

♠ ♥ **BFACT News** ♦ ♣

Editors: Rebecca Plush and Richard Hills

December 2003

**From the President:**

Traditionally, in the Christmas edition of BFACT news, the President writes a message for you to think about during the holiday break. So, think about this – there are 53,644,737,765,488,792,839,237,440,000 possible bridge deals. Some are ever-so-slightly more difficult than others:

♠ ---	♠ J6
♥ 87	♥ ---
♦ J5	♦ T86
♣ A2	♣ 8
♠ Q7	♠ T9
♥ ---	♥ ---
♦ Q7	♦ AK9
♣ J3	♣ T

Hearts are trumps, South is on lead, and must make all six tricks. Plan the play. (Solution next year)

Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season,

Richard Hills  
BFACT President

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**Youth Bridge:**

The Australian Youth Championships and International Team Selection is being held from 9 to 18 January. All bridge players under 30 are welcome (although only players 26 and under are eligible to form the Australian Youth Team). There is even a special event for Under 16s. The Convenor will be Brad Coles ([grover@bigpond.net.au](mailto:grover@bigpond.net.au))

and the Directors will be Matt McManus and David Lusk.

For online entry or more information, go to [www.abf.com.au](http://www.abf.com.au) and select the link to Youth Bridge.

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**Upcoming BFACT Selection Events:**

I know it is nearly Christmas, but it is never too early to start planning your bridge year! Here is a list of some of the BFACT selection event for the first quarter of 2004. You can register for some of them already!

The following events will all select teams or pairs to represent the ACT in the Australian National Championships in Melbourne.

*ANC Open Team Selection* – The qualifying will be the five Mondays in March. The final will be held Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday 16-18 April. Venue – CBC.

*State Mixed Pairs & ANC Selection* – Three Thursdays 4, 11 and 18 March.

*ANC Seniors' Team Selection* – Saturday and Sunday, 27-28 March. Venue – CBC.

*ANC Youth Team Selection* – Sunday 28 March. Venue – CBC.

*Open, Women's and Senior's Butler Pairs Selections* – Mondays, 5, 12, 19 and 26 April plus 3 May. Venue – CBC. Please note that the page 7 of the CBC calendar has omitted the Seniors'.

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**New Editor:**

As foreshadowed in the November edition, I, Rebecca Plush, have now taken over as the BFACT News editor. Any comments, suggestions or articles are very welcome.

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## **The 2004 Summer Festival of Bridge:**

This great congress is coming up (13-26 January). I thought it might be useful to give players new to the festival a brief run-down of the individual events and some other happenings.

*Warm-up Pairs* – This is simply a walk-in pairs event with CASH prizes.

*National Women's Teams* – This event starts with a nine round Swiss teams. The top six teams will go through to the semi-finals, with the top two from this playing in the final. As the name suggests, all team members have to be female. Teams of four, five or six can enter.

*National Seniors' Teams* – This event follows the same format as the National Women's Teams. The qualifying factor is that all team members must have been born on or before 14/01/1949. Teams of four, five or six can enter.

*National Non-Life Masters Teams* – This an eight session Swiss event. There are four categories: 0-49 Masterpoints, 0-99 Masterpoints, 0-149 Masterpoints and Non-Life Master (the back of your ABF card shows what a Life Master is). Players eligible to represent a country other than Australia are ineligible. Teams of four, five or six can enter.

*Australian Men's Pairs* – This is a three session matchpoint pairs event for the men.

*Australian Open Pairs* – This is an excellent matchpoint pairs event for all players. There are two qualifying sessions on Saturday followed by a two-session final on Sunday. If you don't make the final, you can either play in one of the consolations, or you can withdraw and play in a different event on Sunday.

*Australian Mixed Pairs* – This is a two-session matchpoint pairs event for pairs of mixed gender – ie. a man and a woman! It is a lot of fun. It runs at the same time as the Open pairs qualifying rounds (Saturday).

*Graded Pairs* – This is a two-session matchpoint pairs event that runs at the same time as the Mixed (Saturday). The great thing about this event is that you enter in a category defined by the masterpoints of the member of the pair that has the most as at 20 Sep 2003. The categories are Grand & Life Masters, National Masters Pairs, State Masters Pairs and Restricted Pairs (less than 50 masterpoints). To see what category you fit into, why not take a look at the ABF Masterpoints lookup facility online: <http://www.masterpoints.org.au/files/ASP/mquery.asp> which has all the details about your current standing and what you need to be promoted.

*National Swiss Pairs* – This is an eight match event held on Sunday. Entries close at 10am on the day, to allow for people who do not want to play in a consolation final of the Open Pairs to play in this excellent event. This event is a Butler pair event. The first two matches are random, then the remaining matches are Swissed (see the definition under terminology). This is a great event which gets you in the mood for the South West Pacific Teams (SWPT).

*South West Pacific Teams* – This is the premier event of the Summer Festival. There are 14 teams matches (20 boards to a match) over five days. The top eight teams from each venue (110 teams play at Rydges, the rest at the National Convention Centre) go through to the National Open Teams. You can be a team of four, five or six.

Having played in this a few times myself, I have to say that a team of six works well – that means every pair gets a session off a day (because, of course, only four are needed per match). It is a Swiss event after the first round.

There are a number of trophies awarded in various categories for those teams that do not make the final 16.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Women's (all team members must be female).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mixed (must play as a mixed team in **every** session).

- 1<sup>st</sup> Seniors (all team members born on or after 19 Jan 1949).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Veterans (all team members born on or before 19 Jan 1939).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Country (all team members are Australian residents who do not reside in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth or Sydney).
- 1<sup>st</sup> Novice (all team members have less than 100 masterpoints as at 30 Sep 2003).

*National Open Teams* – Entry is only available to the top eight teams from each venue of the SWPT.

*Novelty Pairs* – This is a social night of fun bridge on Friday evening after the SWPT.

*Australian Mixed Teams* – The final event on the calendar. This is a ten match event run over the final weekend. The requirement is that you play a mixed gender team each match – so at least one male and one female. Teams of four, five or six may enter.

*Walkins* – There will be a number of walkin sessions held at the CBC and some held to match the major event times at Rydges. Red masterpoints and CASH prizes!

*Partnership Desk* – Val Hopwood is running the official partnership desk. So if you need a partner or pair for any event of the Summer Festival, contact Val on [hopwwodv@wagga.net.au](mailto:hopwwodv@wagga.net.au) or (02) 6286 4985 or 0412 632 790 or 67/3 Heard St., MAWSON ACT 2606 or see her at the CBC sometime! When you contact her give your name, contact details, which event(s) and your masterpoint rank. There will be a small fee.

*Directing* – This year the ACT is sending a trainee director, me (!), to the Summer Festival. There an accreditation committee will be watching my every move to determine whether I will be accredited as a National Director. So if you see me there, come up and say hi.



## City Labor Club Bridge Club

The City Labor Club Bridge Club (CLCBC) has started a nine-month transition period. During the transition period, the CLCBC is being jointly managed by George and Dorothy Jesner (who have been successfully running the club for years) and a committee of its members. At the end of the transition period, the CLCBC will be entirely managed by a committee of its members.



## GNOT:

The GNOT was recently run in Sydney. Three ACT teams competed:

- **I Thomson**, D Lilley, E Havas, R Brightling, M Bourke, A De Livera.
- **E Dudley**, A Powell, S Hurley, R Nixon, R Hills, D Vaughan.
- **G Ware (NPC)**, D Geromboux, M De Livera, N Griffiths, J McGowan, B Johnson.

Unfortunately, no ACT teams made the final. More info at the ABF website.



## Terminology:

Each News I will explain a few bridge terms. If anyone wants anything specific explained, e-mail me!

*Matchpoint Pairs* – This is the usual walk-in pairs event that you play at your club. Matchpoint refers to the scoring method. When playing in this sort of event you will end up with a percentage.

*Butler Pairs* – This a pairs event that uses teams-type scoring. What happens is the scorer will compare your score to the average score from all tables. So you will end up with a score in IMPs.

*Swiss* – An event of this type, whether it be teams of pairs, is one where you will play people who are doing about the same as you. The first round is usually random, and then after your cumulative result determines who you play next.



## The World Championships

The World Championships are complete in Monaco. The Australian team did very well finishing 6<sup>th</sup> after the Round Robin. Unfortunately Italy defeated them in the quarterfinals. This was an excellent result for the Aussie team.

The Grand Final was played between USA 1 and Italy, with Italy being defeated by only 1 IMP. The live, online Vugraph was excellent, and I hope you were all watching the last board of the match where there was drama and controversy. What happened is as follows:

“In the closed room, Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth [USA] had gone plus 400 against 4♥ by Italy’s Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin.

In the open room, Paul Soloway [USA] had doubled Lorenzo Lauria in 5♦. If Lauria could get out for down one – minus 100 – it would be an 11-IMP gain and the match would be tied.

As play wound down, Lauria had already lost two tricks and still had the trump ace out against him – plus the losing ♥9 in his hand. With a singleton spade in his hand, Lauria had played the king from dummy’s holding of ♠K Q to five. Soloway could have cashed the ♥10 to guarantee two down, but he played back a spade instead.

Lauria’s partner had left the table after putting down the dummy, so Lauria was playing the cards himself. Lauria apparently expected Soloway to cash his winning heart, so he pulled the ♠7 from dummy – which held only clubs and spades – realizing too late that a spade had been played. He tried to change his play to the queen, which would have allowed him to discard the losing heart and get out for minus 100. Hamman, who had started with the ♠J 10 doubleton, had played the jack to the first lead of the suit, and he covered the ♠7 with the 10.

A tournament director was called, and the ruling was that the ♠7 was a played card,

resulting in two down for minus 300. That gave the Americans a 12 IMP gain and a 1 IMP victory.

The Italians appealed the ruling, but the appeals committee, citing rule 45B from the law book, backed the director. The rule states that when a card is touched it is played.”

From the Daily Bulletin of the World Bridge Championships, No. 14 (Saturday Evening) 15 November 2003. To see the rest of this Bulletin, or to see the rest of the results, go to:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/tourn/MonteCarlo.03/Monaco.htm>



## CBC Happenings:

The Canberra Bridge Club is holding its Daytime Christmas party on 8 December, and its evening one on 12 December. All members welcome. Please contact Sean or Judith at the CBC for more information.

## Next Edition:

I am going to take a bit of a break over Christmas to prepare for directing at the Summer Festival, so the next full edition won’t be until early Feb. However, I plan to produce a short edition in the first week of January.



## Editor’s Contact Details:

To submit an article, make a suggestion, or ask a question, please e-mail me on [rplush@mac.com](mailto:rplush@mac.com) or leave me something at the CBC (I direct there Tuesdays and Fridays). Or you can contact Richard Hills on [richard.hills@immi.gov.au](mailto:richard.hills@immi.gov.au). Also, if you know someone who would like to receive this electronically who doesn’t already, let me know their e-mail address or get them to e-mail me!

