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NOW TELL ME THIS ISN'T THE BEST BRIDGE VENUE IMAGINABLE



One of the most common complaints at bridge tournaments is about the playing area. This tournament is truly blessed in having playing conditions that I regard are among the best imaginable. The lighting, air-conditioning, high ceilings, extensive doors to allow players to enter and leave without crowding as well as the spacious corridors, smoking areas, coffee and food outlets make it just superb.

MEET THE PLAYERS – JOE GRUE



I first met Joe Grue at the Cavendish in Las Vegas when, in 2001 I first started going to what has become my favourite tournament. Given that he is now 27 years old that would have made him quite young then. Joe has been a livewire on the American and international bridge landscape for around 8 years now having won three World Junior Championships and two US National tournaments. He admits that he does better at pairs than teams.

He has come to Australia to compete in the Yeh Cup finishing in third place in this

incredibly prestigious tournament and collecting his share of \$US12,000 prize money.

My interest in youth bridge as the future of the game is reasonably well known so I was delighted to see Joe and his team mates specifically ask a junior pair to join their world class team for the Gold Coast tournament. It also allowed me time to interview him for this article.

Joe grew up in Minnesota in what is regarded as Middle America. Like almost everybody we interview he learned bridge at home growing up with a bridge playing grandmother and bridge parents but points out that he was the only one of his three bridge siblings to take up the game. He often competed in Sectional and Regional tournaments (think congresses) with pleasing results.

At age twenty, around 2000 he moved to New York with the intention of joining what was a growing list of bridge players who were making their fortunes by trading options.

He played high stake rubber bridge for three months before broaching the possibility of options trading and soon found out that the timing was bad and he was not convinced that it was for him anyway.

He continued to play high stakes rubber bridge (upwards of \$US10 per hundred) crediting the 100+ hands he played each and every day for his solid bridge training.

He separates his social and bridge life by only playing outside of New York where he still lives in a nine bedroom brownstone (think terrace house) where most of the occupants are bridge players and their friends so his personal life as well as his professional life is very much about the game.

He has had two serious bridge partnerships firstly with John Kranyak, another youth bridge prodigy and more recently with his current partner Curtis Cheek. He and Curtis are in great demand by the sponsors in the USA based on their results, solid partnership, team ethic and the work they put into their game.

The sponsorship scene in the USA is exceptionally strong, in fact so strong that most bridge professionals are reluctant to sign up for more than one year due to the steady increase in pay rates. Joe describes the scene as 'musical chairs' where reasonable professionals can earn upwards of \$US100,000 per annum but I guess job security is not all that strong. Hey in the current GFC landscape perhaps it is more secure than other lines of work. Joe reports that the market has not YET been affected by the GFC but is wary of that possibility.

There are basically two types of professionals in the USA, those paid to play with their regular partner and those who play with the sponsors. Joe counts himself very lucky that

he is able to play with Curtis but even when there are pairs events he takes the opportunity to play with Curtis to tune up their game.

Joe confesses that he never reads bridge books but feels that his basic instincts and experience are what keeps him at the top of the game. While, as a professional he has limited say in who his team mates are, he counts himself very lucky to have constantly had team mates whom he enjoys playing as well as socialising with – something which he considers important in achieving results.

His long terms plans are to continue as a bridge professional although he dabbles in Poker confessing to being a mediocre online player and a much better face-to-face player. He shares my love for the game of Backgammon which isn't very popular these days (Joe I'll bring my BG set next year)

Some things he says about his tournament life – he generally doesn't drink until the end of play and even then in moderation. While he plays tennis and concedes that fitness in bridge is under-rated he is not as fit as he would like to be. He generally has a 'fast-food' dinner rather than a more formal meal to enable him to have a nap between session to re-energise himself.

About the Gold Coast Congress he says he loves being here, so close to sun, sand, venue and a fiercely contested teams event and is tentatively planning a return next year. His next tournament is the US Nationals which starts next week in Houston where he plays with Curtis Cheek, Mike Passell, Carolyn Lynch, Bart Bramley and Eddie Wold.

Finally his tips to improve your game are:

- play a lot
- pay attention to the little things – he admits to often missing spot cards in the early tricks which often prove very costly
- take you time to play to trick one
- be a good partner (a common theme among our interviewees)

MORE TALES OF WOE

TMS 9 BD 10	♠ 9	
Dealer: East	♥ Q 9 5	
Vul: All	♦ Q J	
	♣ A J 10 9 4 3 2	
♠ K 8 7 3		♠ Q J 10 6 5
♥ K J 10 8 6		♥ A
♦ K 8 7		♦ A 10 9 4 3
♣ K		♣ 8 6
	♠ A 4 2	
	♥ 7 4 3 2	
	♦ 6 5 2	
	♣ Q 7 5	

Terry Potter reports this hand from the Teams along a line similar to the 1-1 fit earlier in the week.

East opened 1♠ and west responded 3NT. In their system this showed an unspecified singleton in support of spades. East, having forgotten the system and there they played it. North divined to lead the ♣A with the expected result of down 4 and -400 against a possible +650.

Terry reports that he and partner are still speaking

GET YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT

Fire alarm goes off in the apartment block in Broadbeach and when the all clear is given a player returning to the room says "that's lucky" I would have had to go to bridge in my swimmers. No problem says partner as long as we have our system cards.

SOME TITLES DECIDED

NOVICE



Edwina Willis, Desley Mundell,
Rhonda Dean and Mearon Geldard defeated

Margaret Pisko, Sonya & Shayne
Palfreyman and Lynne Saint-James

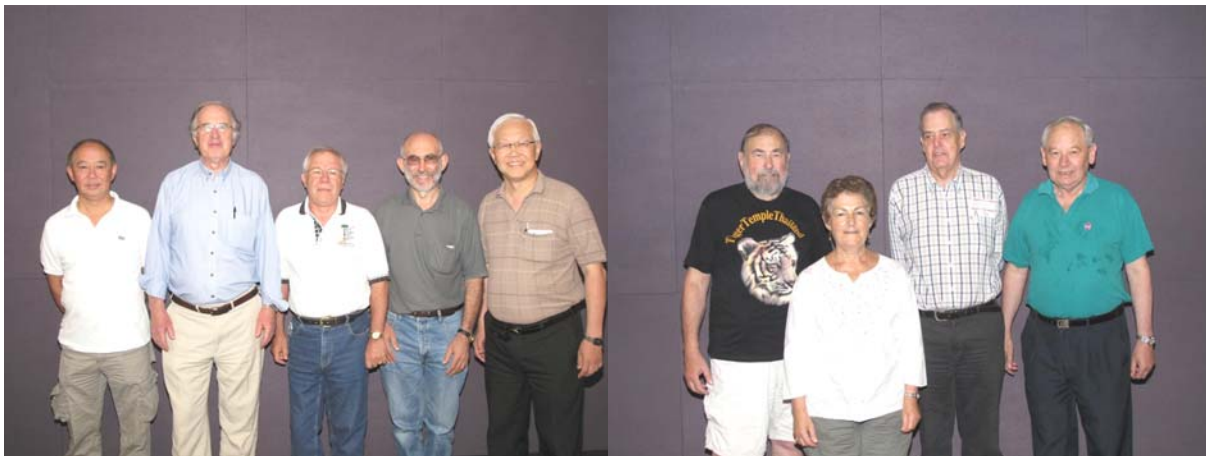
RESTRICTED



Bruce and Bev Crossman,
Elainne Leach and Bas Bolt defeated

Joe and Racheline Barda
Peter Campbell and Daryo Muraben

SENIORS



Jessie Chan, Roger Januske
John Puskas, John Zollo and Peter Chan defeated

Richard and Rita Kahn,
Tom Strong and Arie Meydan

SEE YOU AND RAISE YOU – MORE PARTNERSHIP (MIS)-UNDERSTANDING

TMS 10 BD 23 ♠ 9 7 4
 Dealer: South ♥ Q 5
 Vul: All ♦ A K J 7 4
 ♣ K 5 4

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

♠ 10 3
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ Q 10 8 5 2
 ♣ 10 9 6 3

Patricia Larsen sent me an email reporting this hand.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass!	2NT
Pass	3NT	D'ble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South intended 2NT as a transfer to diamonds and it isn't clear whether north understood this but being maximum elected to bid 3NT. East could contain himself no

longer decided to make a less than speculative double.

The defence was merciless taking five spades, five hearts and three clubs after declarer pitched clubs from dummy taking all 13 tricks. Patricia reports this as -2600 can anybody top that score for this tournament. They all laughed and again it is reported North/South are still talking to each other.

MULTI TASKING

Because I am often working on a few different things at once while watching or commentating on BBO I have the sound turned on so I can 'listen' to what is happening. So it was while I was writing the bulletin and heard "someone brought out the goulash dealer". For those who have not been fortunate to play Goulash, this is a form of bridge where players sort their hands into suits the hands are then stacked onto each other and dealt 3, 4 or 5 cards at a time. Eight cards suit breaking 5-0-0 around the table are common and bidding is a very dangerous pursuit. Here is the hand.

Dealer: West	♠ A J 5	West	North	East	South
Vul: N/S	♥ 10 5	Bakkeren	Yamada	Bertens	Ohno
	♦ 10 4	1♦	2♣	4♥	All Pass
	♣ K J 10 6 3 2				
♠ K 9 8		West	North	East	South
♥ ---	♠ 10 4	Hirata	Hackett	Ino	Hirst
♦ A K 9 8 6 5 3	♥ K Q J 9 8 7 4 2	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
♣ A 8 7	♦ Q	2♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass
	♣ Q 5				
	♠ Q 7 6 3 2				
	♥ A 6 3				
	♦ J 7 2				
	♣ 9 4				

Although not totally comparable I very much like the second action as it allows East to discount any possibility of slam before giving the hand away.

In the same match the Dutch pair of Bakkeren and Bertens showed the form which earned them the Yeh Cup title last week on this well bid hand.

Dealer: West	♠ Q J 5	West	North	East	South
Vul: All	♥ Q 10 8 4	Bakkeren	Yamada	Bertens	Ohno
	♦ 4 2	1♦		2♦	
	♣ 9 8 6 2	2♥		2♠	
♠ K 9		3♣		4♣	
♥ A J 7	♠ A 7 3	4♥		4♠	
♦ A K J 8 7 6	♥ 5 3	5♦		6♦	
♣ K 3	♦ 10 9 5 3				
	♣ A 7 5 4				
	♠ 10 8 6 4 2	Hirata	Hackett	Ino	Hirst
	♥ K 9 6 2	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
	♦ Q	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
	♣ Q J 10				

I am not sure of whether their methods led to the 1♦ opening rather than the 2NT opening but on this hand it proved to be a clear winner leading to a 12 imp swing after the various cue bids allowed the Dutch to assess that they held a lot of sharp aces and kings on the hand.

On this hand West, Hirata and Bakkeren were both faced with very tough decisions. Bakkeren got it right but Hirata collected the money.

Dealer: East	♠ ---	West	North	East	South
Vul: All	♥ 10 2	Hirata	Hackett	Ino	Hirst
	♦ 8 5 3			1♥	1NT
	♣ Q J 9 8 6 5 3 2	2♠	2NT	4♠	Pass
♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 5		Pass	5♣	Double	Pass
♥ K 9 3	♠ A 6 4 2	5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ J 7 2	♥ A 8 7 6 5				
♣ ---	♦ A 10	Bakkeren Yamada	Bertens	Ohno	
	♣ K 4		1♥	1NT	
	♠ K 3	2♠	2NT	4♠	Pass
	♥ Q J 4	Pass	5♣	Double	All Pass
	♦ K Q 9 6 4				
	♣ A 10 7				

With identical auctions up to the double for 5♣, Bakkeren decided to leave the double in and trust partner while Hirata felt that it may have been too close either way – perhaps 5♣ could make but more importantly perhaps 5♠ could make for them and so he removed the double. The defence slipped when north led a diamond ducked to south’s queen who then tried the ♣A allowing declarer to later pitch his heart loser on the ♣K. The Japanese Seniors Team went on to win the match and advance to the semi-finals.

A WORLD CHAMPION PUT TO THE TEST

I was helping set up the BBO for the first board of the semi-final between McGann and the much fancied Cayne team when what most commentators saw as an error by declarer. I dug deeper – something I do when I see a World Champion accused of making a technical error.

Dealer: North	♠ 9 4	West	North	East	South
Vul: Nil	♥ A J 10 6 5	Cayne	Apteker	Seamon	Gower
	♦ J 9 7 3		Pass	3NT	Pass
	♣ A 5	Pass	Pass		
♠ A Q 10 8 7					
♥ K 9 4	♠ 5				
♦ A 2	♥ 3				
♣ Q 8 3	♦ K 10 6 5				
	♣ K J 10 9 7 6 4				
	♠ K J 6 3 2				
	♥ Q 8 7 2				
	♦ Q 8 4				
	♣ 2				

Michael Seamon’s 3NT opening was ‘NAMYATS’ showing a 4♣ or 4♦ pre-empt. The benefit of this is that it reserves 4♣ and 4♦ openings to show better types of 4♥ or 4♠ bids. Nobody had too much to say about this. I saw north, Alon Apteker from South Africa stroking the ♠K and place it on the end of his hand. I commented on BBO that this lead would be fatal. He then placed it back into his hand and led the ♠6. Now what are declarer’s realistic chances? If south has just one entry and the ♥A is offside he will certainly go down but any time the ♥A is onside the contract is safe – certainly a better chance than playing south not to have ♥A and hold the ♠K as well. I think Seamon played it perfectly. Lucky you didn’t see me start writing this article on a technical error by a World Champion and watch it morph into a ‘well played’. Anyway minus 13 imps for his troubles.

PARTNERSHIP UNDERSTANDING PART 2

Earlier in the week you may recall my quiz on what agreements you had with partner – try these few.

N	E	S	W	
	[1♦]	1♠	[P]	NF, invite ORF _____ NF, weak _____
2♣				
	[1♦]	1♥	[P]	NF, invite ORF _____ NF, weak _____ 4+♠ or 5+♠ _____
1♠				
	[1♠]	2♥	[P]	NF, invite ORF _____ NF, weak GF _____
3♣				
	[1♠]	2♥	[P]	NF, invite ORF _____ NF, weak _____
3♥				
	[1♠]	2♥	[2♠]	NF, weak ORF _____ NF, invite GF _____ Denies H support _____ May have H support _____ Guarantees H support _____
3♣				
	[1♦]	1♠	[P]	Does this promise extras _____ Does it promise 4+♥ _____
2♦	P	2♥		
	[1♦]	1♠	[P]	Can North pass _____
2♦				
	[P]	2♠		NF ORF _____ Extra S length? _____
2♦				
	[1♣]	1♠	P	NF, invite ORF _____ NF, weakish _____
2♦	[P]	2♠		
	[1♣]	1♠	[P]	Is this a cue bid _____ If Yes, is it ORF _____ GF _____ Does it show H support _____
2♥	[P]	3♣		
	[1♦]	1♥	[P]	Can South pass 3♣ _____
1♠	[P]	2♠	[P]	What kind of hand _____
3♣				
	[1♦]	1♥	[P]	What kind of hand _____
2♠				
	[1♣]	1♠	[P]	Pre-emptive _____ Limit _____ Distributional limit _____ Minors or Strong 2-suiter _____
3♠				
	[1NT]	2NT		
	[1♠]	P	[P]	2 lower suits _____ Natural HCP _____
2NT				
	[1♦]	P	[P]	Style points and length _____
2♠				

MANY THANKS

Rena Kaplan

I have been lucky enough to have played bridge throughout the world including World Championships, US Nationals and all Australian National events. I have never played in an event that has been so well organized at every level.

The organization, staff, scoring and facilities are the best. I must congratulate Therese and her team for a superb tournament. From the information desk who are not only helpful but always friendly, the caddies are amazing, particularly our own caddie, Melissa, and even Kim never loses her cool. Of course the directors, floor managers and scorers are simply the best and the bulletin is always a pleasure to read.

I felt acknowledgement was essential. To have organized the Yeh Bros followed by the GCC must have taken a huge toll on all involved and as a player, I am in awe of all of you.

ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL WHEN IT COMES TO BRIDGE

Paul Marston

The right play in one situation may be quite wrong in another. Try your hand at 4♥ here.

Dealer: North	♠ J 8 5	West	North	East	South
Vul: N/S	♥ A 7 4		1♣	Pass	1♥
	♦ 9 6	1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥
	♣ A K Q 8 2	Pass	Pass	Pass	
	♠ 10 6				
	♥ K Q 10 5 2				
	♦ A Q 2				
	♣ 10 9 4				

Partner did the right thing in supporting your hearts. A single raise in a major never promises more than three card support in the modern game.

West fires out the ♠A K Q while East follows suit. You trump the third round and ponder your next move.

There is no problem if you can draw trumps and run clubs. If clubs don't break you can always try the diamond finesse. So South set about drawing trumps. In isolation, the correct play in hearts is to play ♥K and a heart to the ace, so that if West shows out you can finesse against East's jack.

Dealer: North	♠ J 8 5		
Vul: N/S	♥ A 7 4		
	♦ 9 6		
	♣ A K Q 8 2		
♠ A K Q 7 3		♠ 9 4 2	
♥ J 9 8 3		♥ 6	
♦ K 7		♦ J 10 8 5 4 3	
♣ 10 3		♣ J 8 5	
	♠ 10 6		
	♥ K Q 10 5 2		
	♦ A Q 2		
	♣ 10 9 4		

South played this way at the table but on a heart to the ace, East showed out and he was in trouble. He tried to run the clubs but West trumped the third round and exited with his last trump, leaving declarer stuck in hand.

He was lucky to get out for one down when the ♦K came down doubleton.

Declarer can do better. In this case declarer needs to keep entries to that fine club suit and he can afford a heart loser. Therefore, he should reject the normal play in hearts and play

the king-queen first. When East shows out on the second round declarer reverts to clubs. West can trump the third round like before, but now ♥A remains as an entry to the last two winning clubs.

If West shows out of hearts, not East, declarer loses a heart trick that could have been avoided but he still makes his contract and that's what counts.

MIGRY CAMPANILE AROUND THE WORLD IN 52 CARDS

I received quite a few positive comments about the earlier article by Israeli player Migry Campanile so I take this opportunity to make a second offering.

If you are still unsure as to where to travel for your next holiday, take my advice and go to Japan. Only two months have gone by since my visit there to play in the NEC Cup and never before have I experienced such warm hospitality by people who, despite having often only a tenuous command of English, would go overboard trying to be friendly and helpful while sporting an honest and disarming smile, the kind of smile which is a very distant cousin of the fake "commercial" version that most of us westerners have sadly become familiar with.

After a first week in Yokohama where the tournament was taking place during which, due to our success in the competition and ensuing lack of bridge-free days, we had very little chance to do sight-seeing, we travelled to Kyoto on the famous bullet-train: 2 hours and 620kms later we got to our destination!

If cities like Venice and Paris demand to be explored on foot so that their sights, sounds, smells, and textures be savoured to the fullest, then the same is true for Kyoto. The delicate beauty of cherry blossoms, the resonant echo of a temple bell, the uniquely Japanese aroma of soy and sake, and the sensual caress of a silk kimono on a beautifully made-up geisha, all experienced on a day's walk, all contribute to convey the legacy of this ancient culture and its sharp contrast with the hyper-modern, gadget freak society which thrives around it.

I thoroughly enjoyed my stay there, despite experiencing in Kyoto what undoubtedly qualifies as the latest entry in the top ten most embarrassing "Migry moments". After a long hard day of temple sight-seeing, we started looking for a nice restaurant to grace with our patronage. Since our Japanese was non-existent, we usually had to rely for our choice on a careful scrutiny of the life-size plastic replica dishes, which most restaurants place in their window for the benefit of tourists. After some strongly voiced complaints from our stomachs, we cut short the selection process and we entered a typical Japanese mix-and-match restaurant offering a broad variety of local cuisine: sushi, sashimi, tempura, yakitori and so on. To our amazement the owner spoke a little bit of English and assisted us in selecting the food. In a lull between the different courses, I set my eyes on the large aquarium placed in a corner of the restaurant and its colourful population of grey jelly-like fishes; the owner suggested that we try one of the squids as sashimi (meaning uncooked), I enthusiastically agreed and he proceeded to fish one and gave it to chef to prepare. Five minutes later, a beautifully garnished squid was served to us on a bed of sea-weed: it looked really yummy and I deftly stuck my chopsticks in to get a first morsel when, upon being touched, the squid turned its head and waved its tendrils at me!!! I gave the most heart-curdling shriek ever heard in the land of the rising sun and screamed: "Kill it! Kill it! I want it dead!". This seemed to cause much merriment and laughter among staff and guests alike. Eventually my red faced self was presented by a grinning waiter with half a squid sashimi and half a squid tempura (fried). It was actually delicious but it took me some time to get back to the "eating mode" and enjoy it, besides I had to finish it alone since my husband steadfastly declined to partake of any of it alleging that Italian customs forbid eating a dish which only shortly before had the good manners of greeting him.

In the last day of the NEC event I took part to the two sessions Asuka Pairs Cup together with Michael Barel, whom I introduced to you last month. In a top-bottom event one should always look for that little extra to bring in a good score even when playing what on the surface may appear like a dull board. The following hand is a typical example (board rotated for convenience):

Dealer: East	♠ Q 10 6 4	West	North	East	South
Vul: E/W	♥ 8	Hosoda	Barel	Kunitomo	Migry
	♦ A 6 5 2			Pass	1♦
	♣ A K J 9	1♥	Double	Pass	1NT
		Pass	3NT		
	♠ A 7 2	Lead ♥Q			
	♥ K 5 4				
	♦ K J 10 8 7				
	♣ 6 4				

I took the lead with ♥K, East playing the ♥9 (standard carding) and I immediately tested the diamonds playing low to the ♦A and a diamond down, with the ♦Q mercifully showing up on my right saving me a nasty guess on the layout of the suit.

It looks like there are nine easy tricks with the chance of a tenth resting on the club finesse. Can you see an alternative plan?

I am not fond of finesses: like many players I know, I have a feeling that 50-50 may well be the advertised odds but in my case they always seem to shrink to 30-70 if not worse.

Here I decided to find out first a bit more about the distribution before committing myself to a club guess, so I continued with a third round of diamonds, West pitching a club and East pitching a heart. The club pitch from West was worth some analysis: he was marked with five hearts (if East's Hx9 was to be trusted) and I had seen two diamonds and that would leave him six black cards, with a high chance of one of them being the ♠K or the ♣Q because of the vulnerable 1♥ overcall. Since West was highly unlikely to pitch a club even from a holding of ♣Q-x-x-x, the chances of the club finesse working looked remote.

Therefore I continued with the two top clubs, both opponents following, and cashed my two remaining diamonds, both West and East pitching a heart and a spade. According to the discards West was left with three top hearts and two spades (or four hearts and a spade if East had made an unlikely false-card at trick one), in both cases I could not possibly lose anything by exiting with a heart. If West had the ♠K he would now be end-played in spades, after cashing his top hearts. As you can see from the layout, that was indeed the case and 630 brought almost a 90% score on the board.

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

In the evening, when the daily bulletin was released I was amused to see that Brian Senior, the well known English expert, was credited with the same score on a very similar line but after opening a weak no trump in South and with West overcalling in hearts, the only difference being that his skilful play was rewarded with an article in the bulletin while mine wasn't....well not until now!!

MORE THANKS

This Bulletin is the 'property' of the players it is there for their information and entertainment. While one style may not fit all I am hoping one style fits many. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Bulletin by dropping articles in my submissions box. I was particularly heartened by the increasing number of those which come from teams not seated in the lower numbered tables. I hope to be back next year for another round of doing something which I really enjoy (don't tell that to the organisers ahead of my negotiating my fees).

BOLS BRIDGE TIP

Pietro Forquet - Count the opponents' hands, but...

I really enjoyed recounting yesterday's tip from Pietro Forquet so thought I would dig out another one.

How many times have you heard the excuse, 'Sorry, partner, if I'd guessed correctly I'd have made the contract'? And how many times was this so-called 'unlucky guess' truly unlucky? For example, take a look at a hand that my partner played in a recent pairs event:

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

We reached the good contract of 6♠ and West led his singleton club. East played the nine, forcing declarer's ace and declarer continued with three rounds of trumps, ending in his own hand. Crossing to dummy with the ace of diamonds, he took the successful heart finesse. Next he cashed the ace of hearts, dropping East's queen.

My partner had now, as they say, reached the crossroads. The contract was guaranteed (he could count on five trump tricks, three hearts and four top cards in the minor suits), but the overtrick hinged on 'guessing' the heart position. Had East started life with the doubleton queen? Or did he have Q-10-4 initially, in which case the false-card of the queen would have been mandatory on the second round? As this was a pairs event the overtrick was, of course, vital and my partner spent a good deal of time pondering his choice. In the end he played a heart to the king, hoping to drop the ten, and made only twelve tricks.

'Sorry, partner,' he said, and explained that if he had taken the finesse for the ten, and it had failed, he would have gone down in Six Spades, having no further entry to dummy. At this point I gave him half of my tip: count the opponents' hands!

He should have won the third round of trumps in dummy, and then taken the heart finesse. With twelve tricks in the bag, he could now set about obtaining the vital count by playing out three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third round. The king of clubs comes next, the play to this trick revealing West's distribution: two spades, six diamonds, one club and therefore four hearts. Declarer can now finesse dummy's nine of hearts for a certain overtrick and a much better score on the board.

Now we come to the second half of my tip, and it, too, has a story behind it. I was recently playing rubber bridge with my wife, who sometimes accuses me with considerable emotion (but, in my opinion, very little justice) of taking a superior attitude toward her at the table. In consequence, she says, I fail to concentrate fully – and here she may be nearer the truth, as the reader may judge from a hand I played that evening in 6NT.

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

I was in 6NT and West, who had opened the bidding with Three Hearts, duly led the king of hearts. East discarded a diamond and I won with the ace, continuing with five rounds of clubs.

West and dummy each discarded two hearts and East parted with two small diamonds. I cashed the ace-king of spades and all followed.

Now, I am a consistent fellow and follow the advice I give to others, so at this point I applied the first part of my BOLS bridge tip and started counting the opponents' hands. West had started with seven hearts, three clubs and at least two spades. His thirteenth card was either a spade or a diamond. If it was a spade, the diamond finesse through East was a mathematical certainty; while if West held a diamond, the odds were seven to one that his diamond was not the queen. Armed with this analysis, I led a diamond from dummy, finessed the jack ... and went down four.

'Sorry, partner,' I said, trying to make the best of it. 'With the diamonds 7-1, you must admit I was unlucky to find the singleton queen in West's hand.'

'Down four?' said my wife.

'Yeah, an unlucky hand,' I said, hoping she'd failed to notice my error. (Have you seen it?)

'Wouldn't it have been better to endplay East with the fourth round of spades?' she asked.

'Sure, I could have,' I replied, 'but it wouldn't have helped. If East held the queen of diamonds, and exited with a low one, the suit would have been blocked.' (I was beginning to realise she'd seen my mistake.)

'Blocked? How can that be? I would have cashed the king of diamonds instead of taking that silly finesse. If West showed out, that would mean the spades were 3-3 and there would be twelve tricks on top. If West followed with a small diamond, I would simply cash the queen of spades and lead dummy's last spade, discarding the jack of diamonds on it. East would then have to lead into dummy's ace-ten of diamonds at the end.'

As you see, my wife was quite right, and it is to her that I am indebted for the completion of my BOLS Bridge Tip: Count the opponents' hands, but when you have counted them, play intelligently.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Saturday
07-Mar-09

10:30
Ivy Dahler
Swiss Pairs
Matches
7 & 8 & 9 of 9

09:30
Teams
Championship
Final
Open

10:30
Walk-In Pairs
Walk-In Teams

20:00
Dinner Dance

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OK I GO ALL IN – MORE PARTNERSHIP (MIS)-UNDERSTANDING

MT R3 BD 20
Dealer: West
Vul: All

♠ K 5
♥ K 9 4
♦ A 9 7 5 4
♣ K J 2

♠ 7 6
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ 10
♣ Q 10 8 7 5 3

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

West North East South
Pass 1NT Double 2♥
Pass Pass Pass

Clearly North thought system off

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

3♣ was intended as a fit showing jump

This is a fundamental auction that needs to be discussed. What further interested me about this hand was an anonymous note in my submissions box asking just how 4♥ can be beaten. It seems that declarer only loses one spade, one diamond and one club. But look what happens on a spade lead – declarer can't get to dummy without north scoring a spade over-ruff. On any other lead declarer can knock out the ♦A and pitch a spade loser on a diamond.

I'm sitting at a restaurant at 9:00pm Friday night. The bulletin must come in multiples of four pages and what do I have 14. My brain is dead so I apologise for digging out an old article of mine to fill the missing two pages.

TECHIQUE TECHNIQUE TECHNIQUE

Here's a hand from "On the Other Hand," by Martin Hoffman and Kathie Wei-Sender (published by C&T, 1994 – contact Paul Lavings or the Bridge Shop to order).

Dealer: South ♠ Q 10 2
 Vul: Nil ♥ A K 9 7 6
 ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ 10 3

♠ A 3
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A K Q J 10 9
 ♣ K Q 9 6

North-South got to six diamonds after South opened with one diamond and North responded with one heart, and East overcalled one spade. West led a spade and dummy's ten was covered by the jack and won with the ace. Suppose declarer plays a high diamond, East showing out, and then the ace-king of hearts, throwing away his spade, while East follows with the ♥2 and jack. Now what?

First of all, declarer should work out that if East has five clubs, the contract is doomed. Even if declarer plays a club from dummy and East kindly pops ace, declarer would still need to ruff a club (unless West began with jack-doubleton), and if West has only two clubs, he'll be able to ruff in front of dummy with his ♦8.

Therefore, we assume the clubs are divided 4-3. On the bidding, we assume East has the ace of clubs. If we think East has A-J-x-x, we can play a club to the nine; if we think West has J-x-x, we can play a club to the king, and then the ♣Q. East wins, declarer ruffs the return, and then the ♣6 is ruffed in dummy. In the hoped-for scenario, West will follow with the jack and declarer can claim. This also works when West started with J-x-x-x, because declarer will be able to ruff all his clubs.

Therefore, a club to the king followed by the queen of clubs appears to be the better play.

Can you give yourself an extra edge?

A player who has good technique will think about all of this before playing the hearts. He will try to get some help from the opponents before making his club guess. Therefore, he will play, in tempo, the ace-king of hearts, and then the ten of clubs. If East ducks smoothly, no problem, declarer should play West for the ♣J. But sometimes East, with A-J-x-x, will stop and think over the ♣10. He may even cover, in case you hold K-Q-x-x without the 9. If he stops and thinks, he is almost surely not holding A-x-x-x, where he would have every reason to play low in tempo. This is completely fair and ethical; part of becoming a good player is being able to gain from opposition information when declaring, and being able to give none away when defending. For the record, the whole hand was:

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

From the Email Box: Hi Matthew and Pamela: Hope I can ask a quick question between bridge sessions. I'm looking for an interpretation of the double in the following sequence:

1X	Pass	1Y	Pass	and	1X	Pass	1Y	Pass
1NT	Double				1NT	Pass	Pass	Double

The first double is a takeout double for the two unbid suits. For example, suppose you picked up

♠ x x ♥ A K J x ♦ x x ♣ A x x x x.

It goes 1♦ on your right, so you can overcall a four-card heart suit, or you can pass. Suppose you pass, which is the recommended call (who knows, sometimes they even play in hearts in these situations). Then it

goes 1♠ on your left, pass, 1NT on your right. You now have the perfect shape for a takeout double, showing hearts and clubs, the two unbid suits.

In the second example, you already had a chance to double for the two unbid suits, and you didn't. So your double of 1NT means that you have dummy's suit locked up and you'd like partner to lead it. For example, you hold ♠ Q x x ♥ x x ♦ K Q J 9 8 ♣ A x x. The bidding goes 1♣-pass-1♦-pass; 1NT-pass-pass-double. This double means you want a diamond lead. We once got 1100 against Gabriel Chagas at the Cavendish Pairs because of this understanding. If you're lucky, the whole hand will be something like this:

	♠ 9 x x	
	♥ Q x x x	
	♦ A 10 x x	
	♣ Q x	
♠ A J 10 x		♠ Q x x
♥ J 9 x x		♥ x x
♦ x		♦ K Q J x x
♣ 10 9 x x		♣ A x x
	♠ K 8 x	
	♥ A K 10	
	♦ x x x	
	♣ K J x x	

West leads a diamond, and your side ends up with four diamonds, four spades and the ace of clubs, for down three and a top. Notice that without your double, West will probably lead a spade. Declarer will take one spade, three hearts, one diamond, and two clubs, making one.

If West leads a heart, declarer wins the ten and unblocks the hearts, and plays a club to the queen. It looks like East should duck, but nothing will help. Even if East ducks, wins the second club, plays two high diamonds (declarer winning the second round and cashing his queen of hearts), and puts up his queen of spades when declarer plays a spade off the board, declarer covers the spade and still ends up making his contract (losing four spades, a diamond and a club). If East doesn't pop his queen of spades, declarer will do even better.

In any case, it's nowhere near the 800 you'll get if you have the understanding that: A balancing double of a 1NT rebid is for penalties.

RESULTS
In the Semi Finals
Ohno Defeated Horwitz and Cayne Defeated McGann
This will see a Cayne vs Ohno Final with two of the Yeh Cup Teams fighting for the title

<i>Mixed Teams Final Results</i>		
<i>Place</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	HUTTON - HUTTON - PETTITT – PETTITT	128
2	LUCK - LUCK - MOSES – MOSES	124
3	LEIBOWITZ - LEIBOWITZ - MCCALLUM – LAVINGS	115
3	DANTA - VAN VUCHT - BERMAN - HAVAS	115
5	FEILER - WATTS - INGHAM - FRUEWIRTH - HELGEMO - HELNESS	114
5	ROBSON - LEE - HOWARD - WOOD	114
5	LAVAZZA - De FALCO - FERRARO – CAYNE	114
5	POWELL - ASKEW - BROWN – HURLEY	114
9	EBERY - DAWSON - YEZERSKI – GREWCOCK	110
10	SMITH - CLAYTON - HAINSWORTH - TAIT	108
11	BENNETT - MCMANAMNY - DALLY – STEWART	105
12	TUCKER - MILLAR - WOLFARTH - WOLFARTH	104
13	HOOPYKAAS - RANKIN - BARDON – BUGLER	103
14	BEALE - VAN RIEL - BOURKE	100

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Easy

6			2			1	4	
	9	1					5	2
								6
	8	7		3				
9				4				7
				7		9	2	
3								
4	5					8	9	
	2	8			5			1

Diabolical

	9	5			6			4
	1				9	5	6	
2					4			3
		4						1
5				3				6
6						9		
7			1					9
	5	2	6				1	
1			2			7	4	

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT – SOLUTION TO BULLETIN 6 FRIDAY

Easy

6	5	8	7	9	3	1	4	2
9	1	7	8	4	2	3	5	6
4	2	3	6	5	1	7	9	8
7	3	5	4	6	8	2	1	9
2	4	1	9	3	7	8	6	5
8	9	6	1	2	5	4	7	3
1	6	9	2	8	4	5	3	7
5	7	2	3	1	6	9	8	4
3	8	4	5	7	9	6	2	1

Diabolical

5	4	8	3	9	2	7	1	6
6	7	9	4	5	1	2	3	8
3	2	1	6	7	8	4	9	5
1	3	5	9	8	4	6	2	7
2	8	6	5	1	7	3	4	9
7	9	4	2	3	6	8	5	1
8	5	3	7	4	9	1	6	2
4	1	2	8	6	5	9	7	3
9	6	7	1	2	3	5	8	4

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT – SOLUTION TO SUDOKU ABOVE

Easy

6	7	3	2	5	8	1	4	9
8	9	1	4	6	3	7	5	2
2	3	5	7	1	9	3	8	6
5	8	7	9	3	2	6	1	4
9	6	2	8	4	1	5	3	7
1	3	4	5	7	6	9	2	8
3	1	9	6	8	4	2	7	5
4	5	6	1	2	7	8	9	3
7	2	8	3	9	5	4	6	1

Diabolical

3	9	5	8	2	6	1	7	4
4	1	8	3	7	9	5	6	2
2	6	7	5	1	4	8	9	3
8	7	4	9	6	5	2	3	1
5	2	9	7	3	1	4	8	6
6	3	1	4	8	2	9	5	7
7	4	3	1	5	8	6	2	9
9	5	2	6	4	7	3	1	8
1	8	6	2	9	3	7	4	5