

Tuesday 10 - Sunday 22 January, 2023

Live and face to face at the Rex Hotel

pre Bulletin



## Results

### Welcome to the Golden Jubilee of the NOT

In 1973 the Sydney Opera House was opened; the painting Blue Poles was purchased by the National Gallery of Canberra and the first National Open Teams (NOT) was played in Sydney.

On behalf of the Australian Bridge Federation, I welcome you to the Golden Jubilee of the NOT, which is now part of the Summer Festival of Bridge. Thankfully we are able to celebrate this milestone in person this year as the event returns to the Canberra Rex Hotel.

Congratulations to Tournament Organiser Ian Thomson and his team. I know they have worked tirelessly to make sure the event runs smoothly. Thank you also to the 2023 sponsors: Paul Lavings' *Bridgegear* and *Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers*. I would encourage you all to support those who support bridge.

I am confident that all players will ensure that the event is an enjoyable experience for both their partner and the opposition, and that they will also be respectful to the directors and all officials. To all the incredibly loyal players who support this event



## Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester

year after year, thank you, and to all the new players experiencing this great event for the first time, welcome to the family.

The best of bridge to you all.

*Allison Stralow, ABF President*

### Welcome to the 2023 Summer Festival of Bridge, including the 50<sup>th</sup> running of the National Open Teams

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet on today, the Ngunnawal people, and pay my respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

It is pleasing we can meet face to face for the first time since 2020, and I hope to host an enjoyable tournament for all of you. An important part of providing a smoothly operating tournament is for everyone to respect their partners, opponents, and our staff.

I welcome all players and thank our main sponsors Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (*TBIB*) and Paul Lavings' *Bridgegear*.



## Food and drink policy

Food and drinks are available at the Rex in the Lobby and the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Please note that the terms and conditions of the ABF's hire at the Rex require us to advise all players (those not guests of the hotel) that food and beverages purchased or made elsewhere cannot be brought into the hotel for consumption during competition hours. We ask all players to observe this policy.

1 Monday, January 9

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have assisted, in particular Jane Rasmussen, ABF Executive Secretary, Laurie Kelso and his team of directors, Peter Busch and Chris Carolan, scorers, Bruce Crossman for testing electronic equipment, Traian Chira, BBO services, Stephen Lester, Bulletin Editor, the Canberra Bridge Club for their assistance with a variety of things, Jane Reynolds and Elizabeth Thomson for their valuable help and Roy Nixon for providing his experienced advice.

Start time for events is 9.45 am, except for the knockout stages of the NOT, which commence at 9.00am.

The *Daily Bulletin* is your greatest source of information. It will only be available online. Editor Stephen Lester will be more than pleased to receive contributions by clicking on the link at the top of each bulletin.

At the time of writing, there are no Covid-19 restrictions in place in the ACT. I expect all players will ensure they do not put other participants at risk, and if they are ill, will test prior to entering the playing area. Masks are recommended but not mandatory.

Happy Bridging,

**Ian Thomson, SFOB Tournament Organiser**

## 20 years ago

I browsed NOT News, 2003 with interest, only to be reminded that I was editor of this largely black and white forerunner of the more recent Summer Festival of Bridge bulletins.

My commander was Martin Willcox, then both Chief Scorer and Director, affectionately known as the Fat Controller, from the popular British novels featuring Sir Topham Hatt as the sometimes evil railway executive, who sometimes gets in a big mess in his role controlling the railway. Go figure!



The production team in 2003 included Claire Rasmussen, photographer, Jennifer de Livera production assistant, with the indefatigable Jane Rasmussen. John Scudder was Convener.

Issue 1 contained directorial advice from Dr Laurie Kelso and Richard Grenside, and a series of Tim Bourke problems, in a similar to this year's feature series, as you will see.

Winners of the NOT 2002 were the NZ raiding team of Andy Braithwaite, Alan Turner, Lionel Wright, Gunnar Halberg, Mike Cornell, Richard Jedrychowski. Gunnar is a bit of a ring-in, from Sweden originally, but snapped up by the late Lionel Wright as partner. Richard (Jedi) was originally Polish but moved to NZ, and represented NZ in two Bermuda Bowls, Tunisia, 1997 and Monte Carlo, 2003. Nowadays Richard is Australian, having last represented us in the Bermuda Bowl, 2007, Shanghai.



Lambardi, Marston, Lorentz, Lester, Burgess  
(Bach in absentia)

Navigating to the archives page, the 2003 NOT was won by John Lester, Gabby Lorentz, Paul Marston, Stephen Burgess, Pablo Lambardi and Ashley Bach.

John has lived in Asia for many years, while Gabby and Stephen still have a formidable competitive partnership. Paul concentrates on his commitments based out of Sydney, with a busy club and strong online presence. Pablo, a popular bridge pro from Argentina continues to work the bridge circuit. Ashley, while still representing New Zealand (his team were recently 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Asia Cup), resides part of the year in Germany.

The 2003 NOT News commented on 20+ years of the National Women's Teams, which was instituted

in 1981. That statistic has now swelled to 42 years, and members of the '81 Club are the late Felicity Beale and the very much alive Di Smart, and Pauline Gumby – Sue Hobley.

Finally, a hand from the NOT News

After 20 years, I have the chance to make it up to friends Jan Cormack and Richard Brightling. Jan wrote up Richard's play in 6♥ on the deal below.

Somehow I stuffed up the play right royally, and none of the proofreading team noticed the errors. I *think* this is how the play went (I am about to send the hand to Richard for confirmation, he's sure to remember a hand from 2003).

Please accept my heartfelt apologies.

### Bravo King Richard by Jan Cormack

The deal below became the subject of much discussion about the correct line of play. Richard Brightling, however, didn't need *Deep Finesse* or double dummy play to succeed in 6♥ from the North seat:



Richard, 1973

Session 1, Board 15, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

The universal ♦A was led and Richard ruffed, cashed ♠A and played a low spade. East ruffed with ♥9 and Richard, thinking far ahead, made the fine play of discarding a club. East, of course, exited a trump, won in hand with the queen.

A spade ruff, a diamond ruff to hand and another spade, ruffed with dummy's ♥J, then back to hand with a diamond, ruffed with ♥K.

The ace of trumps drew the outstanding two trumps which divided, leaving the position on the next column:

♠ Q ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ 10 6 5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ K 10 ♣ K J
N								
W	E							
	S							
		♠ K J ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ Q 2						
		♠ --- ♥ --- ♦ Q J ♣ A 9						

♠K and the established ♠J leaves East caught in a hopeless dilemma. East eventually threw a diamond and a club. King Richard made the final two tricks with ♣A and ♣Q.

## ABF FOUNDATION

Supporting the future of bridge

### What is the ABF Foundation?

The Australian Bridge Federation Foundation provides the opportunity for individuals, entities and groups to make donations to support the future of Bridge.

### How will your donation help?

Your gift creates a clear and lasting contribution to support the future of our great game. Your donation may help fund scholarships and grants; Bridge development; our general purpose Bridge fund and Youth Bridge.

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## Would You Bid (or wouldn't you?)

by Joan Butts

From the ABF Mixed Team Playoff, Canberra, December 2022



Many interesting and exciting hands came up in the Mixed Playoff, which I played with Sydney expert Michael Courtney. Try the hands featured yourself, and then read what happened in the playoff. Who knows, maybe you'll be part of the Mixed Team next year?

### Example 1

Board 9, Set 1, North deals, EW vulnerable

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

You're first to bid. Do you pass or does your system have a bid for this hand?

You are North at favourable vulnerability.

If you pass, the bidding will start:

West	North	East	South
	pass	1♠	pass
2♠	?		

Your turn again... do you come into the auction or stay out? After all you only have the minors, but you're at favourable vulnerability.

What Happened:

The full hand:

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

	pass	1♠	pass
2♠	2NT	4♠	5♣
pass	pass	5♠	all pass

If you pass throughout, the bidding will go:

West	North	East	South
	pass	1♠	pass
2♠	pass	4♠	all pass

4♠ will make 10 tricks for +620, losing one spade, one diamond and one club.

The playoff results were:

5♠ (East) + 100 NS  
5♣X (South) – 100 NS  
4♠ (East) – 650 NS  
5♠ (West) + 100 NS

All four tables passed at first, but two tables came in with 2NT (minors) at their next turn to bid.

At both these tables South bid 5♣, once playing there doubled, and the other managing to goad their opponents into 5♠.

At the other tables, one pair reached 5♠ without interference, and the other table was left alone in 4♠.

### My view:

I don't think it's a good idea to enter the auction at all, as there's a lack of suit quality in the North hand. But bidding seemed to work here...

But...how do you know how far EW are planning to go? Bidding to show the minors would seem to help the opponents know the layout of the NS hands.

### What do you think?

Please send your opinion to me (Joan Butts) via the editor at [sleksix@gmail.com](mailto:sleksix@gmail.com)



**Latest bridge books –**  
from Paul Lavings' stall next to the foyer

**Barbara's Bridge Tips**  
by Barbara Seagram  
\$36.95 (192 pages)

Whether you have been playing for a while or you're not very experienced, this book will help you to move your game to the next level.

The tips cover all aspects of bridge - bidding, play and defence. Advice and examples are drawn from material Barbara Seagram has developed for her students over the last twenty years - it's like having your own personal bridge coach sitting beside you!

**2021 ABTA Book of the Year Award, Intermediate Category**

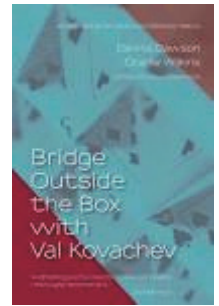
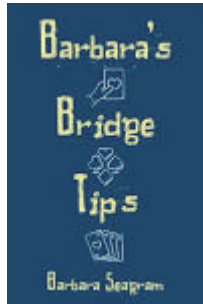
**Bridge with Another Perfect Partner**  
by John Carruthers  
\$36.95 (213 pages)

*Bridge with a Perfect Partner*, by P. F. Saunders, was published in 1976. Many read and delighted in Saunders' articles in *Bridge Magazine* (UK), and Saunders' character Wilson, according to the flyleaf of the book, is "... an austere character, whose scholarly discourses are enlivened by frequent flashes of mordant wit." The anonymous narrator comments, "He is very kind in explaining, when I go down in a contract, just how I could have made it and, when *he* goes down, just how my bidding misled him." We've all played with partners like that, though few of them have had Wilson's devastating, articulate wit.

In this sequel, one of the world's top bridge journalists takes the reader through a brilliant series of deals, collected from tournaments all over the world. The style is highly reminiscent of Sanders' original and will give its readers just as much pleasure.

**2022 IBPA Book of the Year Award**

**Bridge Outside the Box with Val Kovachev**  
by Dawson/Wilkins \$34.95 (196 pages)



Val's bids are sometimes outrageous, but he always bases them on logic. He believes in following his logic wherever it may lead, not in following a bunch of 'rules'. Val takes more risks than most players. His goal is to push opponents out of their comfort zone and help his partner find the best lead. He makes as few bids as possible to reach the final contract, never describing his hand more than necessary.

You will find yourself trying to guess what action Val is about to take next and you'll wait for the outcome with bated breath. Your imagination expands as you gasp, then smile at the sheer audacity and cheekiness of some of his bids.

Add some spice to your bridge game by choosing a few of Val's approaches to incorporate into your own game. Learn how to be the lion in your bridge jungle!



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Australia (and New Zealand) could boast of a great success at the 16th World Bridge Series in Wroclaw, Poland in August 2022.

Congratulations to Nabil Edgtton (Australia) and Michael Whibley (New Zealand) for winning the silver medal in the Open Pairs at the 16th World Bridge Series. Nabil's achievement equals the best result ever by an Australian at a Bridge World Championship.

On behalf of the Australian Bridge community, I congratulate Nabil and Michael on this outstanding achievement.

**Allison Stralow**  
**ABF President**

Open pairs podium (at right):

1. Krzysztof Buras – Piotr Lutostanski
2. **Nabil Edgtton – Michael Whibley**
3. Fredrik Nystrom – Geir Helgemo

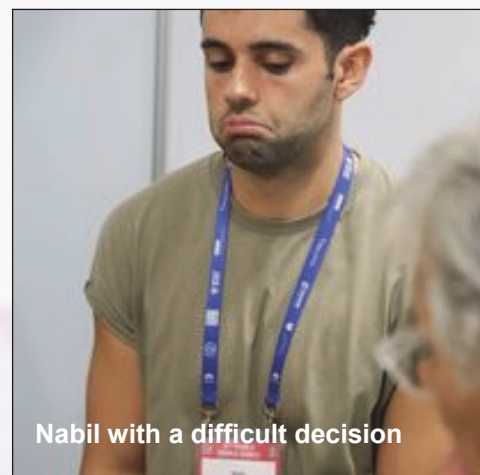
**NZ Bridge:** In 2016, Michael Cornell and Ashley Bach were the joint winners of the WBF World Pairs Championship in the same Polish city.

A great performance in the company of many of the world's best players. They joined the event in the semi-final stage and qualified from the two day 96 board semi-final to the 114 board 2-day final, two boards against each of the other 57 pairs.

They could not catch runaway winners, the Polish pair Baras - Lutostanski, but they came in with a good 60% last session to finish second, in good company when you note who finished third!



Also at Wroclaw: Damon Flicker, Jenny Thompson, Eva Caplan and Jamie Thompson

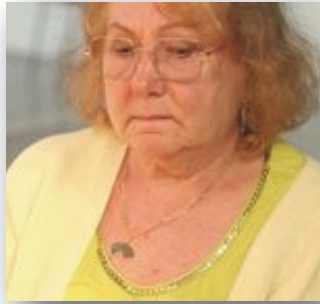


Nabil with a difficult decision



## More from Wroclaw

This hand comes from the second stanza of the Women's Pairs, with Jenny Thompson – Eva Caplan taking on a Polish pair. Barry Rigal commented:



"I took a few moments to watch some play from Semi final B. There was a fine point of defence found by Eva Caplan.

*Board 19, South deals, EW vulnerable*

	♠ A J 9 8 6 4 3		
	♥ A J		
	♦ 7		
	♣ J 7 5		
♠ Q 2	♠ 10 5	N W E S	♥ Q 10 3 2
♥ K 5	♥ K 7		♦ A K 5
♦ J 10 9 4 3 2	♥ 9 8 7 6 4		♣ K Q 8 6
♣ 10 3 2	♦ Q 8 6		
	♣ A 9 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Thompson</i>		<i>Caplan</i>	
			pass
pass	1♠	dbl	rdbl
2♦	2♠	pass	pass
3♦	3♠	all pass	

Urszula Staniszewska, North might have jumped to 3♠ at her second turn if that showed extra shape rather than high cards, but she ended in a sensible spot.

The defenders led a top diamond and shifted to a trump. Declarer won in hand and played ♥A and another. Jenny Thompson accurately shifted to a club, and Eva Caplan deviously contributed the king.

Now it looked logical for declarer to lead a club towards the jack and that held her to nine tricks. Had Caplan played the queen, no doubt declarer might have ducked, then played the club/heart squeeze on her LHO."

## Biggest penalty in world class events

by Barry Rigal

I'm not exactly a historian of the penalties recorded at world events, but I do remember that when Great Britain reached the final of the World Championships in 1987, history of an unusual sort was made, when in the process Tony Forrester and John Armstrong collected a penalty of 2800 on one deal. This was generally thought to have been the largest penalty recorded in a World Championship event.

However, in a sense, the Polish team in the 1995 European Championships went one "better" than this. They conceded a penalty of 2800 on a deal where their side was probably going to make at least a game in an alternative denomination! In addition they were non vulnerable, meaning they had to go down even more tricks than in the 1987 incident.

*East deals, EW vulnerable*

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

Names have been withheld to protect innocent and guilty alike, but the Poles were sitting NS when the Norwegian East opened a Strong Club. The auction after that gets a little tangled, but bear with me.

West	North	East	South
		1♣	1♥ <sup>1</sup>
dbl	2NT <sup>2</sup>	3NT	dbl
4♠	4NT	Pass	5♣
dbl	rdbl	all pass	

1. Either hearts plus clubs, or diamonds plus spades.
2. Serious support for at least one of partner's suits, whichever pair he has.



Kibitzing old style - Sartaj Hans dummy, Peter Gill declarer, play a Swiss pair

Over the Strong Club the Polish South could not show his three-suiter, so he sensibly elected to treat his hand as a two-suiter with hearts and clubs, and at his next turn he doubled 3NT to show a good hand.

That contract would probably have gone one down, however, West very unwisely ran to 4♠, (which could go four down on best defence). North was having none of this, however, and decided to play in his partner's red suit; remember, he knew that his partner had a red suit and a black suit. Over South's 5♣ bid, North's redouble for rescue was not interpreted that way . . . and a less than optimal contract was reached.

On a trump lead, declarer won and laid down ♥A, then played a second heart. Five rounds of spades followed, allowing East to ruff the fifth with ♣J, promoting an extra trump trick for the defence. That was six down, for the aforementioned 2800.

Declarer, meanwhile, was no doubt ruefully reflecting that unless the defence had led three rounds of spades at once, he could have made at least 12 tricks in 5♥. The odd thing was that despite losing this huge swing, the Poles still beat the Norwegians 18-12 in their individual

encounter. But as the Poles failed to qualify for the Bermuda Bowl in Beijing by the smallest of margins, this hand certainly cost them a place there. However, that record has now been expunged in the semi-finals of the Open pairs event.

Board 14, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

	♠ 3 ♥ K J 8 7 6 4 ♦ K 8 7 3 ♣ 5 3		
West <i>Hans</i>	North <i>Mr X</i>	East <i>Gill</i>	South
		pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
dbl	rdbl	all pass	

1. Multi
2. Either...offering to play OR I have my own suit please bid 2♥.



Sartaj Hans doubled the Multi 2♦ and was not unhappy to have the opportunity to defend a redoubled contract. He hit on ♦A lead and continued with ♦Q when Peter Gill dropped the jack.

Declarer ducked the second diamond and won the third. It feels right to play a spade now but he exited with the fourth diamond.

Gill won the diamond and shifted to ♥10. When ♣7 came through, at this point declarer (as Gerard Hoffnung<sup>1</sup> might have said) must have lost his presence of mind. He did not cover ♣7 and Gill also ducked. Now the defenders could cash out easily enough for down seven and 3400.

Note however, that had declarer covered ♣7, Gill wins cheaply, cashes the long diamond and exits with a second heart to his partner. Now Hans can cash his ♠A and ♥A and dummy is squeezed in the black suits for the same seven down! Now *that* would be embarrassing.

1. Gerard Hoffnung (1925-1959) <https://gerardhoffnung.com> was an artist and musician, best known for his humorous works

Back in 1958, he offered some factitious advice to foreigners visiting Britain. All London brothels, he said, display a blue lamp; free zebra parking is available on most roads; and, on entering a railway compartment, it is customary to shake hands with all who are present.

**Play Bridge BRIDGE TV bags available from Marketing Manager Peter Cox at the ABF desk**



## 2023 Youth Week

The weekend prior to the Summer Festival saw around 30 youth players and their mentors start a challenging week of bridge at the Ibis Hotel, Narrabundah, south of the city.

At the time of writing, the youth pairs championship has been finalized, with youth veterans Andrew Spooner—Jamie Thompson taking out the championship.



Chillin' at the Ibis, Alexis Wilsmore, Jade Wilkinson and Molly Langdon-Macmillan

### Australian Youth Pairs Championship Final

Place	Result	Pair Name
1	259.9	ANDREW SPOONER - JAMIE THOMPSON
2	250.6	LAUREN TRAVIS - JOSHUA TOMLIN
3	246.6	MITCH DOWLING - ALAN STONEHAM
4	227.8	REBECCA O'REILLY - DAVID GUE
5	225	SEBASTIAN LANGDON MACMILLAN - TOMER LIBMAN
6	218.6	BERTIE MORGAN - ALEX GOSS
7	208.8	JAMIE SIMPSON - ELLA JACOB
8	199.2	CHRIS PANAGIOTAROS - BRENDON MCDONALD
9	195.4	JASMINE SKEATE - PADDY TAYLOR
10	177.2	BAZLI KARATTIYATTIL - GEORGE BARTLEY

### Special deal at the hotel

Bridge players may pay \$20 at the front desk for a buffet meal in the upstairs restaurant, or \$80 for five meals

*Rex*