

June 2007

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Coming Events

There will be a Pleasant Sunday on 1st July at which the State Team representatives will be presented with the team clothing and players will have an opportunity to play against some of our top players.

On Sunday 8th July a Friendly Pairs event will be hosted by the SABF at the West Lakes clubrooms—the Lakes Sport & Community Centre, Edwin Street, West Lakes. Cost will be minimal.

The ABF has altered South Australia's representation for the Grand National Teams event in December. One place has now been allocated for a Restricted Team, consisting of players who are not Life Masters.

Consequently, a one day qualifying event has been programmed for Sunday 5th August, open to players from all clubs.

The venue will be the SA Bridge Association.

The cost for the event will be \$100 per team, **with the winning team rewarded with four airmiles and entry to the GNOT Final in Tweed Heads.**

The Regional Final for the GNOT (Regional Open Teams) will be held at Gawler on Sunday 23rd September.

SABF PLEASANT SUNDAY and presentation of uniforms to State representatives
Sunday 1st July 2007 at SA Bridge Association

SABF FRIENDLY PAIRS
Sunday 8th July 2007 at Lakes Sport & Community Centre

GNOT RESTRICTED QUALIFYING (restricted to player less than Life Master)
Sunday 5th August 2007 at SA Bridge Association

BRIDGE IN THE HILLS' CHRISTMAS IN WINTER PAIRS CONGRESS
Sunday 19th August 2007 at Mt Barker District Golf Club, Alexandrina Road,
Mt Barker

Contact: Barbara Travis 8339 4723

SABA SWISS PAIRS CONGRESS
Sunday 25th August 2007 at SA Bridge Association

Autumn National Open Teams

I was in New Zealand for much of the ANOT but arrived back to see this gem—on BBO during the last qualifying round.

♠ K65	♠ QJ9873
♥ 54	♥ 9
♦ J97653	♦ Q1082
♣ Q4	♣ K2
♠	♠ A1042
♥ QJ7632	♥ AK108
♦ AK	♦ 4
♣ J10863	♣ A975

As happens often when a partnership has a misfit, East-West both bid too much:

W	N	E	S
1H	P	1S	P
2C	P	2S	P
3C	P	3NT	X
4C	P	P	X
All Pass			

COMMENTS ON THE AUCTION:

South did not bid with the opponents bidding both his best suits. He stayed quiet until it was appropriate to start doubling—and got a much bigger reward than he could have expected.

After East's 2S rebid (long spades and a weak hand) perhaps West should have passed.

When West rebid his clubs, East should certainly have passed.

THE PLAY:

Ishmael De'Monte, North, led the D5 to declarer's DK. The HJ went to Stephen Burgess' HK. Stephen removed dummy's trumps next—CA and another club—to prevent heart ruffs.

A small diamond was led from dummy and ruffed by South. Stephen exited with a small spade which was trumped. The CJ removed South's last trump, and the H7 was led to South's H8. Another small spade was ruffed with the last remaining trump. Now the H6 was led to the H10.

A most unusual end-position arose, with dummy being squeezed.

♠ K	♠ QJ
♥	♥
♦ J9	♦ Q
♣	♣
♠	♠ A10
♥ Q32	♥ A
♦	♦
♣	♣

Stephen, South, led the HA. North discarded the D9 and East was under pressure. If a spade was discarded, South could now cash the SA, then the S10. If the DQ was discarded, then a small spade could be led to North's SK, and the DJ would be high.

Both the spade suit and diamond suit were 'blocked' by dummy, but the HA squeezed East out of one of the suits, unblocking the position for the defence. +1400

There was a delay in play while Ishmael and Stephen discussed the end-position, neither of them believing they had seen such an ending before.

The OzOne team—Ishmael Del'Monte, Stephen Burgess, Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn—went on to win the final of the ANOT.

Friday Fantasies and Freaks

FEATURE 1

My daughter Lauren turned 14 on Friday 27th April. Her birthday request was to play bridge with me at SABA.

We played in A Grade (Lauren's first time) and won.

The fantastic auction we had was:

LAUREN	Oppo	ME	Oppo
1H	2NT X		3D
P	P	X	All Pass

2NT showed both minors and my double was penalty-oriented (though I wasn't sure that Lauren would know its meaning). After the opponents went for 1100—when we could make a non-vulnerable game—I praised Lauren for interpreting my double as penalties. Her reply floored me: “You told me that all doubles of NT are penalty.”

I couldn't argue with that but we have added to our 'system' that doubles are penalty when 3 suits have been bid or shown.

FEATURE 2

That same night I organised that William Keyte play with Jesse Davies, since I was supposed to be playing with him. (I did play with Jesse on his 14th birthday late last year too.)

Jesse has recently been keen to utilise the “Whibley 3C” bid, which is a random bid designed to make everyone guess... A 3C opening bid, not vulnerable v. vulnerable opponents, shows any weak hand with 4+ clubs!

William decided that the “Whibley 3C” bid sounded like fun too. Unfortunately he was so keen to use the bid that he opened 3C *out of turn!* Even Michael Whibley (the Kiwi originator) was astounded by this turn of events.

FEATURE 3

One of the joys of bridge is that you are constantly encountering new situations and learning new things.

I even learnt about a bid I'd never heard about. What would you expect this auction to mean?

OPPO 1	OPPO 2
1S	3C (alerted)
3NT	4C
4S	6H

Partner led a heart and this is what I could see:

DUMMY

♠ Qxx
♥ Qxx
♦ Q10
♣ AQ10xx

ME

♠ xx
♥ AKJxx
♦ xxx
♣ Kxx

Impressed by partner's lead, I asked about the auction. I was told that 3C was “Mini Gerber”. 3NT showed 3 aces, corrected to 3 first-round controls including voids (clearly, declarer had a heart void...). So 4C was more “Mini Gerber” and 4S showed 2 second-round controls. However, declarer had shown his void as a second-round control too!

I must admit that this was an unusual introduction to a 'new' bid.

FEATURE 4

One Friday night Tom Playford and I started talking about freaks we had held. His freak was:

♠ AKQxxx
♥ A
♦ AKQxxx
♣

His auction:

TOM	PARTNER
1S	2C
7D	

Friday Fantasies cont.

My favourite freak has always been:

- ♠ AKQJ109xx
- ♥
- ♦ AKJ10x
- ♣

My partner held this hand and we had the following scientific sequence:

PARD	OPPO	ME	OPPO
2C	2H	X	P
3H	P	4C	P
4H	P	4S	P
7S			

My double of the overcall showed a negative response to partner's 2C bid. Partner's heart bids were just forcing so first I bid my club length then I showed my 3-card spade suit.

My hand was:

- ♠ 8xx
- ♥ xxx
- ♦ Qx
- ♣ Jxxxx

Partner knew she couldn't pinpoint the DQ, but figured on our auction that I might have a spade entry or a doubleton diamond if I didn't have DQ.

For all this science we got a Pairs bottom score! Most people just opened the hand 6S and, after the double (with HAK and CAK), redoubled. 6SXX, making an overtrick, was worth more than the grand slam.

I also held my own 8-5 freak:

- ♠ AKJ10x
- ♥
- ♦
- ♣ AKJ10xxxx

I can remember getting the shakes wondering how to bid the hand and settling for 7C (though partner held SQ, HA, DA, CQ, the queens were too hard to find).

Trump Safety Plays

When your outside winners are cast iron it is time to consider the solidity of your trump suit.

Imagine your trump suit is:

AJxx opposite K9xxxx

You are missing Q10x in the trump suit. If trumps are 3-0 can you pick them up without a loser? Answer: only if 'South' has all the trumps. Play accordingly, by leading the trump K first. Then you can finesse the trump Q if trumps are 3-0 with South. [If North has all the trumps you cannot avoid a trump loser.]

Now let's look at the situation where you are missing more trumps:

A10xx opposite KQxx

There are no problems when trumps break 3-2. Problems only exist if trumps break 4-1 (or 5-0, but we can't pick them up then). So the objective should be to allow for the 4-1 break.

Can we manage Jxxx in one hand?

You can cope with trumps 4-1 in the 'South' hand (but not the 'North' hand since you do not have the trump 9). As such, you should start with the K, then the Q of trumps. If South has 4 trumps you can then finesse the Jx by leading towards the A10.

You are playing in 6D and your trump suit is:

AJxx opposite K9xxxx

You can afford one trump loser. Therefore you need to think about bad trump breaks.

- (a) What if trumps are 4-0 with 'South' holding all the trumps?
- (b) What if trumps are 4-0 with 'North' holding all the trumps?

If South holds all the trumps there is no problem which hand you lead from. You can even lead the DA then to the DK, and another diamond towards the DJ will limit South to one trick.

However if North holds all the trumps (Q10xx) you need to be more careful. You cannot lead the DK first. Best play is to lead towards the DA; if South shows out you can win the DA and lead back towards the DK9—finessing the Q10x.

Slam Dunked

This fascinating slam hand occurred at the Gawler Pairs.

	♠ J652		
	♥ QJ		
	♦		
	♣ J1097643		
♠ 9		♠ KQ743	
♥ AK1095		♥ 832	
♦ AKQ96		♦ 8742	
♣ AQ		♣ 5	
	♠ A108		
	♥ 764		
	♦ J1053		
	♣ K82		
W	N	E	S
1H	3C	P	P
6D	All Pass		

[Sitting West, I did miscount my points though the hand is difficult to bid after a 2C opening bid. I wouldn't want to tell Nic Croft that he didn't have to bid 3C vulnerable against my daughter, Lauren, and me—Lauren would have passed my 1H bid.]

Clearly the play is the thing. Nic's club lead went to David Lusk's CK and my CA. This solid contract looked less attractive when I led the DA and found the trumps 4-0, but at least they were onside. Next I led my spade to dummy's SK and South's SA. South returned a heart (though a club is better—it makes me commit to a line of play immediately—watch and see).

I won the HA and only needed to cash the HK next. When North's doubleton QJ drop, the H8 is an entry to dummy! Then I can lead a diamond, finessing South. Ruffing the CQ gives me a second entry to dummy, and another trump lead completes the hand—South's DJ1053 have been picked up by two finesses.

Unfortunately, instead of leading the second high heart, I led the CQ first and discarded the 'small' heart from dummy. When the second heart honour now fell

from North's hand I found I had discarded my entry to dummy! That is why a club from South would, in fact, have been better than the heart lead. It makes me choose a line of play immediately and one would be more inclined to discard the heart then.

Two other declarers failed in their 6D contracts. Nic Croft was cheeky enough to determine that two of us are Australian internationals. Over dinner that night, the other international started mentioning the hand so I quickly cut him off and told him he'd gone down in a cold contract. Justin (Williams) wasn't too impressed with himself and realised that the play of leading two rounds of hearts is far superior to what we both did.

I've played a few Friday nights with Jesse Davies. Jesse is 14 years old and, for those of you who know her, Irene Parker's great-grandson. With youthful flamboyance he bid me (West) to 6NT on this hand:

	♠ 76532	
	♥ K984	
	♦ K97	
	♣ Q	
♠ QJ		♠ AK84
♥ Q763		♥ AJ52
♦ AQ62		♦ 4
♣ 1054		♣ AKJ3
	♠ 109	
	♥ 10	
	♦ J10853	
	♣ 98762	

Andrew Eddie, North, led a spade to my SJ. With three finesse options available, I first tried the heart suit, which would provide me with the great number of extra winners. A heart to the HJ won, with Justin Williams, South, dropping the H10 which looked suspiciously like a singleton.

Before committing myself to the heart suit, I decided to try Plan B—the club finesse. I crossed back to the SQ and led a small

Slam Dunked cont.

club towards dummy. [I kept the C10 just in case the CQ was short—a safety play.] To my delight, North's CQ popped up singleton, giving me 4 club tricks.

Given North held 5 spades (known from the second round) but only 1 club, it was starting to look more like South's heart was a singleton.

I had 4 club tricks, 4 spade tricks, 2 heart tricks and 1 diamond trick. All I had to do was to work out how to get the twelfth trick. I cashed dummy's clubs, forcing North to discard three times (removing his long spades) and throwing one diamond myself. On dummy's long spades I discarded my remaining small diamonds. If North discarded a heart I could now cash the HA and establish an extra heart winner. Instead, when North matched my discards, coming down the hearts and the DK (as it happened), I crossed to the DA and led a small heart, ducking. Poor Andrew was caught on lead:

♥ K9

♥ Q7 ♥ A5

His forced heart lead gave me the extra trick.

The hand involved a club safety play, stripping North's hand of safe exits, and then a heart endplay—all because of Jesse's joyful overbidding. They might not have liked the score, but at least the opponents could appreciate the play.

Classic Safety Play

I was watching a friend on Bridge Base (the on-line bridge website) when this classic safety play hand occurred.

♠ A76	
♥ 97	
♦ 86	
♣ AK9632	
♠ 1042	♠ QJ5
♥ AQ865	♥ 432
♦ 9742	♦ QJ3
♣ Q	♣ 10754
♠ K983	
♥ KJ10	
♦ AK105	
♣ J8	

South was playing in 3NT. West led the H6 which ran to declarer's H10.

Declarer needed to establish club winners, whilst keeping East from the lead. Firstly, the idea is to lead clubs from hand towards dummy, so that you duck if West plays the CQ—to guard your heart suit. Secondly, on the off-chance that the CQ is singleton you should always start with a small club (this is NOT a finesse situation).

Declarer passed both tests. He led the C8 from hand and, when the singleton CQ appeared, ducked. This prevented East from obtaining the lead on the fourth round of clubs, to lead a heart through.

When declarer regained the lead he could cash his CJ, then cross to dummy with the SA to lead the remaining four club winners.

These safety play positions arise far more often than we realise, so keep an eye out for them.

Splinter Bids

WHAT IS A SPLINTER?

When you have found a fit (usually with 4-card trump support) and are prepared to jump to game opposite partner's bid, a double jump in a new suit is a splinter bid (since a single jump is forcing). It shows a singleton or void in the suit bid and is forcing to game. It simply allows you to describe your hand to partner more accurately.

Responder can splinter:

1S—4D (spade fit, 0-1 diamond, 13+ TP)

Opener can splinter:

1D—1S

4C (spade fit, 0-1 club, 18+ TP)

EXAMPLES

RESPONDER'S SPLINTER:

Partner opens 1S and you hold:

- ♠ A976
- ♥ A974
- ♦ AK974
- ♣

You could jump to 4S but this would not do justice to your hand.

You would quite like to investigate slam but 4NT is not recommended with a void.

What you would really like is for partner to assess their hand in terms of their honours or shortages in the red suits.

You can do this by utilising a splinter bid of 4C. Since you have shown a singleton or void in clubs, partner now only places value on the CA, not other club honours. Partner should be thinking about whether they have honours or shortages in diamonds and hearts to even consider slam.

OPENER'S SPLINTER:

You open 1D and your partner responds 1S. What is your next bid holding:

- ♠ AK63
- ♥ A96
- ♦ A109765
- ♣

You have the values for game (including your club void) so could bid 4S immediately. However, a splinter bid of 4C is also available.

Since 3C is a natural and forcing bid, the double jump to 4C is artificial. It shows the values for game with a singleton or void in clubs. This allows partner to evaluate their cards bearing in mind your club shortage. A hand such as

- ♠ Q10872
- ♥ KQ4
- ♦ 2
- ♣ 8765

is now worth far more in value than

- ♠ Q10872
- ♥ 876
- ♦ 2
- ♣ KQ65

On the first hand, you have no wasted values in clubs (partner's shortage) and working cards in the red suits where partner must also have values.

On the second hand you have all your values in clubs, opposite partner's shortage and losers opposite partner's long suits which devalues your hand.

AFTER INTERVENTION:

Splinters still apply over intervention. Here is one I encountered recently:

♠ 109862		♠ AK753
♥ A9		♥ 2
♦ AK42		♦ 975
♣ A10		♣ K643
1S	X	4H (splinter)
4NT		5D
6S		Pass

Responder can splinter because they have enough to bid game. Opener now revalues their hand. Partner has a singleton heart, good spades since they have no outside aces and some outside working values. You can't find enough for 7S but can bid 6S confidently.

Some Recent Splinter Bids

At the Gawler Pairs Congress in May this example arose where using splinters would make your auction easier.

♠ J	♠ AQ6
♥ Q1086532	♥ AK74
♦ K8	♦ A9432
♣ A52	♣ 4
WEST	EAST
1H	4C
4NT	5D
5H	6H
7H	

Even though West has opened at the 1-level with only 10 HCP, her hand has now grown up because 4C agrees hearts, showing at least game values with a singleton or void in clubs. If using Roman Keycard Blackwood, where the trump king becomes a 'fifth' ace, West can determine all the information they need—i.e. the SA, HA, HK and DA—knowing there is a club shortage opposite. The 5D response shows 1 or 4 key cards so West signs off in case of only 1. When East continues, showing 4 keycards, West bids the grand slam.

On this hand, should West have bid 4H over the splinter, East has a good enough hand to bid again. Splinters should not be confined solely to game value hands; they can include hands where you will 'try again' opposite partner's sign-off—you are merely using the splinter to convey useful information to partner.

On the preceding Friday night, the less common minor suit splinter hand arose. [We were not playing splinters, but the hand is a good example of the bid.]

♠ Q4	♠ 2
♥ Q102	♥ A98
♦ AQ652	♦ J1093
♣ K104	♣ AQ753
WEST	EAST
1D	3S
5D	Pass

That would be the ideal splinter auction on this hand.

If West had good spade values though, he could rebid 3NT—the higher-scoring pairs contract. However, on the actual hands, having a splinter available means that you can avoid the failing 3NT contract).

And with minor alterations to West's hand, let's say:

♠ 8743	♠ 2
♥ 10	♥ A98
♦ AKQ65	♦ J1093
♣ K104	♣ AQ753

Faced with a 3S splinter, the West hand grows enormously (despite being weaker in HCP). The weak but long spades are no longer a worry, the heart shortage is great, and the club values must be useful. Think about East's hand—short spades, diamond support (yet no values there), so there must be useful values in hearts and clubs.

While many of you know Michael's cue bids(1H—2H overcall = 2-suited), what does it mean when you overcall an opponent's opening bid with a 3-level bid of their suit, e.g. 1H—3H overcall?

Imagine you held: ♠ AKQ10653
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A3
 ♣ A85

It looks like you have 9 tricks in your hand. Wouldn't you like to play 3NT if partner has the hearts held? Well, a 3H bid from you asks exactly that—and says, "Bid 3NT if you can stop the hearts. (If not, you will correct their bid to 4S.)"

Bridge History Quiz

[In June 1994, Australian Bridge ran a 'Bridge History' competition. Many of the questions and their answers are extracted from that article.]

1. *When was whist first popular in England?*
 - A. 1600
 - B. 1700
 - C. 1800
2. *Edmond Hoyle wrote the first book devoted to whist. When was he born?*
 - A. 1652
 - B. 1672
 - C. 1692
3. *How old was Edmond Hoyle when he died?*
 - A. 77
 - B. 87
 - C. 97
4. *When was the first 'duplicate' whist tournament held in London?*
 - A. 1847
 - B. 1857
 - C. 1867
5. *The variation of whist, called bridge, where the dummy was displayed on the table was first played in:*
 - A. 1880
 - B. 1890
 - C. 1900
6. *Who introduced the idea of vulnerability together with a new scoring system and renamed the game "contract bridge" in 1925?*
 - A. Harold S. Vanderbilt
 - B. Franklin D. Rockefeller
 - C. J. Edgar Hoover
7. *When was the first recognised World Championship held?*
 - A. 1931
 - B. 1933
 - C. 1935
8. *The first editor of Australian Bridge magazine was:*
 - A. Denis Howard
 - B. Ron Klinger
 - C. Dick Cummings
9. *The only time the World Championships have been held in Australia was in:*
 - A. 1985
 - B. 1987
 - C. 1989
10. *Who is the current President of the Australian Bridge Federation?*
 - A. Keith McNeil
 - B. Keith McDonald
 - C. John Brockwell

ANSWERS:

- 1A. Whist was popular in England around 1600. There was no bidding and trumps were determined by turning up the last card dealt.
- 2B. Edmond Hoyle was born in 1672.
- 3C. He died in 1769, making him 97.
- 4B. In 1857 the first duplicate whist tournament was directed by Cavendish (a pseudonym for Henry Jones), in London. His system of leads (including 4th highest) has remained standard for many years.
- 5B. The variation of whist called bridge was introduced in 1890. There were several differences between whist and bridge. Instead of dealer turning up the last card to determine trumps, he had the option of passing the decision to his partner. Another difference was that dummy was exposed, bringing more science to the declarer play.
- 6A. Harold S. Vanderbilt combined the best features of auction bridge and *plafond* (in which only the tricks that were contracted for in the auction counted towards game) with a new scoring system and the idea of vulnerability.
- 7C. In 1935 the first recognised World Bridge Championship was held.
- 8A. Denis Howard founded Australian Bridge in 1970.
- 9C. In 1989 the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup were held in Perth.
- 10B. Keith McDonald

Results

AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMEN'S SWISS

- 1st Christine Boylson & Cathy Chua
- 2nd Marilyn Chadwick & Toni Sharp
- 3rd Margaret Bourke & Dagmar Neumann

SENIORS' SWISS

- =1st John Ashworth & John Brockwell
- =1st Martin Bloom & Ted Chadwick
- 3rd Peter Chan & David Lusk

ANOT

- 1st TEAM OZONE: Sartaj Hans & Tony Nunn
Stephen Burgess & Ishmael Del'Monte
- 2nd STARK: Justin Stark & Michael Dilks
Neil Ewart & Blaine Howe

GAWLER PAIRS CONGRESS

A GRADE

- 1st Jeff Travis & Justin Williams
- 2nd Arthur Davies & David Shilling
- 3rd Nic Croft & David Lusk

B GRADE

- 1st Sue Alexander & Barbara Sumpter
- 2nd Meg Dunn & Jill Freer
- 3rd Val Churchill & Gene Efinger

STATE SWISS BUTLER PAIRS

- 1st David Anderson & George Smolanko
- 2nd Attilio De Luca & John Zollo
- 3rd David Garland & John Roper

Advanced Coaching Clinics

TOPICS (based on slam bidding):

Roman Keycard Blackwood
Cue Bids
Splinters
Jacoby 2NT
Grand Slam Force
(+ 1 participants' choice)

DATES:

Saturday 4th August
Saturday 11th August
Saturday 18th August
Saturday 25th August
Saturday 1st September
Saturday 8th September

TIME:

1pm—4pm

VENUE:

Kensington Gardens Bowling &
Tennis Club
(upstairs)
Cnr East Terrace & The Parade
Kensington Gardens

COST:

\$15 per person per session

NUMBERS STRICTLY LIMITED.

BOOKINGS and PRE-PAYMENT
REQUIRED

Ring Barbara Travis
On 8339 4723 or 0437 919 928