

2007 World Championships

The 2007 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and Seniors' Bowl was held in Shanghai, China in early October. Australia fielded a team in each of the three categories.

In the Bermuda Bowl, the Open series of the competition, Norway, Boye Brogeland, Glenn Groethelm, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Erik Saelensminde and Ulf Tundal broke a long series of second and third placings to emerge victors over USA I, Steve Garner, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg and Howard Weinstein by 334 - 245.5 IMPs in the 128-board final.



A jubilant Norwegian Open Team receives the Bermuda Bowl

In the Venice Cup, the women's event, USA I, Jill Levin, Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers, Hansa Narasimhan, Debbie Rosenberg and Joanna Stansby defeated Germany, Anja Alberti, Daniela von Arnim, Sabine Auken, Barbara Hackett, Pony Nehmert and Mirja Schraeverus-Meuer by 242 - 158.6 IMPs in their 96-board final.

The Seniors' Bowl was won by USA II, Roger Bates, Grant Baze, Bart Bramley, Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag and Lew Stansby over Indonesia, Henky Lasut, Anindara Lubis, Eddy Manoppo, Denny Sacul, Munawar Sawiruddin and Ferdinand Waluyan 205 - 127 with Indonesia conceding after 80 boards.

From an Australian perspective, the event was promising, yet disappointing. Our Bermuda Bowl team, David Stern (npc), Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer, Richard Jedrychowski - Bruce Neill, Andrew Peake - Murray Green finished in 5th position (out of 22) in the round robin, on 342 VPs, thus making it to

the quarter final stage. Here they faced the strong USA I squad, to whom they succumbed by 216 - 124 IMPs. All in all, a valiant effort. In 2005, our Bermuda Bowl team finished in equal 14th position.

Our Venice Cup team, Simon Hinge (npc), Candice Feitelson - Cathy Mill, Rena Kaplan - Paula Schroom, Elizabeth Havas - Barbara Travis started well, but towards the midway part of the round-robin, they found the going difficult, finishing in 16th position on 284 VPs. In 2005, the Venice Cup Team finished in 11th position.

Our Seniors' team, David Hoffman (npc), Bill Haughie - Zoltan Nagy, Ron Klinger - David Lilley, Gabi Lorentz - John Lester finished in 10th position on 325 VPs despite running in qualifying position until the 16th round. In 2005 our Seniors' team finished in 10th position. David Hoffman's captain's report can be found on page 10.

David Stern, npc of the Open Team provided an informal online 'blog' during the championships (a link could be found on the ABF website), but news of the other teams had to be accessed by scanning the results section of the Championships website, and there was scant reference to Australia in the Daily Bulletins. I never happened to be online when an Australian team was featured on Vugraph, although I saw enough of USA I to last me a lifetime.

Really a poor show, I thought. Some of the finest bridge writers in the world contributed to the Daily Bulletins, but the only Downunder news to be found featured Kiwis in action.

In the January issue, we will be publishing a two-part article on the Open Team's performance. If you can't wait until then, access a copy of October *Australian Bridge*, in which the article will also feature.

This report concludes with a hand featuring the Australian Open Team in the first stanza of its quarter final match against USA I. I went to the archives of recent Vugraph matches on bridgebase.com to access the deal. This is also where the live matches could be seen during the championships, and *Swan Games* provided up-to-the-minute results, and progressive running scores.

At the start of the quarter finals, USA I started with a 29 IMP carryforward from the round robin compared to Australia's 13 IMP carryforward, so it was an uphill battle from the start. The deal below shows good bridge judgement by the members of our Open Team.

Board 6, East deals, EW vulnerable

<p>♠ 10 8 5 2 ♥ A Q 9 7 ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ J 10</p>	<p>♠ A J 6 ♥ 6 ♦ A K 10 9 ♣ A 8 5 3 2</p>
--	---

<p>♠ K Q 10 4 3 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ J ♣ Q 7 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ K J 10 8 5 ♦ Q 6 4 3 2 ♣ K 9</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>	<i>Jed'ski</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	2♠ ¹
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1. Fit-showing

West	North	East	South
<i>Peake</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	Dbl
3♥	Dbl	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

With Australia NS in the first auction above, Richard Jedrychowski made the intelligent decision to make a fit-showing jump with the South hand over East's passed hand 1♥ overcall. North had no real slam aspirations, so settled for the 5-3 spade fit, jumping to game in spades.

In the second auction, South's double of the 1♥ overcall saw Andrew Peake stretch to the three-level vulnerable. Diagnosing a singleton at most in the North hand, South drove all the way to slam once North showed the minors with his 4NT bid.

4♠ made +450 to Australia, while Garner was one down in 6♣, -50, 11 IMPs to Australia in what was soon to become a one-sided affair, unfortunately for Australia.

Congratulations!

There was not much joy for Australians at the recent NZ National Championships in Hamilton. But Di Jagelman - Stephen Burgess are to be congratulated for taking out the popular Mixed Pairs! Well done.

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The future of bridge - is there one?

Before reading on I would like you, the reader, to estimate how many *registered* bridge players there are worldwide, a question I will answer below.

Bridge administrators worldwide are scratching their heads while searching for answers to the following very difficult questions:

- what is the future of bridge
- as administrators what can we do to promote bridge
- how can we market bridge across a wide range of socio-economic groups
- how can we increase participation amongst those who already know how to play bridge
- how can we reduce the average age of registered players which is rising all the time (currently 67 years old in the USA)

Let us go back to the beginning. When I was a child, some 35-45 years ago, it was very common for parents to play cards with their children as a family activity and indeed I played some amount of cards with my children but certainly less than my parents did with me in my youth. Will our kids play with their kids? I fear not.

Are card games relevant in today's world? Therein lies the key question which needs answering. Of course as bridge players we believe that they are and would be most upset at the prospect that those outside the bridge world would say 'probably not'.

But the sad fact is that there is so much competition for the attention of young people today. Think internet, sport, hundreds of TV channels, travel, books, the café society, not to mention the traditional pubs and clubs. It is extremely hard for bridge to compete with in this changing world. It is true that computer and online gaming are thriving but just how can bridge insert itself into this changing world.

One of the reasons that the online world seems so buoyant is that users can devote any amount of time that they wish to their activities. Unlike a session of duplicate bridge where we have to commit almost four hours of our time including travel, it is possible to play online for 30 minutes between other activities or if you are good at multi-tasking while doing something else.

While some point to the success of online and televised poker as giving rise to the possibilities for bridge it is hard to parallel a game like no limit hold'em poker, the rules of which can be learned in about 15 minutes with the intricacies of bridge which at best would take

20-30 hours to learn the basics. Many attempts have been made over the past 30 years to televise bridge and while individual series have been successful, none have shown sufficient appeal to continue for any length of time.

By now some readers will be disappointed that I am so negative about the future of bridge. However the numbers make my point much better than the words on this page. Back to the opening question – there are approximately 646,552 registered bridge players in the world today.

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Member Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Europe	47	387,684
2	North America	3	155,876
3	South America	9	3,700
4	Asia & the Middle East	11	11,980
5	Central America	24	1,811
6	Pacific Asia	13	30,098
7	South Pacific	4	49,095
8	Africa	17	6,308
<u>Total:</u>		128	646,552

I bet like me you are astounded at this low number. People I have discussed this with say anything from five million upwards.

This number is pathetically low when you consider that it is estimated that 200 million people worldwide know how to play bridge. How can bridge administrators believe they are performing well when they can only sign up 0.22% of players to play in their tournaments or at affiliated clubs.

The answer is they aren't!

The American Contract Bridge League has recently undertaken a survey and no doubt were very pleased with the following results:

- 45.8 million people were familiar with the game of bridge (Australia would equate to 2.86m)
- 25.1 million people knew how to play bridge (Australia would equate to 1.56m). To put this number in perspective in the United States: in 1940 bridge was played by 47% of women, and 30% of men, which would equate to 123 million versus the 25.1 million estimated above.
- 3.3 million played at least once a week (Australia would equate to 200,000)
- 3.1 million players regularly read bridge columns (Australia would equate to 200,000)
- 41.3% played rubber bridge only (Australia would equate to 85,000)

- 13.2% played duplicate only (Australia would equate to 27,000)
- 45.1% played both (Australia would equate to 93,000)

While these figures look impressive, one must ask why the ACBL has only been able to capture 156,000 registered members and the ABF around 32,000. Interestingly, on a per capita basis the ABF has a 3.5 times higher penetration rate than the ACBL.

Out of interest bridge was learned from:

Friends/Family	87.9%
Instructional Books	13.7%
Bridge Teacher	7.2%
Software	5.3%
Internet	4.2%
Other	5.1%

Respondents could check multiple terms indicating their view that bridge is...

	Total	Age 25-35	Age 55-59
Old-fashioned:	44.7%	61.6%	30.6%
Good for the brain:	25.1%	20.3%	33.9%
Intellectual:	24.6%	24.9%	33.9%
Too tough for me:	18.4%	11.3%	19.4%
Fun:	17.8%	19.2%	15.3%
Addictive:	11.3%	7.9%	8.9%
Trendy:	5.8%	6.2%	4.0%
Greatest card game:	4.1%	1.1%	5.6%

And here again I ask – is bridge relevant today? With 45% of the total and significantly 62% of younger players aged 25-35 saying that it is old-fashioned, what chance do we have to convince non-players that bridge is a great game that they should learn.

In support of this survey note the following comments from the internet:

- I play various games at work during my lunch hour. I've noticed that the easiest games to get other people to play are primarily, short in playtime, simple in terms of rules, and scalable to differing numbers of players. (People come in and out of the games constantly) [*clearly bridge does not qualify on any count here*]
- Bridge is dead, long live hold 'em. Or at least, so it seems. There is one final battlefield where bridge might make its final stand – the ubiquitous scoring card included in almost every deck of cards. As long as this card displays scoring details for bridge, the venerable game will hang in just a little longer. But if the manufacturers of decks of cards begin to take out the bridge score card and replace it with a reference card denoting the poker ladder (as already

happens in decks that are packaged with boxes of poker chips), then the battle will be over, and hold 'em will have achieved an absolute victory over its rival. [*you will note that the recently released Bond Movie, Casino Royale, has substituted poker for what was traditionally a game of bridge*]

With the growth of entrepreneurial for profit clubs around the world, many National Bridge Organisations (NBOs) are increasingly relying on those bridge entrepreneurs to promote and teach bridge, recognising the reality that they are probably more successful than the NBOs in promoting the game. But this has been a two-edged sword, with many of the same clubs moving away from the registration of players seeing very little value in paying for registration and masterpoints to NBOs that are seen to offer very little to their players. Of increasing concern is the move by NBOs to promote online bridge in competition to the very clubs they are constitutionally bound to support.

People *are* learning bridge in reasonable numbers and many believe that the ageing population will turn to bridge as a means of keeping their minds active. But if this is the case why is the average age of tournament bridge players constantly increasing.

Most bridge teachers will tell you that retention rates in excess of 25% would be most acceptable. But given that the game is so besieged with rules, systems, alerting procedure, system cards, not to mention the unacceptable behaviour and attitude of some players at the table; even keeping those that are retained is very difficult. Peter Stocken, Chairman of the English Bridge Union observes: “One of the blights of bridge in the past...has been the bad behaviour of some. God knows, I was guilty of it in my youth. It's normally partners getting at each other, and it's incredibly off-putting.”

A number of well known and colourful bridge personalities have given up bridge in favour of online poker for, among other reasons, the ability to avoid complicated rules and ever-increasing gamesmanship we all see at the bridge table.

An example of how attitudes make the promotion of bridge difficult can be evidenced in this episode when our daughter Danielle went to play in a Saturday evening duplicate at age 12. A pair came in and saw these two youngsters ready to play. They walked out saying “We won't play against children.”

Want an example of why people are often encouraged to look elsewhere for more relaxing pursuits? Then read the paragraph on the next page, taken from the August 2006 edition of *Bridge World Magazine*:

One of the most vigorously debated issues among bridge theoreticians and legalists is: Can a player be penalised for forgetting a partnership agreement?

Would we penalise Tiger Woods for choosing the wrong club, or a cricket team for making a poor decision to declare? Surely wrong decisions in any game or sport, even if through poor memory, are part and parcel of life, yet this is described as the most vigorously debated issue. If only this vigour and energy could be channelled into promoting bridge this article would have different conclusions.

Any discussion of the future of bridge would be incomplete without considering online bridge. There is no doubt that online bridge (note above 4.2% of players learned over the internet and conveniently ignored in the publication of results of the ACBL survey) has a future for the game of bridge, and it may be possible that in the not too distant future more games will be played online than at clubs. While this takes away the social interaction which many of us cherish as part of the bridge experience, it caters to the increasing number of time poor players who are quite happy to play 10 boards or one hour each day than committing to a three hour session plus travel time at a local club.

OK so what is the Stern solution for promoting bridge? I have no quick fixes, but here are some steps that I would take towards solving the problem:

- The World Bridge Federation (WBF) on behalf of its membership should go to a series of five leading marketing and communications companies and pay a nominal fee for their ideas on how to promote bridge, bring it into the 21st century and market it. Select all of the best ideas and commission the ‘winner’ to a two or three year contract to promote bridge through the various NBOs on a global basis where the materials and plans are provided by the WBF. This could cost upwards of \$500,000 and with the limited budget and resources of the WBF (their total assets are in the order of \$US530,000) this may be a difficult ask, but expecting each individual NBOs to come up with the solutions and materials will result in the current situation – precious little being done.
- The WBF must find a way of getting bridge into schools. This is not as easy as it sounds. In one instance when I suggested it to a Catholic School they told me cards were the ‘tickets of the devil’ and no way would they allow cards to be promoted at school. To this end a government lobbyist advised me that any Department of Education would not buy into the idea of bridge in schools unless there is a proven benefit to the students. We all believe that

bridge adds to mathematical and social skills but try proving it. My proposal would be for the WBF to commission a PhD paper to be done on the effects of bridge in schools on the social, mathematical and personal development of children in school. Armed with a positive study every NBO could then have the necessary material to put forward a compelling case to education bodies including schools and universities.

- There is a need to identify a group of people interested in promoting bridge. My experience is that youth bridge has ALWAYS been successful where there is a committed person who takes on the responsibility of a well organised and managed program. An example of this was Dorothy Jesner in Canberra who arranged for bridge playing senior citizens to accompany her to the various schools where she taught and supervise to the extent of having one person at each table. While she was undertaking this program she was receiving phone calls from headmasters inviting her to come to their schools to teach bridge. It was amazingly successful while it was operating but when Dorothy was unable to continue for health reasons the entire program collapsed.
- Invite every registered bridge player to have a friend learn bridge. Add the incentive of a year’s free registration for every recommendation they provide who in turn becomes registered. Let’s get clever and use the vast resources of our membership to gear up a drive for increased membership.

Promoting bridge is not about money, it is about people who have the ideas, and the commitment to see the game grow; they need to be supported with materials, ideas and yes, to some extent money. Don’t make the mistake of underestimating the value of commitment.

Finally, if there are any players or even non-players out there who:

- have ideas for the promotion of bridge
- have time, energy and commitment to promote or teach bridge
- understand how to implement some of the ideas put forward above
- have comments on this article

Give some thought to contacting the ABF, your state association or any of those interested in promoting the future of bridge.

*David Stern,
Sydney*

Kangaroo Capers

Well, you asked for it, so here goes!

In February this year I received a surprise call from Kath Rowan asking if she could stay with us for a few days as she was going to Kangaroo Island on a bridge holiday.

“Yes, on one condition.”

“What’s that?”

“I come with you!”

So Suzie Klinger’s email address was given to me and I negotiated



participation in the holiday. Not having played serious bridge since leaving Bathurst 10 years ago, I phoned Glenelg Bridge Club. Not only did the President, Kevin Clapp, agree to partner me every Monday, but he arranged for one of the top players, Kevin Battersby, to play with me on Fridays.

Along with all the new conventions like ROBE discards, I had plenty to remember, but at least I never forgot that my partner was Kevin! We had a few successes, even using totally different systems - a baptism by fire.

So off to the Island. In the first session, I selected a young, attractive lady to play with (purely on the strength of her potential bridge-playing prowess, of course), and we came second in the Welcome Pairs.

Thus emboldened, I modestly asked Betty Priestley and Doreen Coburn - they seemed to have a sense of humour - if they’d join my team. When I later discovered Betty was a Grand Master, I was amazed at my impudence. But Christina MacQuarrie and I took the lessons from ‘Colonel Klinker’ very seriously, even if he did torture us with his impossible contracts.

Not only that, but the prize books (we also won the “Remarkable Rocks” event!) that I won were avidly devoured at night. Christina even taught me how to reverse. Since I am in possession of a heavy-duty driver’s licence, this was not a serious problem, but it was honestly the first time I’d encountered the term at bridge. I always thought reversing (a trailer) was one of the three things women couldn’t do.

Then I had to learn how to play tennis - that turned



out to mean how to play towards a jack or a king. One guy could manage that: he was a Real Tennis Player.

Then someone had the temerity to ask for our signals. I demonstrated in charade, acting out: digging, pointing to the left of one’s chest, then to one’s ring finger, and fourthly playing golf.

Our team managed to win the first teams session, and it was with trepidation that I approached the second.

All went fairly well, until I completely lost the spade count on the final hand, and went down in an ‘unbeatable’ 3NT! But, fortunately, that wasn’t enough to scuttle our chances, and our we duly carried off the Kangaroo Island Teams Championship.

By good fortune, I have visited Kangaroo Island annually for the past 30 years, and have written a musical, “Shipwrecked Off KI”. I had brought my guitar, so was able to thank my holiday companions appropriately by performing the show. Little did Kath and Christina realise they would have to act out the parts of the Lighthousekeepers’ Wives! Ron rewarded me with an invitation to dinner, which that night included unlimited American River Oysters.

All in all, seven great days added up to a Grand Slam of a week. Thank you, not only to Ron and Suzie, and Director Ed Barnes, but to all the participants. It’s amazing what you can learn in a week’s holiday!

Stuart Partis, Kingston Park, SA

Copy Deadline & Recent Rate Changes

for Issue No 129, January 2008, the copy deadline is:

December 28, 2007

Late submissions will be held over until Issue 130, March 2008 at the discretion of the Editor

Email: editor@abf.com.au

From the September issue, the cost of advertising in the Newsletter rose by a small amount. New costs:

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2008 Summer Festival of Bridge

In 2008 The National Women's Teams returns to Rydges Lakeside Hotel.

The National Seniors' Teams will also be at Rydges Lakeside - so book early for either event as the venue has limited space.

The National Novice Teams and Non-life Masters' Teams will again be at the Hellenic Club in Phillip. These will be great social events and in 2008 the Summer Festival will be giving daily sectional prizes in these events. Don't miss the Welcome Drinks from 6 pm to 7 pm on Tuesday 15 January.

For your transport needs to and from the venues, there will be two 20-seater buses for the exclusive use of players at the Summer Festival. This should make moving between your accommodation and the playing venues a joy.

Once again Phillip College (just across the intersection from the Hellenic Club) have kindly offered to allow our players to use their free car park.

We are proud to announce a new event. Running at the same session times and using the same boards as the Mixed Teams will be the Flighted Swiss Pairs. This event was introduced to cater for those players who would prefer to play a pairs events or need to leave a little earlier on the final Sunday. The Flighted Swiss will finish one match earlier than the Mixed Teams.

Once again the Summer Festival will be offering a Free Partnership Desk service. Your contact for help with partners and teammates is Wendy Boxall. She can be contacted on 0407 331 760 or email robbox@bigpond.net.au

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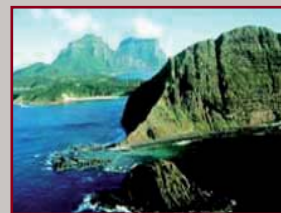
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Classes with Ron Klinger in Perth

From November 12-19 Ron will be holding classes at the following WA bridge clubs: Rosendorff's, Undercroft, South Perth, Melville, Bunbury, Mandurah, West Coast, WABC, Nedlands, South Perth and Rockingham.

Please check your club for date, time and topic.

2007 Australian Swiss Pairs

The renovated Launceston casino complex provided a fine venue for this year's event. There was a large entry of 55 tables, most of whom were from the home state of Tasmania. A large contingent from Melbourne and a smattering of other interstate visitors completed the field. In general, however, the event lacked the depth of talent normally visible in ABF regional events. The Shanghai World Championships clashed with the event's scheduling.

A 10-round Swiss Butler comprising 120 boards was played on Saturday and Sunday. The event was won by Ian Robinson - Jo Haffer. Originally second place saw a tie between Avi Kanetkar - Terry Brown and Jamie Ebery - Leigh Gold, but Kanetkar - Brown were placed second after a countback.

On this hand from Match 4 all participants did well:

West deals, nil vulnerable

♠ 5
♥ Q J 8 7 6 5
♦ 5
♣ J 8 7 6 4

Jeanette Reitzer

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

Ian Robinson

Jo Haffer

♠ 6 2
♥ A K 10 9 2
♦ 9 8 2
♣ K Q 9

Ted Chadwick

West	North	East	South
1♠	3♥	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	5♥
5♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	7♣	Dbl	7♥
Dbl	All Pass		

Result: 7♥ doubled, -500

Average -490, No Swing

In the auction above, Haffer's 4♥ bid showed a value game raise and Ted Chadwick tried the effect of a lead-directing bid of 5♣. Robinson passed (forcing) and then bid 5♠ after Haffer doubled 5♣ and Chadwick corrected to 5♥.

Haffer concluded that Robinson had shown mild interest in slam, and it had to be that he was at least 5-5 in spades and diamonds. He raise to the making 6♠. Chadwick was happy to defend 6♠ but Reitzer had an easy sacrifice in 7♥.

From Match 6:

East deals, nil vulnerable

♠ Q 9 4 3
♥ 8 7 5 2
♦ Q
♣ Q J 8 6

Boris Tencer

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

Ian Robinson

Jo Haffer

♠ K J 8 5
♥ A K J 10 9 3
♦ 9 3
♣ 7

George Gaspar

West	North	East	South
		1♣	1♥
2♦	3♥	Dbl	4♥
5♦	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	6♥	Dbl	All Pass

Haffer's well-judged double of 3♥ was for takeout, showing solid (but not necessarily strong) values. This made it easy for Robinson to freely bid 5♦ and Haffer again judged well to raise to slam. The NS sacrifice cost 800, 6 IMPs to Robinson - Haffer (datum 560 EW).

And Match 8:

North deals, all vulnerable

♠ ---
♥ Q J 9 4 2
♦ A Q 5
♣ A K J 8 5

Avi Kanetkar

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

Jo Haffer

Ian Robinson

♠ Q 5 4
♥ 7 5
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ Q 9 4 2

Terry Brown

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1NT
4♠	5♣	5♠	Dbl
All Pass			

Robinson might have done better to double 5♣ (down two on trump leads) rather than risk 5♠.

Kanetkar started with ♣A,K, ruffed by Haffer. A diamond went to South's 10 and Terry Brown switched

to a small spade.

The absence of a trump switch at trick two convinced Haffer to play South for ♠Q. He inserted a small spade (vital for success). Two diamond ruffs in dummy and two discards on hearts allowed the contract to make for +850 and 12 IMPs to Robinson - Haffer.

Next year the event moves to Hobart – so pack your bags and take your woollies.

Seniors at the World Championships

Bill Haughie – David Lilley (H/L)

Ron Klinger – Zol Nagy (K/N)

John Lester – Gabi Lorentz (L/L)

David Hoffman (NPC)

Day to -5 : In preparation for the championships, a series of BBO matches were played, against the Victorian Open Team, and three against the Cayne team, the latter attracting up to 300 kibitzers, along with a series of tables against a variety of opponents. Hopefully, this will provide a good preparation for the battle ahead.

Days -4 to -2: Team members transit to Shanghai on a variety of flights. Jokingly, I warn team members that Julia and I are flying Chinese Eastern, so if we fail to arrive they will know why. However, the A300, cabin crew and service are all first rate. I spend most of the trip learning the Klinger - Nagy system, which I hope not to have to play with Ron in the Transnationals (the team hopefully making the semi finals). On arrival at Shanghai International, we take the Maglev into Pudong, 35km in seven minutes!

Day -1: Acclimatisation, followed by a team dinner in the hotel. Last to arrive are Ron and Suzie, accompanied by John and Theresa Zhu. John was our allocated local in 1987, when Ron, David and I were here for the Far East Championships. The only change is a promotion from Open to Seniors.

Day 0: All pairs participate in a seven-table tournament, paired with a NZ Open counterpart. It enables them to familiarise with the playing environment. I attend the captains' meeting, where the organisers explain that they are moving to a paperless environment, entering lineups, recording, and result generation. This generates a significant level of apprehension amongst the captains – time will tell if this is well-founded. In the evening, we attend the official opening, followed by a banquet, all efficiently organised. My last duty is to enter the lineup for our first match electronically – it goes well – so far so good for technology.

Day 1: H/L and L/L start against Sweden, winning 18-12 (31-18). Unfortunately, the official record records

a loss of 9-21. The organisers have placed the scoring unit in the Open Room, so access is denied until all teams are finished. Eventually we discover that Sweden make 6♠ in one room and 7♠ in the other!! So much for any consistency in the checking.

David Lilley, with help from the opponents on the last deal produce a rarity, the first lead of diamonds is the 2, and it scores!!

Then Thailand, with K/N and H/L winning 24-6 (63-26). Finally Guadaloupe, K/N and L/L, a high scoring match (59-34) caused partially by our opponents' strategy of playing for slightly anti-percentage lines with some success. However we win 21-9, and lead the event, but this is assessed to be our easiest day.

Day 2: H/L and L/L against Poland produces 17-13 (42-32), K/N and H/L against Germany produces 16-14 (39-36), and K/N and L/L against New Zealand produces another 16-14 (42-37). In this match, we play one grand in a small, two grands in game, and two smalls in game, so we are relieved to get out with a win. The only team with six wins, but we fall to fourth place.

The Chinese National holiday week is now in full flight, making the city vibrant as people pack the area to watch the light show on the river in the evening.

Day 3: Start with K/N and H/L against Canada, the only other undefeated team. In a low-scoring match (20-25) we suffer our first defeat, 14-16. Over half the Canadian IMPs comes when EW hold:

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

Heart competition results in us reaching the unmakeable 6♦, rather than 6♠ which would have resulted in a 20-10 win.

Next is China with K/N and L/L. Another low-scoring match (27-13) which we win 18-12. Again, 12 IMPs are lost when a finesse loses in 6♣.

Finally H/L and L/L take on Italy.

On Board 2 NS hold:

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

The bidding starts 1♦ by South, 1♥ overcall, 1♠, 4♥, 4♠, Pass. Without further investigation, North jumps to 6♠, making, and doubled, costing us 14 IMPs.

This is compensated by us bidding 7♣ with:

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

The contract requires clubs 2-2 or nothing too bad in the red suits. However, this is our only major gain, and we lose 10-20 (20-42). We have slipped to sixth.

Taxis have become nonexistent, so we return to the hotel via the metro, the best I have experienced. Stations and trains are clean and air-conditioned. The magnetic ticketing system is easy to use, and the displays easy to understand.

Day 4: First up is South Africa, last without a win. K/N and H/L lose 11-19 (17-33), our first major setback. In fact South Africa's only other win is against New Zealand, making South Africa the tri-nations winner.

This is followed by Denmark, with L/L and H/L. In a tight match we eke out a 16-14 win (23-19). Unfortunately, a technical infringement costs us a 2 VP fine. We have dropped to seventh, and must finish the day against USA I. L/L and K/N play another tight match to win 18-12 (34-19). Even though we win, we slip to eighth place, only 3 VPs in front of Egypt.

Nagy did well to make 4♥ on Board 15 after the lead of ♣Q:

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

Winning with the ace, he drew trumps in two rounds, then ducked a diamond to South. Endplayed, South tried ♣10, on which Nagy threw a diamond. A club ruff, diamond to the ace, and ♣8 throwing his last diamond. Endplayed for a second time, South had to give up a trick to ♠K, or concede a ruff sluff. Only 4 of the 16 pairs in 4♥ made their contract.

Day 5: With six of the nine teams yet to play below us, and the top three teams already played, the team is still

reasonably placed, but cannot afford any mistakes. First up is Argentina with L/L and H/L. The result is a win 20-10 (43-21). We remain in eighth place, but 9 VPs clear.



H-L: David Lilley - Bill Haughie

Then India, one of the two teams just behind us. L/L and K/N lose 10-20 (27-49) but hang onto eighth spot. Almost all the IMPs come on three boards. On the first, India bids to 6NT with two 5-2 major fits missing the jack in each suit. To make, you must play on the major that breaks 3-3 (both do), otherwise you are down. This is immediately followed by a good diamond grand slam. We bid to the small slam, while India bids a grand slam in spades which requires the suit to break 3-2. Finally, we bid 6♠ off an ace plus king-ten to five in trumps.

The last match for the day is against USA II. K/L and H/L win 18-12 in a very low-scoring match (20-7), keeping us in eighth place, 5 VPs in front of ninth.

Day 6: L/L and K/N start against Brazil, who are lying 10th. The loss 11-19 (10-28) leaves us in eighth place, but with both Brazil and China within 2 VPs. In addition, the top seven teams are looking safe.

Our next match is against France who are in third place. L/L and H/L lose 14-16 (28-32), but we drop out of the top eight for the first time. Finally, Japan with L/L and H/L, winning 16-14 (33-27), and we are now in 10th place, 8 VPs behind eighth.

Day 7: First up is Indonesia, who are second. L/L and H/L lose 7-23 (21-55), our worst result, all but ending our chances. Any lingering hope is extinguished when K/N and H/L lose 7-23 (28-61) to Egypt. A 25-3 (74-21) win against China Hong Kong with K/N and L/L finishes us in 10th place, but 21 VPs from eighth.

Summary:

We all feel disappointed, having been competitive for so long. I have highlighted many of the slam results, where large numbers of IMPs changed hands. While the opponents often were lucky with their choice, there is no doubt that we contributed to our final place as a result of some poor decision-making in the slam zone.

The organisation, after first day problems, ran smoothly. Finally most of us regard Shanghai as one of the most vibrant cities we have visited.

*David Hoffman,
Canberra*

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Linda Stern - 21/05/49 - 19/08/07

Linda Stern was born in London to Sybil and the late Joseph Cornell. The family migrated to New Zealand, where Sybil and elder brother Michael still live. After completing her Diploma of Education, Linda did some teaching in London, then settled in Australia where she met David. They married in 1977 and had two children, Justin and Danielle.

Linda taught primary school at Bellevue Hill. When she gave that up, she and David ran the Double Bay Bridge Centre very successfully for many years. One thing you could rely on when you met Linda: she always had a smile on her face. She was invariably cheerful, warm and friendly and was always quick to congratulate players on their successes.

Both the Cornell and Stern families have a long association with bridge. Michael Cornell has often represented New Zealand and Gerda Stern, David Stern and Robert Grynberg have won many events. Like her brother Michael, Linda enjoyed considerable success in major tournaments. She represented Australia in the 2005 Pacific Asia Women's Teams and competed in the World Transnational Teams. Her national titles include the National Women's Teams, Spring National Women's Teams, Interstate Women's Teams and the Interstate Women's Pairs. Last year she was second in the National Open Teams and this year she won the NOT, the premier event on the Australian calendar.

Linda found the right path to a slam to score a good pickup on this deal from the 2007 NOT Final:

Board 18, West deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 6 2
♥ A Q 6
♦ A 10
♣ A K J 5 4 3

Peter Gill

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

Terry Brown

Phil Gue

♠ K 10
♥ 8
♦ K J 9 8 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 2

Linda Stern

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠ ¹
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4♥ ³	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

1. Minor suit slam try
2. In diamonds
3. Cuebid in support of diamonds

Lead: ♠A

Declarer won the next spade and continued with a diamond to the ace and a diamond to the king for +1370.

The slam was respectable with South declarer to protect ♠K from the opening lead.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Prescott</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Marston</i>
2♥	3NT	4♥	Dbf
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Lead: ♥K

Declarer made 13 tricks for +640, but that was 12 IMPs away.

*May we have a few
real friends rather
than a thousand
acquaintances.*

**Article by Ron Klinger
From the Sydney
Morning Herald**



Editor: The ABF has recently added a 'Topical Notes' section to the webpage, abf.com.au. In this section, we note the recent passing of three other prominent Australian bridge players:

John Arkinstall, a tireless worker for the NSWBA Council for many years, passed away on July 15, 2007, aged 52.

Olek Minc, a prominent Sydney player, passed away on August 1, 2007, aged 82. I would like to have on my bridge tombstone what Don Evans wrote about him in his newspaper column: "Olek Minc is a dangerous and unpredictable opponent".

Tim Seres, widely considered to be the greatest bridge master ever, and Australia's most famous player, passed away on September 27, 2007.

In the January issue, we will be publishing an obituary paying tribute to Tim's mighty contribution to bridge in Australia for more than 40 years.

Bridge into the 21st Century

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE FINAL BID IN THE FOLLOWING AUCTIONS

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1.	1♠ 2♠	Pass Dbl	1NT	Pass
2.	1♠ 2♣	Pass Dbl	1NT	Pass
3.	1♠ Pass	Pass Dbl	1NT	Pass
4.	1♠ Pass	Pass Dbl	2♠	Pass
5.	1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT
6.	1♠	Pass	3♠ ¹	3NT
	1. Bergen, 0-6 HCP, 4 trumps.			
7.	1♠	Pass	3♣ ¹	Dbl
	1. Bergen, 6-9 HCP, 4 trumps.			
8.	1♥ Dbl	Pass	1NT	2♠
9.	1♥ Pass	Pass Pass	1NT Dbl	2♠
10.	1♥	2♥ ¹	Dbl	

1. Michaels, 5 spades + 5 minor.

1. Penalty. You would have doubled 1♠ at your first turn if you had a takeout double of spades. Experts have in common a strong desire to penalise the opponents in partscores, and are on the lookout for opportunities. This is certainly one of those times. The double should show this type of hand:

♠AQJ83, ♥K653, ♦A4, ♣86

Why let the opponents overbid to a foolish contract and go three or four down undoubled. After all, your side may be cold for 3NT.

2. Takeout. This is your first opportunity to double clubs, so the double should be for takeout. The doubler should have something like:

♠K108, ♥AK53, ♦J9853, ♣6

It is important not to allow your opponents to play low-level contracts unopposed with an eight- or nine-card fit.

3. Penalty. With a takeout double of spades North would have doubled 1♠. North figures to hold a hand not good enough for a 1NT overcall, but with well

positioned cards over the 1♠ opener, perhaps:

♠AQ108, ♥A2, ♦J1085, ♣Q108

But you need to discuss this with your partner. Whenever I make a double in this situation my partner bids with a good hand instead of passing.

4. Takeout. Whenever you start to formulate rules, the exception to the rule comes along. Because the opponents have found a 5-3 or 5-4 spade fit, you are unlikely to be able to double them single-handedly for penalties at the two-level. But why didn't you double 1♠ for takeout? You were too weak, despite having ideal shape, perhaps something like:

♠2, ♥AQ107, ♦QJ62, ♣10842.

5. Takeout to the minors. Though some play this as natural, or any two-suiter, it is much more useful as a minor suit takeout, maybe even with a 5-4 holding. The priority is to not allow the opponents to play their eight-card fit at the two level.

6. To play. A close call whether to play the double as takeout for the minors, or to play, with something like:

♠AQ, ♥107, ♦AKQJ62, ♣Q104.

7. Lead-directing. The importance of directing partner to the best lead cannot be overstated. On rare occasions, say not vulnerable versus vulnerable, the double could be construed as a suggestion to save in 5♣, but I have seen many nasty accidents within that scenario.

However, if partner doubled 3♣ and you held

♠632, ♥7, ♦AQ2, ♣Q108642

then you might reasonably decide your opponents are making 4♠, and that 5♣ might either make or be a great save.

8. Takeout. How else can opener ask partner to bid? The double is consistent with

♠2, ♥AQ1086, ♦K862, ♣AQ4

With a strong balanced hand opener can bid 2NT.

9. Penalty-oriented. I would expect South to hold a hand with three good spades, something like:

♠AJ8, ♥74, ♦Q1086, ♣K972

Clearly East won't have a four card spade suit, but the penalties from 2♠ doubled could be quite lucrative.

10. Penalty-oriented. It's important to keep the opponents honest, and double says that you can double at least one of their suits, so future doubles are for penalty.

East might hold something like:

♠AJ98, ♥74, ♦K1086, ♣K97

Paul Lavings
Postfree Bridge Books



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May 26 to June 12, 2008 (18 days)

This will mark our 4th visit to Italy, an itinerary renowned for its superb cuisine and tours off the beaten track. The holiday starts in Venice before moving onto Castel Brando, a 14th century castle situated in the nearby Veneto region where we will be based for 8 nights. We will then visit the largest lake in Italy, Lake Garda, for one night before moving onto Villa San Paolo in San Gimignano, Tuscany for the remainder of our trip. Here we will visit the great cities of Florence and Siena.

I would like to reserve my place for the following tour: please tick Bangkok & Angkor Japan Italy

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Software Review

Bridge Baron 18

Great Game Products - Windows or Mac

The latest release of this popular software has just arrived. The commitment to improving the product is evident in the annual upgrade process – these upgrades are not free, however. Baron came second in the 2007 Computer Bridge Championships, beating Jack in a semi-final – a good indicator of its quality.

The software autoloads easily and quickly, and the opening screen is clear and easy to follow. At this point you should explore the pull-down menus, as it is here that you can change your bidding system or select one of the outstanding arrays of available conventions.

Other game options can also be set here. The four menu choices are – Play; Learn; Compete; and Tools. Under Learn, the options are Challenges (a set of play problems) and Conventions. The latter is a feature which allows you to generate a set of deals to practise a convention of your choice. The programme tells you whether your choice was right or wrong.

Under Compete you can play Tournaments, sets of deals from high level events like the NSW Butler Pairs. After you play each deal, you see your score on a traveller. It is not easy to do well, as the other scores were achieved by experts. Tools incorporate the Deal Library and Deal Generator.

The Play options are online (with other Baron owners) and random deals. The random deals allow you to bid using a simple mouseclick. Baron alerts some bids, but you can find the meaning of any bid with the click of a button. There are also bidding flowcharts which may prove useful. Bids can be retracted, or the whole auction can be repeated.

When the auction concludes, play starts. You are declarer if your side wins the contract. If not, you and your computer partner defend against the Baron pair. After the play your score is shown and you can choose to have Baron replay the deal. If Baron achieves a better score, analysing the bidding and play to see how that happened can possibly improve your own skills.

Baron's skill is not on a par with human experts and it can be defeated, but the general level is high. Beginners will certainly be challenged, and will find many ways in which the software helps them to learn. Overall, this is an outstanding product, for ease of use, presentation, the available options, general play level, and support. It will appeal to a wide range of players from beginners upwards.

John Hardy



John Hardy
Bridge Books
and Software

Books

Points Schmoints <i>Marty Bergen</i>	\$36.30
Improve Your Judgement1: Opening the Bidding <i>Audrey Grant</i>	\$17.60
Improve Your Judgement 2: Doubles <i>Audrey Grant</i>	\$19.80
Advanced Bridge Bidding for the C21 <i>Max Hardy</i>	\$38.50
2/1 Game Forcing: An Introduction <i>Steve Bruno & Max Hardy</i>	\$19.80
Roman Keycard Blackwood <i>Eddie Kantar</i>	\$29.70
The Fun Way to Better Bridge Play <i>Harry Lampert</i>	\$26.40

Software

JACK 4.0 <i>Upgrades from versions 2 and 3 available</i>	\$104.50
Bridge Baron 18 Upgrade to BB18 (old CD required)	\$104.50 \$55.00
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Coaching Cathy at Contract

COVER UP THE SECOND TIME

Esteemed Uncle,

I still don't completely get this business about covering honours with honours. Wouldn't it be nice to have a rule that was simple and worked every time? When you taught me all that stuff about promoting small cards, I thought it was a revelation, but recently the whole business has fallen on stony ground.

What's the good of playing well if the opponents seem to be able to see through the back of the cards?

Cover Up #1

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

Glenda led ♥K against South's 3NT and declarer let her win the first trick, so she switched to a club (ugh!). Declarer played ♣J from dummy and led ♠Q. I covered (did you teach me to do that?) and declarer won with the ace. Next he played ♠9 and ran it! The total of tricks was now 11! No one else made that number.

Cover Up #2

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

South was in 4♠ and Glenda took the first two heart tricks before playing a spade. Declarer drew three rounds of trumps finishing in dummy and played ♦J. Like a good little soldier I covered with the queen. South took her ace and played a diamond towards dummy's ♦10. Glenda got her king but we took no more tricks. Quite a lot of people went off. Why?

Perplexed as always,
 Cathy.

Dear Perplexed,

You have the right idea. As always, covering honours creates the opportunity to promote your partner's cards but timing is important also, because by covering at the right time will reduce declarer's options. In both examples, you have been in the fortunate position of at least seeing what is coming from dummy and the fact that there are two honours that you can cover as opposed to the usual one. It is often harder when declarer leads from hand because you cannot see the cards behind the honour lead.

In the first case, you gain no immediate advantage by covering the first played honour. But look at what happens if declarer holds the first trick with ♠Q. He will no longer be in a position to pick up Glenda's ♠10. If his next move is to lead ♠J, you will now cover, and if he leads low, he will have to play ♠A in order to deal with ♠10.

In the second case, whether partner has ♦K or ♦A (she must have one of them for your side to gain any diamond tricks), you have little to lose by not covering the first time. If declarer has length, your ♦Q9 will become very strong cards and if declarer has something like ♦Kx, you will benefit whenever she guesses incorrectly.

So have we got that covered?

Warmest regards,
David

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What Should I Bid?

Sue Robinson made the best submission:

East deals, EW vulnerable

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

Sue: I opened 5♣. Everyone else passed. I rather suspect my partner thought that my opening bid was rather aggressive. I would be interested in your opinion, please. I was down one for -100.

Peter's Reply: 5♣ looks to be straight out of the textbook. The alternative, if available, is 3NT. This bid, for some, shows a solid minor with nothing significant outside the suit. With a nine-card suit, many experts would choose 5♣ anyway, because of its removal of four of a major from the opponents' opportunities. Note that 4♥ by the opponents cannot be defeated and 5♥ only fails because of the 4-0 heart break.

Regards, Peter Fordham

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Details of our end of year local bridge breaks and holidays will be published in future issues of the ABF Newsletter.

Bridge enquiries welcome contact John Newman:



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Congresses and ABF Events

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Contact: Lyn Graham bbclub@internode.on.net

November 30 - December 3

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) Finals
Club Banora, Tweed Heads
Contact: secretariat@netspeed.com.au

December 7-9

Australian Youth Triathlon
Bayside Bridge Centre, Rose Bay, Sydney
Contact W Jenner O'Shea: wjosh@hotmail.com

December 7-11

ASEAN Bridge Clubs Championships
Makati City, Philippines
Website: www.Aseanbridge2007.com

January 14-28

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or email not@abf.com.au for further details

February 23 - March 3

2008 Gold Coast Congress, Broadbeach
See advertisement on next page
Website: www.qldbridge.com/gcc/

Clubs: In order for your events to be shown here you *must* email editor@abf.com.au for inclusion.

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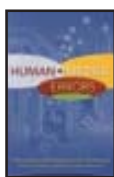
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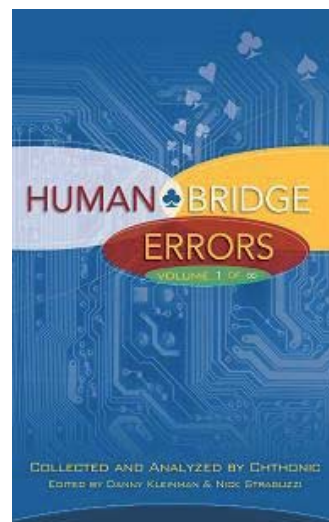
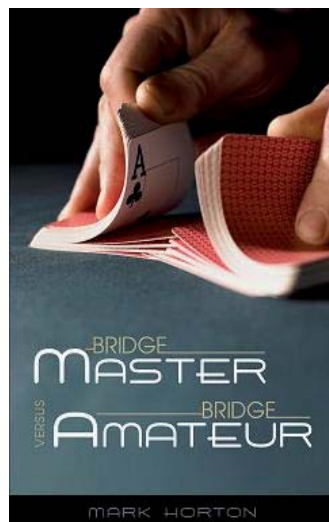
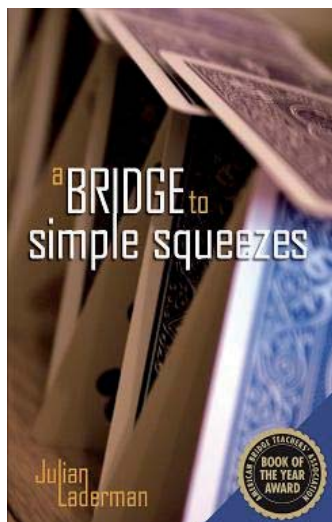
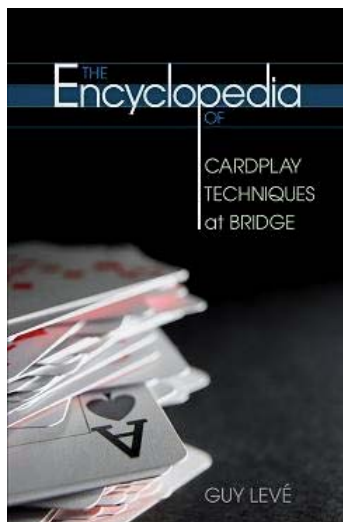
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