



# NEWSLETTER

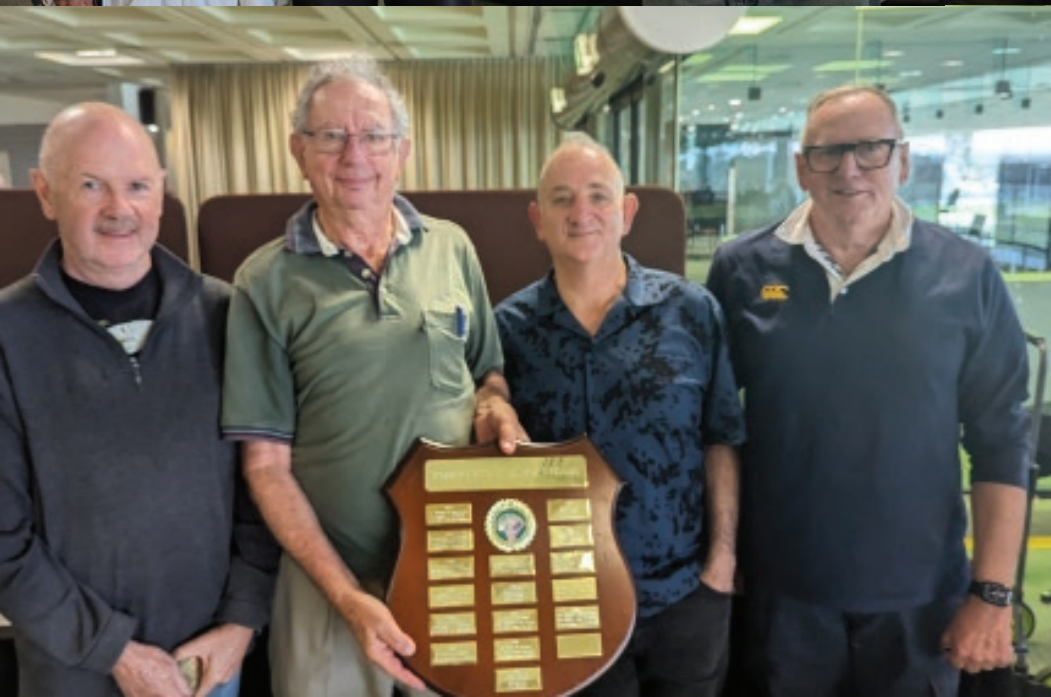
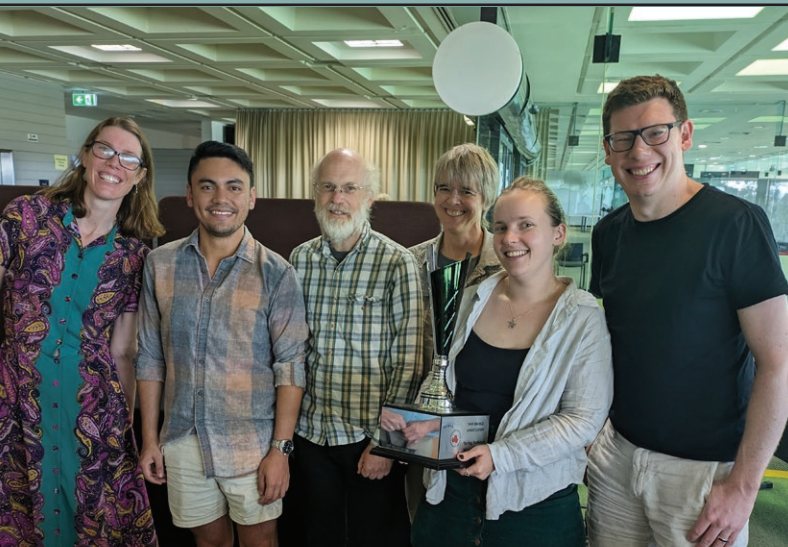
## AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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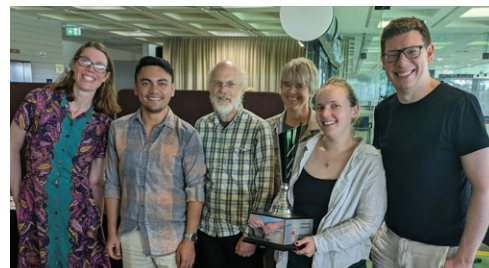
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Front cover: Spring Nationals winners and finalists.  
See page 16 for the report on the Open Final.

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**IMPROVE  
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*Solution on page 22*

Teams, Dealer East, East-West vulnerable

♠ A K 3

♥ 8 7 5

♦ 4 2

♣ K 7 5 4 3



♠ Q 10 6 5 4

♥ K 9 6 3

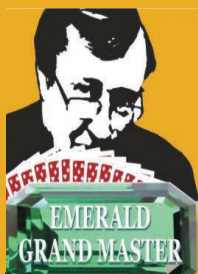
♦ 10

♣ A 9 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	pass	1♥
all pass		pass	4♥

1. Heart support, 10-12 points.

West leads the ♠2: ace - four (low-like) - eight. Declarer plays the ♥5: three - queen - 10, followed by the ♦A: three (even number) - two - ten and the ♦K: five - four - ♥6. You, East, return the ♠Q: ♦6 - ♠7 - ♠K. Declarer continues with the ♥7: nine - jack - ♦7 and the ♥A: ♦9 - ♥8 - ♥K. Plan the defence. If you have not made up your mind yet, suppose South plays the ♣6: two - king next. What do you play on the next trick?



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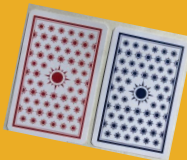
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

[president@abf.com.au](mailto:president@abf.com.au)



The mid-term meeting of the ABF Council was held in Sydney in October. With the support of the Council, the ABF Board continues to assist in building the infrastructure to support clubs through their state / territory body. This is mainly through the provision of human resources to help the states and territories attract and retain players. I thank the ABF Council for the contributions they make to the administration of bridge in Australia.

The ABF has employed David Fryda to the position of ABF Executive Director, effective 1 November 2023. David will add value to the Board through his strategy and direction. He will make the Board aware of important issues and ensure a thorough examination of them. Of course, we all want to find out more about David's experience so I sent him some questions to answer.

## **How would you describe yourself?**

*My first thought was: tall, bald and I wasn't sure what to say next although others who know me can probably make suggestions! Maybe a better answer would be: a very lucky man with a wonderful wife and two amazing (grown up) sons who has just started a dream job in an area that I have been passionate about for 50 years!*

## **Tell me how you first became involved in bridge.**

*I came from a very card centric family. I used to play poker with my grandmother before I could read. My mother was a very keen bridge player and so I wanted to learn as well. And as they say, the rest is history.*

## **What do you think will change over the next three years?**

*For most bridge players I think the next three years will be a time of consolidating the changes of the past few years. The introduction of online bridge during the pandemic was a saviour in many ways. However, most bridge players crave the benefits we do not get when playing online. So, I think in the next three years*

*we will see a focus on the social aspects of our game whether that be in our local clubs, at weekend congresses or at the national events.*

*Where I do see a lot of change happening though is in bridge administration. As player numbers dropped during COVID, the clubs, states and the ABF were all faced with challenges that forced changes to occur. Some of those changes are still happening slowly but the change leaders are already benefiting. That's what makes my new role with the ABF so exciting! Throughout my career as a technology leader, I have taken on the roles of change adopter, catalyst and leader, so I'm looking forward to the ABF helping all bridge clubs, teachers, directors and administrators to improve the experience for players at all levels in Australia.*

## **If you could change one thing, what would it be?**

*That's easy, I would increase the number of people in Australia's bridge playing community. There simply needs to be more people playing this wonderful game and as a result we would gain so much.*

## **What is the best thing that has happened since you took on the position as ED?**

*Well Allison, that's a tough one given you are asking me these questions when I am only one week into the job! Everyone has been so kind with their congratulatory comments. Possibly even better than that is that I now get to go to Canberra for the Open Team Play-offs, albeit as an administrator rather than a player! Maybe next year it will be both!*

Whilst David has lots of ideas and is very much looking forward to working with the members of the ABF Board and the other Councillors, the opinions of bridge players from all over Australia are very important to him. He would love to hear from anyone who has something to share. If you would prefer to speak to him then all you need to do is drop him an email with your phone number and he will call as soon as he can.

Have a relaxing holiday season with your family and friends and a Happy New Year to you all. I look forward to seeing you at the table in 2024.

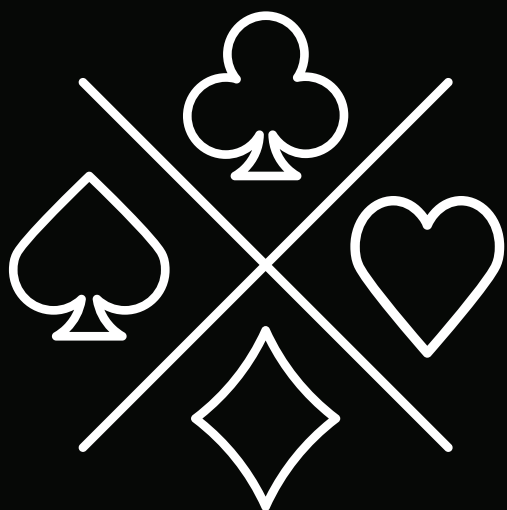
If you have any issues that you would like to raise with me, David or the ABF Board, please email:

[president@abf.com.au](mailto:president@abf.com.au)

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# What should I bid?

with Lauren Travis

The best submission for September came from Beverley McDonald. She wins a voucher of \$30, funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at Paul Lavings Bridgegear or The Bridge Shop.



I have lots of questions about this hand, and big hands in general.

1. Would you open 1♣ or 2♣ with this hand? Some players pointed out that the hand has only two losers, so maybe I should have opened 2♣.

2. I had planned to jump shift over the 1♦ response, bidding 2♥. When East overcalled 2♠, I knew my 3♥ was a reverse, so forcing. I didn't know how to continue when partner raised to 4♥, so I just bid 6♥.

a) Should partner have responded 1♦ or 1♥?

b) If he had responded 1♥, how would you bid now?

c) When partner responded 1♦, then supported hearts, does that suggest he has a stronger hand?

3. I'd be interested in your recommended auction. Given the vulnerability, I suppose some Easts won't overcall.

4. What do you think of reaching 7♥? Is it a good contract? I realise it doesn't make on this deal. 7♥ actually requires hearts to break 3-2 and clubs to break 3-2, I think.

5. If my hand was different – say, the same hand but five hearts and six clubs, then I've been advised that it is inadvisable to open 2♣ because it can be difficult to show both suits. Is that correct?

Beverley

Hi Beverley,

What an interesting hand!

My rule of thumb for 2♣ openings with long suits is that I'll do it if partner passing my one-level opening will devastate me – in this case, I think your hand meets my criteria. One point to consider is that when you have shortage in spades it's highly likely that one of the other three people at the table will bid them, reducing the risk of being passed out in 1♣. So, dealer's choice for your opening bid; I can see the merits of 1♣ and 2♣.

I wrote about this in relation to a 2-5-6-0 hand in February 2023 as well:

"The benefits of a 2♣ opening are that you get your points off your chest, and if it's an uncontested auction you can be fairly confident of getting to show both your suits (especially if you play that 2♣ is game forcing). On the other hand, a one-level opening leaves you in a better position if the opponents interfere, and if partner responds 1♠ then a simple 2♥ reverse means you've already shown both your suits at a much lower level than if you'd opened 2♣ – or maybe partner will even bid 1♥ or raise your suit! There is a risk that a one-level opening will get passed out, and you'd feel a bit silly in that case, but with such a distributional hand it's likely that someone else at the table will be bidding and keep the auction alive for you."

I like your plan for the auction. It's important to consider your rebid before opening the bidding, to make sure you know where you're going and how you'll show your hand.

When responding to 1♣ openings, I will generally show a four-card major in preference to diamonds if I have a hand which is less than about 11 points (i.e. will not invite if partner rebids 1NT showing 12-14 HCP). This is so that I can find my 4-4 major fit on the first round of the auction, since I'm not guaranteed to be bidding again with a weaker hand. With a stronger hand that will definitely be taking a second bid, I'm happy to show a five-card diamond suit first, then a four-card major, as I am planning to bid again over whatever partner does. As such, I would respond 1♥ as North, planning to pass if partner rebids 1NT or 2♣ – and yes, if you

S/All	♠ A Q 4		
	♥ 10 8 7 5		
	♦ K 7 6 5 2		
	♣ 8		
♠ J 8 6		♠ K 10 9 7 5 3 2	
♥ J 4 3 2		♥ 6	
♦ Q J 10		♦ 8 4 3	
♣ J 9 5		♣ Q 3	
	♠ —		
	♥ A K Q 9		
	♦ A 9		
	♣ A K 10 7 6 4 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♦	2♠	1♣
pass	4♥	pass	3♥
all pass			6♥

and your partner agree to respond 1M rather than 1♦ with weaker hands, then I would expect partner to have more values on this auction.

If the auction begins 1♣ - pass - 1♥, it depends what conventions you play (splinters, control bids, etc). I would splinter as South (if I play splinters) to show game values, four hearts and a singleton or void spade. Once East overcalls 2♠, you no longer have a jump to 3♠ available, which makes it trickier. A 3♠ cuebid would show a game-going hand with heart support and encourage partner to show their controls. It's also quite safe to bid 4NT keycard here (even with a void) as you have all of them except the ace of spades, and you could subsequently ask about kings with 5NT to find the king of diamonds.

7♥ doesn't look like an amazing contract on these cards. North's hand is just about as bad as it can be for South, though, with the ♠AQ, no ♥J and a singleton club, so I wouldn't fault anyone for bidding it.

Keep the questions coming!

Lauren

*The best submission for October came from Tomoko Nakamatsu. She wins a voucher of \$30, funded by TBIB, toward any purchase made at Paul Lavings Bridgegear or The Bridge Shop.*

I was North and didn't know how to proceed after my partner's 3♦ to look for a slam.

We play 3♥ over the 3♦ as non-forcing. Her 3♦ can be 16+ or just long diamonds, competing over the opponents' annoying overcall. I needed either ♥K or ♥Q for 6♥, or a good 16 HCP for 6NT from my partner. Should I bid 3♠? Then South would bid 3NT with this hand, and I'll be stuck. Should I bid 4♣, hoping for South to bid 4♥?

Tomoko

Hi Tomoko,

It's often tricky bidding slams when the two hands have equal HCP strength, because neither partner quite has enough to take charge on their own.

Firstly, it's great that you have an agreement about how you play bids after a three-minor rebid. However,

I would strongly recommend changing that agreement and playing all of responder's rebids as forcing. My *What Should I Bid?* predecessor, Andy Hung, convinced me of this 10+ years ago and it's so helpful. With the weak, non-forcing hands, passing 3♦ is often the best option anyway, but when you have game forcing hands but aren't sure which game (or slam) to play, it's invaluable to have a forcing bid! Also, this auction is slightly different – as responder has already bid at the two-level showing 10+ points, I think 3♥ being forcing is logical, as the only hands where you don't want to play game are ones where opener probably shouldn't have rebid 3♦.

On to the problem you had at the table... my choice would be 3♠ followed by 4♥. When there are multiple ways to show the 'same' type of hand, I find it useful to rank them from weakest to strongest. In this case, 3♥ (non-forcing) would be weakest, 4♥ would be next, and 3♠ then 4♥ would be a step above that. I would consider that as a mild slam try type of hand, with a long heart suit that doesn't require a fit from partner at the game level.

This hand fits that description perfectly, especially with four of your points in the suit the opponents bid and raised (thus we would usually not expect partner to have the ace) and a singleton in partner's long, probably strong, suit.

After 3♠ - 3NT - 4♥ it would be up to partner whether they make a move. I think this hand is worth it; but with no control in clubs they could either figure you have one (since you're showing a good hand and it would be pretty hard for you not to have one) or cuebid 4♠, allowing you to ask for keycards, find the queen of trumps, and bid 6♥.

Happy slamming!

Lauren

E/Nil	♠ K J		
	♥ A 10 9 8 7 6 2		
	♦ 9		
	♣ A K 9		
♠ Q 10 6 5 3		♠ 9 8 7 2	
♥ J		♥ K 5 3	
♦ 10 7		♦ Q J 6 4	
♣ 7 6 5 4 2		♣ 10 8	
	♠ A 4		
	♥ Q 4		
	♦ A K 8 5 3 2		
	♣ Q J 3		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	1♦
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♦
pass	4♥	all pass	



## Bridge in the Ballroom at Government House

On the afternoon of Wednesday, November 15th, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria, graciously hosted 160 bridge players from across the state in the beautiful ballroom. Representatives from 65 bridge clubs and several distinguished guests joined in this gathering.

The day provided a chance for players to come together, not just to enjoy a game of bridge, but to celebrate our community's achievements and share ideas for the future. The Governor's interest in the game offers us an opportunity to shine a light on bridge, something we're eager to embrace.

Throughout the event, captivating photographs were taken by Jack, the Government House photographer and Adi from Real Deal Bridge. These photos, along with a templated article by Catherine Harris, make it easy for us to share our story with local newspapers and publications, as well as celebrate within our own community.

For photos, the article template, and results, you can visit [Real Deal Bridge's dedicated page](#).

This special day was made possible by the Governor's generosity, the unity of our bridge community, and the equipment from Bridge Victoria. It was a true celebration of bridge, and we look forward to more opportunities like this in the future.

*Laura Ginnan*



*John Sarena and Linda Picone travelled all the way from Warrnambool and came 4th in the session. They are pictured standing in front of the State Chair, which was made in 1859 and is only ever used by the reigning Monarch or their representative.*

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# SLAMS FROM THE PLAYOFF

Liam Milne

The Australian Open Playoff was won by Charlie Lu - Peter Gill, Liam Milne - James Coutts and Tony Nunn - Nabil Edgtton, defeating Andrew Spooner - Philip Markey, Mike Doecke - Will Jenner-O'Shea and Shane Harrison - Matt Smith in the final.

Here are a few slams from the final:

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nunn	Spoo	Edgtton	Markey
pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	1♠	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	4♥
all pass			

1. (4)5+♦, 9+ HCP, unbalanced.

Spooner had a difficult hand to bid on the second round and opted for an all-purpose 2♠ cue bid. Most pairs play bids of the opponent's suit by opener as game-forcing (or at least strong), but Markey jumped to 4♥ which left his side no room to investigate slam.

Markey won the spade lead in the dummy and played a club to the king and ace. A diamond return allowed declarer to cross-ruff for twelve tricks; +480.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
J-O'Shea	Lu	Doecke	Gill
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	4♥
pass	4NT	pass	5♠ <sup>3</sup>
pass	6NT	all pass	

1. Weak two, 5+♦.  
2. Natural non-forcing.  
3. Two keycards with the ♥Q.

The first round of the auction convinced Lu that his side was in the market to make a slam. He did well

to move over 4♥, but fell from grace when he selected notrumps as the strain over hearts, no doubt feeling that all of his values in the opponents suits suggested notrump play. 6NT was down on all leads, but Doecke fired out the ♣Q to speed things up; 11 imps to Spooner instead of 11 the other way if 6♥ had been the contract.

Down 28 imps after two sets, the tide began to turn in the third set:

## Board 32. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Smith	Milne	Harrison	Coutts
1♠	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	pass	1♥
pass	5♥ <sup>3</sup>	4♠	4NT <sup>2</sup>
all pass		5♠	6♣

1. Exactly three hearts, limit raise or better.

2. RKCB.

3. Two keycards without the ♥Q.

James showed excellent judgement on this board. After finding out that I only had three hearts and was lacking the queen, he bid 6♣ intending it as an offer, potentially locating a more robust trump suit than the hearts. The spirited intervention from the opponents convinced us both that there might be an unpleasant surprise in hearts, and I figured my diamond suit might set up to throw away James' presumably poor hearts.

James won the spade lead, crossed to dummy in trumps and took the losing diamond finesse. He could ruff the next spade, draw trumps, then try the diamonds first before falling back on the heart hook. When the diamonds split, he had +1370, while 6♥ was going down unless declarer had a copy of the hand record.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nunn	J-O'Shea	Edgtton	Doecke
4♠	5NT <sup>3</sup>	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	4♣ <sup>2</sup>
all pass		pass	7♣

1. By agreement, very weak and often five.

2. 'Leaping Michaels', 5+♣, 5+♥, good hand.

3. Pick a slam.

Most deals in the final where one team bid more than the other, we were the ones bidding less owing to the hyper-aggressive 1NT openings played by two of their pairs and the Markey two-level opening structure. This time, Edgtton found an aggressive 2♠ opening that Harrison felt didn't fit into their partnership style in the other room.

Nevertheless, North-South were on track to find the best contract of 6♣ and flatten the board until Doecke's ill-advised venture to the seven-level. He felt that he had extra values and expected more from partner's 5NT bid, but with so many gaps to cover, guessing to bid a grand slam was a shot in the dark. 7♣ was a very poor contract and duly went one down for a 16-imp swing.

**Board 58. Dealer West. North-South vulnerable.**

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

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

The order of the suits meant that the simple 2/1 auction in the open room got high quickly. Over 3♦, Harrison knew that other contracts might be better, but could do little other than try 3NT and hope it was best.

WEST Milne	NORTH	EAST Coutts	SOUTH
1♠	pass	2♣!	pass
2♦	pass	2NT	pass
3♦	pass	4♦	pass
4♥	pass	5♣	pass
6♦	all pass		

An old bridge adage proclaims, "Do not bid bad suits with good hands". James' excellent decision to start with the stronger club suit meant that we would avoid a silly 5-3 heart fit with weak trumps, and we had more room for me to show my shape. After hearing I was 5-5, James raised diamonds and made a mild slam try with 5♣. I was marginal but decided to give twelve tricks a go.

Spooner led the ♣3, and I saw that I would be in good shape if the heart finesse won, or I would need to go all-out on a cross-ruff scramble if the ♥K was offside. I took the successful heart finesse at trick two, then played a trump to dummy, planning on ruffing a club and playing for clubs 4-3 and diamonds 3-2.

When the jack of diamonds made an appearance, it looked like trumps were 4-1 (or a filthy and convincing falsecard). Setting up the dummy was now off the menu, so I reverted to a cross-ruff and tried to cash two more big clubs. Markey ruffed the third club and I overruffed, leaving this position:

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

I made an error at this point by cashing the ♠A and ruffing a spade. When I played a club from the dummy, Markey paused to consider the position. As he did so, my stomach churned as I realised that I had butchered the contract and was down if he ruffed in. I would not be able to discard, as he would return a trump leaving me with a spade loser. But if I overruffed, I only had one trump in dummy for two spade losers and would lose a trick at the end.

My only hope was that the defence could not read the position and would be hesitant to ruff their partner's club trick. After some thought, Markey pitched a heart and I was home.

I trumped with the ♦2, cashed the ♥A, and ruffed another spade leaving myself with ♠J and ♦Q6 in hand. When I played from the dummy, Markey could either discard and let me score my little trump or ruff in; when he ruffed, I discarded my spade loser and made the last two tricks for +920 and 10 imps.

I was cold in the diagrammed position above. All I needed to do was cash the ace of hearts before ruffing a spade. Then I could ruff a HEART in hand, Markey following suit impotently, ruff another spade, and achieve the same winning three-card trump coup position with the lead in dummy.

*See the December and February issues of Australian Bridge Magazine for a more detailed report on this event.*

# Youth Week Fundraiser

***Elevate Your Bridge Skills and Support Youth Bridge - Join the Bidding Challenge Today!***

Are you ready to enhance your bridge skills while making a difference in the world of youth bridge? The Australian Youth Bridge Championships invites you to participate in the Bidding Challenge, a unique event that offers personal growth and supports the future of budding bridge enthusiasts.

## **Challenge Highlights: Enhance Your Skills and Support Youth Bridge**

**Skill Enhancement:** Complete 15 diverse bidding problems suitable for all levels of play. Our expert panel will tackle the same problems.

**Expert Panel Insights:** Learn from an expert panel during a live-streamed event on Thursday 21 December, with recorded sessions available for later viewing. Expert panellists include Sophie Ashton, Peter Gill, Mike Doecke, Ishmael Del'Monte, Ron Klinger, Liam Milne, and more

**Written Panel Answers:** Delve into comprehensive breakdowns of expert solutions emailed directly to you on December 21st.

## **Live Stream Details – Save the Date!**

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 21st, and join us for a live stream featuring three panelists and guest youth players. The event kicks off at 4pm

in Auckland, 2pm in Sydney, 1:30pm in Adelaide, and 11am in Perth.

## **Supporting Youth Bridge: Your Impact Matters**

Your participation directly contributes to the success of youth bridge. Support key initiatives:

**Reduce Costs:** Assist in minimising expenses associated with extensive travel and chaperone needs for players under 18.

**New Player Coaching:** Help attract and nurture new and inexperienced players, vital for the growth of youth bridge.

**Resources and Team Building:** Contribute to delivering exceptional events with lasting opportunities through mentorship and connections.

## **Your Support - Choose Your Impact**

Select from three suggested amounts - Seed Supporter (\$20), Growth Enthusiast (\$55), and Champion of Youth Bridge (\$150). Every donation counts, and you can also choose your own amount to make a meaningful impact.

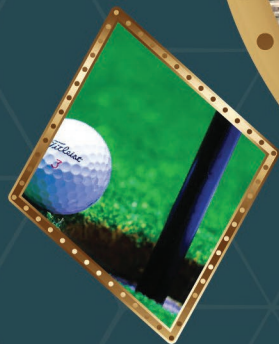
## **Register Now and Make a Difference!**

Ready to take on the challenge and support youth bridge? **Register now** and secure your spot in this exciting event. For more information, visit our web site at [ausyouthbridgeweek.wixsite.com](https://ausyouthbridgeweek.wixsite.com).

Thank you for your commitment to the growth of youth bridge. We look forward to seeing you at the Bidding Challenge!

*Laura Ginnan, 2024 Australian Youth Championships Convenor*





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# Tournament News



## Summer Festival

### What's new at the SFOB

#### **Fine Dining Experience: Boat House Restaurant, Wednesday 17 January.**

Discover Canberra's best dining experience at The Boat House, Canberra's iconic lakeside restaurant. Situated along the scenic banks of Lake Burley Griffin, The Boat House is more than just a restaurant – it's a destination that promises an unforgettable culinary journey. The restaurant prides itself on its seasonally-inspired menus that elevate the local culinary scene, all set against the breathtaking view over the water. The Boat House also boasts an award-winning wine list, having received accolades from Gourmet Traveller Wine for three consecutive years. Beyond the exquisite food and wine, the establishment emphasises impeccable service.

For this flagship event the restaurant is offering a set menu, with beverages purchased by the table.

Further details are available on MyABF.

### Sponsors

#### **FIXED INCOME SOLUTIONS (NEW SPONSOR)**

Fixed Income Solutions is honoured to announce that we will be a key sponsor at the ABF Summer Festival of Bridge.

Fixed Income Solutions Pty Ltd (FIS) provides a broad range of investors access to the global bond and fixed income market through its premium service offering. We cover the full spectrum of fixed income, including Term Deposits, 'At-Call' accounts, Government & Corporate Bonds, as well as Unrated, Small Cap & High Yield Securities.

With a strong focus on credit and relative value, FIS typically targets investment-grade bonds to generate truly diversified portfolios. Our high turnover, large volumes and low margins ensure our clients enjoy the best price execution in the market. Some of the clients we service include self-managed super

funds, private clients, not-for-profits, corporates and institutional clients.

Fixed income, and corporate bonds specifically, are a vastly underutilised asset class in Australia compared to the rest of the developed world. Some of the key reasons are accessibility and education. Hence, there has long been a missed opportunity for Australian investors. This is where FIS steps in – we provide the access and expertise investors need to enhance returns on their fixed income allocations.

Australian investors have typically relied on at-call or low interest-bearing products, and/or taken on unnecessary risk via overweight equity/property allocations to generate their investment returns. Bonds, by their very nature, are defensive assets that provide capital stability and regular, reliable income, making them an attractive asset class for those looking to generate strong returns.

We are in a very different interest rate environment now compared to where we were 12-18 months ago, so it's a great time for new investors to secure attractive yields that had been unachievable for some time.

If you'd like to learn more about fixed income & how it can assist your investment portfolio, we will be attending the Summer Bridge Festival in Canberra from the 12th-13th of January. Alternatively, if you would like to speak with one of our brokers, please enquire on our website & someone will be in touch shortly:

[www.fixedincomesolutions.com/contact-us/](http://www.fixedincomesolutions.com/contact-us/)

FIS holds an Australian Financial Services Licence (No. 399636) issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and we are licensed to only deal with wholesale clients or professional investors as described in Section 761(G) of the Corporations Act 2001.

FIS will be at the venue on Friday and Saturday 12-13 January.

## TBIB (ONGOING SPONSOR)

TBIB representatives will be at the REX Hotel on the weekend of 13-14 January. This is an opportunity to request information on how TBIB can assist you with your insurance requirements.

## BRIDGE SHOP (NEW SPONSOR)

The Bridge Shop is sponsoring the Week One Novice Pairs and Teams. Nick Fahrer will be at the venue from Friday 12 January.

# Gold Coast 2025

The 2024 Gold Coast Congress is coming up soon, on 17-24 February at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre. Looking to the future, the QBA is pleased to announce that the event will continue to be held at the Exhibition Centre the following year, with a booking now in place for 1-8 February 2025.

# Canberra in Bloom

Canberra's very own Gold Points Congress was a wonderful success again this year. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making it a success, from the players, to the organisers, and to the volunteers. It was wonderful to see so many Canberra players take part, and even more so to see so many Canberrans winning or placing in events. Notably, Canberra's very own Jodi Tutty and her team were successful in the three day Val and John Brockwell Mixed Teams event. This particular event also attracted Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP) used to select the Australian Open and Mixed teams.

Many, many players from all over Australia enjoyed a long weekend of competitive bridge and the very

balmy spring weather. CIB 2023 encouraged players of all levels of experience to enter, including those with less than five Masterpoints, who competed in the inaugural fierce, but fun, Rookie event. And CIB 2023 also hosted six of Australia's eight Emerald Grand Masters. These players have each amassed more than 10,000 points of various hues.

For more detailed information and to see the list of winners for each event please have a look at the ABF results site, <https://www.bridgeaustralia.org>.

You may have seen some familiar faces from Will Jenner O'Shea's Youth Training Days - CBC's very own Daryl Whitfield ably assisted the Chief Tournament Director (Ronnie Ng) and Damian Judd was the caddy at his inaugural event. Great work!

And a final word from the Partnership Desk. A huge thank you to everyone who partnered interstate and local players. Bricet really appreciated everyone's generosity in making themselves available to play. Without you, we would have disappointed visitors, as well as suffered incomplete movements and sit-outs. My sincere apologies from BFACT to the very polite local player who was unfortunately woken in the middle of the night, in the middle of their Roman holiday, to be asked whether they could be a last minute substitute. And no, they were not available over the weekend.

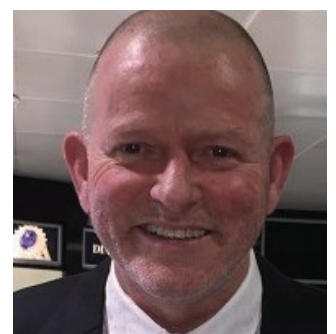
Finally, and most importantly, Canberra In Bloom 2024 will be held from Friday, 4 to Monday, 7 October 2024 next year. We look forward to seeing you there for another successful bridge congress featuring Canberra in all its blooming brilliance.

*Cathy Nichols, President Bridge Federation of the ACT and 2023 Canberra in Bloom Co-Convenor (with Roger Brake)*



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Host: Gary Brown

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**For a full colour brochure/ booking form email:** [ozbridgetravel@gmail.com](mailto:ozbridgetravel@gmail.com)

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# 2023 Spring Nationals final

## Josh Tomlin

*The Spring Nationals final was won by Dave Wiltshire, Sophie Ashton, Sartaj Hans and Andy Hung (pictured), beating David Gue, Joe Haffer, Joshua Tomlin and Philip Markey in the final 176-139. Joshua Tomlin reports some interesting deals from the final match.*



In October, the annual Spring Nationals Open Tournament was held at the Canterbury Racecourse in Sydney. The Open Teams consisted of three days of Swiss qualifying, followed by two days of finals. I played for team Gue D (David Gue, Josh Tomlin, Phil Markey, Joe Haffer). The extra D was included in the team name to distinguish us from David's Dad's team, Gue P.

We won the qualifying portion by less than a VP, beat team Kozakos in the semi-final, and were to face Ashton (Sophie Ashton, David Wiltshire, Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung) in the final. Ashton led the qualifying for most of the event, until we overtook them by a hair in the last round. In their semi-final, they had a convincing win over team Joel.

Gue and I play a standard 2/1 system with transfers over 1♣, as do Sophie and Dave. Sartaj and Andy are of course a Precision pair. Phil and Joe play the unusual Outback Acol, where opening nine-point hands is mandatory, a 1NT opening shows 9-14, and the two-level is used for weak two-suiters (at least 4-4) with one of the suits being spades.

The following board was a very tricky 3NT, both to play and defend:

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

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

WEST Tomlin	NORTH Hung	EAST Gue	SOUTH Hans
			1NT
pass	2♥	pass	2♠
pass	3NT	all pass	

The play started with a club to the queen and ace, the ♠6 ducked to East's queen, and the ♣8 to the ten, jack and dummy's king. Declarer played ace and another spade from dummy, East following with the three and king.

What does declarer discard on this trick? He needs to keep his clubs to establish the fourth round. If the spades break it would look foolish to pitch a heart, giving up the potential for a heart entry. If the ♦K is offside, then having two little diamonds will help get another entry to dummy by playing a diamond to the ♦J later. So Sartaj made the fancy discard of the ♦Q, trying to cater for all cases.

In with the ♠K, Dave had to find a return in the following position:

Playing a heart at any point would clearly be a disaster.	♠ 10 9	♠ J
Setting up the fifth spade is not a good idea either, so a diamond return is clear.	♥ Q J 9	♥ K 10 8 4
However, look what happens if you carelessly play the ♦6.	♦ J 8	♦ K 10 6
Declarer will run this to the ♦J and, stuck with the ♦K10, East is helpless to many endplays. Declarer can, for instance, exit a spade. East can get out with a diamond, but declarer can win and put him back in with another diamond, picking up three heart tricks to go with his two spades, two diamonds and two clubs.	♣ 7	♣ —
	♠ —	♠ —
	♥ 3 2	♥ A 6 5
	♦ 9 7 5 4	♦ A 3 2
	♣ 9 4	♣ 6 5

My partner found the magnificent winning play of the ♦10, keeping the ♦6 to avoid getting endplayed! This went to the ♦J and declarer followed up by running the ♥Q, which held the trick. Now declarer is helpless. If he plays a spade, Gue can come out the ♦K and declarer can't throw him in with the third round of diamonds. Declarer tried the ♣7, which I won and returned the ♣4. Partner took the opportunity to stylishly discard the ♦K (if he didn't do it now, he would get another chance to unblock it under the ♦A). Declarer won the ♣6 and tried ♦A and a diamond, but I was able to cash two diamonds for one off. North declared 3NT in the other room on a diamond lead, and with some friendly defence had no trouble making ten tricks. 12 imps in!

**Board 51. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.**

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

All the excitement for this set was at the other table. On this deal, my teamies bid the EW cards up to 6♠ on the following uncontested auction:

WEST Markey	NORTH Ashton	EAST Haffer	SOUTH Wiltshire
			pass
1♠	pass	2♣	pass
3♦	pass	3♠	pass
4♣	pass	4♦	pass
4NT	pass	5♦	pass
6♠	all pass		

2♣ was three-way: either a balanced game force, a game force with real clubs, or a limit raise in spades. 3♦ showed a 1♠-3♠ rebid without solid spades, a very convenient gadget to have here! 4♣ and 4♦ were control bids and 5♦ showed one keycard. Markey knew that this was likely to be a pushy slam, however he also knew that the state of the match called for some swings with only six boards to go.

North led the ♠J. A club lead happens to be better on this layout, despite West's 4♣ control bid. Declarer won the ace, played the ♠10 to dummy's queen and played a diamond to the queen and ace. South exited with the ♥7, won by dummy's ace.

To make this slam, you need to do something about your club loser. The percentage play in diamonds is to cash the jack, hoping that they are 3-3 or that the ten falls doubleton, where you have the entries to unblock the 9 and get back to dummy to enjoy the fourth round. This line also has some remote squeeze chances if you find the ♣KQ with the long diamonds.

An alternative approach in the diamond suit is to finesse the nine, hoping that South has the ten. This gains against 10xxx with South but loses to 10x and 10xx with North, so a priori this is an inferior play. However, the opponents play reverse count. If you trust that they are being honest, then the ♦2 rules out 3-3 diamonds. If so, it is now percentage (2 to 1) to take a diamond hook.

Phil says he replayed South following with the ♦2 about 17 times in his head before deciding to trust it as honest count. Also, given the state of the match, it looked like a great time to make a non-standard play. So he called for a diamond, stuck in the nine, and racked up 12 tricks! In the other room, Sartaj Hans was in a more sound 4♠ contract. Can you believe that the play was exactly the same?

Interestingly, If you win the ♥K at trick 4 instead of the ♥A, then there are some real extra squeeze chances. If North has long diamonds, the ample communication in diamonds, hearts and clubs means that you are always cold on a compound squeeze. However, you would have to read the position like a book to execute it. Of course a club switch at any point would kill the necessary communication.

While we managed to swing a couple boards back our way, we ended up losing the set by 30 and the match by 37. Congratulations to the Ashton team for a well-played final and an excellent performance over the whole week. This was my first time playing in a final of a national open tournament. I had an absolute blast, and the experience of going up against one of Australia's strongest teams was invaluable to me.




For those bridge players who care about the environment, the ABF's sponsor, PENLINE, makes Reusable Coffee cups and Water Bottles, as part of its "War on Waste". If you are interested in more information, please contact Maryo Derofo by email: [maryo@penline.com.au](mailto:maryo@penline.com.au)






# A GAME AT THE CLUB

**Barbara Travis**

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

Here's a hand that was universally mismanaged in an online game. Sitting East, you hold:

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

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

I saw far too many 3♣ rebids. 3♣ is not forcing; do you really want to give partner the option of passing your bid?

There are three options available to you sitting East:

1. Bid 3♥, cue-bidding the opponent's suit. This will create a game forcing auction. If/when partner rebids 3NT, you can now bid 4♣, showing a highly distributional hand and a game force.

What partner bids next depends on their hand, but they may bid 4♠ or 5♣ or even look for slam.

2. Bid 4♠ – the practical bid.

3. Bid 4♣ or 5♣. I don't like these choices as much, because you are playing Pairs, so you may prefer to be in the higher-scoring 4♠ rather than 5♣.

The bid that gives you the most options is the cuebid of 3♥. The actual deal:

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

Change one of the red honours to the ♣Q and you would want to play in 6♣. On the given hands, you are best off playing in 4♠. (When South proves to have three spades, you should play him for shortness in clubs – so play small to the king, collecting South's queen, then finesse on the way back for 12 tricks.)

How do you respond after opener's reverse? The best agreement is to play some form of "Blackout",

where the lower of fourth suit or 2NT is your ONLY weak bid (artificial), and everything else is game forcing. My opponents were clearly not using Blackout on the next deal:

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

WEST	EAST
	1♣
1♠	2♦ reverse
3♣	3NT
pass	

3NT made 12 tricks on South's normal heart lead, but you really want to play in 6♣ on the hand.

If you play Blackout, then West's 3♣ bid is game forcing, so now East should just head to slam.

With the spade void, I think I'd just bid 6♣, which makes 13 tricks with the ♣K onside.

Even on the above auction, East could have continued with 3♥ – a shape-showing bid – inviting slam. Then West should think that East has three hearts, four diamonds, 5+ clubs, so a spade shortage.

Now their ♦A and four-card club support are excellent cards for partner.

However, without Blackout, bidding 3♣ is a weak bid, so wasn't doing justice to that hand. Without Blackout available, I'd have been bidding 2♥ (fourth-suit forcing), then showing club support. Keep revaluing your hand, based on what you hear from partner.

This time I am giving you a lead problem. You are sitting North, having had this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	3♥ weak	dbl	1♥
5♣	all pass		pass

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

Sitting North, one question you should be asking yourself is what sort of hand can West have where they couldn't overcall initially, but could jump to game in clubs opposite partner's double?

It sounds like only one trick would stand up, so you should try leading the ♥K, hoping that by being on lead at trick two, you can find a useful switch (given that partner has the values over dummy). If you lead a small heart, partner may not be able to switch to the critical suit.

Since the 3♥ bid has already shown a weak hand with four hearts, partner will know to give a suit preference signal at trick 1! The ♥K is led and you see:

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

Partner plays the ♥9, a suit preference signal for spades, so you can switch to a spade and score your two spade tricks. Thank goodness for the ♥K lead; if you had led a small heart, South wins and the contract is safe!

If you have a very weak hand and partner has bid (and you've raised, showing length), it pays to try to retain the lead at trick one so you can receive a signal about what suit to lead at trick two.

This is an everyday hand and contract:

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

Sitting East, you have reached 4♠ (after South made a takeout double of your 1♠ opening bid) and South

leads the ♥Q. What is your plan? Count your losers: one club, one diamond, one heart and possibly a spade. Can you find a means of disposing of one loser? And what does that entail?

Apart from a singleton ♠K, your best prospect is to hope that South has the ♣A (highly likely from their double). If you lead a club from hand towards dummy, you can make the ♣K into a winner. However, it is also important to realise that you will need an entry to dummy to reach the ♣K so, at trick one, you should win the ♥A in hand, retaining the ♥K as your entry.

You can try the effect of cashing the ♠A, in case there is a singleton king (in which case the contract is safe and you are trying for an overtrick instead). The trump king doesn't appear, so now you must abandon trumps, leaving the king out; if you lead another trump, North will win and lead a heart, and now you have four losers.

Your next job is to try to make your contact by leading the ♣7 towards dummy. South wins the ace and now the king has become a winner. On a heart continuation, win dummy's ♥K, discard your heart loser on the ♣K, and you now only have three losers – the ♣A, ♦A and the ♠K.

The full deal:

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

Whilst drawing trumps is wise, always think about the outside suits – as part of your planning at trick one – and if there is a 'risky' suit (as with hearts on this hand), you may have to defer the trumps until you have dealt with that outside loser.



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**TONY BEMROSE INSURANCE BROKERS**

# ABF Foundation Report on 2023



As the year draws to a close it is a great time for organisations to reflect on the year that is almost gone. The ABF Foundation was set up in late 2019

with the idea of developing a Bridge Future Fund. Our primary objective is to support the future of the game we all love.

Our activities during 2023 are outlined below:

- The Foundation conducted two pro-am tournaments on Real Bridge which raised just under \$10,000. These tournaments help us to promote the Foundation and we are grateful to both our expert players who donate their time, and to our players who bid for them. In 2024 the pro-am tourney will be held on the evening of Tuesday 5 March. The Pro-Am provides players with a fantastic opportunity to have a game with an expert player while all proceeds from the event are donated to the Foundation.
- Regenerating bridge clubs in universities was a key focus of the Foundation this year. We dipped our toe into the water during Orientation week at UNSW and learnt a lot about how to progress this activity. A key requirement for success is finding one or two active bridge playing students who can tap into university resources. On this front we applaud the efforts of Nico Ranson who organised a super-fun bridge weekend for youth players and students who participated at Wollongong's annual congress. (Full story: ABF Newsletter, August 2023). The Foundation will provide funding support to other states who wish to hold similar activities.
- As part of our promotional effort to gain greater awareness of the Foundation, we organised Celebrity Speaker talks at the ANC and the Spring Nationals. We thank our guest speakers David Beauchamp and Justin Mill, who stepped in at the SPNOT when Sartaj Hans became unavailable after making the finals. Justin offered attendees several great pro tips while David (aided by Maurits Van Der Vlught) provided wonderful insights into some of the hands we had just played in the competition.
- At the biggest congress of the Australian year, Tim Runtig who is the GCC Tournament Organ-

iser, hosted a social evening on our behalf during the GCC tournament. This gave us an opportunity to personally thank the players and donors who support the Foundation and we are grateful to the GCC for their support with this event.

- Earlier this year, the Foundation Chairman Andrew Richman stepped down due to personal commitments. On behalf of the Foundation, I would like to thank Andrew for leading us through our first three and a bit years. Andrew remains on our board and continues to support the objectives of the Foundation. Kim Frazer was unanimously elected as Chair by the trustees.
- Finally, one impediment to raising funds has been the inability of the Foundation to offer donors tax deductibility on donations. Consequently, with the help of the ABF's Deputy Legal Counsel, Prof Michael Bryan, we have commenced work this year on redrafting the Foundation's rules to enable us to apply for Deductible Gift Recipient status for the Foundation. There is no doubt that tax deductible donations are appealing to many and we hope that we are able to bring this change to fruition.

Since the ABF Foundation was established, the trustees have been spreading the word about our activities, goals and objectives. It takes time for any new not-for-profit group to become established and the Foundation was not helped by the intervention of the pandemic during 2020, 2021 and into 2022. Nevertheless, with the return to 'normal' bridge life and the tournament scene in 2023, we have seen positive progress in 2023 and now have a little over \$30,000 in accrued funds. We look forward to continuing to build the Foundation's funds and expanding our activities in 2024. We also plan to refresh our website which can be found at

[abffoundation.org.au](https://abffoundation.org.au)

If any players would like to make a donation or request or find out more about the Foundation's work, please reach out to me at [foundation@abf.com.au](mailto:foundation@abf.com.au).

In closing I would like to thank all our donors, our expert players for giving up their time for our annual Pro-Am tournament, the ABF for their contribution in managing the ABF Foundation's funds, and in particular Peter Cox for his brilliant efforts in marketing our activities (including this Pro-Am tournament). Most of all I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all the trustees throughout the past year. On behalf of the Foundation and Trustees – Mimi Packer, Sophie Ashton, Simon Hinge, David Stern and Andrew Richman – I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season.

*Kim Frazer, Chair of the ABF Foundation*

# What we should be teaching beginners

Paul Marston



Nothing is more important to the future of bridge than beginner classes. This is where we create customers. Without new customers... sorry, you don't need me to answer this.

## The goal of a beginner course

Of course, the goal is to have a lot of students complete the course, the more the merrier, but it is a bit more complicated than that. They should also have a certain confidence, otherwise they will never survive once we open the lesson door.

Confidence comes from having clear simple goals, and it also helps if the class gets on; that way the social factor kicks in. Much better to have a group that looks out for each other, so part of your goal is to create a micro-community.

## The evolution of a beginners' course

I taught my first beginner class in 1973 and it has been passion ever since. From those early days I have always owned bridge clubs. At one stage I had six Grand Slam Bridge Centres, and our business model depended on bringing in new players. I also ran the teaching program in Indonesia in the 1990s and taught online with Nevena Djurovic during COVID. More than 2,000 students came through our online program.

So, I can safely say that during these last 50 years, I have taught a lot of beginners to play bridge.

Throughout this time, I have been constantly striving to improve the lessons and I can tell you one thing for sure – every single change has been to make things more simple.

Here are my three top tips (which have all been included in my books):

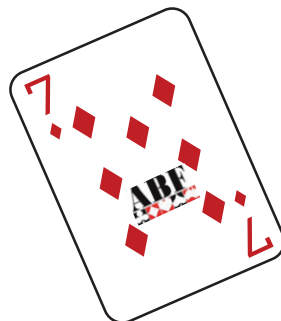
1) Take notrump opening bids out of the initial beginner course. In the bidding, the partners begin by searching for a fit, with priority on the majors. Then they decide about game. Unfortunately, the 1NT opening is not about the conversation of bidding, it is only about game. This makes it an easy lesson for the teacher, but it is not the right starting point for

the student. I incorporated this change in my 1988 beginner book.

2) Do not mention raising opener's minor. When partner opens in a minor, tell them to show a major.

3) Teach that the 1NT response over a major is 6-11 HCP. Thus, a new suit at the two-level is 12+ HCP. In other words, it is forcing to game. This one small change simplifies the bidding. We no longer have to worry about reverses and jump shifts, and all the trouble they create. This is also the method that is used by most tournament players these days.

Finally, a word of caution. Beware of those who say you should ignore the bidding and start teaching card play or perhaps even some other game. They may be suggesting an easier way for the teacher, but they are missing the essence for the student.



## 55th Australian Youth Bridge Championships

January 6 -12 (2024), Canberra

### Venue

Canberra Accommodation Centre 210 Northbourne Ave, Braddon ACT

### Eligibility

Australian Youth Pairs Championship: Open to all players born 1984 or later  
Australian Youth Teams Championship: Open to all players born 1984 or later  
Australian Youth Squad Selection event open to players born in 1999 or later who are also eligible to represent Australia  
Young at heart pro-am pairs: Open to anyone who has ever played in youth week!

### Cost

Full week pricing \$650 for students, \$750 non-students  
(price includes accommodation and meals)  
Young at heart pro-am pairs only \$40 (includes lunch + end of event bbq)

You can also book extra accommodation for \$65 per night. The venue is over the road from the Rex so if you are playing in the SFOB after youth week, you don't need to relocate.

Enter now by clicking [HERE](#)

Convenor and Chief Tournament Director: Laura Ginnan  
[ausyouthbridgeweek2024@gmail.com](mailto:ausyouthbridgeweek2024@gmail.com) or 0411694248 (email preferred)

# IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

*Solution to problem on page 2*

## BARE NECESSITIES

You have an exact count on declarer's shape: one spade (known), five hearts (known), four diamonds (partner's even number of diamonds must be six, not four, as partner has followed twice and pitched two diamonds, else there is no hope) and therefore three clubs.

If declarer began with ♣Q-J-x, you have no chance and if partner began with ♣Q-x, you always have two club tricks. The critical position occurs when South began with ♣Q-10-6 and West with ♣J-2. You can work all of that out as declarer draws your trumps and be ready for the critical moment.

The deal arose in a qualifying round of the Open Teams and the Mixed Teams in the 2023 Canberra in Bloom Festival.

**Board 2-22, Teams, East dealer, EW vulnerable.**

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

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website for details**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	pass	1♥
all pass		pass	4♥

1. Heart support, 10-12 points.

After the early play, this is the position after trick 7:

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

When declarer plays the ♣6 to the ♣K, East must duck and duck smoothly. Declarer will naturally place the ♣A with West and continue with a low club, finessing the ♣10. West will cash the ♦Q and you score your ♣A at the end. The defence takes one heart (the ruff), one diamond and two clubs.

You can see what happens if you capture the ♣K. If you play a spade next, South ruffs and, with no entry to dummy, cashes the ♣Q, dropping partner's now bare jack. That gives South 10 tricks.

Taking the ♣K with the ace and returning a club should not fool declarer. As you must have a safe spade exit, declarer knows you would not play a club if holding ♣J-x and should rise with the ♣Q for success.

The answer to the question, 'suppose South plays the ♣6: two - king next. What do you play on the next trick?' is 'another low club'.

### Results

Open: 4♥ x 16: +420 x 9, -50 x 5, -100 x 2.

Mixed: 4♥ x 10: +420 x 4, -50 x 6.

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# BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com

## YOUR ACTION IN THIRD SEAT AFTER TWO PASSES

What would you call on the following hands, nil vul?

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

## SOLUTIONS

1. 1♦. Not only is diamonds a good lead for your side but you hate the lead of any other suit. You know your side has no game on and as a passed hand hopefully your partner won't become too active.



The top group of Australian players almost universally prefer weak twos in diamonds, hearts and spades, which could be a five-card suit. I am advised this is based on statistics. If you play a weak 2♦ opening this hand would certainly qualify.

2. 2♠. Easy for me since I play Muiderberg Twos, where an opening 2♥ or 2♠ shows 5-major and 4+ in either minor. If you play weak twos then you are much better off to open 2♠ rather than 1♠ and take extra space away from the opponents.

3. 2♠. You know opponents have at least game on and maybe slam so you have a large budget and can throw caution to the wind.

You might think the average club player would never dream of opening 2♠ on this hand but it comes from Barbara Seagram and David Bird's book *Practice Makes Perfect*, based on the best-seller *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know* and specifically aimed at intermediate players.

The authors' note, "Is it wildly inventive and mischievous to open 2♠ in such a situation? No, it is normal bridge!" I should add that in the book it is not vul vs vul, where anything goes.

4. Pass. A diamond lead might not work well and in strong company, where partnerships are always on the lookout for penalties, you might get caught out and doubled in 1NT or 2♦.

5. Pass. Opening 1♣ is worth a fleeting thought but conservative players like myself worry that things could get out of control. This hand is from the final of the recent Australian Open Teams Playoffs and in first seat not vul vs vul both Tony Nunn and Will Jenner-O'Shea opened 3♣.

There were many other bids I found surprising including a 2♠ opening with ♠10xxxxx and no points. It was all very entertaining, and I am looking forward to the Australian Mixed Teams Playoffs starting Saturday 9 December.

6. 3♣. In first or second seat opening 3♣ is not a good idea when partner may have a strong hand with a singleton or void in clubs. In third seat partner is a passed hand and you know your side has no game on so opening 3♣ can do far more damage to the opposition than to your side.

7. 1♠. Spades could be an excellent lead with your J10 and you could make life awkward for the opposition who might be very close to making a game. Some partnerships freely open four-card majors in third seat but most wouldn't dream of it. In these days of germ warfare it is not as pushy as it sounds.

8. Pass. Watching the semi-final of the recent Australian Open Teams Playoff on BBO the commentator mused whether this hand would be opened 1♥ in third seat. A 1♥ opening could be quite a nuisance but then again you could end up being doubled for penalties at the one- or two-level. Though you have ace-king in your suit you have no depth and pass is recommended.

9. 1♣. You could open 1♠ to preempt the opponents however I would treat the hand as a full opening and start with 1♣ and plan to bid spades later if given the chance. Despite only 10 HCP, with your well-textured hand you should set out to fight for the partscore.

10. Pass. In my partnerships we pass flat hands with 11 HCP if they are 4-3-3-3, and this hand is all defence. Also, by opening in third seat you take the pressure off the player in fourth seat. In the past two years I have seen three very good players pass in the hand with 12 HCP in fourth seat.

This harks back to the 1950s and 1960s when players frequently passed in first or second seat with 12 or even 13 HCP. In those days you might open in 4th seat and find the opponents with 26 HCP between them and now they bid their cold 3NT.

These days players open the bidding on the smell of an oily rag and if there are three passes to you it is more than likely the hand belongs to your side even if you have only 10 or 11 HCP.



# MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox  
marketing@abf.com.au



## How To Grow Your Club

ABF Marketing has encouraged clubs to raise the standard of services provided to members to encourage them to play face-to-face again in clubs after COVID. Many clubs have done a good job of emailing and calling members to return, resulting in Australia being a world leader in retaining players after COVID.

However, with an ageing cohort and high attrition, we now seriously have to address how to attract new players from the wider non-bridge-playing community. One of the areas we have been suggesting is taking bridge to the people through demonstrations of bridge at Seniors Forums and Over-50s conferences, in shopping centres, and, for a younger market, orientation week at universities.

The Southlakes Bridge Club at Bonnells Bay, Lake Macquarie tried a new approach. As the club President, Terry Pascoe tells the story:

"They attended an Over-50s Expo armed only with a computer, and attempted to encourage people to play bridge. It's the best way.

A PC with a decent-sized screen on a bar table allows people to have a look at what might be interesting, chat, and find out about this mysterious card game.

People's first reaction is a fascination that bridge can be played online as well as in a club.

The advantage of the bar table is that the presenter, the prospective player and the live bridge game are all at the same eye level for easy engagement.



Southlakes Bridge Club member Trish Bamford setting up BBO on a PC at Over 50s Expo.

With BBO it is easy to show an online game of bridge being played with friends on a PC, tablet or smart-phone.

RealBridge uses camera and microphone so players can interact with one another. With different screen shots and PowerPoint slides we were able to illustrate the fun of RealBridge for online play. Next Expo, maybe we will ask the Zone to set up a RealBridge practice session?

Particularly with aspiring bridge players who might have had little card playing experience, access to BBO Minibridge is a great start, integrated with Beginner Lessons at a club. Hunter and Central Coast areas are booming with people retiring or looking for better work-lifestyle balance. New homes and retirement villages are very popular.

On the southwestern shores of Lake Macquarie, Southlakes Bridge Club at Bonnells Bay is in one of the fastest growing regional areas of NSW.

Responding to the State Government's initiative to highlight services and activities for people retired and approaching retirement, the Morisset Uniting Church hosted October's Over-50s Expo at their extensive facilities in a beautiful bushland setting.

From the Expo we expect a number of folk to join beginner classes plus people returning to the game seeking bridge Brush Up workshops."

## 2024 New Player Recruitment Campaign

The period February-April is the busiest time of the year in clubs for playing and teaching beginners. Now is the time to prepare your beginner classes and to make plans on how to advertise to recruit new players.

In 2019/20 we trialled running tests of Facebook advertising with clubs led by Canberra with very promising results. Then COVID hit and all action stopped.

NZ Bridge now has a very active marketing team which is running Facebook advertising campaigns around the country.

ABF Marketing is working closely with NZ Bridge to share our experiences and learn from each other. Recently we ran a test campaign in Hobart which gave

similar results to the Facebook ads before COVID and in line with the NZ experience.

ABF marketing would like to start a major Facebook Advertising campaign in February to coincide with clubs running beginners courses. Results show that clubs gain greatly financially with every beginner that progresses to becoming a regular club player earns the club from \$300 to \$500 or more each year for many years. Marketing will provide the technical assistance to run the campaigns for the clubs who choose to participate.

Marketing will also provide Marketing Workshops on "How To Grow Your Club" in 2024 for free.



BridgeTV has had a busy year providing broadcasting of major national gold point events, The NABCs from the USA, the World Teams Championships from Marrakech and recently the Open Team Play-offs from Canberra.

By the time you read this, BridgeTV will have broadcast the GNOT Finals from Brisbane, which will include a first-time experience for BridgeTV in using RealBridge. We will report on how it goes at a later time.

In the last week of November we have Australians playing in Atlanta, USA including Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung and Nabil Edgtton - Michael Whibley (NZ), Liam Milne and James Coutts, Jamie Thompson with Alex Smirnov all playing in the major Soloway Teams event in the North American Bridge Championships. It is a knockout competition, and if they run deep in the event, as they did in the last NABC, we will try and broadcast their matches if they are on Vu-

graph and the time difference is practical. (*Update: the Hans team defeated Jeff Meckstroth's team to reach the Soloway quarter-finals, where they lost to the world-champion Zimmermann team. Liam Milne and James Coutts came third in the Blue Ribbon Pairs, and Matt Brown won the Mixed Teams.*)

The Australian Mixed Teams Playoffs are from 9-14 December and we will broadcast the matches from Midday onwards. Mixed teams have become increasingly popular and with a number of exciting teams it should be good fun to watch on BridgeTV.

From 20 January 2024 we plan to broadcast the finals of the Seniors and Women's Teams and the National Open Teams Final from the SFOB in Canberra. And of course in February there is our biggest event of the year the Gold Coast Congress.

### Summer Festival Of Bridge

The SFOB 2024 has its usual wide selection of events for all levels of players. This year there is a new event the Mixed Swiss Pairs from 19-20 January with the final on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

There is also a Bridge Players Dinner at the fine dining Boat House Restaurant on Wednesday 17th. Put together a table of friends and book on MyABF to reserve a table.

We have two new sponsors this year, Fixed Income Solutions and the Bridge Shop.

Fixed Income Solutions is honoured to announce that they will be a key sponsor at the ABF Summer Festival of Bridge.

The Bridge Shop is sponsoring the Week One Novice Pairs and Teams. Nick Fahrer will be at the venue from Friday the 12th of January.

Steve Weil and his team from TBIB will also be in attendance on the 13th and 14th of January to help you with all your insurance requirements.

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## WBF survey

The World Bridge Federation is conducting a survey exploring what types of leisure activities people do and why.

The survey is aimed primarily at bridge players, but the WBF are also interested in what friends of bridge players think.

The results will help the WBF to get a better understanding of why different groups of people around the world like and play bridge, and how bridge com-

pares to other activities that bridge players and potential bridge players like to do.

Administrators, teachers and promoters can use the results to design better ways to get people into bridge, and to stay in bridge.

The survey is available at:

[pip.surveymonkey.com/r/DKJW93X](https://pip.surveymonkey.com/r/DKJW93X)

*Ben Thompson WBF VP and Chair of the WBF Marketing & Communication committee*



# TEACHING TIPS with Ian Dalziel

## DOUBLE DUMMY ANALYSERS

What has been the most useful development in bridge in the last 30 years? There are a lot of contenders: bidding boxes, computer scoring, computer dealing, dealing machines, bridge websites and Bridgemates. My vote, however, goes to the Double Dummy Analyser which works out makeable contracts, which are shown on computer dealt hand printouts, either in hard copy or on a website. Double Dummy (DD) play means the best play on both sides with all cards showing.

In the example shown, 6♠ by South is straightforward on any lead but a low club. You draw trumps then establish a diamond for a club discard, while retaining the ♥Q as an entry. On the unlikely club lead, you have a nasty guess but the computer plays ♣10 with impunity, as it knows 'what lies where'.

<b>5</b>		♠ J103	Dir: N																										
		♥ Q10	Vul: NS																										
		♦ KQ8																											
		♣ Q10532																											
♠ 976	♠ 2	♥ 87653																											
♥ J42	♥ 87653	♦ A6432																											
♦ 1097	♦ A6432	♣ K8																											
♣ J974	♣ K8																												
	♠ AKQ854			<table> <tr> <th></th><th>♠</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>5</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>		♠	♦	♥	NT	N	5	-	-	6	S	5	-	-	6	E	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-
	♠	♦	♥	NT																									
N	5	-	-	6																									
S	5	-	-	6																									
E	-	-	-	-																									
W	-	-	-	-																									
10	♥ AK9																												
2	♦ J5																												
21	♣ A6																												

It's true, therefore, that double dummy play is not 'real bridge' as all cards are seen; it's a bit like chess and reduces bridge to pure logic. There is no deception, no percentages to calculate, no inferences need be taken from the bidding or previous play and you don't need to remember which cards have been played. However, declarer and defenders are on an equal footing so this advantage tends to even out and the computer predictions are not far off what happens at the table.

The 'makeable contracts' table is enormously useful in bridge teaching when doing post mortems. Not

only does the teacher have the DD prediction of the current contract, he can also readily see the tricks made had another contract been chosen. The teacher needs to explain that sometimes making as many tricks as shown is only possible with all cards exposed, although at times, the computer will alert you to a way of making the contract without 'peeking' which, otherwise, you would have missed. Working out how the computer makes its contracts can be tremendously instructive. It involves every aspect of card play including leading, trump control, ruffing, suit establishment, entries, ducking, timing, finessing, unblocking, end plays and squeezes. I keep a sheet of hand printouts in my pocket; it's a great time passer and will improve your card sense immensely. Some DD problems are very hard to solve – one took me a week, yet the computer usually solves them in a fraction of a second.

The first DD analyser was called 'Deep Finesse' and was written by Bill Bailey of California in 1999. Bill was a keen player and computer programmer who took a year off work to write it. The analyser was soon incorporated in computer dealing software the world over, to enhance their printouts, as mentioned above.

In addition, it enables you to input any hand (partial or complete) and see the best play for any contract you chose. Hence, if you are stumped as to how the computer has made a contract, Deep Finesse (DF) will show you how it's done.

The diagram on the next page shows a Deep Finesse screenshot of the hand above, in 6♠, with South to play after a trump lead. The winning cards are marked with W and losing cards with L. You can pace



*Ian Dalziel is a teacher and regular columnist for "Mr Bridge" magazine in the UK, where this column was originally published.*

through the hand trying any line you wish and the winning and losing options will change as you do so. It's great fun.

When you find the unique solution to a very difficult contract in a random hand, it's hard to believe the deal wasn't created or designed but came about by blind chance. Isn't it amazing that a game with such simple card play rules can create such endless complexity, wonder and even beauty?

In 2006, Bo Haglund of Stockholm independently wrote his own analyser called Double Dummy Solver (DDS). Like Deep Finesse, it was 100% accurate, but was at least ten times faster, so most dealing programs have switched from DF to DDS. Very generously, Bo made DDS freely available and now Bill Bailey has followed suit.

How does the DD analyser work? I have never known it to be wrong so I assumed it considered every possible way a hand could be played. Have you ever wondered what that number is? I had to work it out myself as I couldn't find the answer anywhere. I did it this way....

The opening leader has a choice of 13 cards, the subsequent leaders have a choice of 12, 11, 10 cards and so on. That's the easy bit – but those following suit, ruffing or discarding will have a varying number of choices to each trick. However, after analysing many hands I found the 'followers' have an average of three choices at tricks one to 10, two choices at tricks 11 and 12 and of course no choice at trick 13.

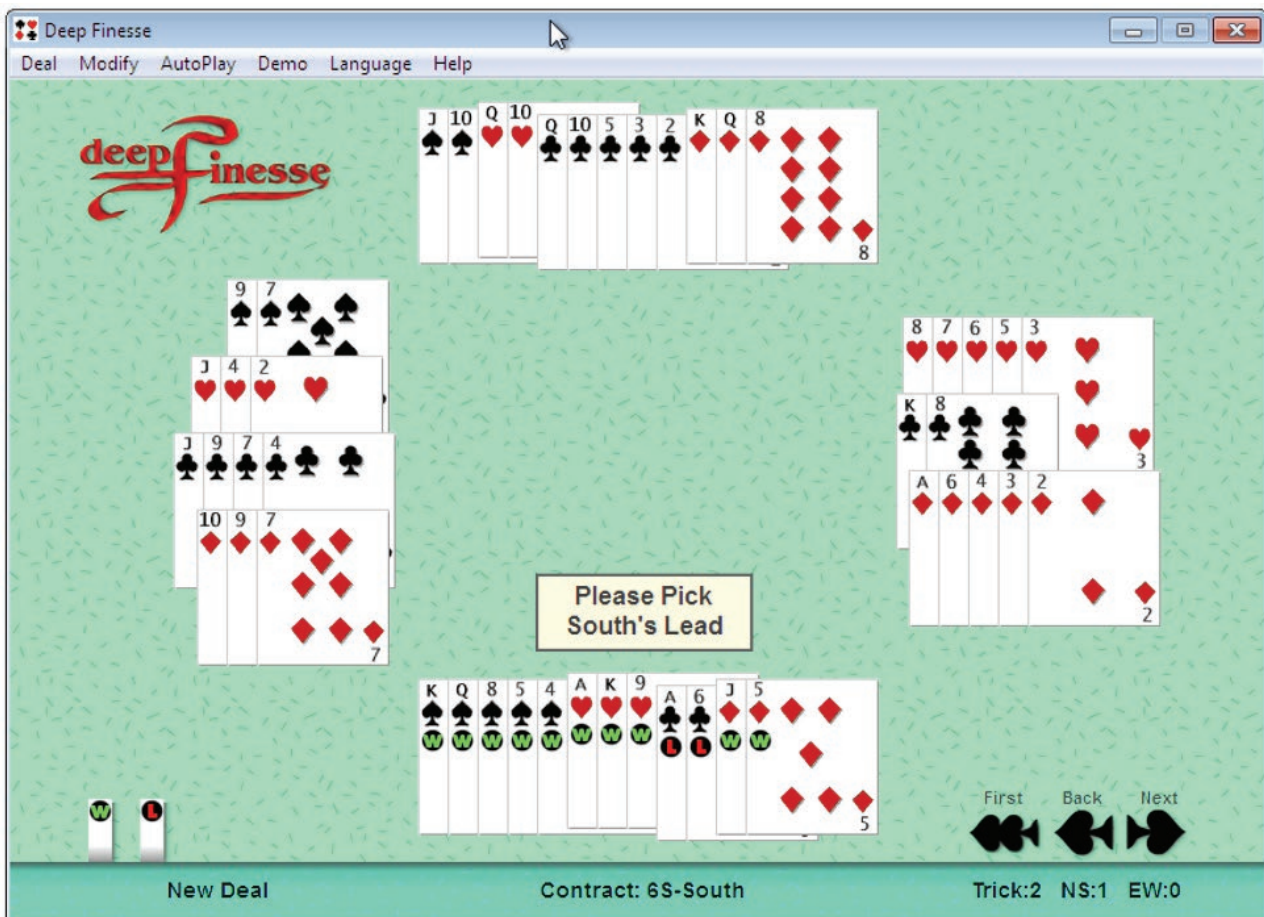
Hence, trick one can be played 351 ways ( $13 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3$ ), trick two 324 ways ( $12 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3$ ) and so on. Trick 12 is 16 ( $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$ ) and trick 13 is 1. You then multiply the options for all 13 tricks –  $351 \times 324 \times \dots \times 16 \times 1$  etc which comes to approx .....82,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Of course, most of these options are unlikely, but surely the computer has to consider them all, as sometimes bizarre plays succeed? My computer's processor is 2.6GHZ so it does 2,600,000,000 calculations per second. Amazingly fast – but it would take 100 million years to analyse every possible play of a bridge hand. The fact it takes less than a second surely means it only analyses a fraction of the possible plays but it never misses the key plays.

I sent my analysis above to Bo Haglund. He replied that DDS takes into account every possible play but only a small fraction is searched, only those plays that can affect the outcome. The software has some very clever algorithms to do this and so the computer does an average of only 50,000 searches. It seems these tree searches have been used for years by computer chess programmers, which confirms my view that double dummy play is similar to chess.

Bo sent me some links to websites which explain the algorithms, but it was way over my head. To me, it remains a work of genius and I think we bridge players owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bill and Bo for this wonderful enhancement to our game.

*Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK*

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# WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

## with William Jenner-O'Shea

### CUE BIDS – USEFUL, BUT WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

This month I ran a workshop in Sydney covering the three main types of cue bids. A cue bid is where you bid a suit bid or shown by your opponent. Confusingly, in slam bidding auctions, people often use the term cue bid to mean showing a control, but we just looked at the situations where your team bids a suit shown by the opponents.

**Cue bid by the overcaller:** If our team has not bid yet, and the opponents have bid something, then a cue bid of their suit is called a Michaels cue bid. A Michaels cue bid shows two 5+ card suits, emphasising any unbid majors, so a cue bid of a 1♣ or 1♦ opening shows 5/5+ in the majors. A cue bid of a 1♥ opening shows five or more spades, and a five-card or longer undisclosed minor. After the cue bid, partner usually just picks their better suit, and might jump with good points or a good fit. Note that if the opponents bid, partner has the option to pass, but if they don't bid, then partner must respond, so the cue bidder shouldn't get carried away!

Note that a Michaels cue bid can occur after either or both of our team has already passed, but must be the first call by our team.

A Michaels cue bid is a good tool for getting in the way, but is not a necessary convention for players who like to keep it simple.

**A cue bid by the responder:** If partner opens or overcalls, and there has been a bid by opponents, then a cue bid is best played as a cue raise. A cue raise shows a fit for partner and invitational points. If partner is an opener, the cue raise shows around 10+ points, and raising or jump-raising their suit directly is just a competitive bid. If partner is an overcaller, then the cue raise might be a little bit stronger, since the overcall might be a little bit weaker. Note that if partner is an overcaller, and you cue bid the opener's suit, you have kept the bidding at a lower level. In response to a cue raise, your partner decides whether there is a game, and usually jumps to game if they have enough points, or stops low if they don't.

A cue raise is a useful competitive bidding tool, which helps your partner know when you are strong

and weak when you are raising partner's suit. You can get by without cue raises, by jumping with an invitational hand, so if you like to keep it simple maybe don't bother with cue raises.

The third type of cue bid occurs in any of the other auctions. If you, partner, and at least one of the opponents have bid, then you might be faced with this hand and problem.

You open 1♦ and partner responds 1♠, before you get to make your second bid, your opponent bids 2♥. You hold:

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

You could bid 3♦, but you would do that with a much worse hand than this, and partner might think that you are just competing to 3♦. You almost certainly have a game, but neither 5♦ nor 4♠ looks to be a sure bet. The best game might be notrumps, but you have such weak hearts, so you shouldn't bid the notrumps first. You can ask partner for a stopper in the opposition's suit by cue bidding their suit. On the hand above, if you bid 3♥, partner will bid 3NT with a heart stopper and you will probably be in the best game. If partner does not have a heart stopper, then they are forced to bid something else, perhaps spades again, or show some support for your diamonds. If partner does not have a heart stopper, then you should bid game in one of the suits, and hope for the best.

On any subsequent round of the auction, after the first overcall and first response, a cue bid is a general game force. It generally denies a major suit fit, and usually suggests that you are looking for notrumps. The most common usage is to ask for a stopper, but you might also have a hand that is just looking for the best fit.

This usage of a cue bid is extremely useful, and quite common. It is a very useful convention and I recommend that all players learn and use it. It is easy to remember, since you would never want to play in hearts after your opponent showed that they have five or more hearts.



# MYABF UPDATE

## with Julian Foster

MYABF Project Manager  
julian.foster@abf.com.au

MYABF continues to grow both in terms of individual users and clubs. In conjunction with Bridge Victoria I recently did a webinar (available to clubs from all over the country) to show the assortment of functions now available for clubs. In future we plan to regularly run webinars on selected topics that anyone will be able to attend.

### Tournament results and draw notifications, using the MYABF App

A few years ago the ABF introduced a new service where tournament results and next round draw assignments in Swiss events could be sent to players' phones by SMS. This proved extremely popular and many players have got used to it.

The technology behind the scenes to deliver this service, however, needed some work. The original system was created before MYABF existed. It was very much a prototype and was literally nothing more than a couple of mobile phones on a desk! It worked fine for most events but it couldn't handle the larger volumes of messages generated at the major national events. In early 2022 we developed a newer system through MYABF. That was a pilot for the Gold Coast Congress (used in 2022 and 2023) and was not used for all events.

The reason that new system wasn't immediately rolled out more widely was because, while it could handle the higher volumes, the cost of the SMS messages was higher. There were discussions about how that would be funded – i.e. what proportion of the cost would be borne by the ABF and what proportion would be passed on to events.

It has now been concluded, however, that it is preferable to use the new system but deliver messages via an app instead of via SMS. This has two big advantages:

- the messages are free.
- it can also be used by overseas players without an Australian mobile number (a limitation of the current system).

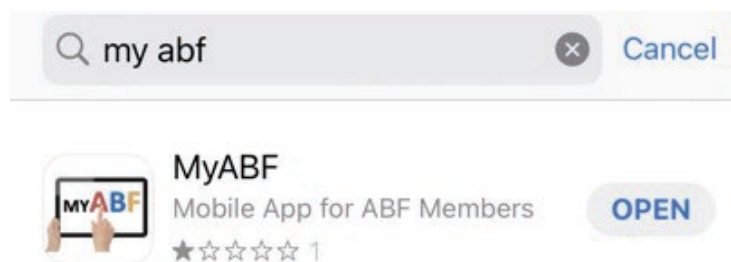
I will therefore devote the rest of this update to describing how that will work.



The app was first trialled by a small number of people at the Gold Coast in 2023; it has subsequently been used at some club congresses and was used fully for the first time at a national event at the recent Spring Nationals. It is expected to be in use at all national tournaments in future. Whether club and state events use it will be up to the organisers of those events.

### How do I get the MYABF App?

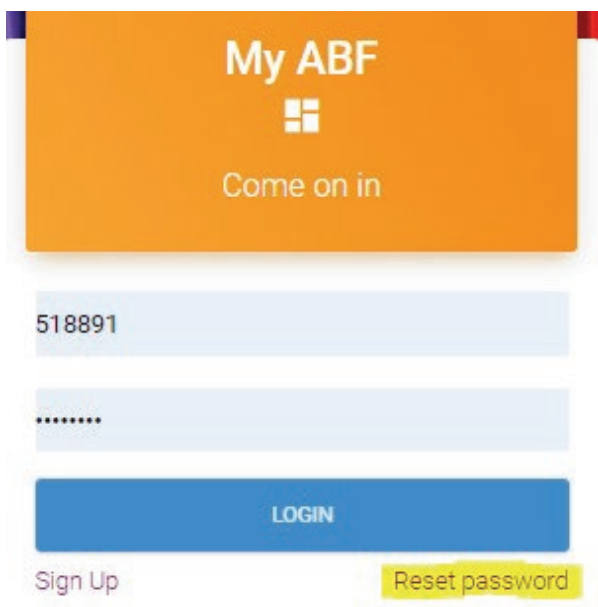
To download the MYABF app search for MYABF in your app store (Apple or Android).




When the app has downloaded, the first screen you see is the login one. You log in the same way you log in to MYABF itself (i.e. with either your ABF number or email address and your password):



If you don't know your MYABF password, you may need to reset it. You can't do that in the app – instead log out of your main MYABF page and select Reset Password at the bottom right of the login screen:



**My ABF**



Come on in

518891

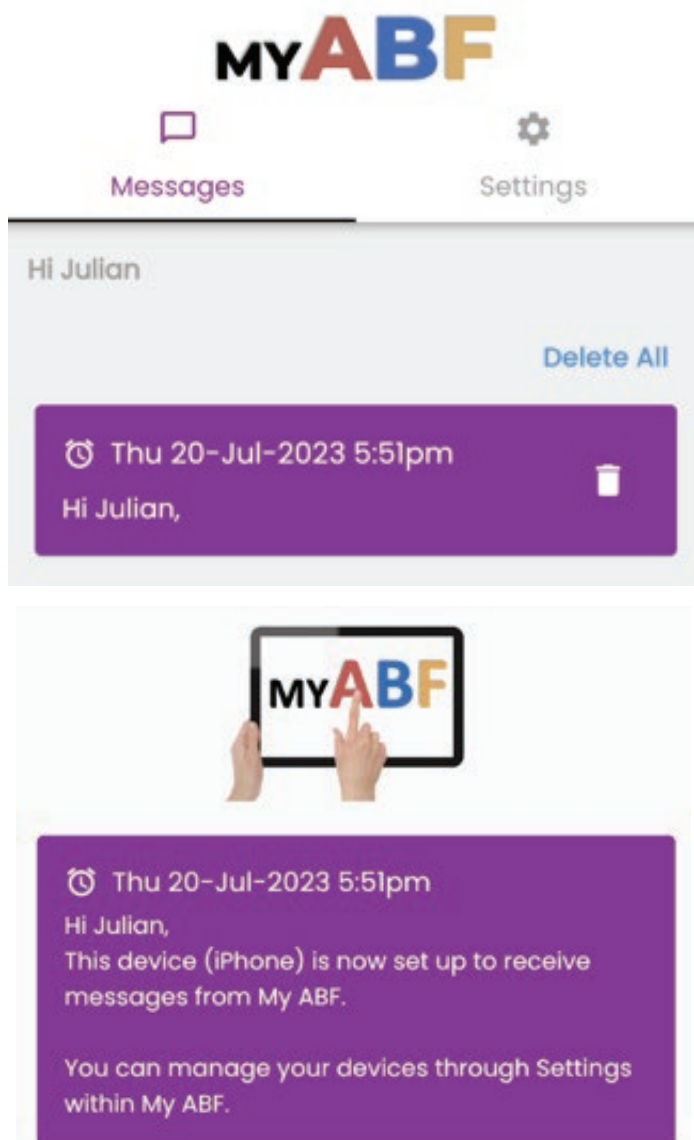
.....

**LOGIN**

[Sign Up](#) [Reset password](#)

Input your email address and, assuming it matches the one in your myABF account, you will be sent a link to enable you to create a new password which you can then use to login to both myABF and the app.

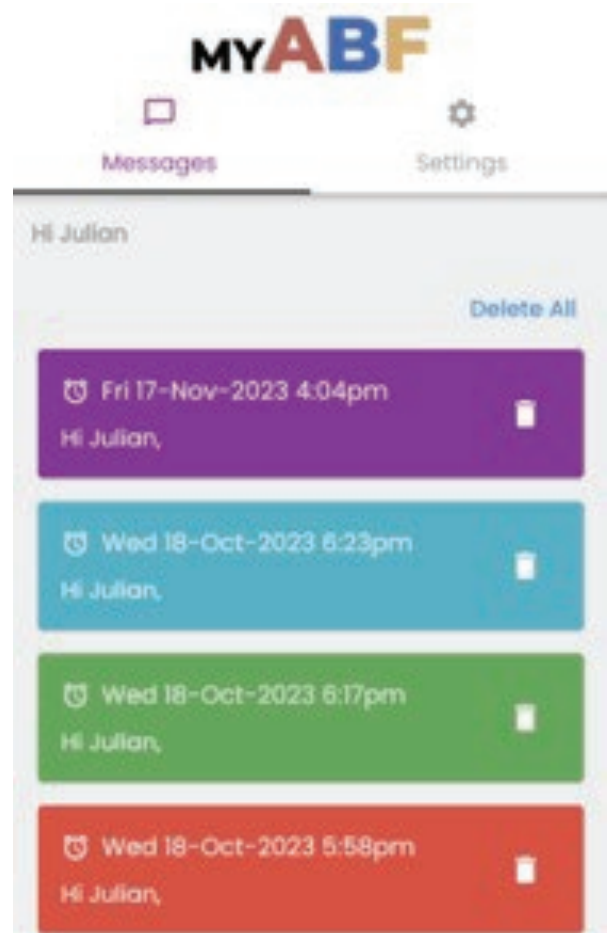
Once logged in you will see an initial welcome screen and message:



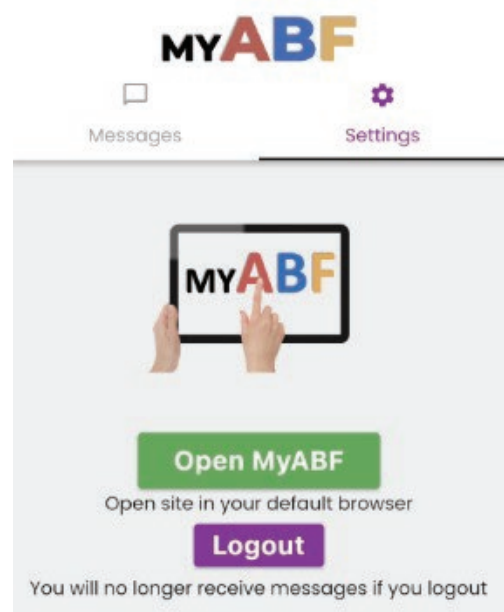
You don't need to do anything else. As long as you remain logged in you will receive message notifications. You can use your phone's settings to govern what form these take.

### Within the app

The app has deliberately been kept very simple. It is purely a means to deliver notifications to players. There are two screens which are shown below – Messages and Settings.



The Messages section shows recent messages which you can open or delete.

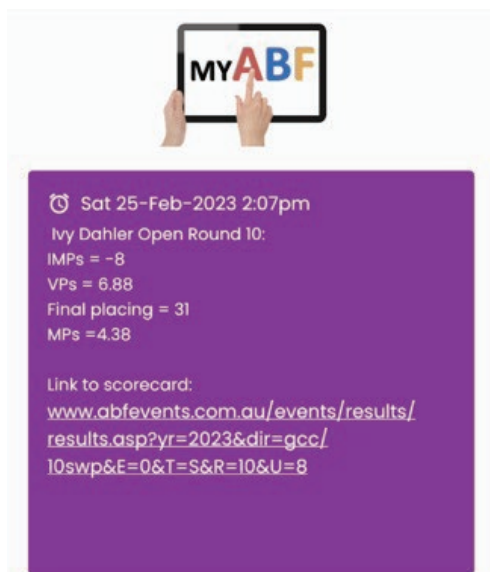


The Settings section contains two things:

1. A link to enable you to open myABF in your browser.
2. A log out button. If you log out you will no longer receive notifications and will be taken back to the login screen.

### What do the messages look like?

They look very similar to the existing SMS ones. Here's an example:



### Do I need to have signed up to myABF?

Yes. But given most events are now entered through myABF, almost all players at events using this notification service will already have done that. If you haven't there's a step-by-step guide to signing up here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/MY-ABF-HOW-TO-SIGN-UP-DETAIL.pdf>

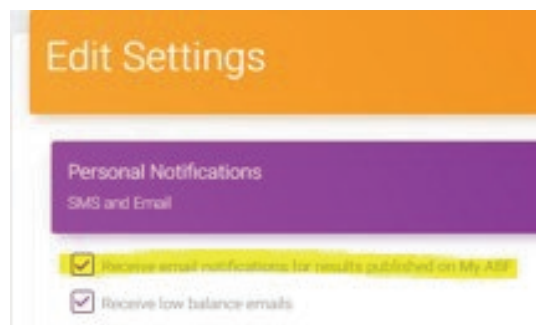
It's a one-off process and should take less than a minute.

### Do I need a smartphone?

Yes.

### Do I need to do anything in myABF?

No. There is no longer any setting in myABF that relates to subscribing for tournament results/draws. Just for the avoidance of confusion your settings page in myABF does have this:



That setting is NOT related to this app at all. That setting relates to club duplicate pairs results which clubs now have the ability to publish for players through myABF. We will be changing the wording of this section to make this clearer.

## Bayside Bridge Club's centenarian

A wonderful celebration was held at the Bayside Bridge Club on 30 October. We had the opportunity to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our most beloved players, Bet Reid!

Bet is an amazing person, who has brought such joy to all who know her. A cheeky sense of humour, embracing of all and a very fine bridge player. Apart from her love of bridge, Bet has been active in Probus through the years and has contributed to her beloved Beaumaris community in many ways.

Driving herself around until very recently, Bet continues to live life to the fullest!



The members of Bayside Bridge Club were thrilled to share in the festivities.

Bayside Bridge Club, known as "the friendly club", operates out of the Hampton RSL, 25 Holyrood St, Hampton, Victoria.

[www.bridgewebs.com/bayside](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bayside) or  
[baysidebridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:baysidebridgeclub@gmail.com)



# MACKAY CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS

GOLD  
POINT  
EVENT

## 28TH BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 3 - 6 MAY 2024

VENUE: 500 PAVILION, THE SHOWGROUNDS  
MILTON ST MACKAY QUEENSLAND

Chief Director: Jan Peach | Senior Director: Peter Busch  
Tournament Organiser: Diane Morgan 0427 574 328 | 07 4951 2147  
Email: brc2024mky@gmail.com



# RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS 2024

Hosted by TOOWONG BRIDGE CLUB  
22 Roy Street AUCHENFLOWER QLD 4066

Gold Masterpoints and ABF Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP)  
Residentially qualified pairs also play for the Queensland Mixed Pairs Title  
and the Queensland Novice Mixed Pairs Title

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
**9.30 am start both days**

All ENTRIES and PAYMENTS on



**\$180 per entry**

Chief Director: Alan Gibson | Tournament Organiser: Janet Lovell  
E: [tbccompetitions@gmail.com](mailto:tbccompetitions@gmail.com) | T: 0409 387 527

- ABF Regulations as modified by the Supplementary Regulations apply
- Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments
- Swiss Pairs - Matchpoints converted to VPs - 12 x 9 board matches

**LUNCH INCLUDED**  
(Please advise beforehand if gluten free)

**Wellness Guidelines**  
Players and officials are asked not to attend any event if they are infectious, or if they are supposed to be isolating or quarantining. Those who come to play and, feeling unwell, self-diagnose that they may be infectious, should inform the director and leave the venue.



## TASMANIAN FESTIVAL of BRIDGE



Hobart Waterfront courtesy of Kathryn Leahy

**MyState Bank Arena, Brooker Hwy, Glenorchy**  
**Thu 14<sup>th</sup> - Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

<b>Wednesday</b>	ONLINE Real Bridge warm-up pairs 7.15 pm
<b>Thursday/Friday</b>	TFoB Restricted Swiss Pairs Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs Roger Penny Senior Swiss Pairs
<b>Saturday/Sunday</b>	TBIB Australian Swiss Pairs Saturday evening dinner ( <i>bookings essential</i> )
<b>Sunday only</b>	TFoB Rookie Swiss Pairs for players with < 25 MPs

Enter on [myABF Congresses](https://myabf.com.au/congresses)



Event Organiser	Katherine Marsden	0418 135 618	<a href="mailto:kmarsden26@gmail.com">kmarsden26@gmail.com</a>
Entries Co-ordinator	Hugh Grosvenor	0447 044 141	<a href="mailto:hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com">hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com</a>



Thanks to TBIB and the Tasmanian Government through Events Tasmania for their support



**2024**

**ANC & BUTLER,  
ORANGE, NSW**

**6 - 18 JULY**



—PLAY LIKE  
**LEGENDS**  
LIVE LIKE—  
**LOCALS**

We are excited to announce the Orange Bridge Club has been appointed by the NSW Bridge Association and the Australian Bridge Federation to be Tournament Organisers of the 2024 Australian National Championships and Butler to be held at the Orange Ex Services Club 6-15 July 2024. Come join us and have a wonderful time.

**WONDERFUL PLAYING VENUE SURROUNDED BY EVERYTHING  
A VISITOR COULD IMAGINE**

**BOOK ACCOMMODATION EARLY VIA**



Events for all skill levels including the Interstate  
Teams Championships, Butler Pairs and inaugural  
**CENTRAL WEST FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE**

