



4th to 16th July 2026
Bulletin No 2: 6 July 2026



Raiders crowd: Photograph David Raff

Today's Bulletin

We have the winners and placegetters of the weekend's events; some of the more challenging hands from the Australian Bridge Magazine Swiss pairs; a profile of our Chief Scorer, Peter Busch; and John Brockwell's obituary of Len Dixon

We also have a look at what you find when you put the results of the 2025 championships through a spreadsheet and there is also the second in the series of Ron Klinger's Real Deal Workouts.

Interstate Youth Teams (Correction)

In the Welcome Bulletin, a copying error meant that the list of Youth Teams was incomplete. Our apologies to the WA team whose names did not appear. The full list is below,

Youth

QLD	Anthony Mills - Paddy Taylor, Remco Spencer - Zac Ross, Alexandra Mills - Kate Macdonald, Paul Gosney (NPC)
NSW	Aadhi Hariharan - Adrian Le, Natalie Newman - Ida Andersen, Shannon Ooi - David Zheng, Mitch Dowling (NPC)
ACT	Byron French - Jess He, Alexis Wilsmore - Jade Wilkinson, Dev Shah - Diya Shah, Max Ashurst (NPC)
VIC	Seb Wright, Alex Goss, Heath Watkins, Matthew Sieredzinski, Sam Goss, Taydon Gold, Phil Young (NPC)
SA	Gilbert Morgan - Gregor Forster-Rohal, Anne Davey - Fletcher Davey, Sebastian Redin - Louis Kent, Jarrad Dunbar (NPC)
WA	Sean Elliott – Dean Mainstone, Elijah Guest – Oliver Brayshaw, Alec Vanyai – Lizzy Brayshaw, Campbell Millar (NPC)



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Weekend Events

Australian Bridge Magazine Swiss Pairs

This was played over nine matches on Saturday and Sunday with separate winner categories for Open, <1000 and <300.

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Roy Nixon – Emlyn Williams	126.63
2	Paul Brayshaw – Chris Mulley	113.60
3	Simon Brayshaw – Karol Miller	112.01
4	Anthony Mills – Paddy Taylor	110.92
5	Paul Hooykaas – Pele Rankin	110.71



Roy Nixon and Emlyn Williams
Open Winners



Chris Mulley and Paul Brayshaw
Open Runners-Up

Full results are [here](#).

In the <1000

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Anthony Mills – Paddy Taylor	110.92
2	Alexandra Mills – Kate MacDonald	95.84
3	Ralph Edwards – Jean Hydleman	92.15
4	David Burton – Janet Crocker	89.06
5	Lorenzo Orsini – Mitch Dowling	86.41

In the <300

Place	Pair Names	VPs
1	Paul Birkby – Debra Birkby	84.68
2	Denise Reid – Judy King	75.18
3	Chris Kervin – Mary Anne Loveridge	74.71
4	Hannah Fuzi – Jeffrey Eisman	70.56
5	Maggie Havyatt – Dave Havyatt	67.05



Paul and Debra Birkby
Winners <300 Masterpoints

Rookies Pairs



This 24 board event was played on Saturday afternoon for players with less than 15 Masterpoints. Kate Harrison and Penny Chapman had a decisive win. In the process, they scored 100% on 10 of the 24 boards, which must be something of a record.

The runners up, Stuart Gibson and Tony Crehan, also had a strong match, scoring more 75% or more on 12 of the 24 boards.

The main placegetters are listed below:

Place	Pair Name	%
1	Kate Harrison – Penny Chapman	67.71
2	Stuart Gibson – Tony Crehan	60.94
3	Tricia Scanlan – Lyn Gorham	55.73
4	Gary Rowbotham – Alison Freeman	52.60
5	Kerry Nicholls – Phillip Cunich	52.08

Full results and hand records can be found [here](#).

Youth Raffle Sunday Draw Prizewinners

1 hour mentoring session with Andy Hung (Maggie Havyatt)
1 hour mentoring session with Justin Mill (Sandra Purser)
\$50 voucher to Drummond Golf, Fyshwick (Liz Sylvester)
\$20 voucher to Paul Laving's store donated by TBIB (Phil Hassal)



Rookies Pairs Winners Kate Harrison and Penny Chapman with BFACT President Wendy Boxall

Novice Pairs

This was played as two matchpoint sessions on Sundays for players with <100 masterpoints.

Leonie Jones and Anne Fleming brought it home with two consistent 58 and 59 per cent results, just edging out Xiaomei Wallace and Jen Saul who had a very strong 60 per cent last session. Sean Elliott and Dean Mainstone who came fourth were members of the WA Youth Team preparing for the interstate.

Place	Pair	Total
1	Leonie Jones – Anne Fleming	118.10
2	Xiaomei Wallace – Jen Saul	117.45
3	Gwenyth Meadows – Ruth Meadows	113.13
4	Sean Elliott – Dean Mainstone	110.59
5	Belinda Moss – Jenny Bell	110.33





Leonie Jones and Anne Fleming
Winners: Novice Pairs



Jen Saul and Xiaomei Wallace
Runners Up: Novice Pairs



Gwyneth Meadows and Ruth Meadows
Third place: Novice Pairs

The Real Deal Workout with Ron Klinger #2

Teams: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT (1)
Pass	2♣ (2)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠ (3)	Pass	?

(1) 11-14 points (2) Simple Stayman (3)
Inviting game

What would you do as South with:

♠ K Q 10 2
♥ A 10 7
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 3 2

Discussion on final page

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At the desks



Some Welcome Pairs Hands That Challenged

BOARD 5									
BD: 5		♠ KT4				Dir: N Vul: NS			
		♥ JT4							
		♦ AT98542							
		♣							
♠ AJ85						♠ Q32			
♥ K953						♥ 86			
♦ KQ3						♦ 7			
♣ K9						♣ QJT8732			
		♠ 976							
		♥ AQ72							
		♦ J6							
		♣ A654							

BOARD 13						
BD: 13		♠ AKJ76			Dir: N Vul: ALL	
		♥ J				
		♦ A7652				
		♣ T5				
♠ 85					♠ QT432	
♥ QT73					♥ AK82	
♦ JT93					♦ 8	
♣ 942					♣ J76	
		♠ 9				
		♥ 9654				
		♦ KQ4				
		♣ AKQ83				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	5	5	2	3	3	13
S	5	5	2	3	3	3 10
E						14
W						

Match 2: Board 13

Six imps or more changed hands every time this hand was played; and there were seven double-figure swings.

All hands were played by N-S. About half the field played in 3NT and almost all made, thanks to the very friendly 4-4 break in hearts and the 3-3 in clubs. Bringing home the alternative contract of 5D proved tricky, making exactly half of the time

Full results are [here](#).

BOARD 20						
BD: 20		♠ 94			Dir: W Vul: ALL	
		♥ J864				
		♦ 5				
		♣ JT7654				
♠ KQ8753					♠ AJT	
♥ 97					♥ 5	
♦ K8432					♦ T96	
♣					♣ AKQ983	
		♠ 62				
		♥ AKQT32				
		♦ AQJ7				
		♣ 2				
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N			4			2
S			4			8 14
E	1	3		3		16
W	1	3		3		

Match 3: Board 20

This was a contest between bidding spades and hearts which it was mostly best not to win.

Just five declarers made their contract generating big swings.

No declarer was allowed to play in the making 4H but generally the last good bid was 4S over 4H, going off one. Only 2 of the 17 pairs that went on had a positive score.

Full results are [here](#).

BOARD 15					
BD: 15		♠ QJ94	Dir: S		
		♥ 732	Vul: NS		
		♦ AT8			
		♣ AQJ			
♠ 8763			♠ AT		
♥ J964			♥ 85		
♦ 6			♦ KQJ954		
♣ K543			♣ 986		
		♠ K52			
		♥ AKQT			
		♦ 732			
		♣ T72			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	1	3	4	1
S	2	1	3	4	1
E					
W					

Match 8: Board 15

Four N-S pairs, on this flattest of flat hands, presumably felt themselves sufficiently warned by a diamond overcall to go for the Moysian spade fit in preference to the doomed 3NT otherwise chosen. The three who made got a big swing and the one that went off suffered little.

One N-S pair passed the 2D overcall and got the only other plus N-S score.

Full results are [here](#).



Black Mountain: Photograph Yvonne Kilgour



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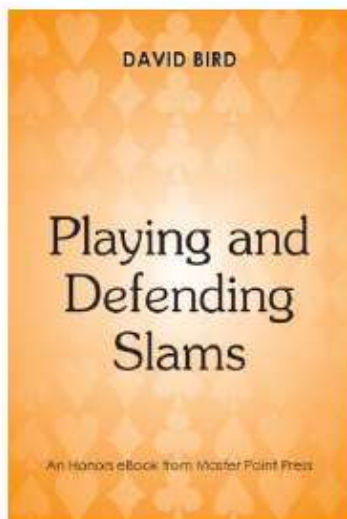
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Peter Busch: Our Chief Scorer

My father, Reg Busch, was passionate about bridge when I was growing up, but he resisted introducing his children to the game because he had seen how young people can get absorbed in the game at the expense of a career path.

So it wasn't until after an accounting degree, a decade in accounting practice and another decade in IT, at around age 45, I found myself with time on my hands and thought it was time to see what it was about this game that captivated my father.



After 10 weeks of beginner's lessons at my local club, I was hooked! Immediately after lessons, I benefited from playing regularly with Reg's life partner Joan. That experience, along with mentoring by Reg, was an enviable starting point to any bridge career.

I learnt bridge directing early in my bridge years (with a little push from Reg who was a top director). My original plan was to simply gain an understanding of the laws from a player's perspective. However, my director training has now taken me through to National Director 2.

Reg and Joan had written a bridge scoring program back in the 1990s called Compscore, and this was used in about 20 clubs throughout Queensland. When Bridgemates arrived on the scene around 2006, Reg and Joan weren't in a position to enhance Compscore any further, so I took over. And so Compscore2 was born. In its present incarnation as Compscore3, it is used by over 70% of affiliated bridge clubs in Australia and as many unaffiliated ones.

Len Dixon Memorial Pairs

This matchpoints event will be held over two Tuesday nights on the 7th and 10th from 7 to 10 pm. Players may enter one or both sessions and walk-ins are accepted. For those not familiar with Len's life and achievements, reprinted below by permission is John Brockwell's obituary first published in Australian Bridge.

Len Dixon 1921-2025

By John Brockwell

When Len Dixon passed away on the morning of 17 December, he was ten days short of his 104th birthday. It is unsurprising therefore that Len was a pioneer in both his chosen profession (information technology) and his chosen recreation (bridge).

Len Dixon was born around the corner from Brick Lane in London's East End. Soon after completing his secondary education, he entered what was to become known as the IT industry, then in its infancy. His early training in the field was under the wings of IBM. By 1955 he was Chief Programmer for the London County Council.

The Council had an active bridge club. Members included England international Derek Rimington (who was a member of Len's staff) and acclaimed bridge columnist Albert Dormer. The Council's club competed in the London Business Houses pennant competition. This was one of England's premier bridge competitions and attracted some of the best players in the land. The



pennant was played in several divisions. Len Dixon was a regular in the second division.

In the early 1960s, the Australian Public Service began recruiting specialists in computing. Positions were advertised throughout the British Commonwealth. Len and his wife Ruth (pictured above at their 1947 wedding in London) saw advertisements in a London newspaper and decided that it would be interesting to “see Australia”.

Len applied for two positions, and was offered both. He chose a job as systems analyst in the Department of Defence, because that department made a slightly better offer that included the opportunity to complete tertiary education – a degree in mathematics.

Len and Ruth arrived in Canberra in 1962, but 12 months were to elapse before they played duplicate bridge. They found a weekly game in a rather gloomy upstairs room of the Burns Club, located at the time in Canberra Avenue. They met Maureen and Val Ackerman, Wallace Caplehorn, Olive Lott, Julian Makowski, Kay Poplawski and Lew and Shirley Thomson. Almost immediately, Wallace Caplehorn organised the ACT’s participation in the Australian National Open Championship (ANC 1963) in Adelaide. The ACT team was Len and Ruth Dixon, Val Ackerman, Wallace Caplehorn, A Garrett and Julian Makowski.

This was just the beginning of a long representative career. Following the ANC in 1963, Len was on the next five ACT Open Teams at ANCs and on seven occasions subsequently, twice as non-playing captain. Much later, he was a member of ten ACT Seniors Teams at Interstate Championships, eight times as a player and twice as non-playing captain. He was never to win an Interstate Open Teams, but was second in Hobart in 1980.

However, he twice tasted ANC success. In 1970, he was Australian Open Individual Champion, and in 2001 he was a member of the winning ACT Seniors Team. His performance in the final of the 2001 event, against Victoria, was especially noteworthy. Len, then in his 80th year, played in two of the six 10-board stanzas. During those 20 boards, ACT picked up 72 imps; the final margin of victory was 27 imps.

In 1968 David Sobell, one of Len's favourite partners, felt that the Canberra Times could do better with a local bridge correspondent than with a syndicated column. He wrote to the editor with his suggestion and put forward Len's name. The editor agreed, subject to his satisfaction with some sample columns. He approved the samples, and Len's first bridge column was published on Thursday 17 October 1968.

The column appeared at least once each week in the Canberra Times and/or the Sunday Times until mid 2023 when the newspapers discontinued their leisure sections. Len's 55 years as a bridge correspondent must surely be a record unsurpassed anywhere in the world. Ever a tireless propagandist, Len kept his fellow reporters well informed of newsworthy events, ensuring that bridge coverage appeared well beyond Len's own columns.

Newspapers were not the only outlet for Len Dixon's literary talent. In early days, he was a frequent editor of the daily bulletin for Canberra's Summer Festival of Bridge. This was a thankless task that brought the editor little joy. Len once recalled, with equal pride and horror, a particular festival at which he alone was responsible for typing up the copy, editing each issue and organising printing and distribution. Yet most years he continued in the role. That was because he was Len Dixon!

Len's eldest daughter Sara passed away in 1975, his wife Ruth in 1984, and now Len himself in 2025. We extend our deep sympathies to Len's daughters, Jo and Felicity, grandchildren Sam, Lily, Ruby, Gracie and Stella, and his great granddaughter Mia. They, better than any of us, know that Len was a great man.

John Brockwell

Remembering the 2025 ANC : Part Two

What they Bid and Played

Overall the 2025 teams sat down to play 2960 boards, each of which was played home and away, putting the bidding boxes to work on 5920 occasions. Each of these 5920 match-ups involved a varying number of bidding decisions, followed by up to 52 decisions about the play of each card.

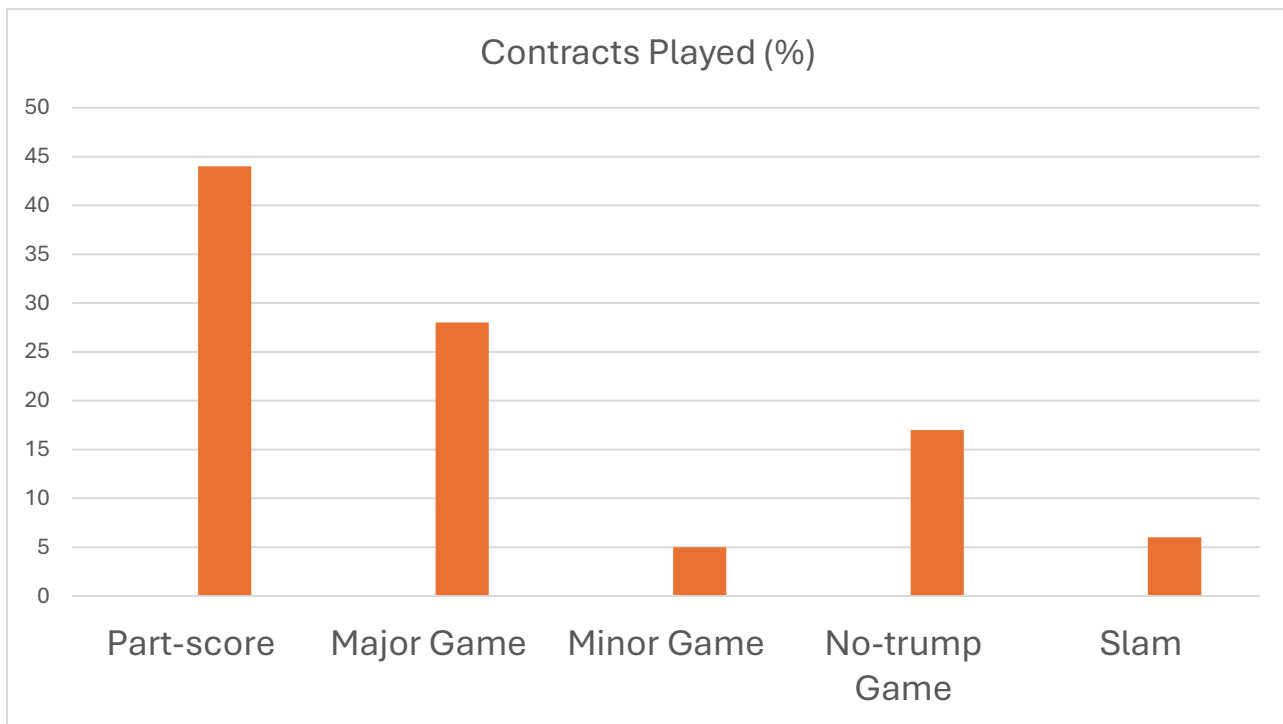
The nature of these decisions ranges from the semi-automatic to pondering the unknowable – but they all end up in a specific outcome – a specific contract and number of tricks won. And what follows is an overview of those outcomes.

The figures are drawn from all four sections and some comparisons are made between sections. However, it is important to note that these are not strictly “like for like”. While the great majority of boards were played by all, different size fields and byes did create some differences in boards played by different teams in different sections.

The raw data for this article was derived from Peter Busch’s excellent presentation of the results on his website, with some additional manual coding and subjective interpretation.

Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the findings here but any remaining errors will be the result of the author’s work with the data and not the original figures; and hopefully do not affect the larger picture.

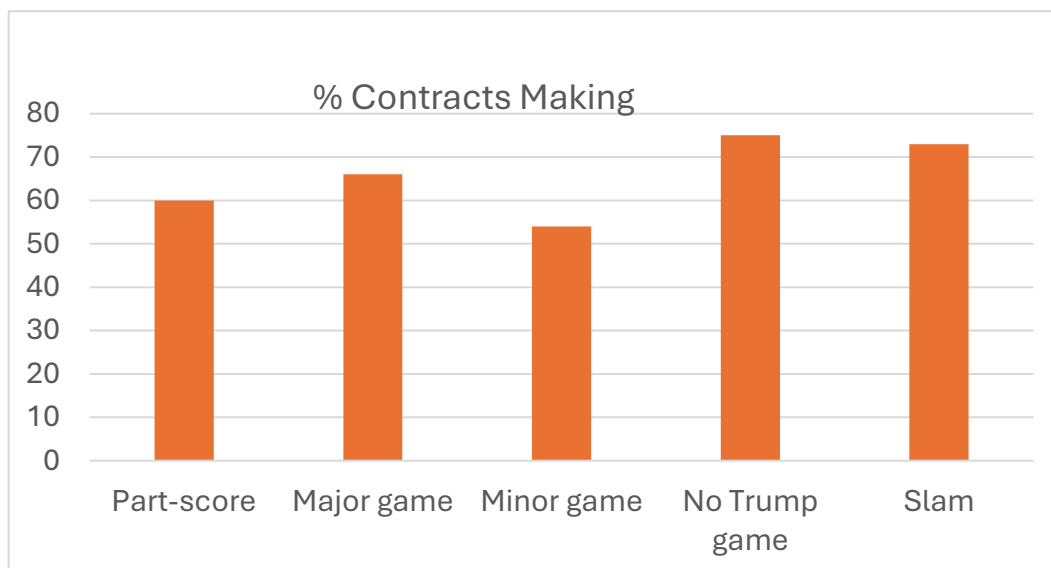
What got bid



Across the four fields, about half the boards were played in game. Slams came up around just over once in twenty hands, being slightly more common than minor games. Major games (at the four and five level) made up around a third of all hands. All the fields sat close to the average for these contracts.

The only outlier results were generated by the open field, where (albeit with very small numbers) there were about twice the number of contracts at the very bottom (one level) and top levels (grand slams) and minor games were proportionately about 25% above the other fields.

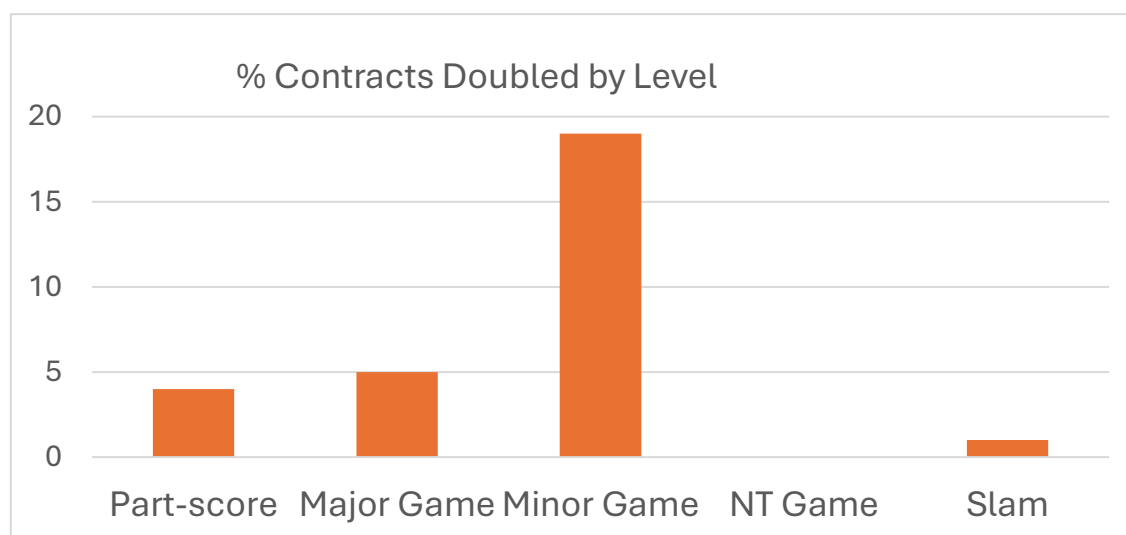
What made



Overall, just under two thirds of contracts made. Contracts tended to make less in the Youth sections but nobody was a long way from the average. Contracts at game and above made more often than part-scores (68% v 60%). The higher level of bidding of grands in the Open was highly productive with 6 of the 7 grands making – compared to a combined total of 4 out of 9 in the other three sections.

Not making a board did not necessarily mean a losing board but it mostly did. Taking the Open results as an example, around 1 in 5 declarers going off got a positive score. However, just over two-thirds of these positive scores, were generated when both pairs failed, created relatively small imp swings. There were just five successful high level sacrifices generating double figure swings.

Doubling

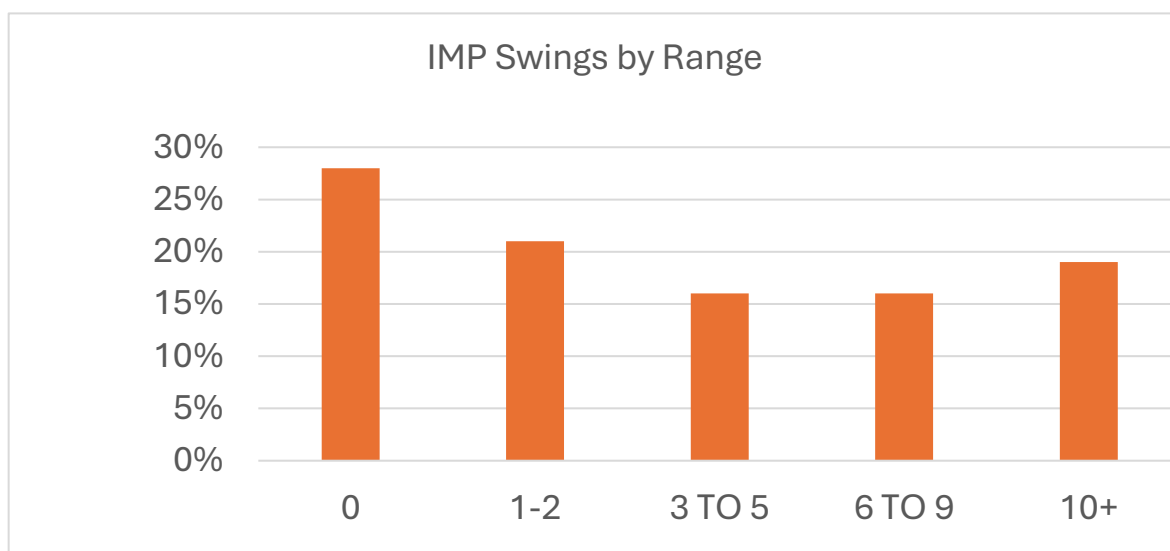


On average, there was a doubled contract once in about every twenty-three boards; but this was an area where there were substantial differences between the fields, which can either reflect appetite for risk or extent of opportunity. The Youth section was responsible for just under half of all doubles but even within this field there were major differences, with over 70 % of doubles in the Youth session involving the two leading teams, as either perpetrators or recipients.

While 4-level major games were doubled at a similar rate to part scores, bids of five of major were doubled significantly more at around the same frequency - one in five - as minor games. The least doubled game contract was 3NT, which was doubled only 5 times in the entire tournament – just under once every 200 times it was played. Overall 74% of NT games made, compared to 66% of 4 in a major, so doubling did require prudence. However, when 3NT did go off it could generate substantial undertricks that escaped significant punishment.

Overall, doubles were successful 75% of the time; with no section below 70% - but there were significant differences depending on the level of the contract. Doubles at the three and five level were successful in 86 and 82% of the hands – but the one level was an even bet; and the two-level also well below the average. Doubles of four-level major games were successful overall in 7 out of 10 cases but the results in each section were quite different. Four slams were doubled and all doubles were successful.

Imp Swings

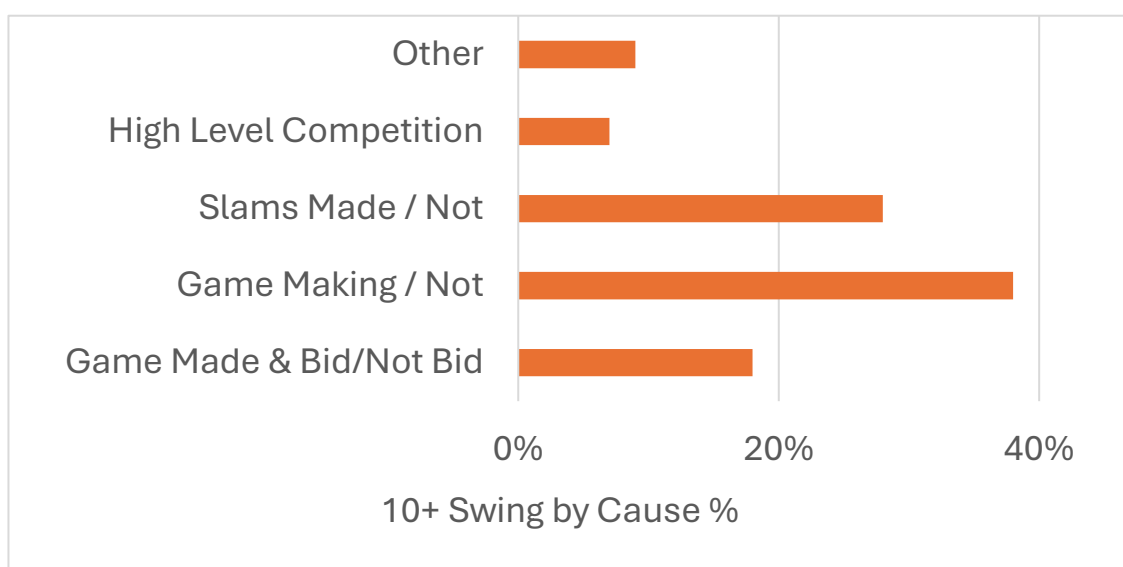


Nothing much happened in around half the hands. Quiet results were slightly less than the average for the Youth and slightly more for the other fields.

At the other extreme, about one in five boards involved imps in double figures; and these boards were responsible for just over half of the imp movements.

There was a reasonable amount of variation between fields in the proportion of big swings. Highest were the Juniors' at around one in four boards; Lowest were the Women's and Seniors' with just over one in six.

Causes of 10+ Swings



For the purposes of the analysis (and with some subjective interpretation and overlap), causes of double figure swings were classified as falling into decisions as to bidding (against not) and successfully making a vulnerable game; making (against not) any game; high-level competitive bidding; bidding or making slam (against not); and an “other” category where doubled part contracts played a big role.

The most common situation generating a double figure swing was where both sides were in game and one made and one did not – mostly as a result of the play of the hand but sometimes not finding the right contract.

Play was also an important factor in big swings involving slams (just under a third of big swings across all sections). Almost all failing slams were doomed from the start but a non-trivial number of making slams did so on the lead. One unfortunate pair saw the only pair in the field to bid a slam come home on a lead that nobody would make except against a slam.

Taking the Open results as an example, the propensity of slams to generate big swings was increased by the variation in bidding. There was no board on which all pairs bid slam. A majority of pairs bid slam on just under one in three boards where a slam was bid ; and on almost all the remainder slam was bid by only one or two.

Getting to game (or not) was a factor overall in just under one in five double-figure swings; with the Open and Women’s section figures being much lower at around one in ten.

In a Grain of Sand

BOARD 2					
BD: 2		♠ J632	Dir: E Vul: NS		
		♥ KQ94			
		♦ K9			
		♣ AK2			
♠ K9754			♠ AQ		
♥ A			♥ T865		
♦ QT43			♦ 85		
♣ T75			♣ QJ863		
		♠ T8			
		♥ J732			
		♦ AJ762			
		♣ 94			
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N		2	3		1
S		2	3		1
E	2				
W	2				

		16	
9			9
		6	

Helpful though an overview may be, the complexity of decision-making in bridge is probably best illustrated by a single unspectacular part-score hand, such as the second board of the event.

Across the four sections, this seemingly relatively innocuous hand produced a smorgasbord of results variously produced by declarer play, bidding systems, leads, signalling systems and other defence decisions.

In the fog of war it generated 14 different contracts in all four suits and NT, and 20 different results; was played 18 times by NS and 7 by EW, with 11 contracts making and 14 failing; and with failure producing both positive and negative outcomes. Bridge is such an easy game.

The Real Deal Workout with Ron Klinger (cont)

Teams: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1NT (1)
Pass	2♣ (2)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠ (3)	Pass	?

(1) 11-14 points (2) Simple Stayman (3)
Inviting game

What would you do as South with:

♠ K Q 10 2
♥ A 10 7
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 3 2

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Considerations

If your approach to hand valuation is simply to count points, then I will leave you to it. Once you have found a trump fit, a better approach is to count losers and apply the Losing Trick Count formula (see *The Modern Losing Trick Count*): Add your losers to the losers expected from partner's bidding and deduct the total from 24. The answer is the number of tricks your side is likely to win if trumps behave normally and half of your finesses succeed.

You have 8 losers (1 in spades, 2 in hearts, 3 in diamonds and 2 in clubs). An average opening hand has 7 losers, so your hand is under average for a trump contract. Partner figures to have 8 losers to invite game. You each have 8 losers and $8 + 8 = 16$ and $24 - 16 = 8$ tricks expected. Ugh. You should definitely pass **3S**. The LTC says that you figure to be one down in **3S**.

The deal arose in the final of the 2023 German Bridge Federation Club Championship: Board 41: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

At one table:

West	North	East	South
		1NT (1)	
Pass	2♣ (2)	2♠	
Pass	3♠ (3)	4♠ (4)	
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 11-14 points (2) Simple Stayman (3) Inviting game (4) One who counts points, not losers

West led the **CJ: queen – king - ace**. South returned the **C3: six – four – seven**. East switched to a heart. There was nothing declarer could do to avoid losing a club, two hearts and two diamonds. South was two down, as predicted, East-West +100.

Running score: Bridge theory 1, Players 0.

At the other table: Dealer South : East-West vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
		1NT (1)	
Pass	2♣ (2)	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠ (3)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) 11-14 points (2) Simple Stayman (3) Inviting game

West led the **CJ: queen – king – two**. Clubs were continued and declarer could make no more than 4 spades and 3 aces, two down, East-West +100, no swing. Just another flat board. Had North passed **1NT**, North-South would have been +90 and +5 IMPs. Final score: Bridge theory: 2, Players 0. You can assess the blame between North and South. Had South passed **3S** at one of the tables, it would have been a 2-IMP pickup.

‘A man’s got to know his limitations.’ (Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry in ‘Magnum Force’)