

Winners from the Australian National Championships





AUGUST 2026

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Cover photo: ANC Interstate Open Teams winners:
Dave Wiltshire, Peter Buchen, Michael Courtney, Nigel Rosendorff, James Coutts, David Fryda npc, Bruce Neill

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**IMPROVE
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Ron Klinger
Solution on page 27

Teams, dealer South, North-South vulnerable.

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
pass	1♥	pass	1NT
pass	2♦ ¹	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

1. Artificial, forcing to game.

West leads the ♣7: four - nine - jack. Declarer plays the ♥9: four - ace - seven, the ♥K: five - three - eight, the ♥Q: ♣8 - ♦4 - ♥J and the ♥2: ♣2 - ♠7 - ♥10. What would you play now as West?



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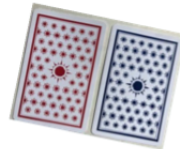
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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

International Performance Director and Advisory Committee

Help shape the next stage of Australia's international bridge performance program.

Closing date

Expressions of Interest close on 19 August 2026. EOIs should be sent to David Fryda, ABF Executive Director, at david.fryda@abf.com.au

Overview

The Australian Bridge Federation is moving to the next stage of its work to strengthen Australia's international bridge performance.

Following the work of the International Performance Task Force, the ABF is now seeking Expressions of Interest for two closely related opportunities:

- the paid role of International Performance Director; and
- voluntary positions on the International Performance Advisory Committee.

Together, these roles will help shape and implement a more structured, disciplined and long-term approach to international performance, with the aim of improving the competitiveness of Australian representative teams over the coming years.

International Performance Director

The International Performance Director will be responsible for leading the implementation of the ABF's international performance program.

This is a paid role and will suit someone with the credibility, judgement and leadership capability to work with elite and aspiring representative players, selectors, coaches, captains, administrators and the ABF Board.

The role will involve helping to build the structures, standards and processes needed to support stronger international outcomes. This will include areas such as player expectations, squad development, partnership stability, training and preparation, performance review, and the continuing implementation of relevant Task Force recommendations.

The successful candidate will need to be able to lead change, work constructively with a range of stakeholders, and help turn broad strategic objectives into practical action.

Further details are available in the International Performance Director Position Description: [here](#)

International Performance Advisory Committee

The ABF is also seeking Expressions of Interest from people interested in joining the International Performance Advisory Committee.

Committee roles will be voluntary.

The Advisory Committee will support the development and implementation of the international performance program by providing advice, expertise and practical assistance. It is expected that the Committee will be established before the International Performance Director is appointed, so that important work can begin and momentum can be maintained while the recruitment process is completed.

The ABF is interested in hearing from people with relevant experience, expertise or perspective, including in areas such as international bridge, high-performance environments, coaching, selection, player development, partnership development, governance, performance review, psychology, data and analysis, change implementation, or administration.

Members do not need to be current elite players. The key requirement is a constructive commitment to helping Australian international bridge improve.

Further details are available in the International Performance Advisory Committee Terms of Reference: [here](#)

Background material

To assist those considering nominating, the ABF has prepared background material explaining the proposed reform direction and the broader context for this work.

Interested people are encouraged to review the documents most relevant to their Expression of Interest:

- [International Performance Director Position Description](#)
- [International Performance Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Presentation for representative and aspiring representative players](#)
- [Presentation for grassroots players](#)

Submitting an Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest should briefly outline:

- whether you are expressing interest in the International Performance Director role, the Advisory Committee, or both;
- your relevant experience, expertise or perspective;
- why you are interested in contributing to this work; and
- any potential conflicts of interest that may be relevant.

EOIs should be sent to David Fryda, ABF Executive Director, at david.fryda@abf.com.au.

The closing date for EOIs is 19 August 2026.

A significant opportunity

This is an important opportunity to help shape the future of Australian international bridge. The ABF is seeking people who are prepared to think beyond short-term results and contribute to building a stronger, more consistent and more professional international performance environment – one that supports current representative players, aspiring representatives and the long-term development of Australian bridge.

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Goan, Goan, Gone

PETER GILL reports on the Senior Team's victory in the Asia Cup, one of Australia's four medals at the event

The Asia Cup is held every four years. In theory it should be harder to win than the Asia Pacific Championships, because more countries take part, including India. In Seniors bridge, for those aged 65 or more, India came 2nd in the World Championships in both 2022 and 2024. Australia won the 2025 Asia Pacific Seniors in China but only one of the winning players was backing up in Goa: Terry Brown. Of the 2025 winners, we'd lost Hugh Grosvenor and George Kozakos to the Open team (they qualified for both our 2026 Senior and Open teams) and Maurits van der Vlugt to the Mixed team.



Our 2026 Seniors team would be Ian Thomson - Terry Brown and David Hudson - Peter Gill, with a third pair to replace Grosvenor - Kozakos.

When Grosvenor - Kozakos were moved into the Open team, the ABF was enlightened enough to augment the team with any two Australian Seniors players, so we added two great players: Paul Lavings and Michael Courtney. That decision turned out to be pivotal in our victory in the Asia Cup Seniors Teams, an event which Australia had never previously won. *If you want to know more about Michael, see the articles "Legends of Australian Bridge" on pages 21 to 23 of [Bulletin 7](#) at the 2026 Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge. For more about Paul Lavings, see pages 28-29 of [Bulletin 8](#), or pages 16-18 of [Bulletin 9](#).*

In the four-day qualifying stage, our playing captain Ian Thomson and his partner Terry Brown did very well indeed, though all three pairs made a solid positive contribution.

India topped the qualifiers, with us 2nd, then a gap to Bangladesh 3rd and Japan 4th. We were glad that the Conditions of Contest pitted first vs fourth and second vs third, because if India could choose their opponents, they surely would have chosen Bangladesh rather than Japan, given that Japan had two former world champions in their team. We defeated Bangladesh by 103 imps. Meanwhile India defeated Japan by 1 imp. The Grand Final would obviously be a tougher match for us.

Here is Board 20 from our semi-final, where Ian Thomson judged well to make a very aggressive game try:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 9 6 3 2
♥ 9 6
♦ K 10 9 4 3 2
♣ 2

♠ A J 4
♥ K 8 7 4 3
♦ 8
♣ A 6 5 3

♠ K 10 8 7 5
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 6
♣ K 10 9 4

♠ Q
♥ A J 2
♦ A Q J 7 5
♣ Q J 8 7

WEST Brown	NORTH	EAST Thomson	SOUTH
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♠	pass	2NT ¹	pass
3♣ ²	pass	3♠ ³	pass
4♠	all pass		

1. Relay bid, asking Terry Brown what he had.
2. Minimum with three spades.
3. Offer to play, with an invitational hand.

The ♣Q was led to the king. A low spade to dummy was followed by three more rounds of spades, South pitching three diamonds and dummy pitching a diamond. Then a heart to the king and another heart to the ten and jack.

South cashed ♦A, then played ♦Q on which a club was pitched from dummy as Thommo ruffed. It looks like you have to play ♣10 next to try for four club tricks, because they will win a long diamond if you exit to ♥A, but that line would fail when club ten is covered.

Thommo avoided that losing line because he had deduced the exact layout from the play and the lack of NS bidding, so Thommo exited with ♥Q to the ace – South was endplayed, giving Thommo two clubs and the long heart. This was the only table out of sixteen at which 4♠ was bid and made. The result was 140 at the other table in 3♥, so 10 imps in.

The Grand Final was close throughout. We took an early lead when Lavings - Courtney collected 800 from an injudicious 5♥ contract induced by Australia's rapid preempt to 4♠.

On Board 9, our lead was increased.

Board 9. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

	♠ —		
	♥ K J 7 6 2		
	♦ K 7 3		
	♣ J 9 7 6 2		
♠ A 10 8 6 4		♠ J 3 2	
♥ Q		♥ A 8 5 4	
♦ 10 8 6		♦ A J 4 2	
♣ 10 8 5 4		♣ K 3	
	♠ K Q 9 7 5		
	♥ 10 9 3		
	♦ Q 9 5		
	♣ A Q		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
David	Raju	Peter	Anil
	2♥	pass	2NT
pass	3♣	pass	3♥
pass	4♥	all pass	

Raju Tolani opened 2♥ (five hearts and five of a minor, weak). By going via 2NT, Anil Pathiye showed an invitation, which Raju accepted. Aggressively bidding

close vulnerable games is commonplace among the very top players.

Peter Gill led ♠2 to the queen and ace, ruffed. Next came a club to the queen, on which David Hudson gave false count to try to make life harder for declarer. At trick three, ♣K tumbled under ♣A, so Raju knew the club layout anyway. Now Raju cashed dummy's spade king, pitching a diamond, before playing a diamond to the king and ace.

What should Peter Gill do now?

Peter knows that declarer has 0-5-3-5 shape because David gave accurate count in diamonds. Peter also knows that declarer did not start with J10xxx in clubs because, if his side suit was all winners, declarer would play trumps, not diamonds, from dummy at trick five.

Peter gave the matter deep thought. It superficially looks wise to shorten declarer's trumps to one less trump than Peter has, by playing spades, but if you go through the play trick by trick, that leads to ten tricks. Peter figured out that if he plays ace and another trump, even if that fells his partner's singleton king, if declarer doesn't unblock ♥9 from dummy, he will be stuck in the wrong hand and make nine tricks. So he played ♥A, low from dummy, then a low heart – the only winning defence – for down one.

As it turns out, even if ♥9 had been unblocked, I think 4♥ would still fail. One of several winning plays for declarer was ♦Q instead of the low diamond from dummy.

With one board to go, we were gone. Gone, down and out in Goa, with no chance, it seemed. India was celebrating – we were desolate, because our 7.5 imp



Photos: Senior Teams gold medallists David Hudson, Terry Brown, Ian Thomson, Paul Lavings, Peter Gill, Michael Courtney; Mixed Teams bronze medallists Sebastian Yuen, Christy Geromboux, Cathryn Herden, Matthew Thomson, Maurits van der Vlugt, Dagmar Neumann; Men's Pairs silver medallists Hugh Grosvenor - George Kozakos; Women's Pairs gold medallists Barbara Travis - Lori Smith.

lead appeared certain to be eradicated by an Aussie disaster on the last board. India's Seniors had come second in the World Championships in both 2022 and 2024, largely due to their consistency and absence of disasters. Their style is to avoid disasters. Or were we goners?

Board 16. Dealer West. East-West vulnerable.

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

Our EW pair Thommo and Terry ended up in 5♣ doubled, down 800. If you change ♦K to ♠K and add



♥10 to the EW assets, 5♣ might even be making, so it wasn't the silliest thing to do, but the outcome was horrible at this vulnerability.

Lavings and Courtney had played throughout the grand final and were having a very good match, but needed one more miracle to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat:

WEST Raju	NORTH Paul	EAST Anil	SOUTH Michael
1♣	1♦	1♥ *	5♦
5♠	dbl	all pass	

1♥ was explained as a transfer to spades. Raju Tolani thought NS were sacrificing and unwisely bid 5♠. We couldn't believe it. On ♦A lead, 5♠ doubled went for 800. It was a flat board, leaving a regretful Raju Tolani, who'd bid too much, and some very happy Aussies. It was like he'd dropped the ball over the try line as the hooter sounded. I've been involved in many last-board climaxes such as the Mixed Pairs Playoff Final last year, but this one topped them all.



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Much to celebrate – and much to look forward to

The period since our previous newsletter has provided plenty of reasons to celebrate Australian bridge, as well as much to look forward to over the coming months.

A particular highlight was Australia's outstanding performance at the 5th Asia Cup Bridge Championships in Goa. Australia finished first on the overall medal tally, winning two gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

The Australian Seniors Team of Ian Thomson, Terry Brown, Peter Gill, David Hudson, Michael Courtney and Paul Lavings won gold after defeating India B in the final. Barbara Travis and Lori Smith also claimed gold in the Women's Pairs, while George Kozakos and Hugh Grosvenor won silver in the Men's Pairs. Australia A, comprising Christy Geromboux, Sebastian Yuen, Dagmar Neumann, Maurits van der Vlugt, Cathryn Herden and Matthew Thomson, completed our medal haul by winning bronze in the Mixed Teams.

These were exceptional results against strong international competition. Congratulations to all of the Australian players, captains, coaches and supporters involved. Performances like these demonstrate that Australian players can compete successfully with the best in our region and provide real encouragement as we work to strengthen our approach to international performance.

Closer to home, congratulations to BFACT on successfully hosting the 2026 Australian National Championships in Canberra. The ANC is one of the largest and most important events on our calendar, and delivering a tournament of that scale requires an enormous amount of planning, coordination and volunteer effort.

My thanks go to everyone involved, including the organising committee, tournament officials, directors, staff and volunteers. Thanks also to all of the players who supported the ANC through their participation.

Our attention now turns to a busy period of international competition.

In early August, five Australian youth teams will travel to Hefei, China, to compete in the World Youth Transnational Championships. Representing Australia internationally is a tremendous honour, and I know the Australian bridge community will join me in wishing our young players, captains, coaches and support personnel every success.

Whatever the final results, the opportunity to compete against leading young players from around the world will be invaluable. We look forward to following the teams' progress and sharing their experiences.

Later in August, a contingent of Australian players will compete in the World Bridge Federation's World Bridge Series in Katowice, Poland. We wish every Australian contestant the very best. International bridge is demanding, and those who participate commit considerable time, effort and personal resources to preparing and competing. We hope they perform to their potential, enjoy the experience and return with some more results for Australian bridge to celebrate.

While we support our current representatives, important work is also under way to create stronger foundations for the future.

During the ANC, I gave presentations outlining the proposed future direction for international bridge in Australia. I spoke about both the implications for representative and aspiring representative players, and also the broader bridge community.

Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed to the discussion and provided feedback. The questions and different perspectives shared during and after the presentations will help us as we move from concepts into implementation.

On page 4 of this issue, you will find details of the opportunity to become the ABF's inaugural International Performance Director or to join the new International Performance Committee. These roles will

be central to developing a more coordinated and sustainable approach to player development, preparation and international performance.

We are looking for people who can bring energy, sound judgement and a genuine commitment to helping Australian players succeed. You do not need to be one of Australia's leading players to make a valuable contribution. Skills and experience in leadership, coaching, high-performance programs, planning, communication or administration may be equally important.

I encourage anyone who believes they may have something to offer – or who knows someone who might – to read the separate article and consider submitting an expression of interest.

We are also asking the Australian bridge community to help shape the future identity of our representative teams.

Our team-naming competition is seeking names that are distinctively Australian, memorable and capable of creating a stronger identity around the players who represent us internationally. The names need to work not only today but for many years to come – on uniforms, websites, social media, tournament broadcasts and wherever our teams compete.

There has already been plenty of discussion and no shortage of creativity. Please read the competition details, give the challenge some thought and send us your ideas. The winning suggestions could become a lasting part of Australian bridge and they could earn your club an ABF-sponsored morning tea!

Another national initiative now under way is the 2026 ABF Club Teams Knockout. This event continues to grow in popularity every year and this year we have over 60 teams participating for gold! This event gives clubs and their members an opportunity to compete nationally without the cost and time involved in travelling. I encourage clubs throughout the country to embrace the event. The prize money on offer goes to the clubs that are represented by the winning teams across five separate masterpoint categories.

There is also good news regarding the 2027 Summer Festival of Bridge, which will return to QT Canberra.

Securing a high-quality venue for our premier national tournament has been an important priority, and we look forward to welcoming players to QT in January. I encourage you to find your partners and teammates for what should be a lot of fun and good bridge!

Behind the scenes, work continues on the transition of My ABF to its new development and support arrangements, together with planning for the integration of the Masterpoint Centre. This is a substantial and complex program, but it represents an important opportunity to make our national systems more efficient and easier for clubs, administrators and players to use.

We are also continuing to strengthen the way the ABF communicates with the bridge community. This includes improving our website and newsletters, expanding our social media presence and finding better ways to promote our players, events and achievements. Australian bridge has many excellent stories to tell, and we need to become more consistent and confident in telling them.

None of this happens without the contribution of volunteers, committee members, tournament organisers, club officials, staff and contractors across the country. It is easy to focus on the challenges facing bridge, but it is equally important to recognise how many people continue to contribute their time and expertise because they care deeply about our game.

There is much to be positive about. We have Australian players achieving outstanding international results, talented young teams competing on the world stage, significant improvements under way in our systems and programs, and an active national community willing to contribute ideas and effort.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I also encourage you to take a close look at the opportunities to become involved – whether by entering the team-naming competition, expressing interest in one of the new international performance roles, supporting our national events or simply encouraging someone new to discover bridge.

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YOUR ACTION IN FIRST SEAT WITH GOOD SHAPE BUT FEW POINTS

What would you call on the following hands in first seat, nil vulnerable?

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

SOLUTIONS

1. 3♠. This is my version of a typical preempt, a long strong suit with little or nothing outside. That is not the fashion over the past ten years and most top players would open 4♠.

Indeed, if you open at the four-level you may attract an opposition bid that could be far too high and incur a penalty, or far too low and miss a slam.

2. 1♦. Too good to preempt, with two quick tricks and even the ♦1098 as extra grunt. This hand came up on Cuebids, a mobile phone app for bidding practice. When partner opened 3♦ I replied 5♦ with:

♠ Q 10 2 ♥ A K 2 ♦ K J 7 ♣ A Q 5 3

Alas, the best spot was 6NT by me.

3. 4♥. A four-level preempt (for me) is typically an eight-card suit, and with such a good suit everyone would open 4♥. When this hand came up LHO had a good six-card spade suit and 15 HCP and naturally bid 4♠. That went for -800 when partner doubled 4♠ holding:

♠ A Q 8 4 2 ♥ 10 4 ♦ 9 8 5 ♣ A K 10

4. 3♣. Even though you do not have a strong suit you can visualise opps with major suit length, so your preempt has a likely target. Partner held nothing but

♣QJx and if they bid a prompt 5♣, opponents will likely miss their cold grand slam in either major.

5. 1♥. One rule I like is that a pre-empt will not be as strong a suit as AKQ. Hence this hand is a 1♥ opening for me. You do have six likely tricks, which is quite a bit more than a lot of flat 12 HCP openings.

6. Pass. In the recent Asia Cup I opened this hand 1♠. My long-suffering partner held a 14-count and could do no better than two down in 3NT.

When I gave my hand a closer look, I saw a nine-count with an ace, a queen, and three jacks. Queens and jacks do not make good light openings; aces, kings and good suits do. I recommend a weak 2♠ opening or even pass.

7. Pass. Aces and kings are defensive cards and you do not have the middle of your suit. If partner has a good hand with a singleton or void in clubs, you are in the wrong strain and too high.

Preempting can give partner as many problems as it gives the opposition, and I try to have depth in my suit.

8. Pass. The combination of a poor suit and possibly having a much better fit in hearts discourages me from opening 3♠. This is a point of some contention, and yes, I am in the minority.

For the majority viewpoint, I emailed Marc Smith, a top-level commentator and author. He kindly replied, making many strong points:

"The modern theory is that preempts are destructive weapons.

Consider these two hands...

♠ A J 9 x x x x ♥ Q x x x ♦ x ♣ x

and

♠ A J 9 x x x x ♥ x ♦ x ♣ Q x x x

Let's assume that you open 3♠ on both. When you hold the second hand, LHO has a good hand and the opponents belong in 4♥; the auction is likely to go 3♠-dbl-pass-4♥. When you have the first hand,

and LHO is 2-2-4-5 shape and they belong in 5♦, the auction is much more difficult for them.

I think the hand you quote is a routine 3♠ opening. Reverse the majors:

♠ Q x x x ♥ A J 9 x x x ♦ x ♣ x

and I would be more inclined to open 4♥. 4♠ openings tend to get doubled for penalties, which makes that much more dangerous."

9. Pass. If a preempt is a good suit with little or nothing outside, then this is a poor suit with a lot outside. Facing the prospect of playing this suit with a singleton or void opposite I prefer to pass and see what happens.

Readers might enjoy my take on gambling; see page 19 of the following bulletin:

<https://www.abfevents.com.au/youth/bulletins/JanFeb13.pdf>

10. 3NT. Don't forget our dear old friend, the gambling 3NT, a long strong minor with no outside ace or king. Alternatives to the 3NT opening are appearing here and there but the Gambling 3NT still works well, though I think it is overdue for a name change.

For magazines from the 1970s and 1980s for only the postage cost, contact Paul at plavings@gmail.com or phone 0408 888 085



Stephen Fischer

President

✉ president@abf.com.au

www.abf.com.au



The ACT has just finished hosting the 87th Australian National Championships and it was fantastic to see, talk to and play against so many people over the competition. I would especially like to thank Lyn Carter and Cathy Nichols who convened the tournament, all the volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it happen, and the tournament directors and support staff who made the two weeks run so smoothly. Events such as the ANC do not happen by themselves, so if you have time and the opportunity, please consider volunteering at your local club or tournament.

I have had many discussions on a range of topics during my first three months as ABF President. I am delighted to see how engaged the members of our community are, and I encourage you to continue talking to me, members of the Board and the ABF staff when you have concerns or thoughts on matters relating to bridge in Australia.

Several people have mentioned the challenges of taking first steps from the club into the tournament world. Doing so is a natural progression for players who want to improve, play against a wider range of opponents, or simply travel around the country and play bridge while doing so. They can share these experiences at their local club and everyone benefits. While tournaments provide opportunities to play against players from around the country, it can also

be daunting to find out where to start. Many national tournaments have great options for the new player, and you can find information by starting at the ABF calendar:

<https://www.abf.com.au/yearly-calendar/>

Each tournament has an organiser who will be happy to answer any questions. Everyone is welcome, and all of these offer the chance to meet more of the bridge community, win gold points, and experience the unique social and competitive atmosphere of a national tournament. When you do come to one, please take the time to have a chat to me or other members of the Board – the ABF is your organisation after all.

If you're not yet ready to try a national tournament, there are regional congresses held regularly around the country. These are enjoyable weekend competitions, and your State or Territory association will have information about what's on in your local area.

If you're already playing at tournaments, please remember that others may be new. Say hello and introduce yourselves if you don't know your opponents and do your part to make sure it's a positive experience. If there is an irregularity at the table, the directors are there to help, so treat them with the respect and courtesy they deserve. We can all play our part to make sure bridge tournaments are a positive experience, whether it's your first time or your 100th.

2026 Australian National Championships

Interstate Teams Championships

The first major event of the week was the Interstate Teams Championships, contested in Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth. Bruce Neill and Peter Buchen reported a couple of interesting hands from their winning week.

Open Teams Round 13.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither side vulnerable.

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

How should East play 4♠ after South leads a heart? You rise with the king, North covers with the ace, and you ruff. You cash two rounds of trumps and find the bad news. What do you do now that North has just as many trumps as you?

The best line is to stop drawing trumps, and play clubs. South will take the second club and return a heart. You win with your queen, cross to the ♦A, discard a diamond on the third club, and continue diamonds. This is the position:

♠ 10	♠ 9 7	♠ Q J
♥ 3 2	♥ J 8	♥ —
♦ 6	♦ —	♦ J 7
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ 10 9	
	♦ Q	
	♣ 9	

South can make you ruff a heart, but you just play back another diamond. South will win and make you ruff yet another heart. Now you have no trumps left in hand, while North has two. However, having scored ruffs with all of your trumps, you have al-

ready taken nine tricks – and there is still a high ♠10 in dummy to take one more!

On this next deal, once South opens the bidding, it is very hard for North not to drive to slam, but 5NT is the limit of the hand.

Open Teams Final

Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

Peter and Nigel did well to stop safely in 4NT:

WEST Coles	NORTH Rosendorff	EAST Appleton	SOUTH Buchen
			1♣
pass	1♥	pass	2♥
pass	2NT ¹	pass	3♠ ²
pass	4♣ ³	pass	4♥ ⁴
pass	4NT ⁵	all pass	

1. GF enquiry.
2. Four spades and only three hearts.
3. Minorwood.
4. One keycard and maximum (13-14 in an 11-14 range).
5. Offer to play, missing two keycards.

The winners, pictured on page one, are listed on the results page on page 37.

Australian Butler Pairs

The second week of the event was the Australian Butler Pairs, contested in Open and Mixed fields. The winners, pictured on page one, were Peter Reynolds - Jane Reynolds in the Mixed (pictured bottom left) and Paul Dalley - Tony Nunn in the Open (pictured bottom right).

In the last round of the Mixed, the leading two pairs played each other, with Jane Reynolds - Peter Reynolds needing a 6-imp win to take the lead. They won the match by exactly that margin, finishing 0.08 VP ahead of Nick Hughes - Nicoleta Giura. Nick sent us some hands from the event.

South missed an opportunity for a huge swing on this board:

Open Stage 2 / Mixed Stage 1 – Match 6
Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

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

People will say that South might / should / must double 3NT for a heart lead. If South had doubled, North would have led a heart for a penalty of 800. Without the heart lead, declarer scored up +630.

Should North have led a heart anyway?

Open Stage 2 / Mixed Stage 1 – Match 6
Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♠	pass	pass
pass	?		1NT

Rebidding with a six-card major and a four-card minor is always a tough decision. Some people felt that the hand was too good for 2♠, so they rebid 3♠, risking being left there. A better choice is 2♦, keeping three suits in play. Only two of the ten pairs reached 4♠, and no one reached the making 5♦.

Open Stage 2 / Mixed Stage 1 – Match 7
Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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

Half of the pairs in 6♥ made it. Stephen Fischer won the singleton diamond lead in hand to cash the ♥KQ, South following with the eight and ten. Now what?

It's not good to draw a third round, since the spade hook fails. Luckily, the ♥10 fell on the second round of trumps, offering you a good winning line: ♦A, diamond ruff, ♠K, diamond ruff, ♣Q for +1430.

As it turns out, drawing the third trump would also have worked, because North can be squeezed in the minors. However, this is an unlikely line unless South preempted.

Open Stage 2 / Mixed Stage 1 – Match 9
Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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

Nearly everyone made 4♠ here, although there were four top losers.

Say North doubles West's 1♠ response, and South bids 2♣ or 3♣. North leads the ♣A against 4♠ (or the ♣K, if that's your convention for asking for a count card). Would you have found the switch to the ♦J at trick two?

The ♦J executes a surround play to capture dummy's queen. Of course, a low diamond works equally well, with the defenders taking a diamond ruff. Either way, the defenders can take the first four tricks for +100.

Australia's Bridge Day Out

The Bridge Australia Foundation's Primary Fundraiser Tuesday October 13th

TUESDAY
October 13th
(Clubs may also
select another day
that week)

THE BRIDGE AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

The Bridge Australia Foundation (formerly 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.



BRIDGE DAY OUT

In September 2025, the Foundation launched its inaugural Bridge Day Out as the major fundraiser for the year. Clubs across the country hosted special Red Masterpoint bridge sessions, bringing players together to support the Foundation while enjoying the game. Prizes and expert analysis, added an extra layer of engagement to the day.

Funds raised from the event are already making an impact, supporting the Foundation's ongoing initiatives, including the early development of a program for school-aged children.

2026 REGISTRATIONS OPEN MAY 1st

Click [HERE](#) to register your clubs interest. Click the facebook link below to follow us on Facebook



Victorian Festival of Bridge

Barbara Travis

The Victorian Festival of Bridge offers a range of events for all players, including the Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs, the Victor Champion Cup, the Jim & Norma Borin Mixed Pairs, and the Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs.

Lori and I started the Swiss Pairs with our opponents having an excellent auction to slam:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♣	pass
1♥	pass	1NT	pass
2♦ ¹	dbl	2♥ ²	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	pass
4♣ ³	pass	4♦ ⁴	pass
4NT	pass	5♦ ⁵	pass
6♣	all pass		

1. Enquiry.
2. Three hearts.
3. Slam interest.
4. Control bid.
5. One keycard.

We could only win the ♦A. Ten imps away, but a lovely auction and contract.

WINNERS

Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs:

John Zollo - Attilio De Luca (pictured)

Jim & Norma Borin Mixed Pairs:

Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell

Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs:

Miriam O'Brien - Yulia Koh

Frank Power Trophy <200 MP Swiss Pairs:

Tom Lee - Stephen Dennis

Under 100 Matchpoint Pairs:

Juliette Mendelovits - David Melzer

Under 20 Matchpoint Pairs:

Vicki Hildebrand - Elizabeth Redman

Victor Champion Cup:

Arian Lasocki, Tony Brown, David Beauchamp, Ian Thomson

Charlie Snashall Restricted Teams:

Susan Armitage, Megan Edwards, Michelle George, Kate Hartley



We were on the wrong side of another slam swing – this time a grand slam – against Ben and Jamie Thompson.

♠ K Q 10 4 2
♥ A
♦ A 9 5 2
♣ Q 6 3

♠ A 9 7 6 5
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 7
♣ A K J 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	pass	2NT ¹
pass	3NT ²	pass	4NT
pass	5♦	pass	6♣
pass	7♠	all pass	

1. Game force raise.
2. Heart shortage, better than minimum.

After Jamie had shown three keycards, Ben had no need for the queen ask, holding ten trumps. Instead, his 6♣ bid asked for third-round control of the club suit for a grand slam (i.e. a doubleton or the queen). Jamie cooperated, and the grand slam was claimed at trick one.

As we walked to dinner with a top-flight bridge friend, they asked how you find out about third-round club control. I very cheekily suggested that they could attend my next Advanced Slam Bidding course!

See the August issue of Australian Bridge Magazine for more hands from the Victorian Festival



Getting the Gong Peter Gill

Reprinted from IBA Newsletter June 2026

Marie Pickering and her team did a grand job of organising Wollongong's Chris Diment Memorial Congress in June, filling up the new venue at Kembla Grange Racecourse. First, a few words about who Chris Diment was.

Chris was the humble, softly spoken Tournament Director from Wollongong who died too young after being a lifelong smoker. One impressive legacy is that Chris invented and created the world's first bridge Personal Scorebooks, which we now love and take for granted at congresses and Nationals in Australia, though decades later many overseas bridge bodies have still not caught on to this excellent idea.

Chris's gentle smile and devotion to customer service endeared him to everyone. For about thirty years from the 1980s, both club bridge and national events grew rapidly in Australia in what some of us recall as a halcyon era, in part due to the efficiency of the team led by national Tournament Director Richard Grenside and his ever-present assistant Chris Diment. Chris volunteered to help out at the World Championships, where he was so willing, able and useful that he became part of the paid WBF staff. Overall, Chris was one of those unsung heroes who fully merit having a congress named after them.

In convener Marie Pickering, Illawarra Bridge Club has found an organiser who truly embodies Chris's bright, positive spirit.

After 53 of the 54 boards in the Teams, young Natalie Newman's team led, with my team third. Then came:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ A K
♥ A Q 10 9 6 4
♦ A 5
♣ A 10 8

♠ 8
♥ K J 8 7 3 2
♦ 8 6 3 2
♣ 5 4

♠ Q J 7
♥ —
♦ K Q J 9 4
♣ Q J 9 7 2

♠ 10 9 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 5
♦ 10 7
♣ K 6 3

Having both an inadequate suit and inadequate values for 3♠, Liz Sylvester as South nervously opened a light weak 2♠. I enquired with 2NT, Liz responded 3♥, showing a heart shortage, and I settled for 4♠ – plus 420.

At the other table in our match, Rob Hurst from the 2026 ACT Seniors team – having both an inadequate suit and inadequate values for 3♠ or 2♠ – was South. He passed. His partner, Des Manderson, opened 2♣, 2♦ was negative, and North rebid 2♥. At some point Rob bid 4♠ to try to sign off in 4♠. Alas, they were playing Kickback...

In my partner Liz Sylvester's Bidding System Summary is a very useful section, *Conventions We Don't Play*, which begins, "Kickback, Voidwood, Minorwood..." This helps us to get through a long day without one of us misinterpreting complex auctions.

Kickback is a form of Blackwood which uses 4♠ to set hearts and ask for keycards. By the time the smoke cleared, Rob and Des were in 7♥ down five - 12 imps to my team of Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill and Nico Ranson - Edmund Li, who therefore won the Teams by one VP.

In another match, Ida Andersen was a youth player, so she opened 3♠. Natalie Newman raised to 6♠, which is a pretty good contract but succumbed to bad breaks. Minus 50, and only third place, one VP behind the winners, even though the young pair Natalie and Ida from the 2026 Australian Girls' Team (under 26) topped the pair datums (rankings) in the Teams and led the Pairs until the last round.

There were heaps of youth players around – they almost all like to bid a lot. In Round One the top-seeded Lavings team showed how to deal with pesky youths:

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

Helen Lavings (South) opened 1♠, Paul responded 2♦ and Noah Klugman was a youth player, so he rashly ventured 2♥. Because the double was for takeout, Helen smoothly passed. Paul, at this juicy vulnerability, reopened with a takeout double (where many players would wrongly bid 3♣); Helen converted to penalties. Helen and Paul collected 1100 (nicknamed sticks and circles) with the next best score in the whole field being 490.

I don't know how many 2♥ bidders went unpunished. The talented youth players fought back to defeat the top seeds. My opponents Cheryl Waters and Marie Pickering wisely stayed out of the auction and went on to win the match, so the top two seeds both lost in Round One. Rest assured that if someone overcalled 2♥ vs Liz and me, we would have got

the 1100 too – the top players usually don't let vulnerable indiscretions go unpunished.

The key board in the Swiss Pairs on Saturday was Board 21 in the afternoon.

Board 21. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

My opponents Rob Hurst and Des Manderson bid efficiently to 6♥ versus silent opponents. Of the twelve declarers in 6♥, seven guessed ♠Q correctly and five went down. I led ♣A and continued with ♣10 to the king, ruffed. Des drew trumps on which I pitched ♣8, trying to look like a person with only A1098 in clubs. Trying to get as much information as possible before the vital guess, Des played off three rounds of diamonds, on which Liz Sylvester and I both deliberately gave Des accurate reverse count by playing ♦3 and ♦2 first, suggesting we had four diamonds each.

Des had seen me with only one heart and Liz with two hearts, meaning there were twelve vacant spaces in my hand which could be ♠Q, and only eleven vacant spaces in Liz's hand which could be ♠Q. So the odds of the ♠Q being in my hand were 12 out of 23, more than 50%. Look in Wikipedia for Vacant Spaces if you're one of the few people who want to know more about this expert topic – if you can handle it, you might end up in your State team like Rob, Des and I are this year.

Des's additional guesses about the diamonds and clubs shape didn't sway him from the odds, so down he went, and it was Liz Sylvester and I who therefore won the Swiss Pairs.

At another table, another pesky youth player ventured 2♣ over Paul Lavings' 1♥ opening bid. Helen and Paul brushed aside the interference to bid to 6♥. ♣A was led, then a club to the king. Who had the black queen? It was a mad bid on just 4 HCP, and Paul played the 2♣ overcaller for the ♠Q... down one. Too much logic by Paul? This vulnerable indiscretion had turned out well and propelled Paul's opponents Mitch Dowling and Alan Stoneham into second place in the Pairs.

YOUTH TRIATHLON

**27 SEPTEMBER
TO 1 OCTOBER 2026**

The Youth Triathlon used to be an annual event on the Youth Bridge calendar. It's a Pairs, Teams and Individual competition. The person who is the most successful in all 3 competitions combined, will be crowned the Youth Triathlon Champion and win the Bobby Richman Shield.

This year we are adding bridge development and training days, organised by Will Jenner-O'Shea.

Don't miss this opportunity to try out a new partnership and/or consolidate an old one and have loads of fun.



WHERE: Canberra, ACT at
Canberra Bridge Club, 5-7
Duff Place, Deakin



COST:
\$40/day



**Organisers can help find
accommodation to suit
players and chaperones**



SUNDAY 27 SEPT		Development
MONDAY 28 SEPT		Pairs Competition: 2 sessions
TUESDAY 29 SEPT		Teams Competition: 2 sessions
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPT		Individual Competition: 1 session + development + sightseeing
THURSDAY 1 OCT		Development



An overall winner of all 3 events combined will be crowned

2026 YOUTH TRIATHLON CHAMPION



Open to players born on or after 1 January 1996. Players under the age of 18 must have a chaperone. It is not compulsory to attend all days. Players are welcome to stay afterwards to compete from October 2 - 6 in the ACT Gold Point event 'Canberra in Bloom'



Event info: myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/4454



FROM THE QBA PRESIDENT

In comparison with most other activities, bridge is a relatively inexpensive pastime. Annual fees are:

- Australian Bridge Federation \$26.60
- Queensland Bridge Association \$26.60
- Club membership \$40 (on average – varies from club to club)

Then there are the table fees for each session and these can vary from \$6 to \$20 each time you play.

The Australian Bridge Federation as our national body is responsible for:

- promoting the game of bridge;
- operating under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation, including application of the international Laws;
- administering the Australian Masterpoint Scheme;
- promoting and organising national events;
- developing myABF for club administration and congress entry management;
- accrediting bridge players to represent Australia;
- overseeing the national qualifications of tournament directors;
- maintaining national headquarters in Canberra;
- financing insurance policies which cover affiliated clubs for: Directors' and Officers' insurance; Voluntary Workers insurance; and Public Liability insurance;
- accessing offers from national sponsors;
- accessing teacher training programs;
- accessing national marketing support programs; and
- providing a free quarterly ABF Newsletter.

The Queensland Bridge Association is responsible for the following:

- Delivering state and national tournaments – This entails developing, evolving and delivering state bridge to appeal to current and future competitive players;
- Co-ordinating the annual events calendar in conjunction with the WBF, ABF, state associations

and Queensland clubs – This entails working with clubs to schedule congress dates that sit alongside state and international activities;

- Supporting clubs with constitutional matters, disciplinary issues, masterpoint management, my ABF assistance, use of equipment, board dealing etc.;
- Overseeing the selection of Queensland Teams for the Interstate Teams Championships and then providing travel and accommodation subsidies for the successful players;
- Promoting club congresses, state and national events for the Queensland bridge community;
- Focussing on Youth bridge development;
- Providing subsidies for selected zonal pairs and teams to play in the QBA Festival of Bridge, which incorporates the Queensland Open Teams and the Queensland Open Pairs Championships;
- Sponsoring tours by the QBA Director Accreditation Chair who oversees director proficiency, Club and Congress Director exams;
- The QBA Tournament Committee Chair is available to provide advice on problems of a technical nature, eg. directing, scoring and movements, etc., as well as interpretation of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017.

The QBA Management committee comprises eight volunteers who meet six times a year and who are members of clubs from all over Queensland. The QBA Council meets online twice a year, which allows delegates from all 55 clubs to attend and become involved in how their game operates.

Both the ABF and the QBA are not-for-profit organisations which exist solely to support the management and future of our game. Despite relying on an essential base of generous volunteers, both incur significant expenses to provide all of the services which our clubs expect.

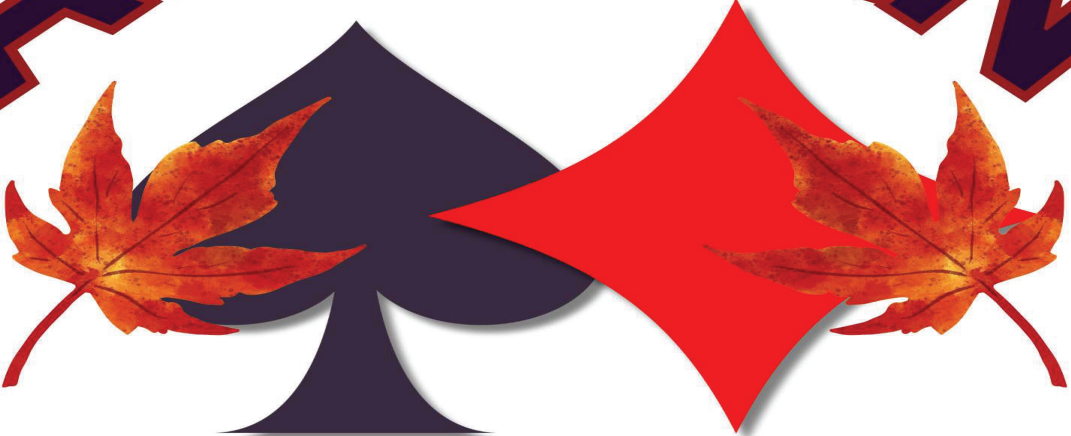
Are players getting value for their annual fees? The list above speaks for itself.

Thanks to everybody for their ongoing support.

With best wishes to all.

Richard Ward

AUTUMN NATIONALS



WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL – SUNDAY 2ND MAY 2027

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

New daily starting time: 9.45am

\$30+,000 in prize money

PQPs awarded for Open Teams and ABRP Open Pairs

Blue Ribbon Pairs: masterpoints awarded for all scores of 46+%

Under Life Master events restricted to Under Life Masters only (capped at 400 masterpoints), Under Grand Master events restricted to Under Grand Masters only (capped at 1100 masterpoints)

New Zealand restricted players please check your MP conversion.

Chief Director:	Laurie Kelso
Scorer:	Matthew McManus
Organiser:	Barbara Travis

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF \$50/PAIR, \$100/TEAM CLOSING ON 24TH MARCH



A GAME AT THE NOOSA CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

On Friday 31 July, my brother John (Gill) died. John was my first bridge partner and was my 'protector' when some of the players at the NSWBA were not very pleasant towards me. I will miss him dearly. He was one of the world's "nice guys", gathering friends wherever he went. He (almost) never had a bad word to say about anyone.

John had spent the past 40 years living in Queensland, playing less bridge. More recently, on their return to Noosa, John was heavily involved in teaching and coaching. In May, when Peter (Gill) and Liz visited, he organised a family competition – very typically Gill-ish. John, Peter and Liz sat East, each playing with one of John's students.

So when Lauren and I visited in early July, we had a similar family competition. This article is the result of our game.

Weak jump overcalls seem to have gone out of favour, but I still love them. Why not preempt the opponents, especially when you are short in one or both majors?

North opened 1♠ and I held:

♠ K 7 2 ♥ 9 ♦ Q J 9 8 5 2 ♣ K 7 3

I overcalled 3♦, simply to up the ante. South was weak with six hearts but chose to pass (I might have made a negative double). 3♦ was passed around to North who held:

♠ Q J 9 8 6 4 ♥ A K J 8 ♦ A ♣ 5 2

They should have acted, but chose to pass, so I managed to win the contract in 3♦, with the opponents having game available in hearts.

Some Norths rebid 3♠ but that wasn't a winning rebid. I suspect those who were successful bid hearts, or maybe my hand didn't bid.

♠ Q J 9 8 6 4

♥ A K J 8

♦ A

♣ 5 2

♠ 10 5 3

♥ 7 5

♦ K 7

♣ A Q 10 9 8 4

♠ A

♥ Q 10 6 4 3 2

♦ 10 8 4 3

♣ J 6

♠ K 7 2

♥ 9

♦ Q J 9 6 5 2

♣ K 7 3

With a minor misdefence, 3♦ made. One down would still have been a top against 420 to 510 that North-South were making in 4♥ (the spades could be made into winners for club discards from South).

Let's see weak jumps make a return (within reason); they are ideal for hands without much in the way of defence.

This hand was not well-handled by the North-Souths at the club. North held:

♠ A 9 7 ♥ K Q 10 8 6 2 ♦ 8 5 ♣ 8 5

Partner opened 2NT, showing 20-21 HCP. I was shocked that 3NT making 13 tricks was only worth 50% to us (East-West). Many just played in 4♥ (13 tricks) with others transferring then rebidding 3NT (!), as happened against us.

I love four-level transfers, and not enough people play them. One of the main reasons that I love four-level transfers is that I can transfer at the three-level and then rebid 4NT, knowing it is quantitative, so there is no misunderstanding.

On the other hand, if I transfer at the four-level, I can then pass, or I can rebid 4NT, which becomes RKCB,

and there can be clarity between the different 4NT bids.

So, after the 2NT opening bid, I would transfer with 4♦ (choose which version of four-level transfers you play), partner bids 4♥ and then I bid 4NT RKCB. Partner now shows three keycards and I can bid 5NT, guaranteeing all the keycards. Partner, holding:

♠ K Q 10 5 4 ♥ A 7 ♦ A J 7 ♣ A K 9

should now bid 7♥, expecting six heart tricks, two clubs, one diamond and four or five spade tricks.

(Interestingly, with the 5NT bid, North has actually shown their whole hand!)

The next hand is simply included as one that was 'fun' to play:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	pass	2♣ ¹	pass
2♦ ²	pass	3NT	all pass

1. Strong enough to reverse, so bidding suits in natural length.
2. Understandable.

South led the ♠4 around to the ten and queen. This looked like a hand where it may be useful to have the defenders make some discards, so I cashed five rounds of clubs (throwing one spade then two diamonds from dummy). Initially North needed to retain diamonds to control the suit, so they threw a heart, then a diamond, but then a second heart.

Having seen a couple of heart discards, I now started work on hearts. A heart to the ace and a heart back to the king; that didn't drop the four remaining hearts, but I exited a heart to North to make my fourth heart into a winner. North returned a spade, won with the ace, and now my ♥5 executed a show-up squeeze on South. I held the ♠9 and ♦4; West was reducing to the ♦A-Q; South needed to retain the ♠K, so was forced to discard down to the ♦K. The penultimate trick saw me leading my diamond and South's king popped up. Twelve tricks and an equal top.

Of course, had North discarded diamonds on the clubs, all dummy's diamonds can be established easily.

During this session, we had an elaborate afternoon tea break. Lauren, who was sitting in the same seat as me (East), talked in vague terms about a hand: "We are playing Pairs. If you had eleven tricks but could take a finesse for ten or twelve, you'd finesse, right?" I never recognised the hand, but here it is:

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

We played 4♥ by East. The ♦2 was led and I won with the queen. As I led a trump, I wondered several things: should I finesse the ♣Q, should I try to ruff out the ♣K, or would the ♦K-10 perhaps draw out the jack for two spade discards from dummy? South won the ♥A and led a small club. Now I had to make a decision, so I went with the sure-fire eleven tricks (not realising this was the hand Lauren had mentioned!). I won the ♣A and tried to trump out the ♣K by leading a small club. North flew with the king and I ruffed. I drew the remaining trump and now could throw my spade loser on dummy's ♣Q. As it happened, North only held ♣K-x-x so my line was the winning option for twelve tricks.

Against Lauren, when South won the ♥A, she led a spade, so now Lauren tried the club finesse, making only ten tricks! She had determined that, if South led a club, she'd try my line. Unlucky!

I consider the next hand 'unlucky'. Partner opened 1♦ and I decided to respond 3NT, not caring for my balanced hand shape:

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

When the auction has been one-minor – 3NT, who leads a minor? The auction basically asks for a major suit lead, since East has denied a four-card major. Our South held a 3-3-3-4 shape with ♣A862 and unerringly led a club, so we lost the first five tricks – as did the field. Of course, if West was declarer, North has five clubs and will definitely lead the suit. Ah well...

I know I often harp on about counting. Another favourite topic that I nag about is entry management. Declarer failed to look after her entries on this hand:

♠ K 10 9 3
♥ 6 2
♦ A J 5 2
♣ Q 9 5

♠ J 5
♥ Q J 7 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 10 8 3 2

♠ A Q 4 2
♥ 10 9 8
♦ 10 7
♣ A J 7 6

♠ 8 7 6
♥ A K 5 3
♦ K Q 8 4
♣ K 4

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

West led the ♥Q, which held. At this stage, I already knew that partner had very little in outside points! Declarer won the second heart lead and cashed four diamonds.

While finding two discards was uncomfortable for me, I also knew that declarer now lacked entries to dummy! I threw one spade and one club. Declarer now realised she needed to tackle the spades.

She led the ♠8 from hand - jack - king. I won the ace, then exited a small spade, so I still had my heart exit later. Another spade was led to my queen, and I now led my heart, declarer winning. Whatever declarer now did, she was going down: the ♣K could be ducked; a club to the queen would be won with the ace and a club returned, with partner winning the last trick with her ♥J.

When we were talking about the hand afterwards, I mentioned to declarer that she needed to look after her entries. She also acknowledged that she'd had solid spade spot cards (10-9-8-7-6) which was also a good indicator to work the spade suit while she still had entries.

My final hand also relates to entry management:

♠ Q J 9 8 3
♥ 6 3
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ Q 3

♠ A K 10 5
♥ Q 10 9 8 7 4
♦ —
♣ A 5 2

♠ 7 4
♥ K J 2
♦ J 10 4
♣ J 10 8 7 6

♠ 6 2
♥ A 5
♦ K 7 6 5 3 2
♣ K 9 4

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

North led the ♠Q, won with the king. This hand involves either trumping two spades in dummy or establishing dummy's club suit for discards. Even knowing North held five spades, I think I would just cash the ♠A, then ruff a spade with the ♥J, trump a diamond to hand, then ruff the last spade with dummy's ♥K.

If South overruffs either ruff, you can still trump the other spade in dummy.

Only now do you start to draw trumps, leading the ♥2 from dummy towards your hand. Your only losers will be the ♥A and two clubs. Drawing trumps first on this hand may prove disastrous, particularly if you use dummy's high hearts or if the hearts prove to be 3-1! You then would not have the entries to dummy for establishing the clubs.

This was the last session of bridge that John ever played. Therresult: 1st John Gill, equal 2nd Lauren Travis and Barbara Travis!

I hope you have enjoyed this tribute 'to John' – though it never mentions his results. I told him I was writing this and he was very happy to endorse it.

I do have one hand I remember playing with John. It dates back to the Gill family team, which played in the Barrier Reef Congress in Cairns in (I think) 2008. I was playing with John, and my daughter Lauren played with Peter.

WEST John	NORTH	EAST Barbara	SOUTH
		1♥	pass
1♠	dbl	3♥	pass
4NT	pass	5♠	pass
6♥	all pass		

John's hand was:

♠ A K Q J 10 x ♥ J x x ♦ x x ♣ x x

As he put down dummy, he realised he'd bid me to a slam missing two keycards (and likely aces). LHO led a club, which RHO won with the ace. She now tried to cash her ♦A, but I trumped.

As I racked up twelve tricks and John apologised to the opponents, I also pointed out to him that he could have passed 5♠!

At bridge, John was lucky. He had only one 'bit' of misfortune in his life – and he would have acknowledged that – and that was cancer.



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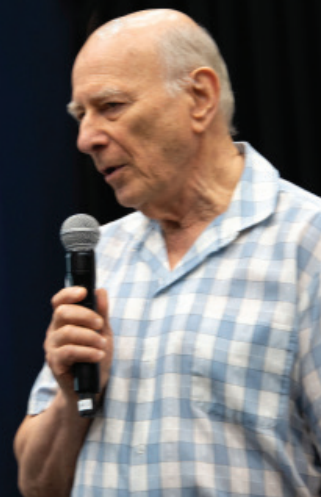
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IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



A SIGNAL DEFEAT

Teams, dealer South, North-South vulnerable.

♠ K 9 5
 ♥ A K Q 6 2
 ♦ 10 6 5
 ♣ Q 4

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

N	E
W	S

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
pass	1♥	pass	1NT
pass	2♦ ¹	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

1. Artificial, forcing to game.

West leads the ♣7: four - nine - jack. Declarer plays the ♥9: four - ace - seven, the ♥K: five - three - eight, the ♥Q: ♣8 - ♦4 - ♥J and the ♥2: ♣2 - ♠7 - ♥10. What would you play now as West?

* * * * *

East has sent a signal to guide you to the winning path. East's ♣9, later ♣8 and ♣2, highest each time, was a suit-preference signal for spades.

The deal comes from the final in the 2024 Autumn National Open Teams:

Board 5, dealer South, North-South vulnerable.

♠ K 9 5
 ♥ A K Q 6 2
 ♦ 10 6 5
 ♣ Q 4

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

♠ A J 10 2
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ Q 9 3 2
 ♣ 9 8 2

♠ 7 6 3
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ A J 7 4
 ♣ A K J 6

After the play above, Justin Mill (West) switched to the ♠Q, and the defenders took four spades. With clubs blocked, South was two off, East-West +200.

At the other table:

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

1. Artificial, puppet to 2♦.

2. Five hearts, choice of games.

West led ♦K: five - two - ace. South played ♦4: eight - ten - queen and had four clubs, three hearts and two diamonds for +600 and +13 imps.

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YOUTH BRIDGE NEWS with Laura Ginnan

It has been another exciting few months for Australian youth bridge, with success at home and overseas, new initiatives recognising outstanding young players, and our largest-ever contingent preparing to represent Australia on the world stage.

Australia heads to Hefei



9th World Youth Transnational Championships
3-8 AUGUST 2026 · HEFEI, CHINA

澳洲橋牌的未來並非即將到來，而是已然在此

Under 16	Under 21	Under 26	Under 26 Women	Under 31
Ada Sun	Diya Shah	Gilbert Morgan	Eara Topper	Damon Flicker
Alex Wu	Dev Shah	Paddy Taylor	Jasmine Skeate	Alex Goss
Eizzy Brayshaw	Jade Wilkinson	Kate Macdonald	Natalie Newman	Yiwei Qi
Oliver Brayshaw	Taydon Gold	Heath Watkins	Ida Andersen	Ben Leung
Genevieve Hunter	Aadhi Narikaran	Adrian Le	Alexis Wilmore	Sebastian Wright
Solcita Lu	Remco Spencer	Fletcher Davey	Jess He	Jeremy Reid
NPC Sue Talkingham	NPC Jess Brake	NPC Mike Doecke	NPC Renee Cooper	NPC Peter Hollands



For the first time ever, Australia is fielding teams in all five divisions at the World Championships, which begin on 3 August.

This event will also be one of the largest Youth World's ever held, with a remarkable 98 teams competing in the Under-16 division alone!

Our Aussie teams have spent months preparing through partnership practice, an Under-26 team training weekend kindly provided by Andy Hung and the weekly Sunday Youth Development Squad.

In the fourteen sessions of the Sunday Development Squad this year, players have explored topics ranging from declarer play and defence to director rulings and developing a stronger mental game. High-

lights included a masterclass with 2025 Bermuda Bowl Champion Adam Kaplan (USA) and a Pro-Am evening where many of Australia's leading players generously gave their time to mentor the next generation.

The Under 26 Open team receives financial support from the Australian Bridge Federation. ABF support for the additional divisions covers entry fees, uniforms and travel insurance. Players and their families are ultimately responsible for other out-of-pocket expenses. Please consider making a contribution to support the teams with the costs associated with attending the Championships at

[buy.stripe.com/
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SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT! If you'd like to cheer on our teams, send a message at

form.jotform.com/262053004421844

You can follow Australia's progress throughout the championships by visiting

www.abf.com.au

ANC Youth highlights

The Australian National Championships once again showcased the strength of youth bridge, with New South Wales claiming the Youth Interstate Teams Championship title.

The win was a great way for NSW Youth Captain Mitch Dowling to finish up as NSW Youth Coordinator and hand over the reins to Aaron Poon. Mitch has made an enormous contribution to youth bridge in New South Wales over many years.

This year's ANC also introduced two new awards recognising qualities that are every bit as important as results.

The ANC Youth ITC Players' Choice Award celebrates the player who best exemplifies sportsmanship, ethical behaviour and a positive attitude, while the ANC Rising Star Award recognises an emerging player who has demonstrated exceptional improvement, commitment to learning and future potential.

The response was outstanding, with twelve different players nominated for the Players' Choice Award and nine players or partnerships nominated for the Rising Star Award.

Congratulations to our inaugural winners:

- Players' Choice Award: Sam Goss
- Rising Star Award: Jess He

The nominations perfectly reflected the spirit of the awards, recognising players who were supportive, encouraging, eager to learn and a pleasure to compete against. One nomination perhaps summed it up best, describing a player as "really nice and great to lose to."

As part of their awards, both winners receive three one-on-one coaching sessions with leading Australian and international players, including Kate McCallum, Sartaj Hans, Liam Milne, Barbara Travis and 2025 Bermuda Bowl silver medallist Dennis Bilde.

You can read more about the awards at

<https://www.abf.com.au/new-youth-awards-at-the-2026-anc/>



International success

Australian youth players also enjoyed outstanding results in the RealBridge Online Summer Youth Festival. Australia entered four teams in the combined Under 31, Under 26 and Under 21 Teams event, recording finishes of 1st, 2nd, 11th and 17th among 27 international teams.

The overall winners were Dev Shah, Diya Shah, Jess He and Byron French, while the Australian Under 31 team of Yiwei Qi, Ben Leung, Seb Wright and Alex Goss finished second overall.

In the Under 16 Pairs, Ada Sun and Alex Wu produced another excellent performance, finishing second to claim the silver.

These results continue to demonstrate the strength of Australia's emerging players and the benefits of providing regular opportunities to learn and compete against international opposition.

Youth Triathlon returns

While Australia's representative teams compete overseas, preparations are well under way for the return of the Youth Triathlon, one of Australia's premier youth development events.

A huge thank you goes to Suz and the Canberra organising team, who continue to do a wonderful job delivering this event each year. We'd also like to acknowledge the volunteers from every state who helped run the raffle stall during the ANC. Together they raised the wonderfully bridge-appropriate total of \$1,714, with every dollar helping make youth bridge more accessible.

The Youth Triathlon gives young players two days of coaching, bridge and fun while creating friendships and partnerships that often continue well beyond the event. Suz has also worked tirelessly to secure funding assistance for interstate players, making it easier for more young people to attend.

If you know a young player who might enjoy the experience, please encourage them to come along.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Australian youth bridge. We look forward to sharing the results from Hefei and seeing even more young players involved over the months ahead. If you'd like to keep in touch with the youth scene, the best place is

www.aussieyouthbridge.com

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Tony Treloar brisbanegoldto.tony@qldbridge.com.au 0468 398 843

Open Pairs Championship: 6 Sessions

Saturday 30th (Qualifying) Sunday 31st (Semi-final & Le Réconfortant)

Monday 1st (Barometer Finals: Championship/Plate/Consolation
& Swiss Matchpoint Pairs Consolation)

PQP

NEW
PAIRS
FORMAT

Open Teams Championship: 6 Sessions plus Finals

Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th (Qualifying) Friday 5th (Semi-finals)

Late Afternoon Friday 5th to Early Afternoon Saturday 6th (Final)

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Walk In Pairs Late Afternoon Friday 29th

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WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

OPENING WITH 4-4-4-1 HANDS

A recent online lesson that I gave was all about how to bid with a 4441-shaped hand. The lesson revealed that how you bid these hands depends a lot on how many high-card points you have.

If you have 12-14 points, you should open 1♣ or 1♦, and then see what partner bids. If possible, rebid a second suit at the one-level. If you can't, then you might need to keep the bidding low. Improvising a 1NT response after partner inevitably bids your singleton is not a bad choice. If you choose to open 1♦, then you have the option of bidding 2♣ if you get stuck. If you open 1♣, you won't be able to rebid 2♦ or 2♥, since that will be a reverse. Calling these hands balanced is a small distortion, but it is perhaps the best rebid if there isn't a perfect option. I usually open 1♦ with 4-4 in the minors, since partner will treat a 1♦ opening as a real suit, and not always assume that a 1♣ opening is a real suit. I also usually open the better-quality minor if one suit is very good, say AK104 and the other is weak. If you do lose the bidding, partner will lead the suit that you opened if they can't think of anything better to do.

If you have 15-17 high-card points, and that is your 1NT opening range, you need to handle the bidding differently. You can't rebid notrumps, even if partner has bid your singleton, since that would show 12-14 points if you don't jump, and 18-19 points if you do. You need to open with a suit and rebid a second suit. You will be able to reverse, if that is the best thing to do.

If you have 18-19 points, you should open with a minor and see what partner bids. If you find a fit you can jump to game, or splinter if you play them. You can also jump into a major if partner bids your short suit. You will get to game so long as partner responds. Try to find a major fit but settle for no-trumps if you don't find one.

Hands of 20+ points and a 4-4-4-1 shape are very tricky to bid. If you open 2♣ and then bid a suit, partner will definitely, and rightly, expect that you have a five-card or longer suit.

When you bid again, partner will assume at least 5-4 shape. A reasonable option with 'only' 20 or maybe 21 points is to open 1♣ or 1♦, and then hope and pray that partner responds. You can then reverse, or jump, and get to game later. With 20, 21 or 22 points, there is a risk that partner will pass you at the one-level and you will miss a game. My tip is to consider opening 2NT with a 4441-shaped hand. Partner can Stayman or transfer and hopefully you will find your major fit if it exists. While this is a small distortion of your shape, so is bidding two suits with only a 4-4 shape.

If you have 23+ points, then I recommend calling the hand balanced regardless of whether your singleton is an honour or not. Open 2♣, and then rebid 2NT. Partner can still use Stayman or transfer after 2♣-2♦-2NT, and if partner does find a fit, they will know your points and shape and can hopefully place the contract at the right level.

In all of the examples above, the auctions were uncontested, but the same ideas apply if the bidding gets competitive. If your partner bids your singleton, and the auction is contested, you can typically bid notrumps provided that you have a stopper in the opponent's suit. If your opponents bid your shortage, then you have the option of doubling, which is usually perfect. Don't add shortage points for your singleton until you find a fit, but make sure that you revalue your hand after finding a fit.

Will is doing Online Lessons on Thursdays at 9:30am AEDT or you can receive the recordings and notes to watch at any time. Check out willjenneroshea.com and click on Online Lessons for the dates, topics and back catalogue of previous lessons.





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Nola Church 1932-2026

Like many Army wives, Nola spent much of her life moving around with her husband, John, an Army officer. Before I knew her, Nola spent a long period in Townsville, part of which coincided with John's active service in Vietnam. If I ever dared to challenge her view on a procedural matter at the table, she would remind me that she had directed in Townsville – only in jest, as she was very pleased to have made the complete transition to player once she and John had settled in Canberra.

What a player she was. Many learn to play the game effectively by various means, but Nola was gifted. Evidence for this was her ability to judge highly competitive auctions accurately and this was backed by her courageous approach – after all, fortune favours the brave. As well as these skills, she treated her partners and opponents kindly, ensuring everyone enjoyed the game as much as she did.

Her talent earned her a place on the Australian women's team and fourteen appearances for the ACT women's team. Her successes included three wins in the Interstate Women's Teams, a win in the Interstate Women's Pairs, a win in the Spring National Women's Teams and a win in the National Women's Teams in 2006. As I feared she might, she retired from competitive bridge very soon after that success – like Ash Barty, she knew when to go.

There was more to Nola than just the successful bridge player we all knew and admired. She also pitched in and helped in the running of the game. She shared my enthusiasm for golf, had a boundless sense of fun and was a great hostess. What more could you want in a bridge partner?

Julia Hoffman, from CBC Newsletter



John and Nola at a memorial for their friends, Roy and Margaret Pugh, at Duntroon House in 2013 (from the Duntroon Society Newsletter).

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Gary Ridgway 1939-2026

Nick Bullock (later Nick Beaumont) taught bridge to Gary, several others and me at lunchtimes in 1970 at the Gordon Institute of Technology, Geelong.

In 1971, Gary and I shared an office, which enabled us to talk about bridge, and we started playing together at the Geelong Bridge Club. That year, I found Howard Schenken's book *The Big Club*, which we adopted as our basic method. It served us well until we converted to Precision (although we successfully incorporated several of its methods into Precision – see *The Bridge Bum* by Alan Sontag, who “adopted” our methods! I'm joking, but our systems were identical and remained so).

Gary's story is surely about bridge. He went to the first NOT (now the Summer Festival of Bridge) in Sydney (1973?) with three ladies from GBC, Jean Heweston, Joan Wilson and Elsa Kuylaars, and lost 101-3 against the Australian Open Team (Seres, Smilde, etc.) in the first round. He subsequently played in this event for forty consecutive years (oh, his long-suffering wife, Lorraine!), and a few after that.



He played in the Vic Open team three times, starting in 1978, and after retirement played successfully with Victor Muntz and David Happell in the Vic Seniors Team with considerable success.

At National Congresses, he won the GNOT Pairs three times, and was successful in the Australian Seniors Swiss Pairs in Tasmania, and the Seniors Teams at the Gold Coast Congress.

In local congresses, he was hugely successful, winning multiple times in Pairs and/or Teams at Yarra Valley, Bendigo, Sale, Warrnambool, Geelong, Moonee Valley, Ballarat, Albury, etc.

Outside of playing, Gary made significant contributions to bridge in Victoria.

In 1974 or thereabouts, Gary and Jim Borin put pressure on the VBA to separate their club accounts from those of the affiliated clubs, which was resisted by the VBA, but led to the formation of the FABCV (a group of affiliated clubs interested in better structuring bridge in Victoria) Gary was always trying to push for better representation of country clubs in Victoria, which led to the current inclusive structures:

- Country Teams Championship: two teams from each of the three regions play off, and the winner goes into the semi-final of the State Teams Championship (formerly the Pennant). Geelong has subsequently won this event.
- Selection of Victorian Seniors and Women's Teams: The top pair in each category from regional playoffs goes directly into the final selection phase.

Gary, along with others, was fundamental in achieving these successful processes. It is worth noting the many country players who have played for Victoria via this process; previously, selection was dominated by VBA members.

Western Region: When John Brockwell started the GNOT in 2001, he approached Gary (they were friends) about getting a team from Western Victoria, and this led to Gary forming the Western Region Bridge Association, of which he was President (and organiser) until 2019. Now a team from Barwon and a team from Western Region compete in this event.

GBC Member: Gary never wanted to be a committee member, although he served as Vice-President from 2008 to 2010. He was, however, the Match and Tournament Chairman for over twenty years. After Eddie Karen served as our first teacher, Gary taught for the next fifteen years. He also took classes in Warrnambool, Terang, Colac, Camperdown, Inverloch, Sale, Barwon Heads, Ballarat and Ballater in Scotland.

On the Honour Boards in the Club, one can see the extent of his success. Open Pairs: first win in 1973, last in 2025, with the same partner! In between, 22 other wins with various partners. He won the Men's Pairs 23 times, Open Teams 29 times, and was inducted as a Life Member of GBC in 2009.

A wonderful career, and a servant of the game. He will be sadly missed by all, and especially by me, his friend and bridge partner for 55 years. Condolences go to his wife, Lorraine, daughters Melissa, Robyn and Linda, and to his three grandchildren, Meg, Lucas and Lily.

Arthur Robbins

Ruy de Menezes 1924-2026

About seven years ago, when he was 95, Ruy walked into our bridge club with a warm smile, looking for a game. None of us could have imagined then what a special part of our club he would become.

When his wife died in 2016, he was invited by his nephew to come to Australia, but ... "I had to wait three years for my dog to die."

Apart from the interruption during COVID, when he played on BBO, regularly with his friends from Portugal, Ruy was a regular fixture at the bridge table. He quickly made friends, and before long he wasn't just another player; he was one of the stars of our club. Everyone liked him. Anyone who has played bridge knows it's a wonderful game, but it can also test a person's patience and character. It has a way of bringing out the best in some people and, occasionally, the worst in others. But not Ruy. He was fiercely competitive, but always kind and gracious. That is a rare combination at any bridge table. He also had a wonderful sense of humour and a delightfully cheeky side.

As the director, I occasionally must make rulings that not everyone is happy with. Most players accept them without much fuss. Not Ruy! He knew the Laws of Bridge well—although sometimes the laws he remembered had long since been replaced. On one occasion, after I had given him an adjusted score, I walked away only to hear him declare, with great conviction, "I've never heard of this in my life!" I couldn't help but smile. Coming from someone who had lived for more than a century, that was quite a statement. It perfectly captured Ruy: passionate about the game, never afraid to speak his mind, and always leaving us with a smile.

His sharp mind, remarkable talent, and love for the game never faded with age. Winning the Awnp at the age of 101 is an extraordinary and possibly unprecedented achievement.

The Guinness Book of Records lists two Australian women who remained active bridge players to the age of 106 (one of them, Marion Rice, was a member of our club). As for the men, I believe Ruy may well have been the oldest active male bridge player in Australia, perhaps even in the world, still playing and enjoying the game he loved at the age of 102.

But what made Ruy truly remarkable wasn't just his longevity or his achievements. It was the example he set. He showed us that growing older doesn't mean giving up the things you love. He showed us that curiosity, friendship, laughter, and a sharp mind can stay with us throughout a lifetime. He inspired everyone who had the privilege of sitting at his table. Ruy de Menezes, thank you for your friendship, your humour, your grace, and your passion for the game. You have been an inspiration, a legend, and an unforgettable member of our bridge family. We will miss you dearly, but we will treasure your memory, and every story about you, for many years to come.

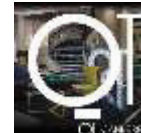
Nicoleta Giura

**Toni Paramore and Ruy at Ruy's
100th birthday celebration**





**FIXED INCOME
SOLUTIONS**



NEW Venue

2027 QT

*Reconnecting with the rich history
of the SFoB at QT Hotel Canberra*



FLAGSHIP EVENTS

National Women's Teams

Wed 13/1 – Fri 15/1.

Finals Sat 16/1– Sun 17/1

National Seniors' Teams

Wed 13/1 – Fri 15/1.

Finals Sat 16/1– Sun 16/1

TBIB Swiss Pairs

Sat 16/1 – Sun 17/1

South West Pacific Teams

Mon 18/1 – Thu 21/1

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES

Chris Diment Swiss Pairs

Wed 13/1 – Thu 14/1

Fixed Income Solutions Swiss Pairs

Fri 15/1

Mixed Swiss Pairs

Fri 22/1 – Sun 24/1

NEW! FRINGE FESTIVAL



2027 Canberra

SUMMER FESTIVAL

of Bridge

*Wednesday January 13th – Sunday January 24th
QT Hotel Canberra*

u500MP Chris Diment Swiss Pairs
u500 MP Fixed Income Solutions Swiss Pairs
u750/500 TBIB Swiss Pairs
u300/100 TBIB Swiss Pairs
u300 South West Pacific Teams
u5 Friday Fivers, FREE
u20 Fringe Festival

Tournament results

Photos from daily event bulletins

Victorian Festival of Bridge

WALLY SCOTT OPEN SWISS PAIRS

1 John Zollo - Attilio De Luca	120.52
2 Justin Mill - Mike Doecke	111.92
3 Ben Thompson - Jamie Thompson	110.05
4 Jeremy Reid - Seb Wright	107.29
5 Ashley Bach - Sophie Ashton	106.78
6 Heath Watkins - Kate Macdonald	106.06
7 David Appleton - Philip Markey	104.84
8 Pete Hollands - Prithiraj De Zoysa	102.93
9 David Gue - Josh Tomlin	102.24
10 Liz Fisher - Blair Fisher	101.54

JIM & NORMA BORIN MIXED PAIRS

1 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell	106.36
2 Peter Grant - Pam Crichton	105.07
3 Vanessa Brown - William Jenner-O'Shea	99.97
4 Richard Brightling - Jodi Tutty	99.47
5 Jane Reynolds - Peter Reynolds	95.91
6 Chris Hughes - Pauline Grodski	92.06
7 Sue Ingham - Terry Brown	91.02
8 Hugh McGann - Candice Smith	89.10
9 Sylvia Schwarcz - Ben Kingham	89.00
10 Jeff Fust - Viv Wood	88.74

VICTOR MUNTZ RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

1 Miriam O'Brien - Yulia Koh	108.18
2 Mick Parr - Colin Morrison	102.37
3 Yvonne Janes - Ron Janes	100.55
4 Tom Lee - Stephen Dennis	95.99
5 Rebecca Dorman - Rebecca Mackiggan	95.28
6 Anita Liu - Sharon Michael	95.10
7 Sharon Landers - Marianne Fridell	90.82
8 Chris Lamb - Serita Mudford	89.16
9 Megan Edwards - Michelle George	89.11
10 AnneMaree Brooks - Tracie McRorie	87.34

FRANK POWER TROPHY <200 MP SWISS PAIRS

Tom Lee - Stephen Dennis

UNDER 100 MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1 Juliette Mendelovits - David Melzer	61.90
2 Yvonne Janes - Ron Janes	61.01
3 Philip Dunlop-Moore - Glenn Foard	58.93
4 Tina Tregaskis - Tracie McRorie	55.06
5 Jacob Dorman - Rebecca Dorman	52.68
6 Philip Smith - MaryLouise Dwyer	52.08
6 Ali Perry - Anita Spurling	52.08
8 Vicki Hildebrand - Elizabeth Redman	51.19
9 Nathan Campbell - Azra Campbell	47.02
10 Jack Saunderson - Sue Koschade	45.24

UNDER 20 MATCHPOINT PAIRS

Vicki Hildebrand - Elizabeth Redman

CHARLIE SNASHALL RESTRICTED TEAMS

Susan Armitage, Megan Edwards, Michelle George, Kate Hartley

VICTOR CHAMPION CUP

- 1 Arian Lasocki, Terry Brown, David Beauchamp, Ian Thomson 145.69
- 2 Susan Lusk, Warren Lazer, Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby 129.54
- 3 Hugh McGann, Michael Ware, Justin Mill, Mike Doecke 129
- 4 Paul Hooykaas, Pele Rankin, Jeff Fust, Viv Wood 128.40
- 5 Mohamed Ghatwari, Mahmoud Elsabrout, Chen Ding, Philip Chang 127.58
- 6 Fraser Rew, Hugh Grosvenor, Joe Haffer, George Kozakos 127.24
- 7 Nick Jacob, Liz Adams, Jane Dawson, Peter Gill 126.99
- 8 Christy Geromboux, Andrew Spooner, Stephen Fischer, Sebastian Yuen 125.76
- 9 Andrew Peake, Bernard Waters, Giselle Mundell, Peter Buchen 125.43
- 10 George Bilal, David Samuels, Tony White, Jake Andrew 123.91

Australian National Championships

OPEN TEAMS

NSW (David Wiltshire, Peter Buchen, Michael Courtney, Nigel Rosendorff, James Coutts, David Fryda npc, Bruce Neill) 125
def ACT (David Appleton, Brad Coles, Christy Geromboux, Sebastian Yuen, Peter Reynolds, George Kozakos) 74.00

YOUTH TEAMS

NSW (Ida Andersen, David Zheng, Aadhi Hariharan, Shannon Ooi, Natalie Newman, Adrian Le, Mitch Dowling npc) 152
def ACT (Jessica He, Byron French, Jade Wilkinson, Alexis Wilsmore, Diya Shah, Dev Shah) 73

WOMEN'S TEAMS

WA (Dianne Dwyer, Kimberley Zhao, Viv Wood, Cassie Morin, Cynthia Belonogoff, Allison Stralow npc, Jane Reynolds) 105
def NSW (Nazife Bashar, Kinga Moses, Sharon Mayo, Cathryn Herden, Sally Clarke, Judy Mott) 94

SENIOR TEAMS

SA (Phil Gallasch, Chris Lorimer, Russel Harms, Zoli Nagy, Kevin Lange, David Anderson) 143 def ACT (Rob Hurst, Desmond Manderson, Michael Smart, Richard Brightling, Christopher Quail, David Hudson) 72.38

OPEN BUTLER PAIRS

1 Paul Dalley - Tony Nunn (pictured bottom right)	117.38
2 Sophie Ashton - Liam Milne	112.10
3 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	108.90
4 Nigel Rosendorff - Phil Gue	108.30
5 Joachim Haffer - Ron Cooper	107.55

MIXED BUTLER PAIRS

1 Peter Reynolds - Jane Reynolds (bottom left)	114.89
2 Nicoleta Giura - Nick Hughes	114.81
3 Chris Cullen - Mimi Packer	111.23
4 Stephen Williams - Ella Jacob	100.43
5 Paula McLeish - David McLeish	99.97

MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

As usual, work continues behind the scenes on My ABF – there will be a bunch of small updates coming soon. These will continue but the main focus in the months to come will be integrating the masterpoint centre functions. I'll say more next time about what that means for all of us as players and for clubs.

For this edition I will focus on two topics I have been asked to discuss:

For players – club membership and blocking

For every club for which you have, or have previously had, a membership listed in My ABF, your personal profile page will show something like this:



Club Memberships

You have or have had memberships with the following clubs. You can control your interactions with these clubs here:

Club	Membership Status	Block	Share profile data	Auto pay fees
QBA - GCC	Current	BLOCK	Once ☐	☐
Sydney Bridge Club	Current	BLOCK	Always ☒	☒

As mentioned in the last newsletter, right now this list will not necessarily correspond to the ABF Masterpoint Centre. What you see here is based only on which clubs have uploaded their members to My ABF. If your club hasn't then you won't see it in this list. In future, once the systems are merged all your memberships will show – but today that's not always the case.

What can I do with this list?

There are three different things you can do for each of these memberships:

1. Block them. See more below.
2. Share profile data – this says you are happy for your details (currently email address, phone number and date of birth) in your profile in My ABF to be shared with this club's record for your membership. Remember your profile belongs to you – it's your personal data. That's why your club can't legally use it unless you give permission here. But it's a practical thing to do since those details are very likely to be what you'd give your club anyway. It saves your club work and saves you worrying about having data in two different places.

3. Auto-pay fees – this is only relevant if your club is using My ABF to manage its membership renewals. This is saying you are happy for the club to collect your annual membership subscription on a set date. You will receive an email from the club when the renewal is created, stating that date and giving you a link to change your selection – something you can do at any time.

How does blocking a membership work and why would you do it?

Blocking is sometimes misunderstood in two ways:

- a. People think the red "Block" means their membership is blocked. No, it's not – that is just a button that lets you block it.
- b. People think blocking a membership is like resigning. No, it's not. So when would you use Block? When you aren't, in fact, a member of that club and you think there's been a mistake. It will remove your membership and it will also stop the club from being able to add you back.

If you have blocked a membership the line for that club will change:

Sydney Bridge Club

No membership

[ALLOW](#)

You are blocking this club from adding you as a member

If you blocked a club by mistake, you can now click the green Allow button and that will remove the block. It won't, however, reinstate your membership – the club will need to add you back.

For Clubs – The Communications area

One of the very powerful areas of My ABF that probably isn't used nearly as much as it could be is the Communications area. Clubs can use it to send emails to several groups of people:

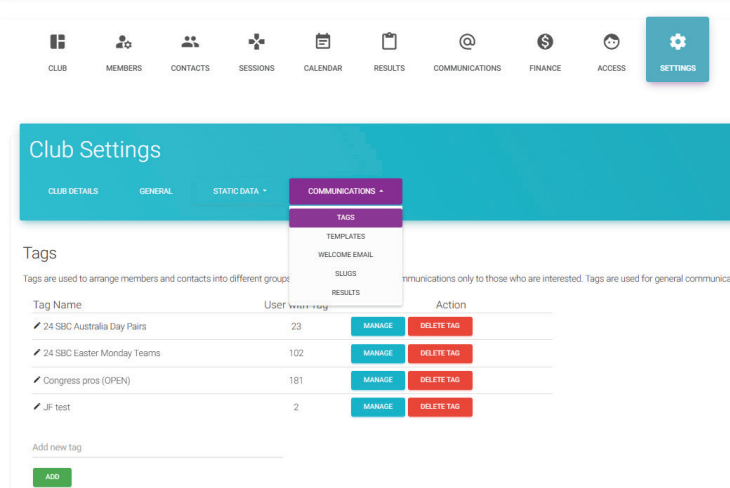
- members (or tagged subgroups of them – see below for more on tags)
- contacts (or tagged subgroups of them – see below for more on tags)
- event entrants (either for a specific event or selected events)
- club session attendees (either for a specific session or for selected sessions over a period)

To help use the area, there are some tools that it's worth looking into.

Tags

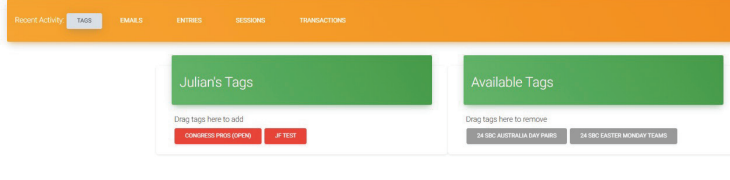
You can create tags and apply them to certain groups of members or contacts. Then you can send an email to just people with that tag.

Tags are created in the Settings area for a club – under Settings – Communications - Tags



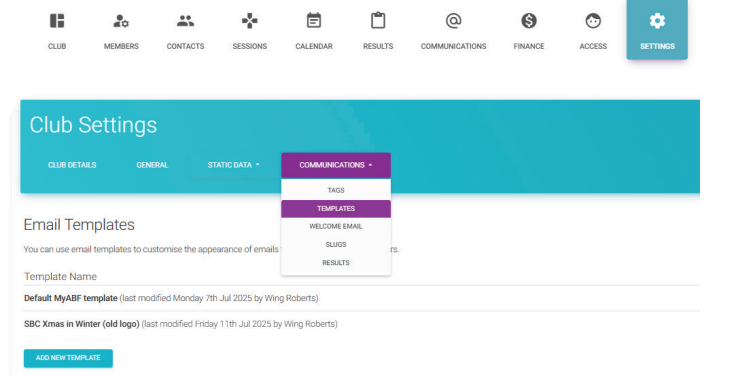
The Manage button allows you to apply that tag to multiple members or contacts.

It's also possible to add a tag to, or remove one from, an individual member. In their membership record, under Recent Activity, you can bring up Tags. This shows the tags currently applied to that member and allows you to drag and drop to change them.



Templates govern the look and feel of your emails so you can make them specific to your club.

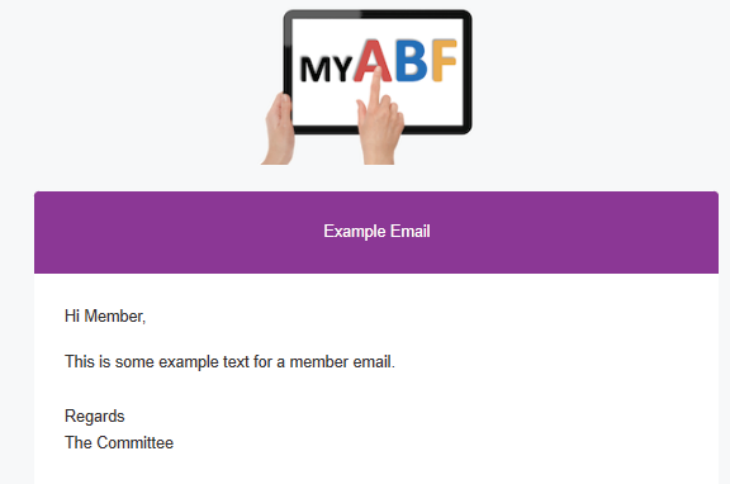
They are also managed from the Settings menu under Settings – Communications – Templates:



It's important to understand what a template is – it is NOT the same as a draft email in which you save text. It's more like a frame that your emails sit within.

A template can include the following things:

1. A banner image which appears at the top of any email sent using this template (often the club logo – a default My ABF banner is used if you don't add one)
2. A From name (the name that will appear as the sender when you send an email using this template)
3. A Reply-to address (the email that you want any replies from recipients to go to)
4. Box colours (the colour scheme for the header bar in the email – text and background colour)
5. A footer (common text which will be included at the bottom of any email sent using this template – this can be formatted)



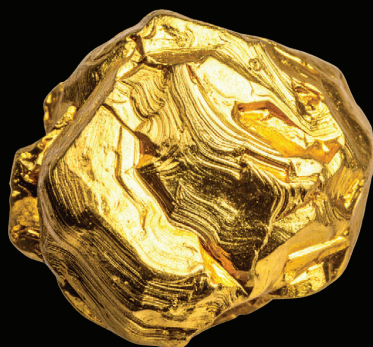
You can create as many different templates as you want for your club and perhaps use them for different types of emails you might want to send out.

More details about the entire Communications area are available in the club administration user guide.

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

GOLD IN THE GOLDFIELDS

18-22 NOVEMBER 2026



A New National Gold Point Tournament

Taking place in the heart of the historic
Goldfields district in central Victoria.



Tournament Director
Laurie Kelso



Tournament Organiser
Phil Young, 0419 338 798

TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

Wed 18 Nov	7:00pm	Walk-in Pairs
Thu 19 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Teams
Fri 20 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Teams
	7:30pm	Trivia Night
Sat 21 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Pairs
Sun 22 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Pairs

Enter at MyABF:



All Seasons Resort Hotel, Strathdale, BENDIGO

