



BFACT News



Editors: Rebecca Plush and Richard Hills

April 2004

From the President:

Last issue's bidding (kidding) problem:

You have preempted 3D with twelve cards, but you have now discovered that your thirteenth card is the Ace of Spades. What call do you make now?

The source of last issue's bidding problem was the Bridge Laws Mailing List. Blml is a source of endless amusement, with occasional instruction on the interpretation and application of the Laws of Bridge. The blml home page is at:

<http://www.amsterdamned.org/mailman/listinfo/blml>

Grattan Endicott is Secretary of the World Bridge Federation Laws Commission, but in his leisure time is somewhat of an addict to blml discussions. His blml comment on this problem was:

“Do we have a clear idea of the meaning of double in this position? I would expect it to announce that the pre-empt has unexpectedly strong values – but not to suggest a defensive holding or a stop – leaving it to partner to decide what to do about it. But there will be partnerships that have not explored the question, or with alternative ideas”.

In response, I gave this alternative ideation:

"Since I am a believer in the old-fashioned theory that a preempt transfers captaincy to partner, I would deem that an unsolicited double by the pre-emptor is non-systemic. Even after seeing an extra ace, I would still rule that the inept preemptor has a logical alternative of Pass. It is possible that LHO has been preempted out of 4S, or that pard will misinterpret a reopening double, or that a reopening 3NT will be a disaster. In a slightly different context, S.J. (Skid) Simon recommended (in his classic book Why You

Lose At Bridge), 'If psyched, remain psyched'."

Richard Hills
BFACT President



BFACT Selection Events:

There are only a few selection events still to run (all held at the CBC rooms unless otherwise indicated):

ANC Women's Team Selection – Friday, Saturday & Sunday 23, 24 & 25 April.
Entries closed.

Seniors Pairs Selection – Fridays 23 & 30 April at the **Monaro Bridge Club**. For more details, contact Andrew Struik (zastruik@snowy.net.au).

State Open Pairs and ANC Selection – Monday evenings May 10, 17, 24 and 31.
Entries close **3 May**.

In the May edition, I will provide a complete run-down of all the results (excluding the State Open Pairs which won't be finished until the end of May).



Senior's Question:

The Senior's Pairs selection event this year is to be held on two Tuesday's during the day. At this stage, the numbers are very low, so BFACT would like to seek you input. Senior's players, when would you like to see this event run? **We want your feedback** so we can make this event what you want it to be. Please e-mail either editor or any other member of BFACT with your views, or leave a message for us at the Canberra Bridge Club in the BFACT pigeon hole (the director should be able to help you out).



Australian Selection Events:

Recently, the playoff for the Australian Open, Women's and Seniors Teams was run. The format is that same as that of the Youth – ie. A round-robin scored as a Butler, with the winning pair being automatically selected for the team. The second placed pair then chooses team-mates from the pairs that came 3rd, 4th and 5th, and play a teams match against the other two pairs. The winning team joins the already selected pair and, subject to ratification, becomes the Australian Team.

This year, the Open Butler was won by Tony Nunn and Sartaj Hans. Avi Kanetkar-Michael Courtney chose David Horton-Phil Markey to playoff against Phil Gue-Terry Brown and Ron Klinger-Bruce Neill. Gue-Brown, Klinger-Neill defeated Kanetkar-Courtney, Horton-Markey by 110 imps.

The Women's Butler was won by our own Elizabeth Havas playing with Barbara Travis. Sue Lusk-Terese Tully chose Di Smart-Felicity Beale to playoff against Alida Clark-Jan Cormack and Beri Folkard-Rena Kaplan. Lusk-Tully, Smart-Beale defeated Clark-Cormack, Folkard-Kaplan by 87 imps.

The Senior's Butler was won by Zolly Nagy and Bill Haughie. Our own Margaret Bourke, playing with Eric Ramshaw chose Ted Griffin-Mike Hughes to playoff against Barbara McDonald-Alan Walsh, and Canberra pair Ross Crichton-Peter Grant. McDonald-Walsh, Crichton-Grant defeated Bourke-Ramshaw, Griffin-Hughes by 147-110 imps.

So the final Australian Teams, subject to ratification, are (ACT players in **bold**):

Open – Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Phil Gue, Terry Brown, Ron Klinger and Bruce Neill.

Youth – Gabby Feiler, Nic Croft, Daniel Krochmalik, Arian Lasocki, **Daniel Germoboux and Griff Ware.**

Women's – **Elizabeth Havas**, Barbara Travis, Sue Lusk, Terese Tully, Di Smart and Felicity Beale.

Senior's – Zolly Nagy, Bill Haughie, Barbara McDonald, Alan Walsh, **Ross Crichton and Peter Grant.**

Well done to all who competed in these very challenging events and the best of luck to all teams when representing Australia!

For more info, and to see some photos, take a look at the ABF website (www.abf.com.au).



Bridge for Brain Research Challenge:

Did you know that keeping your mind active with activities such as bridge can help prevent the onset or progression of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia? This is what the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute has found out and they have a challenge for us.

Clubs in the ACT and NSW have been invited to hold a session of bridge and to collect donations to go towards Alzheimer's research. The Canberra Bridge Club will be holding the Challenge on Wednesday 5 May in the evening. The idea will be to pay normal table money, plus a donation (voluntary of course) and to have some fun playing bridge. If anyone wants to simply make a donation, but can't play, see Sean or Judith and they will work something out. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. For more information, see <http://www.powmri.edu.au/bridge.htm>, a member of the BFACT council, or a member of the CBC committee.



E-mail List:

The current e-mail list is horribly out of date. I intend to reconstruct it, starting with the e-mail list from the Canberra Bridge Club, and adding a few extras I know about. If anyone who is not currently on the CBC mailing list would like to get BFACT News electronically, please e-mail me!



GNOT:

The Grand National Open Teams competition is the main ABF sponsored inter-regional event each year. Bridge teams from all across Australia get the chance to play in a national title event, conducted in two stages. All regional areas across Australia hold qualifying events in local clubs from which teams proceed to Regional Finals; those who are successful at the Regional Finals go on to represent their region in the National Final in Sydney in November each year.

In the ACT region, this is the only event available each year that carries gold masterpoint awards, apart from the National Open Teams event in January.

In 2004, the ACT region is entitled to nominate two Open teams (assuming there are at least 32 teams in the qualifying events and a minimum of 8 teams entered for the final – entry to the final closes two weeks before it is held) and one Provincial team (available to all members in clubs outside Canberra, but restricted to non-Life Masters in Canberra clubs).

Qualifying events are as follows:

GNOT Open Team – Qualifying Events

(All played at Canberra Bridge Club premises)

- Point A Board Teams – 25 March, 1 April, 8 April
- Sunday Teams – 4 July
- GNOT Qualifying event – 9, 16, 23, 30 September and 7 October.

Winners and placegetters in this event gain qualifying points towards the right to play in the regional Open final on 30 October.

GNOT Provincial Teams – Qualifying events

All ABF clubs in the ACT region will run their own qualifying events to select teams for the Provincial Final on 30 October.

At this stage, the only scheduled events are at the Canberra Bridge Club

- Provincial Qualifier Event 14, 21, 28 September
- Provincial Qualifier Event (Daytime) 19, 26 Aug, 2nd September.

Advice on events in other clubs will be supplied when available.

If you would like more information, please see a BFACT councillor or a member of your home club committee.



Interclub Teams:

The first round of the 2004 Interclub Teams was held on Saturday 20 March at the Duff Place clubrooms. Results in each event were

<i>Restricted</i>	<i>VPs</i>	<i>Carry forward</i>
Valley	89	74
South Canberra	80	67
Monaro	77	64
Canberra	71	59
Jamison	70	58
Sapphire Coast	63	

<i>Seniors</i>	<i>VPs</i>	<i>Carry forward</i>
Sapphire Coast	95	79
Goulburn	91	76
Monaro	80	67
Jamison	67	56
Valley	61	51
Canberra	48	

The next round will be held on Saturday 29 May at the Ex Services Club, Vale St, Cooma, with the bottom team in each event having been eliminated.

David Hoffman
Convenor



Other Responses to the President's Problem:

There were two responses, besides Richard's answer. The first is a tongue-in-cheek response from Brian Thorp:

"The recommended objective, Mr President, is to minimise the probability of collateral damage caused by confusion amongst the coalition of the willing. It is thusly insufficient to bid 3NT. First you must look at your hand with obvious amazement, then you must gasp with surprise and disbelief, and only then should you bid 3NT."

The second response was more serious from Mark Abraham:

"I choose not to catch up – I' ve already randomised the board, and my best chance of doing acceptably is to hope I' ve done enough already. Declarer rates to misplay at least one of the major suit honours, so we have some potential on defence. While double, 3NT or 4D might be rational if correctly interpreted by partner, chances are you don' t have a useful agreement.

Double could be sensibly played as takeout or "action", but in either case it would have to reveal a psychic/misbid 3D. Partner will be unlikely to have enough in trumps to pass in any event. 3NT could be sensibly played as natural or unusual, again revealing a psyche or misbid. Here unusual either shows 4H, or a hand with secondary clubs (as 4C is available to suggest serious clubs). This seems to make the most sense, as 3NT natural begs to go for a number, even if it does (vaguely) suit your hand.

At least partner won' t misinterpret 4D, but it does leave the opponents a number of ways to profit – either pass, double, 4H or 4S could work well for them. There' s no particular likelihood of them doing something badly wrong, or your partner doing anything particularly right."



Contributions:

Want to see your name in print? Have a hand or story that you want to share? Then write to me! I can't promise that your contribution will always get in straight away, but I will promise to try to fit it in as soon as I can. Send all contributions to:

rplush@mac.com

or

richard.hills@immi.gov.au

or leave a hard copy at the CBC in the BFACT pigeon hole.



Errata:

Technology is a wonderful thing – when kept on a tight leash by humans. Of course, this means that human error is a possibility. I'm sure most people have noticed by now that George Stockham's write up of a hand from the Simultaneous pairs in the last edition seemed very odd – EW are never going to bid to 3C on a 4-2 fit unless something very wrong has gone on. All the references to clubs in the EW hands should be hearts. I apologise for any confusion.



Bridge book review (with a difference):

Martin Seligman is President of the American Psychological Association, but also an expert bridge player. He has written a number of popular jargon-free books on psychology, the most recent book being "Authentic Happiness". In an interview discussing "Authentic Happiness", Martin Seligman notes a benefit of playing bridge:

"So just to review so far, there is the pleasant life – having as many of the pleasures as you can and the skills to amplify them - and the good life - knowing what your signature strengths are and recrafting everything you do to use them as much as possible. But there' s a third form of life, and if you' re a bridge player like me, or a stamp collector, you can have eudaemonia; that is, you can be in flow."

ABF Alert regulations summary:

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that you may not have secret agreements with partner, either in bidding or card play. The fact that your system card explains the meaning of a call does not remove the obligation to alert it when required by the regulations. General bridge inferences, like those that a new partner could make when there has been no prior discussion, are not alertable, but any inferences that can be drawn from partnership experience must be disclosed.

Alert Stages

There are three stages of the alerting process. All are important.

- (a) The pre-alert before bidding starts
- (b) Alerts during the auction
- (c) Delayed alerts by the declaring side before the opening lead

The pre-alert before bidding starts

At the start of a round or match, pairs should acquaint each other with their basic system, eg. length of their one level openings and the strength and style of their opening 1NT. This is the stage to which you should draw the opponents' attention to any unusual agreements you have which might surprise them, or to which they may need to arrange a defence.

Alerts during the auction

Self-alerting calls – There are four different types of self-alerting calls:

- Doubles.
- Redoubles.
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit.

*(For the purposes of these Regulations, a **cue bid** of opponent's suit is defined as a bid of any denomination bid by the opponent or of a suit shown by the opponent's bid.)*

- All calls at the four level or higher.

These calls carry their own alert and should not be alerted.

Conventional calls – You must alert a call if it is conventional (unless it is self-alerting). All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one of the suits is named, are by definition conventional. It is construed that an opening bid of 1C or 1D which may contain less than 3 cards in the opened suit does not indicate 'willingness to play' and hence such bids are conventional.

Alertable natural calls – Natural bids with unusual meanings that the opponents are unlikely to expect must be alerted (unless they are self-alerting). Examples:

- Responder's first round jump shift on weak hands.
- A non-forcing suit response by an unpassed hand to an opening suit bid.
- A natural 1NT overcall in the direct position, which does not promise a stopper in the overcalled suit.
- A jump raise of opener's one level bid which may be weak or pre-emptive.
- A single raise of partner's suit which may be strong or forcing e.g. 1D – 2D forcing.

Delayed alerts by the declaring side before the opening lead

At the end of the auction, the **declaring side** should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly any unusual self-alerted calls. **Defenders MUST NOT**, at this time, voluntarily offer explanations.

Players should be aware that these Alert Regulations, which came into effect for National events on 1 January 2004, are in force for all BFACT events.

For a full copy of the Alert Regulations, see: <http://www.abf.com.au/members/alertingregs.html>.

If you have any questions about bids that may or may not be alertable, it is probably wise to ask a Director before play.

Richard Hills
BFACT President

