

Festiv(al) season *by Derrick Browne*

Each year, the Trumps Festival of Bridge runs from Boxing Day to the new year. It is used by many as a warm-up for the nation's premier series of events, the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra in mid-January.

One of the main events at the Trumps Festival is the Australian Bridge Teams, which was won by Dagmar Neumann, Margaret Bourke, Mauritz Van Der Vlugt and Nick Hughes.

N/NS	S AJ87		
	H KQT9742		
	D T		
	C 6		
S Q42		S KT97	
H C		H 3	
D AQJ97		D K2	
C A8732		C KQJT94	
	S 63		
	H AJ865		
	D 86543		
	C 5		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Mauritz	Espen	Nick	Helen
	1H	2C	4H
5C	5H	Pass	Pass
6C	All pass		

Espen Erichsen has won our National Open Teams in the past and is back for another go. His team includes three members of the Norwegian Team that won the World Championship in 2007 so he's favoured to do it again. He arrived at Christmas to play some events in the Trumps Festival, partnering his wife Helen.

Mauritz Van Der Vlugt was close to a stab at 6C first time but expected to get a second chance. When partner couldn't double 5H he bid one more, figuring 6C would be a good save if it failed.

Nick Hughes claimed 12 tricks as soon as dummy tracked. The bidding was identical at the other table but Ishmael Del'Monte won an Imp for his side by sneaking a spade past North's ace for +940.

Note that 6Hx escapes for -500 but it's tough to save at unfavourable vulnerability, especially when they had the chance to sell out to 5C.

Another major Trumps Festival event is the Pairs, won by Pam Fletcher and Betty Priestley. They scored an outright top when their opponents got overboard in 6S on this deal:

N/NS	S T3		
	H 987543		
	D T42		
	C 43		
S 9854		S AKQJ7	
H AJT62		H K	
D K8		D AQ76	
C T7		C QJ8	
	S 62		
	H Q		
	D J953		
	C AK9652		

On a non-club lead, there are 13 tricks available, with East discarding the club losers on West's hearts. Best defence, however, sees South cash the A-K of clubs and, seeing North's encouraging signal, lead a third round. Dummy ruffs high but not high enough to stop North from over-ruffing with the S10, holding the contract to ten tricks.