



2023 Summer Festival of Bridge



Tuesday 10 - Sunday 22 January, 2023

I had a dream . . . and the NOT began



Bulletin 1

Tuesday January 10

[Results](#)

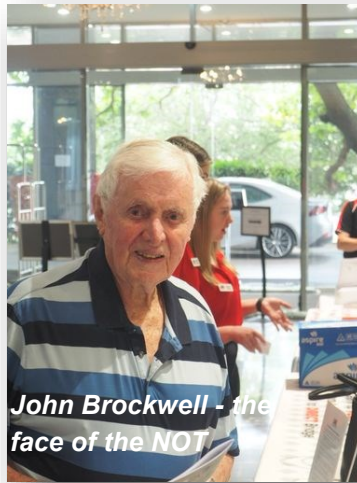
[Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester](#)

What's On Today?

Tuesday	National Senior Teams	9.45am
Tuesday	National Women's Teams	9.45am

A Compulsive Pastime

Ed: Superstar administrator John Brockwell, in collaboration with David Hoffman, has been hard at work preparing a definitive book on bridge, titled **A Compulsive Pastime - a History of bridge in the ACT and surrounding regions**. The book is due to be published in 2023. It is fitting with 2023 being the 50 year jubilee of the NOT that we can share parts of Chapter 12, written in 2018 :



John Brockwell - the face of the NOT

"The time is opportune to institute an open national teams championship" - Denis Howard, 1971

Denis Howard had a dream - a national open teams championship for Australia. When James O'Sullivan became ABF



Denis Howard

President in 1971, Howard found an ally. O'Sullivan was president of the QBA and convener of its popular and successful Gold Coast Congress.

O'Sullivan agreed that such an event would attract support from a wide cross-section of Australia's bridge-playing population, and he told Howard to go ahead and realise his dream. The first NOT was held in Sydney in 1973.

Despite minimal promotion, there were 30 tables in play. (The winner was a Sydney team of relative outsiders — Egon Auerbach, Max Hitter, Gabi Lorentz and Olec Minc. But Denis was primarily an ideas man and did not particularly fancy the humdrum of the annual organisation of a bridge event, no matter how prestigious it might be. He convinced the ABF to move the new event to Canberra. The 1974 NOT was held in the old Hotel Canberra, now the Hyatt, in the week immediately pre-

Online bridge discussion

The ABF has set up the Online Bridge Committee to investigate all aspects of on-line bridge in Australia. It is acknowledged that both in-person and on-line bridge are important for the future of our game. The Committee is very interested in hearing from all stakeholders in our bridge community. An online survey is being prepared which will be sent out shortly, but while we are together in Canberra, we are also organising a face-to-face discussion session on **Tuesday January 17**, in between sessions at the venue. If available, please come along to participate in this session. More details will follow in coming newsletters leading up to the discussion.

1 Tuesday, January 10



1. Sighter

North deals, NS vulnerable

North
 ♠ K J 4 2
 ♥ K 9 8 5
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ A Q 2

South
 ♠ A Q 10 9 7 5
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A 7 2
 ♣ 9 7 3

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

West leads a fourth highest ♥2. When you play low from dummy East wins the trick with ♥J and then shifts to ♦K.

How do you plan to make 10 tricks?

ceding the January Congress, and the final was held alongside the January Congress in the Lakeside Hotel (later Rydges, now the QT). The Lakeside had opened for business late in 1973 and the ABF, with its 1974 January Congress, was one of its first clients.

The NOT enjoyed modest growth in its second and third years, to 40 tables in 1974 and 58 in 1975. The ABF had the notion that it might be a good idea to have the NOT circulate around Australia's capital cities in much the same way the ANC did. To test its hypothesis, Melbourne (in April) was chosen to host the 1976 event. The experiment did not work — there were only 24 tables in play — and the NOT moved back to Canberra in 1977 into its pre-January congress time slot where it has remained since.

NOT conveners have been: Denis Howard 1973, John Brockwell 1974 -1975, Ailsa Tandy 1976, John Brockwell 1977 - 1995, John Scudder 1996 -2005, Sean Mullamphy 2006 - 2015, Sean Mullamphy/Wendy Boxall 2016 and Roy Nixon 2017-2019. (Canberrans convened 34 of the first 46 NOTs.)

Being in Melbourne in 1976, the NOT did not intrude on the January Congress. But intrusion began in earnest in 1977. It was exacerbated in 1978 with the introduction of a five-session Blue Ribbon Pairs on the weekend preceding the January Congress and further in 1981 when the National Women's Teams Championship was added to the programme.

After 10 days of competition in first-class events, many players had had enough and chose to go home rather than stay in Canberra and play another weekend's bridge. It was the death knell for the January Congress. Attendances fell catastrophically, and although it struggled on for a year or two, its demise was inevitable. In 10 years, Denis Howard's dream had evolved into (to give it its full and proper name) the Summer Festival of Bridge, Canberra, a tournament that was to become the fourth largest in the world.

From 1973 until 1994/1995, the Summer Festival grew and grew. There were pitfalls along the way and the organisers fell into some of them. To a large extent, the tournament was a victim of its own popularity. The Great Lakes Room at the Lakeside Hotel could comfortably accommodate 112 tables.

But more and more teams entered each year and, when the number reached 160, the Lakeside was bursting at the seams with tables occupying every available nook and cranny - meeting rooms and vacant bars, upstairs and downstairs.

Salvation was at hand - or so it appeared. Canberra's National Convention Centre had just been completed. The Summer Festival Convener made a preliminary inspection. He was mightily impressed by the immensity of the Exhibition Hall. It was easily big enough for 350 tables, and the

SOLUTION to *Tim Bourke's Test Your Play*

The key to this deal is how favourable the heart pips are for your cause. Also, you can expect East to hold ♥A. So, win ♦A and then lead ♠5 to ♠J to play ♥K.

The full layout is similar to this:

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

You will ruff East's ♥A and cross to dummy with ♠K, drawing the outstanding trump. Next lead ♥9 and throw a club from hand. On this layout, West will win the trick with ♥Q and switch to a club (before or after cashing ♦J). You will rise with the ace and throw your remaining club loser on dummy's established ♥8. You will make six trumps, a heart, the minor suit aces and a diamond ruff in dummy for a total of 10 tricks.

West's lead proved to be an unfortunate choice for his side. An opening club lead would see the 4♠ contract fail.

7 metre ceilings were fitted with skylights, making the lighting brilliant, and huge air-conditioning ducts ran the full length of the hall. It didn't occur to the Convener to ask whether the system worked. It didn't. Nor did it occur to him to ask whether the toilets flushed. Some of them didn't. (It did occur to him later to ask just how the builder had managed to obtain a certificate of completion, but he decided that discretion was the better part of valour.)

So, the Summer Festival moved to the Convention Centre. The first event was the Blue Ribbon Pairs. Without air-conditioning and with the Canberra summer sun blazing through the skylights, the Exhibition Hall became a furnace. Even the Convention Centre management became concerned

for the welfare of the contestants. It says much for the constitution of bridge players that there was barely a complaint. Overnight, the Exhibition Hall was abandoned, and the tournament moved into less spacious side rooms that had functional air-conditioning.

The following year, we utilised the Grand Ballroom as well as the side rooms as playing areas (but not the Exhibition Hall). The ballroom provided good conditions but only temporarily. The Canberra Casino had been granted a licence to operate while the casino building itself was still under construction. A consequence was that casino operations took over the Grand Ballroom while the Summer Festival moved into the Theatre. It was not altogether pleasant for the Summer Festival to share the Convention Centre with the Canberra Casino. Aggressive security staff prowled the premises and some Summer Festival patrons felt threatened. It was a relief when the casino building was complete and the Canberra Casino got out of the Convention Centre (which had never been intended for that sort of activity anyway).

Summer Festival organisers were struck by the contrast in attitudes of Lakeside and the Convention Centre managements. The relationship between the Summer Festival and the Lakeside had been almost personal in nature, with each party having a healthy respect for the other's requirements. In contrast, the relationship with the Convention Centre was quite impersonal. Most times, this did not much matter but on one occasion it did. The Convention Centre double booked, with the result that the Blue Ribbon Pairs had to be played in nearby TAFE premises. Despite these setbacks and inconveniences, the enduring popularity of the Summer Festival was undiminished. Entries increased year by year until they peaked in 1994 with 292 entries in the NOT and 92 entries in the NWT.

Quite apart from winning the ultimate prize - the National Open Teams Championship of Australia - to be placed first after 14 qualifying rounds by out-playing nearly 300 competing teams was in itself a massive achievement.



The Lakeside as some of us remember it



The Lakeside today

The ABF resolved that the achievement should be recognised. So, the NOT was divided into two distinct parts. The first was called “the South-West Pacific Teams Championship” and comprised the 14 20-board qualifying rounds.

The second maintained the name “the National Open Teams Championship” and was contested (unchanged) by those teams that had qualified for the finals via the SWPT. As attendances peaked, the SWPT (the qualifying rounds) was played in three fields, two at the Convention Centre - one in the Grand Ballroom, the other in the Theatre - and one in the Great Lakes Room at the Lakeside.

The move back to its original home at the Lakeside was a pleasant experience for the tournament and for those of its patrons who had been accustomed to stay at the hotel. Other venues (or part venues) that have hosted the SWPT/NOT have included the Hyatt (as Hotel Canberra, the venue for the 1974 NOT and ANC 1966 and ANC 1972), the Hellenic Club, the Exhibition Hall of the National Convention Centre (after the management decided to fix the air-conditioning and block out the skylights) and the Canberra Rex.

During these times there was one situation with the potential for trouble that passed off quietly. From 1985 through 2004, the Summer Festival ran the Australian Men’s Pairs Championship alongside the National Women’s Teams.

A pretty harmless scheduling, one would think, but an analogous situation in America had stirred up a hornets’ nest. In 1984, Jill Blanchard and her husband sued the ACBL on the grounds that gender-based events such as Men’s Pairs violated California’s Unruh Act. After five years, the court

resolved the matter in favour of the Blanchards (*Francis et al. 1994*). An American outcome was that the ACBL converted its men-only events into open events. An Australian outcome was that Cathy Chua sought entry to the Australian Men’s Pairs. Conscious perhaps that a refusal might have unforeseen consequences, Festival organisers accepted Cathy’s entry, she played her usual sound game, no-one demurred, and the incident passed into history.



Some measure of the stature of the Summer Festival Bridge was given by prolific British author David Bird, who accepted an invitation to attend the 1995 Summer Festival.

He reported enthusiastically in *International Popular Bridge Monthly* (1995).

“The Australian Summer Bridge Festival has been organised for the past 22 years by John Brockwell, an agricultural scientist of world renown. Held in the beautiful city of Canberra, the event has grown steadily, year-by-year, and in 1995 became the fourth largest tournament in the world (after the three major US championships).

There were over 6000 tables in play during the two weeks. One of the attractions is the sheer length of the various championships. The National Women’s Teams starts with three days of qualification, three 20-board Swiss matches played on each day. The leading four teams then play semi-finals and a final, using screens. The National Open Teams (alternatively titled the South-West Pacific Teams)

has an almost unbelievable five-day qualifier, with the 12 leading teams advancing to the knock-out stage. There are also championships for juniors, mixed teams and players of limited rank.”

Towards the end of his long article, Bird reflected:

“What are my lasting impressions of this fine tournament? The main one is that almost every name player in Australia competes in the event, despite its length and the consequent need to take several days off work. How many of our top stars are tempted to compete in similar events in Britain? A disappointing number. Secondly, the organisers ensure that the players — all the players, even those on the bottom tables - are made to feel good. The setting is palatial and (yes!) no smoking is allowed in the playing area. At the end of every round each team is given a personal laser-printed sheet of their own results so far and the scores of the teams adjacent to them. Another bonus is that all teams play the same boards, with hand records available immediately after the session. When big plays come to light from other tables, everyone can compare their efforts on the boards involved.”

David Bird concluded by saying:

“I certainly found the Australian Summer Bridge Festival exciting and I was only a spectator. I look forward to the day when I will be able to play in such an event myself.”

One hand in particular took David Bird’s fancy, not only because of the technical aspect but also because of the international flavour.

Board 16, North deals, nil vulnerable

<p>♠ 6 5 2 ♥ K 9 8 4 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ 6 5 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 10 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ Q 7 4 2 ♣ A K J</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 7 3 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ 3 ♣ 10 9 8 7 4</p>	<p>♠ J 9 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ K J 10 9 6 5 ♣ Q 3</p>
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Denny Sacul and Frankie Karwur (Indonesia) sat NS against Chris Ackerley and Richard Solomon (New Zealand). The contract was 5♦, played by Karwur, South, East having shown the black suits.

At trick 1, Ackerley cashed ♦A then switched to ♣5. Now, declarer had a chance. He won ♣A, drew the last trump, cashed ♠A, unblocking the jack from hand, and ran his winners.

This was the four-card ending:

<p>♠ K 10 ♥ J 5 ♦ --- ♣ ---</p>	<p>♠ 6 5 ♥ K 9 ♦ --- ♣ ---</p>	<table border="1" style="background-color: #006400; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ Q 8 ♥ A 10 ♦ --- ♣ ---</p>
N						
W E						
S						
<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 6 ♣ ---</p>						

On the play of the last trump, West threw a spade, dummy ♥5 and East jettisoned ♥A to avoid being endplayed. Reading the cards perfectly, Frankie Karwur now led a spade to dummy’s king, removing West’s last spade, and played ♥J. ♥Q was his 11th trick. (*This hand was reported by Chris Ackerley, Otago NZ in 1996*).



David Bird’s words were flattering about a truly international tournament with players from Asia, Europe and North America and a 50-strong contingent from New Zealand, but he had seen the Summer Festival at its zenith. From 1996 attendances went into decline, especially in the South-West Pacific Teams. The reasons were manifold.

When the National Open teams was first staged in 1973, there were only two other national tournaments in Australia — the annual Australian Interstate Championships (ANC) which was held in state capital cities and Canberra on a seven-year cycle, and the Gold Coast Congress in Surfers Paradise. By 1996 there were national tournaments in every state and, unable to play in everything, players began to pick and choose.

Ed: Today the Summer Festival is leaner and more easily contained in one venue. The Canberra Rex has worked hard to accommodate bridge players, but now the biggest field is no longer the SWPT but the TBIB Swiss Pairs, 100 tables as I go to press, with the SWPT 74 tables.

Players trickle in

Because the National Seniors and Women's Teams decide the outcome of the 2023 national representative teams, an extra round is needed for the playoffs to be completed, so there are only two fields playing today.



Check in—Sue Ingham and Michael Courtney

On Wednesday, the Life Master Teams and Chris Diment Swiss Pairs join the small field of players.

The Rex has had some refurbishment since last we met here, and the Convener has provided a pretty decent break room where the downstairs buffet used to be, with large tables for post mortems and team score ups.



Giselle Mundell about to tackle the piano

Numbers are generally low, with some events cancelled due to lack of entries.

This is the threat to the game –Covid is still lurking and there is the lure of online bridge, as well as the fact that airfares, accommodation and food prices have certainly discouraged many from playing in all the events they would have done a scant three or four years ago (I know this affects me, for one). Let's hope we see a steady build up of face-to-face participation in the coming years.



Andy Braithwaite; here for the Seniors Teams

2022 NOT Final



ASHTON kept up the pressure throughout the long final, and while there were opportunities for COUTTS to forge ahead, judgement actions favoured ASHTON over COUTTS.

Take this decision Michael Ware faced from the second set:

Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

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



West	North	East	South
<i>Ware</i>	<i>Edgtton</i>	<i>McManus</i>	<i>Ashton</i>
pass	1♣	1NT	pass
2♥ ¹	3♥	4♠	5♣
pass	pass	dbl	pass
5♠	all pass		

1. Transfer

Who can blame Ware for removing the penalty double, which would have yielded a thin +100.

OK, it was not a winning action, but the damage had in fact come from the COUTTS action:

West	North	East	South
<i>Hans</i>	<i>Tislevoll</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Jacob</i>
pass	1♣	1NT	pass
2♥ ¹	dbl	3♥ ²	4♦
4♠	all pass		

1. Transfer
2. Superaccept, not bad

I prefer Nabil Edgtton's action in showing the extreme distribution of his hand to GeO Tislevoll's heart-showing double.

After East, Peter Gill showed a super accept in spades, Nick Jacob had a difficult bid, but 4♦, whatever it was intended to mean, had no effect on the auction (perhaps Jacob took Tislevoll's double to be takeout). NS sold out to the vulnerable game, -620 while Sophie Ashton, the heroine of the deal, accurately and effectively saved, holding two good cards for North - ♠K and ♥Q.

Pushing EW to a non-making 5♠ was an added bonus.

This was the sort of juggernaut decision that has kept ASHTON at the forefront of bridge .

By the end of the third stanza, ASHTON were ahead 85 - 45, and by the last board of the match, further outages meant ASHTON led 122 - 60. A grand slam to COUTTS made the final score a more respectable 122-76 to ASHTON.



2022 NOT winners: Andy Hung, Nabil Edgtton, Sophie Ashton, Sartaj Hans, Peter Gill;

in absentia Tony Leibwitz

Runners up: James Coutts, Liam Milne, Matthew McManus, Michael Ware, Nick Jacob, GeO Tislevoll



Visit Adelaide for the
2023 Autumn Nationals

Thursday 4th May - Monday 8th May 2023

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

Gold Masterpoints awarded | PQPs in Open and Mixed events

Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Mixed, Under Life, Under Grand)

Swiss Teams (Open, Under Life, Under Grand)

New Event

One-day Rookie Pairs for players
with fewer than 35 Masterpoints,
on Thursday 4th May

**Final only on Monday -
No Consolation**

New Scorer Chris Carolan

Tournament Organiser: Barbara Travis

Phone: 0437 919 928 | **Email:** anot@abf.com.au

To enter or for more information, see MyABF



Why you should visit Adelaide

by Barbara Travis

In addition to playing bridge, other things that may appeal to visitors are:

Adelaide Oval Tour

Adelaide Oval Stadium Tours take you behind closed doors where you'll learn about the Oval. Expert ambassadors share captivating tales of the history of the venue, the sporting greats who have competed here, how the iconic heritage blends seamlessly with world-class facilities and the Oval's iconic status in SA



Imagine running onto Adelaide Oval to the roar of a 50,000-strong crowd, climbing the stairs to the 100-year-old heritage-listed scoreboard or gaining an insight into match-day preparations inside the players' change-rooms.

<https://www.adelaideoval.com.au/tours/>

While at the Oval, take the opportunity to visit the **Bradman Collection**, on display in a purpose-built museum in the Riverbank Stand. The collection brings together Bradman's priceless and personal collection of cricket memorabilia spanning from 1927 to 1977. It was originally Sir Donald's wish that a home for the Bradman Collection be found at Adelaide Oval, which came to fruition in 2008 on the centenary of his birth.

The collection is free and open every day, 9am-4pm, except for event days.

Adelaide Oval Roof Climb

If you don't mind heights and stairs,



Adelaide Oval *RoofClimb* offers an opportunity to learn all about the Oval, whilst enjoying spectacular views over Adelaide and beyond. (I've done it, even with my bad ankle, and loved it.)

<https://roofclimb.com.au/>

Adelaide Botanic Gardens



Until September 2023, Adelaide Botanic Gardens are hosting **Seeing The Invisible**, a 2km trail around the garden which allows you to discover a hidden art exhibition using a smartphone or device. There are 13 works of contemporary art that become visible only through the use of augmented reality (AR) technology. The art works address themes around nature, environment and sustainability, all against the backdrop of the beautiful botanic gardens.

Seeing the Invisible is a free, international exhibition presented simultaneously in eight countries around the world. Adelaide is the only place in Australia which will experience this exhibition. Many of the works have an interactive element, offering a fun and unique way to explore art which intersects with technology and nature.

World-renowned artists include Ai Weiwei, Refik Anadol, El Anatsui, Isaac Julien CBE, Mohammed Kazem, Sigalit Landau, Sarah Meyohas, Pamela Rosenkranz, Timur Si-Qin.



9 Tuesday, January 10

More on what to see and do in Adelaide the next time the Autumn Nationals flier appears