

Sydney Bridge Centre Winter Congress Teams 2016

The secret formula: courage plus good methods.

by RAKESH KUMAR



Rakesh Kumar describes himself as an enthusiastic non-expert who makes enough errors to have plenty of material for bridge columns.

The Sydney Bridge Centre held its Winter Congress over 16/17 July. The Open Swiss Pairs was won by *Jane Dawson – Peter Gill*, while *Matt Smith – Lakshmi Sunderasan* finished less than 0.2 VPs behind! The Restricted Swiss Pairs was won quite comfortably by *Warren Robinson – Cheryl Henke*.

In the Open Teams, the winners' margin was more than comfortable: *Sophie Ashton – Sartaj Hans* teamed up with *Andrew Peake – Peter Gill* to finish more than 20 (yes, 20!!) VPs ahead of their closest rivals. In the Restricted Teams, the winners were *Matt Smith – Lakshmi Sunderasan* with *Anne Moase – Penny Rowe*.

There was plenty of interesting bridge, even for the rest of us. In these days of active overbidding, it seems everybody wants to overcall on any excuse, with suits that would make those of a generation ago shudder. A couple of hands revolved around dealing with such overcalls. Here was the first:

Board 3

Dealer S | Vul E-W

♠ 6
♥ AQT642
♦ T75
♣ 763

♠ AT4
♥ KJ9873
♦ 8
♣ J42

♠ J852
♥
♦ AQ963
♣ K985

♠ KQ973
♥ 5
♦ KJ42
♣ AQT

6
9 10
15

W	N	E	S
			1S
?			

would you overcall 2H if you were west?

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	1	2	-	1
S	1	-	2	-	1
E	-	-	-	1	-
W	-	-	-	1	-

After South's 1♠ opening, would you overcall 2♥ with the West hand, vulnerable against not? Many did, and most came to grief, often staggering up to the 3-level because partner felt the need to say something with 10 hcp and a void in the overcalled suit. As a result, among the 16 tables in the Open event, there were five East-West scores of -1100 and one of -800. Some of my partners would say these were richly deserved ...

Clockwise: 1st place in Open Pairs are Peter Gill and Jane Dawson with event organiser Will Jenner-O'Shea. Congratulations to Andrew Peake, Peter Gill, Sartaj Hans and Sophie Ashton who came first in Open Teams. Well done also to Matt Smith, Ann Moase, Penny Rowe and Lakshmi Sunderasan who won in the Restricted Teams. Warren Robinson and Cheryl Henke were the winners of Restricted Pairs.



Here was the second overcall of uncertain merit, although on this occasion at least the vulnerability was reversed:

Board 12

Dealer W | Vul N-S

♠ AJT52
♥ K
♦ AT8
♣ AQ63

♠ Q876
♥ A8
♦ 632
♣ KT87



♠ K9
♥ QT96542
♦ 5
♣ J94

♠ 43
♥ J73
♦ KQJ974
♣ 52

18
9 6
7

W	N	E	S
	1S	3H	P
P	X	P	?

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	2	5	—	3	4
S	2	5	—	3	4
E	—	—	1	—	—
W	—	—	1	—	—

Several Easts bids 3♥ over North's opening of 1♠, which consumed plenty of bidding space, as well as more or less putting paid to North-South reaching 3NT, even though this happens to be cold. South doesn't really have a bid over 3♥ but North is likely to re-open with a double. What should South do now? Although 5♦ is also cold, losing only a heart and a spade, this is very difficult to diagnose and only one NS pair bid to this contract. Another North-South pair did play in 3NT, so both of them scored +600. Otherwise, it was a partscore battle, with the next best result coming from passing the re-opening double, from which we collected +300. It isn't always necessary to have sure trump tricks to pass a re-opening double!

Slam bidding was, as usual, a source of swings. This was an interesting hand.

Board 14

Dealer E | Vul None

♠ AKQT32
♥ A5
♦ 75
♣ A92

♠ J985
♥ J
♦ JT32
♣ QT54



♠
♥ Q94
♦ KQ9864
♣ 8763

♠ 764
♥ KT87632
♦ A
♣ KJ

17
5 7
11

W	N	E	S
		P	1H
P	1S	P	2H
P	?		

How do you show extra length and strength?

	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	1	—	7	7	7
S	1	—	6	7	7
E	—	3	—	—	—
W	—	3	—	—	—

South opens 1♥ and North will usually respond 1♠. After the inevitable 2♥ rebid, what action will you take to show both extra length and a great deal of extra strength? How strong is a 3♠ rebid in your methods? Dealing with these problems obviously wasn't easy, because while 5 pairs reached 6♣ and another 3 reached 6♥, half the field played in game.

In the next match, there was another slam hand. However, only 6 pairs reached 6♣, while one pair reached 6NT.

Board 8

Dealer W | Vul None

♠ KJ4
♥ KJ
♦ 964
♣ AKJ53

♠ 6532
♥ AQT62
♦ 873
♣ 2



♠ T9
♥ 9854
♦ QJT52
♣ 76

♠ AQ87
♥ 73
♦ AK
♣ QT984

16
6 3
15

W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2C
P	3C	P	?

Lavings response showing 16-17Hcp with 5 card club suit

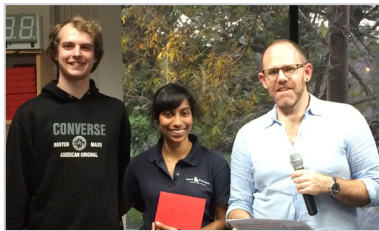
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
N	6	1	—	6	6
S	6	1	—	6	6
E	—	—	—	—	—
W	—	—	—	—	—

North will usually open 1NT. With my partner Julian Abel, I play a version of Lavings responses to 2♣, so when

he rebid 3♣ to show a 5-card club suit and 16-17 hcp, it was thought-provoking. However, because we had 31-32 hcp between us and no shortage, while my 2C bid had wrong-sided the contract if partner had ♥K rather than ♥A, I chickened out. And like so many others, we ended in 3NT, making overtricks.

The obvious conclusion is that courage + good methods = winning bids. Now if it really is that simple, why do we all have so much trouble getting the results we would like?? 📺

Photo Gallery



Matt Smith and Lakshmi Sunderasan won 2nd in the Open Pairs.



Erin Tewes and Brad Coles came 3rd in Open Pairs.



The Sydney Bridge Centre Pairs went to Helena Dawson and David Weston.



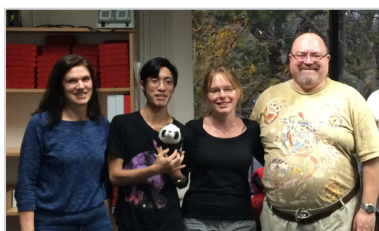
Will Jenner-O'Shea the CEO of Sydney Bridge Centre congratulated Gwen Rafferty and Jay Novak who won 2nd place in Restricted Pairs.



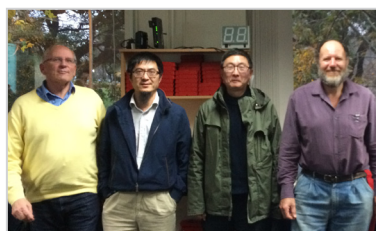
Tanya Renaud and Joanne Morgan came 3rd in the Restricted Pairs. Well done girls!



The Best Novice Pairs went to Bill Corcoran and Thomas Karsai.



2nd in Open Teams: Helena Dawson, Sebastian Yuen, Christy Geromboux and David Weston.



3rd place in Open Teams: Terry Bodycote, Yumin Li, Wayne Zhu and Paul Weaver.



The Sydney Bridge Centre Teams went to Maryann Campbell, Archie Fraser, Jean Schroeter and Helen Carmody.



2nd in Restricted Teams: John Rogers, Jennifer Ferguson, Jane Biscoe and Wing Roberts.



3rd place in Restricted Teams: Michael Chouefate, Liz Sylvester, Andrew Refshauge, Lindsay Scandrett.



The Best Novice Teams: Mary Poynten, Ruth Cowan, Angela Knight and Clare Ainsworth.