



## Tuesday 10 - Sunday 22 January, 2023

### SWPT Rounds 4-6



### Bulletin 9

### Wednesday January 18

#### Results

#### Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester

#### Opinion

The Tuesday discussion that took place on online bridge attracted around 50 interested parties, and it was clear that most present believe online bridge is here to stay and needs to be a part of bridge if bridge is to survive. Thanks to those in attendance.



My own preference is face-to-face bridge over online bridge, even though I play and enjoy online bridge on both mainstream platforms, *BBO* and *RealBridge*.

I think of it this way: I started playing bridge in 1970 as my chosen sport, not as a game. I asked prominent player Tony Leibowitz, who loves bridge, whether bridge was a sport or a game to him – he too confirmed that he saw it as a “mind sport.”

We play most sports face-to-face, so in my mind, playing against two opponents with a partner of my choice is sport, while online bridge is a game.

Does anyone agree with me? I want my sport to survive and thrive, but I also acknowledge online bridge is here to stay. It would be sad if member-owned bridge clubs were to suffer the same way

bowling clubs have. I know our administrators will do all they can to help sustain the sport I love.

There will be another discussion at the Gold Coast Congress. More tomorrow.

*Stephen Lester, Editor*

#### The 1960 is Back!

No, that isn't a typo in the title. Read on and find out why.

I was having my usual afternoon nap on Monday, dreaming that I was on a boat sailing out of a harbour and sipping on a cocktail. Suddenly, I was rudely awakened by a swift kick in the shin. I opened my eyes to find myself at the bridge table, holding this hand:

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

We play standard kicks, so I knew straight away what one kick under the table was asking for, a spade lead, so I tabled ♠5.

“The auction hasn't finished yet. It's your bid,” right-hand opponent informed me. I sur-

mised they may have been the kicker, something I suspect is both illegal and also very difficult to prove.



Lindsay Scandrett, playing in the Under 750/300 Teams, is from the Blue Mountains. He made the piano in the lobby come alive with glorious Marvin Hamlisch music this morning. A professional pianist, Lindsay made the problems the piano suffers from (several missing notes) seem to vanish.

I looked at the auction, which started with 2♣ on my left, pass by partner and 2♦ by the kicker.

Both bids had been alerted and I asked for a repeat of the explanation in case this part of the proceedings had already been covered during my slumber. Clearly it hadn't, but I was a long way past pretending to not having slept through the entire thing, so it didn't really matter.

2♣ was "wide ranging," and I nearly ended up back on my boat with the cocktail before we got to the end of all the possibilities. My main take away was that it could be anything from a pair of twos with a get out of jail free card, all the way up to two hotels on Mayfair and Park Lane.

2♦ seemed to serve no purpose whatsoever, and since nobody knew any more about the hand than we did before we took the cards out of the board, I decided that we needed to hurry things along. I doubled the artificial 2♦ and waited for further developments. There weren't any.

Opener, clearly terrified by my double, redoubled for rescue and the kicker forgot what to do and passed.

Kicker then asked my partner about my double. "Lead directing".

He looked at me with a big Cheshire cat smile and said, "Well at least you've told yourself what to lead."

I mumbled something about ♠5 being a penalty card but kicker seemed unperturbed.

Moments later I had two face-down cards in portrait mode and 11 in landscape.

The full hand:

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

I put my hand up to my mouth so kicker couldn't hear me and whispered to my partner "Suckers! They could probably have made 3NT here!"

After some complicated mathematics we got to the magic number of 1960.

For the rest of the round nobody bothered to wake me at all, certainly not my partner.

### Anonymous



### SWPT, Round 4



Sally Brock – Barry Myers, part of APAHEILI faced 2nd seeds ASHTON, with Andy Hung – Sartaj Hans EW.

Andy and Sartaj relayed to 6♦ via the sequence above. Sartaj started by showing (I believe) an 8-10 balanced hand, and by the end of the auction, Andy knew Sartaj had a 3343 shape with one of the top three honours in diamonds and 4 queen controls (A = 3, K = 2, Q = 1). (Apologies if I've got this wrong, Andy and Sartaj.)



**9. PREPARATION**

*South deals, all vulnerable*

**NORTH**

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

**SOUTH**

♠ A K 4  
♥ A 5  
♦ A J 7 5  
♣ 9 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	3♣	Pass	1NT
All pass			3NT

1. Majors

The 2♣ overcall promised at least nine cards in the majors. North's 3♣ was forcing to game.

West leads ♥K, asking for count. East's signal is consistent with his holding an odd number of hearts. Can you foresee any problems that might prevent you making nine tricks?

Sartaj had a dead minimum, but slam had good chances, especially played from the East seat (finding ♦Q, and either a winning spade finesse or ♣K in front of the queen.)

With diamonds 2-2, ♠K onside as well as ♣K, the play did not take long on a spade lead, then ♦K, diamond to the ace, dropping ♦Q.

Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

♠ 10 9 2		♠ J 6 4									
♥ J 7 2		♥ 10 8 5									
♦ 8 7		♦ A J 9 5									
♣ K J 8 6 4		♣ Q 7 2									
	<table border="1" style="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		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♠ A Q		♠ K 8 7 5 3									
♥ A K Q 3		♥ 9 6 4									
♦ K 10 6 3 2		♦ Q 4									
♣ A 9		♣ 10 5 3									

EW were in 3NT at the other table, +490, but 11 IMPs to ASHTON.

**The first NOT**

**by Paul Lavings, Figtree NSW**

Denis Howard was a major wheeler and dealer in 1973, and he decided to initiate a major national teams event.



The first was to be held at the Menzies Hotel in Sydney, but thereafter it was in Canberra in January.

I was the chief director with Alan Richardson (now in Brisbane) and Neil Mathieson (now in Heaven) as assistant directors.

The Convener was Harry Lennox from Lindfield Bridge Club. Harry was large and noisy. He survived on one leg and when he arrived at the venue with the pre-dealt boards he would say something like "They're going to love these ones!"



Sebastian Langdon Macmillan, Vugraph operator

## SOLUTION to Tim Bourke's Test Your Play

You have four top tricks in your own hand and five club tricks will bring the contract home. If the clubs are 2-2 then you will have nine easy tricks. If they prove to be 4-0 you will have to hope for better luck on the next deal.

The crucial case is when the clubs are 3-1, as here:

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

After two rounds of clubs are cashed, the suit will be blocked, because East's ♣J will prevent you running the suit. The way to overcome this is to duck ♥K.

Suppose West continues with a second heart to your ace. Now, after cashing ♣A and ♣K you can solve the problem in clubs by leading ♥8 and throwing ♣7 from hand. West will take his three heart winners, but you will have the rest of the tricks as the club suit will now run for three more tricks.

You should appreciate that ducking ♥K at trick one was crucial. If you do not then East can win the second round of hearts here and either lead ♣J or shift to spades to stop you running the club suit. A third option for East in this situation would be to lead a low diamond to set up a fifth defensive trick.

None of the favourites did well, and in the end the winners were Max Hitter – Egon Auerbach, Gabi Lorentz – Oleg Minc. I knew them all well and often played as teammate with Max Hitter and Tom Reiner.

In one congress, I had this suit to defend from the West seat:

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

At Max's table, the opponents had made 3NT, and I complained mildly to Max. He said quietly to me "When the 10 was led, did you put on the ace?"

To my shame, I had not so the opponents made two tricks in the suit instead of just one.

*Ed: I bet you haven't got that wrong in the ensuing 50 years.*

## Cats country

I'm proud to come from the Geelong area, for so long a powerful bastion of country Victorian bridge. Gary Ridgway, one of Geelong's finest, and certainly most enduring, players was at the initial



NOT in 1973. His main memory of the event was playing Cummings, Seres, Howard and Smilde in the first match, and losing 101 – 3 IMPs.

He played the following 39 years in succession, then intermittently, alternating some years with the Gold Coast Congress.

Playing here with evergreen Geelong identity Arthur Robbins, in combination with Geelong's best women's player Denny Newland and Scottish character Doug Newlands, Arthur remembers being taught Standard American by Nick Beaumont (who had changed his surname by deed poll from



Bullock (his wife didn't like to be referred to as a female bovine).

Arthur was not keen on Standard. He saw a Schenken book in a local bookstore, and bought it. The Big Club features the 2♦ opener, a demand bid which asked about aces all the way down to queens (maybe even jacks, if I remember.)



I too learned from the Schenken book and played the system with Jan Cormack (NZ) and Vivien Shenkin (Cornell, NZ).

It also featured alpha, beta, gamma and delta asks—but Arthur soon vetoed the bids, as he refused to be a voiceless puppet.

Nowadays Gary and Arthur are still good friends, and still play their own version of Precision.

### To leap or not to leap

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

You are vulnerable against non vulnerable when your annoying RHO opens 3♠. What do you bid with the hand above?

I have only recently been introduced to Leaping and Non-Leaping Michaels, and being naturally indolent, haven't taken the time to discuss their use in detail.

After talking to friends in the women's playoffs field, however, I learned more about the theory behind the treatment.

With Non-Leaping Michaels, you forego the ability to bid naturally at the four-level after a three-level pre-empt. Bidding the minor at the next level shows a strong hand with that minor and a major.

On the deal above, before having Non-Leaping Michaels in my arsenal, what would I bid?

Dbl gives me an awkward bid over 4♦, while bidding 4♣ means I might never get to show my

### How would you defend?

#### Problem 8

South deals, EW vulnerable

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

♠ 8 7 6  
♥ K 10 5 3 2  
♦ Q 7 5  
♣ K 5

West	North	East	South
pass	2♣	pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>
pass	3NT	all pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>

- 14-16
- No 5-card major

West leads ♥3: ace – nine (low-like, high-hate) – seven. EW play low-encouraging.

Declarer plays ♣J: six – nine – king. What would you play next as West?

hearts. Here's the theory behind Non-Leaping Michaels (one thing at a time!)

### Leaping and Non-Leaping Michaels

An extension, called Non-Leaping Michaels, gives up minor suit overcalls over three-bids, to permit bidding strong two-suiters using the same methods. It may be applied in these cases:

1. When an opponent opens a natural weak bid of 3♦, 3♥ or 3♠.
2. When an opponent opens 1♦, 1♥ or 1♠ and is raised preemptively to 3♦, 3♥ or 3♠.
3. When an opponent opens a natural, weak 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ and is raised to 3♦, 3♥ or 3♠.

## How would you defend?

### Problem 8 solution

The deal comes from the 2015 European Open Teams:

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

Against 3NT, West led ♥3. South took ♥A and ran ♣J to West's ♣K.

Why did South take ♥A and not duck at trick 1? Perhaps one of the other suits is unguarded? South cannot be worried about a spade switch to knock out ♠A entry to the clubs, otherwise South would have left ♥A in dummy as a later entry.

When the club finesse lost, a diamond switch was needed and would give the defence six more tricks. When West shifted to a spade at trick 3, South, had nine tricks.

East could have avoided the calamity by bidding 2♦ over North's 2♣. At the other table South opened 1♣, North bid 2♦ (6-9 point club raise),

### Solution to double dummy problem 6

South leads a heart to dummy's King, and already East is feeling the pinch. A spade discard merely transfers the spade guard to West who will be squeezed after two top spades and a heart from dummy.



Here's a deal from Tuesday and the auction I watched:

Board 3, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
			3♠
4♣	4♠	pass	pass
4NT	dbl	pass	pass
5♣	dbl	all pass	

The 4♣ bid in this auction was natural, and 4NT was intended to show a second suit. There was no firm agreement in place, however, so East passed the double of 5♣.

Playing Non-Leaping Michaels, 4♣ would show clubs and hearts and East would have an easier decision to make: double 4♠ or bid 5♥.

## THE BRIDGE SHOP

### Double Dummy Problem 7

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

South to lead with spades as trumps - NS to win the remaining six tricks.

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Barry Myers for APAHEILI, South led a club, allowing Sartaj to discard two diamonds, then give up a spade, a diamond and a heart to claim 10 tricks.

The defence needed to take three diamond tricks on the go to defeat 4♠, as North could not be denied a trump trick.

A number of Souths led ♦A against 4♠, (one declarer made 11 tricks after this lead, while the rest went down, North presumably unblocking ♦K under the ace.

One South led ♦Q—now it was easy to take four tricks!



### Honest bidding

Match 4, Board 1, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

Nick Hughes brought this hand to my attention.

I remembered the deal, as I had watched it in the match I watched ASHTON play APAHEILI.

After Sartaj Hans' 1♠ bid, Andy Hung bid 2♣, which was an artificial bid. Natural bidding, however, steered some South players from selecting a club or a heart lead.

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