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THE TEAMS FINAL

This year's Gold Coast Teams have been won by the star-studded Cayne Team. Seeded number one and comprising Jimmy Cayne (c), Michael Seamon, Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Czeray Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski this team was always going to be hard to beat.

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

In fairness the photo was taken before the semi-finals



Our 2009 Teams Gold Coast Congress Teams Winners
Lorenzo Lauria, Jimmy Cayne, Michael Seamon,
Alfredo Versace, Adam Zmudzinski and Cezary Balicki

Finishing in second place was the Japanese Team which comprised the core of the team which won the Seniors Mind Sports Games (World Championship) in Beijing last year. Their feat is all the more credible when one considers that some members of the team have played non-stop bridge for ten days. While there were no obvious signs of tiredness during the during boards I am sure that this must have taken a toll on the players.

Cayne on the other hand were six handed allowing players some respite to re-energise. I have always been in wonderment of teams of four who are able to perform at the top level as I know when I am down after a bad match I need to sit out and regroup. Clearly people are affected in different ways and perhaps in the future a study of people's performance in four, five and six person teams.

SECOND IN THE TEAMS



Our 2009 Teams Gold Coast Congress Teams Runners Up
Akihiko Yamada, Kyoko, Ohno, Masayuki Ino and Makoto Hirata

The final was reduced from 50 boards to 40 at the request of both finalists. Not surprising as they have been hard at it for ten days starting with the Yeh Cup.

After 30 boards the Japanese Seniors Teams (World Seniors Champions) graciously conceded being around 60 imps down with just 10 boards to go.

Australia's plan in holding the Yeh Cup adjacent to the Gold Coast Congress was to create ambassadors for our premier event the Gold Coast Congress. With two of the Yeh Teams making the final we are confident that we have conceded in our goal.

The true test will be how many of these international champions in fact do come back in future years. Certainly many of the players I have spoken to have indicated their willingness to escape the cooler climates of Europe in favour of the Gold Coast – but many bemoaned the long travel time to reach our well kept secret.

On behalf of the tournament I wish all of our overseas visitors a safe journey home.

SF4 BD 11 ♠ 9
 Dealer: South ♥ A K Q 10 5
 Vul: Nil ♦ Q 7 5 4 3 2
 ♣ 7

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

♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q 7 5 4 3 2
 ♣ 7

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

F2 BD 24 ♠ A 6
 Dealer: South ♥ A 6
 Vul: Nil ♦ A K 9 4 3
 ♣ K J 10 9

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

Here is a hand from the finals series. See how you go matching it with the best of the tournament.

On this hand Balicki (north) and Zmudzinski (south) bid to 4♥ by north after south opened a precision style 2♣ bid showing clubs.

The defence started well with a spade and second spade to force declarer. Balicki drew trumps and counted east for 4-2-3-4 after he pitched a spade and a diamond on the last two trumps.

Mere mortals might now finesse the club and pray but Balicki had the benefit of counting his tricks – five hearts one diamond and if the club finesse worked three clubs – a trick short.

He correctly deduced that the only layout on which he could make the hand was the one that existed – west holding precisely ♣Q-x. Following his instincts he played the ♣A-K and was duly rewarded. There was a lot at stake on the hand as at the other table south played 3♣ making 170.

It is a strange phenomenon at the bridge table that when one makes idle or unnecessary bids one so often gets punished. Try this one from the final.

Yamada (north) opened 2NT, Ino (south) enquired with 3♣ and heard a 3♦ response presumably denying a major. Sitting south my thoughts would be – no grand slam and certainly want to play small slam. As we have no fit let's try 6NT.

For some reason south tried 4NT and this got passed out making +520. At the other table Lauria and Versace bid to 6♦ and picked up 9imps. I am guessing that north took the 4NT bid as quantitative and being minimum decided to pass.

RON KLINGER CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of the Ron Klinger's Bridge Problem competition were:

Chris Watson Jane Skipper Marleen Medhat Teresa Mary Sonal John Pisko	Katheryn Tennant Margaret Jean Dunlop Lalita Kanetkar Gary Lane Adrian Thompson
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Each winner will receive a copy of Ron's new book Right Through the Pack Again.

SOME MORE RESULTS

Open Swiss Pairs - Top 30 Finishers

<i>Fin</i>	<i>North-South</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Fin</i>	<i>East- West</i>	<i>%</i>
1	Richard JEDRYCHOWSKI - Apolina KOWALSKI	166	1	Nye GRIFFITHS - Ian ROBINSON	169
2	Michael WHIBLEY - Odin SVENDSEN	163	2	Brian CLEAVER - Peter BENHAM	166
3	Barbara TRAVIS - Subhash GUPTA	162	2	Andrey ORLOVICH - Valentin ZHURAVEL	166
4	Gwen GRAY - Lyn TURNER	161	4	Ron KLINGER - Ian THOMSON	163
5	Stephen FISCHER - Marianne BOOKALLIL	159	5	Michael WARE - Nicholas RODWELL	156
5	George GASPAR - Bob RICHMAN	159	5	Sam ARBER - Henri DE JONG	156
7	Vytautas VAINIKONIS - Wojtek OLANSKI	158	5	Maureen PHILLIPS - Cathy SLAUGHTER	156
8	Gary RIDDELL - Carol RIDDELL	157	8	Pam SCHOEN - Phil HALE	155
9	Michael COURTNEY - Astrid GONCHDROFF	154	9	Debbie MCLEOD - Lorraine STACHURSKI	154
10	Pam LIVINGSTON - Wayne BURROWS	153	10	Astrid BOLAND - Paul BORCHARDT	153
11	Griff WARE - David HOFFMAN	152	11	Tony BURKE - Jonathan FREE	152
12	Albert SIMPSON - Theo ANTOFF	151	11	Martin BLOOM - Steven BOCK	152
13	John LUONI - Murray JURGELEIT	150	13	Allan SCERRI - Susan SCERRI	151
13	Julie GUTHRIE - Mark GUTHRIE	150	13	Kerry HISCOCKS - Delma PURCELL	151
15	Normand MACLAURIN - Christine WILLIAMS	149	15	Marlene BERNAU - Mariella CHARREL	150
15	Jeanne HEY - Joan VALENTINE	149	15	Leigh FORAN - Theo MANGOS	150
15	Andrew TARBUTT - Neil STUCKEY	149	15	Michael GIBSON - Janet WOODFIELD	150
15	Monica DARLEY - Kath POOLE	149	18	Eva SAMUEL - Rena KAPLAN	149
19	Attilio DE LUCA - Susan EMERSON	148	18	Geoffrey HART - David HARRIS	149
19	Kuldip BEDI - Robert MILWARD	148	18	John FELL - Elizabeth FRENCH	149
19	Heather CUSWORTH - Diane HUTCHINSON	148	21	Rosalie BROUGHTON - Margaret GEDDES	148
19	Philippa BARNETT - Susan RODGERS	148	21	Ryan TOUTON - Richard TOUTON	148
23	Len MEYER - Phyllis MORITZ	147	21	Peter GRANT - Tim DAVIS	148
24	Justine HARKNESS - David WESTON	146	21	Pat O'CONNOR - Kay O'CONNOR	148
25	Simon HINGE - Cathy CHUA	145	25	Nick HUGHES - Nicoletta GUIRA	146
26	Alan DORMER - Graham WAKEFIELD	144	25	Avinash KANETKAR - Terry BROWN	146
26	David MAY - Robyn FREEMAN-GREENE	144	25	Les AJZNER - Paul KRON	146
28	Andrew HEGEDUS - Andrew MILL	142	25	Barry RAWICKI - Simon ROSE	146
28	Gheorghii BELONOGOV - Eva KOWALCZYK	142	25	Peter HEAZLEWOOD - Jenny DELANY	146
30	Michael STONEMAN - Val ROLAND	141	30	MADALA - BENNETT	145

Restricted Swiss Pairs - Top 30 Finishers

<i>Fin</i>	<i>Restricted Swiss Pairs - Top 30 Finishers</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Fin</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>%</i>
1	Mary ALLISON - Catherine WHIDDON	177	16	Frank CAMPBELL - Heather GRANT	145
2	Jim THATCHER - Trish THATCHER	163	18	Jack PIERCE - Eileen PIERCE	144
3	Keith LONG - Peter ROBBINS	160	19	Michele TREDINNICK - Christo MOSKOVSKY	143
4	William HOWARD - Geraldine HOWARD	155	20	Robert WYLIE - Merleine WYLIE	142
4	Joan LECKIE - Margaret WILLIAMSON	155	20	Helen WALKER - Kevin WALKER	142
6	Daniel HATCHER - Geoffrey ROBERTS	153	20	George MacLACHLAN - Jean O'LEARY	142
7	Michel GEROMBOUX - Geoffrey SCHALLER	151	23	Bryan HUNT - Royala ROONEY	141
8	Harvey KERR - Christine KERR	150	24	Valerie HUNTLEY - Diane YEALLAND	140
9	Sandra KERLEY - Maria RUTTAMAN	149	24	William HEARN - Diana HEARN	140
9	Anne CLARKE - Richard CLARKE	149	24	Sue BEER - Sally MOORE	140
11	Tony JOWETT - Frances MCCOULL	148	24	Allayne GRAY - Anne SIMPSON	140
12	Rosemary KELLEY - Jenny MCGRATH	147	28	Bryan MURRAY - Elizabeth ROLFE	139
12	Jane SWANSON - Krystyna HOMIK	147	28	Christina MACQUARRIE - Christine PARKIN	139
14	Chula NARANONG - Charles PAGE	146	30	Kristin HUGHES - John HUGHES	138
14	Tim FENWICKE - Jane FENWICKE	146	30	Jo PRICE - Kath WALTER	138
16	Ron CASEY - Errol MILLER	145	30	Christina BERGMAN - Lou TILLOTSON	138

GLITTERING VICTORY DINNER

Please enjoy this montage of photos from the closing victory dinner









BOLS BRIDGE TIP

Dick Cummings - Avoiding the gong

As I noted in an earlier Bulletin Dick Cummings was a great bridge writer. Here is his entry for the Bols Bridge Tip Contest.

Most people can recall some pleasant turning point in their lives. For me, a maiden overseas trip to Europe in 1958 partnering Tim Seres was such an occasion. The timing was good. Basing ourselves in London during a vintage period for British bridge, we were fortunate to get to know players of the calibre of Plum Meredith and Pedro Juan. To this day, Tim rates Meredith the most knowledgeable player of his acquaintance.

At that time, Juan was hosting a unique series of sessions at Lederer's Club called 'The Coffee House'. Its format was broadly this: four promising players would be invited to come along for a night's bridge at the club. Juan was master of ceremonies, co-opting a panel of experts who gave their time simply because they enjoyed the concept, the concept of 'Gong play'...

The guest occupied the four playing seats. Behind each player was an appointed expert, wielding a little brass bell. Random-dealt hands would be bid and played normally. The twist was that, whenever an expert considered his charge had made a mistake, he would ring the bell. 'Gongs' were noted by the MC but not discussed until the conclusion of play. (Nearly all related to play and defence. A bid had to be atrocious to be crimed.) Each deal was followed by a debate on the gongs, chaired by Juan, all present being welcome to contribute. Yes, it was a democracy. Having been gonged, you had the right to defend yourself. If the gong was upheld the guest was fined two shillings. If the gong was dismissed the expert was fined the same amount. All proceeds went to charity. Some nights the charity did quite nicely, even at two bob a time.

The most vivid memory of 'The Coffee House' is the very favourable effect it had on the group's card perception. If you led or signalled with the wrong spot, the gong would come, as night follows day. Holding bells in their hands, Terence Reese, Nico Gardener, Plum Meredith, Leslie Dodds and company were merciless. Naturally, those guests who could cope with their egos being bruised improved sharply.

Which brings me to my BOLS Bridge Tip: In defence, when leading a new suit mid-hand, be careful to show attitude with your choice of spot cards.

This an area where the average defender makes lots of errors. Partners are advised to work hard on developing an acute sense of spot consciousness. 'The Coffee House' was a great fillip in that direction. Fear of the gong just worked wonders for your concentration. Here is an example from a knockabout duplicate:

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

The opening lead was the four of spades to the five, jack and king. Declarer overtakes the ♦J with the queen, East furnishing the seven, then runs the queen of clubs, three, four, king.

Trick one marks South with the ace of spades. (True, occasionally, when West is short of entries, it is right for East to try the jack from A-J-x in third seat. That cannot be the case here.) The next two tricks give a pretty fair picture of the minor-suit lay-out. A thinking West can diagnose the necessity to attack hearts. It is nearly certain East has the ace. Accordingly, our West switches to the two of hearts and is delighted to see partner's ace hit the table. The Lord has smiled again.

Alas, pleasure quickly turns to pain. East returns a spade! Declarer claims the balance for +460.

What happened? In a nutshell, East ignored the basics of mid-hand attitude leads. Partner's switch to a small card, in this case the two, asks for the return of the new suit. A switch to a big card says "Don't play back this suit, return my original suit or try something else."

Had your spade holding been, say, A-10-6-4-2 and you merely wanted to give partner the lead you should switch to a high heart even if you have an honour.

So, the next time you are in danger of being lazy about your own spot lead, or about reading a card from partner, pause awhile. Try to imagine the distinguished figure of Plum Meredith poised over the chair, gong in hand. That should help you do the right thing.

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So the end of another outstanding and successful Gold Coast Congress.

Thanks are due to the myriad of people who work so hard for 11 months of the year towards making this event the success it is.

I look forward to any suggestions or requests for photos or any matters with which I can be of assistance

Adieu

David