



# Bulletin

I have accepted an invitation from the Canberra Bridge Club to edit the Bulletin.

The Bulletin will be produced at least quarterly. I am keen to hear from Club members on the types of articles they would like to see in the Bulletin. I can be contacted by e-mail or at the Club.



## President's Message

I would like to thank Earl Dudley for taking on the task of Bulletin Editor. We all know, from his earlier work as

Editor of the NOT News, that with Earl at the helm the quality of this important adjunct to life at the Club is assured.

As the year ends, members will doubtless be looking forward to Christmas celebrations and I wish you all the best for your festivities, whatever form they may take.

To bridge players, Christmas is synonymous with preparing for the Summer Festival. This promises to be as good as ever in 2004. Should you not have a crowded playing schedule, I would ask you to consider making your self available as a 'standby' player (more details on Page 11 of this Bulletin). The standby roster is provided to the Festival, on a fee-for-service basis, by our Club each year and these services represent a valuable income stream for the Club.

Another of these services is the provision of recorders for the finals of the various championships; to volunteer for this task affords you the best seat in the house to watch some marvellous bridge. Val Mitchell is coordinating this service on the Club's behalf and she would love to hear from you.

May Santa treat you all kindly and all the best for a good bridging year in 2004.

Julia Hoffman



## Club Christmas Parties

The Evening Christmas Party will be held on Friday 12 December 2003 starting at 7.30pm.

The Daytime Christmas Party will be held on Monday 8 December 2003 starting at 10am.



## At the CBC

### During December

#### *Butler Pairs*

Monday evenings, 8, 15 and 22 December (Best 2 scores out of 3 wins) .Play in one or more sessions.

#### *Mixed Teams*

Thursday evenings, 4, 11 and 18 December.

### During January

#### *Summer Butler Pairs*

Monday evenings, 5 and 12 January and Thursday evenings, 1, 8 and 15 January.

Best 3 out of 5 scores with the same partner wins entry to the National Swiss Pairs Championship on Sunday, 18 January 2004.

Play in one or more sessions.

## Congresses and National Events

#### *Australian Youth Week (Canberra)*

10 to 18 January 2004

#### *Summer Festival of Bridge (Canberra)*

14 to 26 January 2004

Printed brochures are available at the clubroom or can be downloaded from the ABF website.



## Club News

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM held on Sunday 28 September elected its Committee for 2003-2004. The Committee is:

President: Julia Hoffman

Vice-President: Peter Grant

Secretary: Ann Pettigrew

Treasurer: Andrew Kettle

Tournament Secretary: Daniel Geromboux

Committee Members: Colin Beaton, Alison Hancock, John Hemenstall, Richard Hills, Val Hopwood, Klaus Kalejs, Adrienne Stephens, Claire Wehner.

Non-Committee members who will assist convenors of various sub-committees are Earl Dudley, Andrew Leslie, Ros Roworth, Wendy Freeman, Ian Thomson, Denis Grahame, David Hoffman, and Ian Robinson.



## Subscription Fees

The annual subscription for 2004 is \$60 with a concession rate of \$30 for:

- a) Persons under the age of 18 years;
- b) Full-time students under the age of 25 years;
- c) Disability support or age pensioners;
- d) Persons who reside permanently more than 80 kilometres from the Canberra GPO; and
- e) At the discretion of the Committee, other persons experiencing hardship.

Annual subscriptions have increased because of an increase in fees payable to the ABF, due to an increase in World Bridge Federation affiliation fees and an increase in public liability insurance premiums.

The Club membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December. It would help the Club if players renewed their membership as early as possible before the end of the year. You can renew your subscription at the clubrooms during December.



## Club Calendar for 2004

Peter Grant

With Christmas fast approaching and the New Year almost upon us, your Committee has been working to finalise the Club's calendar for 2004. Thanks to those who have provided comments and suggestions to help in the process.

In designing the calendar for next year we have had to take into account the usual set of fixtures and constraints: major selection events and other events organised by BFACT; significant national events such as the Australian National Championships, the Summer Festival of Bridge, the Spring NOT and the GNOT; and key congresses, both national and local. We have retained those club events which have proven their popularity over recent years, while making a number of changes at the margin. Noteworthy features of the 2004 calendar are highlighted below.

### Daytime Bridge (Monday-Saturday)

In line with the feedback we have had from our daytime players, we have left daytime arrangements relatively unchanged for 2004. Most daytime players seem content with the current heavy emphasis on one-off walk-in pairs events, and many have indicated that they would be unhappy if that emphasis were to be changed. To cater for those who like to study the hands after a session of bridge, we have recently introduced pre-dealt boards and hand records for one of the movements at the Thursday daytime session, and will be retaining that arrangement throughout next year.

### Evening Bridge (Monday-Friday)

For various reasons, including the later timing of next year's ANC (see below), we have had to make a number of changes to the timing and sequencing of club events for 2004. However, all your favourite events are still there, even if their timing has changed somewhat. Our new Tournament Secretary, Daniel Geromboux, has also flagged his intention to introduce some changes to the format of certain events; for example, next year's Egon Larsen Pairs will be conducted using a Barometer Pairs format.

On the last Tuesday of each month (beginning on 25 November this year) the club will hold a Butler Pairs event (with IMPs or Teams scoring) instead of the usual match-point pairs. The club will also continue to participate in the ABF's Nationwide Pairs event, held every second Friday evening through the year.

## Representative Selection Events

Reflecting decisions taken recently by BFACT, we have made a number of changes to the scheduling of selection events for the next Australian National Championships (to be held in Melbourne from 23 July to 6 August 2004). Dates of key selection events will be as follows:

**Open Team Selection:** Qualifying rounds on Mondays 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 March, followed by the final on the weekend of 16-18 April.

**Women's Team Selection:** Saturday and Sunday 24-25 April; also the evenings of Wednesdays 14 and 21 April and 23 April Friday if numbers warrant.

**Seniors' Team Selection:** Saturday and Sunday 27-28 March; also Friday 26 March if numbers warrant.

**Youth Team Selection:** Saturday 27 March.

**State Open Pairs and ANC Selection:** Mondays 10, 17, 24 and 31 May.

**Open and Women's Butler Pairs Selections:** Mondays 5, 12, 19 and 26 April and 3 May.

**Seniors' Pairs Selection:** Tuesdays 20 and 27 April (daytime).

**Youth Pairs Selection:** Sunday 28 March.

**State Mixed Pairs and ANC Selection:** Thursdays 4, 11 and 18 March.

**ANC Women's Pairs Selection and Men's Pairs (Summer Festival of Bridge) Selection:** Mondays 29 November and 6 and 13 December.

## Seminar Presentations

The club will again conduct a series of seminars on selected Friday evenings; next year's dates are 7 May, 2 July and 26 November. The seminars will begin at 6:30pm and run for an hour, with soup provided for those members needing nourishment.

The May and November seminars will be followed at 7:30pm by BFACT's Simultaneous Pairs event, while the July seminar will be followed by the usual Friday night walk-in pairs. Further details of seminar topics and speakers will be publicised during the year.

## Club Congress Dates

The 2004 Southern Tablelands Teams will be held on Sunday, 23 May, and the club's Spring Congress on the weekend of 10-12 September. Mark these dates in your diaries now!

## Printed Copies of Calendar

The calendar for 2004 is now being printed, and copies will be available for collection at the clubrooms before Christmas. A copy has been posted on the new club website.



## Open Team Selection

Here is your big chance to show off those greatly enhanced new bridge skills you will have acquired through playing in events at the Summer Festival of Bridge.

The first major event in the Bridge Calendar for the year, which will commence after the Summer Festival of Bridge and the Gold Coast Congress is the Open Team Selection. The qualifying rounds run for 5 weeks from 1 March.

The top 3 pairs from a final to be held on the weekend of 16-18 April will be invited to represent the ACT at 2004 Australian National Championships to be held in Melbourne in July.

You can play in this great event without committing to play in Melbourne.

You can enter for this event now.



## Clubroom Closure

The Club will be closed on the following dates

- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day
- New Years Eve (evening session only)

The Club will also be closed in late January for evening sessions on certain dates when the Summer Festival of Bridge is on.



## Supervised Play

Do you have friends wanting to sample the delights of duplicate bridge but are nervous about turning up to an ordinary club game? Why not suggest they try out Supervised Play at the Club? Supervised Play is available at the Club on Wednesdays (during the day, starting at 10am and in the evening starting at 7.30pm).

It is a great opportunity for beginners to develop the confidence to make the transition to duplicate competition.



## Director!

Rebecca Plush

Do you know what to do when an opponent disputes a claim you make during the play of a hand and asks you to “play it out”? Or when other things happen at the table? Well, here are a few tips.

### ***“There’s No Need to Call the Director, I know what to do”***

The Director should **ALWAYS** be called immediately to deal with an irregularity at the table with two exceptions. It does not matter if you know the ruling. The exceptions are an incorrect explanation of a bid or a failure to alert a bid that is required to be alerted.

By calling the Director, you protect the rights of all players at the table. You might think you know what to do but the Director is up-to-date on all of the Laws and Regulations including the most recent changes and is better equipped to sort out any problem. There are often subtleties that you don’t know about that need to be considered.

### ***Incorrect Explanations and Failures to Alert***

For those who saw the article in the NOT News from the 2001 Summer Festival of Bridge, you can skip this bit (unless you have forgotten). For those who didn’t, read on...

You say **nothing** during an auction, if at some point your partner incorrectly explains your bid when asked the meaning of the bid or fails to alert a bid that should have been alerted (such as a multi-two opening or a Jacoby 2NT). Sit there poker-faced until the auction is finished. At the end of the auction, the procedures to be followed depend on whether your side declares or you get to defend.

If your side declares, then before the opening lead is made, you correct the incorrect explanation or point out the bid that should have been alerted and answer any questions the defenders may ask. At the end of the play of the hand, the Director is called if the opponents believe that the incorrect explanation or failure to alert may have caused damage.

The situation is different if your opponents declare. You do not say anything at all until the end of play because to do so will convey unauthorised information to partner, which is in itself an irregularity. At the end of play, you tell

your opponent what the error was and suggest that the Director be called if it is felt that there may have been damage.

Pro-active ethics involves telling your opponents that you think they may have been damaged by an incorrect explanation or a failure to alert. During a previous Summer Festival, I incorrectly explained a bid and we ended up defending a 3♦ contract. At the end of the hand my partner said “My partner incorrectly explained my bid. It meant ... I believe you have been damaged and you should call the Director”. The Director was duly called and the score adjusted to 3NT making 10 tricks for a flat board. If my partner had chosen not to be ethical, we would have picked up a fairly good board, but at what cost? Personally, I would never play again with a person who was unethical enough to let something like that by, simply to get a good result.

### ***“Play it out”***

How many times have you made a claim only to have one of the defenders ask you to play it out? Once declarer has made a claim the remainder of the hand **cannot** be played out. The Director is called if the claim is disputed. If a defender insists you play it out, explain politely that you cannot under the Laws of Bridge and suggest he call the Director and if he declines, you call the Director! There is nothing wrong with this and it is the right thing to do.

A statement of claim must be precise and complete. Sloppy statements of claim can cause problems. For example, in a recent event, my partner made a claim statement that left room for doubt about the line of play. The Director was duly called and a fairly heated discussion (by the opponents and my partner) ensued. The Director asked me if I agreed what the statement was and I told the truth, which suggested it was likely she would misplay the hand. The result was bad for us, but it was the ethical thing to do, and my partner didn’t mind (once she stopped being annoyed with herself).

### ***Revokes***

Call the Director when a revoke occurs if you are aware of it. If you think a revoke occurred more than a trick ago, wait until the end of the hand. At the end of the hand, ask everyone to leave their hands on the table, in the order that the cards were played, and check. If you think there was a revoke, call the Director anyway. You are supposed to leave your cards on the table in the



order played until the scoring is complete anyway.

### ***Insufficient Bids***

Call the Director when an insufficient bid occurs—don't just "make it good". The first option is for the next bidder to accept the bid. Did you know that? Then it reverts to the person who made the insufficient bid. The person can bid the lowest legal number of the suit called (for example, 4♥ instead of 3♥ over 3♠). If he bids anything else, his partner is banned from the rest of the auction and there might be lead penalties as well. If the bid is conventional (like Stayman), there are much harsher penalties. So it could be to your advantage to call the Director when your opponent has made an insufficient bid.

### ***Calls out of turn***

Did you know that a call is defined as "Any bid, double, redouble or pass". Hence all bids are calls, but not all calls are bids! But enough of that. Have you ever been so eager to call that you do so out of turn? I know I have! When an opponent makes a call out of turn, summon the Director. You have options. Firstly, you can accept the call out of turn (assuming it is legal) and call over it normally.

Alternatively, you can choose NOT to accept the call, in which case it is cancelled and the appropriate sub-sections of Law 30 (Pass out of rotation) or Law 31 (Bid out of rotation) comes into effect.

### ***Long Hesitations and Other Unauthorised Information***

Ever had an opponent hesitate for what seems like forever before making a call? Or makes a comment that seems to indicate a particular lead? I believe most people are not cheating when this happens. They are just confused about what to do or they don't realise what they've said. When bidding, you make each bid **in tempo** – that is, at the same rate as any other – and you should not be talking, well, at least not about the current hand! If there is a break in tempo, or a comment, or something else, you could be inadvertently passing unauthorised information to your partner.

In the case of a hesitation, reach agreement with everyone at the table that there was a hesitation (at the end of the auction before the opening lead, simply say "I believe there was a hesitation before this (point to a call) call was made. Do you

agree?" Once the play is complete, call the Director if you think either opponent may have acted on the unauthorised information.

### ***The Moral***

Call the Director when something odd has happened at the table (noting the exceptions for failure to alert and misinformation). As a Director, I would rather be called when I was not needed, than to be called when it is too late for me to fix a problem.

If you want to know more, why not do a Director's course? A lot of players take the course and sit the exam to become qualified Directors but never direct. Why? Because they want to know what their rights are at the table. Sean runs courses and a course is run at the Summer Festival each year.

Bridge is supposed to be fun and the Director is there to help make that happen. But I can't help if you don't call!



## **Claims**

Earl Dudley

Claims are an integral part of the game of bridge. A claim is an assertion by declarer (or possibly a defender) during the play of the hand that he/she will win a certain number of the remaining available tricks. Declarer makes a claim when he can show that the outcome of the play of the hand will not be affected by the opponents' play of the cards for the remainder of the hand.

The simplest claims are those where only a few cards remain to be played, trumps have been drawn (if a suit contract) and declarer has only winners left in his/her hand or in dummy. More complex claims are those where the number of tricks is contingent on a line of play which declarer must nominate in making the claim.

Rebecca has described the procedures to be followed in making claims in the previous article. More specifically:

1. Declarer tells the defenders that he claims a number of tricks and states how he intends to play the remainder of the hand to win those tricks. Defenders should take careful note of declarer's statement of claim since it may be important if the claim is challenged.

- All play **must cease**. Declarer places his cards face up on the table to enable the defenders to assess the claim and waits until such time as the defenders have assessed the claim.
- If the claim is to be accepted, both defenders must agree. As a matter of courtesy, a defender should consult partner before accepting a claim.
- Declarer is not entitled to amend his statement of claim in the light of comments made by either defender.
- If the defenders do not agree to the claim or are uncertain, then the Director should be called to the table and asked to assess the claim.

The Director will assess the claim against the statement of claim made by declarer invoking the following rules:

- The Director will not allow a line of play that requires declarer to draw any outstanding trumps in the defenders' hands before cashing winners in the side suits unless declarer has stated he will draw trumps in his statement of claim.
- The Director will assume that declarer will play a suit in the normal order (in a holding of AK6, the Ace is played followed by the King and then the six) unless declarer specifies otherwise in the statement of claim.
- The Director will normally not accept a claim that the required number of tricks can be obtained by ruffing or finessing unless declarer has stated that he proposes to do so in his statement of claim. (The Director may accept a claim requiring a marked finesse, that is, where an opponent has previously shown out in the suit).

To avoid any problems with claims, I encourage declarers to adopt the following simple rules, particularly if playing against defenders, who are inexperienced.

- Avoid making a claim, which requires different lines of play, depending on the distribution of the suits held by the defenders. A statement of claim such as "If West shows out in hearts, then I will squeeze East in the majors on the run of the club suit" may impress the kibitzers but is discourteous to your opponents unless they are expert players.
- Delay making a claim until all the winners are in hand or in dummy but not both.

The second of these rules might seem a little harsh but consider the following hand:

♠5	♠AKQT62
♥T432	♥AK
♦A7	♦4
♣AKQ642	♣T987

An opening 4♦ bid made it difficult for EW and the final contract was 6NT by West rather than 7♣. The opening lead was ♦K.

Declarer showed his cards claiming 12 tricks (6 clubs, ♦A and 5 black suit winners). He claimed an overtrick if ♠J was short (giving up on any squeeze possibilities!). North was void in the black suits and so 12 tricks were conceded.

Can you spot the problem? Declarer has 12 tricks but the club suit is blocked. A more thoughtful declarer would duck the opening lead and when the 3-0 club split is revealed, the ♦A can be played to remove the 4<sup>th</sup> club from dummy allowing declarer to cash the remaining clubs.



## NOT Story

The fastest claim made by a declarer at a major tournament probably occurred during the first round of the National Open Teams some 20 years ago. Most teams in this event are seeded randomly and in the first round, the top-seeded teams are drawn to play against un-seeded teams.

Teams drawn to play against the top seeds are understandably initially nervous but invariably enjoy the experience. On the last board of one such match, one of the Internationals opened 1NT and his partner promptly folded his cards and placed them in the bridge satchel. He then wrote down +2220 on his score sheet and stated that the board will be a flat board across the room.

The inexperienced players challenged the claim and so the International retrieved his cards and showed his and partner's hands. They held a combined 39HCP - not quite enough to guarantee success in 7NT but sufficient on this occasion.

It was not the flat board that the International had predicted. At one table, two youthful players were playing a strong club relay system. One of our heroes opened 1♦ and his partner chose the wrong moment to embark on a lengthy relay auction. By the time the bidding had reached 4♦, the opening bidder was totally exasperated and decided that if partner did not know where to place the contract by now, no game was on. He passed.



# A Bright(ing) Lead

Richard Hills

Dealer: North  
Vulnerability: East-West

Richard Brightling as West held:

♠ 83  
♥ 873  
♦ AK9876  
♣ K8

The bidding proceeded:

West	North	East	South
-	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass(1)	3♦(2)	Pass	3♥(3)
Pass	4♣(3)	Pass	4♥(3)
Pass	5♦(4)	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- (1) Some psuedo-experts would automatically overcall 2♦. But why take a lose-lose vulnerable versus not action? Downside risks are a -500 penalty or letting the opposing declarer place the location of the cards.
- (2) Mini-splinter, singleton or void diamond, and four-card spade support.
- (3) Cue bid.
- (4) Void in diamonds.

What was Richard Brightling's opening lead?

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In the ACT regional qualifying final for the Grand National Open Teams, the decisive winners were the team of Richard Brightling - Ian Thomson, Margaret Bourke - Arjuna Delivera, Elizabeth Havas - David Lilley.

They won their 30 board match against the runners-up (Richard Hills - David Vaughan - Earl Dudley - Steve Hurley - Roy Nixon) by an impressive 49 imps.

Winners of the provincial section of the ACT regional qualifying final for the Grand National Open Teams, were Griff Ware, N Griffiths, Daniel Geromboux, James McGowan, Michael Delivera and Brian Johnson.

Back to the opening lead. Richard Brightling swindled 14 imps on the following deal:

David Vaughan  
♠ AKJT  
♥ T952  
♦ -  
♣ AJT94

Richard Brightling	Ian Thomson
♠ 86	♠ 543
♥ 873	♥ QJ4
♦ AK9876	♦ QT3
♣ K8	♣ 6532

Richard Hills  
♠ Q972  
♥ AK6  
♦ J542  
♣ Q7

6♠ should make with an overtrick, but Richard Brightling found the devastating opening lead of the ♣8!

Now Richard Brightling's smooth pass at the first round of the auction was rewarded.

Richard Hills had no reason to suspect that the ♣K was on his left and naturally assumed that the lead was a singleton and so hopped up with the ♣A at trick 1.

Communication difficulties now made 12 tricks difficult, although the slam could still be made if declarer chose to exit with a club at trick 2. However, panicked by LHO's club "singleton", declarer mistimed the play and so Richard Hills became Wretched Hills as he ruefully wrote -50 on his scoresheet.

## Update on the GNOT

The finals of the Grand National Open Teams were held in Sydney on the weekend of the 22 November following the Spring Nationals.

Many players rate the Sydney Congress as one of the toughest events in the ABF Calendar. The ACT teams performed creditably but just missed out on making it to the final rounds.

The highlight of congress was Margaret Bourke's success as a member of the winning team in the Spring National Women's Teams.

***Well done Margaret.***



## Signal Disaster

Earl Dudley

An intelligent signal in defence can pinpoint the way to defeat a contract. The idea is simple enough. You signal by playing your cards in a particular order or by discarding in a particular suit to tell partner conventionally something useful about the distribution and/or strength of your hand. Armed with this information, partner will be able to work out which suit to keep when declarer runs a long suit or which suit to switch to when she gains the lead.

Signalling is not without risk. You might find that information conveyed by the signal is more helpful to declarer than to partner. The danger of giving an honest count signal in the play of the following suit in a no trump contract is well known.

	Dummy	
	♠AKT9	
♠J863		♠52
	Hand	
	♠Q74	

If declarer plays the ♠A from dummy, then it would be silly for East to play the ♠5 if it is your agreement with partner to peter to show an even number of cards in the suit. Declarer will next play a spade to the ♠Q noting East's high-low signal and follow up by playing the ♠7 towards dummy. When the ♠J fails to appear, he will finesse to secure four tricks. With no information to guide you, your best play with this holding is to cash your top honours hoping to crash the ♠J.

If you and your partner as EW have agreed to play count signals whenever declarer plays a suit, then you may opt to false card in this situation by playing the ♠2 followed by the ♠5 but you will need to tell declarer if he asks that you routinely false card in these situations.

The best way to handle this and similar problems in signalling is to tell your opponents before the commencement of play in a match or a round of bridge that it is your agreement with partner to play count signals on opponents' leads *only when you judge it to be helpful to partner*. In the situation above, both players should play the cards in the spade suit in the normal order (♠2 and ♠3 followed by ♠5 and ♠6). It should be obvious to declarer that no count signal is being played.

This is all pretty standard stuff. Less well known because it occurs infrequently is that playing an "attitude" signal can also be costly if it assists

declarer more than partner. The following is a dramatic example from a teams match in the club rooms (I cannot recall the event and while I can recall the distributions of all 4 hands and the honour cards I have "made up" the spot cards.).

I was dealer as South (nil vulnerable) and picked up the following hand:

♠64  
♥AJT86  
♦AKQ7  
♣J3

I opened 1♥ as South and my opponent in the West seat overcalled 3♣ (weak), which injected a certain momentum into the auction. Partner bid 4♣ (normally, a value raise to 4♥) and I felt I had enough to bid 4♦. When the smoke cleared, I ended up declarer in a shaky 6♥ contract.

The opening lead was the ♣A. My task was to bring home 6♥ with the following hands:

♠AQ9  
♥KQ753  
♦64  
♣K96

♠64  
♥AJT86  
♦AKQ7  
♣J3

The fate of the contract hung in the balance on the ♣Q continuation. East fumbled a bit before producing a second club (phew!!). As the second club hit the deck, a strange thing happened. A second card became detached from East's hand and did two forward somersaults and a black flip before landing face-up on my lap. I glanced down and discovered to my horror that the card was ♠K. I returned it to East face-down. East was remarkably calm at this turn of events. He simply smiled at me with that "I've got you" look.

Things looked grim. I could see 11 tricks (5 trumps, ♠A, ♣K, 3 top diamonds + a ruff) but what could I do to conjure up an extra trick? I ruffed a club at Trick 3 and played off all the trumps leaving the following position:

♠AQ9  
♥-  
♦64  
♣-  
  
♠6  
♥-  
♦AKQ7  
♣-



The smile on East's face had disappeared by now. He had started with 5 diamonds originally but had to discard 2 of these diamonds on the run of the trumps in order to retain the guarded ♠K. I cashed the ♠A followed by 4 winning diamonds to land the slam contract.

The full deal:

	♠AQ9	
	♥KQ753	
	♦64	
	♣K96	
♠JT8		♠K7532
♥92		♥4
♦J3		♦T9852
♣AQT874		♣52
	♠64	
	♥AJT86	
	♦AKQ7	
	♣J3	

You guessed it. There is a touch of fiction in my account of the play of the hand. But it was not far from the truth. On winning the ♣K at Trick 2, I ruffed the remaining club in dummy and East discarded the ♠3, which according to the EW signalling methods was an "encouraging" card. East had succeeded in informing all players at the table he held the critical ♠K without having to expose the card.

EW were playing "odds and evens" on the first discard. An odd card encourages while an even card discourages and has McKenney "overtones" (a high even card encourages in the higher ranking of the remaining two suits and a low even card encourages in the lower ranking of the two remaining suits).

East could have given the defence a chance by discarding the ♦2 (ostensibly, encouraging in hearts). What declarer would make of such a discard is anyone's guess. However, this is a second best solution. It makes sense to have the same agreement that you have with partner regarding count signals, namely, you play an attitude signal on your first discard *only when you judge it to be helpful to partner*.

It can be tricky to decide when not to play an attitude signal through your choice of first discard but two situations stand out:

1. When declarer is on play and you need only one more trick to defeat the contract (here, there is no point in telling partner what to card to play when he regains the lead because if partner captures the lead the contract will be at least one down).

2. When it is clear from the bidding that you have no high card of any significance to pinpoint by means of a signal.

If these are the only two situations where you and your partner agree not to play an attitude signal on the first discard, your effectiveness in the defence of contracts will improve.

Post Script: Just in case you think that declarer is guaranteed to make 12 tricks in 6♥ on the opening lead of the ♣A through the spade-diamond squeeze, think again. An expert player in the East seat would anticipate discarding difficulties on the run of the trump suit and would retain 4 diamonds by blanking the ♠K. The end position will be:

	♠AQ9	
	♥-	
	♦64	
	♣-	
♠JT8		♠K
♥-		♥-
♦J3		♦T985
♣-		♣-
	♠6	
	♥-	
	♦AKQ7	
	♣-	

Declarer now cashes the top diamonds but is faced with a choice of plays at Trick 12 – the finesse or the drop.

And yes, there would have been no story to tell if West had chosen to lead the ♠J initially.



## Christmas Cards

Have you bought your Christmas Cards yet? If not, why not pay a visit to the Combined Charities Card Shop?

Place: 1st Floor, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Resource Centre  
Corner London Circuit and Civic Square.

Times: Tuesday - Friday  
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

up to 17 December 2003

35 Charities are selling their Christmas cards from this location and hence your purchase will go to a good cause.

## Double Dummy Problem

The problem in the last bulletin

♠J9432  
♥-  
♦A432  
♣5432

♠T8  
♥KQJ10987654  
♦-  
♣Q

♠K7  
♥2  
♦KQJ1098  
♣KJT9

♠AQ65  
♥A3  
♦765  
♣A876

South to make 4♠ on the ♥K opening lead.

Ruff on table, unblocking the ♥A. Now play a spade to the ♠Q, and cash the ♠A. Play the ♣A, and exit with a low heart, throwing a diamond from table. West has to continue playing hearts, and on the first two rounds you throw another two diamonds from dummy, and clubs from hand. Then ruff the next heart on table, and throw your last club from hand.

Dummy now has a spade, the ♦A and three clubs. Declarer has three diamonds and two trumps. East has only five cards left and so he has at most two cards in one minor suit. If they are clubs, ruff the club suit out, using the ♦A and a trump as entries to hand. If diamonds, unblock the ♦A and ruff out that suit instead.

### This issue's problem:

I don't have a double dummy problem but I thought I might try readers out on a bidding problem taken from the ACT Open GNOT final played on 1 November.

You pick up the following hand:

♠QJ652  
♥AQ  
♦AKJ  
♣K32

Your partner opens the bidding with 1NT (15-18HCP, balanced). You ask for clarification with 2♣ and your partner responds 2♠ showing a 5332 distribution with 5 spades and 15-16 HCP.

You plan to bid slam but will it be small slam or grand slam? Your bidding methods are mostly natural. 2NT, 3NT and 4♠ would be sign-offs and 3♠ mildly invitational. A new suit is natural and forcing. How do you continue?

Send solutions to dudleyes@webone.com.au.



## The Sting

Richard Hills

The Sting won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1973.

Thirty years later, Hashmat Ali perpetrated another Oscar-winning sting.

Seniors Teams Championship January 2003

Match 6: Board 2

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: NS

Roger Curnow

♠Q3  
♥KT76  
♦965  
♣T872

John Brockwell

♠AKT972  
♥85  
♦J4  
♣QJ5

Hashmat Ali

♠J8654  
♥43  
♦Q8  
♣AK43

David Hoffman

♠-  
♥AQJ92  
♦AKT732  
♣96

The four champions at the table had previously served in Canberra's gold-medal winning team in the 2001 Interstate Seniors' Championship. David Hoffman opened 1♦. John Brockwell and Hashmat Ali competed to 4♠ but David declared 5♥. The defence started with three rounds of clubs. David ruffed the third round, drew trumps ending in dummy and then led a diamond from dummy.

Hashmat nonchalantly played the ♦Q. David won the ♦A, returned to dummy with a trump, and led another diamond from dummy. Now Hashmat produced the ♦8.

"Stung", David finessed and so John's ♦J was the setting trick.

## Club Website

Chances are that you know about the new Club website. If not, why not hop onto the Internet and have a look. It includes archived results, past winners of major events, a listing of entries for coming events, bulletins and much more.

The new website is at [www.canberrabridgeclub.com.au](http://www.canberrabridgeclub.com.au). Enjoy the new site with all its added facilities.



## Welcome Back!

It is great to see several formerly active members of the Club returning to play in Club events after a prolonged absence – well known players such as David Lilley, David Vaughan, David Lardner and Phillip Hartstein to name a few. There has even been the occasional appearance at the Club (in a super-substitute role) by a person with whom I have a partnership that extends beyond bridge.

I was reminded of the contribution of these players to the game of bridge by an article that first appeared in the Summer Festival NOT News and was reported by Ron Klinger in the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin. The author of the article was Ben Thompson.

Dealer: East  
Vulnerability: All

♠KQT863	
♥Q94	
♦AJ9	
♣9	
♠A752	♠94
♥J85	♥A763
♦T32	♦K765
♣Q87	♣K32
♠ J	
♥KT2	
♦Q84	
♣AJT654	

West	North	East	South
Gumby	Rosendorff	Lazer	Lilley
-		Pass	1♠
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South was in 3NT on the 5♥ lead, four - six - ten. On the ♠J, West showed an even number and so Lilley played low from dummy. He continued with a diamond to dummy's jack and east's king. Lazer returned a diamond to knock out the entry to dummy's spades. The ♦8 was covered by the ten and ace.

Lilley now played the ♠K and discarded the blocking ♦Q. West was in trouble. A diamond return would give declarer access to dummy's spades and a low heart would do the same if declarer played low from dummy. Gumby therefore shifted to a club but declarer captured East's king and continued clubs to secure his contract.



## Poor Andy!

Overheard at the club ... Andy tells Kaz who has misdefended: "Not to worry dear, it's only a game" "Yes", she says, "but it's a vulnerable gae"

Next hand Andy picks up a zillion spades facing Kaz who has a zillion and one hearts. The battle begins. Higher and higher they go. Finally, in spite of the looks he has been getting, he bids 6♠ over her 6♥ bid which buys the contract.

The lead is made and when the dummy hits, he sees he can't make 6♠, but 6♥ is cold. He knows he is in big trouble. He starts out before playing to trick one by saying, "Sorry dear, I should have withdrawn" She says, "you should have withdrawn? Your father should have withdrawn!"

Aah Love!



## Can You Help?

### Stand-by Players for Summer Festival of Bridge 2004.

Each year the Club supplies stand-by players for the Summer Festival of Bridge. These are needed to play as substitutes if someone gets ill, or too tired to play, or just doesn't turn up for a session.

In addition, on the first day of any teams competition, that is, Wednesday 14 January for non-Life masters, Seniors, and Women's teams competition, and on Monday 19 January for the Open, we have what is known as the 'House' team, standing by for each competition in case there is an odd number of teams. If a 'House' team is needed for the entire event, it is not necessarily always the same players playing every session.

On the noticeboard in the foyer at the Club, there are lists for every session for which Stand-by players are needed. The lists are waiting for volunteers to write up their names. You may only be available for one session, but write your name down for it.

If you are needed, you will be notified well beforehand to give you time to get there. If you haven't played in the Summer Festival before, and get a game as a stand-by, this is a great way to try it out.

So volunteer now, and remember as a stand-by player substituting, your game is free, and if your team wins the match you play in, you earn some gold points.

