



*Zara Chowdhury, Diya Shah, Lauren Morgan, Jasmine Skeate, Anne Davey, Kate Macdonald and npc Lauren Travis*

## **The 8th World Youth Team Championships**

### Lauren Travis

This year's Australian Under 26 Women's team comprised six young women aged 16 to 25 with bridge careers between one and eight years long, all competing in their first international event. Only one player had participated in any sort of 'high-pressure' bridge, having played two Youth ANC finals. What better way to complete the team than with a first-time non-playing captain?

Although the team was ratified by the ABF, our team was not subsidised to attend the World Youth Transnational Championships in Wroclaw, Poland in July. So began several months of fundraising. The level of support from the Australian bridge community was incredible, with events in Queensland, South Australia and ACT, as well as generous donations from across the country, helping to cover our costs. Words cannot express our gratitude for the financial assistance, words of encouragement and belief from everyone.

*... continued on page 8*



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Front cover photo:  
 Australian under-26 women's team

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**IMPROVE  
 YOUR  
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 with  
**Ron Klinger**  
*Solution on page 27*

**Dealer South, North-South vulnerable.**

♠ Q J 6 2  
 ♥ K Q J 2  
 ♦ 8 3  
 ♣ K J 9

♠ A K 7 4  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ Q 9  
 ♣ Q 10 8 5 4 3



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♣	4♥	all pass	1♥

West leads the ♠A: two - eight - three. Your agreement on signaling on partner's lead is 'low encourage'. What would you play at trick two?





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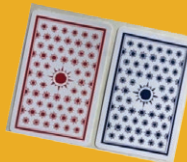
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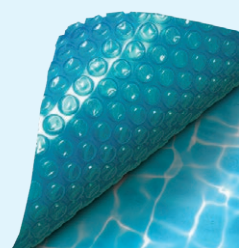
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# David Fryda

Executive Director

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A relatively short article from me this time as you will find another submission from me later in the newsletter regarding the ABF's financial situation. I encourage you to read through that lengthy article and contact me if you have any questions.

Some of you would be aware that I have lived in Orange for the past three years. My wife Cate and I were among the masses of people who escaped city life (in Sydney) during COVID. We love living in Orange and an added bonus was that it had been selected by the NSW Bridge Association to host their next ANC. Originally planned for 2021, before I moved here, it finally happened in July! I would like to extend my thanks to the organisers, echoing the sentiments of the vast majority of attendees. Running a bridge tournament is never easy and Rob Ward and his team did a marvelous job under extenuating circumstances.

We have some more gold point events coming up in the next few months. The highly popular Coffs Coast Congress is in August and Darwin is hosting this year's Territory Gold at the end of August. For those of you living in Perth or fancy a visit there we have the Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Pairs in August and the HGR Memorial Congress in September. And in October there's the Canberra in Bloom Congress at the beginning of the month and the Spring Nationals in Sydney starting on the 19th.

If you prefer not to travel then I encourage you to put together a team from your local club and participate in the third Club Teams Knockout online event that starts in August and runs through until December. There's more details regarding that event on MYABF and in this newsletter.

Over recent months, when I have had the opportunity, I have been encouraging bridge players to

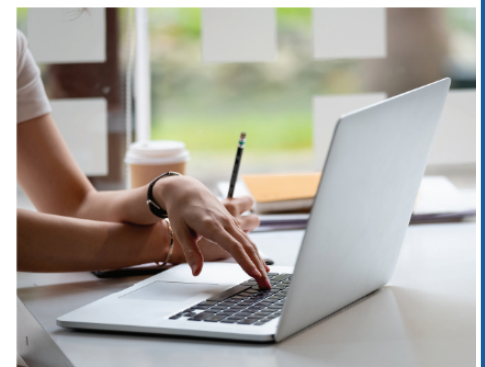
invite ex-players to return to the bridge table. I am sure that we all know of people who used to play at our club that for a variety of reasons have let their membership lapse. We all know what a great game bridge is so it would be wonderful if you could all invite someone for a game to get them hooked again!

For clubs that are interested in running a campaign to target getting those players back, I recently contacted all clubs to let them know that the ABF has produced a "lapsed player toolkit" which has a broad range of resources that can help them with this endeavour. If you would like more information regarding these resources then please contact me via the email address at the top of this page.

Finally, since our last newsletter, the ABF's long-term secretariat, Jane Rasmussen, has commenced her retirement. I would like to formally thank Jane on your behalf for her service to the ABF and bridge players throughout the country. We wish Jane many happy years of retirement and hope to see her at the bridge table soon.



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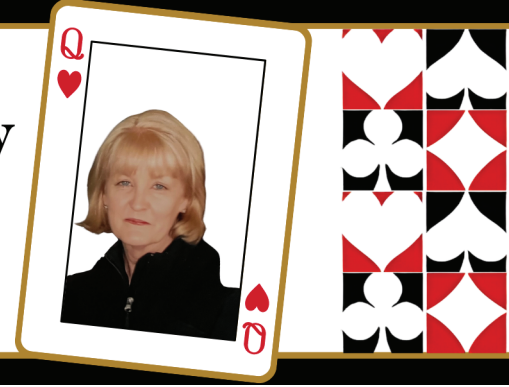


# Allison Stralow

President

✉ president@abf.com.au

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The 84<sup>th</sup> Australian National Championships were held in July in Orange NSW. This was only the second time the event has been held outside of a capital city and what a great success it was. Congratulations to the Gang of Four, Rob Ward, Anne Tonna, Murray Paterson and Matt McManus, and the team of helpers for the many hours, over several years, they put into the planning and running of this event. The Central West Festival, sponsored by Stepbridge, was well supported not only by interstate visitors but also many local players from Mudgee, Dubbo, Bathurst, Cowra, Parkes and of course Orange. This gold point Festival will be held again from 9-13 April 2025.

It may have been cold outside in Orange, but the competition at the table was electric. A special mention must go to the New South teams who dominated the teams' events, winning the Open, Women's and Seniors. Also, to Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies, who celebrated 50 years of sponsorship to the ANC, Steve Weil and TBIB who sponsored the Butler events and look after our travel Insurance, Fixed Income Solutions and the many local businesses who supported the event.

The ANC is an important event on the ABF Calendar as it draws players of all ages together to enjoy not only the competitive nature of the game but also the social aspect. This year the ages spanned 90 years. Oliver Brayshaw who played in the WA youth team

is 11 years old, and Gwenda Garde, a stalwart of the Orange Bridge Club who played in the Central West Festival, is 101 years old! Testament that bridge is a fun and challenging game enjoyed by players of all ages. I look forward to the 2025 ANC in Brisbane from 6-17 July.

Two Australian U26 teams competed at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Youth Championships in Wroclaw, Poland. The Under 26 Women's Team (Anne Davey, Lauren Morgan, Diya Shah, Zara Chowdhury, Jasmine Skeate and Kate Macdonald) finished 4<sup>th</sup> and the Under 26 Open Team (Tomer Libman, Bertie Morgan, Lara Topper, Alex Goss, Jack Luke-Paredi and George Bartley) finished 9<sup>th</sup>. Jack Luke-Paredi and George Bartley were 4<sup>th</sup> in the Open Pairs and Jasmine Skeate and Kate Macdonald finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the U26 Women's Pairs final. A bright future awaits them all. A huge thank you to the non-playing captains Lauren Travis and Mike Doecke.

Included in this newsletter is a lengthy article regarding increases in the ABF's fees being introduced next year and our investment in the myABF platform. I urge everyone to read this article and encourage all clubs to embrace the opportunities that myABF will provide to simplify club administration and improve player experience.

The best of bridge to you all.

## BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, [plavings@gmail.com](mailto:plavings@gmail.com)

*Solutions on page 15*

### YOUR ACTION WHEN YOUR PARTNER OVERCALLS

What would you call on the following hands, neither side vulnerable? East's 1♠ bid shows 5+ spades.

WEST (1♣)	NORTH 1♥	EAST (1♠)	SOUTH ?	
1. ♠ 7 6 5 3   ♥ K 5   ♦ K 8 6 2   ♣ 8 4 3				5. ♠ 4 3   ♥ K J 7   ♦ A Q J 6   ♣ 6 5 3 2
2. ♠ 6 5   ♥ K 10 5   ♦ Q 8 6 4   ♣ K 7 5 3				6. ♠ 8 2   ♥ K J 3 2   ♦ A Q 10   ♣ J 8 3 2
3. ♠ Q 10 3   ♥ 10 9 3   ♦ 8 7 4 3   ♣ K J 2				7. ♠ 5 4   ♥ K J 8 6   ♦ 8 7 5 2   ♣ 7 6 4
4. ♠ 10 9   ♥ K 2   ♦ Q J 9 8 6 5   ♣ 7 5 2				8. ♠ 7   ♥ K 10 7 6 4   ♦ 7 4 2   ♣ 10 8 6 3
				9. ♠ 9 2   ♥ Q 10 8 7   ♦ K 7 5   ♣ K 7 5 3
				10. ♠ 8 6   ♥ K J 5 4   ♦ A Q J 8 7   ♣ 6 2



# The 8th World Youth Team Championships

Lauren Travis

*continued from page 1*



We were also privileged to have experts including Phil Markey, Nick Jacob, Liam Milne, Barbara Travis, Kate McCallum, Renee Cooper, Nabil Edgton and Sartaj Hans donate their time to provide training sessions for both youth teams throughout this year. The wisdom gained from these ranged from “eat two punnets of blueberries per day” to “bid a lot at favourable vulnerability” and “trump leads are right more often than you’d think”.

Heading into the tournament, we had (unspoken) realistic expectations of finishing somewhere around sixth to eighth out of ten teams. The first match drove home our team’s inexperience with a brutal 0.04-19.96 VP loss to a Danish/Norwegian transnational team. Thankfully, the girls bounced back brilliantly, with this deal settling Diya Shah’s nerves as she realised the opponents weren’t infallible:

## Round 2: Australia 53 def Maia 17.

### Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

♠ Q J 6 ♥ A Q J 2 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ K 8 2	♠ K 5 ♥ 6 5 4 3 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ Q J 10 9	♠ A 9 8 7 3 2 ♥ 10 7 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 7 5 3	♠ 10 4 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ J 10 9 6 5 ♣ A 6 4
--	---	---	--

WEST Zara	NORTH	EAST Diya	SOUTH
			pass
1NT	dbl	2♥	3♣
3♥	pass	3♠	pass
pass	dbl	all pass	

North and South provided different explanations for the double of 1NT, resulting in East transferring and West believing the 2♥ bid was natural. Zara competed to the three-level then trusted Diya’s correction to 3♠ which was doubled by a very aggressive North. Diya managed the play well to make 11 tricks. +1130 was not a bad score to bring back on her third board of international bridge!

We had a spectacular run of wins from matches 2 to 8, rising to second in the rankings and locked into the top four with one match left against the first-placed Poland 1 team.

In the final match of the qualifying round robin, Kate Macdonald displayed excellent skill declaring this 6NT contract:

## Round 9: Australia 46 def Poland 21.

### Board 16. Dealer West. East-West vulnerable.

♠ 7 5 4 ♥ 10 8 5 4 2 ♦ J 10 7 6 ♣ 6	♠ K 10 9 ♥ K 6 ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ 10 5 4 3
♠ A 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 3 ♦ K 9 ♣ A K Q 2	♠ Q J 8 6 ♥ J 7 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ J 9 8 7

The ♠5 lead, ducked to the ♠J and ♠K. Kate had 12 top tricks provided clubs broke 3-2... which of course they didn’t. However, she proceeded to cash the ♣AKQ, ♥AKQ and ♦AKQ, stripping South of all her low clubs and red cards, before exiting with a low club in this position:

♠ 7 4 ♥ — ♦ J ♣ —	♠ 10 9 ♥ — ♦ 5 ♣ —
♠ Q 8 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J	♠ A 3 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 2

South won the club and had to lead a spade away from the queen. Interestingly, the contract is cold



on any layout once North has a singleton club, as they will be squeezed by four rounds of clubs. Kate gained a well-deserved 17 imps for her thoughtful play, contributing to a big win against Poland 1 and a sense of belief in the team as we headed into the four-team round-robin final.

Unfortunately, the final brought us crashing back down to Earth as we were annihilated by Poland 1, France and Poland 2, dashing our hopes of bringing home a medal. For me, the highlight of the day was watching Anne Davey execute a very cute play to gain an imp against Poland 1:

**Final, Round 3: Poland 73 def Australia 1.  
Board 8. Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.**

♠ K J 9 7  
♥ 9 7 6 5  
♦ J 5  
♣ K 10 2

♠ A Q 6 4 3  
♥ A K 10  
♦ A Q 8  
♣ 8 5

♠ 10 5  
♥ Q J 8 4  
♦ 10 7 6 2  
♣ J 4 3

♠ 8 2  
♥ 3 2  
♦ K 9 4 3  
♣ A Q 9 7 6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Anne		Lauren	
1♠	pass	pass	2♣
dbl	pass	2♠	all pass

The opponents began with three rounds of clubs with Anne ruffing the third. She played ♥A, ♥K and another heart, which ruffed by South who exited with a low diamond to Anne's ♦Q. Anne now snuck a small spade to dummy's ten, cashed the ♥Q pitching her low diamond, and played a diamond to her ace. The three-card ending was

♠ K J 9  
♥ —  
♦ —  
♣ —

♠ A Q 6  
♥ —  
♦ —  
♣ —

♠ 5  
♥ —  
♦ 10 7  
♣ —

♠ —  
♥ —  
♦ K 9  
♣ 9

Anne unerringly exited her ♠6 to trap North into giving her the final two tricks.

Despite the disappointing ending to the teams event, these young women exceeded all expectations in qualifying for the final. It was an absolute pleasure to captain them and I'm confident this experience has only made them more determined to succeed next time. Well done to Diya Shah, Zara Chowdhury, Kate Macdonald, Jasmine Skeate, Anne Davey and Lauren Morgan – watch out for their names in the future!



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# Regional NSW hosts the ANC Teams

## Josh Tomlin

This year the Australian National Championships were held in Orange which, despite being difficult to get to and having frosted over mornings, was a lovely scenic town with a nice communal feel. This ANC has been a long time in the making. It was originally planned for 2021 but was cancelled due to COVID. The cards even had nice artwork with "ANC and Butler, Orange 2021" written on their backs.

I was playing on the SA Youth team with Jamie Simpson, Fletcher Davey, Seb Redin and brothers Anton and Gregor Forstal-Rohal. Anton and Gregor are only 15 and 13 years old. Anton played the ANC last year, but Gregor only picked up the game at the start of the year! Seb started learning less than two years ago but this was his first time playing a major tournament. Fletcher has been around the block but hadn't played bridge for the past two years, so we dragged him out of retirement to join the team. The team put in countless hours of work leading up to the event, giving up their Friday nights to practice and playing in every local congress I could enter them in. Their efforts were well-rewarded and we took home the gold medal.

### The qualifying rounds

#### Round 2: South Australia vs NSW.

##### Board 19. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

♠ A Q 10 9 5	♠ 8 3
♥ 9 5 3	♥ A J 8 6
♦ 6 3 2	♦ A J 9 8
♣ 7 6	♣ T 9 3
♠ K J 7 6 4 2	♠ —
♥ Q 10 2	♥ K 7 4
♦ 4	♦ K Q 10 7 5
♣ J 8 2	♣ A K Q 5 4

WEST	NORTH Redin	EAST	SOUTH Tomlin
2♠ all pass	pass	pass	1♦ dbl

My partner Seb Redin found an excellent opportunity to go after the opponents. Credit to him for passing in tempo. He led the ♦2 to the ace and declarer ran the ♠8 to his nine. Another round of diamonds was ruffed and declarer tried the heart finesse to my king. I cashed three rounds of clubs on which Seb pitched a diamond, then I played a fourth round of clubs, letting Seb score his ♠5 when declarer pitched a heart. Seb exited a heart and declarer could have ruffed a heart now to get out for down three. Instead he played a spade, allowing Seb to score his ♠10 and then exit his last heart, endplaying declarer to score his ace-queen of trumps as well. After the dust had settled we had 1100 and Seb scored all five of his trumps!

#### Round 9: South Australia vs Queensland.

##### Board 13. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 10 3	♠ A 6 2
♥ A Q 9 8 6	♥ 4 3
♦ 5 3 2	♦ K Q 10 9
♣ 9 5 2	♣ A Q 10 3
♠ Q J 7 5	♠ K 9 8 4
♥ K 2	♥ J 10 7 5
♦ J 8	♦ A 7 6 4
♣ K J 8 6 4	♣ 7

After East-West had a Stayman auction to 3NT, I guessed the right major to lead and put the ♥J on the table. We took the first six tricks for two down.

The other table had the same auction but South led the ♦4 instead. Jamie Simpson won the ♦Q in hand and confidently played a heart to the king!

If the ♥K held, he was going to try the spade finesse for his ninth trick. However when North won the ♥A, the defence naturally played two more rounds of diamonds and Jamie took his nine tricks.

You may argue that the defence should know to keep playing hearts after East has denied a major, but psychologically speaking it is very difficult to return the suit declarer is playing on.

Of course, playing a heart at trick two gives up on the legitimate chance that the ♥A is onside (and the ♠K offside), so it takes guts to make a play like this. Again, if the ♥K wins and the spade finesse loses, the defence will still be hard-pressed to find a heart shift.

**Round 10: South Australia vs Victoria.**  
**Board 27. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.**

♠ 10 8 3  
 ♥ A J 9 8 4  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ J 9 8 6 3

♠ A J 9 6  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ A 8 6 2  
 ♣ K Q 10 4

♠ K Q 7 5  
 ♥ 10 7 6 2  
 ♦ 5 4 3  
 ♣ 7 2

♠ 4 2  
 ♥ K Q 3  
 ♦ K Q J 10 9 7  
 ♣ A 5

WEST	NORTH Redin	EAST	SOUTH Tomlin
pass	2♦	pass	1NT
pass	2NT	pass	2♥
all pass			4♥

With three top black suit losers, I figured it was going to be difficult to establish dummy's clubs and not lose a third spade trick. So I went after establishing my secret weapon. I won the ♣K lead with the ♣A and played the ♦K. I was relieved when this was covered and ruffed, but less happy when I played the ♥A and the ♥K to find the 4-1 split. More work to do!

I stopped drawing trumps, leaving the ♥Q as an entry to my hand, and played high diamonds pitching spades from dummy. East ruffed the fourth round and played a club to his partner's queen, who played a spade. With dummy now void in spades, I could ruff this and play the ♣J through East. They ruffed with their last trump, but I overruffed and claimed 11 tricks, pitching dummy's last two clubs on my two top diamonds.

**Round 13: South Australia vs ACT.**  
**Board 14. Dealer East. Neither side vulnerable.**

♠ 9  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ K 9 6 5 4 2  
 ♣ A Q 10 8 4

♠ Q 7 3 2  
 ♥ 3 2  
 ♦ A J 10 7  
 ♣ K 9 6

♠ K J 10  
 ♥ 10 9 5 4  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ J 7 5 3 2

♠ A 8 6 5 4  
 ♥ A K J 8 7 6  
 ♦ Q 8  
 ♣ —

WEST	NORTH Redin	EAST	SOUTH Tomlin
dbl	2♦	pass	1♥
pass	3NT	pass	2♠
all pass		pass	4♥

West led the ♠2 to the king and ace. Ruffing a spade immediately with the ♥Q didn't look appealing since it was likely to set up a trump trick for the defence, so I went for the Morton's Fork play of a low diamond towards the king, giving West a dilemma. I was hoping that they would duck, so I could pitch my second diamond on the ♣A, ruff a club, ruff a spade, ruff a club, then exit in spades enough times to hopefully score my ♥8 as well. That would have left me scoring six trump tricks in my hand, two black aces, a diamond and a spade ruff.

However, West accurately hopped up with the ♦A. The winning double dummy defence now is to give East a diamond ruff, who can return a trump and leave me with too many spade losers in my hand. Instead, West naturally played a trump to dummy's queen. I ruffed a club back to hand and drew trumps, leaving this ending:

♠ —  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ K 9 6  
 ♣ A Q 10 8

♠ Q 7 3  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ J 10  
 ♣ K 9

♠ J 10  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ J 7 5 3

♠ 8 6 5 4  
 ♥ J 8  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ —

Having only lost the ♦A, I needed five more tricks. On the ♥J, West let go a spade, so I unblocked the ♦Q and exited a spade, waiting for the opponents to give me access to dummy's two winners to deal with my last two spades. At the time I thought the spade pitch was an error, but it turns out that West was squeezed in three suits. West can't afford to pitch a card in the minors since I can overtake the ♦Q with the ♦K to gain access to any established winners.

At the end of the qualifying we were headed to play Victoria in the final for the third year in a row. The Seniors had NSW qualifying first with a substantial 126 VP lead over second place SA. The women's was reversed with SA qualifying first over NSW. The standings for the Open section were not clear until the final board. NSW had a huge lead over the field, but SA was 0.3 VP behind second place Victoria going into the last board of the NSW-VIC match. I was rooting for SA, and fortunately enough NSW



won a game swing on the last board to let SA sneak into the final over Victoria. For the second year in a row, SA had made the final in every section.

### The final

#### Board 4. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

<p>♠ 8 ♥ K J 7 6 2 ♦ K Q J 8 ♣ A K 3</p>	<p>♠ K J 3 2 ♥ — ♦ A 9 4 3 ♣ Q 10 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 9 7 6 5 ♥ Q 10 ♦ 7 6 5 2 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ A 4 ♥ A 9 8 5 4 3 ♦ 10 ♣ J 9 5 4</p>
<p>WEST Davey 1♥</p>	<p>NORTH Sieredzinski dbl</p>	<p>EAST Simpson all pass</p>	<p>SOUTH Watkins</p>

Usually six trumps and a couple of aces is enough to penalise at the one-level, but today it wasn't. Davey won the club lead, ruffed a club, then exited with the ♥Q. South couldn't draw Fletcher's trumps, so he had to sit back and watch him take two high clubs, a club ruff in dummy, the ♥KJ and two heart ruffs in his own hand for +160. On the hand, the only killing defence is to lead a spade to South's ace, so he can draw dummy's trumps and prevent the club ruff.

At the other table, our auction was

<p>WEST Clifford 1♥ pass</p>	<p>NORTH Forster-Rohal dbl 3♣</p>	<p>EAST Wright 2♠ all pass</p>	<p>SOUTH Tomlin dbl</p>
--	---	--	---------------------------------

I made a "takeout" double of 2♠ with the hope that partner would pass it with his assumed four-card spade suit. Not as bloodthirsty as myself, partner decided to bid 3♣. This was a fine spot where he managed nine tricks for 7 imps in.

After four sets, we had built a 56-imp lead with 12 boards to go. Nothing disastrous happened in the final stanza, and when I came out three of the four matches were decided. NSW got out to an early lead in the Open and Seniors and won convincingly, and we had won our match by a comfortable margin. The Women however had been back and forth all day.

With one table already finished play, NSW were down 14 imps as the penultimate board arrived (see top of next column). 4♥ is an excellent contract, but careless declarer play could result in down two. For example, if trumps are drawn before the clubs are established, South can lock declarer out of dummy's club winners by ducking one round. The most accurate way to play the hand is to cash the ♥AK first,

#### Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

<p>♠ 2 ♥ A K 8 7 5 3 ♦ K Q 8 4 ♣ J 4</p>	<p>♠ A K J 10 8 5 4 ♥ J ♦ 9 7 3 ♣ 8 3</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 3 ♥ Q 6 4 ♦ 10 2 ♣ K Q 10 7 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 ♥ 10 9 2 ♦ A J 6 5 ♣ A 9 6 5</p>
<p>WEST Leibowitz 1♥</p>	<p>NORTH Demarco 3♠</p>	<p>EAST Jacob 4♥</p>	<p>SOUTH Morgan-King pass all pass</p>

then establish the clubs while the ♥Q is still intact as an entry.

Fortunately for NSW fans, 4♥ made ten tricks. At the other table, North-South got to play in 3♠ down one for 11 imps in. The margin was now down to 3 imps going into the final board.

#### Board 24. Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

<p>♠ 8 ♥ Q J 10 2 ♦ Q 10 9 2 ♣ J 8 6 4</p>	<p>♠ A K J 10 9 7 4 ♥ 6 5 4 3 ♦ 8 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ K 8 7 ♦ A 7 6 4 3 ♣ K Q 9 5</p>	<p>♠ 6 5 3 2 ♥ A 9 ♦ K J 5 ♣ A 7 3 2</p>
<p>WEST Leibowitz pass 5♥</p>	<p>NORTH Demarco 3♠ all pass</p>	<p>EAST Jacob dbl</p>	<p>SOUTH Morgan-King 4♠</p>

After the 3♠ preempt, it was not clear to anyone at the table who was bidding to make and who was sacrificing. On the hand it turns out EW were sacrificing in their seven-card at the five-level! This went four off and with no double there was no trouble, only -200. At the other table their teammates played in 4♠ bringing back +450 and 6 imps to narrowly win the final in exciting fashion!

Congratulations to the NSW Women, Seniors and Open teams and commiserations to the respective SA teams. Shout out to the Victoria Youth team for a well-played match, and congratulations again to my teammates for their well-earned victory.

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# BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



## YOUR ACTION WHEN YOUR PARTNER OVERCALLS

See page 7 for the ten problem hands.

What would you call on each of those hands, neither side vulnerable? East's 1♠ bid shows 5+ spades.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
(1♣)	1♥	(1♠)	?

## SOLUTIONS

1. Double. Recommended to show a top honour in the overcaller's suit, ace, king or queen. If your side knows what to lead, or what not to lead, before the auction is over, you have done very well indeed.

There are many variations and possible meanings for this double or redouble which was invented by the Mexican player George Rosenkranz. A popular version is that you must always double with a top honour but I prefer that the single raise may or may not have a top honour.

2. 2♥. A raise with three trumps and 6-10 HCP. Time and again I see players make a single raise to 2♥ in this and similar situations with four-card support. With a nine-card fit you want to be at the three-level as soon as possible in competitive auctions to take away the opponent's space, so keep the single raise to three-card support. With good hands you want to conserve space and with weak hands you want to take away space.

3. Pass. It would be poor tactics to offer a 2♥ raise on this hand. All your high cards are in the wrong place and you don't want a heart lead. Also, partner may now compete to 3♥, 4♥ or even 5♥.

If your RHO had passed over 1♥ you would be more inclined to raise to 2♥. Now the opponents have exchanged much less information and you have much more to gain by taking away their space.

4. 2♦. When this situation arose the player meekly passed and the opponents were allowed to play in 2♠ scoring +110. If you bid 2♦ now partner will often compete with 3♦ and your side scores +110, or +50 if opponents compete to 3♠. Though only 6 HCP you have a good hand with a healthy six-card suit and the king of partner's suit.

5. 2♣. You are too strong for a raise to 2♥ so cuebid to show 10+ HCP, presumably with exactly three hearts. Why cue 2♣ and not 2♠?

Saving space is vital in competitive auctions and the lower cuebid is an obvious choice.

6. 3♣. A battle between hearts and spades at the four-level looms and you need to make as precise a bid as possible. A 5-4 fit is much stronger than a 5-3 fit and 3♣ shows a good raise (10+) with 4+ support. Your side may need to bid to 5♥ and the knowledge of the 5-4 fit may be the key to partner making the correct decision at the four-level.

7. 3♥. Showing 0-6 HCP with 4+ support. With nine trumps your side is relatively safe at the three-level so bid at once to the level of your fit.

TNT, or the Law of Total Tricks, is very accurate at low levels – the total number trumps the two sides hold equals the total number of tricks the two sides can make. If both sides have a nine-card fit then the TNT is 18, and likely both sides make nine tricks or one side makes ten tricks and the other eight.

8. 4♥. Typically 4♥ is 0-6 HCP with five-card support and a singleton, or perhaps 5-4-2-2. With ten trumps between you and a suitable hand put maximum pressure on the opponents. Never worry you might push opponents to 4♠, think more that you are making them guess.

9. 2NT. 6-10 HCP with four-card heart support, occasionally five-card support.

Using 2NT this way makes everything fit together. Now the preemptive raise of 3♥ is limited from 0 to a bad 6 HCP and the single raise to 2♥ is always three-card support.

With 2NT as 6-10 with four-card support the overcaller has the space to make a trial bid if they are in the invitational range. 2NT is rarely used as natural bid and you can easily cue 2♣ and then bid 2NT with something like,

♠ A Q 5   ♥ J 7   ♦ K 8 7 5   ♣ K 10 9 5 .

10. 3♦. A fit-showing jump showing a good diamond suit and support for partner's overcall. The question is does 3♦ show three-card support, four-card support, or either.

In their outstanding 1993 book, *Partnership Bidding at Bridge – The Contested Auction* by Andrew Robson and Oliver Segal, the authors tell us the fit-showing jump is best with four-card support. Look no further.



# A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

[www.bridgeatbeaumont.com](http://www.bridgeatbeaumont.com)

A recent game generated heaps of interesting hands. Let's start with:

♠ 3 2    ♥ A K Q 10 7 3    ♦ A    ♣ K Q 10 2

Your RHO opens 1♦. At the table, partner overcalled 1♥. The problem was, if LHO had passed, he would have played in 1♥. Would you be happy to be passed in 1♥, or would you think you may have missed game?

If your hand is good enough that you think you may miss game if you overcall at the one-level, then you should start with a double. Whilst doubles normally show at least three cards in each unbid suit, they can also be used on hands that are simply too strong to make your normal overcall, as in the hand above.

Fortunately for partner (East), the auction proceeded:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
pass	2♦	3♥	pass
4♥	all pass		

I held:

♠ K 9 8 7    ♥ 9 8    ♦ 8 7 2    ♣ A 7 5 3

Partner could have started with a double, then corrected my response to 2♥ or even 3♥ (stronger hand). With the decent values I held, I would raise to 4♥. That is a typical hand, and auction, for a 'big double'.

The next hand proved very awkward, validating the need to overcall (and preemptive overcalls can be even more damaging). I held:

♠ 6 3    ♥ A K 10 9 4 3    ♦ A    ♣ J 6 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♥	2♠	1♦	1♠
?		pass	pass

I had already shown five hearts with the 2♥ bid, but what now? Sometimes one can use the cuebid of their suit (3♠ here) to create a game forcing auction, but that isn't likely to help partner on this hand. I decided just to bid 4♥. Practical bids appeal to me, especially when there are rebid problems, as we both had.

Partner's hand was:

♠ J 4 2    ♥ Q    ♦ K 9 7 6 4 3    ♣ A Q 8

When the ♥J fell doubleton, I was able to establish the diamond suit for eleven tricks. Whilst others bid and made 4♥, one still has to think about overtricks!

Your RHO opens 1♠ (or even 2♠). What would you bid with:

♠ 8    ♥ K J 7 6    ♦ A Q J    ♣ A 10 8 6 2

My personal preference is to make a takeout double, rather than bidding 2♣. I would overcall that suit if I was able to bid it at the one-level, but I am of the firm belief that when you make an overcall at the two-level, your suit should have quality to it, unless you have extra length (6+ cards). This club suit in no way meets my two-level overcall suit standards! Double, on the other hand, works perfectly.

The reason your suit, in particular a minor suit, should have quality at the two-level is that, if your side belongs in game, most often that game will be 3NT. And for 3NT to make, you need the suit to provide the tricks partner is expecting/hoping for.



This was an interesting hand, played in a spade part-score.

	♠ 9 5 2		
	♥ K J 9 6		
	♦ K Q J 5		
	♣ Q 9		
♠ 4 3		♠ A Q J 8 7 6	
♥ Q 3		♥ A 10 8	
♦ 8 6 4		♦ 10	
♣ K 10 8 7 6 2		♣ A J 3	
	♠ K 10		
	♥ 7 5 4 2		
	♦ A 9 7 3 2		
	♣ 5 4		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♦	1♠	double
pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
pass	pass	3♠	all pass

The hand was not played optimally, but is an interesting 'play lesson' hand, demonstrating what can be achieved by careful card play.

Two rounds of diamonds were led, declarer trumping the second round. Now you should lead the ♣J to dummy – starting to unblock the suit – so you can take the trump finesse. South wins the ♠K and you win whatever they return. You can now draw trumps, cash your ♣A and, when the clubs prove to be 2-2, you can cross back to dummy with the ♣3 and discard your heart losers on all those club winners. Eleven tricks, but it's about ensuring that the long suit is usable, which means you have to get rid of the ♣J early.

North-South bid to a very pushy 3NT here:

	♠ A 8 5 4		
	♥ 4		
	♦ 8 7 5 3		
	♣ A K 6 5		
♠ K Q 9		♠ J 10 3 2	
♥ K J 6 2		♥ 10 8 5 3	
♦ 10 6 2		♦ A J 4	
♣ J 8 2		♣ 10 7	
	♠ 7 6		
	♥ A Q 9 7		
	♦ K Q 9		
	♣ Q 9 4 3		

South opened 1♣, North responded 1♠, South rebid 1NT and North jumped to 3NT!

I considered leading the ♠K, but North had bid spades, so I changed to the ♥2 for my opening lead. This ran around to declarer's ♥Q, giving her a "free trick". Assuming club

break, there are four club tricks, two heart tricks (and they are breaking 4-4, given the ♥2 lead) and one spade trick. That means that you need the ♦A onside, but you also need to lead diamonds towards your hand twice.

Declarer erred by cashing the ace, king, queen and another club, leaving her in hand. She now had only one entry to dummy to lead diamonds. She had needed to lead diamonds earlier in the hand, whilst she still had club entries; use each club entry to lead diamonds towards hand twice. Then there are nine tricks.

A final comment: the clubs also provide a ready entry to the ♥A, which could become stranded otherwise.

And lastly, sitting East, you hold:

♠ A Q 8 6	♥ K J 6	♦ Q 10 2	♣ A 9 3
		1NT	
	2♦	2♥	
	3NT	?	

Do you bid 4♥ or do you pass 3NT? This is a hand on which most experts would pass 3NT, even with three-card heart support. The reason for this action is that there is no shortage, so no ability to trump in your hand. If partner has a 5-3-3-2, as seems likely, 3NT will usually play at least as well as, if not better than 4♥. On the other hand, with ♦Q-2, you should correct to 4♥ because you have ability to trump and the diamond suit may be hazardous for 3NT.



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**7 Odern Crescent, Swanbourne WA**

**Chief Director: Matt McManus**

**Tournament Organiser**

**Sheenagh Young: 0409 381 439 Email: [sheenaghyoungbridge@gmail.com](mailto:sheenaghyoungbridge@gmail.com)**

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# Investing in the Future

David Fryda

*How the ABF is revolutionising bridge club management and player experience*

## Our Mission

The Australian Bridge Federation's (ABF) mission for 2022-2025 is to guide and promote bridge across Australia, ensuring our community not only survives but thrives, even in the face of global challenges like COVID-19. To achieve this, we have focused on three key areas: growing the game of bridge in Australia, supporting our community and its diverse needs, and future-proofing our infrastructure to stay ahead of technological advancements while mitigating risks associated with obsolete technologies and single-person dependencies.

Central to this mission is the myABF development project, which aims to revolutionise bridge club management and enhance the overall player experience through comprehensive, integrated technology solutions. As we move forward, it is essential to address the financial requirements needed to support this ambitious initiative while also covering the group's increasing operating costs and adjusting for inflation. This is why, at the ABF's annual general meeting (AGM) in May, the council voted in favour of some small but necessary rolling increases in our fees over the next three years to ensure the sustainability and continued growth of our beloved game.

## ABF Financial History

Over many years, the ABF built a very healthy balance sheet and had sufficient cash reserves to cover the small operating deficits that became the norm for several years. The COVID years resulted in a couple of small surpluses for the ABF, but we have since returned to operating at a deficit again.

There is a broad range of reasons for these deficits, including the rising cost of operations in an inflationary environment. Staff and infrastructure costs have continued to increase, as have the costs of insurance, running the Masterpoint Centre, maintaining our websites and sending representative teams to world championships.

## myABF Investment Proposal

In addition, the ABF has been investing heavily in technology for the past five years. In 2018, the ABF

Board resolved to invest over half a million dollars in myABF, a technology platform designed to:

- Support all Australian clubs and players by simplifying the administration of clubs and bridge events
- Make systems more user-friendly, easy to use, and accessible for players, improving their experience
- Reduce the many hours of effort needed by employees and volunteers to manage clubs, members, masterpoints, and scoring
- Address critical issues in the bridge community's technology infrastructure, such as single-person dependencies, obsolete technologies, and a lack of strategic direction
- Ensure systems function without interruption, meeting the high expectations of bridge players for reliable technology
- Streamline membership management, payment processing, and event entries, significantly reducing administrative burdens and providing more accurate reporting
- Provide an easy-to-use, all-in-one leading bridge technology solution for clubs and associations across Australia, enhancing the experience of bridge players at all levels
- Deliver a single integrated platform running on reliable IT infrastructure (in the cloud), available to all affiliated bridge clubs and players throughout Australia

At the time myABF was proposed it was thought it could be delivered within three years and that the ABF had sufficient cash reserves to fund the development without charging clubs or players.

However, like many technology projects, the time and cost were underestimated due to unexpected challenges such as COVID-19, significant increases in inflation, additional club needs, and changes in personnel.

Since its inception in 2019, though managed by a single project manager and just one or two developers supported by a group of volunteers on a steering committee, the project has successfully transformed bridge event management across Australia and become the envy of many clubs worldwide. Nearly all bridge events nationwide now use myABF as the portal, providing players with the information they require and the ability to enter and pay their fees seamlessly. More recently, several bridge clubs have transitioned to using myABF for their club manage-

ment, allowing their members to pay their table fees through their MYABF account.

### MYABF Current State

By the end of 2024, the total investment in MYABF will be approximately \$900,000. The impact on the ABF's cash reserves has been far greater than originally anticipated.

Operating MYABF, in addition to its development, is also contributing to the ABF's rising costs. For example, when we pass event money that we have collected on behalf of clubs back to them we attempt to recover the transaction costs that Stripe have charged us. Although we aim to "break even," we have in fact incurred more costs than we have recovered. These operating expenses and additional behind-the-scenes administrative costs are covered from the ABF's general funds.

### MYABF Future

Whilst MYABF is already offering significant savings and benefits to clubs and is admired worldwide, we still have more work to do to complete the development of MYABF. There are three core elements still to be done:

- Complete club membership module to enable clubs to retire existing systems
- Integrate masterpoint centre (MPC) with MYABF as MPC software is running on outdated software that is no longer supported
- Integrate a scoring program with MYABF to reduce errors and overheads

To complete this development and cover the costs of the ongoing operation and support of the software, as well as address the deficits the ABF is incurring from their general operations, we estimate we will need to raise an additional one million dollars over the next three years.

### Funding Our Future

The ABF has two main sources of income: capitation fees, a charge paid by all clubs based on their number of members, and masterpoint fees, which vary based on the colour (green, red, and gold) and grade of competition. Clubs and event organisers need to cover the cost of masterpoints in the fees they charge players each time they play.

As one might anticipate, both capitation and masterpoint fees have gradually increased over the years in alignment with rising operating costs. Recognising the financial strains brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we halved the capitation fees for a year to alleviate some of the financial pressures experienced by our members during this challenging time. This

was in addition to funnelling over one million dollars in table fees from online games back to the clubs between May 2020 and September 2021.

Some alternative methods of raising the required funds were considered, but they all would result in even more costs to administer, so it was agreed that raising the capitation and masterpoint fees would be the best approach. Rather than solely burdening competition players with these additional costs, the ABF Council agreed at its AGM that, since the benefits of the ABF's operations and MYABF will be enjoyed by all, and are essential for the sustainability and growth of our bridge community, it is appropriate that the increases be shared by everyone.

### Impact On Players

As a result, we will be increasing the annual capitation fee and masterpoints fees by less than \$4 a year for the next three years. This reflects our commitment to keeping bridge as an affordable pastime whilst providing huge benefits to players across the country.

### Capitation Fee Increases for 2025, 2026, and 2027

Year	Capitation Fee Increase	New Total
2025	\$3.30	\$23.30
2026	\$3.30	\$26.60
2027	\$3.30	\$29.90

### Masterpoint Fee Increases for 2025

In April next year the cost of masterpoints will increase as follows:

Colour	Current	April 2025
Green	\$2.02	\$2.53
Club Red	\$1.62	\$2.03
Congress Red	\$2.14	\$2.68
State Red & Gold	\$1.39	\$1.74

To put these increases in context, the following table illustrates the impact on some example sessions:

Session Type	Increase	Or Cost Per Player
12-table duplicate	\$1.20	5 cents
Red point event run over four sessions	\$20	\$1.50
Gold point event run over four days	\$350	70 cents per day

In 2026 and 2027, masterpoint fees will increase by three percent per year in line with inflation.

These increases have been calculated to raise the one million dollars required to cover the ABF's costs in 2025, 2026, and 2027. The \$900,000 investment already made by the ABF in MYABF is not being recovered. We expect our cash reserves to remain at or near the level they will be at the end of 2024 throughout the next three years.

We expect the vast majority of Australian bridge players will accept that these increases have been well considered and scrutinised by the ABF's management, Board, finance committee, and councillors, and therefore are being made with players' best interests in mind. However, there are, without doubt, some players who feel the increases are not justified or that the benefits will not flow back to them. None of us like it when costs increase, but we all value the continued prosperity of our bridge community and the reduced workload for our hardworking volunteers, making it easier for everyone to enjoy both playing and managing the game. Even with these increases the ABF's charges remain low in comparison with other nationally supported bodies.

The small team involved in the running of MYABF will be supporting clubs across the country as they implement MYABF so the benefits can be enjoyed as soon as possible.

## ABF Technology Fund

At the AGM in May, the Council also resolved to establish an ABF Technology Fund and to redirect some historical ABF payments to the states and territories into this fund. The fund's objective will be to reduce the impact of the costs to deliver and support the MYABF platform into the future. We will be seeking donations into this fund from players and sponsors, and at the 2025 AGM, the Council will consider, based on the success of the fund-raising, ways to pass the benefits back to players. This may come in the form of targeted relief to players with financial constraints or may even result in delays or reductions in the implementation of the planned increases in 2026 and 2027.

## In Conclusion

Hopefully, this article helps you to understand why these increases are being implemented. If you have unanswered questions, we plan on distributing more information over the coming weeks to address them. Additionally, ABF management and Board members will be available at upcoming events for Q&A sessions, and if there is sufficient demand, we will run webinars to answer your questions.

In the meantime, I welcome comments and suggestions from members and I will try to respond within time constraints.

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# MYABF UPDATE

## with Julian Foster

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### Latest Release: Congress improvements

The latest MYABF release went live in late June and saw some big changes to the congress area.

The first two are pertinent to both players and tournament organisers:

- Entry fees are now created and listed per **player** not per **entry** – this now better reflects how most people pay (prior to MYABF most entries were paid for by one person and players settled up between them – which can still be done of course if you prefer).
- Players and organisers can now recalculate entry fees for teams of five or six to spread the entry fee across all players (provided no one has already made a payment whereupon it becomes too messy and you will need to ask the organiser to change it manually).

In addition, tournament organisers can now:

- List events with different entry fees for club members and non-members (already available for club sessions but not previously for calendar listed events).
- List events that are limited to club members only.
- More easily remove players from entries with more than four players.

### Next Release: Full club membership management

The next major release (due in October 2024) is aimed at giving clubs the ability to fully manage their membership list through MYABF. This will extend current club administration features to track who is paid up to what date and allow membership renewals to be processed (with the option for players to pay via bridge credits).

### Clarifying Stripe fees and the ABF's 2% charge

This section provides some more detail behind the comments made in David Fryda's article this month.

When the ABF passes event money that we have collected on behalf of clubs back to them, 2% is withheld. This charge is an attempt to recoup transaction



costs that Stripe (the company which processes the online card payments) have charged us.

There is a common misconception that this is a service fee charged by the ABF, to the clubs, for use of MYABF. This is factually incorrect!

Let us delve into what happens in the background:

1. A player puts money into their bridge credits account (say \$100).
  - The player gets bridge credits for \$100 and isn't charged any fee.
  - ABF gets paid by Stripe but receives \$100 minus the Stripe transaction fees.
2. The player spends the 100 bridge credits on congress entries or club sessions.
  - The \$100 moves from the player account to one or more club accounts.
3. Periodically (the timing varies for sessions and congresses) the ABF closes the loop and settles the funds, minus 2%, which it never received to begin with.

#### Note:

Whilst the ABF aims to "break even" when recovering transaction costs we have in fact incurred more costs than we have received. There are three main reasons for this:

- Payments to clubs don't "settle" themselves. Time is spent by ABF staff every month calculating the settlement payments, making the payments as well as reconciling the account totals to ensure everything balances.
- Any additional credit card fees charged by Stripe (e.g. higher fees on International cards) are currently fully paid for by the ABF. Resulting in a negative financial result to the ABF!
- Refunds to players cost the ABF money. Stripe don't charge extra fees but they don't return ones already paid – so those are lost because the money never moves to a club account to be later settled. This is why we ask that players do not request card refunds unless they are genuinely not able to use the credits in their account for a reasonable period of time. Please don't do

what one player did recently after withdrawing from a congress and receiving credits back into her account – ask for a refund saying she couldn't use credits only to then enter a different congress and pay with a new bridge credits transaction (thus incurring new fees) some THIRTEEN DAYS later!

And last but not least: Clubs facilitating congress and club session payments via their own EFTPOS facilities will typically incur similar or even higher fees from their payment provider.

We hope this clarifies the uncertainty that continues in our club community. We would be happy to explain and discuss further.

### Overall guide to bridge credits

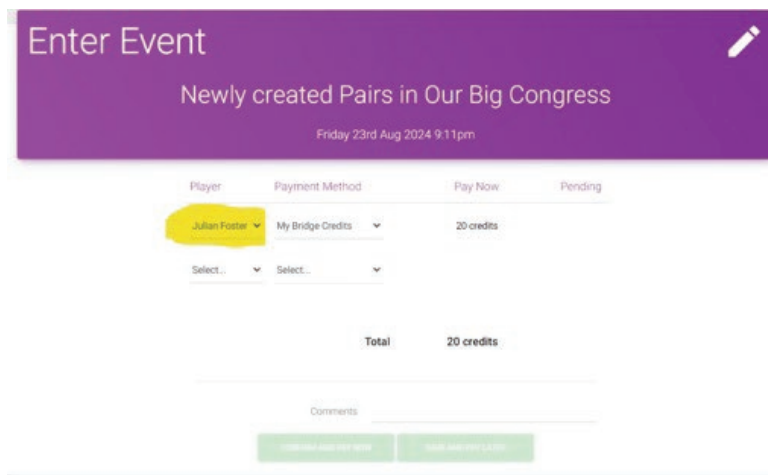
For players wanting to understand more about Bridge Credits a new guide was published recently. It covers what they are, how to view your transactions, how to top-up, etc. It's available here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MY-ABF-WHAT-ARE-BRIDGE-CREDITS-AND-HOW-DO-THEY-WORK.pdf>

### Tips and Tricks: Entering for someone else

Sometimes, in addition to your own entry, you want to enter for someone else in an event (a typical scenario might be playing a weekend congress with pairs on Saturday and teams on Sunday – one person may well put in the teams entry and then want to put in entries for both pairs).

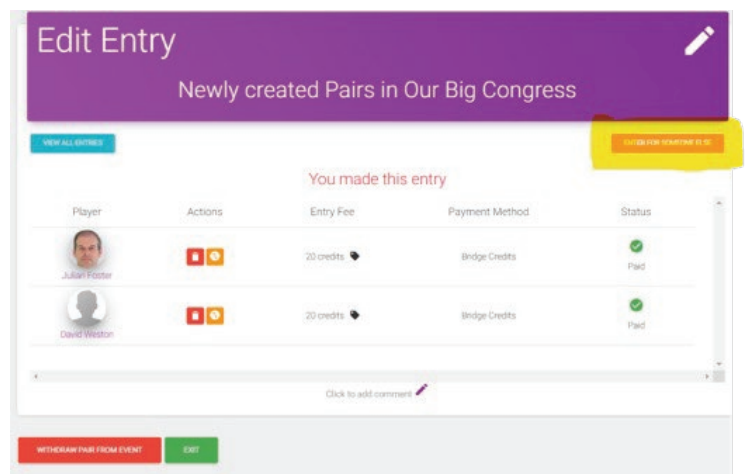
There are two ways you can do that:



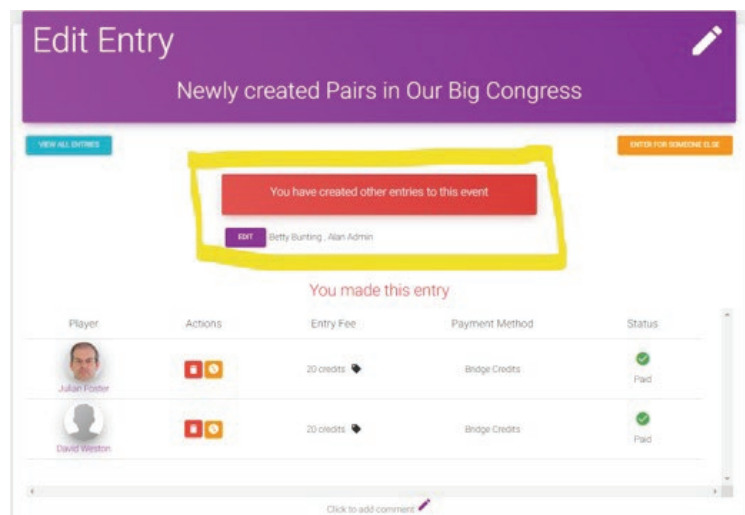
The first (less intuitive) way is to enter the other pair first. Start an entry and it will initially come up with your own name as the first player.

But you can change that name to someone else by clicking on the dropdown arrow and choosing someone else instead. Once you've put an entry in for others, you can still start another for yourself.

But in practice of course it's much more natural to put your own entry in first. That's fine too. Although you can't now start another entry from the Program of events, just open your entry and there is an orange "Enter for Someone Else" button at the top right:



That allows you to add another entry. Once you've done that your own entry will also make reference to any other entries you have made (so you, as well as the players in the entry, can later edit them).



*Julian Foster, MYABF Project manager  
julian.foster@abf.com.au*

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# GOLDEN WEST 2024

Gold Point Event

Swiss Pairs

**Saturday 16th November 10am and 1.45pm**

**Sunday 17th November 9.30am and 1.15pm**

**Entry Fee \$100 per player**

**BAWA aims to generate a 15% return on event income to  
invest in youth programs and bridge development**

Venue: Mandurah Bridge Club

Corner Murdoch & Bortolo Drives, Mandurah

**\$** The list of prizes will be emailed prior to the **\$**  
event

Prize Giving at approximately 5.00pm Sunday

**Welcome Pairs Red Point Event**

Friday Afternoon 15th November 1.00pm

Run by Mandurah Bridge Club

**Tournament Organiser:** Allison Stralow (0403153823)

[Allison\\_Stralow@yahoo.com](mailto:Allison_Stralow@yahoo.com)

**Tournament Unit:** Neville Walker, Brian Wade

Contact Allison or Neville 0418944077

- Entries: <https://myabf.com.au/events/> No cash payments accepted, contact the Tournament Organiser for assistance if necessary.
- Players and officials are asked not to attend the event if unwell. If you come to play but are not well, you will be asked to leave the venue .

# 2024 Australia-Wide Novice Pairs, 25-31 May

**Brad Coles reports on the annual event  
contested by 2500 novice players  
at 100 clubs all across the country**

This year's Australia-Wide Novice Pairs was won by Ruy de Menezes and Toni Paramore from East's Bridge Club (pictured right).

Ruy de Menezes was born in Lisbon on 3 June 1924 and grew up in Macau, before moving to Hong Kong during the War to work as an accountant. In 1950 the family moved to Australia, and he worked on punch-cards for Qantas; then he was sent to New York for a course with IBM, returning to Qantas as a senior programmer.



In 1986 Ruy returned to his native Portugal, fulfilling a promise made to his wife many years earlier. After the death of his wife in 2016, he returned to Sydney just as COVID struck. Fortunately, his computer background enabled him to play bridge online during lockdown. He still plays online tournaments almost every morning with some of his friends back in Portugal. He is also a member of East's Bridge Club, where he's one of the top players, recently becoming a Regional Master.

If a less experienced player asks for advice he will always share his wisdom with an irresistible smile.

As he turns 100, he tells everyone his secret to a long life is, "Everything in Moderation". He says bridge has been good for him because it keeps his mind going. He says "I'm active all the time, especially in my head. 100%. I'm 100%. If I wasn't playing bridge, I wouldn't be reading much – my eyes are not so good now. I would be sitting down watching TV and falling asleep like a lot of older people."

Ruy has been blessed with good health. After a few falls, he has defied the odds and recovered amazingly well and quickly. As the hospital staff say, it's all in the head. Ruy is an inspiration for those seeking to stay mentally active and a shining example of the old saying, you can't keep a good man down.

Barry Simmons and Colleen Clift from Northern Bridge Club (above) were in 14th place. Barry is an 85-year-old semi-retired accountant, still with an accounting practice operating from a home office. He took bridge lessons eight years ago, and has been playing regularly with various partners twice a week at the North Balwyn Bowling Club, where he has been an active member on the bowling green for 22 years.



His partner Colleen Clift, when not playing with Barry, plays on BBO with her mother and two sisters, one of whom lives in France. Colleen is also a keen walker, traveller and filmgoer.



Karen Gosney and Brian Clark of Redcliffe Bridge Club were in 17th place. They are a recent partnership, having only played a few games together. Brian has recently retired and has been playing for two and a half years, while Karen has been playing for about six years, when she can fit bridge in with her working commitments. They both find bridge to be a challenging, enjoyable and worthwhile activity.

Brian has previously been a Redcliffe Novice Champion, and a winner in the club's Rainbow movement event. Karen is currently the Caboolture Novice Champion, and also the Queensland State Novice champion.

*Thank you to all the club organisers across Australia who continue to make this event so successful. Thanks also to Paul Lavings at [bridgegear.com.au](http://bridgegear.com.au) and Maryo Derofo at [penline.com.au](http://penline.com.au) for their assistance with the prizes.*





ANC



2025



# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 BRISBANE

6<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025



## EVENTS

Interstate Teams Monday 7<sup>th</sup>-Friday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Interstate Swiss Pairs Friday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Open Butler Pairs Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> →  
Mixed Butler Pairs Monday 14<sup>th</sup> →  
Swiss Pairs Monday 14<sup>th</sup>-Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

## VENUE

Brisbane Technology Park  
Conference and Exhibition Centre  
Eight Mile Plains  
15 minutes from Brisbane City via the Pacific Motorway



Multiple accommodation options, restaurants, public transport, \$5 daily parking



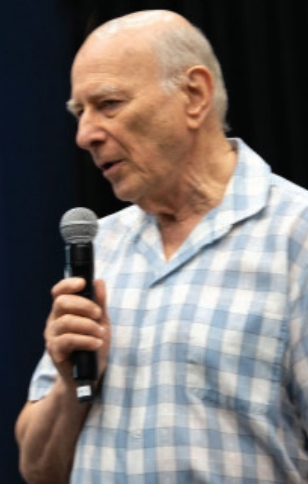
**Entries AND Accommodation options will be on website from August 2024**

**GOLD POINTS**

# IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

*Solution to problem on page 2*



## PARTNER'S ASSETS

Dealer South, North-South vulnerable.

♠ Q J 6 2  
 ♥ K Q J 2  
 ♦ 8 3  
 ♣ K J 9  
 ♠ A K 7 4  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ Q 9  
 ♣ Q 10 8 5 4 3



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
2♣	4♥	all pass	

West leads the ♠A: two - eight - three. Your agreement on signaling on partner's lead is 'low encourage'. What would you play at trick two?

**2023 Australian Interstate Youth Teams Final.**  
**Board 43. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.**

♠ Q J 6 2 ♥ K Q J 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ K J 9 ♠ A K 7 4 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 9 ♣ Q 10 8 5 4 3	♠ 8 ♥ 10 9 5 ♦ A J 10 7 6 5 ♣ 7 6 2
♠ 10 9 5 3 ♥ A 8 7 6 4 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ A	

After South opened 1♥, West overcalled 2♣ and North bid 4♥, all pass, West led the ♠A. Taking East's ♠8 as discouraging, West switched to the ♣4. South won, drew trumps and lost two spades and a diamond. South had ten tricks, North-South +620.

How could West have diagnosed to continue with spades? West has 11 points, dummy has 13. As South opened, East figures to have four or five points at most and so probably only one trick at best. If there is no spade ruff, 4♥ will make.

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♥
dbl	2♣	pass	2NT
pass	3♥	pass	4♥
all pass			

West led the ♠K, asking for reverse count: two - eight - five. Then came ♠A, followed by ♠7. East ruffed and cashed ♦A for one off, East-West +100 and +12 imps.

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# YEPPOON BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS



## 29th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2025 2- 5 MAY 2025

**VENUE: ST URSULA'S COLLEGE**  
42 QUEEN STREET, YEPPOON QUEENSLAND

**Chief Director: Chris Snook | Chief Scorer: Peter Busch**

**Tournament Organiser: Karin le Roux 0428 859 898**

**Website <https://qldbridge.com.au> | Email: [brc2025yep@gmail.com](mailto:brc2025yep@gmail.com)**







# WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

## with Will Jenner-O'Shea

### UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT TYPES OF DOUBLES

This month's bidding workshop covered various types of doubles. Most of these doubles have approximately the same meaning, "please bid something partner", however the specifics vary based on the situation.

The first type of doubles is the most common, and applies to the overcaller who doubles a suit bid by the opponents. This is a takeout double and shows three- or four-card support for each unbid suit, and also opening points. If the opponents open  $1\clubsuit$  or  $1\diamond$ , then a takeout double might only have three cards in an unbid major, there are three suits that the doubler can tolerate. If the opponents have bid two suits, such as  $1\diamond$  - pass -  $1\heartsuit$ , then a double usually shows four spades, and 4+ clubs. Note that the overcaller would usually prefer to overcall a decent five-card major rather than double.

If your partner opens the bidding, and there is a suit overcalled by the opponents, then a double by the responder is called a Negative Double. Since there have been more suits already bid, a Negative Double is promising 4+ cards in each unbid major. The key difference is that a double by the responder only promises responding points – around 6+ at the one-level, 8+ at the two-level, and 10+ at the three-level. There are some specific situations if the opponents has overcalled at a low level. If partner opens a minor, and the opponents overcall  $1\heartsuit$ , then you can use a Negative Double to promise precisely four spades, and a  $1\spadesuit$  bid to promise 5+ spades, which is very useful if the auction gets contested. If partner opens a minor, and the opponents overcall  $1\spadesuit$ , then a  $2\heartsuit$  bid promises 5+ hearts, and 10+ points. A Negative Double instead shows 6+ points, and 4+ hearts, but won't be suitable for a  $2\heartsuit$  bid.

If your partner makes an overcall or takeout double, and the opposition responds something, then you can double to ask partner to bid something. This double by the Advancer is called a responsive double and shows enough points and cards to want to compete. For example, if the auction begins

$1\diamond$  - double -  $2\diamond$  and you are responding to your partner's double, then you could bid a suit with 4+ cards and around 8+ points. If you had 4+ cards in both majors, then you could double to ask partner for their longer suit, remembering that their takeout double might have four cards in one suit, and three in the other. The other useful responsive double situation is the auction  $1\heartsuit$  - double -  $2\heartsuit$ , where you are next to bid. With 4+ spades, I recommend just bidding spades. If you don't have four spades, but you have a few points and minors, then double to ask partner to pick something.

All of these terms just describe the situation that a double occurs, but all of them have roughly the same meaning. They all ask their partner to bid something. Some people just use the term "takeout" to describe them all. The specific number of points and cards you need change slightly, but they are all very useful.

One thing we haven't covered is when a double is actually for penalties, and the answer is "not very often"! If there is any doubt, a double is probably more likely asking partner to bid, rather than penalties. Doubling a notrump opening or overcall bid is often showing more points than they have, and the stronger team usually wins more tricks are no-trumps. Doubles at the four-level are usually penalties, though partner might bid on with a very shapely hand. Doubles after we have agreed a fit can be used as penalties, since we have already found our best suit to play in.

There are a couple of doubles that are conventional, however the alerting rules say that no doubles are alertable. If opener has opened with a suit, and responder has bid a major at the one-level, showing 4+ cards, and there is an overcall in between, then a double by opener on the second round, is commonly played as a Support double, and it promises three-card support for responder's major. This helps responder know what to do next, since they might only have four cards, but often have 5+ cards and now know that there is a fit.

# Tournament results

## Australian National Championships



### TBIB OPEN BUTLER PAIRS

- 1 Jessica Brake - Shane Harrison
- 2 Avinash Kanetkar - George Kozakos
- 3 Kate McCallum - Axel Johannsson
- 4 John McMahon - Charles McMahon

### TBIB MIXED BUTLER PAIRS

- 1 Maurits Van Der Vlugt - Dagmar Neumann
- 2 Nicoleta Giura - Nick Hughes
- 3 Jonathan Free - Mimi Packer

### OPEN INTERSTATE PAIRS

- Open: Tania Lloyd - Hugh Grosvenor  
Women: Pam Crichton - Julia Hoffman  
Senior: Therese Tully - Richard Ward

### PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGEGEAR SWISS PAIRS A

- 1 Therese Demarco - Pam Morgan-King
- Restricted: Paul Ruan - Kevin Gu  
Novice: Nola Calvert - Rex Calvert

### PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGEGEAR SWISS PAIRS B

- 1 Kimberley Zhao - Alan Cransberg
- Intermediate: Phil Halloran - Frank Hardiman  
Restricted: Kathy Duke - Shannon Queree

### RESTRICTED BUTLER PAIRS

- 1 Edmond Lee - Yiwei Qi
  - 2 Jayden Kang - Alan Stoneham
  - 3 Denise McTaggart - Peter Westmoreland
- Novice: Paul Ruan - Kevin Gu

## ANC Interstate Teams



### WOMEN

NSW (John McIlrath npc, Monica Ginsberg, Ella Jacob, Louise Leibowitz, Sybil Hurwitz, Judy Mott, Marcia Scudder) 162 def South Australia (Sheila Bird, Felicity Smyth, Susan Phillips, Jackie Ward, Therese Demarco, Pam Morgan-King) 158.5



### YOUTH

South Australia (Joshua Tomlin, Jamie Simpson, Sebastian Redin, Fletcher Davey, Anton Forster-Rohal, Gregor Forster-Rohal) 219.8 def Victoria (Taydon Gold, Matthew Sieredzinski, Heath Watkins, Samuel Goss, Patrick Clifford, Seb Wright) 152

### OPEN

NSW (Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Liam Milne, Dagmar Neumann, James Coutts, Maurits van der Vlugt, David Fryda npc) 163.9 def South Australia (Cathy Chua, Justin Williams, Russel Harms, Zolly Nagy, Peter Popp, Paul Hudson) 81



### SENIORS

NSW (Paul Lavings npc, Michael Courtney, Joan Butts, Bruce Neill, Warren Lazer, Peter Buchen, Pauline Gumby) 208.6 def South Australia (Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum, Kevin Lange, Andrew Eddie, John Kikkert, David Anderson) 109





## Victor Champion Cup

### VICTOR CHAMPION CUP SWISS TEAMS

- 1 Andy Hung, Gabby Feiler, Sartaj Hans, David Beauchamp 143.77
- 2 Joachim Haffer, Ben Thompson, Jamie Thompson, Philip Markey 141.23
- 3 Hugh McGann, Michael Ware, Justin Mill, James Coutts 135.81
- 4 Maurits van der Vlugt, Fraser Rew, Avinash Kanetkar, George Kozakos 133.04
- 5 Andrew Spooner, Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy, Ian Thomson 127.61

### JIM AND NORMA BORIN MIXED SWISS PAIRS

- |                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Liam Milne - Sophie Ashton        | 117.13 |
| 2 Lori Smith - Howard Melbourne     | 101.90 |
| 3 Paul Lavings - Helen Lavings      | 100.08 |
| 4 Diana Smart - David Beauchamp     | 97.23  |
| 5 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell    | 94.43  |
| 6 Ella Jacob - George Kozakos       | 93.56  |
| 7 Fraser Rew - Lakshmi Sunderasan   | 93.09  |
| 8 Paula Gregory - Michael Johnstone | 90.90  |
| 9 Terry Strong - Jill Magee         | 87.81  |
| 10 Richard Brightling - Jodi Tutty  | 87.38  |

### WALLY SCOTT OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- |                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Joachim Haffer - Philip Markey  | 115.91 |
| 2 Jessica Brake - Andy Hung       | 109.48 |
| 3 Ian Robinson - Neil Ewart       | 109.38 |
| 4 Peter Buchen - Bruce Neill      | 106.22 |
| 5 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby    | 105.87 |
| 6 Tony Nunn - Paul Dalley         | 103.78 |
| 7 John Yang - Stephen Weisz       | 103.22 |
| 8 Axel Johannsson - Kate McCallum | 102.35 |
| 9 David Wawn - David Hoffman      | 99.66  |
| 10 Phillip Fent - Dee Harley      | 99.20  |

### VICTOR MUNTZ RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

- |                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Shayne Wurf - Richard Fitzherbert | 112.29 |
| 2 Peter Millington - John Robertson | 108.42 |
| 3 Johnson Wong - Catherine Ng       | 99.70  |
| 4 Sue Sharp - Andrew Sharp          | 92.09  |
| 5 Francis Rose - Vivienne Dacey     | 89.46  |

### ROOKIE SWISS PAIRS

- |                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 Anita Liu - Sharon Michael         | 85.51 |
| 2 Rebecca Dorman - Rebecca Mackiggan | 70.82 |
| 3 Ros Boyar - Sally Evans            | 70.20 |
| 4 Kath Boast - Graham Boast          | 67.97 |
| 5 Maxine Corfield - Ruth Buckstein   | 66.71 |

## TBIB Western Senior Pairs

- |                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Trevor Fuller - Val Biltoft        | 125.11 |
| 2 James Steer - Stella Steer         | 110.90 |
| 3 Sue Pynt - Vivian Zotti            | 108.59 |
| 4 Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside    | 107.39 |
| 5 Di Brooks - Christine Bacon        | 105.28 |
| 6 Dave Munro - David Schokman        | 105.07 |
| 7 Marie-France Merven - Nigel Dutton | 104.70 |
| 8 Angeline Christie - John Aquino    | 104.63 |
| 9 Andrew Swider - Tad Bieganski      | 103.97 |
| 10 Valerie Broome - Martin Broome    | 101.88 |

## Australia Wide Novice Pairs

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1 Ruy de Menezes - Toni Paramore <i>East's</i>             | 74.8 |
| 2 Peter & Jeanne Walczak <i>Swan Districts</i>             | 71.3 |
| 3 Russell Goldflam - Katrina Budrikis <i>Alice Springs</i> | 70.3 |
| 4 Tineke Tamis - Ian Wheeldon <i>Monaro</i>                | 69.2 |
| 5 Mario Rossi - Diane Pope <i>Nedlands</i>                 | 68.7 |
| 6 Anne-Marie Horwitz - Teresa Daly <i>Albany</i>           | 68.3 |
| 7 Vivienne Gayford - Heather Evers <i>Coffs Harbour</i>    | 68.1 |
| 8 Anthony Richards - Ngarie Pisano <i>Nedlands</i>         | 68.0 |
| 9 David Lewis - Stella Jansen <i>Gold Coast</i>            | 67.8 |
| 10 Ros Arthur - Marcia Cameron <i>Roma</i>                 | 67.4 |



# 63RD INTERNATIONAL Gold Coast Bridge Congress Saturday 1 - 8 February 2025

VENUE: Gold Coast Convention Centre,  
Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia

QBA MANAGER: Kim Ellaway  
manager@qldbridge.com.au  
+61 412 064 903 [qldbridge.com.au/gcc](http://qldbridge.com.au/gcc)



Theme: *Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots*

