Chua and Hinge, with Beale and Smart to meet the pair lying long last. Chua and Hinge were still in theoretical contention for a place in the top two – but only if they could beat Richman-Gaspar by a maximum or, even more implausibly, if Beale-Smart were to lose their match heavily. Incredibly, both nearly came to pass.

There seemed to be little to the final set of boards, at least at the Richman-Gaspar table. Hinge and Chua bid well to reach two good slams early in the match, and continued to play a steady, well-controlled game. My sense was that they had probably had the upper hand in the contest overall; even so, it was something of a surprise to find that they had won by

27 IMPs – close to a maximum win when converted to VPs. From a deficit of 56 points beforehand, Chua and Hinge had “swissed it up”, as one wit commented, finishing just 2 VPs behind Richman and Gaspar.

The shock came with the other results. Heads were shaking, and commiserations rife, when the impossible happened: Felicity Beale and Di Smart had lost their “easy” match by virtually a maximum, in the process yielding second place to Hinge and Chua..One could not but notice how well this top pair accepted their disappointment; they were composed in defeat, blaming no-one but themselves.

It had been an interesting weekend, overall and an experience to witness a player of Richman's calibre in action over 80 boards. I'm still assessing how best one should compete with him at the table. One thing at least is clear to me: he bids, and bids often, on very little but mildly attractive shape (5-4 in a 9-count is ample), and if left undisturbed will get away with murder. One must compete with such bidding – most obviously in pairs – and interfere and pre-empt wherever possible and sensible. The low-level penalty double needs also to be rescued from oblivion; there were several times when it would have come in handy.

Oh, and when he seems to be asleep, he's not.

## The David and Goliath Problem

Bridge is one of the few games where social players have regular opportunities to play against competition players - sometimes even international and world-class opponents. This is one of the things that make the game so interesting. It is a great opportunity to improve one's game by seeing at first hand how others deal with particular situations and to see some of the people behind the newspaper columns or the honour boards in clubrooms.

However, although it should be an interesting and enjoyable experience, the fact is that for many people it can also be a source of anxiety. It is likely that concern about having to play "good" teams actually discourages some people from playing in teams events even in local club events. This is not a new issue. Ely Culbertson wrote about it over 60 years ago. There is, of course, no reason why people should play against better opponents every now and then. We need to play in the situations that give the most pleasure. It is likely though that many players are depriving themselves of experience that they would enjoy and benefit from.

### **Worrying about the results.**

Most people would rather win than lose but their enjoyment doesn't depend on it. We just like playing. However, the seeming inevitability of defeat by a top team seems to give winning and losing more importance. Some instinct takes over that makes us uncomfortable about being in a situation where we are known to be likely led to slaughter - even if the result of the match will have no bearing on our lives whatsoever. Yet, there is no real reason for changing a previously healthy attitude to results.

The great thing about playing top teams is that we *have absolutely nothing to lose and everything to gain*. We are a much bigger problem for the opponents. They have nothing to gain (they are expected to win) and everything to lose.

### **Worrying it will be too serious**

Most of us have enough stress in our lives without adding bridge to it and we are sometimes put off by the thought of playing against people whose aim is win rather than relax. In fact, when playing against good teams, it is far less likely that you will run into the partner abuse and other unpleasantness that you might encounter at at least one table in an ordinary club movement. Good players are usually very philosophical about bad results and very aware of the ethical requirements of bridge. Being serious does not exclude good manners or enjoyment of the

game. The fact is that almost all of the time, when playing better teams, we are going to sit down with two people whose prime motivation is not to beat you but to play as well as they can and enjoy a game of bridge. It is important not to give the seriousness more significance than it has and it should not determine our own attitude to the match or game. Making the other team responsible for how we will treat the game is quite unfair.

### **Worrying our normal game will not be good enough**

A top player is different from a normal club player *only at the margin*. On some hands, they will play differently. They will make different decisions in particular bidding situations - but most of the time, *they will do exactly what the ordinary club player would normally do*. Over the long run, their superior card play and bidding techniques will mean that they should always come in ahead. In the short-term though, including a 14 or 28 board match, this may not be true. Bridge is a game of probability and things do not always work out in the short-term. Top players have to guess too and can make mistakes.

Bridge, therefore, is not only game where ordinary players can compete with internationals but *it is also a game where they have a chance of winning*. There have been plenty of upsets at the club and at the NOT to prove this. Most people go wrong because they do not play their normal game. They try to do something extra. They tend to be more conservative or more aggressive. Just think about how you would play in your normal movement.

### **Worrying about being caught out by not knowing the rules**

Most people who play more or less socially are aware that they probably don't understand the rules of bridge as well as better players. It is easy then to worry that better-informed opponents might accuse us of breaking the rules even though there was no intent to do so and no benefit was gained. I remember when we first played in serious competition we were paranoid about being "accused" of hesitating. Sometimes we can react to this by feeling that we have to do everything quickly even when we really need to think.

Learning some of the basic rules is obviously a good way to resolve any anxieties about this - which is why we ran the "Director!" articles. However, the

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most important thing to remember is that when the director is called about a hesitation (or anything else) you are not being accused of cheating. It is no big deal. It is simply that after hesitation different rules and standards apply to the bidding.

Similarly, if you are asked to explain something about a bid and you do not know the answer or it has not been discussed just say so. You are required to be as helpful as possible. You are not required to give definitive answers when there are none.

### **Worrying about not being allowed to play at your own pace**

One of the big differences between top level and less experienced bridge is that players will claim more often and at a much earlier stage of the hand. It is not unusual for less experienced players to be uncomfortable when a hand is claimed – particularly if there are a lot of tricks left to play. Once declarer has made a claim, it is not possible to ask them to play it out but if we are uncomfortable there are a number of steps we can take.. First, if in any doubt, call the director and ask him or her to review the claim. Then say that in future we would prefer the hands to be played out if that is the case. In fact, most players will want to avoid causing a problem and will adjust their claiming practices, usually without being asked.

Similarly, if you feel that declarer is playing too fast, remember that we have a right to play at our normal pace and the declarer will, in fact, expect us to play at your own pace rather than his.. Playing too fast to pressure opponents is against the laws of bridge. It also against the laws for an opponent to pull out a card before you have played to the trick.

### **Watching is good too**

Come and watch the Vugraph on the final Friday night of the NOT. This is great entertainment as well as really good for your bridge. The hands being played in one of the finals are put on the screen and you can watch with (with a few hundred others) expert commentary as the bidding progresses and the hands are played. You see all sides. Admire the brilliant bids and plays but also watch how top experts too can lurch relentlessly to spectacular disasters in bidding and play. The Vugraph is held in the Lakeside at 7.30 on Friday 26 January. Don't miss it.

## **More on the ANC**

### **by Julia Hoffman**

We talked about the background work on page one—but most importantly what is there for you to play in?

- **Restricted** components to a variety of events – match-pointed pairs, Butler pairs and teams.
- A **Congress pairs event with qualification rights** for one pair to each of the Open, Women's, Seniors' Mixed and Youth Australian Pairs Championships held on the middle Saturday of the ANC.
- A **social players' day** including lunch: for a friendly introduction for social players to the glorious world of competition bridge – tell your friends about this one.
- **Gold Points galore** – Australian Butler Pairs Championships in three categories: Open, Women and Seniors. These are open to everyone and for those who do not progress to the Final stages there will be a Consolation Butler - also Gold Pointed and always very popular.

As well, there are all the **Interstate Championships** – watch for local qualifying events to earn selection to these events.

In summary, there should be something for everyone at ANC 2001: lots of bridge, social events and compelling kibitzing opportunities...more about the latter two in another issue.

This event represents a marvellous opportunity for BFACT to raise funds for the benefit of ALL bridge players in the ACT and surrounding region. While we conduct this event on behalf of the Australian Bridge Federation the financial outcomes sheet home to the local organising body. Let us make the most of this opportunity and present a tournament that bridge players can't resist and will remember as the "best ever".

## “Son of Mississippi?”

By Bern Brent

The story of the Mississippi heart hand in the May bulletin reminded me of my own misspent youth. Newly married, we found ourselves at the Saigon Cercle Sportif. This was a social club offering recreational facilities, a left-over from the French colonial days. With our Sydney wedding a couple of months behind us, we had not been in the country very long. Outside it was coming down in buckets and washed out our plan of jumping into the swimming pool or playing a couple of sets of tennis.

On that weekday afternoon there were few people about. Sitting at the bar together with a couple of people we did not know, we somehow discovered that we were all bridge players. As we walked to a table I agreed to their suggestion of one piaster stakes. This was worth about a penny in those days. I had often played for ‘threepence a hundred’. After an evening’s play, usually changing partners after a rubber, a big loser rarely paid much more than the cost of a meal in a local eatery.

As we settled down with bids of “deux coeur” and ‘trois sans atou’ – it was still a fancophone country – we were not doing too well. It did not matter. My wife Jean had only just taken up bridge. Bidding in a foreign language was fun. It was all very exotic and adventurous and, besides, when in Rome...

Finally it was time to make for home and I moved to settle our debts. It seemed to me that we were in the red for much more than we had bargained for. Not the farm, not enough to lose sleep over, but certainly a few days’ salary. When I looked closer at the calculations I was told by the French gentleman that we had played for a piaster per point, ‘un point’, they explained. Not, as I thought, for a piaster per hundred points. What else could I do but pay up without further ado. Was this the Saigon equivalent of the Mississippi ploy? To this day, I do not know. Your guess, dear reader, is as good as mine.

## ...And another Mississippi Relative

What do you do if you are playing bridge for about \$500 a point in a private club and you are holding this hand:

♠AKQJ  
♥AKQJ  
♦AK  
♣KJ9

and your left hand opponent (who is a guest of a member and obviously drunk) opens 7♣?

Your experience of these hands will tell you that there is going to be bad news whatever you do. This is the Moonraker hand that I first read when I was supposed to be listening to a history teacher. At that time it was one of the boring bits but it has improved with time and got an airing recently on the OKBridge column.

Your opponent is Commander James Bond. He has discovered that you have been cheating on your shuffle and deal—and you are about to be paid back. You, Sir Hugo Drax, double and then cannot believe your luck when the fool actually redoubles.. Then comes the full hand.

North (M)

♠T987  
♥6543  
♦-  
♣76532

West  
♠65432  
♥T9872  
♦JT9  
♣-

East (Drax))

♠AKQJ  
♥AKQJ  
♦AK  
♣KJ9

South (Bond)

♠-  
♥-  
♦Q8765432  
♣AQT84

West leads the ten of hearts and Bond ruffs. He then ruffs a diamond and finesses the club back to his hand. He ruffs another diamond, finesses clubs again., plays the Ace of clubs and now all he has left in his hand are the winning clubs and diamonds.

Drax should have realised his hand was only good enough for a sacrifice in 7H or 7S. This should be only one off after the diamond lead.

## “The Green & Gold”

Do you know how many current and former members of the Canberra Bridge Club have represented Australia? Do you know how many have captained an Australian team?

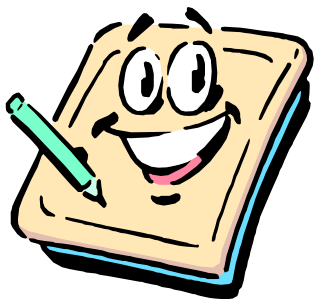
In most sports you would expect that the sports club members would know the names of other members who had represented Australia, and certainly know those who had captained. Bridge, though, is different because the majority of bridge players see bridge as a recreation rather than a competitive sport and do not, therefore, feel much connection with national, state or club results in serious competition.

There is though an onus on the club to to promote the achievements of members—particularly as it seems very likely that Canberra’s success in bridge is quite extraordinary in the light of our population size. It seems unlikely that this success has been equaled by Canberra teams in other areas of competitive activity.

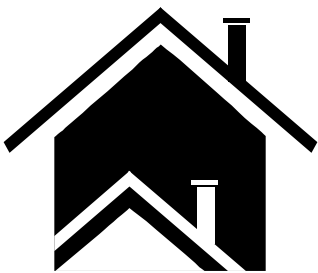
Unfortunately, we have not been keeping records and so below is a first listing,. It only records representation on events that have been listed on the ABF web site. The year in which the members represented is shown and the event. APW = Asia-Pacific Women’s Teams, OW= Women’s Olympiad, VC=Venice Cup,APO=Asia-Pacific Open Teams, APY=Asia-Pacific Youth Teams, WJT=World Junior Teams., OO= Open Olympiad, BB=Bermuda Bowl. Npc = non-playing captain.

I would like club members to let me know about people and events we have missed. Club members have also represented other countries ( such as Jillian Hay (NZ) and we should recognise these achievements also.

Bourke, Margaret	APW79, 85,86,93,94,95,97,98 & 99, OW80, 88 & 96, VC85, 91,95,97 & 99.
Brightling, Richard	APO99 (npc)
Brockwell, John	APO86 (npc), APW87,89,90 (npc), VC89 (npc)
Church, Nola	APW97
Courtney, Jill	APW87 & 94, VC87, OW92
Croft, Nick	APY99
Grosvenor, Hugh	APO95 & 98, OO92, BB95
Hancock, Tony	OO72 APO71
Havas, George	APO74, BB77, OW88 (npc)
Havas, Liz	APO74 & 98, VC78 & 89, APW76,77,78,83,89 & 91
Hoffman, David	OO72, APO71, APO87 (npc)
Hoffman, Julia	APW95 (npc), APW97, OW96 (npc), VC95 & 99
Jesner, George	APO67, APW71 (npc), OW72 (npc)
Lilley, David	BB89 & 93, APO87, 0088
McKinnon, Denise	APW83, OW88
Mullamphy, Sean	APY94 & 95 (npc), WJT95 (npc)
Roberts, John	BB95, OO96
Spooner, John	APO91, APY91, WJT89 & 91
Tandy, Ailsa	APW76, 79 & 91
Thomson, Ian	APO98 (npc)
White, Stephen	APY95



*Hopefully it will be possible to bring the Bulletin out more frequently in 2001—but for this to happen more contributions are always wanted. If you come across an interesting hand or situation, write it up for us or give us some notes and we will do the rest. The NOT is coming and should provide lot’s of material. To prevent the post-mortems being lost to posterity please keep a Bulletin file.. Through the Bulletin share with other club members your brilliant plays and bids and the disastrous decisions of your partners, opponents and team-mates.*



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