



BFACT News



Editors: Rebecca Plush and Richard Hills

August 2004

From the President:

*It was twenty years ago today
Sgt Pepper taught the band to play*

Twenty years ago, in 1984, the ACT Open Team won at the Australian National Championships. A member of that Gold medal squad was a long-time Canberra stalwart (now a banana-bender) Bill Hunt:

*HIIIII,
Congratulations to the ACT Open Team,
Roy Nixon [c], David Hoffman, David
Wawn, Margaret Bourke, Arjuna de Livera,
Richard Brightling, Ian Thomson.
A job WELL DONE.
From Bill Hunt*

Special congratulations must go to Margaret Bourke, for her stamina and ability. She won Gold in the prestigious (and gruelling) week-long Women's Butler Pairs, then won Silver in the Open Pairs, then backed up with another Gold in the prestigious (and gruelling) week-long Interstate Open Teams.

A complete list of precious medals won by BFACT players:

Seniors Butler Pairs – Silver Medal
Andrew Struik (Cooma) and
Brain Thorp (Canberra)

Women's Butler Pairs – Gold Medal
Margaret Bourke (Canberra)

Open Pairs – Silver Medal
Margaret Bourke (Canberra) and
Arjuna de Livera (Canberra)

Women's Pairs – Silver Medal
Nola Church (Canberra) and
Julia Hoffman (Canberra)

Mixed Pairs – Silver Medal
Stephen Mendick (Canberra) and
Ros Roworth (Canberra)

Open Team – Gold Medal
Roy Nixon, npc (South Canberra),
Margaret Bourke (Canberra) and
Arjuna de Livera (Canberra),
Richard Brightling (Canberra) and
Ian Thomson (Canberra),
David Hoffman (Canberra) and
David Wawn (Canberra)

Youth Team – Silver Medal
Mark Abraham, npc (Canberra),
Daniel Geromboux (Canberra),
Nye Griffiths (Canberra)
Anatoli Lightfoot (Canberra),
Matthew Porter (Jervis Bay),
Griff Ware (Canberra)

Commiserations to Michael de Livera, who would have been a member of the ACT Youth Team, but had to withdraw because of emergency major surgery. The good news is that Michael is now well on the way to recovery.

Richard Hills – BFACT President



Grand National Open Teams

At its last meeting, BFACT Council granted the Cooma and Cootamundra clubs the right to nominate an unlimited number of teams to the regional Final of the ACT Provincial division of the GNOT, scheduled for Saturday 30th October 2004. In addition, BFACT Council granted Canberra-based clubs a restricted right to nominate teams to the regional Final of the ACT Provincial division of the GNOT. All Canberra-based players who play in the Provincial division must be neither Life nor Grand Masters.



Open Team Captain's Report *Roy Nixon*

The ACT Open Team in 2004 comprised:

Margaret Bourke
Arjuna De Livera
Ian Thomson
Richard Brightling
David Hoffman
David Wawn
Roy Nixon (NPC)

As you will all know by now, the ACT Open Team won the "Herald Cup" for only the third time in the history of competition: our previous wins had been in 1981 and 1984.

Before the Event

While the team did not want formal practice sessions, members of the team were encouraged to play in good quality local events. The team won the Knockout Teams. All three pairs also competed in the Alan Macarthur Teams with one pair in the winning team. Four members of the team competed in the Victor Champion Cup in Melbourne on the Queen's Birthday long weekend where they finished equal second in a high quality field. This highlights the importance of BFACT ensuring that the Tournament Calendar retains good quality teams' events in the immediate lead up to the ANC.

Only Margaret Bourke played in the Butler events in week one of the ANC and two of the pairs contested the Open pairs on the Sunday before the teams started. This meant the team was relatively "fresh" for the start of the teams.

The Event itself – the Round Robins

The finish to the double Round Robin was the closest in a long time with five teams realistically in with a chance going into the final two matches. The ACT had finished

the first RR in fourth place with 6 wins and only one loss to Queensland (by 18). In the second RR we remained close to the lead through to the last day when we had to play NSW and VIC in our final two matches. At this point I turned to my two more experienced pairs (Thomson/Brightling and De Livera/Bourke) to play these two matches and with the two resulting wins, we finished second when the music stopped.

The Final against Victoria

The critical sessions in the Final were the two 10 board stanzas on the Friday night. I was able to bring in Hoffman and Wawn who were fresh from having not played the two earlier matches and they anchored a very good effort which saw us skip out to a lead of over 80 imps. There was some "tired" bridge from the Victorian players throughout the Final and while Victoria clawed some imps back in the last two sessions, the winning margin of over 40 imps was very impressive.

Player Performances

All six players played exceptionally well and were extremely positive and cooperative throughout. On the comparative datum scores from the double RR, Bourke/De Livera were +105, Hoffman/Wawn +77 and Thomson/Brightling +51. These do not accurately reflect the relative performance of the three pairs because of my strategic decision not to play Thomson/Brightling in any of the four matches against the two "datum building" teams of NT and TAS. I judged that Thomson/Brightling would improve most as the event progressed only by playing the tough teams. This proved to be so because in the last two RR matches when I needed them to step up to the plate, they went +54 against NSW and VIC. I would like also to single out Arjuna De Livera who played very well in spite of the fact that his son Michael had been very sick prior to and during the event.

The Role of the Non Playing Captain

Winners are grinners. There is a long running debate over whether we need to send NPCs to ANCs. Apart from contributing to team morale, the captain's main role is to take the tricky line up decisions in the final few matches and if you are lucky to be there, in the Final. The players are far too focussed on playing to be totally rational and objective in these pressure situations and if they fail, it is always convenient to have someone else to blame! Sending a non-playing captain is money well spent.



Women's Team Captain's Report

Julia Hoffman

Team:

Nola Church – Julia Hoffman (C), Karen Creet – Judith Tobin, Sandra Richman – Anne Weber

Round Robin results:

WA 169.4
NSW 74
ACT 65.9
SA 32.9
VIC -52.9
QLD -71.5
TAS -220.5

Final: NSW defeated WA 136-93

Again the ACT Women's Team was unable to come into the event smoothly as Sue Coleman was forced to withdraw at the last minute. It was indeed fortunate that Sandra and Anne were already in Melbourne and

willing to go to considerable lengths to make themselves available to join the team. In the circumstances it was unfortunate that the NT was not competing as the consequent bye always disturbs the rhythm of the competition and the competitors.

The raw details of the team's results are summarised below:

Vs ->	Top 2	Middle 2	Bottom 2
Won	2.5/4	1/4	2/4
VP ave	+6.5	+1.5	+11.5

Our solid form against the eventual winners (+34 and +19) indicated that it was lack of consistency rather than lack of ability that was our downfall; but isn't that always the case in bridge?

I would like to thank all the team members for their cooperation and commitment to our task, and their unfailing obedience no matter how questionable the captain's decisions may have seemed. I would also like to thank both the team and BFACT for the opportunity to captain this team.



Cooma Spring Congress

Saturday 16th October 2004:

Championship Swiss Pairs 10:30am-5:30pm

Anniversary Pairs 2:30pm-5:30pm

20th Anniversary Dinner 7:00pm for 7:30pm

Sunday 17th October 2004:

Swiss Teams 9:30am-4:30pm

Convenors: Bruce Hovey (02) 6452 5880

bruce.hovey@bigpond.com

Monique Vochtelloo (02) 6452 7331

wandmvochtelloo@snowy.net.au



Seniors Team Captain's Report

Tony Hancock

The ACT Seniors Team consisted of Brian Thorp and Andrew Struik, Ross Crichton and Peter Grant, Elizabeth Havas and Gytis Danta.

The first two pairs had played in the Australian Butler Trials the week before the ANC with very good results, and Elizabeth has an outstanding record of achievement at State and international levels. Add to the fact that Ross and Peter are in the current Australian Seniors' team, it was not surprising that we were hopeful that we would be competitive (or better) against all teams. Unfortunately, luck tended to run a bit against us and the final position (5th) was not as good as we could reasonably have expected.

There were, however, a few highlights. We were the first team to record a win against SA (in round 12 of 14, at which stage SA were averaging 30 IMP wins against all comers) followed by a win against Victoria, the eventual winners; we also recorded a good win against WA at the end of the first round robin, just when we needed to get back into contention. The lowest point was a small loss to NT in match 1, which was about as bad a start as we could ever have imagined.

On the question of luck, I can think of at least 6 cases where a key card was offside, or a good contract foundered on a 5-1 break, or in an even-money choice we went one way and our opponents went the other (successful) way. Each of these cases represented a swing of 26 IMPS. No doubt

some decisions went the other way, but are less well engraved on my memory!

The venue – the Dallas Brooks Centre in Melbourne – was handy for access to restaurants, but rather claustrophobic. I would have preferred a venue where the tables were further apart, with some natural lighting during the day.

The format of the event was acceptable, but if we had added the two head-to-head matches together as a single match we would have fared rather better. The 24-board sessions were perhaps just a bit too long – either 20 boards, or with a short break after 12 boards would be more sympathetic to the Seniors.

At a personal level, I decided it would be counter-productive to watch our Seniors playing, so I usually watched the team we were to play against next. Towards the end of the week, I had the pleasure of watching some very good bridge by our Open Team.

Despite the disappointments, the feeling between the 3 partnerships was amicable and most of the post-match score-up discussion was apologetic rather than critical. Poor results tended to increase the determination to bounce back, but overall the team felt that it had not achieved the results it was capable of.

Finally, I wish to record my appreciation for the cheerful cooperation of all players, and in particular the generous contribution made by Elizabeth Havas, as team member, system advisor (when asked) and my sounding board on seating strategy for some matches.





SOUTH CANBERRA BRIDGE CLUB **NEW VENUE OPEN PAIRS 1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND and 29TH** **SEPTEMBER**

To celebrate the opening of our new venue on the first floor of the Southern Cross Club Woden, we invite you to a five week eclectic, with the best three results to count for an overall prize. This is a walk-in event, no pre-entry required.

Under-cover parking, spacious surroundings, well-lit room, free refreshments and red master points are provided for our normal table money:

- \$4 for members
- \$2 for members with concession cards
- \$5 for non-members.

Weekly prizes for best open and restricted pairs. Prizes and red master points for Overall winners.



7:15 pm start. Every Wednesday evening in September.

Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden.



SOUTH CANBERRA BRIDGE CLUB **12TH BIRTHDAY PARTY PAIRS AND PRIZE DRAW**

7:15 pm Wednesday 6 October 2004

Venue: 1st Floor Social Club Room, Southern Cross Club, Woden Town Centre

Walk-in event – no pre-entry required. Red masterpoints will be awarded.

Table money: Free to persons holding three entry tickets to the Prize Draw. Otherwise, table money will be \$4 for members, \$2 for members with concession cards or \$5 for non-members.

Prizes: will be awarded to the leading score of the Best Open Pair and the Best Restricted Pair.

Refreshments: sandwiches and limited amount of free drinks will be available. Free tea and coffee.

Prize draw tickets can be earned as follows:

One ticket per session will be given to all persons playing in any of the five sessions of the New Venue Pairs event conducted throughout September 2004 and the Birthday Pairs event on 6 October.

1st place getters in each direction in each session of the New Venue Pairs event conducted throughout September 2004 and the Birthday Pairs event on 6 October will receive three entry tickets, the second place getters two entry tickets and the third place getters, one entry ticket.

Prizes: The Grand Prize will be a \$150 David Jones gift voucher. There will be several other minor prizes including bottles of wine, dinner tickets to the Southern Cross Club, chocolates and lottery scratchies.

Inquiries to Roy Nixon on 6263-3813 (work) or rnixon@treasury.gov.au