

How hard to push? by *Derrick Browne*

The Gold Coast congress held at Surfers in early March attracted a stellar international cast, as many of the world's top players participated in the big-money Yeh Cup which was held immediately beforehand.

Two teams of Australians made it to the final six at the Gold Coast. One was the Horwitz team which has been at the top of several recent Australian Championships. The other was the Giura team.

As Nicoleta Giura's partner and husband Nick Hughes comments, it takes particular bravery to sacrifice against a slam. You look silly if it turns out that their slam was failing. Out of 246 teams in the Gold Coast teams, there were 13 pairs who found this great save. Here was the bidding at Giura's table:

Dealer North, NS vul.

NORTH
S AKQT9752
H A5
D AT
C 4

WEST
S 863
H 3
D Q843
C K9852

EAST
S —
H J874
D J965
C AQJT6

SOUTH
S J4
H KQT962
D K72
C 73

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Hughes</i>	<i>Wyer</i>	<i>Giura</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
	2S	Dble	3H
4C	6S	All pass	

Paul Wyer and Tony Nunn were playing Acol Twos in the majors, whereby 2H and 2S show strong shapely hands. They would open 2D with a normal weak two.

East made a bold takeout double. The jump to 6S came as a shock – so much so that East passed quickly, thinking North had made a wild gamble. However, Paul Wyer had his bid with room to spare and was soon writing +1430 on the scorepad.

7Cx is an excellent save, particularly at favourable vulnerability. It rates to go for -500, since the defenders are unlikely to find their diamond ruff. That would have been worth a handy 14 IMPs.

Here is another tough competitive decision. Board 16 of the q/f of the NOT. You have:

S 2
H K8542
D J86
C AQ92

First seat opens 3S, pass, pass, to you. Again you are not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents. Should you act?

Al Simpson had this decision and reopened with a double. Just as well, because partner bid 4H, making, for what turned out to be a flat board.

Our final deal comes from a club game. Diane Wooster opened the West cards with a bid of 1S. North overcalled 2C, and East jumped to 3S. When South bid 5C, Diane had to decide her next action:

WEST	EAST
S AKQ876	S JT542
H KJT982	H Q43
D 5	D KQ2
C —	C 43

Massive fits and massive shape are usually the key indicators for aggressive competitive bidding, so Diane rightly tried 5S.

The brave North player, Barbara Huber, ventured a double. Disdaining a club lead from a suit headed by the A-K-Q, she instead led her DA! When this held, she switched to her singleton heart. Her partner won the HA and returned a heart for her to ruff, and that was the end of the contract, one down. An unlucky result for declarer.