

Let the SWPT roll again

Tuesday, January 18



Results

Welcome to the South West Pacific Teams

Back as an online vehicle this year, but hopefully live in the nation's capital again next year (January 14 - 22, 2023), the field of 90 tables is a respectable number. Only two days of play - eight 12 board matches - before the Round of 16.

The downside to enhanced technology

Back when I started reporting on bridge play, I would arrive at my chosen table, armed with a notebook (or due to being disorganized, more often a wad of A4 paper), and scribble shorthand notation about the bidding and play as it happened.

Sometimes the revelations about a great hand had to be abandoned due to my indecipherable notes, and sometimes they successfully made it to the page or publication.

Today, every systemic bid is annotated, and the bidding and play are there to be clicked on. *GIB* shows how contracts can be made – or defeated, so it is easy for everyone to observe a full and accurate picture of what went on - should they so wish.

Ay, there's the rub! It is common for bridge journalists to extol the virtues of a beautiful declarer play or cunning defence, and we give full credit to the player(s) who shone. But what happens if the defence, play or bidding has been less than perfect?

Do we 'defence shame' a defender who errs? Do we 'bid shame' the perpetrator of a bad bid? Of course not. It has been normal to forget these un-

Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester

mentioned or unnamed, so we only see the names of the heroes on the page.

The bridge journalist uses 'West' or 'East' as the monikers for erring unfortunates (NS are more often than not the heroes). In the past it has been a chore to look up who the minor characters at the table were. The journalist might say "the EW names are withheld to protect the guilty" or some other phrase.



In my own writing, I find large swings interest me more than how 1NT can be defeated by one trick ("and Perry White would say 'find me a real story'"). Thus, there is often a hero player or pair, and a 'luckless or 'unfortunate' player or pair. From experience, I have learned to discard the accusatory deals, where there is only a negative to focus on, and try to give credit to a fine play, bidding sequence or defence. It is more rewarding highlighting and applauding individual players than putting players

down. I am often told by other players about a brilliancy, (the deal on the next page was used following a telephone call I received from a friend) but all too often I have to find my material by searching, as I am working from home without being able to ask about a deal or watching it unfold live.

When it was done the old way (walking up to a table and saying "I'm the bulletin editor, can I watch your table?"), the players knew that they may feature in the bulletin. If someone was obviously deterred by my being there, I would choose

another table. But now, I have access to everyone's brilliancies and disasters in full living colour, but I am unable to ask "Can I write up this hand?"

If you are one of the unmentioned and unnamed, try not to hate me if you feature as an unmentioned: instead feel happy for the lucky soul who has the golden spotlight shone on them, if only for a moment in time. Ed.

Play of the day

Seniors semi final

A ruff outcome

Board 9, North deals, EW vulnerable

		♠ Q J 10	
		♥ ---	
		♦ Q J 8 5 3	
		♣ A 9 5 4 3	
♠ A K 7 6 5 2		♠ 9 3	
♥ A K J 7		♥ Q 10 3 2	
♦ 9 7 6		♦ K 10 2	
♣ ---		♣ J 10 7 6	
		♠ 8 4	
		♥ 9 8 6 5 4	
		♦ A 4	
		♣ K Q 8 2	

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Braithwaite	de Luca	de Livera
	pass	pass	pass
1♠	2NT	pass	3♣
3♥	pass	4♥	5♣
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

Richard Brightling watched top declarer Arjuna de Livera make quick work of the play on the deal above.

He was probably planning his line before dummy went down – North will have no hearts, and a spade fragment (i.e., 3-0-5-5 shape.) Arjuna's decision to save over 4♥ was predicated on this belief.

Sure enough, dummy was as envisaged, in actual fact it could not have been any better for a passed hand.

West, David Lusk cashed ♠K, A, and as he did not have a trump to switch to, continued with ♥K, ruffed. Arjuna ran ♦Q, ducked, then a diamond to the ace. A heart ruff



in dummy, followed by the established ♠Q, ruffed by East with ♣7 and overruffed with Arjuna's ♣8.

A heart ruff to dummy, and a third diamond, ruffed in hand with ♣2. A heart ruff in dummy left this three-card ending:

		♠ ---	
		♥ ---	
		♦ J 8	
		♣ A	
♠ 7 6 5		♠ ---	
♥ ---		♥ ---	
♦ ---		♦ ---	
♣ ---		♣ J 10 6	
		♠ ---	
		♥ 9	
		♦ ---	
		♣ K Q	

A high crossruff for the last three tricks, +550 and 10 IMPs, with the DE LUCA North playing 3♣, making nine tricks (there are only 10 tricks available in clubs from the North seat).

The perfect 4-4 fit

Conventional wisdom has one striving to play in a 4-4 fit in preference to a 5-3 fit or even a 5-4 fit, the main benefit being in using the five-card side suit as a means of scoring an extra discard in the side suit.

Sometimes – but not always. The main disadvantage is when the 4-4 game is threatened by a nasty trump break, when the side suit is in danger of becoming stranded.

I did some research to see that it was agreed that unless you are looking for a vital extra trick (in



slam, say), it is better to play in the safer spot, i.e. a nine-card fit.

Ron Klinger demonstrated this was so:

National Seniors Teams Final

Board 23, South deals, all vulnerable

		♠ Q J 7		
		♥ Q J 7 2		
		♦ J 7		
		♣ A Q 9 3		
♠ K 6 3 2			♠ ---	
♥ 4			♥ 9 6 5 3	
♦ A K 10 5 4			♦ Q 9 8 6 2	
♣ J 10 7			♣ K 8 4 2	
		♠ A 10 9 8 5 4		
		♥ A K 10 8		
		♦ 3		
		♣ 6 5		

West	North	East	South
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Ewart</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
pass	2♣ ¹	pass	1♠
pass	2NT ³	pass	2♠ ²
pass	4♣ ⁴	pass	3♠
pass	4♠	all pass	4♥ ⁴

1. Artificial, 10-12 (13)
2. Non-minimum, 4+ hearts
3. Asking
4. Cuebids

Ron Klinger opted for the 6-3 game, knowing about the 4-4 heart fit, but seeing



no benefit in playing hearts. How right he was. This turned out well when West forced in diamonds, trying to use the EW diamond fit to tap declarer's trumps. This did tap declarer to a point, but the extra trump made it possible for Ian Thomson to take his five spades, four hearts and ♠A for 10 tricks

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Hughes</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>Morrison</i>
pass	2♣ ¹	pass	1♠
pass	4♥	all pass	2♥ ²

1. Three-way

Chris Hughes chose not to find out about Kim Morrison's spade length with no extras.

The defence was merciless. Terry Brown started as Robinson, by tapping South in trumps. The unlucky 4-1 heart break put paid to Morrison's chances. He ruffed the second diamond, played two rounds of high trumps from hand, seeing the bad break, then played a spade to dummy's queen and then ♠J. Brown took the second spade with the king, and gave partner a ruff in spades.

Peter Buchen played a diamond now. Morrison ruffed in hand and played a spade, discarding a club from the table. Buchen won with ♥9, and played his last diamond. Morrison ruffed in dummy and cashed the last trump, but Buchen still had ♣K poised over dummy's ♠AQ.



More upcoming ABF Licensed Events

For those of you joining us for the SWPT, here is a continuation of some of the favourite events in 2022, taking you around the country to some of our most exciting cities

What better time than late August - early September to enjoy the extraordinary Northern Territory at the Territory Gold Bridge Festival from August 31 - September 4

It's a good time of year, too for the Hans Rosendorff Memorial Congress from September 17 - 18

Back to our nation's capital for the Canberra in Bloom Festival from September 30 - October 3



STOP PRESS!



Playoffs for Open and Women's Teams

With the large number of COVID cases forecast to peak late January/early February the ABF Board has accepted a Tournament Committee (TC) recommendation to delay the Open and Women's playoffs originally scheduled for February 3-8.

The TC was concerned about both the health risks and the impact on integrity of the playoffs with the large number of COVID cases potentially impacting on competing pairs if the playoffs were held as scheduled.

It is currently proposed to hold the Open and Women's Playoff concurrent with the Seniors Playoff early March 2022 in Canberra. The exact dates are subject to confirmation with the venue, noting we will now require additional space.

The ABF Board has also accepted a recommendation that the Mixed Playoff be cancelled and the subsidies to Poland now be offered to the first three placegetters in the Mixed Butler at the ANC in Adelaide.

It is acknowledged that the current proposal means players will need to choose the category they wish to compete in. Whilst this is not ideal, it is considered a better solution than not holding the playoffs at all.

Finally, as there is no Target Event for the selected teams to attend, if it is not possible to hold playoffs in March it is likely the playoffs will be cancelled rather than rescheduled.



South West Pacific Teams Day 1

Top 10

Results after 4 of 8 matches

Match IMPs

Totals

Place	Cat	Team	M1	M2	M3	M4	IMPs	VPs
1	N	THOMSON (13)	49	18	31	8	106	65.06
2	N	HOFFMAN (D) (48)	9	8	29	39	85	61.41
3	N	CHEN (73)	29	49	-13	30	95	60.41
4	W	HUMPHRIES (15)	27	40	13	1	81	60.02
5	N	ASHTON (22)	25	24	32	-8	73	58.02
6	N	BRAHMA (10)	5	37	14	8	64	56.94
7	S	ROSENDORFF (42)	17	26	18	-1	60	56.45
8	N	STERN (62)	75	-18	1	41	99	54.11
9	N	CORNELL (70)	33	21	-31	34	57	54.09
10	N	INGLIS (77)	21	-5	22	13	51	54.05

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ABF FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER PRO-AM BRIDGE TOURNAMENT



**PROFESSIONALS AND LEADING PLAYERS
AUCTIONED TO PLAY WITH THE HIGHEST BIDDER!**

ONLINE AUCTION

Gold-Point Sessions at 19:00 (AEDT) ON RealBridge on EITHER
Tuesday 1 February or Tuesday 15 February 2022
(By Arrangement)

Directed by Matt McManus

The ABF Foundation will be auctioning a session to play with
Professionals & Leading Players in a Pro-Am Tournament.

The list of Players is on the Foundation website.

Check out the list and make your bid on-line at

<https://www.abffoundation.org.au/fundraiser/auction.asp?EventId=1>

Proceeds will support the ABF Foundation, established in 2020, to assist participants of all skill levels to enjoy and promote our fascinating game. The Foundation hopes to provide scholarships, promote regional bridge and bridge for youth right through to the retirement community; indeed, it will support any activity that is considered positive for the future of bridge.

Enquiries to: foundation@abf.com.au or proam@abffoundation.org.au