

2022 Australian National Championships



Interstate teams second round robin

eBulletin 4

Tuesday 5 July

For bulletin contributions email editor at sleksix@gmail.com

What's coming up:

Wednesday, 6 July

Interstate Teams Competition

9.30am

Wednesday, 6 July

Support Cancer Council Pairs

9.30am and 1.30pm

Ed: The ANC has been a meeting place for the greats of the game for decades (the first official ANC was Melbourne, 1934), as you will see from this extended article by Paul Lavings, who still remembers hands from nearly 50 years ago.

Eating Crow

by Paul Lavings, NSW

In a long bridge career I've had many highs and lows but only lows against South Australia.

In January 1973, the Sydney team of Paul Lavings (pc), Brian Bedkober, Geoff Lewis, Andrew Markovics, Neil Mathiesen and Andrew Reiner played in the Junior Championships (Under 30) in Canberra.

Our system, LLMM&R, featured all the latest gizmos from the USA: negative doubles, forcing 1NT, cuebids of the opponent's suit. We had even refined from 15-18 1NT to 14-17, and we had our own special Stayman.

The venue was the Griffin Centre, a tin shed on the perimeter of what is now the large parking area behind the Canberra shops. The sun beat down mercilessly through the corrugated iron roof but we didn't care. We were there to play bridge.

18 teams competed in a full round robin. With one round to play the standings were (with 8-0 a maximum win):

SA	LUSK	117
VIC	BOURKE	99
NSW	LAVINGS	95
ACT	HAVAS	90.6
VIC	LEATHART (now Di Smart)	90

LUSK was undefeated to date, and they won their last match 8-0. HAVAS defeated BOURKE 8-0, and LAVINGS beat a lowly ranked team 8-0. The final was between the only two six-person teams in the event.

The LUSK team, David Lusk (pc), Bob Bignall, Ian Hilditch, John Horowitz, David Middleton and George Smolanko started strongly and we were soon sadly aware we were up against a much better team. On Board 8 we were outbid:

West deals, nil vulnerable

	♠ A 9 8 4 3		♠ K Q
	♥ J 9 7		♥ A 10 8 6 4
	♦ 7 3		♦ A J 10 8 5
	♣ J 5 2		♣ 4
♠ 10 6 5			
♥ K Q 5 2			
♦ Q 9 4			
♣ 10 7 6			
	♠ J 7 2		
	♥ 3		
	♦ K 6 2		
	♣ A K Q 9 8 3		
West	North	East	South
Reiner	Middleton	Lavings	Horowitz
pass	pass	1♥	2♣
2♥	3♣	4♥	5♣
5♥	all pass		

Middleton's 3♣ raise enabled Horowitz to find the good 5♣ save, which turned into a 10 IMP bonanza when NSW took the push to 5♥.


On one hand, LHO opened 1♥ and RHO responded 2♦. It continued 2NT - 3NT. My RHO had responded in a new suit at the two-level on a flat eight-count – I stared in disbelief. Everyone in SA seemed to play Acol and the weak notrump was proving a thorn in our side.

Vulnerable vs. not, a weak notrump (12-14) by LHO and 4♥ by your RHO.

You hold ♠ 87543, ♥ 3, ♦ 8, ♣ AQ10753

Any bid could be a disaster, you have been fixed again by the weak notrump. I passed, but at the other table NS were able to get into the auction:

West deals, NS vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Lusk</i>	<i>Bedkober</i>	<i>Smolanko</i>
1♦	pass	1♥	dbl
2♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	dbl	all pass	

Smolanko's aggressive take-out double was characteristic of the SA team. Another 11 IMPs, and there was just no stopping them.

In the 1970s I heard from the top NSW players that Kevin Rook was a very good player, often compared to Tim Seres. He was on the winning SA Interstate Team many times, and sometimes as captain. David Anderson did even better, he was on the SA team nine times between 1967 and 1977 and seven times since 1977.

Anderson and Zoli Nagy played together from 1972 to 1976, and were on the Australian team in 1972 and 1974. They played Acol, and their defence was deadly, using only natural count. They



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were lethal, the Australian team captain told me in 1974, "They push their opponents to the five-level and then they double them to collect 100 instead of 50".

To be continued

Youth roundup

Bertie Morgan: I started playing bridge when I was 15. My parents would have people over for bridge, and eventually I approached them, expressing an interest in learning. They taught me the basics, and I have been playing regularly ever since.

I was second in my only face-to-face ANC in Hobart, 2018, when the team was Lauren Travis, David Gue, Jamie Curtis, Jamie Simpson, George Bartley and Jarvis Dunsford. We lost the final to a strong NSW squad.

I qualified with George Bartley for the Australian Youth Team in 2020, but unfortunately COVID denied us from going. I play state events in SA regularly with Jamie Simpson. I was recently selected to play in the U21 team in Italy.

Contentious issues

How do you play this suit for one loser? Entries to either hand are not a problem.

West East
A1063 Q874

The consensus from the players polled was that correct technique is to play a low card from the West hand, inserting the queen if North plays a low card.

If the queen falls to the king, arrange to play a low card towards the West hand, inserting the 10. What did you do?

Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 5	♥ J 9 8 7 3	♦ 9 5	♣ 10 8 5 3 2								
♠ A K Q 9 7 6	♥ 10	♦ A 10 6 3	♣ A 6								
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	S	E				
	N										
W	S	E									
	♠ J 4 3	♥ A 6 4	♦ Q 8 7 4								
		♣ K Q 7									
	♠ 10 8 2	♥ K Q 5 2	♦ K J 2								
		♣ J 9 4									

Declarers who cashed ♦A and relied on being able to guess a winning diamond position were immediately down in slam. The suggested line succeeded, while those who peddled trumps before playing a diamond towards the West hand and inserting the 10 succeeded. One expert suggested that noting North show out in spades on the second round altered the suggested line, as there were now more vacant spaces. What do you think?



Peter Cox, Head of Marketing and the inventor of *Bridge TV* will be here for the next few days. You will find him outside the playing room.

The breakout room—good coffee, good service, but no wifi

