



UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

Congratulations



Divyesh Shah, Rina Shah, Jane Adams and Christine Bacon
Winners of the GNOT Provincial Restricted Teams

This Issue:

- ✓ *ABF Alerting Regulations*
- ✓ *Scandinavia*
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- ✓ *The "Locked Room" Mystery : The Murder of Joseph B Elwell*

Northern District BC Red Point Event



E/W Winners - Wendy Bailie and Barbara Hendrie and N/S Winners - Gill Blakely and Ross Blakey.

Joondalup BC Red Point Event.



N/S Winners- Lynne Errington and Joanna Tennyson



E/W Winners - Jane Adams and Christine Bacon

Willetton BC 1st Birthday Novice Congress



Plate Winners Rina Shah and Divyesh Shah



Consolation Winners Astrid Piller and Linda Reading

President's Report

From John Bayly

GNOT FINALS

Congratulations to our four very skilful members who have won the GNOT Provincial Restricted Teams Event (WA) less than 300 masterpoints:



Divyesh Shah, Rina Shah, Jane Adams and Christine Bacon who will now go on to represent WA in the finals later in the year at Tweed Heads in NSW between 29 November and 2 December. To qualify, they competed at Melville Bridge Club on Sunday 25 August 2019 against 6 teams and after a massive 50 boards were declared the winners with a great score of 61.43.

With another plus to Undercroft two of our first-class players in Tad and Beata Bieganski teamed with John Beddow and Egmont Melton to win the over 300 masterpoint section and will

also represent WA in NSW in the finals.

Congratulations to all of these players and we wish them all the best in the Australian finals.

KATH BROSAN WINTER PAIRS

This ever-popular annual red point event was held on three consecutive Tuesdays 13, 20 and 27 August 2019 and attended by 64 pairs.

The winners on:

Day 1: Tuya Cooke and Brian Fensome

Day 2: Christine Jenkins and Metka Agrez

Day 3: Philip Oldershaw and Margaret Szymakowski

The cumulative scores over the three days



Winners of the event Tuya Cooke and Brian Fensome



Runners Up - Christine Jenkins and Metka Agrez



3rd - Domenico De Gasperis and Christine Smitham

Once again, many thanks to all of the organisers who made this event so successful.

AUSTRALIAN WIDE-OPEN PAIRS

This event was held on Friday 23 August 2019 and attended by 24 pairs

The winners in the North South position were Philip Oldershaw and Trevor Burr and in the East West position Ken Smith and Judy Havas. ●

Other Results

Ozzie Trigwell Pairs HANDICAP



1st Win Nordstrand - Ken Smith



2nd David Coulter and Valerie Broome



3rd Margaret Melsom and Lynette Jackson

Ozzie Trigwell Pairs

1st Tuya Cooke and Carol Fensome

2nd Christine Jenkins and Jenny Skinner.

3rd Win Nordstrand and Ken Smith

John Beyfus Spring Pairs



1st Ted Sakashita and Noriko Sakashita



2nd Tuya Cooke and Beata Bieganski

3rd Anthony Eardley and Joe Peci

ABF Alerting Regulations

PRE-ALERTS

- You should pre-alert your opponents to any unusual conventions in your system before you commence the first board.
- Pre-alerts should always include a statement about your general system (e.g. Standard American), and should also state your no-trump range.
- In general, pre-alert your opponents about anything in your system that they may assume has a different meaning, especially self-alerting calls.

ALERTS

- Alerts are made by circling the bid and saying “alert”. Saying “alert” minimises the chance of an opponent making a bid before you have had a chance to circle your partner’s bid. If bidding boxes are in use, an alert card should be placed across the relevant call.
- Do not explain the meaning of the bid you are alerting unless asked by an opponent.

Scandinavia

By Linda Reading.

We spent two days in Copenhagen before the tour started. Very clean and green city with lots of beautiful canals. To our delight, everyone in Scandinavia speaks perfect English. We then started our Insight bus tour with 8 friends and 18 "new" friends (2 Americans, 2 Canadians 1 NZ and the rest were Aussies).



Sweden is all forests and lakes. We took a scenic overnight ferry to Finland. The countryside slowly opened up and the elevation also rose as we made

our way to the Arctic Circle. Went to a Reindeer farm - fed the reindeer, patted the reindeer, learned all about reindeer Then we ate the reindeer!!!

Met Father Christmas in Lapland and put in a good word for Undercroft players - expect a "bumper" stash of presents this Christmas (you're welcome!)



The Arctic Circle is amazing. We were there for the summer solstice and went to the "top of the world" (North Cape) to see the midnight sun. Travelled up a

mountain and arrived there at 10pm. A huge visitors centre was chock a block with people. It was very windy and cloudy and didn't look promising for photos. Then exactly at midnight, the sun broke through the clouds and everyone just stopped, fell silent and looked up - it was a real "wow" moment.

Then on to Norway. Spectacular mountains and fiords - pristine and jaw dropping.



Finishing the tour in Oslo which was the busiest city we visited. Spent another 2 days there before flying home.

Scandinavia fun facts:

Our bus tour covered 6,000 kms.

Denmark is so "green" it doesn't have enough waste for their electricity producing waste plant and they have to import waste. Cars attract 200% tax (electric cars are less), so people cycle, walk, or use public transport which means they are slim, active and healthy.

In Norway, locals pay 20% income tax and 25% sales tax - but education, hospitals, doctors, dentists are free so their income is all disposable.

Being neutral, they don't need a huge Army, Airforce or Navy saving lots of \$\$\$'s.

Scandinavians are well educated and very well paid and retire on 80% pension (thanks to the North Sea oil mainly)

It is very expensive for food and accommodation (we paid \$13 for a coffee at Joe and the Juice!) but that doesn't stop the locals from going out.

An amazing and beautiful place and highly recommended. ●



Playing in No Trumps

From the book "Step-by-Step: Card Play in No Trumps" by Robert Berthe and Norbert Lebelly

Deal No. 10

Dealer: EAST | Vul: EW

	♠	1098		
	♥	1094		
	♦	AKJ5		
	♣	J102		
♠		N	♠	
♥	W		E	♥
♦				♦
♣		S		♣
	♠	KQJ5		
9	♥	KQJ		
	♦	942		
17	♣	KQ6		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead ♦7 (4th best)

How many sure tricks?

In spite of the 26 points your trick-total is hardly impressive and for the moment you are looking at only two certain tricks, in diamonds. (A reminder of basic principle: never count potential winners as sure tricks.)

Where are you going to find the seven missing tricks?

Solution on page 15

ABF Alerting Regulations

SELF-ALERTING CALLS

- Doubles
- Redoubles
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit
- All calls at the four-level or higher, EXCEPT conventional opening bids.
- 2♣ RESPONSE TO A 1NT

A response of 2♣ after a 1NT opening bid is NOT ALERTABLE in an UNCONTESTED auction, no matter what the meaning.

However, normal alerting rules apply if (a) the opponents have entered the auction, or (b) Stayman or similar is used in any other sequence e.g. following a 2NT opening or a 1NT response.

Normal alerting rules also apply to all responses to Stayman and other asking bids.

These calls carry their own alert and should not be alerted. It may be risky to make assumptions as to the meaning of such a call. A player is entitled (at their turn to call) to ask for their own protection, but bear in mind that unnecessary questions may be more helpful to the opponents than to the enquirer's own side, and may convey unauthorised information thereby limiting partner's options.

ALERTING EXAMPLES

OPENING BIDS

The following should be alerted:

(a) 1♦ if it may contain fewer than three cards in the suit named.

(b) 1♥ or 1♠ if it may contain fewer than four cards in the suit named. Also, if a 1♥ bid systemically denies four spades, this is alertable (conveys a surprising message about another suit).

(c) A non-natural 1NT (e.g. Moscito; showing hearts and spades).

(d) Opening two bids which do not promise a holding of 4+ cards in the suit named, or which promise a holding in the

suit named and another suit.
Examples:

Alertable: 2♥ showing hearts and another suit (whether specified or not)

Alertable: 2♣ where, if there are only 5 clubs, also shows a four-card major. Strong artificial 2♣, 2♦ openings are alertable.

Note that a 2♥ bid, which promises only hearts, is not alertable, whether strong or weak

(e) Any opening bid, (other than 1♣) which is not natural e.g. transfer pre-empts.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNCONTESTED AUCTION

The following should be alerted:

(a) Weak jump responses

(b) Inverted minors (1♦ - 2♦ forcing, 1♦ - 3♦ weak)

(c) Forcing 1NT response

(d) New suit rebids by opener which may be made on a suit of fewer than three cards in a minor or four cards in a major

(e) Jacoby style 2NT over a major

(f) Bergen raises

(g) Fit showing jumps

(h) Fourth suit forcing

- (i) Splinter bids (below 4♣)
- (j) Transfer bids (below 4♣)
- (k) Forced bids in a 'pass-or-correct' sequence
- (l) Conventional responses including 'pass-or-correct' bids after a multi-two opening
- (m) Trial bids
- (n) A pass which conveys a special meaning as to strength or distribution

COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS

Overcalls

The following should be alerted:

- (a) All overcalls which show two suits, even if one of them is the suit named
- (b) Unusual NT bids that show 2-suited hands
- (c) Natural NT overcalls of RHO's natural suit bid, which may NOT have a stopper in that suit
- (d) Transfer overcalls and multi-meaning overcalls

The following should NOT be alerted:

- (a) Single suited overcalls showing only the suit named,

whether weak, strong or intermediate

- (b) 1NT in the pass-out seat which may not contain a stopper in the opener's suit

Alertable calls over an opponent's T/O double:

- (a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
- (b) Conventional fit-showing jumps

Alertable calls over an opponent's suit overcall:

- (a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
- (b) Any natural NT bid which does NOT promise a stopper in the opponent's suit

- (c) Lebensohl type responses after interference over your 1NT

Alertable calls after partner's T/O double:

- (a) Any bid that conventionally shows weakness (Lebensohl, Herbert, etc.)
- (b) Any minimal natural response that shows some strength.

Bridge hand of the year: an extraordinary play

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2011/dec/28/bridge-hand-of-the-year>

"Today's deal was voted hand of the year by the International Bridge Press Association. It involves a type of play previously unknown to anyone except Geza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey, whose *Adventures in Card Play* is the most complex bridge book ever written. The star was Norway's Geir Helgemo, who sat South at game all.

Dlr	♠ A9743				
Vul	♥ K8763				
	♦ A6				
	♣ 7				
♠ -		N		♠ Q82	
♥ QJ952		W	E	♥ T4	
♦ T9		S		♦ QJ85432	
♣ KQT982				♣ J	
	♠ KJT65				
	♥ A				
	♦ K7				
	♣ A6543				

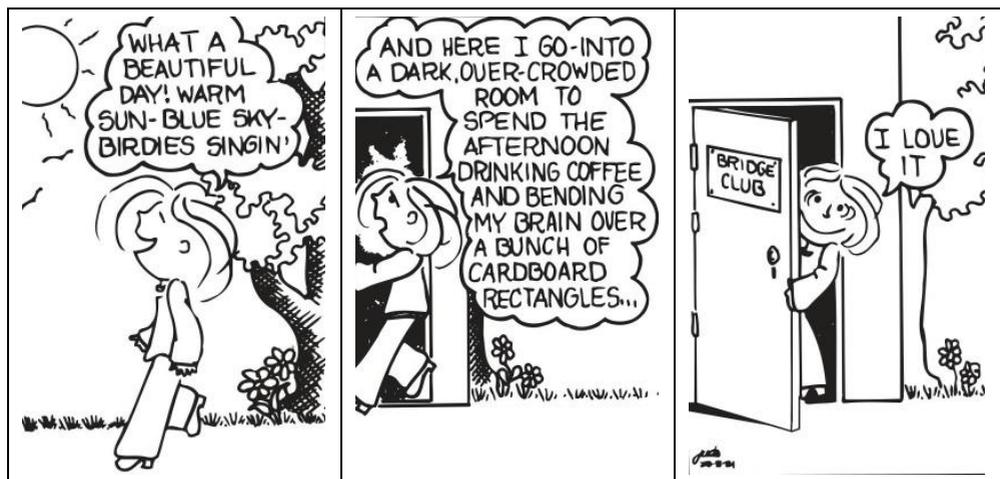
This was the bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
2♠(1)	2NT(2)	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣(3)	Pass	4NT(4)
Pass	5♠(5)	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

- 1) Hearts and Minor
- 2) Spade support, forcing to game
- 3) Short in Clubs
- 4) Keycard Blackwood
- 5) Two key cards and the queen of spades, treating his fifth card as the equivalent of the queen

West led the king of clubs and East played the jack, won by Helgemo with the ace. He cashed the ace of hearts and the king and ace of diamonds, then cashed the king of hearts, then led the nine of spades from dummy ... and ran it! This astonishing first-round finesse was required, as you will see, from the end position that arose.

A spade to the jack came next, and with six cards remaining Helgemo led the king of spades from his hand. West had three master cards in hearts and three in clubs, and had to find a discard on this round of trumps. Since North had three low hearts and South had three low clubs, whatever West did would prove fatal. If he discarded a heart, Helgemo would overtake the king of spades with dummy's ace. Then he would ruff a heart, ruff a club, ruff a heart, ruff a club, and dummy's last heart would be a winner at trick 13. If instead West threw a club, Helgemo would allow the king of spades to hold in his own hand. He would ruff a club, ruff a heart, ruff a club, ruff a heart, and his last club would be a winner at trick 13. An entry-shifting trump squeeze involving a seemingly unnecessary finesse in trumps – but if you follow the play of this incredible deal closely, you will see that the contract would have had no chance if declarer had cashed the ace of spades before leading through East's queen.” ●



Bridge Story

Source: https://www.bridgebum.com/joseph_bowne_elwell.php

The "Locked Room" Mystery : The Murder of Joseph Bowne Elwell

"Joseph Bowne Elwell, one of the greatest bridge players of the early 20th century, was shot to death in his Manhattan home on June 11, 1920. His housekeeper found him slumped in a chair, a bullet hole in his forehead. He was only 44.

The murder made national headlines because of Elwell's larger-than-life persona and the mysterious circumstances surrounding the crime. Elwell had been shot point-blank by a .45 revolver, yet the house was locked from the inside. The New York Times called it "among the most remarkable in the annals of crime in this country... The victim was not robbed, there was no struggle, no papers were disturbed, no one was seen to enter or leave the house after a quarter to 4 in the morning, when Elwell himself went in."

Police failed to find the murder weapon or even any witnesses. The killer was never apprehended.

Who exactly was J.B. or "Joe" Elwell? In bridge, the man was a giant. Elwell learned whist in his youth but adapted to auction bridge as an adult. He developed a reputation in New York City's money clubs as a consistent winner, and ultimately authored several books on the game. Elwell and his partner Harold Vanderbilt (for whom the ACBL's Vanderbilt Trophy is named) were considered the strongest American pair between 1910 - 1920. And Elwell's touch on the game can still be seen today. The "Elwell Double" bidding convention arises every now and then - a double of a 3NT contract that asks for a heart lead.

Talent evinced itself away from the bridge table as well. Elwell accumulated a fortune by investing in the stock market, and owned over 20 racehorses at the time of his death. ³ He was also infamously known as a ladies' man. Elwell's secretary claimed that he slept with "about fifty women, most of

them married." 4 Several of them reportedly had a key to his house - or perhaps it was a vengeful husband who came knocking that fateful night.

Elwell has been the inspiration for several fictional books, including "The Benson Murder Case" by S.S. Van Dine. He may have also been a model for Jay

Gatsby in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." Numerous books speculating on possible motives and suspects have also been penned. In his book "Bridge Axioms and Laws", Elwell ironically wrote: "Do not venture upon a post-mortem unless you are certain of what the scalpel is going to reveal."

Books by Joseph Bowne Elwell

- Advanced Bridge: The Higher Principles of the Game Analyzed and Explained (1905).
- Bridge: Its Principles and Rules of Play (1907).
- Bridge Axioms and Laws (1907).
- Practical Bridge: A Complete and Thorough Course of Instruction in the Game (1908).
- Auction Bridge: The Principles, Rules and Laws Stated, Explained, and Illustrated (1910).

The Elwell Double (Alertable)

Double used over auctions by the opponents, such as 1NT-3NT, 2NT-3NT or 1NT-2NT-3NT. to ask partner to lead a heart.

Two important things to remember: The Elwell Double never applies when the opponents have bid a suit, either naturally or artificially. Therefore, only notrump bids have been made. Second, your partnership hasn't bid either.

Elwell Doubler's hands:

♠ 74 ♥ AKQJ10 ♦ 543 ♣ 765

♠ AKQ103 ♥ A ♦ 8754 ♣ 432

Playing in No Trumps - SOLUTION

Where are you going to find the seven missing tricks?

In the three other suits, by knocking out their respective aces.

If the diamond length is with West as the lead shows, the contract seems to be in no danger.

What card do you play from dummy at trick 1?

Before deciding consider the inferences of the fourth best lead. Originally, this conventional lead was invented to help defenders, but declarer can also gather useful information – you subtract the numerical value of the card led from 11 and the total number of cards higher than the lead possessed by the other three hands. Therefore deduct 7 from 11 and you obtain the answer 4. Now you hold ace, king, jack and nine. East possesses no card higher than 7. Consequently, you must play 5 at trick 1. In this way you will simply give up three aces to the defence since you still retain three guard in the suit led initially.

The Full Deal

	♠	T98			
	♥	T94			
	♦	AKJ5			
	♣	JT2			
♠	A2	N	♠	7643	
♥	A65	W	E	♥ 8732	
♦	QT873	S	♣	♦ 6	
♣	A94			♣ 8753	
	♠	KQJ5			
	♥	KQJ			
	♦	942			
	♣	KQ6			

NB. It is easy to check that good defence will beat you if you play one of dummy's honours at trick 1. In effect you need knock out West's three aces but meanwhile the latter will have established two long diamonds.

Guiding Principle

Do not overlook the important information furnished by the lead of the fourth best, and refer to the Rule of 11. However, bear in mind that the card led will furnish different information according its numerical value:

A high card (6-8) will reveal the whereabouts of the outstanding honours in the suit.

A low card, with the lower cards visible will give indication of the distribution, probably four-card suit.

Bridge Top Tip

In a trump contract do not lead from an ace - high suit, unless the suit is headed by the ace and king.

In most cases declarer and dummy have the majority of points and an ace lead (unsupported by the king) is more likely to set up tricks for declarer than for your side.

As Ron Klinger says, "If you never lead from an ace-high suit in a trump contract for the rest of your life, you will enjoy more success than regret!"

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