

**Excerpts from Bulletin dated 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 of Australian Summer Nationals @ Canberra.**

**The Five Level**

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It's a well known adage that "the five level belongs to the opponents". The first round of the Seniors' play-offs provided a number of opportunities to test this dictum.

At the table where I watched Zoli Nagy (North) faced David Lilley while Ron Klinger (West) partnered David Hoffman.

**Deal (1)** :-See how you go on the first five level decision:

You (W) hold ♠ A Q 9 8 7 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 2 ♣ K Q 10 6 4

The auction commences

West	North	East	South
1♠	P	1♦	1♥
3♣	P	2♦	2♥
	3♥	4♣	P

And it's up to you. Which minor suit game do you try? Ron opted for 5♦ which was wrong on this layout:

<b>13</b>	♠ 6543 ♥ K98 ♦ 84 ♣ 9852	<i>Dir: N</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>
♠ AQ987 ♥ 7 ♦ 102 ♣ KQ1064		♠ ♥ QJ5 ♦ KQJ963 ♣ AJ73
	♠ KJ102 ♥ A106432 ♦ A75 ♣	♣♦♥♠NT N - - 2 1 - S - - 2 1 - E 5 3 - - 2 W 5 3 - - 2
3 11 14 12		

In 5♣, the defence can't get more than one heart trick to go with the ♦A but in 5♦, there aren't enough trumps in dummy – particularly when David Lilley led a trump.

**Deal (2)** :-Take Ron's chair again on this one.

♠ 3 ♥ A Q J 4 3 2 ♦ K 8 ♣ A 7 6 3

The auction:

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	P	P
4♥	4♠	3♥	P
		P	5♦

You are not vulnerable against non-vul opponents. Do you sacrifice or defend? Ron bid 5♥ which David doubled. The whole deal was:

<b>2</b>	♠ AJ82 ♥ ♦ AQJ10763 ♣ 85	<i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i>
♠ 3 ♥ AQJ432 ♦ K8 ♣ A763		♠ 109764 ♥ K965 ♦ 52 ♣ Q4
	♠ KQ5 ♥ 1087 ♦ 94 ♣ KJ1092	♣♦♥♠NT N 3 6 - 4 - S 3 6 - 4 - E - - 3 - - W - - 3 - -
12 14 5 9		

As can be seen, North/South can, in fact, make the diamond slam with the help of two minor suit finesses and they will certainly make a vulnerable game. Although 5♥x can go two off, Zoli led the ♦A and now Ron was able to keep the damage to -100.

**Deal (3):**--Then it was David Lilley's turn at the five level.

He held a very attractive:

♠ 2 ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ 10 7 6 5 4 ♣ 9 6 3

Which he passed as dealer. Ron opened 1♥ and Zoli overcalled 2NT for the minors. 3♠ from David Newman and it was David L's decision. He shot straight off to 5♦

This will only cost 300 against the 650 available to East/West in a major suit game but David Hoffman got his five level decision right as well when he offered 5♥. Ron "corrected" to 5♠ - not that the correction mattered on

<b>3</b>		♠ K109 ♥ ♦ AKJ82 ♣ QJ852	<i>Dir: S</i> <i>Vul: E-W</i>
♠ QJ7 ♥ Q10962 ♦ 93 ♣ AK10		♠ A86543 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ Q ♣ 74	
14 12 14 0	♠ 2 ♥ 8743 ♦ 107654 ♣ 963		♣♦♥♠NT N 1 3 - - - S 1 3 - - - E - - 5 5 2 W - - 5 5 2

**Deal (4):**--The very next board offered David L. Another shot at the five level but this time he refused to go there.

<b>4</b>		♠ AJ985 ♥ Q ♦ J765 ♣ J102	<i>Dir: W</i> <i>Vul: Both</i>
♠ KQ1032 ♥ 10984 ♦ 842 ♣ 4		♠ 74 ♥ J52 ♦ Q10 ♣ KQ9763	
9 5 8 18	♠ 6 ♥ AK763 ♦ AK93 ♣ A85		♣♦♥♠NT N 3 6 5 4 5 S 3 6 5 4 5 E - - - - - W - - - - -

After three passes, David opened 1♥ which drew a 1♠ response from Zoli. David's 2♦ rebid was raised to 3 by Zoli and David had to decide. 5♦? Not this time, he bid the **nine trick game** and, with the diamond position being so favourable, wrapped up eleven tricks in jig time.