

Australian Youth Bridge Bulletin — October 2006

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AUSSIE JUNIORS WEBSITE

A website <http://aussiejuniors.tripod.com/OJP.htm> has been created by Melbourne's Andy Hung, Peter Hollands and Justin Howard for young bridge players. Well worth a look.

MACQUARIE UNI BRIDGE CLUB

Leigh Barnier plans to start up a bridge club at Macquarie University as soon as possible. If you know of any staff, students or potential students at this university, please contact David McDonald.

DATABASE UPDATE

We are currently updating our Youth Database. If your email address or phone number has changed in recent times, or if you would like your BBO userid added to the database, please contact David McDonald.

MENTOR

I plan to set up a mentor system for young Australian bridge players. The mentor could assist you by email with anything you want to know or learn about bridge. If you are interested, please [contact David McDonald](#).

YOUNGEST LIFE MASTER

Nabil Edgton has broken Kylie Robb's long-standing record for the Youngest Life Master ever in Australia's history. For full story, see **page 5**.

AESOP'S FABLES

Leading Australian player Peter Gill shares a funny story with a moral behind it. **Page 6** Like the great Reese, Peter tends to give the game away a bit with his titles.

MURDER & MYSTERY

Who was Joseph Elwell? See **page 2**

YOUTH RESULTS 2006 PAGE 3

Famous Bridge Players – Joseph Elwell

Joseph Elwell was the great authority in the early days of bridge. He wrote several excellent bridge books between 1900 and 1920. Though he lived as a new York playboy he visited London to teach Edward 7th. The supreme teacher and author of bridge during this time that Elwell had shadier dealings was made widely public after he was dramatically and mysteriously murdered in 1920.

One of the centuries best known unsolved crimes, Elwell was shot while writing a letter in his flat. The doors were all locked, but it is not in the correct sense “a closed room mystery” since much of the female population of new York had Elwell’s keys. Some sources tie to him to great white sox scandal – when the World series of baseball was rigged to profit by wagers. Certainly Elwell had enjoyed questionable dealings with land and horses all his life. Many maintain that he was the inspiration of Fitzgerald’s “*Great Gatsby*”.

Elwell’s books are still obtainable, and quite the best works of the period except for those of Ernst Bergholt. The best place for any such item is Paul Lavings post-free books.

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YOUTH BRIDGE RESULTS IN 2006

National Youth Pairs, Canberra in January – 27 pairs

- 1 Griff Ware (ACT) – Matt Porter (ACT)
- 2 Nye Griffiths (ACT) – Mike Doecke (SA)
- 3 Gabby Feiler (NSW) – Justin Williams (SA)

National Youth Teams, Canberra in January – 11 teams

- 1 Justin Howard – Peter Hollands (Vic), Anthony Newman – Nick Rodwell (NSW)
- 2 Gabby Feiler – Justin Williams, Griff Ware – Matt Porter
- 3 Jane Reynolds (WA) – Freya Wilson (SA), Andrew Morcombe (SA) – Damien Czapnik (NSW)

National Youth Team Selection Event, Canberra in January: 10 qualifying pairs

- 1 Gabby Feiler – Justin Williams (SA)
- 2 Griff Ware (ACT) – Matt Porter (ACT)
- 3 Mike Doecke (SA) – Nye Griffiths (ACT, now NSW)

International Youth Challenge, Canberra in January – 4 teams including NZ team

- 1 Leigh Matheson – Ming Chan (NSW), William Jenner O’Shea (SA) – Laura Ginnan (ACT)

PABF Junior Teams Championship, Bangkok in June – 8 countries

- 1 Singapore
- 2 Australia (Griff Ware – Matt Porter, Mike Doecke – Nye Griffiths)

NZ Teams Championship – 108 teams

- 1 NZ National Open Team
- 2 Gabby Feiler – Justin Williams, Nye Griffiths – Mike Doecke (Australian Youth Team)

World Junior Pairs Championship, Slovakia in July (U26) – 142 pairs

- 1 Cecilia Rimstedt and Sara Sivelind (Sweden)
- 25 Paul Gosney (Aus) – Michael Whibley (NZ)
- 67 Adam Edgtton (Aus)- Nick Rodwell (Aus)

World School Pairs Championship, Slovakia in July (U21) – 68 pairs

- 1 Bartlomiej Igla – Artur Machno (Poland)
- 51 Luke Gardiner (NZ)– Nabil Edgtton (Aus)

Interstate Youth Pairs Championship, Adelaide in July – 10 pairs

- 1 Martin Wardle – Jeremy Rosen (Vic)
- 2 Robin Stevenson – Sebastian Yuen (ACT)
- 3 Jane Reynolds (WA) – Hannah Sprod (SA)

Interstate Youth Teams Championship, Adelaide in July – 6 teams

- 1 SA – William Jenner O’Shea, Andrew Morcombe, Freya Wilson – Andrew Brady, Joel Gue – Alexander Lockwood
- 2 Qld – Paul Gosney, Pranjal Chakradeo, Nick Moore, Ryan Touton, Geoff Martin, npc Richard Touton.

World Junior Teams Championship, Bangkok in August (U26) – 18 teams

- 1 USA
- 2 Italy
- 15 Australia (G Ware, G Feiler, J Williams, N Griffiths, M Doecke, npc J Roberts)

World School Teams Championship, Bangkok in August (U21) – 16 teams

- 1 Israel
- 2 Qualifying, 4th after Finals Australia:
Justin Howard (Vic) – Michael Delivera (ACT),
Adam Edgtton (NSW) – Nabil Edgtton (NSW), Andy
Hung (Vic) – Peter Hollands (Vic), npc Cathy Mill (Vic)

Congratulations to our young team on their great performance at their international debuts. I hope to have a report on the event in the next Bulletin this summer.

National Youth Triathlon, Adelaide and Sydney in September – 50 players overall Pairs:

- 1 Paul Gosney & Nye Griffiths
- 2 Andrew Brady & Phil Sellars
- 3 William Jenner-O’Shea & Leigh Matheson
- 4 Jane Reynolds & Freya Wilson

Individual:

- 1 Phil Sellars (SA) 2nd: John Hornibrook (NSW)
- 3 Jane Reynolds (WA) 4th: Sean Howie (SA)

Teams: Sydney (5 teams)

- 1 Adam Edgtton – Ally Morris, Nabil Edgtton – Nye Griffiths
- 2 Erin Tewes (Canb) – Sean McKenzie, Alex Cook – Dave Wiltshire

Adelaide (3 teams)

- 1 Jane Reynolds – Freya Wilson, Shane Harrison – Sean Howie

Overall:

- 1st: Nye Griffiths (Syd) 2nd: Jane Reynolds (WA) 3rd: John Hornibrook (Syd)

Thanks to Postfree Bridge Books who generously donated the prizes of bridge books.

World University Teams in October in China – no Aussie team due to timing and exams

- 1 Tianjin Uni, China
- 2 USA, from 27 teams from 22 countries

YOUNGEST LIFE MASTER

Nabil Edgton aged 14 years and 23 days on 31 May 2006 broke the record for Australia's Youngest Life Master ever at bridge.

This long-standing record stood for 13 years.

The previous holder Kylie Robb now works for Goldman Sacks in New York at the age of 28. Although her bridge accomplishments were included in her job application, they were probably not the sole reason why she obtained her prestigious job.

Nabil has been playing bridge for six years, almost half his lifetime, in partnership with his older brother Adam. After several placings and victories at youth level, Adam and Nabil have begun to make their mark at Open bridge in the last twelve months, winning the Consolation at the Australian Open Pairs in 2005 and placing 4th in the 2006 ANOT in Adelaide.

In August 2006, they made their International debut as members of the Australian team in the World Schools Teams Championship in Bangkok. "Schools" is a term used by the WBF to mean "Under 20". This is a new event held simultaneously with the World Junior Teams Championship which is for those under 26 years of age. Adam and Nabil impressed by topping the datums for the Aussie team, helping Australia to come 4th out of 16 countries, an incredible performance for a country which does not (yet) have bridge in schools.

Adam and Nabil's father is Australian and their mother is Moroccan. They first learnt bridge off the internet, playing on the Microsoft Gaming Zone at a very basic level.

They play Standard American, but like many youth players they did experiment a couple of years ago. Sartaj Hans prepared a brief summary of Honeymoon Moscito for them, but he omitted what to do after the shape had been relayed out. Adam and Nabil decided to tack Gerber onto their Relay system until someone taught them something more advanced. Hence the following auction:

Dealer West, nil vul

	♠ 2	
	♥ Q10652	
	♦ 7543	
	♣ Q84	
♠ AKJ83		♠ 9754
♥ AK8		♥ 9
♦ KQ6		♦ AJ2
♣ A6		♣ K9732
	♠ Q106	
	♥ J74	
	♦ 1098	
	♣ J105	

West	North	East	South
Adam		Nabil	
1♣	pass	2♣	pass
2♦	pass	2♠	pass
2NT	pass	3♦	pass
4♣	pass	4♥	pass
5♣	pass	5♥	pass
7♠	all pass		

1♣ was strong, 15+ HCP. 2♣ was game-forcing with 5+ clubs, Adam relayed and Nabil showed his four card spade suit, his three card diamond suit, an ace and a king. The system did not include queen asks, so Adam simply punted the grand slam.

♦10 was led. Nabil won this in hand to lead a spade to the ace. He smoothly crossed to ♣K to lead another spade from his hand. As South followed suit with the ten, North began to pull a card out of his hand. Nabil paused to figure out what this meant. He concluded that nobody holding Qx over dummy's AKJ of trumps in a grand slam would be so disinterested in the play that they would pull their card out in advance, ready to play it. North must simply have pulled out his discard in advance because he was bored and had no idea that declarer was trying to guess who had ♠Q. Observe the importance of crossing to hand in order to play the second trump, as Nabil did. After Nabil had thus made by taking the spade finesse, Adam asked his little brother (at that time, aged 12, Nabil was not as big as he is now) why he departed from the textbook play of ♠A then ♠K. Nabil gave the above explanation. The lack of a trump lead from South was a further clue.

Macquarie University Revival

Gideon Sawicki (who started the now-defunct Macq Uni BC in 2004) and Tim Brown are the only other Macquarie Uni students of the 356 youths on Australia's national youth bridge database. Gideon did sign up about 60 "members" of the bridge club in 2004. Hopefully Gideon still has the list of all their contact details.

Please contact me and we will figure out how best to create Macquarie Uni Bridge Club.

Regards, Peter Gill. 02 9560 2704 / 0402 413584

Michael Yuen, who played for the NSW Youth Team this year, is at Macquarie Uni.

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Smile Sweetly

Peter Gill

This was the first board of a 20 board match in an Australian National Teams Championships called the 1989 Victor Champion Cup. We were playing against the leading team, two top players whose big weakness was their temperament. My partner was Zibi Zeb, who had played in the Polish Junior Team in the 1980s then moved to Australia. On our Convention Card, he wrote: "Smile Sweetly After Disaster" as one of our conventions. I was quite happy to try out this agreement.

Dealer North. ♠ K106
N/S Vul. ♥ 2
 ♦ 75
 ♣ QJ108754

♠ J9742	♠ A85
♥ Q954	♥ AKJ10873
♦ AJ6	♦ Q103
♣ K	♣ void

♠ Q3
♥ 6
♦ K9842
♣ A9632

West	North	East	South
	Zibi Zeb		Peter Gill
	2NT	4♥	4♠
dbl	pass	pass	rdbl
all pass			

Even by Australian standards, the bidding was pretty bad. Zibi, a Polish visitor who had me playing a Krakow version of Polish Club, opened 2NT to show either a weak preempt in a minor or a good preempt in a major.

Luckily for you current youth players, regulations have largely eradicated such viruses from the modern bridge world.

East overcalled 4♥, and having no system notes to deal with interference over the Krakow 2NT, I bid 4♠ on the assumption that my shortage there indicated that partner would surely have long spades. When West doubled, I started to worry a little bit, so I played safe by redoubling, hopefully for rescue, to ensure that partner bid his suit. You might think that 4NT would have been more prudent, but the outcome was about to become strangely satisfying. West led ♥4 to the king, East switched to ♦3 to my king and West's ace, and West switched to a spade to the ace and another spade. I won the queen and carefully exited with a diamond to the jack. West played another heart, which I ruffed in dummy. Only now did I play clubs, playing ♣Q from dummy.

East thought for a while about my apparent club finesse, then discarded a heart, letting me win ♣A to escape for a mere penalty of 4000. Had I not played the hand so carefully, I would have gone for 4600.

Zibi greeted me with a beaming smile and pulled out his hands for the next board as if nothing had happened. In return, I managed the best smile I could. Then it started.

East: “Why didn’t you ruff the club? You blithering idiot, I’ve had a plus 4000 before, but 4600 would have been my highest score ever.”

West: “But why didn’t you exit a spade so that I knew what was going on?”

Or you could have ducked the diamond to my ten? And you blame ME?”

East: “You’re just an imbecile. Even a moron could have seen what was going on.”

And on and on it went, as they abused each other.

The datum (i.e. “our table”) score for the 20 board match was 86 – 24 IMPs in our favour. Zibi and I outscored them by 86 to 0 on the remaining 19 boards, because they were so upset with each other. Our team won the match by a maximum.

At the other table, our team-mates had reached 6♥. The declarer David Beauchamp ruffed the club lead, played a heart to the queen then made the vital play of a spade to the

ace, before South realised that it was necessary to unblock ♠Q under the ace. Now three rounds of diamonds, taking the finesse, followed by a spade exit end-played South, who had to concede a ruff and discard. Plus 920 reduced the loss on the board to only 23 IMPs.

I recommend the Smile Sweetly agreement to all bridge players.

Sad News

The entire Australian bridge world was shocked by Michael De Livera’s health problems this spring. Having starred in our Under 21 team’s success at the World Championships in Bangkok in August, where the team become one of a handful of Australian teams to have qualified into the semi-finals of a World Bridge Championship, Michael had a stroke in October and is currently hospitalised with serious health problems. We speak on behalf of every bridge player who has ever met Michael when we say that everyone’s feelings are with Michael and his family.

From the Editor

This newsletter is made possible by information & articles supplied by you and those who take an active interest in Youth Bridge. Thank you. If you have any stories or enquiries. please send them in. Future bulletins will contain a bidding challenge and player profiles.

2007 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BRIDGE CALENDAR

Dec 2-3, 2006: **NSW Youth Pairs**

Saturday 12-30 to 6-30 at NSWBA and NSW Youth Teams

Sunday 12-30 to 6-00 at Bayside

Enquiries (billeting etc) to Modi wjosh@hotmail.com.

January 13-20, 2007: **National Youth Bridge Week** at Fenner Hall in Canberra. Said to be the second best week of bridge activities in the world. 1/1/77 is the age cut-off, but it's 1/1/81 for the national selection event which is part of the week. Enquiries to Brad grover@bigpond.net.au

January 18-19: **National Under 16 Bridge Camp** in Canberra. A small gathering of youngsters born on or after 15/1/1990 who are interested in bridge. Enquiries to Brad grover@bigpond.net.au

June 4-13: **PABF Youth Teams Championship in Indonesia**. Australia will send at least one team.

For those born on or after 1/1/81 (Junior Team section) or 1/1/86 (Schools Team section).

July 14: **Interstate Youth Pairs Championship in Fremantle**. Open to all youngsters born on or after 1/1/82.

July 15-20: Interstate **Youth Teams Championship in Fremantle**, WA. Teams from SA, Qld, NSW, Vic, ACT

and WA are expected to take part. If you would like to try to be in your State's team, please let us know. Open to all youngsters born on or after 1/1/82.

July 30-31: **World Junior Individual in Nashville Tennessee** for those born on or after 1/1/81. See below.

August 1-7: **World Junior Bridge Camp in Nashville, Tennessee**, said to be the best week of youth bridge activities in the world. Aimed at those aged roughly 17-23. Partial subsidies may be available to those who otherwise would not be able to attend.

September or October – one weekend: National Youth Triathlon, includes Individual, Pairs and Teams Bridge, possibly held in Melbourne. Open to all youngsters born on or after 1/1/77.

September 22-29: **NZ Nationals** – Australia usually send a subsidized team of teenagers. A great week.

Details of additional events 2007 and 2008 events, including as an Online Youth Bridge Challenge and a Sydney - Canberra Youth Bridge Challenge, will be available as soon as each event has been planned.

Enquiries and details should be sent to David McDonald eckythumpf@hotmail.com or 04-0433-5288.