

## Editor's Opinion

February 2007 marked the bridge christening of the Gold Coast Convention Centre at Broadbeach, the much-vaunted new venue for the Gold Coast Congress. And what a venue – spacious, well-lit, comfortably cool, and easily accessible from the rapidly-developing Broadbeach resort town. The conveners, and the ABF, have continued to provide the bridge players of Australia with a first-rate event.

The event saw an increase in table numbers - par for the course with this event. Choice of Open, Senior and Restricted events is a welcome feature of the congress, and the long-established, (and popular), routine of starting play in the early afternoon continues.

There is something for everybody in Broadbeach, so the congress is particularly attractive to overseas visitors, with a horde of New Zealand players and a smattering from England.

The future of the congress is assured; congratulations to Therese Tully, Kim Ellaway and the rest of their great team.

I was lucky enough to be there for the Open Pairs, reluctantly having to return to Melbourne after three days of competition.

For the first time in many years, however, this year I decided not to attend the Summer Festival of Bridge.

Why? My stated reason was that I had tickets to the Australian Open Tennis tournament, which traditionally clashes with the Festival. But I have to say that the thought of watching a few matches of tennis has more appeal than the annual trek to Canberra.

I used to love Canberra (the event), but this love affair has ended. It has been a gradual cooling-off period, exacerbated by the fact that the two-venue system makes it too hard to get to see all my friends. Like many others, I suspect, Canberra provides a chance to catch up with friends from all over, and in 2006 I didn't have the energy or the inclination to chase from one venue to another. By the time the two fields merge towards the closing stages, many of the players have packed up and gone home, making it a dead loss socially.

Much has been written about the format of the last weekend, and in particular the Monday, when the final is played to an empty house. Suggestions have been made on how these final stages could be improved (*see Ron Klinger's letter to the Convener below*).

The Summer Festival numbers were down, although the Hellenic Club at Woden, the new second venue, surprisingly, attracted rave reviews. I would play in the Summer Festival now for two reasons only: if I was chasing Gold Points, or I was looking for a high-quality game. No longer would I attend just for the experience and the holiday, as I would the Gold Coast event.

This is, of course, a very personal assessment of the situation. I sincerely hope the Summer Festival continues to flourish for many years to come. No doubt the organising body will be thinking of new ways to improve the format and encourage a wide variety of players to attend.

*Stephen Lester*

*Dear Sean,*

*Congratulations on the new format for the NOT finals. It is a sound idea to reward SWPT teams 1-4 with a double life with that split round of 16.*

*However, the consequence of only a 32-board quarter final was less popular among the contenders.*

*A suggestion: end the SWPT for NOT finalists on Thursday night. Friday: 2 rounds of 32-boards for the split round of 16. Saturday: 64-board quarter-finals. Sunday: 64-board semis. Monday: 64-board final*

*If you check the records for this year, you will note that if the SWPT qualifying had ended on Thursday night, all the teams in the NOT quarter-finals and beyond would have made it through already. The result of the SWPT Trophy would also have been the same.*

*For the non-qualifiers to the NOT final: either have them continue with rounds 13-14 on Friday for a separate trophy or have a one-day Swiss Pairs on Friday (as the Gold Coast is doing this year)*

*Saturday-Sunday: Mixed Teams as at present. Perhaps Monday: Another 1-day Swiss pairs?*

*Ron Klinger*

# Two Vikings, an Aussie and three palookas

*Vi-king n. belonging to the pirate crews from the Northmen, who plunder bridge tournaments of Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

*Aus-sie (ô'sē, ô'zē) n. Informal. A native or inhabitant of Australia.*

*pa-loo-ka (pə-lū'kə) n. Sport. An incompetent or easily defeated bridge player.*



*Peter Gill, Espen Erichsen, Boye Brogeland, Linda Stern, Robert Grynberg, David Stern*

Some time ago I came to the realisation that my bridge abilities were somewhat limited. It was perhaps unlikely that I would ever win the National Open Teams - one of Australia's most prestigious bridge tournaments. After all, I had been trying since 1978 and had managed to finish second twice, but the main prize eluded me.

One of the joys of bridge is that it is possible to play with some of the finest players in the world provided you are prepared to become a 'sponsor'. It certainly would be costly and difficult to arrange a round of golf with Tiger Woods or a few sets of tennis with Roger Federer. In bridge, however, this is possible at substantially less than the \$US 1.4 million a round to play with Tiger Woods.

So it was that three years ago we formed a team with my wife Linda, Robert Grynberg and two well known international bridge players who had by then become my friends - Boye Brogeland and Espen Erichsen. Because Australia was such an alluring destination they were very keen to holiday here for what I am guessing was substantially less than their 'normal' appearance fees.

Anyway, we plodded along in 2005 and got knocked out in the Round of 16. Hmm, I thought, my bridge must be worse than I thought, so for 2006 we would have to beef up the team. So it was that we invited another bridge friend looking for a holiday in Australia, Pablo Lambardi to join the same team. With three professionals we managed to make it all the way to the final but were beaten by a slender margin. Oh well, another second.

Unfortunately Pablo had alternative professional com-

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mitments for 2007, but we were lucky to secure Peter Gill to have another tilt at the title. Peter is a fine player, and in my opinion one of the best partners around. These traits led to some fine results in his partnership with Linda.

I usually go to Canberra looking forward to fine food and good company, but everybody else was convinced we were going to win - placing more pressure on my already admitted, limited abilities.

Things started very well for us in the qualifying rounds. I should qualify the 'us' part of that statement. Having played all the seeded teams from 1 through 15 except 9 and 13 our Vikings managed an average of 23 IMPs per match over the 13 matches they played, Linda and Peter had an equally stellar performance of 18 IMPs per match over the eight matches they played and, well let's just say Robert and I made a very modest contribution over our seven matches.

Just 18 and 23 IMPs alone would score 19 and 20 Victory Points per match respectively if your teammates brought in nothing, and the high score for the entire tournament was 20.5 per match scored in fine form by the OzOne team of Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Zoli Nagy, Bob Richman, Ishmael Del'Monte and Vince Demuy.

I should comment on the fine food aspects during

the Summer Festival – something I very much look forward to, pre-booking at some restaurants. One of my favourite dining establishments anywhere in the world is *The Chairman and Yip* in Civic. The focus is on modern Asian fusion food, and the private dining room which seats 12-15 bridge playing friends and offers BYO combine to make for an excellent night out. We also had a meal at *Courgette* for the first time, and while the food and surroundings were outstanding, the 3½ hour food marathon made for a very late evening before the 72 boards we had to play on Friday. Finally, I can recommend two restaurants in Manuka, *Timmy's Kitchen* which provides excellent takeaway Chinese and Malaysian as well as *Allanya Turkish* for lovers of Middle Eastern fare.

Now comes my major problem - the editor of the ABF Newsletter, Stephen Lester phoned and asked me to write an article with a few good hands. I am usually never short for words but I'll be damned if I can think of anything we did that is worthy of writing up. See above re my bridge abilities. Anyway after much searching, I did find one hand:

**Board 27, South deals, nil vul**

♠ Q J 3  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♦ Q 10 9 6 5 2  
♣ ---

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

West	North <i>D Stern</i>	East	South <i>Grynberg</i>
			1♥
3♣	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Partner understood 4♣ as a raise in hearts and showed extra values by cuebidding first round diamond control with 4♦. I wasn't going to push on to slam without some further expression of interest by partner. When he moved on with a cuebid in spades I decided to confirm my club situation by bidding 5♣. He then made the best bid for my hand – second round diamond control, which I assumed was unlikely to be a singleton ace. Now the key question was whether he held ♥K. I asked myself whether he would make two tries with some-

thing like ♠Axx, ♥Jxxxx, ♦AK, ♣Axx and guessing that this was unlikely, bid the excellent grand slam.

By way of comparison the results from the other tables in play at that time were:

<i>Pair:</i>	<i>Contract</i>	<i>Tricks</i>	<i>Score</i>
Prescott - Marston	7♥S	13	1510
Del' Monte - Demuy	6♥S	13	1010
Klinger - Ebery	6♥S	13	1010
Jedrychowski - Pszczola	6♥S	13	1010
Markey - Mill	6♥S	13	1010
Howard - Hung	6♥S	13	1010
Morgan - Abraham	6♦N	13	940

Average: NS 1130

**South deals, nil vul**

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

West <i>Grynberg</i>	North <i>Vainikonis</i>	East <i>D Stern</i>	South <i>Olanski</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♠	3♦ <sup>1</sup>	3♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

1. Intermediate, good six-card suit.

This hand is from the Round-of-16. Study the deal carefully and decide whether you want to play or defend after the excellent opening lead of ♦Q found by the Polish champion, Wojciech Olanski. Without this lead 5♦ would always make.

Suppose that East wins the opening lead and plays ♠K, won by South's ace, who would be regretting his inability to play a second trump. The moment of truth has arrived for the defence. Believe it or not, South must play a club and not a spade to beat the hand. Can you see why?

Follow the play on a club continuation, discarding a heart on the ace, a club ruff, a spade discarding a heart, a spade ruff and a heart off dummy to ♥Q, ♥K and ♥A (ducking would allow North to gain the lead to play a second trump, sinking the contract). South is forced to continue clubs, with declarer ruffing, followed by a heart ruff in dummy leading to this position:

♠ 9 7  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ ---  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ 10 9 8  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ 9 7  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ Q

While it looks like declarer can make, when he ruffs a club to hand to enable a ruff of the losing heart in dummy North will discard ♥J, allowing him to over-ruff and defeat the contract.

I misplayed the hand, but equally South misdefended by continuing spades after winning ♠A. This presented me with an entry to hand without having to ruff a club, and prevented the heart discard problem in the analysis above.

Linda supplied me with this hand over which she deliberated a long time before placing the final contract:

### Board 18, East deals, NS vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>L Stern</i>	<i>Gue</i>	<i>Gill</i>
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

1. Minor Suit Stayman.
2. Still looking for slam.

Linda felt she had enough values to play in slam when partner showed 4+ card club suit as well as continuing to cuebid with 4♥, showing first round control.

The key to this hand was to protect ♠K. The club fit is superior - that was 50% depending on ♠A being onside, but 6♦ makes whenever the diamonds are 2-2 or there is a singleton queen - greater than 50% of the time.

As Boye and Espen were leaving I asked them for some hands for this article and they jotted down the following:

### Board 30, East deals, nil vul

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

Average: EW 260

In this deal, from the third segment of the finals. EW showed their suits, discovering the misfit and with sufficient(?) values, ended in 3NT by West - Brogeland.

Paul Marston, North, led a club to the jack and queen.

Declarer continued with a low club towards dummy, won by North's ♣10. Marston then switched to ♠2 to the queen, king and ducked by declarer. South accurately continued with a low spade to the ten.

Realising the danger of continuing spades into declarer's five-card suit, Marston now switched to a diamond to South's queen.

Prescott, South, continued with a low spade and Brogeland had to consider the lie of the spade suit. He felt it unlikely that Prescott would continue a spade if holding the jack, so he rose with the ace, dropping the bare jack to reach this position:

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

Two more spade tricks saw North in trouble. He could afford two diamonds with no problem, but when declarer cashed two hearts in dummy North had to find a discard in the following position. He waved the white flag and moved on to the next board.

♠ ---  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ K 6  
  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ A 8  
  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ Q J  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ ---

**North deals, nil vul**

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

Average: EW 260

Next we see Brogeland on play – not surprising really, since he supplied the hands – in 4♠ from the West seat. The opening diamond lead was ruffed in dummy followed by ♣A and ♣Q, discarding a heart. North, possibly nervous about cashing the heart ace, elected to continue with a diamond, again ruffed in dummy, followed by ♣J, declarer discarding the second heart.

Declarer started on a crossruff of hearts and diamonds to reach this position:

♠ A 5  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ ---  
  
 ♠ J 9  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ ---  
  
 ♠ ---  
 ♥ J  
 ♦ ---  
 ♣ 8 7  
  
 ♠ 10 8  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ ---

In the three-card ending, declarer got out with ♦K to South's ace. Then it went ♠8, ♠9 and ♠A. ♠J won trick 13 for +420. *Deep Finesse* confirms that the contract could have been beaten if the defence wins ♣K and plays two rounds of trumps.

**Board 27, South deals, nil vul**

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

**Open Room**

West <i>Brogeland</i>	North <i>Marston</i>	East <i>Erichsen</i>	South <i>Prescott</i>
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
4♥	All Pass		

**Closed Room**

West <i>Gue</i>	North <i>L Stern</i>	East <i>Brown</i>	South <i>Gill</i>
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Peter Gill showed excellent creativity on this hand, and was well rewarded. In the Open Room the 1♣ opening showed 15+ HCP so declarer had an open book on how to play the hand. ♣A was led, and when North showed out on the third round of clubs, declarer backed his judgement and cashed two high diamonds, making 11 tricks.

In the Closed Room, the bidding was much less revealing, and to muddy the waters even more, Peter elected to lead ♣Q. I never had time to ask Peter why he did this, but with ♣K very likely on his left, this lead had limited risks – and substantial rewards when declarer ducked it and declarer ruffed the opening lead. South won ♠A at trick two and shifted to a trump, won in dummy with the ace. Declarer then played a diamond to the jack, going down one. Given the likelihood that four points, ♣A, figured to be with North, declarer was playing Peter to have opened on a 10-count, which does seem to be slightly against the odds.

So thanks to our great friends Espen Erichsen, Boye Brogeland and Peter Gill who helped fulfil a longtime ambition for us to win the National Open Teams. Some background on our talented crew:

- Boye Brogeland, who turned 34 during the NOT, is a bridge professional who resides in Flekkefjord, Norway with wife and son Anders. He plays around

100 or more days away from home (ah, but a dream) including the US Nationals with Ishmael Del'Monte. When time allows, he edits the Norwegian Bridge Magazine.

- Espen Erichsen, 36, is a professional bridge player who lives in London, England with wife Helen and two daughters, Claudia and Eve. When not playing bridge Espen can usually be found at his computer betting on tennis, and more recently, cricket.

- Peter Gill, 48 who I have known since our days at Sydney Grammar School is one of the most professional bridge professionals around this part of the world. He always treats his partners with respect and is very generous with his time for bridge, especially with youth and developing bridge players.

- Robert Grynberg, 65, is a Sydney-based clothing manufacturer who has been playing bridge longer than I have been alive. I remember our parents playing rubber bridge at home once or twice a week for many years. More recently, he has given away some bridge in favour of time with his grandchildren and his other main love – the races.

- Linda Stern (hmm.... no, I won't reveal her age) is a bridge professional and the proprietor of the Double Bay Bridge Centre. Although Linda was a primary school teacher for more than 20 years, she certainly prefers bridge as a lifestyle to teaching. Again, Linda comes from a strong bridge-playing background, with her brother Michael Cornell representing New Zealand for almost every one of the past 25 years. One of our children, Danielle, does play bridge, but the other, Justin, refuses to. In fact, when we won this event he sent a text message "I have to stop watching bridge online...it is starting to make sense."

- David Stern, 52, is a Corporate and Property Advisor who has played bridge for more than 40 years now..... perhaps I should be better, based on time alone....

Anyway we have made tentative arrangements to defend our title next year so look out if you are planning to play in the 2008 National Open Teams.

I would be remiss if I did not compliment the ABF for an excellent tournament, as well as a great find in the new Hellenic Club venue, where facilities were extraordinarily good for a bridge tournament.

*David Stern*

### **ABF News Flash**

*Message to the bridge players of Australia from the ABF Management Committee*

Every affiliated club shall receive, for two years (likely to be renewed) a subscription to *Australian Bridge*.

## **Tribute to Julie King**

Julie King was a dedicated member of our small club. Her love of the game began shortly before the inaugural meeting of Parkes Bridge Club in June, 1993. Julie had been having lessons with Sheila Malloch, an expert from Forbes. She also had lessons from the late Sylvia Pearce, who was one of the six enthusiasts responsible for starting the club. Julie attended the first meeting and was a regular player until a few months before her death.



*Parkes Team at the 2005 Agnes Hewett Teams Day: (l. to r.) Isabel Orange, Julie King, Bev Laing, Audrey Somers & Heather Bell*

In the early days of the club, players met for a game one night a week at the local Leagues Club and on other days at each other's homes. Julie soon became a competent player and she agreed to take on the job of scoring for the club. It was a monotonous job with pencil and scoresheets, especially when the club's membership grew enough for us to play three times a week. Julie continued to do this vital but thankless task until March 2006, when she suffered a broken leg. (In recent months, the Parkes Bridge Club has purchased a computer and a scoring program but Julie did all the scoring by hand.)

Julie was an excellent bridge teacher. She gave lessons in her home, as well as running classes at the local College for Seniors (U3A). She gave gentle encouragement to her pupils, and would happily partner a beginner at one of the weekly club games. Her advice was always given kindly, and she had the knack of imparting confidence to beginners. Julie and longtime playing partner, Audrey Somers, were a strong pair and scored well for Parkes at the various Teams Days held in Central Western NSW towns.

### **Copy Deadline**

for Issue No 125, May 2007

**April 25, 2007**

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 126, June 2007 at the discretion of the Editor

[editor@abf.com.au](mailto:editor@abf.com.au)

After the excision of a brain tumour some nine years ago, and further surgery for a recurrence of the tumour a few years later, Julie bounced back time and time again. We marvelled at her resilience, and we never once heard her complain. She continued her scoring job, and although needing a walking frame, came to play twice a week. A very simple fall in her kitchen resulted in a broken leg and a long spell in hospital. She died last October.

The members of the Parkes Bridge Club sadly miss her expertise, her smiling face, her gentle manner and the sharing of her great enjoyment of the game. In memory of Julie, the Parkes Bridge Club has donated \$500 to the Andrew Ollie Foundation for Brain Cancer Research at the Royal North Shore Hospital.

## ABF News

### Guidelines - Marketing/Advertising Grant

#### *Aims and Objectives*

The ABF Management Committee is committed to raising the profile of bridge in Australia and increasing the overall bridge playing populace in each state. To this end, the Management Committee has approved the allocation of up to \$3,000 (plus GST where applicable) per state/per year to be spent specifically in achieving this aim

#### *Responsibilities*

- a). The ABF Treasurer will be responsible for the distribution of cheques in the amount of \$3,000 (plus GST if applicable) to all state organizations.
- b). The state bodies will be responsible for:
  - collection of applications from all affiliated clubs within their jurisdiction
  - review of applications
  - endorsement of applications
  - acting as the focal point for the collection of receipts from the club when paying a third party for goods or services in relation to the application
  - maintaining a database for all applications received from affiliated clubs in order to ensure that no one club receives more than one amount of money in any year to the detriment of any other club
  - providing to the ABF Marketing Committee, at the end of each calendar year, a report covering all applications/subsidies received - this report should highlight any indicative figures with respect to increased player numbers. If this report is not forthcoming it will jeopardise any future grants.

#### *Process*

The state bodies will provide all affiliated clubs within

their jurisdiction information about this ABF initiative together with a copy of this procedure.

They will instruct each club applying for a grant to acknowledge this initiative on any paperwork, web site, entry form or advertisement associated with the issue of a grant.

Clubs will be asked to route their applications for a grant via the Secretary of the Association/Federation in their state. This application should provide the following information:

1. Full name and address of the club applying for the grant together with the name of the club contact and his/her telephone number
2. Full disclosure of the background to the application
3. Timing of the marketing/advertising campaign and the anticipated results
4. A projected balance sheet
5. A statement as to the grant requested
6. A statement endorsing the commitment to provide supportive receipts for monies expended when available
7. A signed undertaking that copies of receipts will be sent to their state association/federation within one calendar month of the completion of the activities for which the claim was made

State associations/federations will manage the distribution of the total grant within their state making every effort to a fair and non-discriminatory sharing of the funds available.

### A NEW SYDNEY EVENT

Saturday April 7 & Monday April 9, 2007

## THE GEORGE FINIKIOTIS CUP

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$1,000 Plus  
a half share in a \$1,000 lotto ticket

A Swiss Pairs Handicap  
("You don't have to be an Expert to win")

10 x 10 Board Matches

Entry & Info: [www.playbridge.com.au](http://www.playbridge.com.au)

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from  
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**Holiday package prices include:**

Return airfare to Norfolk Island, airfare taxes, return airport transfers, 7 nights twin share accommodation, 7 days car hire (petrol and car insurance additional and payable direct), meet and greet at Norfolk Island airport, Complimentary 'A Walk in the Wild', Complimentary miniature golf.

*Norfolk Island departure tax, car insurance \$15 per day plus petrol is and Bridge registration fee \$295 is additional to above holiday package prices.*

*Registration includes welcome dinner, presentation dinner, hire of venue, morning or afternoon tea, trophies and prizes.*

*Non-bridge players (family and friends) very welcome!  
Displayed prices are based on Bounty Bridge travel dates (low season). Contact The Travel Centre for alternate bridge festival packages or for full holiday package information.*

*Contact The Travel Centre for alternate bridge festival packages or for full holiday package information.*

*Prices are current today and subject to availability and subject to change without notice. Conditions Apply.*

*Travel Insurance strongly recommended.*

**If you are not travelling from Brisbane or Sydney please contact us for a customised discounted holiday package**

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Email: lee@travelcentre.nf  
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(if office is closed please leave a message on our toll free number)

Travel independently or why not get a group together from your local Bridge Club and join us for a great trip and friendly bridge on Norfolk Island!



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Please send me further information regarding the 'Bridge on Beautiful Norfolk Island' and the specially discounted holiday packages available from The Travel Centre.

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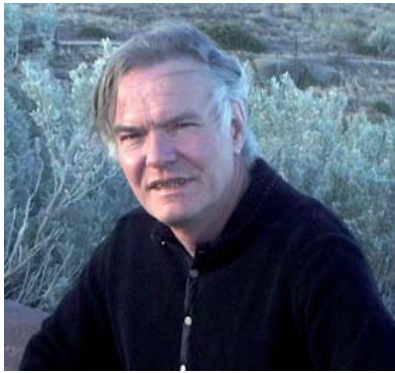
Phone.....Facsimile.....

Email.....



## Meet Willem Willemse

*Willem recently introduced two high quality products, Bridgemate and StepBridge to the Australian market. Willem, relatively unknown to the Australian bridge public, tells us a little about himself:*



*Willem:* I am 52 years old and have lived in Adelaide for three years with my wife and two children. I lived in the Netherlands, where I was a news editor with the national TV service before moving to Australia. I also ran a private online bridge magazine, where over 300 clubs had their websites. I was also Webmaster of the Dutch Bridge Federation, in charge of all multimedia bridge presentations like Vugraph and live matches on the television service teletext. Highlights were the European Pairs Championships at The Hague (1996), the Bridge Olympiad in Maastricht (2000) and the annual Cap Gemini Top 16 event at The Hague and the Forbo Teams in Scheveningen, two tournaments where the world's best bridge players are in attendance.

*How did you come to be so involved in Australian bridge?*

About three years ago we decided to make the move, leaving Europe behind and trying to do something completely different. Because of my contacts in the Netherlands, I had the opportunity to take some interesting stuff with me. Products like the wireless scoring system *Bridgemate* and the online bridge club *StepBridge* can raise the standard of bridge on all levels. If you see what happened in the Netherlands you know it can work somewhere else too.

*How can a scoring system improve the level of play?*

*Bridgemate* is used by the Dutch Bridge Federation and many others. In addition, the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation use the system for all their championships. Because of its special features, all the players, coaches and trainers can have instant reports of all the boards played, and analyse where things can be improved. This analysis can even be used during championships. Just look at the recent Europeans in Warsaw. Italy was clear on top, but there was a big group of countries, who were to close to call for any predictions before they entered the final round. An important factor in bridge is the calculating of risks and profits. A solid system can help.

*And what about Internet bridge?*

The Dutch national team plays a lot of practice matches on *StepBridge* against strong opponents. Recently there were test matches against OzOne, Indonesia, China, Bulgaria and Ireland with more to follow. It is a great opportunity to compete at the highest level without wasting a lot of time and money on travel and accommodation.

*Isn't Internet bridge a threat for live clubs?*

You would think so, but it proved to be the opposite! Since the start of *StepBridge* in the Netherlands, the number of affiliated players has grown. The growth was even higher than the number of members of the *StepBridge* club. As you know, bridge is addictive. Once you start you want more. If you're a live club member you can use *StepBridge* to experiment with new conventions and systems without becoming unpopular at your home club. *StepBridge*, which became an official affiliated club, also hit a special demographic: bridge players who were never a member of a live club. They enjoyed it so much they started to look for a home club to play in. Online players get the chance to play for an hour or so if they feel the need. Many busy players who don't have the time to play at a club stop playing altogether. With Internet bridge, they can get their daily fix, and as soon as they have more time, can rejoin their old club.

*There are a lot of online clubs: why is StepBridge so special?*

*StepBridge* is a real club. Unlike other online facilities, *StepBridge* has a built-in rating system, which forces you to play as well as you can, otherwise you'll lose your ranking status. Also, *StepBridge* has tournaments with ABF Masterpoints, so you don't only play for status, but can gain Masterpoints too. And last but not least, *StepBridge* is Australian. You will never find yourself at a table where the other players communicate in French, Turkish or Polish.

*Do you run it all by yourself?*

Yes. The average age of bridge players online is a bit higher than in real life. Though the software is basically easy to use, there might be a missing link. High quality products like *StepBridge* and *Bridgemate* demand high quality backup. I am happy to be able to provide that backup, and because the questions are normally easy, I am able to provide instant answers. I also have to thank third parties like ASE, who deliver high quality products with rapid responses and adjustments.

*What is your main competition?*

I might be naive, but basically I don't believe in competition as such. I've always supported everyone who wants the best for bridge. The more people

reached, the better it is and we all benefit: the suppliers and the players. *Bridgemate* established itself as the world standard in wireless scoring. Dozens of scoring programs support it and it is as reliable as the Bank of England. *StepBridge* does have rivals, but the difference between these and *StepBridge* is that the others are non-Australian, anonymous and lack the competition features and the user-friendly interface. But it is up to the user to decide which one they like.

*You've said earlier that you have some interesting stuff for Australia. Is it only in technology?*

Bridge in Australia is not developing as well as it could. On the world stage we are a minor power, and that can be improved with some simple adjustments.

Congresses for example, could be improved. It's hard to compare your scores with others, and there is not much incentive unless you are near the top of the field. From experience in Europe, there are many ways to keep a teams congress nailbiting until the end.

In big Australian team events, the winners get their rewards from a select group only: the losing finalists.

That could be improved. Give the winners all the credit

they deserve: a great prizegiving ceremony. And don't forget the sponsors; they should get some return for their money.


There are many ways of improving the environment without losing the basics of this mind sport. Take advantage of the Olympic status of bridge and the horizon will broaden while you're watching.

*What do you think of the top Ozzie bridge players?*

Let's put it black and white. If you're top in Australia and below average in the world, you cannot be satisfied. There should be the real challenge of improving on the world stage. Playing and winning half a dozen matches in a playoff event only qualifies you for the national team – it has not tested your bridge enough.

*What is your favourite convention?*

Aha, that's a Dutch one called *Muiderberg*. With a five-card major and a four+ minor, you open two of the major. But there are restrictions, because you don't want to preempt partner. It's less than an opening hand, and your values have to be in the two suits. You also deny three cards to an honour in the other major, and your major is *strictly* five cards. With a few relay bids your partner knows your shape exactly.



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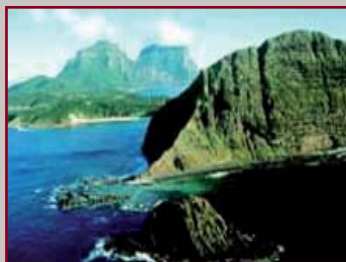
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## Bridging the gap between club sessions

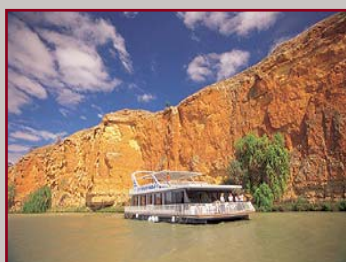
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## Coaching Cathy at Contract

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

*My dear uncle,*

I had a couple of awkward hands to play. One of them I actually made, but I'm still not sure that I played it well. Perhaps you might care to comment:

*Awkward #1*

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

I opened 1NT (15-17) and Glenda raised to 3NT immediately. West led ♦4, and when East played the jack, I took my ace. Next I went after my long suit, clubs, and East took the third round with ♣Q. He played ♦9, and I ducked. West overtook with ♦10 and played yet another diamond. When I ran off my clubs, West kept ♠A, ♥Qx and all of his diamonds. Since I only had eight tricks, I had to play a spade, which West won and took enough tricks to beat me.

Could I have timed this hand better?

*Awkward #2*

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

Once again, I opened 1NT and got to play in 3NT. West led ♥J and I took East's king and ran ♠10. When that worked, I forced out ♣A and made 11 tricks.

Then I got to thinking: "What if East had turned up with ♠K?"

What do you think?

*Your loving niece,  
Cathy. xxoo*

*Beloved Niece,*

*You are right about these hands having the same flavour, because they are both about giving up your tricks in the correct order. With no opposition bidding, it is reasonable to assume that the player who has made the opening lead, has the length in that suit. All subsequent thinking is based firmly on that notion.*

*In the first example, you would have been wise to duck the first diamond. ♦4 could be fourth highest from five diamonds, and it is often advantageous to rid one opponent of the suit early in the play.*

*In this case, East wins with ♦J and plays his other diamond, which you win in hand. Unless West has three clubs headed by the queen and ♠A, you are now home.*

*You are also better to lead a low spade on gaining the lead, in case West ducks the ace. If you win this in dummy, you can abandon spades for the time being and play on clubs, four more tricks now being enough to make the contract.*

*If West flies with ♠A and leads a diamond, win in dummy and lead a low club.*

*If East does not produce the queen, win and enter dummy with a spade. Lead another club and, again, unless East produces the queen, win and hope that he must win the third trick. As long as that is the case, you will be safe from the diamond assault and will have 10 tricks.*

*As you can see, it's all about tackling your losers in the right order. Note that even after you win the first trick, you would still have succeeded if you had played on spades first. Given that the player with short diamonds may well have longer clubs, it is still reasonable to make the play in spades first.*

*On the second example, you have apparently not thought about the layout of the heart suit. If the spade finesse is working, you can take it later. If it is not, it is far better to take it when East is out of hearts. Since it is only a 5-2 break which is of concern, once ♣A is dislodged, East will have no more hearts to play, even if the spade finesse fails.*

*Once again, it's about giving up your tricks in the right order, only this time the cards were more forgiving than they often are.*

*Your dotting Uncle, David*

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## Bridge into the 21st Century

### TEST YOUR OPENING BID ON STRONG HANDS

What do you open on the following hands as dealer, nil vulnerable:

1. ♠ 5, ♥ A K Q J 8 6 2, ♦ A K 4 2, ♣ 8
2. ♠ K Q 10 9 8 2, ♥ ---, ♦ A K Q 9 6 4, ♣ 4
3. ♠ A K 10 9 3, ♥ A K Q 10 2, ♦ A 2, ♣ 2
4. ♠ A Q 9 6 5 2, ♥ A 10 6, ♦ A K Q, ♣ 4
5. ♠ A K J 10 8 7, ♥ 6 4, ♦ A K Q, ♣ K 3
6. ♠ A K J 8 5, ♥ A, ♦ A Q 4 2, ♣ K 8 2
7. ♠ A Q 7 4, ♥ A 9 7 2, ♦ A K J 10, ♣ K
8. ♠ A, ♥ A 9, ♦ A K 5 3, ♣ A K J 8 4 3
9. ♠ A 10 8, ♥ A 3, ♦ A K Q 10 3, ♣ A 10 3
10. ♠ A 7, ♥ A 5, ♦ A Q 7 6, ♣ A K 8 7 4

Answers:

1. 1♥. One of the mysteries of bridge is which hands qualify for a 2♣ opening. Throughout the game's brief history, authorities have provided a multitude of definitions. A 2♣ opening in a suit is forcing until game is reached, or opponents are doubled, so defence is required as well as playing strength. The definition I favour is "A hand of power and quality with tricks in three suits". This hand has power and quality, but tricks in only two suits. If you open 2♣ you are looking for trouble, since you can't double the opponents with any confidence if they outbid you in spades.

2. 1♠. Only a two-loser hand, but again you have tricks in two suits only. There is an interesting tale to this hand. I held it in the Canberra Seniors Teams a few years back, and although I knew it was wrong in theory, I decided to push my luck and open 2♣. LHO bid 3♣, partner bid 3♥, and RHO bid 5♣. Things were going poorly: the bidding was at the five-level and I still hadn't bid one of my six-card suits. Undeterred I bid 5♠, soundly doubled on my left. I retreated upwards to 6♦, again doubled. LHO led (his singleton) ♥A and dummy tabled ♠5, ♥KQ1098742, ♦J73, ♣J3. I was in with a chance! After ruffing ♥A, two rounds of diamonds ending in dummy found diamonds 2-2, and now the hearts could be established.

The operation had failed, but the patient survived in brilliant fashion. But it was a lesson well learned: with huge two-suiters without tricks in three suits don't open a game force.

3. 2♣. This hand has power, quality, and tricks in three suits. If you open 1♠ you risk playing there, plus you have both majors, only three losers, and the texture in spades guards against a bad break or poor support.

If partner has a couple of cards in the right place then

slam will be much easier to reach after opening 2♣ than 1♠.

4. 1♠. Though it is OK to open 2♣ with four losers if your main suit is a major, and three losers if your long suit is a minor, your hand lacks texture in the long suit. This hand cropped up just recently. 1♠ was passed out. Sitting over this hand was ♠KJ1087, ♥9, ♦8, ♣AKJ1085, and 1♠ failed by a trick! So much for opening 2♣ with a poor quality suit.

5. 1♠. This is a better hand, with a strongly textured suit, and again only four losers, but it misses the quality test by a fraction. With a small doubleton in one suit and king doubleton in another suit 1♠ is preferred.

Of course when partner responds 1NT take no chances and rebid 4♠. If the clubs were Ax instead of Kx then 2♣ would be the recommended bid.

6. 1♠. This is a fine hand: lots of points, a major as the long suit, and only four losers. The hand has quality, and tricks in (at least) three suits, but with a 5-4-3-1 shape the hand lacks the power to open 2♣.

7. 1♦. Lots of points, but too flat with five losers. Some players would solve their dilemma by opening 2NT, but this creates a whole new set of problems, on this hand and every time you later open 2NT. A better solution lies in responder keeping the bidding open with 1♥ or 1♠ on lighter, but promising, hands.

8. 2♣. This monster has only three losers and great power, but when it came up in an OzOne bidding challenge the opening chosen was 1♣, not 2♣. The theory was that if you open 2♣ you risk losing diamonds. My reason for 2♣ is that if you don't you'll never convince partner your hand is so strong. Also you need to set a suit and have a relaxed dialogue in a game force setting. Partner held: ♠10865, ♥J4, ♦6, ♣Q107652, so 7♣ was cold, and much easier to bid after a 2♣ opening.

9. 2♣. A cursory glance would tell you this is a 2NT opening. Now have another look. Your hand is poetry in motion, with all four aces (aces=notrumps), a suit that looks like five ready made tricks, and a generous endowment of high spot cards. You want to be in 3NT opposite almost any hand, and if partner has as little as KQxxx in spades or clubs you want to be in slam.

10. 1♣. At the table I opened 2NT, which turned out poorly. You need space to explore the minor suit possibilities, and with your doubletons in the majors, either partner or the opponents figure to be in the bidding. Partner held ♣QJ10xxx and out, so 3NT is the only game contract, not surprising when you hold all the aces (aces=notrumps), a fitting six-card suit, but only 24 HCP between the partnership.

Paul Lavings  
Postfree Bridge Books

## Software Review

### Learn and Practice Bidding Conventions Vol. 1 Great Game Products (Windows only)

Introducing a wonderful new software product for beginners to learn and practice six popular bidding conventions – Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Weak Two Bids, Michaels Cuebids, Jacoby 2NT, and Negative Doubles. Installation is simple and the user is invited to input their notrump range (15-17 or 16-18). There are two major parts of the programme – Learning and Practising. Select “Learn” and choose a convention. This part is a bit like a book except that as you click, the page is revealed paragraph by paragraph, so the material is easy to absorb. At the end of the chapter there is a short quiz which invites the user’s input and after that the “Practice Deals” can be selected.

All text is very clear and simple with distractions kept to a minimum. In the chapter on Stayman, a diversion on a more complex form called Garbage Stayman was sensibly tucked away in an appendix.

The “Practice” part of the programme is very interactive with the user able to customise the number and type of practice hands generated. Bid the example using a simple interface and immediately a pop-up message tells whether the bid was correct or not. If incorrect, the correct bid is shown. At this point no further bidding is possible and the next generated example appears. Here’s an example.

Holding ♠ Q6532, ♥ A, ♦ A62, ♣ 9842, I heard partner open 1NT (15 – 17) with no opposition bidding. Since this was an exercise on Stayman I duly bid 2♣, only to be informed that I need exactly four cards in a major to use Stayman, and that I should select 2♥, a Jacoby Transfer to spades in this instance. I tested some other parts of the programme with some incorrect bids and each time was informed of my error, why it was incorrect, and the correct bid.

This software can readily be used even by people who have just completed classes. The more advanced conventions (Jacoby 2NT and Michaels Cue Bids) can be left until later, as the chapters can be selected in any order. The clarity and simplicity of the material will make for a productive learning experience.

John Hardy

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## John Hardy Bridge Books and Software

### Books

How the Experts Win at Bridge <i>Burt &amp; Lynn Hall</i>	\$36.30
2/1 Game Forcing: An Introduction <i>Steve Bruno &amp; Max Hardy</i>	\$19.80
Modern Bridge Defence <i>Edwin Kantar</i>	\$35.30
The Fun Way to Better Bridge Play <i>Harry Lampert</i>	\$28.60
Cuebidding at Bridge: A Modern Approach <i>Ken Rexford</i>	\$29.70
Things Your Bridge Teacher Won't Tell You <i>Dan Romm</i>	\$29.70
25 Ways to Be a Better Defender <i>Seagram &amp; Bird</i>	\$33.00
25 Steps to Learning 2/1 <i>Paul Thurston</i>	\$33.00

### Software

<b>JACK 4.0</b> <i>Upgrades from versions 2 and 3 available</i>	\$114.40
<b>Bridge Baron 17</b>	\$114.40
Upgrade to BB17 (old CD required)	\$58.30
NEW! For Beginners - Learn and Practise Bidding Conventions Vol. 1 <i>Excellent learning tool for basic conventions powered by Bridge Baron Teacher</i>	\$55.00
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Website [www.uq.net.au/~zzjhardy](http://www.uq.net.au/~zzjhardy)

## What should I bid?

Congratulations to Barbara Hansen of Melbourne, who submitted the best submission for January.

East dealt, with all vulnerable:

♠ K Q 9 ♥ A ♦ K Q 8 6 5 ♣ A Q 8 7	♠ 8 6 3 2 ♥ Q 9 5 4 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 6 5	<b>West</b>  Dbl 1NT	<b>North</b>  Pass All Pass	<b>East</b>  Pass 1♥	<b>South</b>  1♣ Pass
--	--	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------

**Comments:** We play Standard American. In response to a double a one-level bid shows 0-7 HCP. My partner steadfastly maintains that with 20 HCP, irrespective of shape, the correct action is to double. How would you bid these hands?

### **Peter's Reply:**

*Hi Barbara,*

*Many players are taught that all 19+ point hands, after an opponent's opening one-bid, should start with a double and describe the hand with the second bid.*

*There are other approaches. Most experts deal with balanced hands including a stopper in the opponent's suit thus -*

*Less than 15 HCP = Pass unless the hand includes a five-card suit or qualifies for a double.*

*15 - 18 HCP = 1NT*

*19+ HCP = Double and then, after partner's response:*

*1NT = 19 - 20 HCP*

*Jump in NT = 21 - 22*

*These bids come on top of the normal hands that qualify for a takeout double.*

*It looks to me as if partner chose to consider the hand as balanced, particularly after your one-bid.*

*Thus 1NT showed about 19-20HCP in a balanced hand. I would want at the very least to invite game with the East hand. What the appropriate bid might be is a matter of partnership understanding, but, in anticipation of the possibility of partner having four spades, I would want to introduce that suit. Having determined that there is no spade fit, I would bid 3NT with this nice six-count and expect partner to make it.*

*There are many, many bidding methods and styles afoot. Most are good, but both players in a partnership need to play the same.*

*Regards,  
Peter Fordham*

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Likewise, if you are a lapsed member who would like to rejoin, or somebody who has mysteriously dropped off our database, please get in touch.

Nick Hughes  
Secretary, ABTA



# ABF Tournament Results

## 2007 Gold Coast Congress

### Open Teams Final

Hirst, B Hirst, P Hackett, J Hackett, T Hanlon  
defeated  
Courtney, M Courtney, T Burke, T Nunn, P Wyer  
111 - 77 IMPs

### Open Teams Semi Final

Hirst defeated Nixon 91 - 74 IMPs  
Courtney defeated Holland 84 - 74 IMPs

### Seniors' Teams Final

Puskas, J Puskas, P Chan, J Hewitt, R Januszke,  
R Bignall, D Lusk  
defeated  
Klofa, S Klofa, R Gallus, G Gaspar, E Caplan  
134 - 57 IMPs

### Seniors' Teams Qualifying

Klofa	190	Cornell	184
Puskas	184	Smee	181

### Restricted Teams Final

T Wotherspoon, E Baker, R Taylor, R Taylor  
defeated  
N McIvor, D Featherstone, W Boxall, J Wieczorek  
87 - 56 IMPs

### Restricted Swiss Pairs

1. J Wieczorek, W Boxall 167
2. A Smith, J Power 163
3. T Wotherspoon, E Baker 162

### Open Swiss Pairs

1. R Klinger, J Ebery 180
2. P Livesey, R Thomas 174
3. S Smith, M Ware 169

### Open Pairs Final

1. J Armstrong, H Melbourne 1235
2. J Ebery, R Klinger 1227
3. V Vainikonis, W Olanski 1203

### Restricted Pairs Final

1. T Hinkley, S Hinkley 1178
2. B Atkins, T Wagstaff 1173
3. J Steele, J Steele 1148

### Senior's Pairs Final

1. R Bignall, R Januszke 1255
2. R Wallis, J Brockwell 1208
3. S Mendick, P Kahler 1194
4. N Griffiths, G Ware 1162
5. G Bilski, T Brown 1160



OZ Bridge Travel invites you to join us for a Bridge Getaway to **Norfolk Island**

**Join us at the Beautiful  
South Pacific Resort  
Norfolk Island**

**June 23 - 30, 2007**

**Fully Escorted by Gary Brown  
and OZ Bridge Travel Escorts**

**Norfolk Island** is steeped in history, adventure, scenic gems, tourist delights and tax free shopping! The magnificent South Pacific Resort will be our home away from home. Set in 3.5 hectares of beautiful parkland, the South Pacific Resort is the only Norfolk Island family owned Resort. It is owned, operated and managed by 8th generation, direct descendants of Fletcher Christian. Because we are family operated we ensure you get that special attention and experience that is real Island hospitality.



### Bridge Program

The Bridge program is comprehensive and diverse. There will be morning clinics, afternoon and evening duplicates, two team games, two RED point events and prizes. A partner is guaranteed. \*You only play when you want to play. This is your holiday.

**Included In Your Package:** Return economy airfare from select cities (see pricing guide), return transfers (airport-hotel-airport), six dinners, continuous coffee/tea every day in Bridge room, welcome cocktail party, full Bridge program, master-points, seven nights twin-share accommodation at the South Pacific Resort and the attention of OZ Bridge Travel Escorts. **Not Included:** All private sundries, any meals/drinks not mentioned and travel insurance.

### Pricing Guide

<b>Exit Brisbane:</b>	<b>\$ 1,964.00</b>
<b>Exit Sydney</b>	<b>\$ 2,029.00</b>
<b>Exit Melbourne</b>	<b>\$ 2,281.00</b>
<b>Exit Adelaide</b>	<b>\$ 2,353.00</b>
<b>Perth</b>	<b>\$ 2,495.00</b>

### General Information and Booking Form (Please fill out form neatly with all known information).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner? \_\_\_\_\_ Enclose a deposit of: \$300 per person.

Cheque made payable to: **Brown School of Bridge** Mail to: **OZ Bridge Travel, PO Box 272 Elwood, VIC 3184**

Contact Gary: **03 9686 6288** [brownbridge@ozemail.com.au](mailto:brownbridge@ozemail.com.au) or Judith: **03 9699 4683** [judithwood@ozemail.com.au](mailto:judithwood@ozemail.com.au)



## 2007 Playoff Points Standings & 2007 Open & Women's Playoff Teams

<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>1 Peter Gill</td><td style="text-align: right;">72</td></tr> <tr><td>2 Robert Grynberg</td><td style="text-align: right;">72</td></tr> <tr><td>3 David Stern</td><td style="text-align: right;">72</td></tr> <tr><td>4 Linda Stern</td><td style="text-align: right;">72</td></tr> <tr><td>5 Ron Klinger</td><td style="text-align: right;">42</td></tr> <tr><td>6 Nigel Rosendorff</td><td style="text-align: right;">42</td></tr> <tr><td>7 David Lilley</td><td style="text-align: right;">42</td></tr> <tr><td>8 Bill Haughie</td><td style="text-align: right;">42</td></tr> <tr><td>9 Jamie Ebery</td><td style="text-align: right;">42</td></tr> <tr><td>10 Terry Brown</td><td style="text-align: right;">36</td></tr> <tr><td>11 Paul Marston</td><td style="text-align: right;">36</td></tr> <tr><td>12 Phil Gue</td><td style="text-align: right;">36</td></tr> <tr><td>13 Barry Noble</td><td style="text-align: right;">36</td></tr> <tr><td>14 George Bilski</td><td style="text-align: right;">36</td></tr> <tr><td>15 Michael Prescott</td><td style="text-align: right;">36</td></tr> <tr><td>16 Bob Richman</td><td style="text-align: right;">33</td></tr> <tr><td>17 Zolly Nagy</td><td style="text-align: right;">33</td></tr> <tr><td>18 Tony Nunn</td><td style="text-align: right;">33</td></tr> <tr><td>19 Ishmael Del'Monte</td><td style="text-align: right;">33</td></tr> <tr><td>20 Sartaj Hans</td><td style="text-align: right;">33</td></tr> <tr><td>21 Vincent Demuy</td><td style="text-align: right;">33</td></tr> </table> <p>The Open Minimum Points is provisionally set to 24. 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All Bridge Queries: contact Gary: email - [brownbridge@ozemail.com.au](mailto:brownbridge@ozemail.com.au) ☎ - 03 9686 6288

Due to the popularity of cruising and OZ Bridge Travel Holidays which have recently been heavily over-subscribed it is recommended you book early to avoid disappointment.

## 2007 National Women's Teams

Only 36 teams entered, a disappointing turnout for an event which was once the premier tournament in the Australian women's game. Some of the downturn from the mid-1990s can be attributed to many women choosing to play in the concurrent National Seniors' Teams. A further difficulty is that, while there is a reasonable supply of young male players, there seem to be very few young women entering the ranks, which puts further downward pressure on entries.

This is a pity, for the event is quite competitive, with the favourites often failing to qualify for the finals after the nine rounds of 20-board Swiss preliminaries. In 2007, four teams qualified for the sixty-four board knockout semifinals. The successful teams were:

Seed	Team Members	VPs
3	<b>CREET</b> , K Creet, S Bird, J Hoffman, J Thompson, S Murray-White, H Snashall	195
1	<b>KAPLAN</b> , R Kaplan, P Schroor, E Havas, B Travis, C Feitelson, C Mill	171
2	<b>BOURKE</b> , M Bourke, D Neumann, F Beale, D Smart, S Lusk, T Tully	162
19	<b>GINSBERG</b> , M Ginsberg, M Foster, P Crowe, S Hurwitz, A Zets	159

As was their right for winning the Swiss, **CREET** chose to play **GINSBERG** and earned a 160 to 120 IMP victory in a keenly fought match.

Meanwhile, the original two favourites had to play each other and at half-time the margin was 4 IMPs to **BOURKE**.

The third set was a big one for the leaders, who won it 51 to 27 IMPs and, despite an impressive last quarter, the **KAPLAN** rally fell short by a nerve-wracking 7 IMPs. So it was to be **CREET v. BOURKE** for the title.

The first set of the final was closely fought with the leaders determined by this deal:

### South deals, all vul

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

### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tully</i>	<i>Bird</i>	<i>Lusk</i>	<i>Creet</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	4NT	All pass	

### Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Bourke</i>	<i>Hoffman</i>	<i>Neumann</i>
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	All pass

In the Open Room, Neumann received a heart lead, covered by the jack, king and ace. Next she crossed to dummy with ♣A to lead ♠4. When East followed low, Neumann, forewarned by the penalty double, bravely played her ♠7. When that held, she crossed to dummy with a heart to the bare queen to lead a second low trump towards her hand.

This time, Hoffman rose with ♠K and exited with ♣J. Neumann took this with ♣K and played ♥9, throwing a diamond from hand. Hoffman ruffed and exited with a trump to Neumann's queen. Now, assuming East had ♦A, Neumann made certain of her contract by discarding a diamond on ♣Q. Hoffman could take a trump and ♦A, but that was all and **BOURKE** had scored a useful +790.

In the Closed Room, Creet made the unusual decision to run from the double to 4NT. Although 10 tricks were available on the friendly layout, Creet slightly mistimed the play to finish one trick short to suffer a loss of 13 IMPs, leaving the score at the end of the quarter **BOURKE** 30 to **CREET** 19.

*Tim Bourke*

*Thanks to Tim Bourke for producing an insightful account of Australia's most prestigious women's event. Unfortunately, women's matches do not seem to receive the same coverage as Open events, which seems a pity. We will be continuing and concluding the article in the next issue*

*If you are interested in knowing more about what happened, including the files from some of the vugraph matches, at the 2007 National Open Teams events, go to:*

<http://abf.com.au/events/not/2007/index.html>

*The Editor*



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## Country Congresses

### March 3-4

12th Illawarra Bridge Assn. Annual Congress  
IBA Hall, 11 Princes Highway, Figtree  
Convener: Kaye Hart [iba@speedlink.com.au](mailto:iba@speedlink.com.au)

### April 14-15

Ballina Swiss Teams (NSW)  
Convener: Judy Forsyth [bbclub@internode.on.net](mailto:bbclub@internode.on.net)

### April 22

Maitland Open Teams Congress  
Convener: Rosemary Pout [mimpout@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mimpout@optusnet.com.au)

### May 25-27

Mudgee Congress  
Walk in Pairs, Open Pairs, Open Teams.  
Convener: Val Heferen [valkev@bigpond.com](mailto:valkev@bigpond.com)

### Sunday, July 15

Gold Coast Congress - Swiss Teams  
Convener: Pam Jessep [gcbc@winshop.com.au](mailto:gcbc@winshop.com.au)

### August 25-26

Ballina Pairs Congress (NSW)  
Contact: Lyn Graham [bbclub@internode.on.net](mailto:bbclub@internode.on.net)

### October 6 - 7

Gold Coast Congress  
Butler Pairs & Swiss Teams  
Convener: Pam Jessep [gcbc@winshop.com.au](mailto:gcbc@winshop.com.au)

### November 18

Ballina Pairs Congress (NSW)  
Contact: Lyn Graham [bbclub@internode.on.net](mailto:bbclub@internode.on.net)

**Club Secretaries:** Please email [editor@abf.com.au](mailto:editor@abf.com.au)  
to be included in this list

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

*First may I congratulate and thank all those responsible for organising and running the Gold Coast Congress, and arranging such a suitable venue, a masterly achievement.*

*Since arriving in the southern hemisphere from England I have not missed one and will never do so until I am pushing up daisies. I hope the following will be accepted as constructive and an attempt to be helpful, and not in any way critical, but there is no such thing as total perfection and I feel that some suggestions, based on my own opinions and some heard from others may be helpful.*

*For a number of reasons I think it would be a good idea to offer some alternative events after the conclusion of the qualifying rounds of the teams event. I felt that about 300+ pairs in the Butler Swiss Pairs was rather unmanageable and therefore, of necessity, rather a long wait between matches. If some other event(s) was/were available it would add some variety and enable the Swiss Pairs field to be smaller. Perhaps a two or three session pairs, or Multiple or Swiss Teams over two or three sessions, both ending on the Friday, as it seemed that quite*

## ABF Calendar

### March 22 - 26

Open and Women's Playoffs  
Hakoah Club, Hall St, Bondi

### April 19 - 23

Seniors' Playoffs  
Hakoah Club, Hall St, Bondi

### May 1-7, 2007

Bridge for Brain Research Challenge - held nationally  
In support of the Prince of Wales Medical  
Research Institute.

### May 10-14, 2007

Autumn Nationals, Adelaide  
SABA & Sporting Car Club  
Convener: Diane Marler  
Email: [anot@abf.com.au](mailto:anot@abf.com.au)

### June 7-11, 2007

Victor Champion Cup, Melbourne  
Venue: Melbourne Convention Centre  
Convener: Diana Jacobs 0413 003 633  
Email: [vcc@abf.com.au](mailto:vcc@abf.com.au)

### July 6-21, 2007

Australian National Congress, Fremantle, WA  
Venue: Esplanade Hotel, South Terrace  
Convener: Allison Stralow, Tel: 0403 153 823

### September 6-9, 2007

Territory Gold Bridge Festival, Darwin  
Convener: Pam Nunn  
Email: [tgbf@abf.com.au](mailto:tgbf@abf.com.au)

*a number of competitors would like the option of leaving after that day rather than either missing the Swiss Pairs or having to stay beyond their optimum time for leaving.*

*Another opinion I heard was that on perhaps two or three days it might be popular to start around noon and have two sessions, ending about 6.30-7.30, leaving the evening free for a leisurely dinner, and for non-playing wives/husbands to be able to have a little more time with their spouse. With the earlier start of the pairs events it might be possible to arrange something of the sort without cutting down on the playing time available.*

*I believe that the congress could become a world event, as many in northern Europe would jump at the chance of escaping the worst part of the winter in that neck of the woods and play some bridge, and the same might well apply to players in North America, but to attract those players it might be necessary, or advisable, to have a little more choice of event as I have suggested earlier.*

*With all good wishes for future success,*

*Sincerely yours,  
John Sarjeant.*



the NTBA and the ABF present the  
**Territory Gold Bridge Festival**  
**2007**  
in  
**Darwin**  
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Swiss Teams (Friday)

Swiss Pairs (Saturday & Sunday)

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Directors: Phil Gue & Martin Willcox  
[adelaidebridge@ozemail.com.au](mailto:adelaidebridge@ozemail.com.au)  
(08) 83 79 2044

Convener: Pam Nunn  
[tgbf@abf.com.au](mailto:tgbf@abf.com.au)  
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**Note:** Date chosen is June 15 and all times are based around Vietnam Airways. Bridge may spoil this holiday.

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