

61ST International 2023 GOLD COAST BRIDGE CONGRESS BULLETIN 2



YOUR DAILY BULLETIN

Electronic only and
a link sent daily

Saturday 18 February

[Stephen Lester](#) and [Barry Rigal](#)

Monday lunchtime presentation at the Gold Coast Congress

I have arranged to do a presentation on Monday 20 February at the Gold Coast.

It's a general update for players and clubs about what's new and what's coming.

It will also contain an overview of the new areas particularly aimed at clubs (the newly released club administration

module and the stuff we are currently piloting where club session table money can be processed with bridge credits).

You are all encouraged to attend! I am not playing Monday afternoon, so if others are in the same position, I'm happy to stay around and talk more. But I'm conscious some of you may be playing in the Monday Butler Pairs which does start that afternoon.

Julian Foster

Tables at
Saturday evening

586

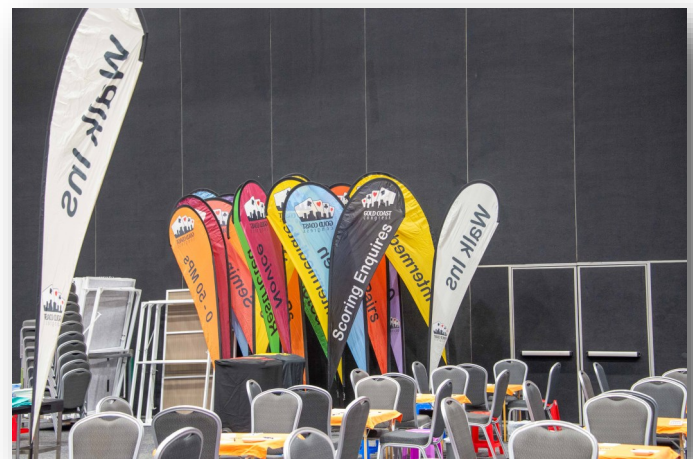
381 in 2022



What's on Sunday?

Celebrity Speaker William Jenner O'Shea on *Counting the Opponents' hands*

Walk Ins on Sunday 10.00 and the 2.30 session sponsored by Sage Café and Restaurant



Ready for quick assembly Friday night







Operations Central—Kim Ellaway with floor managers Margaret Lees and Richard Alexander





Located upstairs opposite Administration office. (Saturday to Monday).
 Tuesday to Wednesday located in the Foyer, (Location TBA)
 Min \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge (free for Youth)

<p>Sunday 19th 1.30-2.15pm William Jenner-O'Shea <i>Counting The Opponent's Hands</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □□□□ Working out Where the missing Cards are □□□□ Counting the length of the Opponent's Suits □□□□ Improve your guesses! □□□□ These are some of the most important aspects of Bridge. <p><i>Will Jenner-O'Shea</i> has represented Australia in several bridge events, including the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008. Will has also built a successful career teaching.</p>
<p>Monday 20th 9.00am – 9.45am <i>Finn Kolesnik</i> Winning at The Soloway!</p>		<p>USA teen sensation Finn Kolesnik takes you through some hands that helped his team in winning the prestigious Soloway KO 2022. Finn Kolesnik is an 18-year-old Bridge Pro from Austin Texas. He is currently a member of the U26 USA 1 Junior Team. His other accomplishments include 1st U21 pairs WC 2022, 1st U26 teams WC 2022, and many other top NABC finishes.</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st 1.30-2.15pm Andy Hung <i>The Art of Bidding with Bad Hands</i></p>		<p>Ever pick up a near-yarborough hand and find yourself yawning? I hope not, as you can sometimes get creative! Andy will give you the expert insight of when to bid with them, and when to pass.</p> <p>Andy Hung is a professional bridge player and teacher who has represented Australia Open competitions. He has won several Australian National titles and placed third in two previous US Nationals. When he's not competing in tournaments, you will find him teaching at the WABC in Perth, or running bridge holidays in Australia, or overseas - contact him for his holidays this year!</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd 9.00am – 9.45am Paul Marston <i>Fit matters – do not hide your minors</i></p>		<p>I will do my best to convince you about one convention you should play, and one you should avoid.</p> <p>Paul Marston has won more than 50 open national titles and his books have sold more than 500,000 copies.</p>

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Vale Reg Busch, 1928—2022

A tribute

By Richard Ward

My life was first impacted by Reg when, as a Townsville teenager new to bridge, I became a beneficiary of the generosity and far-sightedness of the Queensland Bridge Association.



Reg and Bing Brown were the driving force behind the establishment of the zonal system of subsidies that ensured players from outside Brisbane had access to some of the prestige Queensland championship events. With generous travel support for zones and also youth players which continues to this day, I have always been indebted to the QBA and its hard-working volunteers.

When we moved from Townsville to Brisbane in 1978, I was warmly welcomed by a number of players, one of whom was Reg Busch, who asked me to play in the Open Trials with him. I was delighted to be considered, as this would be my first attempt at making a Queensland team. As we both had an Acol background, we found that our styles were compatible in both bidding and defence. Reg was keen on the Ogust convention – a forcing response of 2NT after partner opens a weak two bid. I recall his mnemonic for remembering the responses – “min/min - min/max – max/min – max/max” for trump quality/strength which I have never forgotten. He also had much to teach me about expert play and teams tactics.

To my great surprise, but not his apparently, we made the team. It could not have been a better introduction to the national bridge scene for me, and the Brisbane Australian National Championships were most enjoyable. I think our team came a respectable third or fourth.

The 80s and 90s saw the beginnings of computer scoring programs, and Reg and Joan McPheat were leading the way with their program, which proved to be the genesis of Compscore – the most popular program in use throughout Australia. In those years I was directing many congresses, so I was keen to be a ‘crash-test dummy’ for their software. The greatest challenge was to provide scoring that was Richard-proof. It seemed that, whenever it was even remotely possible to misinterpret the instructions, I would find it and be subject to their pitying expressions.



Of course the available technology in those decades was very basic in comparison to today’s world of Bridgemate II and Compscore 3. The biggest and best event in the world, the International Gold Coast Congress was scored by a team of directors who would enter the data from their section, save it to a floppy disk, and then walk it to Joan who would download and combine the whole field. Whilst Joan’s anxiety levels throughout this process were understandably through the roof, Reg’s constantly calm demeanour always helped to keep the show on the road.

Reg was a top-level, highly regarded director. His knowledge of the laws and their interpretations in some thorny situations, was outstanding. He was the first editor of the Australian Bridge Directors Associations’ Bulletin. This developed into a professionally accurate publication and became a source of reference for directors internationally.

I have always regarded Reg as a loyal friend and valuable mentor. His renowned contributions to bridge over many decades as a player, director and administrator stand as a monument to a good and generous man who has led a remarkably pro-

ductive life of which his family and friends must be very proud.

Vale Reg. Rest in Peace

Kim Ellaway's eulogy

I am honoured to stand here today to speak about Dr Reg Busch. My eulogy comes in three parts – the bridge history of Reg, a paper written by the President of the Queensland Bridge Association Richard Ward, who is in the United Kingdom and could not be here today and my personal words.

Last weekend we had the state titles and over 200 people participated. We had a minute's silence to honour Reg. You would have heard a pin drop if one did. I was touched and I know Reg would have been.

Reg was President of the QBA from 1973 to 1979, then again from 1983 to 1986. It was in 1986 that Reg was honoured with Life Membership of the Association. Life Membership is not given lightly by the QBA, and after Reg's death only three Life Members are left, with Joan McPheat being one of them.

Going through all the minutes of the association, I found that Reg had been the State Masterpoint Secretary, Treasurer, Club Delegate, State Delegate, Treasurer and the Australian Bridge Federation's Masterpoint Secretary. Most importantly to the QBA, Reg was the chair and member of the QBA Tournament Committee for over 20 years and tournaments still operate today as he implemented them during this time.

Apart from the Secretary, there did not seem to be an administrative job that Reg did not hold, except the secretary. He and Joan directed bridge congresses all over Queensland for well over 25 years, and every club in Queensland has been assisted one way or another by Reg.

Apart from the extensive administration he gave to the Association, Reg was a great bridge player. He represented Queensland in 1973, 1975 and 1978 and captained the Open Team in 1976, 1981, 1988 and 1990. 1988 was a great year for

Queensland when Reg captained the winning team.

When he moved to the Sunshine Coast he became an asset to that area and was a huge loss to the Brisbane and surrounding areas.



Reg Busch 1928 - 2022

Together with Hugh (Bing) Brown and others, during his years as QBA President, Reg worked towards supporting players and clubs all over Queensland by introducing a system of subsidies designed to bring country players to Brisbane for state events. The Queensland Zonal structure can be largely attributed to his efforts. He became a life member of the Association in 1986.

After a period as a country doctor in south-east Queensland, he moved to Brisbane in 1971, and rapidly became involved in administrative roles for the QBA. He was the State Masterpoint Secretary from 1973 to 1974, National Masterpoint Secretary 1977-1979, QBA Treasurer 1981-1982, ABF councillor 1975-1979 and 1983-1987 and QBA Tournament chair for 14 years.

Despite this formidable administrative load, he was an accomplished player, illustrated by the fact that he qualified for the Queensland Open Team for the Australian Interstate Championships on three occasions with three different partners, Nat Corrigan, Malcolm Carter and Richard Ward.

Reg became a nationally recognised tournament director whose knowledge of movements, scoring, regulations and the Laws was unsurpassed. He

was Queensland's only Level 1 National Director and was the Chief Director at the Gold Coast Congress for a few years. He was instrumental in the training of many of the state's current crop of directors and introduced a demanding testing regime for club and congress directors. He was the foundation editor of the Australian Bridge Directors Association Bulletin throughout the 1990's.

He and Joan McPheat were a formidable directing duo for more than two decades. Together they developed, tested and promoted one of the first computerised scoring software programs in Australia. Their ground-breaking pioneering efforts developed into "Compscore" which is widely used by many Australian clubs today.

National Titles

1988 Australian Open Interstate Teams 1st – npc with Bill Hunt, Jim Wallis, Paul Lavings, Brian Blyth, Kevin Hume, Richard Ward.

State Representation

Australian National Championships – Queensland Open Team 1990 (NPC), 1988 (NPC), 1981 (NPC), 1978, 1976 (NPC), 1975, 1973

Rookies return



Mary Doneley and Jennie Tucker from Brisbane won the Sunday Rookie Pairs in 2020, and they're back hoping to defend their title! The Gold Coast Congress is the only event they attend.



South Island Teams 20A (20AU Gold)

Swiss (format subject to entries)

Date: Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th June 2023

Venue: Online – Real Bridge

Start time: 9:30am NZ finish approx. 6:00pm

Entry Fee: NZ\$180 per team (4-6 players) net of bank charges

Entries: NZ Bridge/ Tournaments.

[https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events/7857/South-Island-Teams-\(Online\)](https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events/7857/South-Island-Teams-(Online))





Enquiries: South Island Teams Online southislandteams2023@gmail.com

Australian Players welcome but **must be registered with a NZ Number**. If you do not have a NZ Bridge number please contact enquiries above with

- Australian Number
- Email address

2023 Bridge Companions Programme

Hello and a huge welcome back to our 2023 Bridge Companions programme
 We look forward to meeting you all – having a little fun – and visiting spots along our famous Gold Coast. Below, please find the organised activities for the week.
 Here's to a fun week, Sue, and Lana

Location	Dates	Event	Meeting	Depart	Costs
	<p>Sunday 19th Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre https://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/visit/margaret-olley-art-centre Lunch – Apex Dining Menu Spring 23</p>	<p>The Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC) is the third and final stage of the Tweed Regional Gallery. MOAC celebrates the career, life and legacy of its namesake, Margaret Olley – Australia's most celebrated painter of still life and interiors. Central to MOAC is the recreation of areas of Olley's famous home studio, principally the Hat Factory and the Yellow Room. Lunch at the Apex dining tearoom</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>11.00am – 4:30pm latest</p>	<p>Lunch and tea costs to be incurred by self \$25 bus</p>
	<p>Monday 20th Fashion Parade</p>	<p><i>Fashion Parade, at the Oasis Shopping Centre, Level 1. Wraps, sandwiches, and Champagne served</i></p>	<p><i>Meeting at Change Alley Level one at the "A Little Oasis Café" 2pm – 3pm.</i></p>		<p><i>No cost to self</i></p>
	<p>Tuesday 21st</p>	<p>Get together for Non-Bridge Partners</p>	<p>Apartment 3005 Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>09:45am- 10:30am</p>	
	<p>Tuesday 21st Curtis Falls https://www.aussiebushwalking.com/qld/se-qld/tamborine-np/curtis-falls https://witcheschasecheese.com/our-story/</p>	<p>The Curtis Falls track at Mt Tamborine National Park is a lush waterfall hike that is easily accessible and features arguably the most beautiful waterfall in the area. Lunch at Witches Chase Cheese</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>Leave 10 :30 am Bus to be back by 17:00 latest</p>	<p>\$25 bus, Lunch at own cost. The owner will put a cheese board menu together for us in the new year.</p>



<p>Wednesday 22nd David Fleay Wildlife Park https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/david-fleay/</p>	<p>David Fleay Wildlife Park is a wildlife park with a difference! You can stroll through natural habitats and visit a nocturnal house to see some of Australia's most iconic wildlife. You will meet crocodiles, koalas, emus, brolgas, dingoes, dunnarts, bilbies, and kangaroos, as well as platypus</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>10:45am - 4:30pm.</p>	<p>\$15 bus, Adult \$26.15 Senior \$17.20</p>
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<p>Thursday 23rd Burleigh Heads National Park. Walking trails. Map below https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/162512/burleigh-head-webmap.pdf The Paddock bakery for tea/lunch https://www.paddockbakery.com/</p>	<p>Burleigh Heads National Park offers perfect views of the Gold Coast City skyline, access to remote beaches and creeks, native rainforest, and several unique viewpoints. Please see map for different trails Paddock Bakery Delicious food, with great atmosphere, set in an old weatherboard home with a leafy garden. Renowned for their award-winning breakfasts, lunches, and delicious treats such as the crème brulee donut.</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>10.45am – 4:30pm Approx.</p>	<p>\$15 bus Lunches at own expense.</p>
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inherSHOES

<p>Friday 24th Champagne and Nibbles</p>	<p>All welcome to champagne and nibbles where you will receive a 10% discount on certain items. Enter a free draw to win a pair of shoes, to be drawn that morning</p>	<p>Meeting at In-Her Shoes Oasis Shopping Centre, 8.15am</p>		<p>No cost</p>
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<p>Fri 24th Aquaduck https://www.aquaduck.com.au/gold-coast-river-cruise/</p>	<p>Aquaduck experience begins in the heart of Surfers Paradise on Cavill Avenue. From Surfers Paradise beach towards the glamour and beauty of Main Beach. Along the way, the Pacific Ocean, Southport Yacht Club, Marina Mirage, Palazzo Versace. That's where the Aqua duck gets to show its true colours splashing into the water for a scenic cruise of the spectacular river and Broadwater. The key sights from the water, wildlife and all the activity of surrounds</p>	<p>Ground Floor Air on Broadbeach</p>	<p>Bus leaves at 11:30am for a tour start time of 12:15pm</p>	<p>\$10 for bus Lunch at own expense \$36.55 (RPP \$43)</p>
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<p>Other Options Harbour Town</p>	<p>Visits are also available to Harbour Town, one of Australia's largest outlet shopping centres with over 240 stores, as well as providing alfresco dining.</p> <p>Harbour Town have their own shuttle buses to and from the Convention Centre at 9.15am & 10.30am, returning 2pm & 5pm.</p> <p>VIP invitations to Harbour Town are available at the get together at apartment 3005, Air on Broadbeach.</p>			
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<p>SkyPoint Observation Deck https://www.skypoint.com.au/</p>	<p>SkyPoint Observation Deck offers panoramic views of the Gold Coast, 230m above sea level, located atop the iconic Q1 building in Surfers Paradise. SkyPoint's unique vantage point lets you take in the entire city from the 77 floor.</p>			<p>\$29 pp one time entry</p>
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<p>Any expressions of interest or pre-bookings would be very welcome.</p>	<p>Contacts:</p>	<p>gcchospitality@qldbridge.com.au</p>	<p>Bridge Companions</p>
	<p>Sue (m) 0424 830158</p>		<p>Bridge Companions</p>
	<p>Lana (m) 0481187578</p>		<p>Golf Only</p>
<p>Ian (m) 0417194347</p>	<p>ian83@me.com</p>		

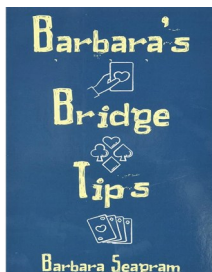
Latest Bridge Books

from Paul Lavings' stall

"Reading bridge books is the best way to improve your game"

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

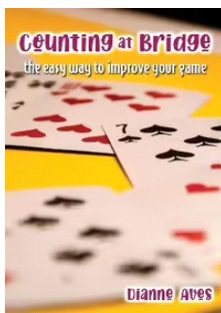
Whether you have been playing for a while or you're not very experienced, this book will help you to move your game to the next level. The tips cover all aspects of bridge - bidding, play and defence. Advice and examples are drawn from material Barbara Seagram has developed for her students over the last 20 years - it's like having your own personal bridge coach sitting beside you!



2021 ABTA Book of the Year Award, Intermediate Category

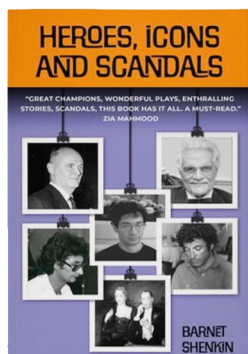
Counting at Bridge by Dianne Aves \$32.95 (168 pages)

Bridge teachers emphasize to their students the importance of counting -- points, distribution, tricks, and so on. But it's hard to teach and even harder to learn, let alone assimilate to the point where counting becomes automatic as one is playing. This book introduces the concept of counting for newer players and helps them to begin acquiring a skill that is critical to their becoming better players.



Heroes, Icons and Scandals by Barnet Shenkin \$39.95 (200 pages)

20 years ago, Barnet Shenkin's 'Playing with the Bridge Legends' gave its readers a fascinating insight into what it is like to play with and against the best in the

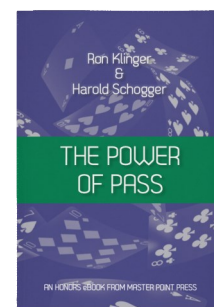


game. In some ways this book is a sequel to that one -- it focuses on the great characters in the history of bridge, both the heroes and those subject to scandal. It includes chapters on Culbertson, Belladonna, Garozzo and Zia. The book also provides behind-the-scenes accounts of the cheating scandals in Stockholm, Bermuda and Buenos Aires involving Reese, Schapiro and the Italian Blue Team. Like the first book, the author also draws on his own experiences at the very top of the game. The reader joins the author at the table, gaining a sense of exactly how it feels to 'play with the bridge legends'.

The Power of Pass by Ron Klinger and Harold Schogger \$24.95 (96 pages)

Is someone holding a gun to your head?

These days, most players bid too much -- they hope their opponents will misdefend or will bid too much themselves. This book shows you how you can often do better simply by passing. There are many auctions where 'pass' is the winning call, and you will find them here, illustrated by real-life deals from the club level to international championships.



Play it Safe! By Seagram & Bird \$36.95 (208 pages)

At rubber bridge or teams scoring, declarer's objective is to make his contract -- nothing else matters. Playing it safe is of vital importance. Yet playing safe can take many forms -- it might involve simply choosing the best percentage line of play, or keeping one opponent off lead, preserving entries, or even giving up a trick you don't have to lose, all in the cause of bringing that contract home securely. Even at matchpoints, there are times when safety is more important than anything else. Recognizing all these situations, and knowing what to do when you encounter them, will improve your bridge scores by leaps and bounds.





To eat crayfish

Kaikoura is a small coastal tourist town, on the east coast of the South Island of NZ, population 4000. It lies where the dramatic mountains meet the sea. Kaikoura is a top tourist destination for natural beauty, but also whale watching, swimming and kayaking with the dolphins and seals, and walking and biking.

Our bridge club is very small, only 60 members, but is one of the few clubs in NZ to have grown since Covid hit. Part of that is due to the very social and inclusive nature of our club.

Nine players from Kaikoura are attending the Gold Coast Congress this week. Four are Juniors, two having only learned bridge during lockdown. Three are playing the Restricted and two are in the Intermediate division. Seven of them are playing in their first Gold Coast Congress.

They heard all our stories of this great event, but also the fun we all have after bridge, relaxing together in our beautiful six bedroom home next to

the water. We have beach walks in the morning, followed by terrific lectures from top bridge players.

We do not have access to such a luxury at home and will attend them all. What is not to love!

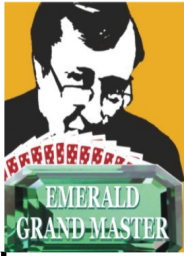
Cheers,

Pam Whitehead

Vice President Kaikoura Bridge Club

Ed: Touching base with Pam via email brought back memories of my own time living close to Kaikoura. The group faced travel difficulties after the recent cyclone conditions in NZ, but nothing was able to stop the group getting here. Kaikoura means "to eat crayfish" in Maori.





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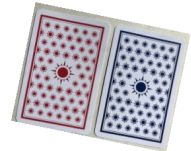
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Solution to Deep Finesse Problem 1

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

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	-	4	-	6	-
S	-	3	-	6	-
E	2	-	4	-	-
W	2	-	4	-	-

West leads the ♦7 to your 6♠. How do you make 12 tricks?

If you ask for directions in the country you might be told to "just follow your nose". Likewise here. You must draw trumps or you suffer a ruff. So you "follow your nose" and draw two more rounds of trumps, and cash out the diamonds.

You are down to six cards, and both defenders must hold three hearts, and thus three clubs:

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

Now exit ♣9, and the defence must either set up a heart trick, or play a second club, allowing you to set up a fourth club.



**Gold Coast Pairs
Qualifying Session 1**

My brief today was to watch a fair cross-section of the field, but I had decided to start watching Jan Cormack and Pam Nisbet, New Zealanders by inclination even if Pam was now sporting the Canadian maple (*Ed: Pam, although staunchly Kiwi, still competes for the right to represent Canada in women's events, after having lived there for a number of years.*)



The board numbers will not be in sequence since I'm providing my chronological coverage rather than by board sequence.



Nisbet was faced with a tricky decision on the second deal, and came through smelling of roses.

Board 8, West deals, nil vulnerable

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

<i>Nisbet</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	<i>Cormack</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	1♥	dbl	pass
3♣	pass	3♥	pass
3NT	<i>all pass</i>		

When Cormack took the good decision (as the cards lie) to advance with 3♥ rather than 3♦ -- after all who knows what that shows? -- Eva Samuel had a blind lead against no-trump. She could infer a heart was unlikely to be right since her partner had neither raised nor doubled...but was a passive spade or an aggressive diamond right?

I have every sympathy with her choice of a low diamond, but that wasn't best as the cards lay. Nisbet could see a safe enough line for 10+ tricks by rising with ♦A, but she wanted more. She finessed ♦Q then played on hearts while she still had a club entry back to hand. With everything behaving she had a mighty + 490 on the score-card and 76/100 matchpoints.

The next deal saw Pete Hollands with a tough declarer play problem. Before I show you the full hand consider it as a single-dummy problem.

Board 9, North deals, EW vulnerable

♠ A 5 4
♥ Q 9 5 2
♦ 3
♣ A J 9 6 5

♠ K 9 8 3 2
♥ —
♦ K 10 7 5 4
♣ K 8 4

<i>Nisbet</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	<i>Cormack</i>	<i>Hollands</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	dbl	1♠
2♥	2♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

Nisbet's quiet approach was in marked contrast to everyone else's. Her top heart lead (Cormack playing a reverse ♥10) saw Holland ruff, and when he laid down the ♣K the queen appeared to his right. What now – assuming that to be a true

card, since from Q10 doubleton the play seems quixotic?

This was the full deal:

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

Holland crossed to dummy with the ♠A and played a diamond. Cormack won (Nisbet contributing the eight) and could have beaten the contract by force with a spade return, but she tried to set up the force with a second heart play.

Hollands pitched a diamond and the ♥K was the defenders' fourth winner.

Had declarer played for Cormack to be 4-3-5-1 with Nisbet having a doubleton diamond queen or jack, he could have succeeded by the elegant line of ruffing the heart, ruffing a diamond, and ruffing a third heart. Then he cashes the spade king and leads a club to dummy. Cormack with ♦J96 and two trumps left does best to ruff and play a low diamond. Hollands can win the seven and play another club, and get two more diamond tricks at the end.

However, a far easier way to make the hand is just to play a second club at trick three. Cormack can ruff and lead either a spade or a heart but because she only has three hearts declarer can ruff two more hearts in hand and cash the ♠K then lead clubs. Sooner or later East has to give declarer access to the ♦K to let the fourth heart go away.





On the next round Nisbet/Cormack produced a devastating defence against a partscore:

Board 14, East deals, nil vulnerable

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

Paul McGrath—Michael Simes bid: 1♠ - 3♥ (limit with three trumps) - 3♠ all pass. (Digressing for a moment, my pettest of peeves is that in a strong no-trump balanced 10-counts should not invite facing one-level openers. Especially if you play the simple raise as constructive in a forcing no-trump base you wont miss games when you raise to two on a 10-count with three small trumps.)

Anyway against 3♠ you or I would have led a top heart – not Nisbet. Out came a small diamond to Cormack’s king and ♦J back to the ace. Nisbet won the first trump, gave her partner a diamond

overruff, won the ♥K to give her a second overruff and still had the ♥A to come, for two down. Easy game bridge!

Marshall Lewis and Ed Levy had come pretty close to winning the pairs in the pre-Covid era. Marshall normally can be relied on for a quirky approach to the bidding but here he found a neat line for his overtrick in 3NT.

Board 19, South deals, EW vulnerable

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

<i>Nisbet</i>	<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Cormack</i>	<i>Levy</i>
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♣
pass	1♦	1♥	pass
pass	2♠	pass	3♦
pass	3NT	all pass	

Cormack wasn’t tempted to lead a spade here, but when she selected a small heart as opposed to a top heart, it removed her partner’s honour immediately. Lewis ducked the first heart and won the second to go after clubs. When they broke he

Don't forget to plan for Wednesday's Mad Hatter Parade—register and start being photographed during morning breaks



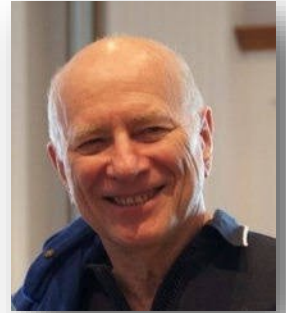


Colourful attire

What would you do?

by Ron Klinger

An indiscretion



Problem 2

West deals, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠ (1)	pass	4♠	4NT (2)
pass	?		

- (1). Weak two
- (2). Freak two-suiter

What would you do as North with:

♠Q53, ♥9876, ♦AK76, ♣K8

Solution overleaf

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Bobby Richman Open Pairs 2013

Action from 10 years ago

by Barry Rigal

The qualifying session started with a bang, as NS were faced with a delicate slam. At the table I was watching, Bruce Neill and Frank To had an auction that not only put the wrong hand on lead, it also made it easy to work out what was the killing lead.

North deals, nil vulnerable

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

Bruce opened the North hand 2NT, minors and Frank jumped to 6♦, letting Hugh McGann lead a trump and continue with a second trump when in with ♣K. To could do no better than try to ruff out the clubs, and give up a club for down one when the suit resolutely refused to cooperate. Here the diamond lead was marked -- at other tables there were far fewer inferences.

The auction where Ishmael Del'Monte was declarer was:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	2♦	2♥
pass	3♣	pass	3♠
pass	4♣	pass	4♦
pass	4♠	pass	4NT
pass	5♣	pass	6♦
all pass			

With North declaring either major-suit lead would be fatal and a club lead was not good enough, as Del' Monte demonstrated.

West won the club lead and played a trump, but Del'Monte won in hand and cross-ruffed the next six tricks in spades and clubs, cashing ♠A in the process. Then he drew the last trump in this four-card ending:



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

East (who had ruffed in on an earlier club) was forced to pitch a heart. Dummy's spade went away and West was squeezed in hearts and clubs. A perfect double squeeze.

Qualifying Pairs II

Taking your chances

West deals, EW vulnerable

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

Your opponents don't always defend correctly; it is up to you to make them pay.

On Board 11 of the second pairs qualifying game Michael Prescott, South found his way to 3♥ after the auction:

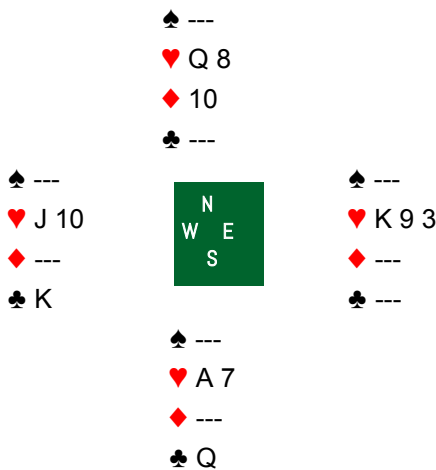
West North East South
 1♣ dbl 1NT 2♥
 pass 3♥ all pass

Jacob Tarszisz led a top club and shifted to a top spade. Prescott ducked, and won the next spade to ruff a spade. He then ruffed a club, and played the fourth spade pitching a diamond from hand.



West gave declarer his chance when he pitched a club.

Aidan Dorrell played a third club, and Prescott ruffed then played the top diamonds and ruffed a diamond, to reach this ending:

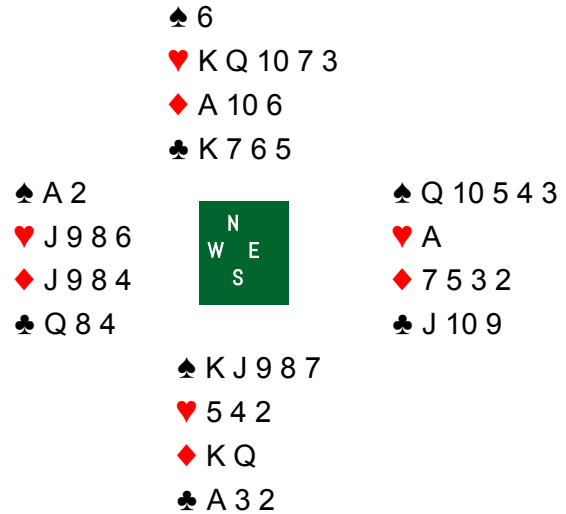


Prescott was fairly sure that West, who had a balanced hand, could not hold ♥K or he would have opened a strong notrump. He led his last club and discarded dummy's diamond when West produced the king.

Success! East was forced to ruff his partner's winner and lead from ♥K for a spectacular +140 for declarer. That was worth 98% for him.

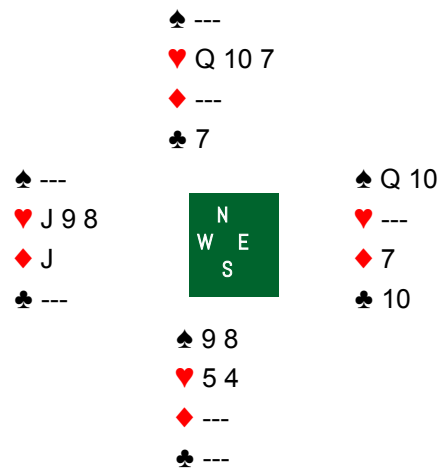
Final Session 1: Board 5

North deals, NS vulnerable



Kelvin Ng found himself at the helm in 4♥ after he opened 1♥. Barbara Travis, East overcalled 1♠ and Choon Chou Loo jumped to 4♥. Travis led a club and Ng won in hand to lead a spade, guessing to put in the jack when Travis played low.

Melbourne won his ace and returned ♣Q to dummy's ace. Ng unblocked diamonds and cashed ♠K to discard a club from hand, then ruffed a spade back to hand, on which Melbourne discarded his club, and declarer ruffed with ♥3, a play he would later regret. Now he cashed ♦A to discard dummy's club, and led out a high trump. Travis won in this ending.



She could lead her club to let Melbourne over-ruff, and exit with a diamond. Declarer had no choice but to ruff in hand, and was unable to overruff in dummy, so could no longer take the trump finesse. To make the contract Ng needed to ruff the spade with ♥7, leaving himself with ♥3 at the critical moment.

THE OASIS

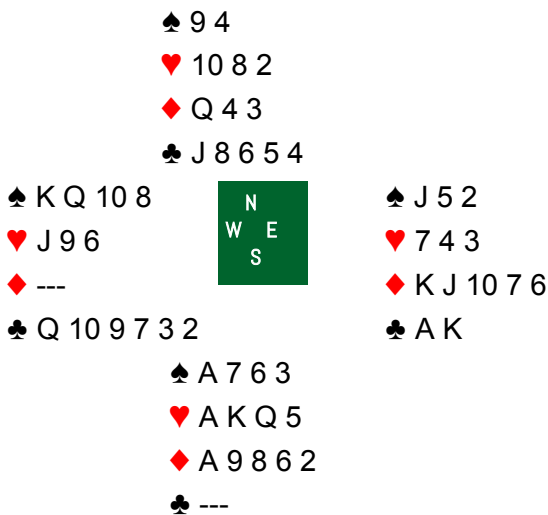


Alternatively, he could have won the club lead in dummy to cash the diamonds and play a second club at once, then pitch dummy's club and ruff a club. This leaves him playing for overtricks.

Pairs Finals II

Pablo Lambardi found an ingenious position on this deal from the second set of the B finals.

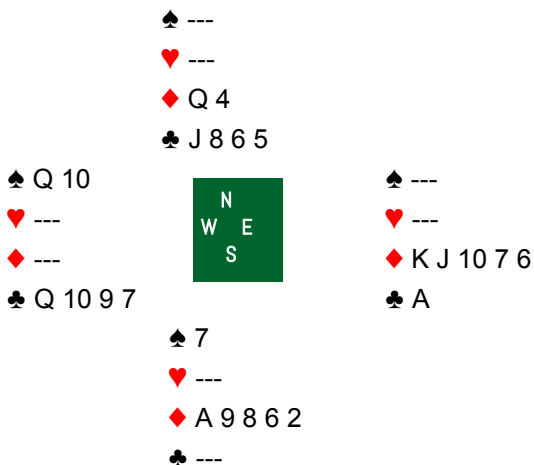
East deals, all vulnerable



He held the East cards and declared 1♠ after opening 1♦ and hearing 1♥ to his right, doubled by his partner, over which his call of 1♠ ended the auction.

The defenders led four rounds of hearts, dummy pitching a club and North, Sartaj Hans ruffing in with the ♠9. Lambardi overruffed and led a spade to dummy and a club to the king. South ruffed and played ace and another spade.

This was the position as the third spade was led:



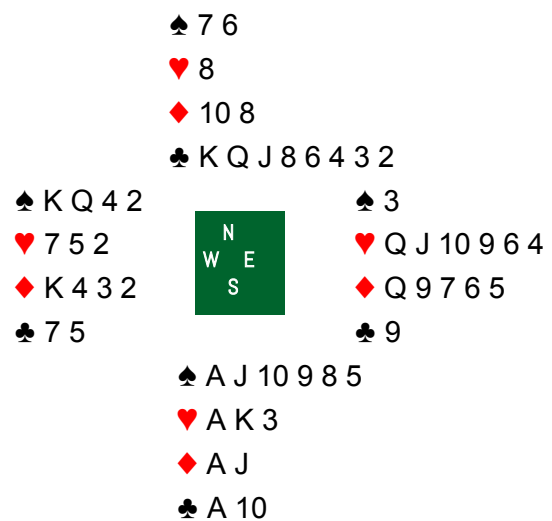
When dummy won the third spade what was North to discard? If he pitched a diamond declarer would

come to hand in clubs, ruff a diamond and take two more club tricks in the ending, since both North and West would be down to just clubs.

When North actually threw a club Lambardi discarded his blocking club ace and simply set up clubs for one loser. Making 1♠ was an 81% board --the field was going down in clubs on the EW cards, often doubled.

In the finals the eventual winners Melbourne and Travis were ticking along nicely until this deal came along, which swung a complete top in the wrong direction.

Board 15 South deals, EW vulnerable

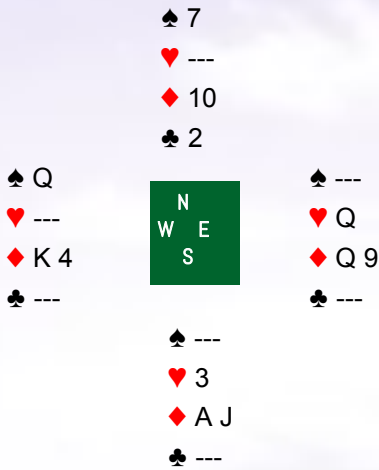


West	North Howard	East	South Barbara
	3♣	3♥	4NT
pass	5♦ ¹	pass	5♥
pass	5NT ²	pass	6NT
pass	7NT	all pass	

1. One Key Card
2. Either no king or an unbidable king (diamonds), depending on whom you ask (10 years later, Barbara thought it showed ♣Q)! Melbourne thought he had an extra trick he had not shown in the eighth club. Travis won the top spade lead and ran eight clubs at once, pitching spades from hand. She was hoping to catch her RHO in a heart-diamond squeeze, but that did not materialize.

The better (and winning) line is to cash both hearts then run the clubs. This is the ending as the last club is led:





On the last club East must keep hearts guarded so pitches a diamond. Declarer lets the heart go and catches West in a spade-diamond squeeze.

Incidentally, narrow winners of the second final were Frank To and Bruce Neill, who took advantage of this deal too.

To opened 3♣ and Neill used Blackwood to get to 6♣. When East saved in 6♥, Neill passed to invite further action and To bid 7♣, when perhaps 6NT might have been wiser.

Against 7♣, the heart lead let declarer cash two hearts to pitch a spade then play spade ace and ruff a spade. He could now use the two club entries to ruff the spades good with ♦A as the late entry to dummy. Either minor suit lead would have seen the defence home (a diamond for sure, a trump unless declarer can see through the backs of the cards). For the record 6NT was an 83% board, -100 a 17% result.

To be continued

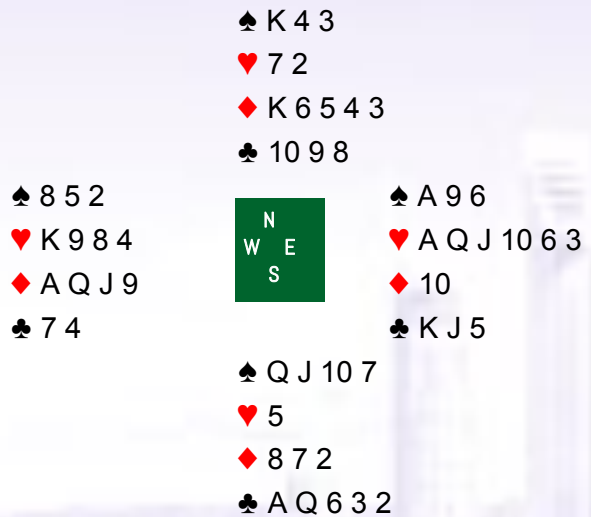
Declarer hands for the improving player

by Barry Rigal

A simple auction; NS have no reason to come into the auction, and when West makes a limit raise to 3♠, East has no thoughts of anything higher than game, so why tip the opponents off to the best lead?



Example 1: North deals, nil vulnerable



Recommended auction:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	pass	1♥	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	all pass

The play

South leads ♠Q, and the best play is by no means obvious. East is threatened with the loss of four black suit winners if the club honors are badly placed. To avoid the possible threats you might try to set up the diamonds - but that is not so easy.

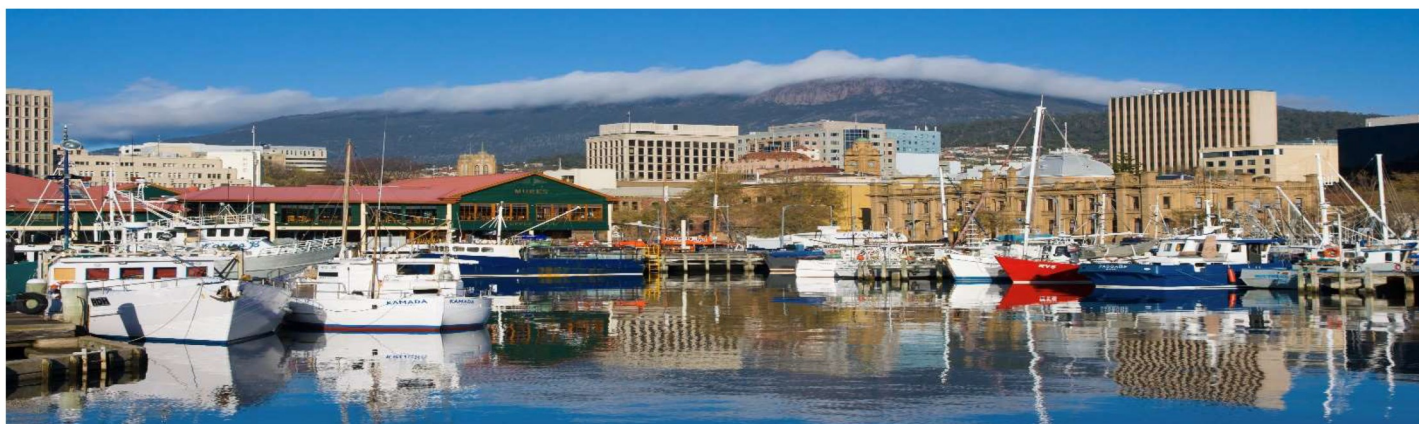
The best line is to duck the first trick (to cut defensive communications) and win the next spade. Now draw trumps and play ♦A and then ♦Q, running it to South, and throwing away ♠9.

If North has ♦K you avoid losing the second spade. If South has ♦K you will be able to throw two clubs away on the diamonds later on by crossing to dummy in trumps.

Note: if you win the first spade you leave open a line of communication for the defence to cross back and forth in spades and beat you if South has ♦K and one or both club honours.



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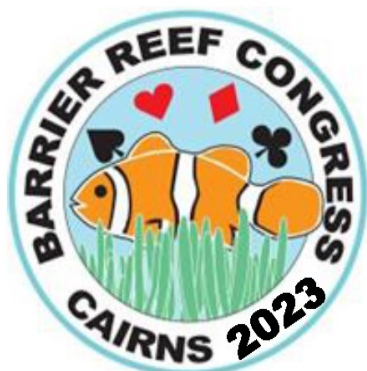
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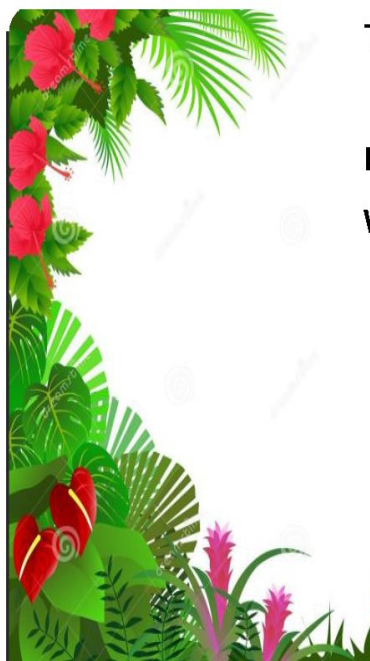
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