



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

Editor: Brad Coles (editor@abf.com.au)

No. 234 August 2025

Approved for Print Post S65001/00163

ABN 70 053 651 666

2025 ANC Winners





AUGUST 2025

| | |
|--|-------|
| Executive Director's Report: David Fryda | 5 |
| President's Report: Allison Stralow | 7 |
| World Youth Championships | 8 |
| Obituary: Ishmael Del'Monte | 12 |
| Obituary: Sean Mullamphy | 14 |
| Bridge Into The 21st Century: Paul Lavings | 18 |
| ANC Interstate Teams: Brad Coles | 21 |
| A Game At The Club: Barbara Travis | 22 |
| Nationwide Pairs: Theresa Wilkes | 25 |
| Book review: Paul Lavings | 26 |
| Improve Your Defence: Ron Klinger | 2, 27 |
| Australia-Wide Novice Pairs: Brad Coles | 28 |
| Workshops with Will: William Jenner-O'Shea | 31 |
| MyABF Update: Julian Foster | 32 |
| Tournament Results | 34 |




Cover photos by Richard Ward: Interstate Teams champions. Captions on page 35.

**DEADLINE FOR
OCTOBER EDITION
ADVERTISING: 18 SEPTEMBER
ARTICLES: 15 SEPTEMBER**

DISCLAIMER: It is ABF policy not to accept advertising from persons or organisations believed to be unreliable or financially irresponsible. We are not responsible for the performance of advertisers, the delivery or quality of the merchandise or services, or the legality of any particular program. The ABF reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to refuse any advertisement.

Advertising and article enquiries: editor@abf.com.au
Distribution or admin enquiries: secretariat@abf.com.au
Letters to the Editor and feedback: editor@abf.com.au



**IMPROVE
YOUR
DEFENCE**
with
Ron Klinger

Solution on page 27

Teams. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ A J 10 9
♥ 7
♦ K Q 9 8 6 5 4
♣ 4

♠ 5
♥ A 10 4 3 2
♦ J
♣ A K 10 8 6 5

| | |
|---|---|
| N | E |
| W | S |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| pass | 4♠ | all pass | 2♠ ¹ |

1. Weak two, six spades, 6-10 points.

West leads the ♣Q, and dummy plays the four. Which club would you play as East?



Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies

plavings@gmail.com

(02) 4295 0870



AUSTRALIAN AGENTS FOR BRIDGEMATES



The table scoring system
that has revolutionised
bridge events worldwide

AUSTRALIAN DEALING MACHINE



WORLD'S BEST

Fully electronic, no barcodes

DEALER 4 **\$4895** plus delivery
DEALER 4+ **\$5350** plus delivery

Preferred by the ABF, all state
bodies and 18 of the 20 largest
bridge clubs in Australia.

COMPSCORE 3



Great with Bridgemates and
manages all your Masterpoint
requirements **\$325**

NEW BOOKS

**Be A Difficult Bridge
Opponent** by David Bird &
Marc Smith. The secret of
giving problems to your
opponents.
\$44.95 postfree



It's a Knockout
by Ben Norton. Play a 64
board team match over the
author's shoulder.
\$42.95 postfree



**How to Count a Bridge
Hand** by Eddie Kantar. The
art of counting a bridge hand.
\$42.95 postfree



RECENT BOOKS

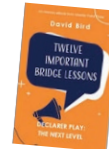
My Life With Bridge
by Mike Lawrence. Great
stories, great hands.
\$49.95 postfree



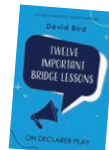
Bridge - A Love Story by Zia
Mahmood. Join Zia as he
travels the world.
\$49.95 postfree



**Twelve Important Bridge
Lessons, Declarer Play: The
Next Level** by David Bird.
Advanced techniques.
\$44.95 postfree



**Twelve Important Bridge
Lessons** by David Bird.
Techniques in declarer play.
\$44.95 postfree



**Twelve Important Bridge
Lessons on Defense**
by David Bird. A brilliant book
for intermediate to advanced
players.
\$44.95 postfree



**Bridge: The Magic of
Defense** by Barbara
Seagram. Improve your
defense and lift your game.
\$44.95 postfree



**Bridge Basics Book 4: Play
of The Deal** by Audrey Grant.
Declarer play for newer
players by a top author.
\$32.95 postfree



RECOMMENDED BOOKS

*Reading bridge books is the
best way to improve your game*

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

**Eddie Kantar Teaches
Topics in Declarer Play**
by Eddie Kantar. The best
book on declarer play
\$46.95 postfree

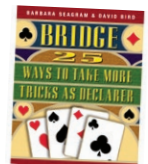


Modern Bridge Defense
by Eddie Kantar. All you
need to know about
defence for the
intermediate player
\$46.95 postfree

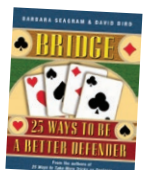


SPECIAL DEAL
Both books **\$85.00 postfree**

**25 Ways to Take
More Tricks as
Declarer** by Seagram
& Smith, 25 short,
sharp lessons.
\$34.95 postfree



**25 Ways to be a
Better Defender** by
Seagram & Smith.
Make your weakness
your strength.
\$34.95 postfree



SPECIAL DEAL
Both books **\$65.00 postfree**

Card Play Technique by
Mollo & Gardener. Play
and defence - the best
selling bridge book of all
time
\$39.95 postfree



To Bid or Not to Bid by
Larry Cohen. Classic
best-selling bridge book
on how to judge the
auction
\$36.95 postfree



**Winning Suit
Contract Leads
Winning Notrump
Leads**



by Bird & Anthias
Based on computer analysis, these
two books changed the way bridge
players think about opening leads.
\$29.95 each postfree

SPECIAL DEAL
Both books **\$55.00 postfree**



Car Buying Service

For every vehicle purchased through Red Plum Automotive by an ABF registered bridge player (or referral), we will contribute to the ABF's Technology Fund, which will help the ABF reduce the planned increases to its fees in coming years.



Our Services



Car Buying

The no-cost to user service makes car buying easier and saves money!



Trade-In

We ensure you receive the best market price on your trade.



New Car

We negotiate on all new car makes and models.



Pre-Loved Car

Our search for a pre-loved car is nation wide and reduces the risk of buying a lemon!



Why Choose Us?



Chris Lee has owned and operated RPA since 2012 and helped many bridge players find the right car and achieve significant savings without doing the searching and negotiating!

- ✓ Australia Wide
- ✓ Professional Advice
- ✓ Personalised Service
- ✓ Exceptional Savings

Contact Us





David Fryda

Executive Director

✉ david.fryda@abf.com.au

www.abf.com.au



What a fantastic year it's been so far for Australian bridge! From standout national events to our players shining on the world stage, there's much to celebrate.

Masterpoint Centre outage

Earlier this month, the Masterpoint Centre website was offline for several days due to hardware issues experienced by our hosting provider. I want to reassure you that the outage was not caused by a denial-of-service attack or hacking attempt, and the integrity of the data we store about Australia's bridge players was never compromised.

However, the incident has highlighted the need for improved system redundancy. As a result, we are currently exploring short-term solutions to address this. In the longer term, the Masterpoint Centre's technology will be integrated into My ABF – a project the My ABF team is actively working on, with implementation planned for 2026.

ANC

My congratulations to Julie Jeffries and her team for running the 2025 ANC so successfully. Congratulations also to the winning teams from SA (Open), WA (Women's), NSW (Seniors') and Victoria (Youth). It was great to see the spoils shared across four different states. It was also wonderful to see the Northern Territory participating in the Open category again this year. We hope to see them in the ACT again next year alongside Women's and Seniors' teams. Well done also to Kate McCallum and Axel Johannsson who backed up their win in the Open Teams by winning the Open Butler event. This event is by far the most grueling pairs event on the Australian calendar, played over six days. Congratulations also to Sophie Ashton and Dave Wiltshire, winners of the Mixed Butler event.

Summer Festival

The program for next year's summer festival in Canberra is now available on [My ABF](#). With no Gold Coast event scheduled in 2026, we're unsure whether the popularity of the Summer Festival will increase. It would greatly assist the organising team if you could submit your entries as soon as possible (payment isn't required right away). The primary venue will again be the Canberra Rex Hotel, but if entries warrant it, we will consider expanding to another venue.

Player numbers

The number of registered bridge players has been slowly increasing since the pandemic caused a number of deregistrations. However, we have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, suggesting that there are still many potential bridge players in the broader community who haven't discovered the delights of our wonderful game. If just two in every ten of us introduced one friend or family member to bridge, we would achieve our goal of 37,000 members within the next couple of years.

International performance

Since our last newsletter two of our youth teams have participated in the 19th World Youth Championships in Italy. Both teams enjoyed the incredible experience and were extremely grateful for the support they received from the Australian bridge community. Later this month, our Open, Women's, Seniors', and Mixed teams will compete at the World Championships in Denmark. You can follow their progress via our website and social media. I'm confident they will do us all proud!

Playoffs

In 2026 the bridge calendar does not include any World Championship events. There will be events in both Europe and Asia where Australian players will have the opportunity to shine. The ABF has just announced the timing, format and locations of the Open, Mixed, Seniors' and Women's Playoff events that will be held next year. Details are on the [ABF website](#).

Upcoming events

If you're seeking the excitement of a national bridge event or chasing gold points for your next ranking, several events are on the calendar over the coming months. Personally, I'm looking forward to attending the Territory Gold event in Alice Springs later this month for the first time. All the details of what's on and where are available on the [events page](#).

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read my article and our newsletter. I hope that you find the content both informative and enjoyable. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the content of our newsletter, website or social media, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Australia's Bridge Day Out

ABF Foundation Fundraiser: Tuesday September 23rd, 2025

BRIDGE IN SCHOOLS

A key goal for the Foundation from 2025-2028 is to support a scalable, enduring nationwide Bridge in Schools program. The Foundation is exploring a holistic model that connects bridge clubs and schools, offering high-quality resources and training from bridge professionals. An early-stage pilot is underway.

THE ABF FOUNDATION

The ABF Foundation, established in 2020, is a not-for-profit organisation that supports bridge through grants and scholarships for research and projects that strengthen the game's future. Funded by bequests, donations, and fundraisers, it has already made a meaningful impact and is exploring charity status.

Games hosted by clubs
across Australia on
Tuesday
September 23rd

ABF RED MASTERPOINTS
Raffle and auction
opportunities at Super
Supporter Clubs to spend the
day playing with one of
Australia's top bridge players,
generously volunteering in
support of the Foundation

Funds raised by the ABF
Foundation to support
a nationwide bridge in
schools program

CLICK
HERE FOR
**MORE INFO OR
TO REGISTER**

*Don't just keep bridge alive,
help it thrive!*



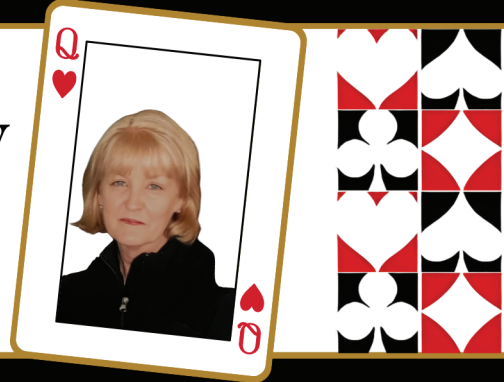


Allison Stralow

President

✉ president@abf.com.au

www.abf.com.au



The 85th Australian National Championships were held in July in Brisbane. The event was a great success. Congratulations to Julie Jefferies, Sue Smith, Richard Ward, Kim and Ray Ellaway and the team of helpers for the many hours, over several years, they put into the planning and running of this event. There was plenty of space in the playing and break-out areas and the venue was well lit. The event was played in the best spirit of the game, and I commend all the players and captains for their positive attitude.

Congratulations to the winning teams. South Australia (Open), Western Australia (Women), New South Wales (Senior) and Victoria (Youth). I look forward to the 2026 ANC in Canberra from 4-16 July.

In June I held an online Presidents' meeting with all states and territories represented.

Marketing and the potential for expanding the number of clubs was discussed, and everyone was keen to collaborate and share resources. Thank you to all my fellow presidents who work tirelessly to foster and grow bridge in their state or territory.

Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers have been sponsoring bridge events around Australia since 2012. More importantly they have offered a wide range of insurance options to all players, their families and friends. Steve Weil, a Senior Broker at TBIB has



worked closely with the ABF for the last 13 years, making sure we have the best insurance cover for our clubs, volunteers and players. He also uses his vast knowledge to source the very best cover for your specific needs and travel plans. After a long, successful career, Steve is going on extended long service leave in August. It has been my pleasure to work with Steve over the years, and I wish him health and happiness in his future endeavours.

The 47th World Bridge Teams Championships will be held in Denmark from 20-31 August.

Representing the ABF at this elite level is something that all team members can feel justifiably proud of, and I wish them every success.

Open: Phil Markey - Joe Haffer, Sophie Ashton - Dave Wiltshire, James Coutts - Liam Milne, npc Mike Doecke.

Mixed: Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill, Jessica Brake - Shane Harrison, Christy Geromboux - Sebastian Yuen, npc Martin Doran.

Women: Dagmar Neumann - Jodi Tutty, Renee Cooper - Ella Jacob, Therese Demarco - Sue Lusk, npc Axel Johannsson, coach Kate McCallum.

Seniors: David Beauchamp - Maurits van der Vlugt, Terry Brown - Ian Thomson, Hugh Grosvenor - George Kozakos, npc Laura Ginnan.

The best of bridge to you all.



PLAY YOUR CARDS **RIGHT**

For all your professional and personal insurance needs, including travel insurance.

Check out their web site at www.tbib.com.au

TONY BEMROSE INSURANCE BROKERS

2025 BRIDGE COACHING AT SEA with Ron Klinger on Celebrity Edge

30 November - 12 December 2025

Sydney – New Zealand – Sydney, including Dunedin, Christchurch, Tauranga, Auckland, Bay of Islands

An opportunity to become a better bridge player. Morning and afternoon bridge workshops with Ron – hands-on bridge deals to improve your game – when we are at sea. Bridge workshops in port, depending on the availability of local bridge clubrooms.

To join the bridge group, bookings must be made through Nicole Page, BESPOKE JOURNEYS, Mobile: 0416 926 221

All cabins for our group are Veranda Category E2 and each booking includes a wine and beverage package and WIFI on board package.

Cost of sole use cabin on application. 30 November - 12 December, \$A8934.52 per cabin twin share.



World Youth Championships

Players from our national Under-21 and Under-26 teams share highlights from their trip to Italy

Jade Wilkinson

This July, Australia sent an U21 team to the World Youth Teams Championships consisting of Adrian Le, Aadhi Hariharan, Taydon Gold, Tom Langdon-Macmillan, Alexis Wilsmore, and myself. Held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy, this was everyone's first time competing internationally, and we were very excited to participate.

To add to the unfamiliar environment, the team was required to play with screens and use tablets for bidding. The screens partition the tables diagonally to prevent cheating, where you are unable to see your partner and can only communicate with one opponent. When the auction ends, a section of the screen is lifted making it possible to see all the cards on the table.

While playing bridge, unfamiliar situations are bound to arise. During the very last match of the round robin against the Netherlands I was confronted by this hand in the North seat:

♠ A K 5 ♥ A Q J 10 7 5 ♦ 9 7 ♣ Q 5

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | 1NT | pass |
| 3♣ | pass | 3NT | pass |
| pass | ? | | |

While contemplating whether to double 3NT, I stopped to enquire about the opponent's bids. 3♣ was explained as Puppet Stayman, with 3NT denying a four-card major. I was then surprised by the screen being lifted with my partner's lead face down on the table. When bidding on tablets it was more difficult to tell when the auction had ended. An excellent reason to place leads face down.

The screen was returned, and I decided to double, where it was then passed out.

Board 18. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

♠ A K 5
♥ A Q J 10 7 5
♦ 9 7
♣ Q 5

♠ J 7 4 3
♥ K 6
♦ A J 8 6 2
♣ 6 3

♠ Q 10
♥ 4 3
♦ K Q 10 5 4 3
♣ A K 2

♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ 9 8 2
♦ —
♣ J 10 9 8 7 4

After this unusual auction my partner had to decide what to lead. Having no prior discussion about the

meaning of this double, she opted to lead from her long club suit. Declarer won this then proceeded to run his diamonds. On the final diamond a club was discarded from dummy, removing the entry to his second club winner. He exited a spade which I was able to win before leading the ♥10 to dummy's king. From here, I was able to secure the last four tricks in hearts and spades, for +100 to Australia.

In the post mortem we brought this hand up with our captain, Pete Hollands. For doubling 3NT, North likely has a good hand with a suit. Due to 3♣ not being doubled, clubs are eliminated. From the auction the opponents are known to not have a major fit, making a major lead more enticing. Some partnerships have agreements for these situations, where a double here would always ask for a spade lead. In this case a spade lead would have allowed the opponents to make their contract. This was just one example of an experience that assisted in improving our defense.

At the other table, the auction went:

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

Diamonds was a very popular contract among the field. 4♦ went down one, +50 to the Netherlands earning Australia 2 imps.



Adrian Le

Board 6. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

| ♠ — | | | |
|---------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| ♥ A K 9 5 | | | |
| ♦ K Q J 8 5 2 | | | |
| ♣ 10 7 5 | | | |
| ♠ 10 5 4 3 | | ♠ K Q 9 2 | |
| ♥ Q 10 6 3 | | ♥ J 8 4 2 | |
| ♦ A | | ♦ 9 4 | |
| ♣ A K 9 3 | | ♣ Q J 8 | |
| ♠ A J 8 7 6 | | | |
| ♥ 7 | | | |
| ♦ 10 7 6 3 | | | |
| ♣ 6 4 2 | | | |
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| | | pass | pass |
| 1♣ | 1♦ | dbl | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 3NT | all pass | |

Sitting North I decide to punt 3NT, imagining my partner with an ace and another honour giving me nine tricks. Plus hoping the opponents lead hearts! Anyway, it goes small heart to the ten and king, and I play the king of diamonds. West wins and continues the ten of hearts, and my heart beats as I now think I have a chance! I just need one more trick, and if I can get East to lead hearts again we are home. After I win the ace of hearts, I lead a risky club from hand, a trick I learnt from Pete on YouTube. East rises with the jack of clubs, but unfortunately West overtakes with the king and leads another heart through me, and I go two down!

Heath Watkins & Matt Sieredzinski

Board 29. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

Heath led the ♣A against 2♠, followed by a low heart to Matt's queen. Matt played the ♦K, and declarer won and played back the suit to Heath's ♦Q. Appreciating the value of his ♠10, Heath stayed on diamonds, and continued with a fourth round after winning the ♥A. When Matt ruffed the third and fourth rounds, Heath's ten of trumps was promoted as the setting trick.

When declarer erred by cashing the remaining top trumps before playing on clubs, Heath was able to take the ♣K and draw declarer's last trump for two off. He had kept the ♦7, hoping for a beer card, but declarer's failure to cash the ♥J meant that the last trick was a heart.

At the other table, with George Bartley declaring, West led both top clubs (king then ace to show a

doubleton) before switching to a diamond. George captured East's king and asked about signals, confirming that East's club cards had signalled preference for diamonds. George continued diamonds, and West won and returned a heart.

Trusting East's signals, George rose with the king and played a diamond, intending to pitch a club, but East ruffed with the king. George overruffed and cashed the ♠QJ, then played a club. West had no answer: if he ruffed, dummy would have a spare trump to ruff a heart loser, while if he discarded, declarer would be in dummy to throw a heart on the fourth diamond.

George Bartley

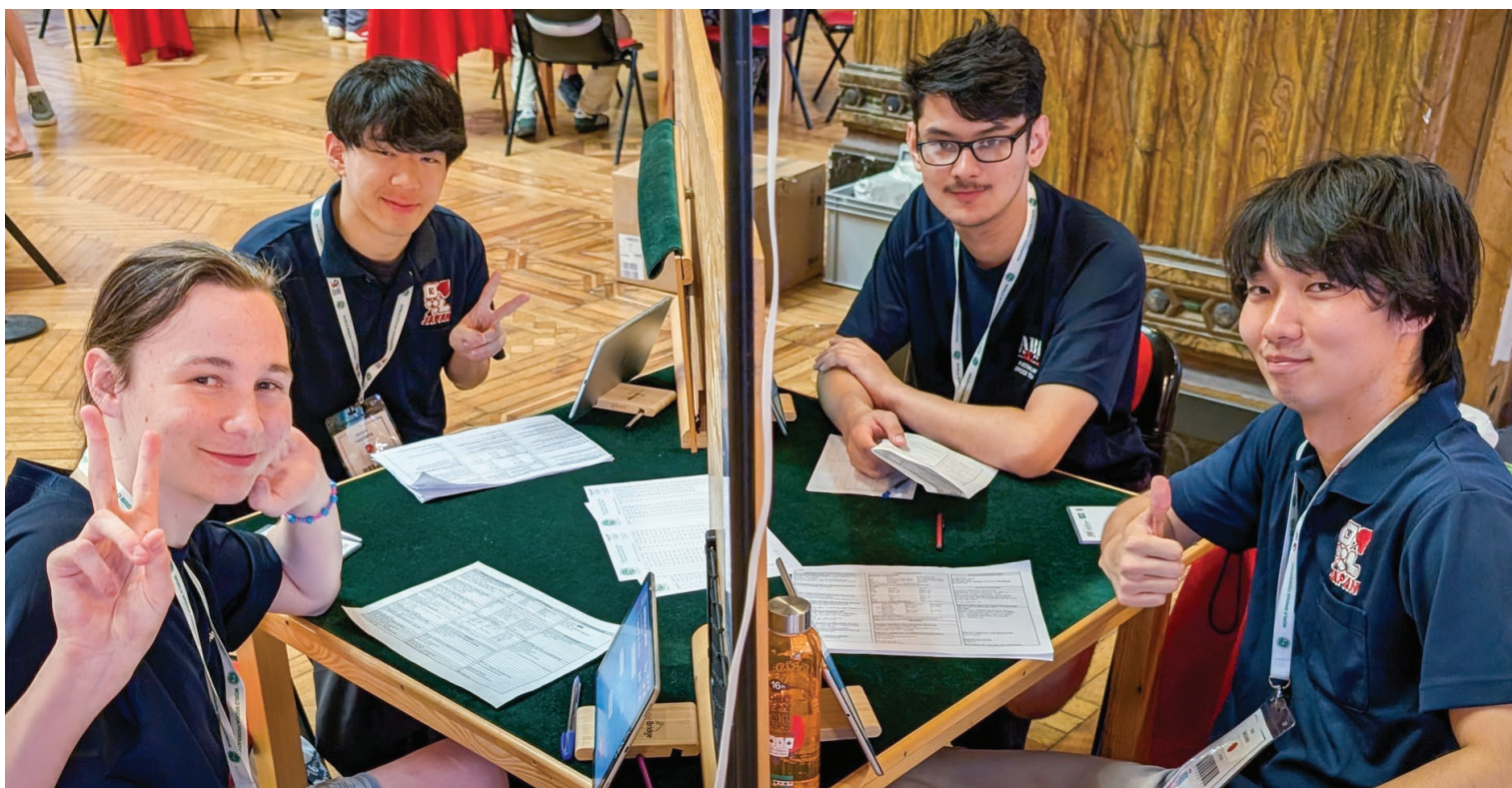
Board 24. Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

| | | | |
|------|--------|-----------------|---------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| | Morgan | | Bartley |
| pass | 1NT | 2♠ ¹ | 3♥ |
| pass | 4♥ | all pass | |

1. Spades and a minor.



West led the singleton spade and declarer rose with the ace. Bearing in mind that East might be short in diamonds, George cashed the queen and ace of trumps before playing a diamond to West's ten and dummy's queen. West won the second diamond and played a third trump to prevent a diamond ruff.

Declarer placed East with spades and clubs, as a 2♠ bid with just ♠KJ and a nine-high diamond suit seemed unlikely. Placing East with the ♣KQ for his bidding, George decided to play for a squeeze. He ran the remaining trumps and the ♦K to reach this position:

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| ♠ — | ♠ Q 10 | ♠ K J |
| ♥ — | ♥ — | ♥ — |
| ♦ 9 7 | ♦ — | ♦ — |
| ♣ 10 8 3 | ♣ A J 7 | ♣ K Q 9 |
| | ♠ 5 3 | |
| | ♥ — | |
| | ♦ J 8 | |
| | ♣ 5 | |

When George played the ♦J, East had no card to spare. If he threw the ♠J, dummy's ♠Q10 would pro-



vide the tenth trick. If he threw a club, then declarer could play ace and another club, forcing East to open up the spades and concede a trick to the queen.

With 4♥ failing at the other table, this board was a 10-imp pickup against the eventual champions, Sweden.

Page 8: Under-26 team Zac Ross, Matthew Sieredzinski & George Bartley, Bertie Morgan, Kate MacDonald, Heath Watkins, with Mike Doecke npc. Page 10: Heath Watkins South, Matt Sieredzinski North. Page 11: Under-21 team Jade Wilkinson, Alexis Wilsmore, Tom Langdon-Macmillan, Pete Hollands npc, Aadhi Hariharan, Adrian Le, Taydon Gold. Photos by Mike Doecke.



Ishmael Del'Monte 1972 - 2025

from Liam Milne, ABF

Ishmael Del'monte passed away on 25 July 2025, a devastating loss to the Australian and New Zealand bridge communities.

Known almost universally as "Ish," he was born on 15 November 1972 in Auckland. He learned bridge as a teenager from his father, Simon ("Curly"), and would often travel to weekend tournaments in New Zealand to watch him play.

In 1992, Ish moved to Australia. Early signs of Ish's natural talent appeared in 1993 when, at just 20 years old, he won the New Zealand Open Teams. That same year, he also captured both the Gold Coast Pairs and Teams titles. He clearly enjoyed Queensland hospitality, returning the following year to successfully defend both titles.

In 1995, Ish represented New Zealand on the Youth team that earned a silver medal at the World Junior Teams Championship in Bali – the only youth-level world medal New Zealand has ever achieved. All of these accolades were earned in his longest partnership with close friend Ashley Bach. In the same year, he married his first wife, Kim, with whom he had two children (Julia and Ben).

Recognising that New Zealand was too small a pond for his ambitions, Ish switched his 'bridge nationality' to Australia in 1996. His impact was immediate: he qualified for the Australian Open Team in 1999, then



Photo by Anne Russell

again in 2002 and 2003, each time with a different partner. In 2003, he helped Australia to one of its best modern-day Bermuda Bowl performances, reaching the quarter-finals.

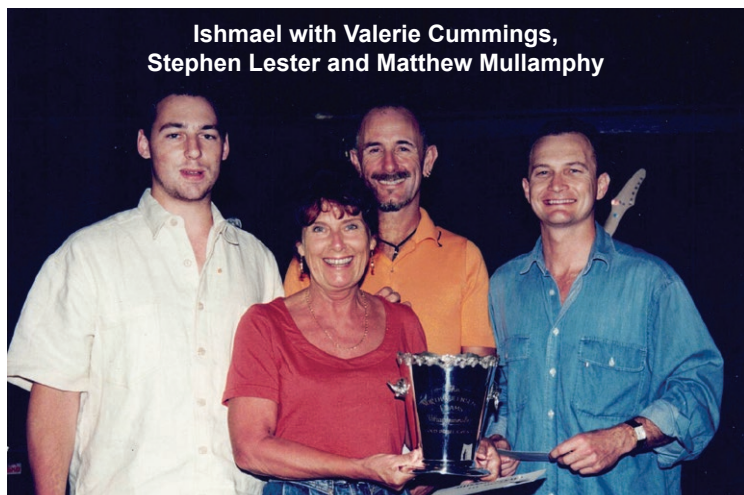
During his years in Australia, Ish also established two successful bridge clubs in Sydney and Melbourne, both named Kings and Queens. As his international career flourished, he would return home and share hands and stories from abroad in his popular lessons.

Across roughly twenty years in Australia, Ish amassed an astonishing 46 national titles and won the prestigious McCutcheon Trophy for most masterpoints in a year five times. His 1994 total of 651.9 masterpoints as a 22-year-old remains a record that no one has come close to breaking.

Between 2011 and 2013, Ish reached the pinnacle of his career with three wins and three runner-up finishes in the highly competitive US Nationals. In 2011, Ish's team narrowly lost the Vanderbilt final by just 4imps. In the last set, he and his partner bid to 7♦, only to discover they were missing the ace of trumps – a hand that quickly became famous world-wide when his opponents in the other room had a similar mix-up and bid to the same contract. A year later, however, he had his redemption, winning the Vanderbilt Trophy decisively by 50imps in what he considered his greatest career result.

In 2014, Ish married his second wife, Lisa, and relocated permanently to the United States.

Ishmael with Valerie Cummings,
Stephen Lester and Matthew Mullamphy



Beyond his many triumphs at the table, Ish played a crucial role in 2015 exposing the high-profile cheating scandal involving the Israeli pair Fisher - Schwartz and others. His work, sometimes controversial at the time, has since been recognised as instrumental in preserving the integrity of the game. We know now beyond all reasonable doubt that Ish was on the right side of history.

Ish's final major bridge victory came in 2022, when his dark horse team of Del'Monte - Finn Kolesnik and Kevin Rosenberg - Simon Cope won the Soloway Knockout Teams in Phoenix. Trailing by 17 imps with just two boards remaining, they pulled off swings of 12 and 11 to win by 6 imps – a fittingly dramatic finish for a player of his flair.

Ish's talent was matched by his charisma. His infectious enthusiasm drew people into his circle, whether sponsors, partners, or friends. Over the years he partnered with some of the biggest names in the game: Boye Brogeland, Justin Lall, Brad Moss, Thomas Bessis, among many others. In a tribute, American champion Moss wrote, "I can honestly say of all the great players I've competed with, nobody, and I really mean nobody, had more natural talent for the game. He was amazing."

When asked in an interview what he valued most in a partner, Ish answered simply: "I like to have fun at the table. Humour is the biggest necessity!"

The last years of Ish's life were spent in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he had no shortage of clients willing to learn from him. The cause of death was a cardiac arrest.

Ish is survived by his children, Julia and Ben, his first wife, Kim, and his second wife, Lisa. Our thoughts are with his siblings Cham, Shadrach, Shalom, his half-siblings Zippy, Ann and Jean, and his extended family. May his memory be a blessing.



Australian representative appearances

- 2014: Commonwealth Nations Open Team
- 2013: Bermuda Bowl – NPC; U26 World Youth Open Championships – NPC (2× Silver medals)
- 2011: Open APBF (Silver); Bermuda Bowl
- 2010: Open APBF – NPC (Silver); World Junior Teams Championship – NPC (Qualified for QF)
- 2009: Seniors Bowl – NPC
- 2008: World Bridge Games Seniors' Teams – NPC (Qualified for QF)
- 2005: Open APBF – NPC (Bronze)
- 2003: Bermuda Bowl – Qualified for QF; Australian Junior Team (NPC)
- 2002: Open APBF (Bronze); Commonwealth Nations Open Team
- 1999: Open APBF (Bronze); Bermuda Bowl
- 1997: Australian Junior Team

A message from Ish's son, Ben:

Ish's family has made the decision to have his ashes brought back to his homeland, New Zealand

However, they need help to cover the expenses of his cremation, the flight home, and funeral costs.

A link to the fundraiser is below, any help will be greatly appreciated by the family.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-us-bring-our-brother-home-1>



Sean Mullamphy

1955 - 2025

Ronald (Sean) Mullamphy was born in Townsville in 1955, the eldest of six children to Ron and Beryl Mullamphy. He loved reminding people of that fact, especially when anyone asked which of us was older. He would light up with delight if someone guessed wrong. (For the record, I'm the youngest, and 11 years his junior.)

Sean's early years were spent in Townsville, where he was educated by the Christian Brothers at St Ignatius College. He went on to study Engineering at James Cook University.

It was during these uni years that Sean discovered what would become a lifelong passion – bridge. He learned under the guidance of Professor John Gray, alongside his good friend Tony Nugent.

The Townsville Bridge Club became a formative place for Sean. It's where his skills developed and his love for the game truly took hold. It's also where he formed friendships with Ross Best, Barry Kempthorne and Lindy Vincent – teammates at the 1978 Australian Junior Championships in Canberra. Sean was hooked. He even kept the original score-sheet from the noticeboard – a small, but telling example of how much the game meant to him.

In the early 1980s, Sean moved to Sydney in search of new opportunities – and more bridge. He quickly found a home in a cosmopolitan share house with Nasseem Malouf and Anil. It was here he expanded his tastes, quite literally, discovering the joys of Lebanese and Indian food.

Sean had a love of the finer things – good clothes, good wine, great music. His motto was simple: buy the best. It'll last longer and bring more enjoyment.



Sean at the Summer Festival, presenting the trophy to the 2010 NOT champions



And he lived that philosophy, from his wardrobe to his stereo system – meticulously chosen components that still play crystal clear music to this day.

Though he worked in a number of jobs, including a stint as paymaster at the Royal Sydney Golf Club, it was always bridge that pulled him back. He built enduring friendships through the bridge world, among them David Beauchamp, Anita Curtis, Matthew Thomson, Catherine Herden, Michael Cartmell, David and Cate Fryda, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer, and Bob Sebesfi – names that were part of his life for decades.

Eventually, Sean found his true calling not just in playing bridge, but in running it. He became a respected tournament director, working at the Grand Slam Bridge Centre with Paul Marston (he and Paul shared a birthday), the Hakoah Club, and at country congresses all over the eastern states. He rose to become Chief Tournament Director for the Australian Bridge Federation and the ACT Bridge Association. In Canberra he created a hardworking team with Wendy Boxall, regularly commenting how fortunate he was.

In 1995 Sean moved to Canberra to take up the position as Manager of the Canberra Bridge club, a position he held for many years, where he taught, directed and worked in bridge administration.

For ten years, he was the convenor of the Summer Festival of Bridge – an enormous undertaking. Internationally, he directed at several World Championships, often alongside his English colleague and friend, Max Bavin.

At tournaments, Sean and Chris Diment became a formidable duo – partners in logistics, in humour, and in their shared appreciation of single malt whisky. At the end of a long day wrangling bridge players, they

would unwind with a dram and a debrief, often full of stories and laughter.

It was through bridge that Sean met Mary Dietz, thanks to an introduction from Peter Gill. Mary and Sean built a family together, raising four remarkable children: Max, D'Arcy, Emily and Brigitte. Sean was immensely proud of them and what he and Mary had achieved.

In January 2016, while running the Summer Festival, Sean suffered a heart attack and then a stroke. It changed his life overnight. Months in hospital and rehab couldn't restore his former strength, but Sean remained determined. He worked hard to regain mobility, improve his communication and return to the bridge table.

Supported by his friends and the Canberra bridge community, he made a triumphant return. In his very first attempt, with his good friend and partner, Arjuna de Livera, he qualified for the ACT Seniors Team and reached the national final.

In the years that followed, Sean partnered with friends Ian Thomson and David Hoffman – each time qualifying for the ANC. This year, once again partnered with Peter Reynolds, he made the team, but tragically passed away just weeks before the event.

"Sean was a fantastic guy." You'll hear that again and again, and it couldn't be more true. He was a loving brother, generous, intelligent, principled, and quietly proud of the life he lived. He loved his family, he loved his friends, and he loved his bridge.

He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, integrity, and passion. And those of us who knew and loved him are the better for it.

Matt Mullamphy



Sean with Roy Nixon and Allison Stralow



The passing of Sean Mullamphy is a real loss to the Australian bridge community.

Sean was one of many reasons why Australia's standard of Bridge directing is very high. Most are courteous, competent, approachable and pleasant.

Like other commendable qualities of good directors Sean exuded calmness, self assurance and relaxed good humour, and of course an authoritative presence – not overbearing – but with a sound knowledge of the laws and fair jurisprudence.

I vividly recall first meeting Sean at a State event in Sydney in the mid 1980s and was immediately impressed by his courteous, gracious and urbane manner. He may have modelled himself on the exemplary John Brockwell, the foundation director of Canberra's Nationals from the 1970's.

I didn't always agree with Sean's decisions, but came to highly regard his gracious responses of mutual respect. He was always open to contrary views.

After an appeal against one of his decisions (the only one I ever managed to win), he casually joined us in a queue at the airport and chatted as if nothing had happened. I was greatly impressed.

Sean will be greatly missed, but his spirit continues to live on and the Australian bridge world is the better for his contributions.

Charles Klassen

Hans G Rosendorff

Memorial Mixed Swiss Pairs

13th and 14th September, 2025



Melville Bridge Club

431 Canning Highway

Melville 6156 WA

GOLD POINTS



Mixed Swiss Pairs with PQPs

(1st 20, 2nd 14, 3rd 10, 4th 6, 5th 4 & 6th 2)

Session Times 10:00 am and 1:45 pm

*Cost: \$100 per player *Medals presented to 1st and 2nd

*Tea and coffee available all day *Celebrate with light
refreshments at conclusion of the event (Sunday)

Director: Neville Walker

Phone: 0418944077

nifty1940@outlook.com

Organisers:

Robina McConnell

0400 943 367

Sandra Hardie

0434 211 657

Entries via MyABF: <http://myabf.com.au/go/2025HGRMemorialMixed>

Introducing the Double Elimination Knockout

Sydney Spring Nationals unveils exciting new format for 2025

This October, the Sydney Spring Nationals is breaking new ground with a bold revamp of the flagship **TBIB Open Teams** event. Inspired by one of the UK's most prestigious tournaments, the Spring Foursomes, the new structure promises more excitement, more strategy, and more chances to win.

Double Elimination Knockout: A first for Australian bridge

For years, the Open Teams has followed a familiar format: a three-day Swiss leading to semifinals and finals. In 2025, that all changes. The event will debut a **double elimination knockout format**, ensuring every team gets multiple opportunities to stay in the action.

In this new setup, teams have "two lives." Lose once and you remain in the Championship bracket. Lose twice and you drop into the **Plate**, a secondary knockout competition. A loss there doesn't end your tournament – instead, you move into the **Shield**, a Swiss Teams event that runs to the final day of the teams.

Three levels, three trophies, and non-stop bridge – whether you're fighting for the Championship title or battling it out in the Plate or Shield, every match matters.

Perfect for every player

The new format isn't just for elite teams – it's designed to engage everyone from seasoned competitors to everyday congress players. Head-to-head knockouts create intensity and drama, making every board count. Even if you lose early, you're still competing for gold masterpoints, silverware, and serious bragging rights.

Speaking of masterpoints, there's plenty of gold points on offer. **All three events – Championship, Plate, and Shield – award gold points at the highest national rate**, with every match win contributing to your tally.

What else is on the program?

While the Open Teams takes centre stage with its fresh format, the Sydney Spring Nationals' much-loved events are still here:



- **Dick Cummings Open Pairs** closes the week in style.
- **Intermediate and Restricted Teams** return, offering competitive play at all levels.
- The **Mixed Teams** moves back to its traditional spot following the Open Teams.

How to enter

A new era of Australian bridge is here. With high stakes, innovative formats, and gold points galore, the Sydney Spring Nationals (18-26 October) is set to be the must-play event of the year.

Ready to take on the challenge? Entries are now open via

[MyABF.com.au](https://myabf.com.au)

Simply click on the calendar, search for Spring Nationals, and all the details are at your fingertips.

Liam Milne, Chair, ABF Tournament Committee

The Gold Coast Bridge Club is replacing some of its sets of boards and will happily give away those that are usable.

For more information email Jane Parry at

janelparry1958@gmail.com

or phone 0403 369 467

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



WHAT DOES THE LAST DOUBLE IN THESE AUCTIONS MEAN?

Hand One

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | dbl |

Hand Two

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | pass |
| 2♥ | dbl | | |

Hand Three

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | pass |
| 1NT | dbl | | |

Hand Four

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1NT | pass |
| pass | dbl | | |

Hand Five

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♥ | pass | 2♥ | pass |
| pass | dbl | | |

Hand Six

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♠ | pass | 1NT | pass |
| 2♠ | dbl | | |

Hand Seven

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 3♥ | pass | 4♥ | pass |
| pass | dbl | | |

Hand Eight

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | 1♥ | pass | pass |
| dbl | | | |

Hand Nine

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♠ | 2♥ | pass | pass |
| dbl | 3♦ | dbl | |

Hand Ten

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | 1♠ | pass | 2♦ |
| 3♣ | pass | pass | dbl |

SOLUTIONS

Hand One

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | dbl |

Shows four spades and is for takeout. It is better to show four spades and get into the auction rather than wait until you have both spades and diamonds.

Hand Two

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | pass |
| 2♥ | dbl | | |

Takeout, with heart shortage. Why else would you not double 1♣ for takeout? Despite what some believe, most doubles have very precise meanings.

When your RHO opens 1♣, what would you bid holding

♠ A K 6 4 ♥ 3 ♦ Q J 8 3 ♣ A Q 5 4 ?

If you double partner will almost surely bid 1♥, and if you overcall 1NT partner will likely bid 2♦, a transfer

to 2♥. Your logical move is to pass and wait to double hearts for takeout as you did in this auction.

Hand Three

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | pass |
| 1NT | dbl | | |

As question 2, takeout with heart shortage. Logic is the glue that keeps a partnership on the same page. Why pass 1♣ and double later after they bid hearts? You must have heart shortage, and perhaps a good hand.

Hand Four

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1NT | pass |
| pass | dbl | | |

A good hand sitting over the clubs, suggesting penalties. You refused your chance to make a takeout double over 1♣ so you probably have good clubs but not enough to overcall 1NT first time:

♠ A 6 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ K Q 10 9 6

Yet again you might be stronger. What would you do with this rock:

♠ K J 10 8 ♥ A ♦ A 10 4 2 ♣ K J 9 6

Hand Five

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 1♥ | pass | 2♥ | pass |
| pass | dbl | | |

Traditionally not strong enough to make a takeout double of 1♥, but now opponents have a fit and partner is marked with some values it is important to balance:

♠ Q J 7 5 ♥ 4 2 ♦ A J 10 5 ♣ J 10 3

Hand Six

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 1♠ | pass | 1NT | pass |
| 2♠ | dbl | | |

Ishmael Del'Monte posed this problem to me about ten years ago. He meant it as penalty, since opponents do not have a fit, and he would hardly make a takeout double of 2♠ but not 1♠. He held:

♠ A K 10 8 7 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ 4 ♣ J 10 9 3

Hand Seven

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 3♥ | pass | 4♥ | pass |
| pass | dbl | | |

Again penalties. What are you supposed to do holding:

♠ 6 3 ♥ A K J 9 ♦ A 10 8 7 ♣ J 6 3

I held this hand about 30 years ago and doubled 4♥, and my sleepy partner took it out to 4♠, which was doubled and a disaster. Surely my double is penalties – what hand could I have to double 4♥ for takeout but not 3♥?



Hand Eight

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 1♣ | 1♥ | pass | pass |
| dbl | | | |

Takeout, but may not have extra values. Holding:

♠ A 6 4 ♥ A Q 10 8 6 ♦ Q J 10 3 ♣ 6

East would pass over 1♥ hoping for a reopening double, which would surely net 800 or 1100. If opener could pass out 1♥ with 0-2 hearts then responder would probably bid an ungainly 3NT over 1♥ rather than risk defending 1♥ undoubled and collecting a bunch of 50s.

In my partnerships opener guarantees to reopen with 0-2 in the overcalled suit, hopefully with a double, up to the level of 2♥. Hunting for penalties is a major part of the expert approach, and it's fun and free.

Hand Nine

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | pass | pass |
| 2♠ | 3♦ | dbl | |

A penalty pass of 2♥, except opener didn't reopen with a double but showed a weak, shapely hand with 2♠. East held

♠ A 10 ♥ A J 10 7 6 ♦ A 3 ♣ 10 8 7 4

and both 3♦ and 3♥ make only four tricks, a penalty of 1400 or 1700.

Hand Ten

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 1♣ | 1♠ | pass | 2♦ |
| 3♣ | pass | pass | dbl |

Extra values, asking partner to pass the double with a suitable hand, or choose a contract. The 2♦ bidder held:

♠ A 10 3 ♥ A 3 ♦ A 10 8 7 5 2 ♣ J 3

If partner has a singleton diamond your side is better off defending 3♣ doubled, where you can give partner diamond ruffs.

Meet Helen and Paul Lavings, who won the Central West Open Pairs, an ABF event held recently in Orange over two days.

With the retirement of Nick Fahrer and the closure of The Bridge Shop, Paul is now the only retail outlet in Australia where you can buy both bridge books and supplies.

Paul loves to get your phone calls, so save time and call him on 02 4295 0870 or 0408 888 085.



Daisy Pool Covers - proud sponsor of the
Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Swiss Pairs.
10% off all Daisy products for ABF members.

The original &

best

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE.

1300 55 18 11 • daisypoolcovers.com.au

Quality | Technology | Service



daisy
pool covers & rollers

Soundproof Pump & Filter Enclosures

Reduces noise by
up to
80%

Assembles
in as little as
15 minutes

Protects
equipment
from
weathering

The
Acoustic Box

Pump & Filter Enclosures

100% Australian Made

(02) 9620 5430 sales@acousticbox.com.au theacousticbox.com.au



The Acoustic Box - proud sponsor of the
Joan Prince Memorial Swan River Swiss Pairs.

10% off all The Acoustic Box
products for ABF members

ANC Interstate Teams

Brad Coles

In a 60-board match that was strangely low on make-able slams, the Open final eventually came down to one slam in the closing stages of the match:

Board 15. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| WEST de Livera | NORTH Harley | EAST Croft | SOUTH Henbest |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|

| | | | |
|------|----|----------|----|
| pass | 1♥ | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| pass | 6♣ | all pass | |

After a similar auction at the other table, North jumped to just 5♣, and South corrected to 5♥ for 650. Dee Harley took a more aggressive approach at this table, jumping all the way to 6♣, and South chose to stop there. With the ♦A and a natural trump trick to lose, Victoria lost 13 imps on the board, with South Australia ultimately winning the final by 15.78 imps (13 imps plus the 2.78-imp carry-forward).

If Henbest had chosen to correct the contract back to hearts, as South had done at the other table, his partner would have had the opportunity to gain 13 imps instead of losing 13 imps.

6♥ is a terrible contract, but it is much better than 6♣, and it can be made when East has a 6-2-3-2 shape, which is not unlikely after the 2♠ overcall. East will typically lead a spade, covered by the king and ace and ruffed in hand. Declarer plays a diamond at trick two – dummy's king will probably win the trick, after which declarer draws two rounds of trumps with the king and ace, and cashes the top clubs. Ruffing the third club leads to the position in the diagram at the top of the next column.

Declarer now cashes the ♠Q to throw a diamond, draws the outstanding trump with North's queen, and cashes three club winners, eventually conceding the last trick to the ♦A.

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

If either defender produces the ♦A at trick two, the rest of the play can still proceed in a similar way.

The only person to actually declare 6♥ in the event was Therese Demarco in the Women's final. She received the ♦A lead, which greatly simplified the play – with the ♦Q now set up as an entry, she was able to simply draw trumps and set up the clubs for 1430. This was a huge 17-imp swing, as the WA NS pair at the other table played in a failing 3NT contract. However, this fine score was not quite enough to save SA Women from a 3.97-imp loss to Western Australia in their final (two imps in the match, plus a 1.97-imp carry-forward).

I was pleased to learn that next year's ANC will be held in my hometown of Belconnen, in Canberra, from 4-16 July. The event will include the usual national Gold Point events: the Interstate Teams and Pairs, and the Open and Mixed Butler events.

However, to make the ANC an event that welcomes all players, especially those from the smaller and regional bridge clubs, the 2026 ANC will include several Pairs and Teams events open to all categories of players. One feature will be the Australian Country Championships, where teams representing the regional and/or smaller clubs compete in a three-day event. There will also be a two-day pairs event for regional and country players.

The ANC will be convened by Lyn Carter and Cathy Nichols, and Laurie Kelso will once again be the Chief Tournament Director.

Information about the ANC, the venue and local accommodation is already available in My ABF and in social media posts. Entries open on 1 January 2026.

Results and front cover photo captions on page 35



A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

Not too many players found their way to 6♦ on this hand from a State event, but it really shouldn't have been that tough:

♠ A 6 5 4
♥ K 10
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ A 5 3

♠ 8
♥ A J 6
♦ A K 6 4
♣ K 9 8 6 2

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 1♦ | pass | 3♠ splinter | pass |
| 4♣ cooperating, cue | | | |

and East takes off.

Some people are now opening 1♣ on all balanced hands, even with four diamonds, but East has even more reason to splinter after a 1♣ opening bid – with five clubs! West shouldn't worry about holding only three clubs, because the splinter guarantees long clubs (5+ cards).

The ♠A indicates that you should be looking at five or six of a minor, not 3NT.

Plenty of the everyday bridge players know about splinters but forget to use them. Once you start to use them, they do crop up rather often, and they are a boon to your bidding.

Here's an everyday hand:

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ A J
♦ 9 8 2
♣ K J 7 5

♠ J 8 7 5
♥ K 7
♦ A K 5
♣ Q 10 8 2

You are playing in 4♠, North, on a heart lead. You have to lose one diamond and one club, no matter what. So this hand is all about managing the trump suit, with entries not being an issue.

Because you are missing the ♠10, your correct play is either to cash the ♠A, in case East holds a singleton king, or to lead a small spade from dummy in case the K-x or singleton king is onside.

Don't lead the ♠J first. It then goes jack - king - ace - small, and you have made East's ♠10-6-4-2 into a winner (even if they held 10-x-x, you have done so).

The occasion when leading the jack is correct is when you hold ten trumps, missing K-10-x. Leading the jack now allows you to pick up a 3-0 break onside.

Try this hand:

♠ – ♥ 6 ♦ A K 10 9 5 3 ♣ A K Q 8 6 3

Of course, your RHO opens 1♥ in front of you. Whilst you should play the Unusual 2NT bid to show 5-5 in the minors, there are a few extensions of that available, though little-discussed and less-played!

Partner and I fell into the undiscussed category, so I overcalled 2NT for the minors. However, better options are using 4NT and 4♥ as really extreme minor two-suiters.

4NT says you have a minor two-suiter where you want to play at the five-level.

4♥, on the other hand, shows a gigantic minor two-suiter, with slam interest (after all, it doesn't have any other meaning).

This hand is a 4♥ overcall – slam interest. I think, when partner bids 5♣, you'd just bid 6♣ and hope.

As it happened, not having system worked on this hand.

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| 1♥ | 2NT | 3♥ | 3♠ |
| Pass | 5♣ | All Pass | |

Partner held:

♠ K Q J 10 6 5 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ 4 ♣ 5 4 2

Those clubs were just too little to manage 12 tricks with a 4-2 diamond break, so those who bid 6♣ went down. It was a good hand for sorting out some less common system though!

You are now playing Matchpoint Pairs:

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

East is playing in 3♣ having opened 1NT, and West transferring to clubs (Stayman is too risky, if you can't then bid a non-forcing 3♣). South leads the ♥9, won with the ace, and a heart is returned. Do you lead trumps now?

That lead feels like a short suit lead, correct? If so, you are at risk of losing one heart, one club, one heart ruff, one diamond and, perhaps, the spade finesse. As such, your priority is to arrange for a discard of your potential spade loser first. Lead a diamond towards the queen at trick three.

South wins the ♦A and, to your surprise, leads another heart which North ruffs. Now you win the spade return with your ace to lead the ♦K, discarding the spade loser, then you work on trumps, making your nine tricks, for an excellent score.

On the next hand, you have reached 5♣, with no interference bidding:

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

West leads a very helpful ♥2 to their partner's Ace, and you win the heart return. You have only one entry to dummy, but two finesses to take, so what can you do?

The first finesse you should take is the diamond finesse because, if it fails, you still have the ♦10 remaining in dummy as a second entry! So cross to the ♠A and lead the ♦J. If East covers, you win and return to the ♦10 to take the club finesse. If it fails, you can also return to dummy for the club finesse.

On the other hand, if you cross to the ♠A to lead the ♣10 for the club finesse, when it fails you cannot reach dummy again to take the diamond finesse!

How would you play this hand?

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

North is playing in 4♥, having heard East overcall their 1♥ opening with 2♠. East leads the ♠Q.

You need to avoid losing one diamond and three clubs.

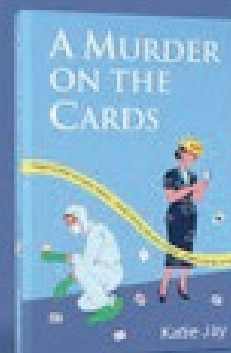
Win the ♠K, draw trumps in three rounds, cash the ♠A and ruff a spade. You have set the scene for an elimination (or ruff-and-sluff). Simply cash the ♦A-K, then exit with your losing diamond. Whichever defender wins, they will have to break the club suit for you, and you win a club trick.

(By the way, East's overcall is irrelevant to your line of play.)

Attention book lovers and bridge players!

"A Murder On The Cards"
by award-winning author
Katie Jay is an entertaining
and gripping bridge club
murder mystery set in
Glenelg, South Australia.

Get your copy at Amazon
or all good bookshops



Visit katiejayauthor.com.au
for more information



GOLDEN WEST 2025

Gold Point Event

Swiss Pairs

Saturday 15th November 10:00 am and 1:45 pm

Sunday 16th November 9:30 am and 1:15 pm

Venue: Mandurah Bridge Club, Cnr Murdoch & Bortolo Drvs, Greenfields.

Entry fee \$100 per player

Celebrate with prize giving and light refreshments at conclusion of the event (Sunday)

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

Welcome Pairs Red Point Event

Friday Afternoon 14th November 12:45pm Hosted by Mandurah Bridge Club

Tournament Organiser: Sandra Hardie 0434 211 657 sandra.myabf@gmail.com

Tournament Unit: Neville Walker 0418 944 077, Sandra Hardie

Entries via: <http://myabf.com.au/go/2025GoldenWest>



SAVE THE DATES

2026 AUTUMN NATIONALS

WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL – SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2026

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

**INTRODUCING
THE AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON PAIRS:**
a top-level three-day matchpoint pairs event

NEW FORMAT

Wednesday 29th April
Thursday 30th April

SWISS TEAMS:

Open, Under Grand, Under Life

Friday 1st May

Open Teams Final (drop into Pairs SF)

Friday 1st May

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Qualifying

Open, Under Grand, Under Life, Novice

Saturday 2nd May

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Semi Finals

Sunday 3rd May

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Finals

and consolations

PQPs in Open Teams and Blue Ribbon Pairs (Open)

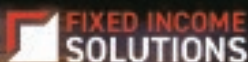


Bid on Stability.

Sleep easy with corporate & government bonds.

We operate worldwide, proudly licensed in every financial centre

Speak to an expert today.



©2024 Fixed Income Solutions Pty Ltd (ABN 87 082 873 142 | AFSL 389636)
is wholly owned by BGC Group (NASDAQ:BOC), founded in 1945 by B. Gerald Cantor.

Nationwide Pairs

A triumph for Geraldton!

Theresa Wilkes

What an extraordinary day of bridge at the Geraldton Bridge Club! On a crisp winter's day in early June, twelve enthusiastic pairs gathered to compete in the June 12 edition of the Nationwide Pairs – a true celebration of skill, strategy, and camaraderie.

The atmosphere was electric from the start. While a few competitive sparks flew, most players were fully aware of the gravity of this national event, and the spirit of the game prevailed. Remarkably, not once did the director need to be summoned – a testament to the professionalism and sportsmanship on display.

But the real headline? Geraldton didn't just show up – they shone.

A phenomenal achievement: congratulations to Graham Gavin and Maureen Willoughby (pictured), who, despite being an unusual pairing, delivered an exceptional performance. They didn't just win at club level – they topped the nation! To rise to the very top in a field of seasoned competitors across the country is nothing short of extraordinary.

Adding to Geraldton's glory, Paul Sheriff and Maxine Bohan, a duo whose partnership spans some years, also claimed second place at the club and secured a place in the national top ten. Their consistency and skill continue to inspire us all.

For those who didn't quite reach the heights they hoped for, take heart – Geraldton's results spanned the full range, showcasing the depth and diversity of talent within our club.

A heartfelt congratulations to all who participated. You've done our club proud.



Connecting people with the arts and with each other.

- Inspiring arts talks by international experts
- Enjoy great company and refreshments with like-minded individuals
- Support young artists and performers
- Help conserve our national heritage, and so much more.

Are you interested in the arts, or want to learn more while finding new friends? ArtsNational is a national not-for-profit Association dedicated to enjoying and supporting the Arts across regional and metropolitan Australia.

Visit your local society and experience ArtsNational for yourself.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR ABF MEMBERS!

Get \$20 cashback on any NEW ArtsNational Annual Membership. Visit your local ArtsNational society, if you take a new annual membership before 31 May 2025, you will be eligible for a \$20 cashback.*

Visit artsnational.au to see the annual programs.

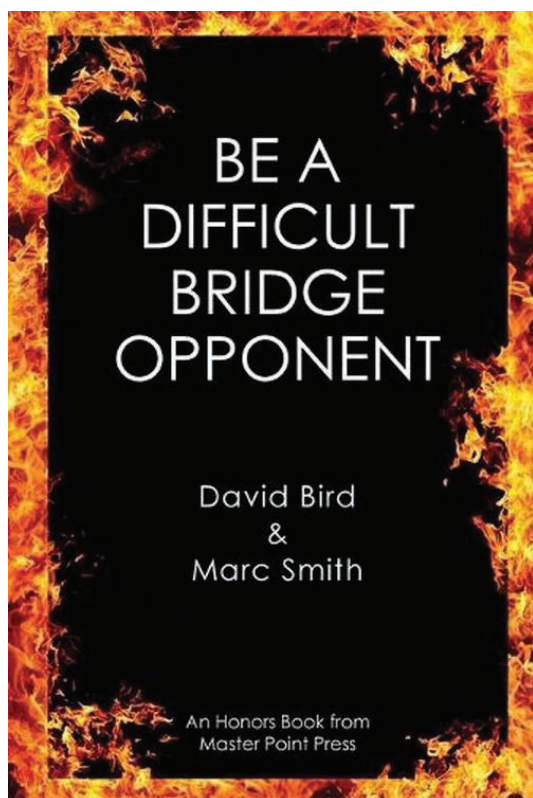
Membership and guest details online

35 societies Australia wide scan the code to find your nearest society

*conditions apply, email info@artsnational.au



BOOK REVIEW



BE A DIFFICULT BRIDGE OPPONENT
by David Bird & Marc Smith
(Master Point Press, Canada, 2025,
soft cover, 230 pages) is available from
Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies, \$44.95 post-free

The first of the book's three sections is Declarer Play, with six chapters such as Protecting Your Trumps, Disrupting Signals and Power of the Closed Hand. The second section is Bidding, with twelve chapters such as Why Preempt?, Two-suited overcalls and Tactics in Third Seat. The third section is on Defense, with six chapters including Making Declarer Guess, Defensive Entry Management and Defending Against Squeezes.

Brilliant stuff with as many as eight or nine example hands in a chapter. How would you handle this problem as declarer:

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

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| pass | 3NT | all pass | 1NT |

What is your plan when ♠5 is led? If the lead is from ♠KQxxx you can run the opening lead to your jack. If instead the lead is from ♠K10, ♠Q10, ♠K9 or ♠Q9 you can block the suit by rising ♠A, much better. When the club finesse loses you have your nine tricks. If you had ducked the lead the defenders would have cleared the spades and taken four spades and one club trick.

The authors are strong believers in the modern approach to preempting. Finding himself in third seat, nil vul with a four-count, Nystrom took the aggressive approach:

Dealer North. Neither side vulnerable.

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

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| WEST de Wijs | NORTH Clem'sson | EAST von Arnim | SOUTH Nystrom |
| dbf | pass | pass | 3♦ |
| 5♦ | 4♦ | dbf | pass |
| | pass | 5♥ | all pass |

Deprived of so much bidding space East-West's focus was on finding the right contract rather than the correct level. At the other table South tried to convince her opponents she had more values than she had:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| WEST Helgemo | NORTH Driver | EAST Larsson | SOUTH Madsen |
| dbf | pass | pass | 1♦ |
| 3♦ | pass | 2♦ | pass |
| 5NT | pass | 3NT | pass |
| | pass | 6♥ | all pass |

Helgemo could see he was facing a maximum pass, and despite the 3NT drove to slam. +980 was an 11-imp swing.

An exceptional book that is a lesson in expert technique in all areas of the game.

*Review by Paul Lavings
Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies*

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2

CONSIDERATIONS

Teams. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ A J 10 9
♥ 7
♦ K Q 9 8 6 5 4
♣ 4



♠ 5
♥ A 10 4 3 2
♦ J
♣ A K 10 8 6 5

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| pass | 4♠ | all pass | 2♠ ¹ |

1. Weak two, six spades, 6-10 points.

West leads the ♣Q, and dummy plays the four. Which club would you play as East?

* * * * *

This should not be too difficult. You can see two tricks, one in clubs and one in hearts. You need two more and the only hope for that is if partner has the ♦A and can give you a diamond ruff. The situation is obvious to you, but it might not be obvious to partner. In such cases, you should take control of the defence.

The Real Deal Workout with Ron Klinger

Now available at
www.ronklingerbridge.com

Bridge questions and answers emailed to you and featuring deals from actual events, local and overseas.

Details and samples available on the website.

To subscribe, please contact:

suzie@ronklingerbridge.com

Solution: Overtake the ♣Q, cash the ♥A and switch to the ♦J.

The deal arose in one of the matches in the Round of 32 in the 2024 Spingold (USA Open Teams):

Board 4. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ A J 10 9
♥ 7
♦ K Q 9 8 6 5 4
♣ 4

♠ 7 4
♥ K J 9 8 6
♦ A 7
♣ Q J 9 2

♠ 5
♥ A 10 4 3 2
♦ J
♣ A K 10 8 6 5

♠ K Q 8 6 3 2
♥ Q 5
♦ 10 3 2
♣ 7 3

At one table:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| pass | 4♠ | all pass | 2♠ |

West led the ♣Q: four - five - seven. West continued with the ♣2. Declarer ruffed with the ♠A, drew trumps and played the ♦3. West took the ♦A and declarer claimed ten tricks, North-South +620. One would think that the winning defence was little more than child's play and it was astonishing to see the defence missed in an event as prestigious as the USA Spingold. It is not clear what East intended with the ♣5 at trick one, but West did not get the winning message. Of course, West might have done the right thing anyway. It could not cost to switch to a heart at trick two, and East should then find the diamond switch. Assessment of blame: East 100%, West 90%.

At the other table:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| pass | 4♠ | 5♣ | 2♠ |
| pass | 5♥ | pass | pass |
| 6♣ | 6♠ | pass | 5♠ |
| dbl | all pass | | pass |

Here the defenders took all their tricks on the ♣Q lead. East won with the ♣K, cashed the ♥A and switched to the ♦J. West took the ♦A and returned the ♦7. East ruffed and South was three down, East-West +800 and +16 imps.

Note that if East had bid 4NT, West would have bid 5♣ and East would have passed. Your worst fears are rarely realised. You can see that East-West can make 6♣ or 6♥.

Australia-Wide Novice Pairs

Brad Coles

The Australia-Wide Novice Pairs is run each year in the last week of May, played in 100 clubs around the country. As usual, the randomly-dealt boards in this year's event produced many instructive situations for the players reading the souvenir booklet and the results booklet. Here are two interesting deals from the event: a slam and a partscore.

There is probably no situation in bridge more rare than a seven-level sacrifice at unfavourable vulnerability, but that's what we have here. EW can score 980 in 6♥, but NS can escape for just 500 in 7♦:

Board 5. North deals. North-South vulnerable.

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

This board was played at nearly 700 tables, and at 26 of those tables someone was in slam – 22 slams by East-West, and four by North-South! The few EW pairs who did bid slam were rewarded with a 98% matchpoint score for 980, and they would still have scored 95% in the unlikely event that NS bid on to 7♦. However, if NS were able to buy the contract at the six-level, they were the ones with the 90%+ score.

So, how did these pairs get to slam? Well, the first step is that East should open the bidding. With 11 HCP, many Easts are passing this hand, but that's not appropriate when you have both majors. When both sides have about 20 HCP, the side with the majors will usually be the ones making a contract, so you do not want this hand to be passed out.

Hypothetically, If East passes, and West opens the bidding, East's hand might be harder to describe by that point: a 1♠ **opening** shows about 12 HCP and five spades, but a 1♠ **response** can be just six points and might be just four spades. If North is planning to make a preempt, things may get even more complicated. East should take the opportunity to describe his hand accurately in one bid, before the other three players start getting in the way.

In general, while it is normal to pass with a balanced 11-count (such as South's hand, for example), when you have a 5-4 shape you should consider opening. As a general rule, if you add the length of your two longest suits to your HCP, you should usually open the bidding if the total comes to 20. So here, the two longest suits are 5+4, and the HCP are 11, which totals to 20 and an opening bid.

Following the same guideline, if you have a 6-4 or a 5-5 hand, it is normal to open with just 10 HCP. If your suits are majors, so much the better.

Let's assume that East is opening 1♠, so West knows that East has five spades:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | pass | 1♠ | pass |
| ? | | | |

With such a strong hand, West should be thinking about what useful cards partner might have for his opening bid. At a glance, West can see that if partner has five spades to the ♠KQ and the ♣AK, then the only possible loser is the ace of diamonds.

If you look more deeply into the hand, you might start wondering about tricks instead of losers. If partner has ♠KQxxx (a perfectly likely holding for a 1♠ opening) then you might be able to take six hearts and five spades for eleven tricks. In that case, even the ♣K might be unnecessary – all you actually need for the twelfth trick is the ♣A.

Finding out if partner actually has these cards is another matter. If you jump straight to Blackwood and bid the slam, you might find that partner has the ♦A, and you have twelve top tricks, but the defenders cash the ♣AK before you can get them.

For an experienced pair, there are many tools that you can use to avoid this problem – most importantly, **control bids** can tell you whether partner's ace is in clubs or diamonds. This is why the textbooks advise you to not use Blackwood when you have two quick losers in one suit – those textbooks are assuming that you are using control bids to find out early if you have two club losers. In the real world, if you don't play control bids or splinters, then sometimes Blackwood is the best that you can do.

In any case, the first step in any slam investigation is counting your likely tricks or losers, and recognising that you do actually have some slam potential.

As it turns out, 6♠ can be beaten, as South can give North a heart ruff. That's very unlucky, and not

something to be too concerned about, as South will usually lead the ♣K or his partner's diamond suit. There was actually just one South player who found the heart lead against 6♠, earning her side a lovely 91% matchpoint score (instead of the 2% they would have scored if their opponents had made the slam).

The most unusual score on the board was from one North player who tried an "unusual 2NT" bid showing both minors, and his partner misunderstood that bid and raised him to 3NT! This was seven down for an incredibly rare score of -700, scoring just 4% of the matchpoints.

Slams are great, but partscores are worth just as many matchpoints. Going from a strong double fit to a weak misfit, just 122 pairs out of 700 managed to stop in 2♦ on this board:

Board 21. North deals. North-South vulnerable.

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

The remaining pairs were in contracts such as 2NT, 3♦ or 3NT. Most of the pairs in 3♦ managed to make it, so no real damage was done, but it could have been much worse. 2NT can also be made in theory, but in practice a lot of pairs went down in that contract.

So how should the bidding have gone?

South's second bid should be 2♦, showing a minimum hand with six diamonds:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1♣ | pass | 1♦ |
| pass | 1♠ | pass | 2♦ |
| all pass | | | |

In an auction like this, responder's hand will fall into one of three categories:

- 1) Game forcing hands. These hands can rebid 3NT or higher, or bid a forcing new suit if there are any new suits left to bid. See footnote ---->
- 2) Invitational hands. These hands can jump in an existing suit (3♣, 3♦, or 3♠) or bid 2NT. In almost any auction, 2NT is an invitational bid – it asks partner to go to 3NT with a non-minimum hand.

2NT is not a place to hide with a weak misfitting hand. If you can't take eight tricks in any of your potential trump suits, you're unlikely to find eight tricks in notrumps. Just look through the hand records of your last session – you will probably find that there is not one deal where 2NT is the only making two-level contract. If you think you can make 2NT, you have to expect that partner will bid 3NT with an extra king.

3) Weaker hands. These hands must take care to keep the bidding below 2NT. Your options are to pass, rebid your own six-card suit at minimum level, make a minimum raise of one of partner's suits, or bid 1NT.

On this hand, South's diamond suit is good enough to rebid at minimum level. If South had held only five diamonds, 1NT would have been a better choice – 1NT will usually be easier to make than 2♦, especially if diamonds turn out to be a 5-1 fit!

The pairs who got too high probably rebid 2♥ instead of 2♦ (many pairs in the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs event do not play the fourth-suit forcing convention described in the footnote below, so 2♥ would be natural). However, 2♥ is still a bad bid for two reasons: (a) a new suit by responder is forcing, while we should be trying to play this hand at the two-level, and (b) partner will never have heart support in this auction, or he would have rebid 1♥, not 1♠.

Therefore 2♥ gets us no closer to finding a fit, yet it keeps pushing the bidding higher.



The event was won by Ian Wheeldon & Tineke Tamis from Monaro (pictured). Thank you to all of the organisers in the 100 clubs that participated, and also thank you to Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies for their assistance with the prizes.

Footnote: Many pairs (including all tournament players and experts) play a convention called fourth-suit forcing, where a bid of the fourth suit is an artificial game force. This is an incredibly important convention that lets you set up a forcing auction at a low level, so that you can slowly look for your best contract without jumping straight to game, and without worrying about partner passing unexpectedly. In this auction, if you play the fourth-suit forcing convention, South's bid of the fourth suit in the above auction would be 2♥.



Territory Gold Bridge Festival Alice Springs

'Proudly sponsored by the Northern Territory Government.'
27-31 August 2025

At the Alice Springs Convention Centre

Director: Matthew McManus

Matchpoint Pairs:

27 August 9:30am and 2:15pm
and 28 August 9:30am

Swiss Teams: 28 August 2:15pm
and 29 August 9:30am and 2:15pm

Swiss Pairs (with PQPs):
30-31 August 9:30am and 2:15pm

ALL WITH GOLD MASTERPOINTS and CASH PRIZES

Enter at: www.myabf.com.au

ENJOY A RED CENTRE HOLIDAY

Make it part of a great "Red Centre" holiday. Alice Springs and the surrounding area offers so much to see in this unique part of Australia. Alice Springs Visitor Information

Ph: 08 8952 5800 Website: www.discovercentralaustralia.com

ACCOMMODATION

Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel Casino and Convention Centre is an excellent venue, with exclusive event accommodation packages. Book your accommodation early in 2025 for 20% off the Best Flexible Rates at the Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. Phone: 08 8950 7777.

Desert Palms Resort (approx. 5 min walk) Self-contained Villas:
Special Price: \$185 per night.

Mention the **Bridge Festival** when booking because rooms are limited.

Email: desertpalms@desertpalms.com.au or phone: 08 89525977

Email: reservations@crowneplazaalicesprings.com.au or phone: (08) 89507777

Enquiries to the Tournament Organiser: Eileen Boock
Mobile: 0409 677 356, phone 08 8952 4061
eileenboock@gmail.com



THE FORCING DEFENCE

This month's Workshop focused on defending, with the main focus being on the strategy of defending, not specific things like which card to lead or signal with. Here is the first hand of the lesson, where South played in 4♥:

♠ 7 5 4 3

♥ 4 3 2

♦ J 10 8

♣ K Q J

♠ 8

♥ A K Q J 10

♦ K Q 9 4

♣ A 10 9

West led their singleton diamond, East won their ace, and returned a diamond for West to trump. A seemingly good start to the defence. The defenders won their ace of spades, but after that, declarer won the lead, drew the trumps and made the rest of the tricks. At some tables, West tried the ace of spades first, and then played diamonds, with the same outcome. Here is the full deal:

♠ 7 5 4 3

♥ 4 3 2

♦ J 10 8

♣ K Q J

♠ A K Q J

♥ 9 8 6 5

♦ 3

♣ 8 6 4 3

♠ 10 9 6 2

♥ 7

♦ A 7 6 5 2

♣ 7 5 2

♠ 8

♥ A K Q J 10

♦ K Q 9 4

♣ A 10 9

If West could have played a low spade to East, then they could have trumped another diamond, but their spades were all higher than East's spades.

There was a defence to defeat 4♥. If West led a spade at trick one, and then another spade, South would trump right away. Most defenders would feel like they just had their fingers burned, and never lead spades again. However, the successful defence on this hand was to lead more spades when they regained the lead.

Take a look at the hearts around the table:

♥ 4 3 2

♥ 9 8 6 5

♥ 7

♥ A K Q J 10

It doesn't look like West is entitled to any heart tricks, but if South is forced to trump once, then both South and West will have four trumps. If the defenders manage to lead another spade, and South is forced to trump again, then they will only have three hearts left and West will have four!

West will be able to gain the lead at the end of the hand, and perhaps win some spade tricks.

If one defender holds four or more trumps, then leading long and good suits and forcing declarer to trump is called a Forcing Defence. If you can force declarer to trump once or twice, they sometimes run out of trumps and the hand can fall apart.

The defenders rarely want to lead a suit that can be trumped by dummy using their shorter or weaker trumps.



MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

Latest work done – Release 6.1

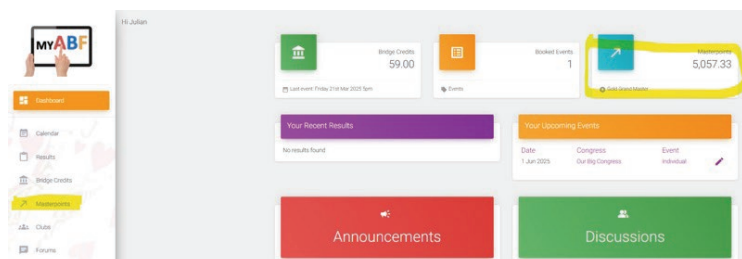
We recently put out a new My ABF release. You won't have seen much change though, because this one was largely a behind-the-scenes update to technology components etc. We continue to do that sort of work in the background and there is more to come – e.g. looking at system performance. Here's a link to the notes that accompanied the release:

<https://www.abf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Release-6.1-July-2025-Technology-refresh-ABF-registration-cards.pdf>

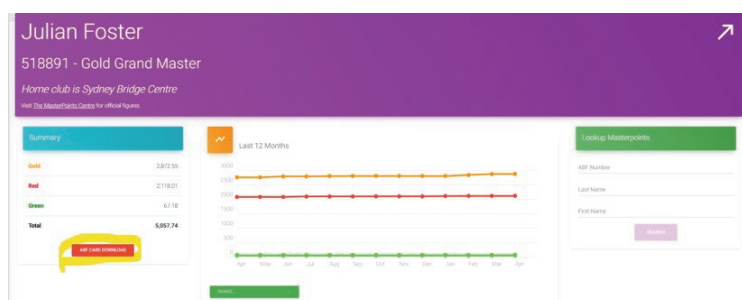
The most visible thing is an ability to view and print your ABF Registration Card (we took the view this year that physically printing and posting about 30,000 of these was no longer sensible).

METHOD 1: GENERATE YOUR OWN REGISTRATION CARD FROM WITHIN MY ABF

This can only be used by players who have registered for My ABF. When logged into My ABF, select Masterpoints – either from the left hand main menu or via the right most shortcut at the top of your dashboard:



On that screen you will see your own masterpoints:



Under your own masterpoint totals click **ABF Card Download**.

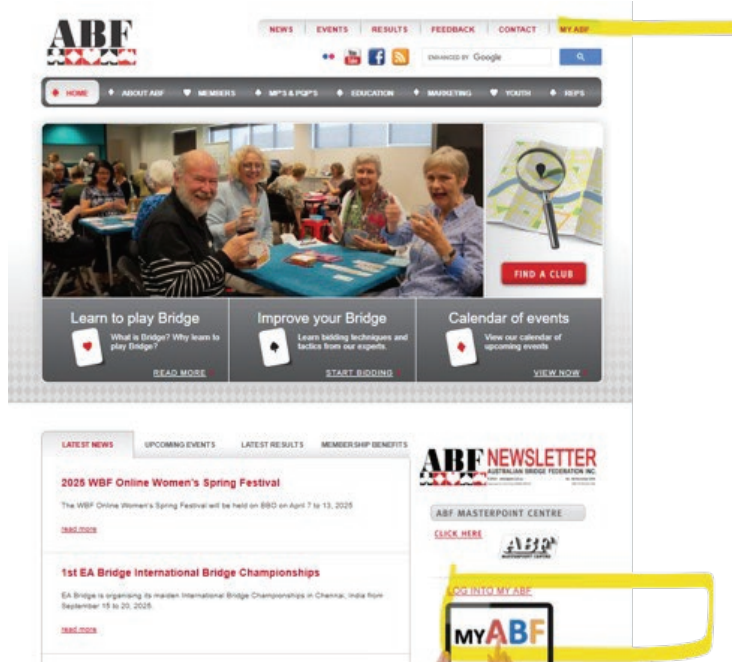
That will generate a PDF version of your card – you can then print that out or save it, or both.



METHOD 2: GENERATE ANYONE'S REGISTRATION CARD OUTSIDE MY ABF

Anyone can use this method, including those players who have not yet registered for My ABF.

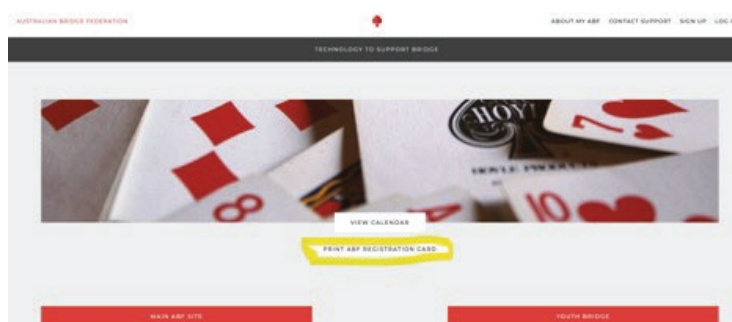
Go to the My ABF **Logged out** screen. This can most easily be accessed from the main ABF webpage via the links on the right:



You can also directly key in:

<https://myabf.com.au/view>

This "logged out" page looks like this:



Click on Print ABF Registration Card.

That brings up the option to search for a player by name or ABF number:

Look Up Player

ABF Number
Or
First Name
Last Name

| ABF Number | Name | Club | Rank | Action |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1029584 | John Foster | SA Bridge Assoc. | Club Master | Download Card |
| 518891 | Julian Foster | Sydney Bridge Centre | Gold Grand Master | Download Card |
| 804762 | Julie Foster | Sale Bridge Club | Bronze Local Master | Download Card |

Key in details, select the player you need and click **Download Card**.

The Download Card function will produce a file looking like this:

You can save that as a pdf document or you can print it should you want a hard copy.

ABF Registration Card

Issued by:

NAME: Julian Foster

CLUB: Sydney Bridge Centre

| ABF NUMBER | MASTERS RANK | VALID TO |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| 518891 | Gold Grand | 31/03/2026 |

| GOLD POINTS | RED POINTS | GREEN POINTS | TOTAL POINTS |
|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2872.55 | 2118.01 | 67.18 | 5057.74 |

Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated ABN 78 051 631 000

What we are doing now

Two main things:

1. Masterpoints. At the moment we are holding a series of internal workshops to work through the detail of what we are going to do to bring the ABF Masterpoint Centre into My ABF. The plan isn't to just blindly copy what we already have – as I mentioned in the last edition we are taking the opportunity to look at the manual processes we currently have with a view to trying to automate more of them so fewer people have to waste time pressing buttons to send masterpoint files around and have them processed.
2. Other enhancements. We have reviewed all the items we have logged (almost 200 things ranging from small little bugs to quite major functionality enhancements). It's obviously impossible to do all of these instantly (and some will probably never be done as they are now out of date or contradict other requests!) but we are planning an ongoing series of smaller releases to address the ones considered the most valuable. We're also seeking to engage more with our on-the-ground product champions to get their feedback as to where our limited development efforts would be best deployed.

CLUBS – Are you really managing your memberships in MyABF?

One of the newest options for clubs is to manage their members fully within My ABF. The option to turn this on is under Settings – General:

Club Settings

OUR DETAILS | **GENERAL** | STATISTICS | COMMUNICATIONS

☐ Default session payments to last used payment method by player
If this is checked then we will default the payment method for sessions to be whatever the player used last time which may not be Bridge Credits or your secondary payment method. Only applies to sessions.

Annual membership renewal date - day: 1

Annual membership renewal date - month: 1

[Use full club membership management](#) ☐

What that lets them do is:

- Track when members are paid up to and maintain their membership status
- Issue annual renewal notices for members
- Collect payment for membership via bridge credits

The first of these points is important – the system will automatically maintain the member's status with the club based on the dates of the membership periods, the renewals issued and whether they have paid. There are processes that run automatically every night to do these updates.

So clubs should only turn this option on if they are actually going to use it! If that option is selected you are telling the system that you want it to manage the membership status of your members. If you then don't use it, at the end of whatever membership period is currently in the system, it will treat your members as having lapsed their membership. When that happens they no longer appear in the main member listing (although don't be alarmed - they are still in the system!) and that also means they are no longer treated as current members for the purposes of calculating session table money or for sending member emails.

What seems to have happened is several clubs have ticked that box, but have not in fact issued any member renewals through My ABF. As a result they have experienced a load of their members lapsing which can, at first glance, be quite alarming. Whilst that can all be fixed, it requires you to export members, edit dates, and re-import (Contact Support for help).

The solution is very simple. If you don't want My ABF to manage the status of your members then don't tick the "Use full club membership management" box! This way you can just have a simple list of your members (which will be fine for the purposes of member communications or calculating table money or entry fees) but they won't automatically lapse and you won't run into these problems.

*Julian Foster, My ABF Manager
julian.foster@abf.com.au*

Tournament results

Photos supplied by Laura Ginnan from the Victorian Festival Yearbook

Victorian Festival Of Bridge

WALLY SCOTT OPEN SWISS PAIRS



| | |
|--|--------|
| 1 Liam Milne - James Coutts | 120.28 |
| 2 Richard Brightling - David Hoffman | 110.34 |
| 3 Ben Chosid - Chris Mulley | 109.87 |
| 4 Christy Geromboux - Sebastian Yuen | 107.40 |
| 5 Alex Goss - David Wiltshire | 105.64 |
| 6 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumbly | 105.00 |
| 7 Sartaj Hans - Bruce Neill | 103.10 |
| 8 Heath Watkins - Matthew Sieredzinski | 102.50 |
| 9 Tomer Libman - Lavy Libman | 101.73 |
| 10 Ian Robinson - Neil Ewart | 100.12 |

JIM & NORMA BORIN MIXED PAIRS



| | |
|--|--------|
| 1 Dagmar Neumann - Maurits Van Der Vlugt | 108.05 |
| 2 Jamie Thompson - Jodi Tutty | 100.66 |
| 3 Peter Grant - Pam Crichton | 100.26 |
| 4 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell | 98.71 |
| 5 Cathryn Herden - Matthew Thomson | 95.35 |
| 6 Jane Reynolds - Peter Reynolds | 93.87 |
| 7 Lyn Carter - Malcolm Carter | 93.08 |
| 8 Marianne Bookallil - Stephen Fischer | 92.21 |
| 9 Vanessa Brown - Will Jenner-O'Shea | 87.79 |
| 10 Sandra Richman - Andrew Richman | 85.56 |

VICTOR MUNTZ RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS



| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Steven Kemp - Glen Chick | 106.68 |
| 2 Rebecca Dorman - Rebecca Mackiggan | 98.46 |
| 3 Johnson Wong - Catherine Ng | 97.55 |
| 4 Julie Kirby - Bronwyn Simmonds | 95.58 |
| 5 Jan Van Riel - Vivienne Dacey | 92.81 |
| 6 Marg Ferguson - Vicki Lee | 91.50 |
| 7 Sue Sharp - Andrew Sharp | 90.84 |
| 8 Megan Edwards - Michelle George | 88.54 |
| 9 Debbie Chappell - Julie Short | 87.54 |
| 10 Lillian Sealy - Roxane Kruger | 83.88 |

UNDER 100 MATCHPOINT PAIRS

Anita Liu - Sharon Michael

UNDER 20 MATCHPOINT PAIRS

David Melzer - Juliette Mendelovits

CHARLIE SNASHALL RESTRICTED TEAMS

James Palmer, Liam Minogue, Zara Chowdhury, Damon Flicker



VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

- 1 Warren Lazer, Michael Ware, Pauline Gumby, Pam Livingston
- 2 Tomer Libman, Lavy Libman, Fraser Rew, Lakshmi Sunderasan
- 3 Joachim Haffer, Liam Milne, James Coutts, Phil Markey
- 4 David Gue, Josh Tomlin, Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung
- 5 Peter Newman, Ben & Jamie Thompson, Matthew Thomson
- 6 M van der Vlugt, Andre Korenhof, Jodi Tutty, Dagmar Neumann
- 7 Marianne Bookallil, S Fischer, David Hoffman, Richard Brightling
- 8 Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin, Moss Wylie, Blair Fisher, Elizabeth Fisher
- 9 Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna de Livera, Ian Robinson, Neil Ewart
- 10 Arlene Dalley, Max Henbest, Justin Mill, Justin Williams



Australian National Championships

BUTLER PAIRS (OPEN)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Kate McCallum - Axel Johannsson | 112.26 |
| 2 Michael Ware - Matthew Mcmanus | 110.69 |
| 3 Christy Geromboux - Sebastian Yuen | 100.44 |
| 4 Chris Depasquale - Michael Courtney | 100.20 |
| 5 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby | 97.80 |
| 6 Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung | 96.20 |
| 7 Joachim Haffer - Philip Markey | 92.30 |
| 8 Jessica Brake - Shane Harrison | 85.33 |
| 9 George Bilski - Andrew Braithwaite | 82.59 |
| 10 Jamie Thompson - Mathew Vadas | 81.19 |

BUTLER PAIRS (MIXED)

| | |
|--|--------|
| 1 David Wiltshire - Sophie Ashton | 112.92 |
| 2 Joan Butts - Peter Buchen | 102.74 |
| 3 Moss Wylie - Pamela Nisbet | 101.07 |
| 4 Jonathan Free - Mimi Packer | 100.33 |
| 5 Jane Reynolds - Peter Reynolds | 96.97 |
| 6 Trevor Fuller - Leone Fuller | 94.25 |
| 7 Sandra Richman - Andrew Richman | 94.16 |
| 8 Marianne Bookallil - Stephen Fischer | 83.98 |
| 9 Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill | 79.56 |
| 10 Paul Ruan - Lilly Jia | 62.64 |

INTERSTATE PAIRS

| | |
|--|--------|
| 1 Michael Courtney - Joan Butts | 61.40% |
| 2 Terry Strong - Jill Magee | 59.70% |
| 3 Dave Munro - James Steer | 57.90% |
| 4 Elizabeth Zeller - Julie Pigdon | 57.20% |
| 5 Jane Reynolds - Viv Wood | 55.70% |
| 6 David Smith - Tony Hutton | 54.70% |
| 7 Therese Tully - Richard Ward | 55.10% |
| 8 Phil Gallasch - Kevin Lange | 55.50% |
| 9 Diya Shah - Dev Shah | 53.60% |
| 10 Tere Wotherspoon - Siegfried Konig | 53.60% |
| 11 Angeline Christie - Chris Mulley | 53.40% |
| 12 Wei Zhang - Catherine Zhang | 54.30% |
| 13 Simon Zhang - Yumin Li | 52.90% |
| 14 Ida Andersen - Yiwei Qi | 54.50% |
| 15 Cynthia Belonogoff - Vinod Nasta | 52.40% |
| 16 Thilak Ranasinghe - Gordon McRobert | 54.10% |
| 17 Di Coats - Jan Clarke | 52.30% |
| 18 Murray Perrin - Evelyne Mander | 54.80% |
| 19 Hannah O'Donnell - Lynda Young | 53.60% |
| 20 Matt Sun - Martin Wu | 53.10% |

STEPBRIDGE SWISS PAIRS A

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Dagmar Neumann - Jodi Tutty | 123.10 |
| 2 Peter Schmidt - John Rivers | 122.35 |
| 3 Fraser Rew - George Kozakos | 116.29 |
| 4 Andrew Eddie - Pam Morgan-King | 110.49 |
| 5 Andrew Woollons - Nikolas Moore | 104.11 |
| 6 Carmel Wikman - Margie Knox | 103.86 |
| 7 Lynette Crookall - Carolyn Blyth | 100.78 |
| 8 David Hudson - David Fryda | 99.90 |

STEPBRIDGE SWISS PAIRS B

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Simon Zhang - Yumin Li | 124.41 |
| 2 Jane Rennie - James Coutts | 120.32 |
| 3 Tania Lloyd - Hugh Grosvenor | 117.49 |
| 4 Erin Waterhouse - Peter Lyons | 114.85 |
| 5 Dagmar Neumann - Jodi Tutty | 113.84 |
| 6 Terry Brown - Ian Thomson | 111.33 |
| 7 Paul Hooykaas - Pele Rankin | 110.44 |
| 8 David Hudson - David Fryda | 107.86 |

ANC Interstate Teams

*Winning teams are pictured on front cover
Photos by Richard Ward*

INTERSTATE TEAMS (OPEN)

SA (Peter Chan, Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum, Arjuna de Livera, Nicolas Croft, Jon Hunt npc, Roger Januszke absent) 168 def VIC (Paul Ruan, Simon Henbest, David Beckett, Chen Ding, Dee Harley, Neil Ewart) 155

INTERSTATE TEAMS (WOMEN)

WA (Gwyneira Brahma, Stella Steer, Pauline Collett, Cathy Hood, Leone Fuller, Marnie Leybourne, Allison Stralow npc) 146 def SA (Ann Clarke, Felicity Smyth, Ingrid Cooke, Therese Demarco, Sheila Bird, Sue Lusk) 144

INTERSTATE TEAMS (YOUTH)

VIC (Rebecca O'Reilly npc, Conor Hosking, Finn Rennie, Samuel Angove, Samuel Goss, Sebastian Wright, Alex Goss) 192 def QLD (Ada Sun, Remco Spencer, Lauren Morgan, Jasmine Skeate, Alex Wu, Paddy Taylor) 113

INTERSTATE TEAMS (SENIOR)

NSW (Bruce Neill, Julian Foster npc, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Peter Buchen, Mike Hughes, Ted Griffin) 165 def ACT (Malcolm Carter, Elizabeth Havas, Richard Brightling, Bernard Waters, Christopher Quail, Peter Reynolds) 103



BAWA in association with the ABF
presents the



2025 THE JOAN PRINCE MEMORIAL SWAN RIVER OPEN SWISS PAIRS SPONSORED BY DAISY POOL COVERS

A GOLD POINT AND OPEN PQP EVENT

1st - \$1000, 2nd - \$600, 3rd - \$400, 4th - \$300



Sat 23rd & Sun 24th August

Start time 9.30am each day

West Australian Bridge Club

7 Odern Crescent, Swanbourne WA



Chief Director: Matt McManus



Tournament Organiser

Sheenagh Young: 0409 381 439 Email: sheenaghyoungbridge@gmail.com

Enter & pay via MyABF website.

Entry Fee: \$200 per pair