



BFACT News



Editors: Rebecca Plush and Richard Hills

May/June 2004

From the President:

Percentages:

In a teams match when deciding whether or not to accept an invitation to game, the following calculation might be useful.

Assumption 1: The only possible results for the major-suit contract are 9 tricks or 10 tricks.

Assumption 2: Your opponents will never double.

Assumption 3: The players at the other table have bid a partscore in the same major.

Nature of Game	Success (10 tricks)	Failure (9 tricks)	Break-even
Vul major	+10 imps	-6 imps	37.5% chance
Non-vul major	+6 imps	-5 imps	45.5% chance

Question:

Should you really call the TD after all (alleged) infractions?

Answer:

No. While Law 9 requires that the TD **must** be summoned after attention is drawn to an irregularity, Law 9 also states that any player **may** draw attention to an irregularity. That is, drawing attention to an irregularity is optional.

If an opponent technically infracts Law 75 by mis-explaining a bid, but the infraction does not damage my non-offending side, then I do not waste the TD's time by drawing attention to this innocuous irregularity.

Richard Hills – BFACT President



At the Trials:

While playing in the Women's Trials, a rather amusing incident occurred. In the middle of an auction, a certain BFACT News editor (hint – Alfred Hitchcock named a film after her) nearly knocked over her bidding box. In the act of rescuing it, I put my hand down on the table. When I had righted my bidding box I looked at my hand – face up on the table! I called the Director (who was Sean) and after explaining rather sheepishly what had happened, Sean was heard to say “I've been waiting 20 years for this!” The result? 13 penalty cards that all had to remain on the table during the auction and my long-suffering partner (Wendy Boxall) was barred from the auction.

The opposition ended up in 3NT with Wendy on lead. Declarer now had the juicy option of prohibiting a lead of one or more suits. Declarer prohibited a lead of a diamond or a spade and I got to pick those suits up, while the rest remained penalty cards. This meant that Declarer got to play her 13 cards, Dummy's 13 cards plus my 7 remaining penalty cards! Fortunately for me, the end result was that Declarer made twelve tricks in 3NT instead of ten and Wendy was VERY forgiving!



Message from the Editor:

Firstly, I wish to apologise for the long break between Newses. From now on, expect BFACT News to appear late in the month, rather than the first week. This seems to be what works best for me. Not really sure why...



May 2004 BFACT Simultaneous Pairs:

On this occasion we had 85 pairs from six clubs participate in this event (Monaro Bridge Club missed this event, but intends to be back for the November session). The results were as follows, when scored across the field:

Overall Winners

Peter & Suzanne DONOGHUE
Bega Valley Bridge Club

Overall Second

Steve CARTER & Tony KERSHAW
Canberra Bridge Club

Overall Third

Thayer HUMPHRIES & Hazel ADAMSON
Sapphire Coast Bridge Club

The leading places from each club were as follows:

BEGA VALLEY

Peter & Suzanne DONOGHUE

CANBERRA

Steve CARTER & Tony KERSHAW

COOTAMUNDRA

Noreen CONKEY & Jeanette HOWSE

MORUYA

Alan & Enid BOOKER

SAPPHIRE COAST

Thayer HUMPHRIES & Hazel ADAMSON

SOUTH CANBERRA

Hashmat ALI & Richard HILLS

In more than one club, the above results will be of some surprise. The best result in the overall scoring for each club were usually not the same pair who scored best in each local club's normal duplicate score for that night. I checked the scores, it's just the way it goes. The winners' good scores were good in all clubs, not just at their club.

Hand of interest

I had a complaint from one of the better scoring pairs that surely the commentary should say slam should be bid on the following board (EW in 6♣):

Hand 13 Dlr N Vul All
NORTH
♠ K 9 7 6 3
♥ 9 4 3
♦ Q J T
♣ T 4

WEST
♠ Q T 2
♥ T
♦ K 2
♣ A Q J 8 7 5 3

EAST
♠ A J 4
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 8 5 4
♣ K 9 6

SOUTH
♠ 8 5
♥ Q J 8 6 5
♦ A 9 7 6 3
♣ 2

I believe I will defend the original commentator's opinion, although the objection is a reasonable one. There are two potential finesses here (♠K, ♦A) that both apparently have to work for slam to come in. However, a diamond can be pitched on the ♥AK, which now brings the contract down to about a 50% chance based on the spade finesse. If West deliberately bids clubs first, 6♣ will be played from the correct hand, because two rounds of diamonds cannot be lost on the opening lead, even if the ♦A is in the North hand.

Ah, yes, I can hear the pedantic experts say: *If you want to bid slams that are "about" 50% based on "only" one finesse, go right ahead. You'll come out worse than 50% in the long run, because very occasionally you'll get a freak ruff or badly breaking trumps as well.* The above case is reasonably safe from this, but how does West know that spades do not break 7-0 in NS cards, and there's a ruff on the opening lead? Or a 7-1 break in diamonds with the first 2 tricks going ♦A, diamond ruff? Because neither North nor South pre-empted at their opening bids? Oh, if only I could rely on the opponents I play being always that predictable!

Till next time.
George Stockham – Convenor



Lead, as in bleed:

Richard Hills

Victor Champion Cup

Round 5, Board 8 (rotated 90 degrees for convenience)

Imps

Dlr: North

Vul: None

Hashmat Ali

- ♠9
- ♥AJ75
- ♦986
- ♣AKT54

Tony Skinner

- ♠Q72
- ♥T4
- ♦KJ532
- ♣Q83

Richard Hills

- ♠AKJT8653
- ♥K
- ♦A7
- ♣92

Bal Krishan

- ♠4
- ♥Q98632
- ♦QT4
- ♣J76

The bidding has gone:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Skinner	Ali	Hills	Krishan
---	1♣	4♠	5♥
5♠	6♥	6♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

(For this particular match, my regular partner Hashmat Ali was unusually my RHO). My sensible action was to double the 6♥ save taken by Hashmat and Bal. Instead, I poorly judged the auction, stupidly assumed that Bal' s ♥ contract would make, and ridiculously took a phantom save in 6♠x. At the table, Bal guessed to lead the ♦4. Unlucky! +1310 to the good guys for the overtrick. Upon the selection of the opening lead, an expression of mild disappointment crossed Hashmat' s face. I deem that Hashmat prefers me as a partner, rather than as an opponent.

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

2004 Interclub Teams:

The second round of the 2004 Interclub Teams was held on Saturday 29 May at the Services Club Cooma. Results in each event were:

Restricted

Club	VPs	Carry forward
South Canberra	122.5	91.9
Valley	119.5	89.6
Canberra	109	81.8
Jamison	102	76.5
Monaro	94	

Seniors

Club	VPs	Carry forward
Sapphire Coast	136.5	102.4
Goulburn	128.7	96.5
Monaro	121.7	91.3
Valley	82.3	61.8
Jamison	74	

The final round will be held on Saturday 18 September at the Canberra Bridge Club, with the bottom team in each event at stage 2 having been eliminated.

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

Extract from "Politics and the English Language" (1946), by George Orwell:

Here is a well-known verse from Ecclesiastes:

"I returned and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

Here it is in modern English:

"Objective considerations of contemporary phenomena compel the conclusion that success or failure in competitive activities exhibits no tendency to be commensurate with innate capacity, but that a considerable element of the unpredictable must invariably be taken into account."

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣

ACT ANC Representatives:

The Australian National Championships (ANC) are being held 23 July to 7 August in Melbourne this year. The ANC is the event where each State and Territory has the opportunity to play each other to find out who is the best.

The Congress starts with the Butler Pairs. The Open and Women's Butler run at the same time. This event is run in three Stages. Stage I is open to everyone to play. Stage II is only open to people who qualify from Stage I plus one pair per State/Territory. Stage III is only open to those who qualify from Stage II and the winner is determined.

Arjuna de Livera and Ian Robinson will be the ACT's pair entering at Stage II of the Open. Rhyl Scales and Jill Tonkin are the Women's Butler pair.

The next major event is the ANC Pairs. Each State/Territory is entitled to send three pairs in each category. The ACT representatives are:

Open – David Hoffman & David Wawn, Margaret Bourke & Arjuna de Livera, Andrew Struik & Freda Kaufline.

Women – Nola Church & Julia Hoffman, Rhyl Scales & Jill Tonkin, Claire Wehner & Lesley Childs.

Mixed – Neil Ewart & Janet Kahler, Stephen Mendick & Ros Roworth, Pat Back & Jim Ascione.

Seniors – Gytis Danta & Elizabeth Havas, Hashmat Ali & John Brockwell.

Youth – Nye Griffiths & Michael de Livera, Daniel Geromboux & Griff Ware, Christy Bridgland & Matthew Porter.

Then the main event begins – the ANC Teams! The ACT Representatives are:

Open – David Hoffman & David Wawn, Margaret Bourke & Arjuna de Livera, Richard Brightling & Ian Thomson.
Non-Playing Captain – Roy Nixon.

Women – Nola Church & Julia Hoffman, Susan Coleman & Dorothy Jesner, Karen Creet & Judith Tobin.

Playing Captain – Julia Hoffman.

Seniors – Gytis Danta & Elizabeth Havas, Ross Crichton & Peter Grant, Andrew Struik & Brian Thorp.

Non-playing Captain – Tony Hancock.

Youth – Nye Griffiths & Michael de Livera, Daniel Geromboux & Griff Ware, Christy Bridgland & Matthew Porter.

Non-playing Captain – Mark Abraham.

The ABF website will have a link so we can keep up to date with the results during the ANC.



2005 World Youth Teams Championships:

Australia will be staging the 2005 World Youth Teams Championships 7 to 17 August 2005 at The Royal Showgrounds – Sydney Olympic Park. The organisers are seeking assistance from anyone who can help out by being a host for a visiting team, being a helper before and during the event, sponsorship, fund raising and anything else you think you can help with. For more information, visit the ABF website on www.abf.com.au.



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/disk at the CBC in the BFACT pigeon hole.

