



Stratified Pairs

The first session of the Stratified Pairs started without too many hitches, apart from the non-appearance of the team from Bangladesh, who were booked to play the event. As I write this bulletin, the Convener is nervously trying to ascertain whether they will indeed be here in time for the teams on Monday.

The playing room is a large well-lit space, made even brighter with the vivid yellow, blue, pink and green cloths festooned with bright red bidding boxes - all on a sea of brown and gold heavily-patterned carpet.



John Morris, Queensland Open Team

In addition, the tropical feel of Surfers Paradise has been embraced by the players, as the accompanying photographs show.



Monica Darley - Bess Baldry, part of the Whitsunday Seniors' Team, take on New Zealand Youth representatives
 Michael Whibley - Liam Milne

Introducing myself to some of my reliable sources of hand material, I soon came across a number of remarkable stories – and they all happened to be concerning the same deal:

Board 28

Dealer West, NS vulnerable

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

Australia EW:

West	North	East	South
	Cormack		Lloyd
Pass	2 ♣	3 ♠ ¹	Pass
4 ♣	Dbl	All Pass	

1. Clubs or both red suits.

This hand illustrates the confusion that can arise when your agreements are complex and your system less than straightforward.



Tania LLOYD, resides in Sydney, but is representing New Zealand

East thought he was bidding naturally over the strong 2♣ opening bid by Jan Cormack. West, however, alerted his partner's 3♠ bid, explaining that it showed either clubs, or both red suits. West's conversion to 4♣ put East in a difficult position. Having 'misbid' his hand, he chose to sit it out in 4♣x. The results was down 10, NS +2600. Cormack led ♥A, and on seeing dummy, switched to a low club. After drawing trumps on declarer, Lloyd was able to discard her spade loser on Cormack's fifth diamond.

Never mind, it's only pairs, guys, and fortunately, the npc of this youth pair was not at the table to watch. Best to get this sort of misunderstanding sorted out before the teams

starts, though! (EW names withheld to protect the guilty).

On asking regular contributor Jim Wallis if he had a hand for me, I was amazed to find that he too quoted Board 28.

Here, Jim and Ziggy Koenig had a bit of luck (don't use all your luck up too early, Jim!)

Jim and Ziggy, with their 11-card spade fit, took the non-vulnerable sacrifice in 6♠x. This went for -1400, no disaster in teams with +1370 available from 6♣, 6♦ or 1430 from 6♥ NS.

However, when North went to enter the contract and score on her *Bridgemate* scoring unit, it kept rejecting her attempts. Eventually, after the Director was called to the table, it was found that their section was only playing 27 boards, and Board 28 had been put out by mistake. Imagine the disappointment for NS to have their good board taken away from them.

Another good source of material is Laurie Kelso, floor director. Look at this auction:

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

1. Precision.

On the face of it, North has shown a strong hand with diamonds, and South has asked North for a heart stopper.

However, East's 2♥ bid is part of the dreaded Suction defence to a strong club (the only time Suction is permitted to be used).

After East cashed the first six spade tricks against 3NT, the Director was called, and NS managed to convince the Director that they would have been able to find their way to 6d if there had not been damage from the non-alert.

The table score was adjusted to NS +1370.

At another table, EW were also playing Suction over a strong 1♣. The auction was identical to the one above. However, East led ♠A, looked at partner's spot card, and after a few seconds' deliberation, looking for partner's entry to push a spade through declarer, switched to a low club at trick two. Declarer thankfully cashed 12 tricks.

The Director was called here too, but this New Zealand NS were quite happy with their +690, and had the grace to confirm that weren't sure

that they would have been able to reach the slam. They claimed no damage, and the table score stood.

The average on Board 28 was +460 NS, so it appears that a number of EW pairs were doubled for penalty in 4♠, 5♠ or 6♠. A number of NS pairs reached the five-level only after barrage bidding by EW. Other NS pairs did not reach game, and a few pairs went down in notrump games.

Bridgemate - a blessing or a curse?

The Bridgemate scoring units have created a few headaches for both the players and the scorers.

Blaine Howe shows how to get a great score through a little innocent mismanagement of the electronic unit.

The Director came to the table to ask a West player how it was possible for her

to make only one trick in a contract, while every other West was making 11 tricks.

"I made 11 tricks!" she cried. "I saw Blaine enter 450. However, Blaine had indeed entered 450 - but to his side. Making one trick instead of 11 in a four-level non-vulnerable contract undoubled equates to -450.

Note to Blaine's partner, Neil Ewart: make sure there is nothing you want revealed about yourself before passing on stories like this to the Editor.



"Third man does what he can"

This adage is a new turn on the old phrase: "Third hand plays high."

Andy Hegedus forgot that cardinal rule on the next deal against expert declarer Adam Sarten, but recovered well to confuse and confound Adam (who reported the deal):

Board 2

Dealer East, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mill</i>	<i>Tishler</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>	<i>Sarten</i>
			1NT

All Pass

Andrew Mill led ♥J against 1NT, ducked to Adam's queen. Adam considered the position. To cross to dummy with a spade might make it too easy for the defence. He decided to sneak a diamond trick first. However, when he played a low diamond towards dummy, and the trick won (Andy Hegedus, East, craftily ducking), Adam took the opportunity to take a club finesse - surely Andrew Mill was marked with ♦A - but Adam was pretty sure that Hegedus held ♥K.

Mill, in with ♣Q, and rightly confused about the play so far, exited passively with a diamond. Hegedus won ♦A, cashed his ♥K and exited with another diamond. Adam's tricks had now dwindled to six, and he had to concede that this was a good comeback from a poor start to the defence.

Exemplary Deportment

I took the opportunity to kibitz a mini-match in Round 2 of the Stratified Pairs when two members of the Japanese Women's team faced two members of the Japanese Youth Team.

I was impressed by the demeanour at the table. It was also interesting to note that both pairs used similar bidding and defensive methods: Two Over One, Flannery and thirds and fifths leads.

In addition, even though it was an all-Japanese table, both pairs directed the play ("top spade, please") in English.

There wasn't anything too interesting in the three boards I watched, but I did get the chance to watch Flannery in action:

Board 8

Dealer East, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotada</i>	<i>Shimamura</i>	<i>Kido</i>	<i>Shi</i>
	2♦ ¹	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1. Flannery, 5♥, 4♠, 11-15 HCP.

2. Transfer to 4♠.

Declarer won ♣3 lead (thirds and fifths) in her hand and cashed ♠A, K. She discarded a diamond and a heart on the third and fourth clubs in dummy and conceded a heart in the endgame.



*Kyoko Shi, Shumsuke Gotada,
Kimiko Shimamura & Yoshiro Kido*



What's on today?

Stratified Pairs Final:
9.30am - 4.30pm

Delegates' Meeting I:
North & South
Stradbroke Rooms
5pm - 7pm

Welcome Function:
Moreton Terrace,
Level 2, Gold Coast
International
(by invitation)



Stratified Pairs Qualifying Overall

PI	NS	Sess 1	Sess 2	Total
1	Scott Smith - David Ackerley	65.52	57.38	122.90
2	Pauline Gumbly - Warren Lazer	54.61	66.14	120.76
3	Sakiko Naito - Ryoga Tanaka	53.97	61.70	115.68
4	Hiroki Yokoi - Haruki Tanaka	62.45	49.70	112.15
5	Christine Gibbons - Judy McLeod	53.29	58.75	112.04
6	Kate Smith - Jill Del Piccolo	62.05	48.27	110.32
7	Neville Francis - Magnus Moren	55.36	54.83	110.19
8	Helen Thompson - John Johnson	48.83	61.33	110.15
9	Brigitte LeCourtier - Andree Caine	56.50	53.12	109.62
10	Eva Berger - Tony Berger	55.53	53.97	109.50
11	Masako Otsuka - Masakatsu Sugino	54.83	54.57	109.40
12	John Skipper - Jane Skipper	53.84	55.47	109.32
13	Peter Kahler - Jeanette Collins	57.09	51.69	108.78
14	Douglas Newlands - Arnold Volframs	48.29	60.09	108.39
15	Neil Ewart - Blaine Howe	58.86	48.23	107.09
16	Naozumi Nakayama - Yasuaki Ii	60.33	46.59	106.92
17	Deborah Smith - Kathy Boardman	53.45	52.93	106.38
18	Keisuki Akama - Kenji Miyakuni	50.31	55.09	105.40
19	Kyoko Shimamura - Kumiko Sasahira	58.24	46.41	104.65
20	Tadashi Teramoto - Shugo Tanaka	57.14	46.76	103.90
21	Greg Mayo - Sharon Mayo	57.91	45.67	103.58
22	Peter Hollands - Justin Howard	52.18	51.35	103.53
23	Bess Baldry - Monica Darley	41.22	61.55	102.77
24	Tania Lloyd - Jan Cormack	50.78	51.46	102.24
25	Len Meyer - Phyllis Moritz	48.25	53.36	101.61
26	Ken Miller - Lee Miller	52.21	47.82	100.03
27	Akiko Miwa - Fumiko Nanjyo	54.52	45.26	99.78
28	Adam Sarten - Sara Tishler	50.89	48.25	99.14
29	John Cormack - Tony Thomson	46.17	52.46	98.63
30	Alison Brogan - Bernard West	52.95	45.43	98.38
31	Geoff Allen - Pat Allen	41.01	55.16	96.17
32	Richard Wallis - Tony Jackman	51.48	44.47	95.94
33	Sharyn Birrer - John Morris	47.00	48.17	95.17
34	David Read - John Dennis	46.48	48.29	94.77
35	Jocelyn Steele - John Steele	45.93	48.66	94.60
36	Nicole Cook - Denise Barclay	41.09	52.42	93.51
37	P Creugnet - C Cailleux	43.33	49.88	93.21
38	Krystyna Homik - Jane Swanson	51.57	41.49	93.06
39	Ervin Otvosi - Kennet Christiansen	43.22	46.48	89.69
40	Steve Stening - Jim Woods	42.54	44.43	86.97
41	Connie Coltrona - Amanda Torre	39.22	47.47	86.69
42	John Quayle - Sue Ingham	41.27	45.17	86.44
43	Keith McDonald - Keith Archos	37.73	48.54	86.27
44	Peter Lewin - Fran Lewin	40.52	41.76	82.28
45	Claire Harvey-Kelly - Laila Dib	39.79	41.72	81.50
46	Herve Cheval - Joyce O'Brien	49.61	28.72	78.34
47	Diana Nardi - Ena Rignall	31.92	44.78	76.70
48	John Correy - Cathy McPaul	38.74	33.90	72.63

PI	NS	Sess 1	Sess 2	Total
1	Noriake Koike - Satoshi Imai	66.63	59.02	125.65
2	Michael Whibley - Liam Milne	56.81	60.56	117.37
3	Stephen Fischer - Stephen Mendick	51.71	64.54	116.26
4	Paul Gosney - Susan Humphries	58.83	56.33	115.16
5	Barry Noble - Michael Prescott	55.15	56.70	111.85
6	Jamie Ebery - Nigel Rosendorff	48.92	62.79	111.71
7	Merle Marr - Bruce Marr	61.52	48.88	110.40
8	Helen Lowry - Berri Folkard	59.24	50.94	110.18
9	Phil Gallasch - Graham Pellen	54.73	54.94	109.67
10	Nick Van Vucht - Marianne Bookallil	56.92	51.83	108.75
11	Andy Hung - Nabil Edgtton	60.20	48.06	108.26
12	Matthew Mullanphy - Ron Klinger	50.41	57.15	107.57
13	Rita Pringle - Ralph Smith	47.79	59.63	107.42
14	Motoaki Shiga - Hiroyuki Taguchi	52.60	54.56	107.16
15	Janet Kahler - Alison Farthing	51.31	54.87	106.17
16	Trevor Robb - Douglas Russell	53.36	51.85	105.21
17	Pat Larsen - Bev Stacey	52.92	51.96	104.88
18	Peter Benham - Brian Cleaver	49.14	55.30	104.44
19	Daniele Boyet - Gerard Morin	47.76	56.26	104.02
20	John Whyte - Fraser Rew	51.84	52.01	103.85
21	Steve Boughey - Tim Schumacher	54.19	48.48	102.66
22	Ken Wilks - Ian Walker	53.27	48.20	101.47
23	Charlie Schwabegger - Kerrin Daws	54.60	45.57	100.17
24	Terry Brown - Avi Kanetkar	56.66	43.29	99.95
25	Shunsuki Gotada - Yoshiro Kido	46.83	52.75	99.59
26	Jean Field - Lynne Errington	51.53	46.49	98.02
27	Robert Ashman - Roz Bavin	49.68	48.20	97.88
28	Tony Treloar - Geoff Thomas	51.84	45.97	97.81
29	Ziggy Konig - Jim Wallis	44.07	53.58	97.65
30	Makiko Sato - Phoebe Lin	49.10	48.29	97.40
31	David McLeish - Paula McLeish	49.66	47.10	96.76
32	Jean Grigri - Paul Homehr	45.45	50.35	95.79
33	Teruo Miyazaki - Kunio Kodaira	43.94	51.81	95.74
34	Simone Doiteau - Yvelyne Robaux	45.56	49.47	95.03
35	Connie Schoutrop - Sue Grenside	47.17	47.80	94.96
36	Shunsuke Morimura - Tadashi Imakura	46.69	47.62	94.31
37	Val Gardiner - Anita Thirtle	42.16	51.08	93.24
38	Neven Burica - Yvonne Kilvert	48.08	44.93	93.01
39	Pam Schoen - Yolanda Carter	50.68	42.22	92.90
40	Kaye Donaldson - John Masters	45.93	46.02	91.96
41	Alan Brown - Frances Brown	47.70	43.61	91.31
42	Julie Sheridan - Karen Martelletti	45.94	45.26	91.20
43	Andy Hegedus - Andrew Mill	45.82	42.84	88.66
44	Barry Jones - Jenny Millington	40.02	45.77	85.79
45	Blanche Slaughter - Cathy Slaughter	39.51	43.62	83.13
46	Michael Aulton - Maureen Collingwood	40.88	39.33	80.20
47	Patricia Keller - Michel Deleglise	36.43	41.70	78.13
48	Nik Moore - James Cooper	38.82	33.64	72.45