



62nd International
Gold Coast Bridge Congress
18 - 24 February 2024

Exercise your brain - play Bridge

**YOUR DAILY
BULLETIN**

Sunday 25 February

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

BULLETIN 8

**Final session tables
- 7200 exactly!
(2003: 6457)**



WARE, 2024 Gold Coast OpenTeams winners

Michael Ware, Tom Jacob, Matthew Thomson, Brian Mace, Pete Hollands & Hugh McGann



Runners up Open Teams, DALLEY, Paul & Arlene Dalley, Tony Nunn & Ashley Bach

Gold Coast Open Teams

Semi finals (set 2)

by Barry Rigal

The top two teams, DALLEY and SPOONER were to take on HAFFER and WARE.

Each of them broke fast from the gate, leading by 23 and 18 respectively after the first of three 12 board stanzas.

I was watching Paul Dalley and Tony Nunn take on Phil Markey and Ella Jacob. Jacob had to guess the position well here to avoid disaster.

Board 17	♠962	
<i>Dealer North</i>	♥K5	
<i>Vul: Nil</i>	♦K964	
	♣10853	
♠K3		♠A87
♥A94		♥J10762
♦Q1082		♦A7
♣AKJ9		♣762
	♠QJ1054	
	♥Q83	
	♦J53	
	♣Q4	

Where West gets to open a strong notrump a transfer auction to 4♥ looks normal. But when Jacob opened a mini notrump as East, Markey simply bid 3NT. On a top spade lead my instinct is that the likelihood of long spades on your left means it is best to win the ♠A and lead a low heart to the nine.

That fails, but Jacob did better. She ducked the opening lead and won the next, cashed a top club and led a low heart from the dummy. Can you blame Nunn for winning his ♥K and continuing spades?

Jacob could take this and finesse hearts, then cash ♥A and use the ♦A as the re-entry to the East hand to run the hearts.

Board 18	♠8	
<i>Dealer East</i>	♥K7	
<i>Vul: NS</i>	♦AQJ1082	
	♣AQJ8	
♠963		♠K10752
♥A102		♥9543
♦963		♦54
♣7432		♣K9
	♠AQJ4	
	♥QJ86	
	♦K7	
	♣1065	

N/S may not find it so easy to reach 6♦ here, especially when East opens 2♥, majors, weak. Still, should that happen, as it frequently did at the four tables in play, N/S might find another way to go plus.

When Jacob opened 2♥ Nunn as North doubled for takeout, passed out. A low heart to the king saw Nunn continue trumps. Declarer won and tried a spade to the king. Her long trump was her second and last trick; down 1400.

In the other match McGann - Thompson played game, while Spooner declared 6♦ after Hollands had opened 2♥. He too balanced with a double, and over Mullamphy's jump to 3NT he advanced to 4♦, then bid 6♦ over 4♠. You can imagine that after a heart lead declarer would pitch all three club losers on a spade and the hearts. If the opponents duck the ♥A the heart goes on the spades.

Hollands tried something different...the ♣9 lead to trick one!

Declarer won in hand and drew trumps then knocked out the ♥A. West won and returned a club. Declarer now had to decide between the club and spade finesses and got it wrong.

At the end of the second set Doecke - Jenner-O'Shea picked up two giant swings when their opponents played two game hands in slam. But SPOONER led by only 11, DALLEY by 23 as the last set started.

Elixir of youth

by Joan Butts

I'm still searching for that elixir of youth, so my preemptive style has altered in the hope that I might become imbued with it.

How about this effort in the last match (Bd 25) which we played against HUNG.

Sitting East with ♠Q97 ♥---, ♦KQ1065432, ♣93 vulnerable against nil, I decided after North's pass that 3♦ or 4♦ wasn't going to get us anywhere. I tried a 5♦ opening bid, Sartaj, South passed, Stephen Burgess uncharacteristically thought for a while then bid 7♦, passed out.

Now it was Sartaj's turn to think. What to lead from ♠J10, ♥Q8532, ♦987, ♣J85?

There are those who suggest that leading a trump against a grand slam gives nothing away, but this is not a popular theory, and certainly not one to keep in your list of "to dos".

After much deliberation Sartaj led ♠J! Wow! What a lead! He had found the only lead to beat 7♦.

Sometimes you just have to take your hat off to the opponents, and this was one of those times.

At the other table they bid the more reasonable 6♦, and I was a little disappointed to see that the person who opened only 3♦ was YOUNG Jamie Thompson.

Board 25 ♠A853
Dealer North ♥J10964
Vul:EW ♦J
 ♣1072

♠K642		♠Q97
♥AK7		♥---
♦A		♦KQ1065432
♣AK64		♣93

♠J10
 ♥Q8532
 ♦987
 ♣J85

I gave the lead to a US friend when I got back last night. He then happened to play golf in Florida with



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Larry Cohen yesterday, and he gave it to him.

Larry said he has an understanding that IF there's a jump to a grand, partner will double for a spade lead. So Hung could have doubled to seal the deal, but Sartaj found the lead anyway.

I don't think many would have such an agreement. It's interesting that people could have such specific agreements.



Finding a queen

When I talk to new players, I often ask them what drew them to the game.

What do they like about it? I believe the attraction of bridge lies in problem-solving. During a session, you face a series of problems. Some you can resolve instinctively or automatically, but others require logical thought. That is what is exhilarating: facing a problem and reasoning out the answer.

New players tend to view “card reading” – figuring out what the opponents have – as a mysterious process reserved for experts, but most “expert” thought processes are simple in principle.

A common problem is resolving a two-way guess for a queen. How often would you expect to guess right? I know, you always misguess; it’s the story of your life. It’s a 50-50 proposition in theory, but an expert will go right at least 75% of the time because the bidding or play will provide a clue.

Dlr: West ♠ 7 4 2
 Vul: Both ♥ J 6 3
 IMPs ♦ K Q 4 2
 ♣ A Q 4

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	pass	pass	2♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

North’s raise to 4♥ is bold; South could have held a weaker hand for his “balancing” 2♥ bid. West leads ♣10. Declarer could win in dummy and try

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a heart to his ten. With an eight-card holding missing the queen, a finesse is the best percentage play if you consider the suit "in isolation," and East could have the queen; West could have an opening bid without it.

But declarer should note the opening lead. If West's spades were, say, ♠AK1063, he would surely start with a high spade; for all he knew, East could ruff the third round. So declarer can place East with a high spade, and West's lead of ♣10 marks East with the jack.

If East had ♥Q, he would have responded to the opening bid. Declarer should take the ♥AK, hoping the queen will fall from West.

Dir: South, Nil Vul, IMPs

♠ AKQ ♠J5

♥ AKQ4 ♥875

♦ 653 ♦QJ

♣ A92 ♣KJ10863

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

West leads ♠2. Relieved to have escaped a diamond lead, you win and try the top hearts. If the suit breaks 3-3, you have at least nine tricks. But on the third heart, West discards a diamond, so you must pick up the clubs to make your game. Any thoughts?

West's ♠2 suggests a four-card holding, and he had two hearts. Suppose West had five diamonds; what would his opening lead have been after 2NT - 3NT?

If West has at most four diamonds, he has at least three clubs. Take the ♣A, and if no queen appears, let ♣9 ride.

Players sometime complain to me that they can't trust their opponents to play logically. That argument fails to impress me. Suppose you play on the assumption that your opponent has defended correctly, and you go down because he did something odd. You won't feel so bad.

You can tell yourself that you made a thoughtful play that failed because your opponent was out to lunch.

But if you assume your opponent has erred when he hasn't, you will have only yourself to blame.



Susan Macken & Jody Burchall 1st Ivy Dahler Novice Pairs



Ken Hubbell & Lalita Kanetkar 2nd Ivy Dahler Intermediate Pairs



Herman & Christine Louie 1st Ivy Dahler Intermediate Pairs

A fitting finale!

For Alan Watson and Rick Roeder the very final deal of the Ivy Dahler and Friday Butler Swiss Pairs saw them go out with a bang.

Board 19	♠KQJ7	
<i>Dealer South</i>	♥AQ93	
<i>Vul:EW</i>	♦Q1062	
	♣5	
♠986		♠1032
♥J87		♥K10652
♦K83		♦A74
♣10743		♣98
	♠A54	
	♥4	
	♦J95	
	♣AKQJ62	

Watson opened 1♦ and jumped to 3NT over the 1♥ response and Roeder gave him a sixth. Yes, East might have doubled but then there would have been no story.

Instead Watson received the lead of ♠9 and ran four spades then six clubs, gleaning the information along the way that the heart finesse rated to lose.



Rick Roeder

This was the ending as the last club hit the green baize:

♠---	♠---
♥AQ	♥K10
♦Q10	♦A7
♣---	♣---
♠---	♠---
♥J8	♥4
♦K8	♦J9
♣---	♣2

This position is known as a winkle, and the correct defence – often missed at the table, this being no exception is for West to bare his ♦K and keep his hearts. When



Alan Watson

he does this declarer can pitch a diamond (whereupon East discards his ♦A) or a heart when East follows suit with a heart discard.

Instead, West discarded a heart and dummy threw a diamond. East could not bare his ♥K so pitched the ♦A to avoid being thrown in. Watson crossed to the ♥A and exited in diamonds, forcing West to give him trick 13 in his hand.



Finals one

Throughout this report I shall refer to the players by surname, except that with two Dalleys in the field I shall use Arlene and Paul to distinguish them. Yes there are multiple Jacobs and Thom(p)sons around too, but only one in the finals...

Board 1	♠982		
<i>Dealer North</i>	♥AKQ43		
<i>Vul: Nil</i>	♦72		
	♣854		
♠KQ73		♠J10654	
♥2		♥J6	
♦KJ1093		♦AQ86	
♣J109		♣K7	
	♠A		
	♥109875		
	♦54		
	♣AQ632		

Open Room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Mace</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Arlene</i>
	pass	1♠	2♣
3♣	3♥	4♠	5♥
all pass			

Closed room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Paul</i>	<i>McGann</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
	pass	1♠	pass
3♣	pass	3♠	pass
4♠	all pass		

The first board out saw yet another example of a theme that has come up all too frequently. The reader is asked to guess how 11 tricks were taken in 5♥ without a revoke or truly absurd play. Ready or not, here I come.

After an auction where Arlene had taken an idiosyncratic but not entirely unreasonable approach to her hand, Jacob elected to lead the ♦A against 5♥. When he received encouragement, he continued with a low diamond. Ware won and decided to play his partner for e.g. a 3-2-2-3 spade with the

doubleton ♥Q and led a third diamond. The ruff and discard saw declarer pitch a club then take a club finesse for his contract. All of this meant that Paul's decision to drive to game rather than play 3♠ cost only 2 IMPs. DALLEY had 9 IMPs.

Two deals later each table passed up a chance for a gain – in each direction.

First of all, you open 1♠ with a 5-3-3-2 12 count: five solid missing the king, the ♥A and ♣J. This is doubled on your left and RHO bids notrump. what would you lead against the auction 1♠ - dbl - pass - 1NT? What about 1♠ - dbl - pass - 2NT - pass - 3NT?

In the second case anything but an interior spade looks bonkers. In the first case I can see a case for leading a heart or club. As it happens partner's entire hand is the ♥K and the doubleton ♠9. A spade lead conceded the first 10, a minor lets declarer cash nine, a heart lead sees your side take the first five tricks. The 1NT bidder in each room had king to four spades and ♦AKJ8. No swing at -180.

After five deals the match score was 9-1. Each table had played a respectable but unbiddable slam in 5♥ after opposition preemption – after 2♠ on the left, double from partner, 4♠ on the right, holding:

♠ 97
♥ AQ6532
♦ Q
♣ QJ43

You can hardly do more than bid 5♥. Equally, partner with a 0-3-6-4 11-count consisting of the ♥K and both minor suit aces would be more worried 5♥ would go down than that slam would make.

The swing that came on the next deal was all about opening style:

Board 6	♠J107	
<i>Dealer East</i>	♥Q1072	
<i>Vul:EW</i>	♦Q832	
	♣93	
♠AQ5		♠963
♥AK95		♥J863
♦1095		♦74
♣K108		♣A765
	♠K842	
	♥4	
	♦AKJ6	
	♣QJ42	

Arlene opened 1♣ (not my choice but sometimes system overrides judgment) while Thomson opened 1♦. In the first room that led to Mace overcalling 1NT, making 120 on a heart lead won by the ♥8 followed by a club to the ♣10.

In the other room Thomson opened 1♦, Paul doubled, and ended up defending 2♦. After a trump lead Thomson used a trump and spade entry (after leading the suit from hand) to play up to his club honours, and took five trumps, two spades, and a club for +90 and 5 IMPs.

Each N/S pair must then have been very happy first in hand vulnerable when they chose to open 3♥ (as opposed to 1♥ or 4♥) with a 2-7-2-2 consisting of seven solid hearts missing the king and the ♣K.

Everyone passed and they played 3♥ against their opponents' solid 4♠. Unless an opponent wanted to balance with a 5-1-4-3 nine-count, the preempt was going to freeze them out of the auction, since the hand over the preempt had a 3-3-5-2 prime 14-count but nowhere near enough to gamble out a 3NT call, at teams vulnerable, I think. No swing at -200.

At the halfway point, WARE led DALLEY 57 - 42.1. I took over the reins for a short while from Barry, and found the speed of kibitzing on BBO quickly putting me into nap mode. I did watch Boards 1 - 3 before total exhaustion set in:

Board 1 was a tussle for both declarers, Arlene in 3♣, which didn't have much of a chance when Ashley's dummy didn't offer much in the way of help. And Paul, West in a misfitting 3♥, two down, 4 IMPs to DALLEY when Arlene was only one down in her contract.

Board 3 brought DALLEY some much-needed IMPs when an unfortunate lead allowed a game home. Partner has opened 1♦ and you are on lead with ♠3, ♥K10653, ♦AJ1087, ♣102 against 4♠X. A low heart allows -590, anything else defeats the contract.

Board 3	♠AKJ10982	
<i>Dealer South</i>	♥A4	
<i>Vul:EW</i>	♦9	
	♣A93	
♠Q75		♠3
♥87		♥K10653
♦KQ653		♦AJ1087
♣KQ7		♣102
	♠64	
	♥QJ92	
	♦42	
	♣J8654	

In a fairly uneventful set, DALLEY ran out winners 22-18 to be running 11.1 IMPs behind.

Finals 4

The fourth stanza started with WARE leading DALLEY by 11 (with an appeal re Misinformation dismissed).

Our next entry in the "I don't believe declarer made it" sweepstakes wasn't slow in showing up.

Board 14 ♠32
Dealer East ♥J5
Vul:nil ♦J1085
 ♣A7632

♠J987 ♠K1065
 ♥--- ♥AQ987
 ♦92 ♦KQ76
 ♣KJ109854 ♣---

♠AQ4
 ♥K106432
 ♦A43
 ♣Q

Open and Closed room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Arlene</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Bach</i>
<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Ware</i>
		1♥	pass
1♠	pass	4♣	pass
4♠	all pass		

Both defences led diamonds covered in dummy and each South won the first trick and returned the suit. West ruffed a heart to hand then a club to dummy and a second heart before advancing the ♣K. Each North somewhat culpably covered, each South somewhat culpably overruffed rather than discarding.

At this point a heart back still defeats the hand. Each South then played ♠A, declarer unblocking dummy's ♠K, then another spade. Each West claimed the rest for 420, each South (and North?) doubtless reached for the seppuku sword.

If that wasn't bad enough for the N/S players, on the next deal both Norths overcalled 1NT over 1♥ on a normal if minimum hand and were doubled for penalty. 4th hand with a 4-4-3-2 two-count sat it out and that was 1400 in each room. Still no swings in the set but I doubt if anyone at either table appreciated that. (Had the two count run to 2♣ or the like he would have ended up going -620 against 4♠ or escaping relatively cheaply in either red suit).

Both EW pairs then didn't make the most of their assets.

Board 14 ♠J10643
Dealer West ♥Q109
Vul:EW ♦J975
 ♣10

♠K98 ♠AQ5
 ♥K6 ♥A83
 ♦A4 ♦K32
 ♣AKQ752 ♣9843

♠72
 ♥J7542
 ♦Q1086
 ♣J6

Open Room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Arlene</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Bach</i>
1♣	pass	3NT	pass
4♣	pass	4♥	pass
4NT	pass	5♥	pass
5NT	pass	6♣	pass
6♥	pass	6NT	all pass

Closed room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Ware</i>
2NT	Pass	4NT	pass
6♣	All pass		

The Closed Room stood no chance after Paul's self-preempting 2NT. In the other room McGann showed grand slam interest, then surely guaranteed both major suit kings when he made a second grand slam try over the sign off. If West has the ♠K Thomson knew of six clubs and seven plain winners...in theory. 2 IMPs to WARE but a chance wasted.

The fifth board had no more than an overtrick at stake so after 5 deals Ware led by 13 IMPs.

DALLEY picked up 2 IMPs for an undertrick on the sixth board, then the next deal demonstrated that both Souths knew desperate measures were called for.

Board 19	♠86	
<i>Dealer South</i>	♥9	
<i>Vul:EW</i>	♦KJ72	
	♣AK10654	
♠AK3		♠QJ54
♥AKQ1085		♥76432
♦Q10		♦A4
♣J8		♣73
	♠10972	
	♥J	
	♦98653	
	♣Q92	

In one room Ware opened 2♦, which certainly qualified as weak and he was raised after a double to 5♦X. He misguessed trumps to go for 500. Arlene, North overcalled 2♣ over 1♥ then 5♣ on her own at her next turn. Dummy was certainly not without its charms. On a heart lead McGann rather naively won the ♥Q and when he showed up with all the major suit cards Arlene drew trumps and led a diamond to the jack for down two and 5 IMPs. The margin was down to 6 IMPs.

Board 20	♠K74	
<i>Dealer West</i>	♥9876	
<i>Vul:All</i>	♦Q102	
	♣J84	
♠A98		♠QJ3
♥10432		♥AKQJ
♦KJ9743		♦85
♣---		♣Q1032
	♠10652	
	♥5	
	♦A6	
	♣AK9765	

It was the moment for each E/W pair to rescue disaster from the jaws of victory.

Open Room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Arlene</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Bach</i>
pass	pass	1NT	3♣
3♦	pass	3NT	all pass

Closed Room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Ware</i>
Pass	pass	1NT	pass
3♣	pass	3♦	pass
3♠	pass	4♥	all pass

McGann decided to conceal the hearts and found exactly the wrong moment to do so. In 3NT Thomson won the first club and eventually lost two top cards and five clubs for down three.

By contrast in 4♥ Nunn started brilliantly by ruffing the top club lead and playing a diamond to the eight and king. A spade came through; he finessed, won the ♠Q and advanced the ♣Q, covered all round. Now he started to draw trump. When the 4-1 break came to life he missed the winning line...run the trumps, pitching dummy's spade ace, then cash the spade and throw North in with his ♣J to lead diamonds for you. Still, down one was worth 5 IMPs, and Ware's lead was down to one.

On the next deal an overbid by Arlene was severely punished (the defenders took only 500 of the 800 they had been dealt) but that was still worth 9 IMPs when Hollands was more discreet in the other room.

The margin was up to 10 IMPs now. Three deals to go. Thomson picked up an overtrick (it could have been two) on a hand where Nunn - Dalley were in the wrong game and finished up lucky to make it, then the overtrick went back to DALLEY on the next deal when Arlene negotiated a ruff for herself.

The margin was 10 IMPs as the final deal hit the deck.

And it was a corker. With the result from the Closed Room in, it was clear E/W needed to go plus in the Open Room to win the match. Would they...?

Board 24

♠Q

Dealer West

♥J952

Vul: Nil

♦10875

♣KQ54

♠J92

♠K108743

♥Q7

♥6

♦AKQJ96

♦42

♣93

♣AJ86

♠A65

♥AK10843

♦3

♣1072

Open Room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Arlene</i>
1NT	Pass	4♥	dbl
4♠	all pass		

Closed Room

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Paul</i>	<i>Hollands</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Ware</i>
1NT	pass	4♦	4♥
4♠	5♥	dbl	Pass
5♠	All pass		

Both Wests were swinging till the very end – credit to McGann for putting the pedal to the metal when he must have expected to be in the lead. He bought the contract in 4♠ and made 450.

So the fact that Hollands led a heart rather than a club against 5♠ and Ware naturally enough shifted to diamonds rather than clubs, to flatten the board, didn't matter.

In one of the most exciting sets of 12 deals I've seen, and full credit to all four pairs for the good and bad actions they took, to keep us on the edge of our seats. This was a victory to WARE to make up for the disappointment of last year.



Jan Bennett & Derek Bartosh 1st Ivy Dahler
Restricted pairs



Liz & Blair Fisher, NZ





Novice Teams Champions, Sandy Close, Jamie Luxton, Tracey Giek & Jeff Veling



Intermediate Teams Champions, Phil Young, Lynda Young, Hannah O'Donnell & Greg Nunn

*Farewell until
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Jan Randall & Don Cameron, Best Queensland Pair





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**VENUE: Gold Coast Convention Centre,
Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia**

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Theme: *Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots*

