



Editorial

The ABF website quotes 'Bridge is a mind sport believed to improve memory, concentration, problem solving, team work and, most importantly, socialization to improve mental health in the community', and gives links to various studies on the subject. We would hope this is true, but the main thing is that we enjoy the game.

The 'buddy program' initiative is drawing to a close, and anecdotal evidence seems to indicate it has been a success, though a few problems have also been noted. The Committee will be reviewing this early in the new year, and anyone with comments is encouraged to give these to the Committee. If a similar thing were run in 2024 would you take part?

Club Special Events

◆ Halloween Pairs - 31st October

A good field of 18 pairs contested this red-point event. Winners and runners up were

N/S	1 st	Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman	58.56%
	2 nd	Lorraine Lindsay and Bernard Davidson, Christine Hadaway and Maria Rose (eq.)	54.40%
E/W	1 st	Hope Tomlinson and Martin Johnson	64.12%
	2 nd	Lynne Rainford and Hilary Owen	62.73%

◆ Melbourne Cup Pairs – 7th November

There were 23 starters. Results were

N/S	1 st	Kerrel Walker and Barry Foster	58.34%
	2 nd	Kathryn Ivits and Alma Van Der Walt	56.90%
E/W	1 st	Lorraine Lindsay and Richard Carter	67.70%
	2 nd	Sylvia Foster and Jaan Oitmaa	59.59%

◆ Remembrance Day Pairs – 11th November

A number of Saturday regulars were absent with other commitments, and the final field of 5 tables was smaller than in previous years. Results were

N/S	1 st	Kerry-Anne Durrant and David Adams	58.02%
	2 nd	Joan Walsh and Julie Teague	54.58%
E/W	1 st	Carol Long and Faith Ross	52.60%
	2 nd	Dasha Brandt and David Bowerman	52.40%

Away Special Events

◆ Tomaree Congress – 28th & 29th October

Our members had success at the Tomaree Congress this year. Shirley and Noel Crockett finished 9th out of 56 entrants in the Swiss Pairs on the Saturday. With one round to go they were in 2nd place, so would have been disappointed to drop down the ladder in the last match, but it is still a great result in a strong field. In the Teams event on Sunday, our Brandt team (Dasha Brandt, David Bowerman, Sylvia and Barry Foster) finished FIRST!, overcoming many strong teams in their march to victory. Great result!!

◆ Southern Highlands Congress – 4th & 5th November

A few of our members travelled to Bowral for this event. Elaine and Peter Hume finished 2nd in the Restricted Pairs, with 5 wins and 1 loss. In the Teams event, playing with friends from Bateau Bay, they finished in the middle of the combined field, but were the leading restricted team. Well done!

◆ Mudgee Congress – 11th & 12th November

Lorraine Lindsay, Sylvia and Barry Foster and Jaan Oitmaa made the 4 hour journey to play in this event. Sylvia and Jaan finished 7th in the pairs, with 4 wins, a draw and 2 losses. On the Sunday, the team finished 5th with a (3-0-3) record.

◆ State Open Pairs – 18th – 19th November

A total of 58 pairs from all over the state played in a qualifying session on the Saturday, with the leading pairs progressing to an Open and a Country Final on Sunday. Our sole pair, Lorraine Lindsay and Richard Carter, made it to the Country final and were lying 4th at the halfway stage, but faded to finish in the middle of the field.

Coming Attractions

◆ Christmas Party Pairs – Monday, 11th December – 10:00

◆ Summer Teams – Saturday, 16th December – **12:00**

◆ New Years Cup – Monday, 1st January – 12:30

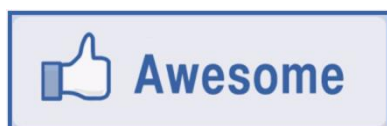
◆ Australia Day Pairs – Saturday, 27th January – 12:30

◆ Club Championship - Swiss Pairs – Monday, 29th January (Session 1)



Player Promotions

Last month one of our members moved up the bridge ranking scale. Congratulations Chris. Well done... may all your finesses come off.



NAME	RANK	TOTAL MPs
Hannan, Chris	Gold Life	750.40

Declarer Play Quiz

Here are two hands to test your declarer play. The first hand was constructed, and is pretty straightforward. The second comes from BBO/Just Declare, and is a bit trickier. In each case South is declarer. There has been no opposition bidding. The full hands, and analysis, are given at the end of this newsletter.

	Hand 1		Hand 2
North	S - K8 H - AQJ3 D - Q72 C - 7642	North	S - 643 H - T964 D - K C - QJ965
South	S - AQ53 H - 754 D - KJT6 C - AK	South	S - AQJ95 H - J8 D - T83 C - AK4

Contract 3NT, West leads club Q

Contract 2S, West leads club T

Check out the solutions at the end of this newsletter.



Probabilities in Bridge

Bridge is a game of probabilities, and anyone who has played the game for some time will have gained a feeling for these, even if they have never studied the subject deeply. It is important to know, for example, how suits are more likely to split, or what the odds are for different plays, at least approximately. For readers who want to learn more about the subject, I recently came across a new book, 'Useful Probability for Bridge Players' by Julian Laderman (Master Point Press, Toronto, 1920), which goes into the subject in a very readable way. By the way, which of the following hands would you be more likely to pick up?

S - A754 **H** - K85 **D** - A872 **C** - A6 or **H** - AKQJT98765432 and voids

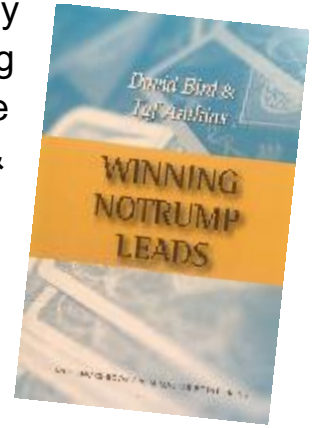
These hands are equally likely! What the brain seems to do is ignore the spot cards in the first hand and think of any spot cards. Then the first hand becomes S - Axxx H - Kxx D - Axxx C - Ax, and hands of this class will, of course, occur far more often than the hand with 13 cards in a single suit.

From the Directors Chair – (Australian Director Matthew McManus)

Just because someone revokes, it does not mean that there will be an automatic 2 trick penalty. The rules for revoking are quite complex – call the Director – make him do his job.

From the Library

When playing Notrumps it's always great when Declarer says, "If only you had led something else I would have made that contract". Finding the killing lead can be quite a rewarding experience. In our library we have a book **'Winning Notrump Leads'** by David Bird & Taf Anthias. The authors take you through the basics with chapters on leading after stayman and weak hands through to the tough stuff leading against 6NT. I'm always keen on books where you're not required to read the lot. Find a chapter on a specific type of lead you're interested in and half a dozen pages later you're done.



Club librarian, Karen Ody, can help you out with advice on a book that's just right for your level of experience. Just ask.

Random Dealing

Card dealing machines can be used to deal specific hands. We do this when we want to illustrate concepts to learner groups. However, for regular play, the machine must be set to random. Therefore, it's hard to believe this **diabolical hand** could be random!

This hand comes from a championship held some years ago. I want to be NS!



BD: 21	♠AQ964	Dir: N
	♥AJ976	Vul: N-S
	♦	
	♣964	
♠52		♠7
♥4		♥85
♦J9863		♦AKQT74
♣AKJ53		♣QT82
	♠KJT83	
	♥KQT32	
	♦52	
	♣7	

Welcome New Members

Six new members. Welcome to the club Anita Gale, Shirley Waters, Wendy Clarke, Laura Button, Penny Ison and Jennifer Grima. We wish you well in your new bridge life.



Stay safe out there – Cheers Barry and Jaan



Declarer Play Quiz (continued)

Hand 1

		North	S - K8		
			H - AQJ3		
West	S - J62		D - Q72	East	S - T974
	H - 98		C - 7642		H - KT62
	D - A53				D - 984
	C - QJ983	South	S - AQ53		C - T5
			H - 754		
			D - KJT6		
			C - AK		

Contract 3NT by South West leads club Q

This is a good test for newer players. You have 6 top tricks and need to find 3 more. If you immediately force out the DA you will establish 3 diamond tricks for your contract. If you are suffering from 'finessitis' and take the heart finesse you will go down, as the opponents will establish their club suit and cash 3 more clubs when they get in with the diamond ace. There are important lessons here – the need to make a plan at trick 1, the importance of timing and a warning against unnecessary finesses.

Hand 2

		North	S - 643		
			H - T964		
West	S - Q		D - K	East	S - K872
	H - Q52		C - QJ965		H - AK73
	D - QJ97642				D - A5
	C - T8	South	S - AJT95		C - 732
			H - J8		
			D - T83		
			C - AK4		

Contact 2S by South West leads club T

This is a tricky hand, and I'm not sure of the best plan. Let's start by counting losers from the South hand. There are 2 heart losers, 3 diamond losers and an uncertain number of trump losers (up to 3 on a bad day). There is also the danger of a club ruff – the T lead looks ominous. Say you win the lead in hand with the A or K of clubs. You cannot afford to draw trumps at once, as you need to be able to ruff some diamond losers in dummy. In fact you cannot even afford to take one round since, when you play a diamond the opponents will remove dummy's trumps and you won't be able to ruff any diamond losers at all. So at trick 2 lead a diamond, losing to East. East has a difficult decision at this point. Their best play is probably to return a small trump. South should probably play the ace, as a finesse is very likely to lose. When you play the ace, the Q falls from West. Is this a singleton or Q from KQ? You proceed with your plan and ruff a diamond. Return to hand with a club. If this succeeds, try to ruff your last diamond loser. As the cards lie, this will be over-ruffed and East will later make the trump K, but you will make your contract, losing 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 2 trumps.



Rudolph The sleigh would be a lot more fun to pull if the driver didn't weigh 700lbs.

2 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share

👍 Prancer, Vixen, Comet and 5 others like this.



Blitzen He weighs only 700 pounds?

2 hours ago · Like · 👍 2 people



Cupid LOL!

2 hours ago · Like



Dasher Seriously! How about that practice run yesterday? He's all, "I'm tired of these sluggish take-offs." Well, I'm tired of hauling a hippo!

2 hours ago · Like · 👍 7 people

