



4th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship 8th to 14th September 2014

Daily bulletin – Sunday evening 14th September

Ae Fond Kiss – and then we Sever

There was a thrilling climax in both the Trans-national Teams and the Swiss Pairs. The **Scottish President's Team** overturned a half time deficit, and built up a commanding lead but then had to withstand a spirited counter attack by **Canada** which was only halted on the very last deal.

Meanwhile, in the Swiss Pairs England's **Ben Green & John Holland** went through the event undefeated, only to be pipped at the post by **Andrew McIntosh & David Bakhshi**.



And now, in accordance with tradition, we declare the 4th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships closed, and we call upon the bridge players of the Commonwealth to assemble four years from now at the Gold Coast, Australia for the 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships.

The expectation is that the event will run alongside the annual Gold Coast Congress towards the end of February or the beginning of March.

Today's Results

Trans-national Teams Semi-finals

Canadonia	Scottish President's	32 – 53
Australia	Canada	40.5 – 41

Trans-national Teams Final

Scottish President's	Canada	70 – 60
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Open Swiss Pairs

Rank	Pair	Matches								Total VPs
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Andrew McIntosh & David Bakhshi	20	9	20	4	20	15	18	14	120
2	Ben Green & John Holland	19	10	19	16	11	16	12	16	119
3	Sandeep Thakral & Kaustubh Bendre	20	9	1	20	7	20	20	19	116
4	Justin Hackett & Jason Hackett	8	12	13	17	18	17	15	6	106
5	Malcolm Pryor & Karen Pryor	19	10	19	10	18	13	2	14	105
6	Phil King & Cameron Small	11	9	6	17	6	20	16	19	104
7=	Robert Clow & Derrick Peden	14	3	18	10	18	15	14	11	103
7=	Roglyn Hinds & Yvonne Seale	1	9	7	20	17	16	17	16	103
9=	Abdul Muqeet & Mirza Ziaullah Beg	11	11	3	13	12	19	17	15	101
9=	Mario Dix & Margaret Parnis England	14	13	18	19	10	4	10	13	101
9=	Alan Mould & John Matheson	17	12	13	9	18	3	20	9	101
12=	Dan Crofts & Gary Hyett	20	11	13	11	3	20	10	10	98
12=	Norman Levitt & David Shenkin	6	14	17	19	12	11	9	10	98
12=	Maureen Narunsky & Imtiaz Kaprey	14	6	18	18	8	5	14	15	98
15=	Helen Cole & Tyrone Currie	6	12	12	20	13	18	11	4	96
15=	Iain Sime & John Murdoch	20	16	20	14	10	7	8	1	96
15=	Catherine Seale & Tom Paske	16	7	10	2	17	20	18	6	96
18=	Marvin Lai & Fabian Tan	14	14	5	13	18	2	11	17	94
18=	Tracy Capal & David Sherman	15	18	0	19	0	12	15	15	94
18=	Masood Mazhar & Anwar Mumtaz Kizilbash	13	10	10	16	13	20	5	7	94
21	Ian Patrick & Bob McKinnon	16	6	17	1	9	18	12	14	93
22=	Lorne Anderson & Gordon Rainsford	6	18	14	10	12	10	3	19	92
22=	Ashish Malhotra & Hemant Jalan	9	15	7	4	20	18	14	5	92
24=	Douglas Mitchell & John Di Mambro	6	15	16	17	15	9	0	13	91
24=	Leslie Verth & Shirish Chotai	8	17	14	19	9	0	9	15	91

Open Swiss Pairs (continued)

Rank	Pair	Matches								Total VPs
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
26=	Tony Verran & Geoff Wootton	12	6	16	18	7	15	11	4	89
26=	Jim Forsyth & Susan Aitchison	9	5	20	12	2	7	18	16	89
26=	Andrew Sobell & Jonathan Harris	4	11	8	8	20	1	18	19	89
29=	Mike McGinley & Philip Tearne	3	17	14	8	11	16	6	13	88
29=	Jun Nakamaru-Pinder & Phil Morrison	19	13	13	10	17	5	6	5	88
29=	David Mossop & Paul Hackett	17	8	20	1	13	5	8	16	88
29=	Barbara Hackett & Martin Taylor	9	9	5	0	17	10	18	20	88
33=	Simon Barb & Mike Seaver	0	18	15	1	6	18	13	16	87
33=	Cliff Gillis & Martin Henneberger	12*	12*	12*	12*	8	8	6	17	87
35	Greta Chai & Jane Choo	13	10	10	3	5	17	17	11	86
36=	Iftikhar Baqai & Zakir Mahmood	9	1	12	18	11	17	12	5	85
36=	David Hole & Rosslyn Bavin	14	7	15	19	5	15	9	1	85
36=	Michael Byrne & Mike Bell	12	9	5	18	19	10	6	6	85
36=	William Hawkins & Laura Middleton	9	19	15	9	2	4	20	7	85
40	Rob Cliffe & Alan Mayo	16	14	7	10	16	10	2	9	84
41=	John Large & Tadgh O'Mahony	3	12	12	13	2	9	18	14	83
41=	Sam Malkani & Ian McClure	8	14	4	2	18	14	11	12	83
43=	Bhanumati Shah & Ramula Shah	16	4	2	19	18	5	14	3	81
43=	Margaret Bourke & Jonathan Mestel	8	6	15	16	1	14	16	5	81
45=	Peter Cairns & Jim McLaughlin	0	2	13	11	15	11	13	15	80
45=	Michael Alexander & Michele Alexander	14	17	19	6	2	0	3	19	80
45=	Ian Pagan & Lyn Fry	13	19	7	11	2	14	7	7	80
48	Dave Wiseman & John Dick	17	9	10	10	7	4	2	20	79
49=	Iain Graham & Scott Lorimer	12	11	6	14	14	0	8	13	78
49=	Abigail Wilson & Jake Milne	1	10	19	0	10	11	19	8	78
51=	Kathy Williams & Graham Penney	14	5	9	6	13	11	7	12	77
51=	Steve Capal & Steve Root	6	1	15	16	8	6	9	16	77
53=	Roy Bennett & David Liggat	11	13	6	6	15	3	18	4	76
53=	Tim Wickens & Kim Fryer	6	19	0	12	19	12	4	4	76
53=	Mimi Packer & Jonathan Free	8	3	1	17	4	16	10	17	76
53=	Trish Crosse & Bev Hewitt	20	4	13	3	9	18	8	1	76

Open Swiss Pairs (continued)

Rank	Pair	Matches								Total VPs
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
57=	Harry Smith & Bob McPaul	12	14	2	14	19	10	0	4	75
57=	Stewart Macdonald & Kevin Strathern	12	14	10	1	1	1	18	18	75
57=	Colin McDonald & Brian Gladman	11	11	10	7	7	9	14	6	75
60=	Diana Rosslee & Chris Child	17	11	0	4	15	13	9	3	72
60=	Mike Ash & Alex Adamson	7	8	12	7	14	4	13	7	72
60=	Steve Bailey & Frances McKeon	12*	12*	12*	12*	5	8	6	5	72
63=	Cathy Ferguson & Peter Hodeson	7	13	7	12	13	6	5	8	71
63=	Neill Cauwood & Michael McFaul	4	5	8	17	5	19	12	1	71
65	George Plant & Peter Moss	3	8	16	2	16	10	2	12	69
66=	John Faben & Daniel Hamilton	14	2	8	18	1	10	14	0	67
66=	Keith Youngs & Tim McKay	3	15	2	20	9	2	2	14	67
66=	Harold Curran & Anne Fitzpatrick	7	7	13	7	7	3	11	12	67
69	David Jackson & Tom Gibson	0	0	7	7	11	9	16	16	66
70=	Colin Depradine & Harley Moseley	0	8	16	12	3	13	3	8	63
70=	Bobbie Moore & Diana Balkin	11	7	8	3	10	13	7	4	63
72=	Liam O'Brien & Ronan Valentine	13	1	0	13	2	19	13	1	62
72=	Graham Walker & Michael Gallagher	16	16	1	1	16	2	2	8	62
72=	Katherine Dempsie & Olivia Bailey	7	8	5	0	16	0	16	10	62
72=	Nigel Wolfendale & Fiona McQuaker	4	9	18	4	4	7	6	10	62
76	Oliver Clare & Bjarni Kristjansson	4	3	5	3	9	18	19	0	61
77=	Andrew Elliott & Stephen Baggs	14	15	1	16	2	0	10	2	60
77=	Charles Hollingsworth & Michael Gill	5	8	2	9	16	10	7	3	60
79	Howard Baden Smith & Susan Rankin	20	11	7	2	11	2	0	6	59
80	Andrew Worth & Philip Watson	6	5	4	7	3	11	4	18	58
81	Damien Murray & Matthew Robb	13	6	11	0	0	6	2	19	57
82	Paul Maidlani & Jim McMenemy	6	6	17	8	3	9	2	4	55
83	Ivan Bruce & Helen McEwing	0	12	3	2	4	2	12	19	54
84	Stephen Male & Marilyn Silverdale	6	2	4	13	7	9	1	11	53
85	Irene Sime & Anne Perkins	1	10	10	4	13	7	4	2	51
86	Pam Leith & Rona Moss	7	12	4	1	4	1	8	9	46
87	Liz Thompson & Tuula Lehtinen	0	20	3	3	5	11	1	1	44
88	Rose Moore & Virginia Seward	4	11	10	8	0	2	4	1	40

Preemptive Strikes

Mark Horton

A pre-emptive strike is military action taken by a country in response to a threat from another country – the purpose of it is to stop the threatening country from carrying out its threat. The situation is very similar in bridge and in the semifinal of the Transnational Teams the first session of the semifinal was an explosive one.

As far as I am aware the pubs in Scotland don't open until 10:30, so the explanation for what happened on the opening deal might be that the players were still in recovery mode from the previous night:

Board: 1 Dealer: North Love all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Henneberger	McGowan	Gillis	Punch
	Pass	3♠	4♥
4NT*	5♥	Pass*	Pass
6♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Redouble	Pass	Pass	7♥
Double	All pass		

East's opening bid is a matter of style, some players preferring to adopt a sounder approach when second in hand.

South's overcall is what David Burn is inclined to describe as the bid of a demented water buffalo.

West's decision to ask for aces, whilst aggressive, is not ridiculous. Give East a seven card suit headed by the ace and 6♠ might be on a finesse through the hand that has overcalled.

When North bid 5♥ it looks as if West thought East's pass promised an ace (DOPI and ROPI are common conventions).

North's double should have sounded a warning note to West, but his redouble had a remarkable effect on South, who decided to trust West rather than her partner.

True, South had a dreadful hand, but she did have the

ace of trumps and unless partner was off her trolley (not a syndrome usually associated with this particular North) she was not doubling on the strength of possible heart tricks.

Rather than describe the play (declarer lost a club and two diamonds for -500) I'll mention that this might well form the basis for a *Misbid this Hand with Me* article.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Duncan	Kane	Gordan	Kane
	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

That was an easy +420, just 2 IMPs to Canadonia.

A couple of deals later Punch opened 3♦ first in hand on ♠J4 ♥105 ♦KI098753 ♣A9 and found partner with ♠AI0953 ♥A32 ♦4 ♣QJ83. The contract boiled down to avoiding three trump losers and declarer went with the odds, playing low to the king (a 48.60% chance) to go an unlucky one down.

At the other table they stopped in 2♦ and declarer took eight tricks to pick up 4 IMPs.

Board: 4 Dealer: West Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Henneberger	McGowan	Gillis	Punch
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		

Doubling 4♥ with the North hand is not without risk, but I think it is one you have to take. 4♥ was two down, -200.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Duncan	Kane	Gordan	Kane
Pass	Pass	2♥	Double
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	All pass	

Doubling 2♥ risks an unwelcome response in diamonds but bridge is sometimes a game of risks. West's baby psyche did not cause any trouble and 4♠

was easy to play, +620 and 9 IMPs to Canadonia.

Incredibly the run of pre-empts continued when East was dealt ♠AKJ9863 ♥Q83 ♦J ♣92, Gillis opening 4♣ and playing there. Partner's ♠Q2 ♥10652 ♦AQ962 ♣K7 was not enough, the defenders taking the first five tricks (♥A, heart to the king, heart ruff, club, North having the ♣AQ over the king) for +100.

At the other table East opened 1♠ and E-W stopped in 3♠. South led a trump, but declarer refused to take the diamond finesse (it would have worked) and was one down, -50 but 2 IMPs to the President.

Board: 7 Dealer: South Game all

	♠ A 9 4						
	♥ A Q 10 2						
	♦ K 9 7 5						
	♣ K 6						
♠ 10 6 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ 5	
N							
W							
E							
S							
♥ 9 5		♥ K J 7 6 4					
♦ A 8 6 2		♦ Q 10					
♣ A 7 4 2		♣ Q J 9 8 5					
	♠ K Q J 8 7 2						
	♥ 8 3						
	♦ J 4 3						
	♣ 10 3						

the diamonds, one down, -100.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Duncan	Kane	Gordan	Kane
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	All pass	3♦*

West led the nine of hearts and declarer put in dummy's queen. East took the king and returned a trump and South won and played a diamond. When West went up with the ace he handed declarer the contract on a plate, +620 and IMPs to Canadonia.

As is so often the case declarer had misplayed at trick one.

Suppose he goes up with dummy's ace and draws trumps. Then a second heart is ducked to East's jack, setting up a ruffing heart finesse. With West having both the minor suit aces, the defenders are helpless.

Both teams reached 4♠ with ♠AJ82 ♥QJ1063 ♦K52 ♣6 facing ♠KQ1063 ♥- ♦J1084 ♣J1084, bidding 1♥-1♠-2♠-4♠. That could have been beaten by trump leads (they were 2-2) but neither pair of defenders found that.

Board: 10 Dealer: East Game all

	♠ K Q J 10 7 2						
	♥ 8 3						
	♦ K Q 9 4 3						
	♣ -						
♠ -	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ A 6 4	
N							
W							
E							
S							
♥ Q 10 7 5 2		♥ A K					
♦ 10 6 5		♦ A J					
♣ J 10 7 5 3		♣ A K 9 8 4 2					
	♠ 9 8 5 3						
	♥ J 9 6 4						
	♦ 8 7 2						
	♣ Q 6						

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Henneberger	McGowan	Gillis	Punch
Pass	2NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	All pass	3NT

West led the two of clubs and declarer put up dummy's king, pleased to see East follow with the queen. She cashed the ace of spades, played a spade to the king and then correctly exited with a club, starting to sever the links between the defenders.

West exited with a trump (as good as anything) and declarer won in hand and played a diamond, West playing the two.

As the cards lie one winning line is to go up with dummy's king and when that holds play another diamond. East wins and can only play a club, but declarer ruffs and plays a diamond, setting up a trick for a heart discard.

Another is to play dummy's seven (the odds play for two tricks, but only 50.73%). East wins but can only play a club. Declarer ruffs and plays a diamond to the king and can build a second diamond trick by playing low to the jack.

When declarer played a diamond to the nine East won with the ten and played a club. Declarer ruffed and played a diamond but West went in with the ace and played a heart and declarer could not untangle

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Henneberger	McGowan	Gillis	Punch
2♥*	2♠	2♣*	Pass
3♠*	4♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Double	4♠

- 2♣ Stong
- 2♥ Negative
- 3♠ Take out

East led the king of clubs and declarer ruffed and played the jack of spades. When East, ducked West discarded the ten of diamonds, thereby depriving his side of a second diamond trick and allowing declarer to escape for one down, -200.

In some circles this play of petering with a card that

would subsequently have won a trick is known as a peter. (To complete the previous sentence just add a name of your choice.)

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Duncan	Kane	Gordan	Kane
2♥	2♠	2♣	Pass
Pass	4♦	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	Double	4♠
		Double	All pass

- 2♣ Strong
- 2♥ Negative

The defenders made no mistake this time, two down, -500 and 7 IMPs to the President.

I was tempted to overlook the fact that EW are cold for 7♣, but in the interests of historical accuracy I feel I should mention it. Had either East simply bid 3♣ at their second turn then West would have had all sorts of options and I would expect a competent pair to reach at least 6♣.

The President was trailing 17-28 at the half, but quickly put matters to rights:

Board: 13 Dealer: North Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Kane	Peterkin	Kane	Sanders
	INT	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	3♣	All pass	

- 2♣ Majors

East made the strange lead of the ace of hearts, gifting declarer a trick. Declarer won the next heart with the ace, cashed the queen of clubs, played a club to the king, a diamond to the ace, East discarding the three of spades, and a diamond to the ten and queen, West ruffing. Declarer ruffed the heart return and played a spade, West taking the ace and playing a spade, declarer winning in dummy, drawing the outstanding trump and giving up a diamond, +110.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Punch	Henneberger	McGowan	Gillis
	1♦	Pass	2♠*
Double	3♦	Double	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Double
All pass			

- 2♠ The equivalent of a 2♦ bid

3♦ would have cost at least 500, but E-W preferred the shadow rather than the substance.

However, with an awkward hand to lead from North led the ace of diamonds, a delightful symmetry with the lead made at the other table. That was all the help needed and declarer ruffed, played a heart to the jack and a spade to the queen and ace. A heart to the king and ace was followed by a spade and South won and exited with the ten of hearts. Declarer won, and could claim ten tricks, +790 and 13 IMPs,

The President added another 7 IMPs when they bid an easy 3NT with ♠K7 ♥KQJ ♦AKQ5 ♣K952 opposite ♠QJ106 ♥94 ♦107 ♣QJ1064, +430 against the +130 recorded at the other table.

This was the clincher:

Board: 22 Dealer: East E-W game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Kane	Peterkin	Kane	Sanders
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♠	All pass		

- 4♣ Splinter

North led the queen of hearts and declarer won with the king and played the four of clubs, North taking the king and returning a heart to dummy's ace. Declarer ruffed a heart with the three of spades and North over-ruffed with the eight and switched to the two of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's ace, played a spade to the queen and ran the queen of clubs. South won with the ace and switched to the jack of hearts, ruffed and over-ruffed by North's jack. When North

returned a diamond declarer was two down, -200.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Punch	Henneberger	McGowan	Gillis
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♠	All pass	4♣*	Pass

4♣ Splinter

Declarer won the lead of the jack of diamonds with dummy's ace and drew trumps in three rounds ending in dummy. She then played a diamond and when South won with the queen declarer could claim, +620 and 13 IMPs to the President, secure in the final.

Trans-national Final – the decisive deal

Mark Horton

The President trailed 27-28 at half time, but that changed in no time at all:

Board: 13 Dealer: North Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Korbel	McGowan	Maksymetz	Punch
4♦*	5♦	1♥	3♦
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Double	All pass	

4♦ Cue bid

South led her spade and when North came in with the ace of trumps she gave her partner a ruff, two down, -500.

Why East though it was a good idea to go on to 7♥ is a mystery, but 6♥ was not going to make.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Duncan	Nystrom	Gordon	Walsh
Double	Pass	1♥	3♦
5♠	4♦	4♠	Pass
	Pass	6♠	All pass

Double Takeout

Playing in spades was risk free, +1430 and 18 match changing IMPs went in the President's direction.

21 Reasons why...

... Bridge is better than Sex!

- 1) You don't have to hide your bridge magazines
- 2) It is perfectly acceptable to hire a pro to play bridge with you once in a while
- 3) The Ten Commandments don't say anything about bridge
- 4) If your partner takes pictures of you at the table, you don't have to worry about them showing up in the tabloids when you become famous
- 5) Your partner doesn't become upset about people you played bridge with long ago
- 6) It is perfectly acceptable to play bridge with a total stranger
- 7) When you see a really good bridge player, you don't have to feel guilty about imagining the two of you at the table together
- 8) When your regular partner is not available, he/she will not mind if you play bridge with someone else
- 9) No one will ever tell you that you will go blind if you play bridge by yourself
- 10) When dealing with a bridge pro, you never have to worry that they are an undercover cop
- 11) You can have a bridge calendar on your wall at the office, tell bridge jokes and invite co-workers to play bridge without being sued for harassment
- 12) There are no bridge-transmitted diseases (except the compulsion to play more bridge)
- 13) You don't have to lock the door when you play bridge on the Internet, and when you visit a bridge website you won't get emails from asianteenagesluts.com for the rest of your life
- 14) Nobody expects you to play bridge with the same partner for the rest of your life
- 15) Nobody expects you to give up bridge if your partner loses interest in it
- 16) You can still do it in your 80's, and people won't gasp in horror if they find out
- 17) Your bridge partner will never say, "Not again, we just played bridge last week! Is Bridge all you ever think about?" Oops! - maybe they will
- 18) A man doesn't need lots of finesse(s) to be successful at bridge, but then he needs some squeezes
- 19) The phrase "could be short" carries no negative connotation....
- 20) The principle of "Fast Arrival" would not be regarded negatively
- 21) If the partnership agrees on two over one, it wouldn't be considered an orgy

The Front Line

Mark Horton

In some ways a major bridge championship bears comparison with a battle. While the behind the scenes staff (the generals) sit safely in their offices the troops (in this case the Directors) come in to direct contact with the combatants (the players). They have already been called into action several times and a number of interesting cases have been mentioned in dispatches.

Round 2, Board: 17 Dealer: North Love all

♠ A K J 9 7 5 3
♥ 7 4
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ -

♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ Q 6 5
♦ 8
♣ Q 7 6 5 3

♠ 10
♥ A K J 8
♦ A 7 3
♣ A K 10 9 2

♠ 6
♥ 10 9 3 2
♦ K Q 6 5 2
♣ J 8 4

West	North	East	South
4♣	3♠ Pass	Double 6♣	Pass All pass

North led the ace of spades and at trick two continued with the ... well as it happened there was no trick two, as declarer claimed, leaving the Director to determine if the claim should be allowed.

Round 4, Board: 19 Dealer: South E-W game

♠ Q 8 7 6
♥ Q 8 7 5
♦ J 8 4
♣ 7 5

♠ A 9
♥ A K 10 4 3
♦ A K 9 7 6
♣ 8

♠ K 3 2
♥ 9 6 2
♦ Q 10 3
♣ Q J 6 4

♠ J 10 5 4
♥ J
♦ 5 2
♣ A K 10 9 3 2

West	North	East	South
1♦ 3♣ 5♦	Pass Pass All pass	INT 4♣	Pass 2♣* Double

2♣ was alerted as showing the majors. One question the Director has to determine relates to the difference between a misbid and misinformation.

Round 5, Board: 2 Dealer: East N-S game

♠ K J 9 6
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ A 10 5 4
♣ Q

♠ A 7
♥ 7 4 3 2
♦ 6 3
♣ K 10 6 5 4

♠ Q 10 4 3
♥ A 6
♦ Q J 9
♣ A J 8 2

♠ 8 5 2
♥ K 9 5
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
Pass Pass 3♣	2♣* Pass All pass	INT Pass Double	Pass 2♥ Pass

2♣ Majors

Here the Director has to determine if a break of tempo by West is important and if it is determined that 2♥ undoubled is the contract how many tricks is declarer likely to take.

Five is certainly a possibility - on a trump lead declarer wins the second round and is likely to play a spade to the nine and ten. Now a low club from East allows West to win and play a third trump.

As you can see from the above it's a tough job out there in the trenches for our team of Directors.

I might add a few more examples, but we are busy making plans for yet another gargantuan effort to move the Bulletin drinks cabinet six inches closer to Edinburgh.

A Day in the Life

Mark Horton

Every Championship represents a tough test for the players who give their all in the pursuit of medals and a title, but it also represents a challenge for every member of staff as they wrestle with the various problems that confront them as the Championships unwind.

I am not in a position to tell you how the other departments function, but I can tell you that every one of them will encounter problems along the way and it is a testament to their skill and dedication that they always manage to find a solution. The Bulletin runs on tried and tested lines but there is always room for improvement and to some extent complacency is our greatest enemy.

Join me now for a typical day in the life of the Bulletin.

I get up early and am usually in the office no later than 08:00. (Unless, as has happened on occasion, my hotel is so far away from the venue that it seems to be located in another country.)

First thing is to make a coffee (God bless Nespresso) and then check the email for feedback on the Bulletins. I usually have more than one article on the go so the next thing is to tidy up any loose ends. That might mean finding a pair to get an explanation of some obscure (at least to my eyes) bidding sequence. The first time I do that today the player concerned not only provided me with the relevant information but also gave me a good deal from an earlier match. In former times we used to get many contributions from players and journalists, but they seem to be thin on the ground nowadays.

By 10:30 (game time) the rest of the staff have arrived and I fire up BBO. The advent of this software has changed the nature of bridge reporting. Before you had to sit at the table trying hard not to miss a card (even harder when screens are in operation). I do worry that the smaller countries get virtually no exposure in the Bulletin, but our resources do not run to covering matches at the table. By the same token, if Manchester United is playing Liverpool then reporting on Oxford United v Bury instead might raise a few eyebrows.

I only have time to keep an eye on the match I have selected as I also have to write up something I watched the day before.

Patrick Jourdain delivered an article while he was sitting out a session in the final, and there is always a steady procession of officials and visitors, some with questions, others with notices that must appear in the Bulletin. At some events these have often been delivered at the eleventh hour in non-electronic form, much to the delight of the Editor, who must type them up, and the Layout Editor who, having carefully set all the pages, must now start afresh trying to find spaces for them. I'm pleased to say that was not a problem here in Glasgow.

After almost 20 years of editing Bulletins, to come up with an original by line is ever more challenging – Ron Tacchi is frequently inspirational – his *'Neck and Neck at the Mec'* is an all time classic. My favourite is one we used in Warsaw during a European Championship when there was a rest day, so next morning the headline was *'Suddenly Nothing Happened'*.

Here in Glasgow, Andrew Barnes has been the tireless Layout Editor, aided and abetted by Steve Bailey. They have done a great job, and apart from the odd typo the only thing that went wrong was that they ran out of Black Adder in the pub across the road.

... and so, as the actress of time said to the bishop of destiny, *"That's that finished again for another four years!"*

A view from the Engine Room

Andrew Barnes

It was while I was scoring one of the SBU Congresses at Peebles last year that Russell Frame, knowing that I edited our local village Parish Magazine, asked me if I would help produce the bulletin for the Championship. When I enquired what was involved he told me that I would just need to assemble provided copy into a daily bulletin of about four to six A4 pages. Hah ... suckered again!

Earlier this year Fiona Greenwood sent me links to bulletins from earlier events as examples, and because I had never met either Mark Horton or Steve Bailey we had a couple of Skype calls to hammer out the ground-rules. Steve and I then produced a four-page sample bulletin at the July Peebles Congress this year to test things out.

So how's it gone? It's been great fun – hard work, but I've learned a lot and Mark, Steve and I have had a lot of laughs. It's almost inevitable that with the speed of production there have been a few typos, but I hope that they have not detracted too much from your enjoyment of the bulletin. I am aware of only one major boo-boo – but I'm afraid that I don't have a hamper to give away.

Would I do it again? Well maybe – but not before I've caught up on a lot of sleep!

Misbid this Hand with Me

Entree ce Seere

I am playing in a Mixed Teams event where so far the standard of play has been somewhat variable. Hoping things can only get better, as South I pick up ♠KQ10 ♥- ♦AQ1083 ♣KJ853. Vulnerable against not, partner opens Two Diamonds and I am considering how high to raise when I remember that we have agreed to play a convention that I helped to develop in the seventies.

East gives this some thought and bids Three Diamonds, which I double with fair confidence. West jumps to Four Hearts and partner doubles. When East passes I have a decision to make.

We are in uncharted waters, but taking partner for a maximum weak two in spades and trusting there will be a play for it, I make the master bid of Six Spades. East doubles this and everyone passes.

Perhaps I have done the wrong thing.

This has been the story of our auction:

West	North	East	South
	2♦*	3♦	Double
4♥	Double	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Double	All pass

West leads the two of diamonds and dummy is disappointing:

Dealer: South N-S game

♠ 8 6 4 3
♥ A K 10 6 4 3
♦ –
♣ 9 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 10
♥ –
♦ A Q 10 8 3
♣ K J 8 5 3

Rather than describe the play in detail suffice it to say that I manage to take seven tricks, losing only 1400, not so bad when you see the full hand:

Dealer: South N-S game

♠ 8 6 4 3
♥ A K 10 6 4 3
♦ –
♣ 9 7 2

♠ 9 2
♥ Q J 9 8 7 5
♦ 2
♣ A Q 10 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 7 5
♥ 2
♦ K J 9 7 6 5 4
♣ 6

♠ K Q 10
♥ –
♦ A Q 10 8 3
♣ K J 8 5 3

Post mortem – we would have murdered them in Four Hearts.

Sunday morning's problem – solution

Dealer: West N-S game

♠ Q J 7 6
♥ 10 4
♦ J 10 8 4 3
♣ 7 2

♠ 8 5 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ A Q 9 5
♣ K Q 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 9 2
♥ Q 8 2
♦ K
♣ A J 10 5 3

♠ 10 4
♥ A J 9 7 6
♦ 7 6 2
♣ 9 8 4

Contract: 6NT by West Lead: ♦ J

What are your chances here if there is no doubleton ace of hearts?

With a heart trick you have a likely 11 tricks. A shortage of entries to hand is a problem. There is no simple squeeze as a heart would have to be lost to rectify the count, and a heart return would break up the squeeze.

You need a squeeze without the count. If South has the heart ace and the only guard in spades, you catch him, after cashing diamonds, in this position:

♠ 7 6
♥ 10 6 4
♦ 10
♣ –

♠ 8 5 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ –
♣ –

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K
♥ Q 8 2
♦ –
♣ 3

♠ Q J 10
♥ A J 9
♦ –
♣ –

When you cash the last club, East must give you an extra trick in a major. If you decide West has the spade length, you need the heart king as a late entry to hand in this position:

♠ Q J 7
♥ 10 4
♦ 10 8
♣ –

♠ 8 5
♥ K 5 3
♦ Q 9
♣ –

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 2
♥ Q 8 2
♦ –
♣ 3

♠ 10 4
♥ A J 9 7
♦ 7
♣ –

When North throws a heart on the last club, you can play a heart to the king and end-play him with the third spade. Note that the spade two must be kept to avoid North unblocking in spades to end-play dummy.



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