



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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

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Winners from the Spring Nationals

Captions on page 30





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*Cover photos by William Jenner-O'Shea:
winners from the Spring Nationals festival.
Captions on page 30.*

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**IMPROVE
YOUR
DEFENCE**
with
Ron Klinger
Solution on page 19

Teams. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 10 5
♦ A K Q
♣ A K 9 8 7

♠ 6 4 3 2
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ —
♣ Q 6 5 4 3



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1NT	2♣ ¹	Pass
Pass	4♣ ³	Pass	3♣ ²
All Pass			5♦

1. Majors. 2. Transfer to diamonds. 3. Cue, diamond support.

West leads the ♥2: five - ace - four. What would you play as East at trick two?



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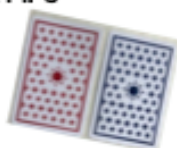
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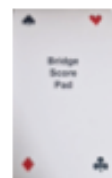
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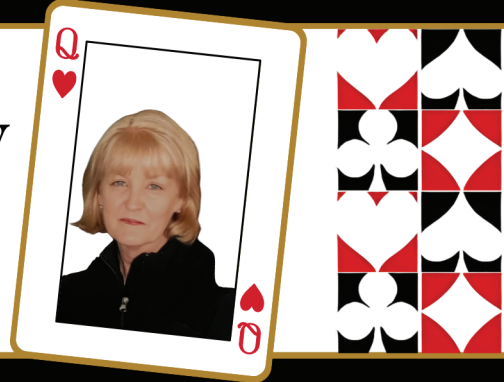


Allison Stralow

President

✉ president@abf.com.au

www.abf.com.au



On 1 November, the bridge world celebrated the Centenary of Contract Bridge. Unfortunately, I missed the opportunity to use this milestone to promote our game in the wider community. Thank you to Barbara Travis for prompting the ABF to jump into action and for celebrating the milestone at her club.

The mid-term meeting of the ABF Council was held in October. The Board was in Canberra, doing a spring clean at ABF Headquarters while the other Councillors were online. A big thank you to Keith Ogborn, Wendy Boxall, Cathy Nichols, Roger Brake, Sally Vardy, and Lyn and Malcolm Carter for helping with the spring clean.

Michael Court has retired as an ABF Councillor. During his time on Council, he was a valued member of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. I thank Michael for his time on council and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. A warm welcome to Anne Stimpson, who replaces Michael as a SABF Councillor.

I am so excited that after 18 months of tireless work, the Queensland Bridge Association has found a venue in Brisbane to replace the Gold Coast Con-

gress. The inaugural Brisbane Gold Congress will be held from 30 January to 6 February 2027. Watch out for entries when they open on 1 July 2026, as I am sure it will fill quickly.

This time of year highlights the culmination of many hours of work by our wonderful councillors, volunteers, staff, and contractors. I thank them all for the contributions they made to Bridge in Australia in 2025.

As my term as President will end in April next year, the ABF Strategic Plan will be updated then when the new President, Council, and Board can put their mark on the plan. Have a relaxing holiday season with your family and friends, and a Happy New Year to you all.

I look forward to seeing players at the Summer Festival, where I will be holding the final President's meeting of my tenure.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with the ABF Board, please email

president@abf.com.au

The best of bridge to you all.

2025 ABF Youth Awards

Nominations for the 2025 ABF Youth Awards are now open and close at 5pm AEDT on 31 December.

These awards celebrate Australian youth players who demonstrate excellence, commitment, sportsmanship, and contribution to the bridge community. There are four awards: The Helman-Klinger Achievement Award, the Hills-Hurley Trophy, the Helman-Klinger Masterpoint Award, and the Andrew Reiner Trophy. Nominations can be made for the Helman-Klinger Achievement Award and the Hills-Hurley Trophy.

HELMAN-KLINGER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognises an outstanding youth player for results, sportsmanship, attitude, and contribution throughout the year. This is a holistic award, not just based on performance.

Prize: \$600 total (\$400 from the Australian Bridge Foundation and \$200 from Friends of Youth Bridge).

HILLS-HURLEY TROPHY

Encourages strong, long-term youth partnerships and recognises pairs who have built a successful and well-organised partnership.

Nominations close 5pm AEDT, Wednesday 31 December. Nominees must be born on or after 1 January 2000. Nominations will only be considered using this [Nomination Form](#). The awards will be presented at the Australian Youth Bridge Championships, running 10-18 January 2026.

Your help in sharing this with youth players and anyone connected to youth bridge in your state or territory would be greatly appreciated.

For further details or enquiries, please contact:

youth@abf.com.au

Laura Ginnan, YC Interim Youth Chair



David Fryda

Executive Director

✉ david.fryda@abf.com.au

www.abf.com.au



As 2025 comes to a close, I would like to share a brief update on some important developments across the ABF and outline what lies ahead as we move into 2026. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers, players, staff, and contractors whose commitment and hard work continue to support our bridge community.

International performance

I would like to thank the group of volunteers on the International Performance Task Force, headed by Axel Johannsson, who worked from March this year until recently, when they presented a series of recommendations to the Board on improving Australia's international performance. The Board has reviewed their detailed report and is now determining the resources required to implement several changes. Our top-level players will receive more detailed communications in the new year on changes that will be rolled out over the next few years. We hope that all Australian bridge players will witness the benefits of these changes in the years to come.

On the topic of international performance, the recent result of Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung, Nabil Edgton, Michael Whibley (NZ), Gavin Wolpert (CAN) and Rajath Shourie (USA) winning the Soloway Knockout Teams at the NABC in San Francisco was a huge success. With half of the team coming from Australia, we should be very proud of this achievement. To win an American National means that they are up there with the best in the world! Congratulations, guys!

MyABF

As usual, there's a detailed report from Julian Foster in the newsletter about what is happening with MyABF. We recently welcomed D'Arcy Barron to the team as our Project Manager, replacing Sean Munley, who took on the role about a year ago. I would like to thank Sean for his contributions and wish him well as he returns to his retirement hobbies of bridge and golf.

I recently concluded negotiations with Stripe, the provider of our payment management service utilised within My ABF. The volume of transactions and the dollar amounts being processed have increased

significantly since we first entered into an agreement with Stripe. While they are a multinational organisation, and therefore typically difficult to negotiate with on pricing, we were able to secure a discount.

The ABF has always aimed to simply recover the Stripe costs that we incur, which over the six years of operation has been the case. I am pleased to report that as a result of the renegotiation, we will be able to reduce the 2% fee we charge clubs and events to 1.85% with effect from 1 January.

Youth bridge

Many of you would have seen and heard Ella Jacob advocating for donations to youth bridge over the past year and a half when attending national events. This was just one of the many things that Ella did in her role as National Youth Coordinator for the ABF. Unfortunately, Ella has decided to return to full-time work, and that, combined with parenting two young children, has meant she felt the need to step back from her role with the ABF.

In the interim, Laura Ginnan and Mitch Dowling have taken on Ella's responsibilities and are currently focused on the upcoming Youth Week event in Canberra, during which the annual youth awards will be announced.

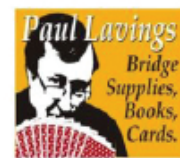
I expect to make an announcement regarding the new National Youth Coordinator shortly.

2026 Summer Festival of Bridge

As I predicted in previous newsletters, the upcoming Summer Festival is proving to be more popular than the previous few years. This reflects both the absence of a Gold Coast event in 2026 and the great work that Laura Ginnan did with this year's event.

It is looking like the TBIB Pairs entries will be closing soon as we are approaching capacity, and rooms at The Rex are already unavailable for Friday 16th. There are plenty of other great accommodation options within walking distance of the venue, and several of the events still have capacity. But don't leave it much longer as I would hate for you to miss out.

... continued on page 23



2026 SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

Canberra Rex Hotel & The Canberra Common January 14th-25th 2026

2026 Summer Festival of Bridge – 12 Days of Fun January 14-25

The 2026 Summer Festival of Bridge is just around the corner, and excitement is building! Entries for the TBIB Pairs are already close to capacity and will be closing soon – so if you're planning to play, now is the moment to secure your spot.

Spanning a full 12 days, the Summer Festival offers a true celebration of bridge. With events to suit every skill level – from Rookie (U20 MP) events to our most experienced national competitors – there's something for everyone. Whether you're chasing a title or simply looking for a fun and friendly playing environment, you'll find your place at the Festival.

Spotlight on Our 3-Day All-Rounder Events

A highlight of the program is our series of All-Rounder events, designed especially for Rookie (U20 MP), Novice (U100 MP), Restricted (U300 MP) and Under-750 MP players. Each All-Rounder follows the same format:

Day 1: Matchpoint Pairs

Day 2: IMP Swiss Pairs

Day 3: Swiss Teams

Daily Schedule

- **9:00am - 9:30am:** Optional celebrity speaker session.
- **10:00am - 5:00pm:** Competitive play.
- **5pm - 6pm:** Optional practice session with hands linked to the morning talk.

Celebrity speakers and topics will be confirmed soon.

On the final day, many pairs will be looking to form teams. You may meet another pair during the first day or two that you'd like to team up with – or, if not, we'll happily help match you with teammates so everyone can enjoy the Swiss Teams together.

For questions, contact Tournament Organiser **Laura Ginnan** at not@abf.com.au (0411 694 248 – email preferred).

Enter via MyABF:

<https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/event/view-event-entries/3063/4806>

We can't wait to see you in Canberra!



Spring National Mixed Teams

Will Jenner-O'Shea

from the Spring Nationals daily bulletins

This hand cropped up in round 6 of the qualifying, and the Butler Pairs.

Board 25. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

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

Maurits van der Vlugt was one of only three declarers in all of the events to bid and make 6♥.

North opens 1♣ and South responds 1♥ and becomes the declarer in 6♥.

If West finds a trump lead from their five-card trump suit, they can cut down the ability to ruff everything, but Maurits received the jack of clubs lead.

Maurits won the ace of clubs in dummy, and immediately played the king back.

West trumped this, but they had a natural trump trick anyway, and this allowed Maurits to regain trump control.

West now played a heart back, but declarer was able to win the lead in dummy and ruff two clubs with his king and queen of trumps.

He needed to finesse the diamonds towards dummy to use as entries to ruff clubs, but with the queen onside, he was able to win four heart tricks in dummy, four diamonds eventually, the ace of spades, the ace of clubs, and two high club ruffs in his hand for 12 tricks.

Very well played, with just a little bit of good luck to counterbalance the terrible luck of the 5-0 trump break.

The datum in the Mixed Teams was just 100 points with three Declarers making slam, one making a game, and 12 failing in a variety of contracts.

The Morgan Team topped the Qualifying Swiss and chose the Mundell team in the semi-final. They led from the start and won their semi-final by 86 imps.

The Lazer team qualified third and played Ella Jacob's team and won by 60 imps, with their opponent's conceding at three-quarter time. The Final began with Morgan having a 4.6 IMP carry forward over Lazer, which is nice, but there were more than enough swings to give either team a chance.

Morgan gained 9 imps on this deal, where the Lazer team was down in 5♣ in one room, and down two in 4♠ doubled in the other.

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

Lazer took 13 imps back in the second set when Axel made 3NT on this hand, but Liam went down. He perhaps underestimated the strength of a Pauline Gumby weak 2♠ opening.

Board 18. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

Board 24 had some exciting bidding:

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Warren	Liam	Pauline	Sophie
pass !	pass	1♠	2♣
3♦*	4♥*	4♠	5♥
all pass			

Warren passed as dealer, then used a fit-showing jump to show a spade fit and diamonds. Liam countered this with a fit-showing jump of his own to 4♥. This allowed Sophie to buy the bidding in 5♥ and make +450.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lauren	Kate	James	Axel
3♦	pass	5♠	double
4♠	5♣	all pass	

At the other table, Lauren opened 3♦, and when James jumped to 4♠, she was able to compete to 5♠, which was doubled but was only one off. Neither Sophie Ashton nor Lauren Morgan minds competing hard, even at the five-level.

On the last board before lunch, the more conservative team pointed out a reasonable rule: be careful bidding when you are vulnerable.

Board 28. Dealer West. North-South vulnerable.

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

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

East's 2♦ was game forcing, and when the dust settled North was -800 in 3♣ doubled.

Apart from using judgement in game forcing auctions when vulnerable, I have two great bidding tips:

- Never Double Pauline – she often has a better hand than you expect.
- Never Get Doubled by Pauline – the result is often -800 or more.

This hand from the third quarter was a 13 IMP swing to Morgan, where both tables played in 4♠ by East. The hand can be made with careful play (you need to establish diamonds and not lose a club or get ruffed).

Board 4. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

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

James Coutts made 10 tricks and 13 imps.

Final scores: Morgan (Liam Milne, Sophie Ashton, Lauren Morgan, James Coutts) 139.6 def Lazer (Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer) 114





TASMANIAN FESTIVAL of BRIDGE

19th-22nd March 2026

My State Bank Arena, Glenorchy

Thu 19 – Fri 20

Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs
TFoB Restricted Swiss Pairs
Roger Penny Seniors' Swiss Pairs

Sat 21 – Sun 22

Australian Open Swiss Pairs
Novice Swiss Pairs (Sat)
Rookie Swiss Pairs (Sun)

Saturday evening dinner

ENTER on myABF.com.au



Tournament Organiser
Entries Co-ordinator

Katherine Marsden kmarsden26@gmail.com 0418 135 618
Hugh Grosvenor hugh.grosvenor@gmail.com 0447 044 141

ABF Mixed Pairs and Seniors' Playoffs

Direct entry to the above ABF Playoffs will be offered to several contending pairs in the Australian Mixed Swiss Pairs and the Roger Penny Seniors' Swiss Pairs. See details on [ABF playoffs website](#)



Aussies win another NABC title

BRAD COLES reports on team SHOURIE's win in the Soloway at the Fall NABC. The winning team included two Australasian pairs (Michael Whibley - Nabil Edgtton and Sartaj Hans - Andy Hung) alongside American pair Raj Shourie and Gavin Wolpert.

The final of the 2025 Soloway was between Shourie (pictured right) and Rosenthal (Boye Brogeland, Christian Bakke, Andrew Rosenthal, Aaron Silverstein, Chris Willenken, Martin Schaltz).

Shourie held a 45-imp lead at half time, but Rosenthal regained 21 of thoseimps quickly in the third quarter. This board marked the turning point where Shourie reclaimed control of the match:

Board 36. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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

WEST Brogeland	NORTH Hung	EAST Bakke	SOUTH Hans
2♠	3♥	pass	2♥
		4♠	all pass

Andy Hung led the ♥Q against 4♠. Declarer won with the ace and played the ♠Q. Andy rose with the ace of trumps, and faced his only opportunity to beat the contract.

Having seen an unambiguous reverse-count card from partner in trumps, he could place declarer with six trumps (although it was not yet clear who held the trump king). South's 2♥ opening placed declarer with a doubleton heart, so the defenders could only count on one heart trick.

On the actual layout, an immediate diamond switch is necessary, or else declarer will eventually throw a diamond on the clubs. However, if declarer held

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

then a diamond would be the only card to let the contract make. Declarer would capture the ♦Q with the ace, finesse against North's jack, and throw the heart loser on the king of diamonds.



That example hand would leave South with something like

♠ K 2	♥ K J 9 8 3 2	♦ 9 6 2	♣ K 4
-------	---------------	---------	-------

which is a normal 1♥ opening in this pair's methods, so Andy was always likely to get this hand right. However, just in case of an accident, his partner was there to offer a helping hand. At trick one, South followed with the nine of hearts, high-discourage, despite his solid heart holding. From North's point of view, there can be only one reason why South would discourage hearts, and that reason is the ace of diamonds. If South's side card was the king of clubs, he would be in no hurry to get a club switch – he would simply encourage hearts, rather than take the risk of misleading partner into a fatal diamond switch.

Accordingly, Andy switched to the queen of diamonds, and the Australians took two diamonds and a heart to beat the contract.

At the other table, North failed to find the diamond switch at trick three, and declarer had ten tricks. For what it's worth, South at that table encouraged the heart lead at trick one.

Making game was worth 12 imps to Shourie. They went on to add another 50 imps on boards 38-45, at which point their opponents conceded the match.

Liam Milne described this result as "easily one of the best results in Australian and New Zealand bridge history". It caps off a great year for the four Australasian players, who had already won an NABC title in August, and placed first and second in the WBF World Tour Final in March. Three of them were also members of the WHAM team, who successfully defended their HCL International title in New Delhi in October.

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



TEST YOUR SUIT PLAY TECHNIQUE

What is the best play on the suits below? There are no entry problems, so you may play from either hand at any point.

Hand One ♥ A 9 3 2
 ♥ K Q 10 5 4

Hand Two ♥ K 8 7 4 2
 ♥ A J 9 5 3

Hand Three ♥ K 10 9 8 5
 ♥ A J 2

Hand Four ♥ A 10 7 3
 ♥ K J 4 2

Hand Five ♥ K J 5 3 2
 ♥ 10 6 4

Hand Six ♥ A Q 6 4 2
 ♥ J 5 3

Hand Seven ♥ Q J 4 3
 ♥ A 6 5 2

Hand Eight ♥ J 5
 ♥ A K 9 7 6 4 3 2

Hand Nine ♥ A 6 4 3
 ♥ Q 10 9 8

Hand Ten ♥ A 6 4 3
 ♥ Q 10 5 2

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SOLUTIONS

1) The secret, as always, is to count how many cards the opponents have in the suit. Counting the lower number is easier and greatly minimises miscounting.

Here there are only four cards missing so you need to guard against a possible 4-0 break. Take the "safety play" of cashing the king first so you can then finesse against either opponent holding jack-fourth.

2) The opponents have three cards in the suit, so the only problem is when the suit breaks 3-0. If the hand sitting over declarer has Q106 then you must lose a trick, but when declarer's RHO has Q106 you succeed by cashing the king first and then taking the marked finesse against the queen.

3) Opponents have five cards, and you want to cash ace or king first to drop the singleton queen. If you cash the king first and run the ten you lose a trick to queen-fourth. If you cash the ace first and lead the jack you drop the singleton queen plus you pick up queen-fourth, making it an easy choice.

4) You are going to cash ace or king first to catch a singleton queen, but which is better? That seven tips the scales. If declarer's LHO has Q965 or Q865 then king followed by jack picks up the suit for no loser. You lead king then jack, and LHO must cover and you see RHO show out. Now you come back to hand and finesse to the seven. If declarer's RHO has Q965 or Q865 you must lose a trick no matter how you play the suit.

5) You hope to lose only one trick. You can do this when your LHO has AQ, AQx, or more importantly Qx. Whatever you do, don't lead the ten and allow your LHO to cover with the queen and promote the nine in their partner's hand. Lead low to the jack, hopefully losing to the ace. Next time play low towards dummy again, and if the queen falls doubleton your ten is good and you have held your losses in the suit to one trick.

6) The important thing is not to lead the jack. There is one situation where you lose no tricks in the suit: when declarer's LHO has king doubleton. Lead low to the queen and then cash the ace. When the king falls doubleton your jack wins the third round. Looking at AQxxx in dummy, a defender with Kx or Kxx should be planning to cover the jack with their king, especially with doubleton king.

7) There are five cards missing and one trick must be lost even when the suit breaks 3-2. The problem is to lose only one trick when the suit breaks 4-1. Correct play is to cash the ace first, guarding against the singleton king. If your LHO holds K109x the defence has no answer when you play twice towards the queen-jack. If your RHO holds K109x nothing can be done to avoid two losers.

The same applies to A65 opposite QJ432.

8) Have you started yet, making your first step to count how many cards are missing? If you force yourself to do this fourteen times in a row it will become a habit.

Once you count that only three cards are missing, you might find the winning play. Lead the jack first and if your RHO plays the eight or ten, play ace-king. Perhaps you will tempt your RHO to cover the jack with their queen holding queen-ten-eight. Now, when your LHO shows out, you have a marked finesse against the ten.

These ten-card fits are similar:

Dummy:	♥ A Q 7 5 2	♥ A K 7 5 2
Declarer:	♥ J 9 8 4 3	♥ J 9 8 4 3
	Run the jack	Lead the jack and play ace-king if not covered

9) A common trump suit. It's possible to lose no tricks in the suit, by picking the singleton king or jack, but you'd be happy to lose one trick instead of two. If you play ace, then low towards the queen you will frequently have to guess whether to play the ten or queen.

A better way is to lead the queen or ten first, and if that loses take a second finesse. This loses only to king-jack offside, so is a 75% chance instead of a 50/50 guess.

10) Cash the ace and lead low to the Q10x. When West plays low, put in the ten. It appears to be an equal chance whether to play ten or queen, but your RHO may have started with KJxx, making the ten a clear winner.



AUTUMN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wednesday 29th April to Sunday 3rd May 2026

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

WHAT'S NEW:

- **New format: Teams (Wed, Thurs) then Pairs (Fri, Sat, Sun)**
- **New event: Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs (matchpoints)**
Masterpoints awarded for all scores of 46+%
- **New daily starting time: 10am**
- **PQPs awarded for Open Teams and ABRP Open Pairs**

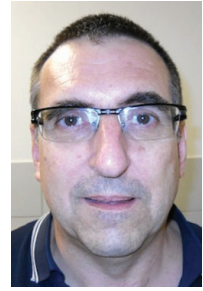
Chief Director: Laurie Kelso

Organiser: Barbara Travis
Email: anot@sabf.asn.au

Early Bird Discount ends on 31st March 2026

Total eclipse of the hearts

Chris Depasquale



It must be at least forty years since Gaynor Sullivan (aka Bonnie Tyler) sought any music recording tips from me, but there is a chance we will hook up again soon, somewhere near Devil's Marbles just after the 2028 Australian National Championship in Alice Springs. You see, there is a total solar eclipse taking place on 22 July 2028, and one of the best places to view it from is a few hundred clicks up the track from Alice Springs, in the heart of Australia.

Stars (like Gaynor) and star gazers are already inundating Alice Springs accommodation at that time, so the 2028 ANC will run 9-20 July, finishing one day earlier than previously planned. It will take place at the Lasseter's Convention Centre (the venue for numerous Territory Gold Congresses), and you can already book your accommodation at the venue.

Now for the important stuff – how to succeed at bridge in Alice Springs. The first thing you need to know is that when there are Territorians at the table, strange things happen in the heart suit. When this hand was played at the 2025 ANC Butler, the Northern Territory's greatest bridge export, Tony Nunn, was on lead in the West seat, while I was declarer.

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

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

1. Five spades, 4+ minor, 6-10 HCP.

Tony led a heart honour, and the trick went nine - two - jack. They use natural count, so Tony could not be certain which of the concealed hands held the eight and four of hearts. Not wanting to risk seeing the next heart honour ruffed by declarer, establishing a heart in dummy for a discard later, Tony switched to a trump.

The trump trick went queen - king - ace, but when I led a low trump towards dummy at trick three Tony discarded the three of hearts! Having nothing better to do than draw the missing trump, I led one from dummy, and it was only when East was considering what to discard that Tony realised he had revoked on the second trump trick. He 'fessed up immediately, of course, and the director was called. Trick three was reconstituted to include Tony's trump, the three of hearts became a penalty card (to be played at the earliest opportunity), and my spade lead to trick four was retracted.

At trick four I played the ace of diamonds, followed by ducking a diamond to the king. Perforce West had to lead the penalty card, so this heart trick was won in dummy. Another diamond finesse of the ten succeeded, and dummy's last heart disappeared on the diamond queen. I lost only one heart, a diamond, and a club, making 4♠.

The sun, moon and planets had aligned for me on this hand, leading to a total eclipse of the hearts!

East had the last word: "♪ Every now and then I get a little bit tired of listening to the sound of my tears ♪"



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A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

You are East and hold:

♠ K 7 ♥ K J 10 8 6 4 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ K 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♥	pass
2NT <small>Jacoby</small>	pass	4♥ <small>minimum</small>	pass
4NT <small>RKCB</small>	pass	5♣ <small>1 KC</small>	pass
5♦ <small>queen ask</small>	pass	...	

4♥ showed a minimum and denied two key cards, so West must have a seriously good hand.

Since partner has shown 4+ card heart support via their 2NT response, when you hold 6+ hearts, you show the queen. So respond 5♠, showing the ♠K and the ♥Q, and partner will bid 6♥.

If you rebid 5♥, that's where you play, but you know you have 10+ hearts, so you are the one who must cooperate. West's hand:

♠ A Q 9 8 5 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ J ♣ A J 2

Another thing to bear in mind is that partner used RKCB, so they 'should' have control of each of the outside suits!

How should you bid these two hands to the good 6♠ slam (not 6♥):

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

East's 4♦ is a game-force splinter, and now West should get interested, holding good spades. You have to picture your partner's hand, which has game values with four spades, 5+ hearts and a singleton

diamond. Start working out about 16 HCP (19 total points) and you will get very close to the East hand!

Now for a play hand:

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

You'd like to reach 6♣ (or 6NT South) on these cards, which simply relies on a double club finesse. Our opponents played in 3NT on the lead of the ♠Q. She cashed her five diamond tricks but was now in the wrong hand for playing clubs, so just took nine tricks.

Playing matchpoint pairs is all about making as many tricks as possible so, at trick two, declarer should lead the ♣J, starting work on the club suit. With the clubs lying as they do, making twelve tricks is very straightforward and you'll get a good result (except against any slams).

The defence were card-perfect, to a point, on the following hand:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	pass	1♠	pass
		2♠	all pass

We would have played in diamonds, had partner rebid 2♦, but 2♠ scores better.

South led the ♣A and ♣K with North playing the four then the ten. I anticipated a ruff next, but I guess they were not using any signals! This led to the potentially-perfect defence. A diamond was led to the ace, with North returning the ♦8 (low, suit preference – but no signals). Declarer played the

king and it was ruffed. Only now was it time to continue a club, ruffed, for another diamond – whether the queen was a winner or not. South, however, tried to cash the ♥A, so now declarer was home – spade to the queen and two diamond discards on the top hearts.

I was so impressed that the club ruff had been deferred until South had ruffed a diamond; this was perfect defensive timing. Had South continued clubs at trick three, North ruffs, but now there is no re-entry for the second diamond ruff!

Some hands prove to be fascinating to play. I discussed this hand at home, and my husband thought he'd have 'gone wrong':

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

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

North led the ♦A, ruffed. I decided that I would be happy making ten tricks on this hand, and I could use dummy's clubs for discards, rather than trumping spades in dummy.

Slightly reluctantly (for entry reasons), I led the ♣9 to dummy's queen. Now I led the ♥7, finessing when South played the ♥3. When the ♥7 won the trick, I had to stop and re-plan.

It appeared that South held both the ♥A and ♥Q, so North was more likely to hold the ♠K...

I led a spade to the ace, then ran the ♠Q – discarding a diamond when North played low. South played the ♠10, so it looked like spades were 4-2.

I led another spade – nine, eight – and South over-ruffed with the ♥Q. I think South now does best to cash the ♥A and exit a heart, given North should have the ♠K and she knows the clubs are not breaking. (In fact, if you count, you know I hold two clubs, no diamonds, six spades and therefore five hearts.) However, hoping that I held only four hearts, she tried another club – jack, discard – overtaken in dummy with the king.

The ♣A and ♣10 provided two spade discards, then a diamond ruff allowed me to lead my last spade, trumping with the jack. South could take only the ♥A, and we had eleven tricks in the bag, on a somewhat fraught hand.

Sometimes you know the trick limit of the hand, but it's still nice to try for that extra trick which will give you a top score.

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

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

South should have bid over 2♦. North led the ♣K, which proved to be an unfortunate lead, making the jack a later winner. There were now nine tricks – losing one spade, two hearts and one club. It seemed like an opportunity to try for extra tricks by cashing five rounds of diamonds (the ♠A being the later entry to dummy's ♣J).

North had to find four discards and South three, with the potential for someone to discard a club, perhaps, though nobody did so.

When the ♣9 was led, North flew the queen, and led the ♥K, winning. With the jack sitting in dummy, they should realise that their partner holds the ace, but they continued with the ♥Q, and South's ace crashed on the same trick.

Suddenly dummy's two jacks had become winners, giving our side ten tricks rather than nine – and an outright top for the +130. Never give up.

BRISBANE GOLD CONGRESS 2027



30 JANUARY — 6 FEBRUARY

The Queensland Bridge Association has spent the past 18 months investigating venue possibilities as a replacement for the Gold Coast Congress, which came to an end in 2025 after 63 memorable years. We are pleased to announce that the inaugural

BRISBANE GOLD CONGRESS

will be held at a hotel in the Brisbane CBD from 30 January - 6 February 2027.



WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

COUNTING THE OPPONENTS' SHAPE

In one of the online lessons that I delivered this month, we covered Counting The Opponents' Shape. During the bidding, if one opponent describes their hand as being very shapely, and you end up declaring the contract, you can often work out all of their cards.

As an example, you open 1♠, West overcalls 4♥, and your optimistic partner raises you to 6♠.

Good luck!

♠ A K 8 4
♥ 9
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ K J 10 3

♠ Q 10 9 5 3
♥ Q 5
♦ A 9
♣ A 9 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4♥	6♠	all pass	1♠

It looks like you will lose a heart, and can get the lead soon enough, and draw trumps. You can trump the hearts and diamonds, and need to "guess" where the queen of clubs is to make your contract.

The way to play this hand is to count West's shape. From the bidding, they have told you that they have seven or eight hearts.

The key tip is that if you know more than half of a player's cards, you can often count the rest of them.

When you draw trumps, you discover that West started with one and East started with three. West

started with eight hearts and one spade. Before tackling clubs, play the diamonds, as it will help you to count their shape. West shows out on the first round of diamonds. West started with one spade, eight hearts, and no diamonds! They must have started with four clubs. Play the ace of clubs first and then finesse against West's queen. Cross back to your hand and repeat the finesse. Catch the queen and make your slam!



In this lesson, we then played the hand again, with the same North-South hands, and the East-West cards rearranged, but with West still overcalling 4♥ along the way. Assume that West started with seven or eight hearts, and try to count the rest. When you draw trumps, West started with two spades, and so did East. Then, before you play the clubs, you should gather some information by playing the diamonds. If West follows suit to the ace and king, and you then play a third diamond and trump it, and West discards a heart, then West must have started with two diamonds. West began with two spades, eight hearts, and two diamonds. West started with at most one club. This time, play the king in dummy (occasionally this will drop a singleton queen), and then lead the jack and finesse against East's queen. Great play and duly rewarded.

This lesson is available for purchase, and you get a video, notes, hands, and the ability to replay the hands to test your counting. There is another video about counting the opponent's points.

Will is doing Online Lessons on Thursday 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.

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2

THE SWITCHING HOUR

Teams. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 10 5
♦ A K Q
♣ A K 9 8 7



♠ 6 4 3 2
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ —
♣ Q 6 5 4 3

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

1. Majors.
2. Transfer to diamonds.
3. Cuebid, diamond support.

West leads the ♥2: five - ace - four. What would you play as East at trick two?

* * * * *

Playing standard leads, partner's ♥2 figures to be the bottom from three or four cards headed by an honour. You cannot be sure which honour partner has in hearts. The lead could be from K-x-2, K-x-x-2, K-J-x-2, J-x-2, or J-x-x-2.

What you do know for sure is that you will not take more than two heart tricks at best. It is highly unlikely that you can come to a club trick, so the setting trick needs to come from spades.

If partner has the ♥K and the ♠A, no harm will come from a spade return or a heart return.

However, if partner does not have the ♥K, you will need two spade tricks to beat 5♦.

Recommendation: switch to a spade, preferably the ♠6 (high-hate).

The deal arose in Session 3 of the English Premier League in October 2024:

Board 33. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 10 5
♦ A K Q
♣ A K 9 8 7

♠ A Q 5
♥ J 8 7 2
♦ 9 5 2
♣ J 10 2

♠ 6 4 3 2
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ —
♣ Q 6 5 4 3

♠ K J 7
♥ K 9 4
♦ J 10 8 7 6 4 3
♣ —

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

1. Majors.
2. Transfer to diamonds.
3. Cuebid, diamond support.

Here West led the ♠A and switched to the ♥2. East won with the ♥A. Declarer had the rest, North-South +400.

As you can see, if West had led the ♥2, a spade shift is needed to beat 5♦. It might cost an overtrick, but defeating 5♦ takes priority.

After the ♥2 lead to the ♥A, if East returns a heart, declarer can take the ♥K, ruff a heart, play ♦A, ♦K, and then pitch two spades on the ♣A, ♣K. Declarer then ruffs a club (high), draws the last trump and makes 11 tricks.

Leading out unsupported aces is not generally advisable, and here it proved fatal to the defence. The recommended lead is a low heart. After that, the defence has a chance to defeat 5♦.

At the other table:

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

1. 15-17 points.
2. Transfer to diamonds.
3. Cue-bid.
4. No major-suit cuebid available.

East led the ♠4 (not the ♥A!): seven - queen - nine. West cashed the ♠A: ten - six - jack, and switched to the ♥2. East won with the ♥A, one down, East-West +10 imps.

Celebrating 100 years of contract bridge

... and looking toward the next era



As the global bridge community marks 100 years of Contract Bridge, players across Australia are joining the celebration with a mix of pride, reflection, and anticipation. The centenary invites us to look back on the evolution of the game – and to consider the part we'll all play in shaping its next century.

Bridge has always held a rare appeal: thoughtful yet social, competitive yet welcoming, deeply challenging yet endlessly enjoyable. However you choose to play, you're part of a community that keeps finding new ways to grow, connect, and surprise us – sometimes even more than our partners' bidding choices.

A global milestone, an Australian summer

Federations around the world are marking the centenary with special initiatives and events. Here in Australia, the ABF is not only celebrating the past but investing in the future – offering a Summer program that welcomes newcomers, encourages returning players, and gives regulars more chances to enjoy the game they love.

Throughout December and January, clubs nationwide will run festive sessions, social games, and learn-to-play opportunities. These are relaxed, open moments to try something new, bring someone along, drop back in after time away, or simply spend time with the people who make bridge feel like home.

A century of play – and the road ahead

Contract Bridge arrived in Australia in the 1920s and has been shaping clubrooms, friendships, competitions, and communities ever since. Its longevity is thanks to the dedication of players, teachers, directors, organisers, and volunteers who keep the game thriving.

Today, our community is more diverse than ever – youth players joining through schools, long-time

members mentoring newcomers, and many Australians discovering the game through online platforms. The blend of tradition and innovation gives us a strong foundation for the next era.

Looking ahead, the ABF remains committed to:

- **Growing youth and schools programs**
Ensuring new generations discover bridge early and feel welcomed into the community.
- **Supporting clubs and volunteers**
With training, resources, and tools to help them thrive.
- **Building strong high-performance pathways**
So Australian teams can compete on the world stage with confidence.
- **Expanding accessibility and inclusivity**
So more Australians – from more backgrounds – can discover what bridge has to offer.

The direction of the next century isn't fixed. It will be shaped by the players who turn up, reach out, teach, learn, organise, and – above all – play.

How players can celebrate 100 years – and strengthen the next century

To honour this milestone and help build momentum for the future, we're inviting all Australian bridge players to take a few simple, practical steps. Each one makes a genuine contribution to the health and growth of our community.

Ways you can get involved

- **Share the milestone.** Tell your friends, family, neighbours, or colleagues that bridge turned 100 in 2025 – and what a great time to (re)discover the game together.
- **Introduce someone new.** Bring along a friend, partner, or someone who's curious about bridge to a session or lesson at your club, or why not teach them yourself?
- **Expand your circle.** Invite someone you've never partnered with – or haven't played with before – to a game. It's a great way to broaden community and meet other players.
- **Try a different club or venue.** Visit a bridge club you haven't been to before – across town or in another region – and experience a new setting and new faces.

- **Refresh your bridge tools.** Pick up a new bridge book or resource (for yourself or your partner) to spark fresh interest or polish your skills.
- **Explore different sessions.** Have a go at playing in a session you don't usually attend maybe a supervised beginner-friendly game, a mixed pairs session, or something more competitive.
- **Take part in a congress or festival.** Sign up for one of the ABF-endorsed events – locally or nationally – and enjoy the wider bridge community.
- **Share your celebration with the ABF.** If you've done anything to mark the 100-year milestone – a themed session, a social gathering, a fun photo, a special prize, or even a small personal tradition – we'd love to see it. Send your photos, stories or snapshots of how you celebrated to the ABF, so we can showcase the creativity and spirit of players from all around the country.

Some great bridge events coming up

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS CANBERRA, 10-18 JANUARY 2026

A high-energy, week-long celebration of rising talent – packed with pairs, teams, coaching and new friendships. This is where Australia's next generation of bridge players gain confidence, sharpen their skills and discover what's possible. For youth participants, parents, teachers and supporters, it's an inspiring reminder that the future of Australian bridge is already taking shape – and it starts here.

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE CANBERRA, 14-25 JANUARY 2026

Twelve days of tournaments, social games, and holiday-spirit sessions for players of all levels – a perfect summer celebration of bridge.

TASMANIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE HOBART, 19-22 MARCH 2026

A scenic early-year festival hosted in Hobart, with mixed, seniors, open and novice events – great for travel, social bridge and meeting players from across Australia.

CENTRAL WEST FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE ORANGE, NSW, 9-12 APRIL 2026

A friendly regional festival over four days, offering Swiss pairs and teams in open and restricted categories – ideal for a relaxed but competitive weekend away. It is already fully booked so be sure to get in early next year to join this great event in 2027!

AUTUMN NATIONALS ADELAIDE, 29 APRIL - 3 MAY 2026

A major national event with Swiss Teams, Blue Ribbon Pairs and other high-level competitions – suited to

all grades of players wanting to experience a major tournament in beautiful Adelaide.

VICTORIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE MELBOURNE, 3-8 JUNE 2026

Set over the King's Birthday long weekend in Richmond, Melbourne – a traditional festival offering Swiss Pairs and Open Teams, inclusive categories, and a chance for players in Victoria (and beyond) to gather and compete.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CANBERRA, 4-16 JULY 2026

The flagship national championships of the year, with Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth Interstate Teams; Open and Mixed Butler Pairs; ANC Swiss Pairs; and other events. A major milestone event for serious competitors and those wanting to engage with the national bridge community.

And there's more...

Club-level congresses, regional tournaments, online events, and special centenary-themed sessions will run throughout the year.

Check the full ABF Events calendar on the website to take a look at the 2026 events.

Every action, big or small, adds momentum to the movement. This is how we welcome new players, reconnect with returning ones, and show the wider community what bridge offers.

Join the next century of play

As we honour 100 years of Contract Bridge, we invite you to help shape the next chapter. Share the milestone. Connect with someone new. Try a different event. Visit a new club. Encourage a friend. Explore a festival. Your involvement – however it looks – strengthens the game for the future.

Every table matters. Every partnership matters. Every new player matters.

A season of good bridge and good company

As you enjoy your Summer sessions, holiday games, local events and online play, take a moment to explore what's happening around you – and share the game with someone who's always been curious.

Here's to a season of strategy, laughter, the occasional spirited bidding debate, and a community that continues to grow with generosity and good humour.

The first century was memorable.
The next one is ours to write.

Teaching Kids Bridge

Fun, scalable, and totally doable

Laura Ginnan

I learnt bridge at the age of seven from my grandma, and all I remember is how fun it was! I was allowed to leave school early once a month to play. Back then, smoking was allowed indoors, and despite my grandma having quit, she would have a pre-game puff – our little secret.

I didn't play competitively until I was 18, but I always loved the annual ABF Youth Championships. Many trips were memorable thanks to fantastic convenors like Brad Coles, Griff Ware, and Peter Gill, who even provided a chauffeur service. Peter only reluctantly moved on from his trusty 2003 Corolla a couple of months ago. That car probably shuttled hundreds of youth players to games over the years.

For the past 15 years, I've been teaching kids bridge on and off – through G.A.T.Eways gifted and talented programs, Victorian Under-18s weekly games, and more recently at my children's school.

Running small programs is rewarding, but making bridge teaching scalable has always been the dream. Past programs like Frank Power's in Gippsland or Andrew Mill's in Melbourne were brilliant – but they relied heavily on a key bridge player and often led to burnout.

With support from the Bridge Australia Foundation, Real Deal Bridge, and myself, we're developing a program that teachers can roll out themselves, integrating cards into classrooms and homes. Youth sessions at bridge clubs should naturally follow.

Building this program has involved countless conversations with people like Andrew Mill. My son's school principal has been instrumental in shaping the concept and has generously volunteered his staff as guinea pigs. Having developed his own award-winning "Running with Numbers" program, which blends maths with physical activity for early primary students, he was the perfect person to bounce ideas off. Sale and Paynesville Bridge Clubs have also been valuable contacts for a teacher at Cann River Primary in far-east Gippsland, a tiny school with just seven kids per grade, who is already using cards in the classroom.

Now, we're ready for a formal pilot in Term 1, 2026. The approach is simple: take it slow, keep it fun, and build confidence with the cards. The program is expected to roll out more broadly from 2027. Local bridge clubs approaching schools and preparing to run sessions at their club will be key to its success.

With the holidays approaching, you can even start teaching bridge to your grandchildren. Begin with a simple domino-style game to teach card ranks (rules below). Then introduce tricks (no trumps), a trump suit, and eventually a dummy. Don't worry if you don't have four players or a full deck – start small. For younger kids, focus on numbers first, then honours, and encourage them to say each card out loud as they play until they know the cards and suits (clubs, not clovers!). Only introduce bidding when they're showing signs that they are ready for a challenge beyond simply playing the cards – this could take months.

Ideas for card holders

Pool noodles:
See this [YouTube video](#) for instructions.



Cardboard: Make a sturdy version as a craft project, with stapled sides and a couple of bits of string between the two sides so it doesn't fall down.

Most importantly – have some fun!

DOMINOS (with cards)

Goals:

- Learn the suits.
- Rank of the cards.
- Develop skills in sorting cards and following suits in play.
- Develop strategies when selecting starting card and also when to play cards when there are multiple options available.

What you need:

- One deck of standard playing cards (no jokers).
- Clear playing surface (table or floor).
- Three to six people (four is best).

Instructions:

1. Place all cards in the middle of the playing surface face down and mix them all up.
2. Take turns drawing a card until all cards have been picked up. As you pick up your cards, sort them into

suits (spades - hearts - diamonds - clubs) then by rank (A-K-Q-J-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2).

The player holding the ♦7 chooses the starting card value (for example, fours or aces) and has the first turn. Play then proceeds in clockwise order. Cards are played face up with the goal to form rows or columns of each suit.

At each players turn, they must play a card if they can. If they can't play a card, they pass. A playable card is:

- a card of the starting value, or
- a card that is higher or lower in the same suit as a card that has already been played.

For example, if the ♠4 was the first card played, the ♠3, ♠5, or another four could be played. At each turn, only one card can be played.

The goal is to play your cards before the other players play theirs.

Adaptations: Shuffle and deal rather than the 'mix up', or remove honours for younger kids.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

2025 Grand National Open Teams

Well done to the ADELAIDE 2 team on their win at this year's GNOT Final in Sydney in November. It was an all-Adelaide affair in the final with ADELAIDE 1 the runners-up.

In the non-Metropolitan teams final, the top eight teams from outside the major centres battled it out, with the trophy going to the HUNTER 1 team, winning for the second year running.

2026 Grand National Open Teams

Changes will be announced shortly regarding the 2026 GNOT. These changes will include a shortening of the online stage of the finals and the face-to-face finals moving back to Brisbane, with the top eight teams meeting there, as well as an expansion of the non-metropolitan final to 12 teams.

The ABF will also be introducing a new gold point event to run alongside the GNOT finals. As I noted, the details will be announced shortly, and I hope to see you in Brisbane in November next year.

Teaching and directing

It is highly encouraging to see both the Australian Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) and the Austra-

lian Bridge Directors Association (ABDA) recently becoming more active. Clearly, bridge clubs rely heavily on having quality teachers and directors to ensure that we all have a pleasant experience when learning and playing the game we love. The purpose of both of these organisations is to improve the sharing of knowledge amongst these two communities. The ABF is highly supportive of them and is keen to see them being successful.

Closing thoughts

So that's a wrap for me for 2025. I would like to thank my fellow Board members: Allison, Jenny, Dagmar, and Richard. Of course, they are not the only volunteers in a bridge world that simply could not exist without them. The many hours that all volunteers put into supporting players, clubs, states/territories, and the ABF are hugely appreciated. I encourage you all to recognise the efforts of those volunteers when you get the opportunity. In addition, we rely heavily on staff and contractors to deliver the services that we cannot leave to chance. The ABF relies on several individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that we can continue to support all of you on a day-to-day basis. They are definitely appreciated!

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you at the Summer Festival or other events around the country next year. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, please do let me know. My email address is at the top of this article.

Around the clubs

Intergenerational moment

Celebrating 97 and 12 together

At Tweed Bridge Club, a special celebration was held last Saturday for Marie Franklin, who recently turned 97. She was joined by Cayden Dickison, the club's youngest member, aged 12, to mark the occasion in a memorable, intergenerational gathering.

The photograph captures Marie and Cayden together, surrounded by fellow club members — a beautiful symbol of bridge as a game that embraces all ages.

President David Freilich noted: "It's wonderful to see our club's heritage and its future meeting in one room. Bridge offers connection across generations."

We hope this brings a smile to readers and encourages clubs nationwide to share their own stories of community, age diversity, and celebration.



Happy birthday Joy Robinson



Mackay Club member Joy Robinson celebrated her 100th birthday this month.

Joy has been a member of our club for over forty years, and still plays bridge at least three times per week.

Joy has attended many State Zone events including GNOT finals, GCC and has always been a strong supporter of club events and other Queensland Congresses.

Playing bridge on her birthday, Joy was surprised with a visit from the Mayor, a birthday card from the King, and her family joining us in the celebrations.

Joy is an inspiration to us all, and her message is to embrace life, stay active and be happy.

Bridge Australia Foundation and Australia's Bridge Day Out

The ABF Foundation has adopted a new name – Bridge Australia Foundation LTD (BAF). This change allows BAF to separate its finances from the ABF and marks an important step toward registration as a charity. Along with the name change, new email addresses have been set up, and you can now contact us at info@bridgeaustraliafoundation.org. (Old emails will still reach us in the short term.)

Over the coming months, BAF will be developing a revised logo and website, and implementing other structural changes to support the new entity. The directors of BAF remain unchanged from the trustees of the Foundation – Kim Frazer, Mimi Packer, Peter Cox, Sophie Ashton, and Tim Runting – with the addition of a treasurer, Richard Lock, formerly treasurer of the NSWBA. BAF will continue to provide an annual report on activities to the ABF's Annual General Meeting, as well as regular updates via this newsletter.

Australia's Bridge Day Out

On 23 September, Australia celebrated the first-ever Australia's Bridge Day Out (BDO), the ABF Foundation's primary fundraiser for 2025. This year the Foundation moved away from the online pro-am fundraiser it had run for the past three years to the new BDO format, which was enthusiastically supported by clubs and raised around \$15,000 in total.

Clubs added extra fun to the day with dress-ups, bring-a-plate gatherings, and creative fundraising activities. One club even raised extra funds by selling avocados.

Clubs that hosted events, supported the cause or made donations include:

- Victoria: Bright, KLTC, Melton, Mildura, Moonee Valley, Rye Dromana, Sale, South Gippsland, Sunbury, Traralgon, Victorian Bridge Centre, Waverley, Williamstown
- New South Wales: Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club, Cootamundra, Coffs Harbour, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, North Shore, Orange, Peninsula, Port Macquarie Hastings, Taree, Yamba
- Queensland: Cairns, Kenmore, Mackay, Malanda, Queensland Contract, Surfers Paradise, Toowong, Toowoomba

- Western Australia: Melville, Nedlands, South Perth, West Australian, West Coast
- South Australia: SA Bridge Association, Step-Bridge Australia
- Tasmania: Tasmanian Bridge Association

A special thank you also goes to our expert panel who provided live commentary throughout the day: Peter Hollands, who hosted the 9-hour drop-in session, and guest presenters Sophie Ashton, Renee Cooper, Mike Doecke, and Liam Milne. Andy Hung generously donated an online lesson for lucky players nationwide.

Funds raised are already being put to work: the Foundation has contributed \$5,000 to the Bridge in Schools initiative, which will run a pilot program in Term 1, 2026, involving students learning about suits, ranks, and more. Broader rollout is expected to continue in future terms, with clubs welcomed into the program from 2027.

Thank you again to all the clubs, organisers, and volunteers who made this inaugural event possible – we can't wait to see even more players participating next year!





TEACHING TIPS with Ian Dalziel

GETTING THE MOVEMENT RIGHT

When I started playing duplicate about 40 years ago, bridge movements were a bit of a mystery to the ordinary player. The director was usually a technical genius who either set out the movement from memory or delved into the red Farringdon book. There were only one or two people at each club who understood movements, and everyone was happy with that situation.

That was fine until 'the knowledgeable ones' were absent and then the fun started. Someone else put out the boards, following the instructions, and everything was fine – or so it seemed till half-time when some East-Wests met boards they had played before. On the next round, it got worse; tempers got frayed, the whole event was abandoned, and we all went home. I'm sure you've had the experience; it's not a happy one.

Mix-ups with basic Mitchell movements happened occasionally at most clubs I attended. However, when a more complicated movement like a Howell was used, all went well. The reason, of course, was that movement cards are always used for Howells, but not for Mitchells (as they are deemed too simple). And there lies the problem – their simplicity lulls people into a false sense of security.

When I started my own bridge clubs I wanted to avoid this shambles, so I produced movement cards for all our Mitchell movements, even 13 tables playing 26 boards. There is a movement card on each table (Table 1 is shown) stating the correct boards and pairs for each round and instructions for the next move. My 'movecards' have been used at many bridge clubs for many years and, as far as I know, the movement has never gone wrong.

'Movecards for Mitchells' are almost foolproof. The director needs no knowledge of movement theory. If he makes a mistake with the initial board layout

or forgets to announce the special moves (which are highlighted in colour on each table card) the players correct him. My directors are not fazed by more complicated Mitchell movements, as they just follow the instructions on the 'director's guide'

card (as shown) and the table cards ensure nothing goes wrong. None of my directors could set out a basic share and relay Mitchell without the cards, as, in my experience of Mitchells, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Bridgemates surely make movement mix ups a thing of the past, as they check that the correct players and boards are played each round, but the addition of movecards makes things easier for the players. Your computer scoring software is able to produce these movecards.

The 'book' movements are usually for 24-26 boards, however some daytime clubs play 18-22 boards and learners' clubs might play only 12-16. You can curtail the movement if it's matchpoints, but this is undesirable for the reasons I give below. I have compiled 240 completed movements playing 12 to 28 boards for 3 to 26 tables. Some movements came from 'the book', others I adapted from standard principles, and some I invented myself.

These are all two-winner complete movements, so suitable for aggregate or matchpoint scoring. I feel aggregate scoring is best for learners (see BRIDGE 165) which means that you must complete the movement anyway. Two winning pairs is preferable to one winner for two reasons; you have four happy people at the end of the session instead of two, and



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

it saves the hassle of arrow switches. However, if you have fewer than six tables, including a half table, a Howell movement is a necessary evil to prevent a long sit-out. But I'm sure your club is well supplied with Howell movement cards.

I do feel strongly that movements should be completed. I have never used an incomplete movement in my life, and I have run many events with all numbers of tables playing all ranges of boards. As most clubs play aggregate and matchpoints in Scotland, all our movements have to be complete. My current afternoon club, Darley, runs 6 to 18 tables, plays exactly 18 boards in one section, and always completes the movement.

I now set out the case for completing the movement:

1. Surely one of the joys of duplicate is playing the same hands as everyone else, and discussing the hand records later. It's not much fun if the board you want to discuss afterwards wasn't played by your friends. If a bridge teacher wants to go over hands in class, at the club or on a bridge holiday session, then the students need to have played all the boards.

2. Although every board scores equally at matchpoint scoring, some boards are more equal than others: some are swingy, some are flat, in some boards you control your own destiny but in others you are at the opponents' mercy and can't do much about it.

3. If you stop a movement with sharing tables or a half table, you get different tops. The software will adjust the scores, but if you use Neuberg you get decimal fractions for the matchpoints. Other methods add whole numbers, but are not easily understood when we really want people to understand matchpoint scoring.

4. It is true that incomplete movements are 'easier' but are they easier for the players or the director? Good movement cards make things simple for both, and even a complicated Mitchell has fewer moving pairs than a Howell, and people seem to cope with Howells. Anyway a bit of exercise does bridge players no harm at all.

5. Many people dislike a two-board share as one table can hold up another. As a director, I actually like this share,

as I can easily spot a slow table, as their sharing table is waiting, and I can hurry them on. Without a share, a slow table can fall behind, and the director isn't aware of it till he calls the move. If you really must avoid the two board share, then have two sets of duplicated boards – easily produced if you have a dealing machine.

6. It's true that complete movements may include some revenge rounds where you play a pair twice, but isn't that fairer (and more sociable) than missing some opponents completely? The 10-table 24-board Blackpool (everyone playing all 24 boards) is surely better than a 10-table 30-board movement (everyone playing just 24 boards of the 30 boards in play).

7. I think clubs have just got into the habit of incomplete movements, and haven't realised there are excellent alternatives which make the game fairer and more enjoyable.

8. J.R. Manning, who wrote *The Mathematics of Duplicate Bridge*, says that incomplete movements should be avoided if possible, and EBU chief TD Gordon Rainsford agrees.

So I rest my case for 'completing the movement'. Andrew Kambites and I are in complete agreement – we both dislike the 70% rule. He wants it reduced to 50% and I want it increased to 100%!

For a free copy of my 36-page document with a list of 240 'two winner' complete movements with full descriptions, and samples of my own movecards, email

ildalziel@gmail.com

TABLE NO.	1	13 ½ TABLES PLAYING 24 BOARDS	
EW GO TO TABLE 2	ROUND	EW	BOARDS
	1	21	1 - 2
	2	34	3 - 4
	3	33	5 - 6
	4	32	7 - 8
	5	31	9 - 10
	6	30	11 - 12
	EW GO TO TABLE 3		
	7	28	13 - 14
	8	27	15 - 16
	9	26	17 - 18
	10	25	19 - 20
	11	24	21 - 22
	12	23	23 - 24
EW GO TO TABLE 2			
BOARDS COME FROM TABLE 2			
BOARDS GO TO TABLE 12			
SHARE BOARDS WITH TABLE 13			
© I.L.Dalziel 2015 (ildalziel@gmail.com)			

DIRECTOR'S GUIDE	
13 ½ TABLES	PLAYING 24 BOARDS
Ewing movement	
STARTING LAYOUT	
TABLE	BOARDS
1	1 - 2
2	3 - 4
3	5 - 6
4	7 - 8
5	9 - 10
6	11-12
7	13-14
8	15-16
9	17-18
10	19-20
11	21-22
12	23-24
13	Share with 1
14	None
SPECIAL POINTS	
Tables 1 & 13 share boards.	
The odd pair start EW at table 14 which has no boards.	
There is a special move after 6 rounds (12 boards) when EW skip a table (marked in green)	
North must check each round that correct boards and EW are played.	
Note that EW pairs 21 & 28 don't sit out.	

MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

Work continues on planning for the masterpoint centre integration into MyABF during 2026.

Alongside that work, however, we are continuing to deliver some regular enhancements to the system.

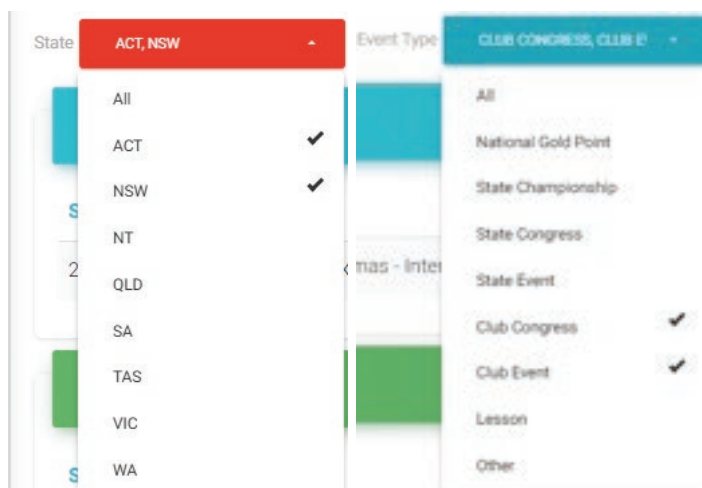
Latest new features

Two new features have been made available in MyABF in recent times (with other bug fixes and smaller things happening in the background as well).

1. FOR PLAYERS

Improved Calendar filter selections

A small but significant improvement has been made to the way you can filter events in the main MyABF calendar. Up to now it has only been possible to select one state, one event type or one event format at a time. Now it is possible to select multiple:



So this example would show you all club level events in both NSW and ACT.

Remember you can save these filters too so when you next come to the page they will already be there.

Further enhancements to this area are coming to also identify events targeted at specific audience categories (Open, Restricted, Novice, etc).

2. FOR CLUBS

New bridge credits movement report

A new report is now available for a club showing how its bridge credits balance has moved between any two dates. This is available in the filtered view of the club's bridge credits account.

A screenshot of the 'Filter Transactions' interface. It shows a table of transactions with columns for Type, Date, Amount, and Breakdown. The table is filtered for the date range from 01/10/2025 to 31/10/2025. The transactions are as follows:

Type	Date	Amount	Breakdown
Opening Balance	01/10/2025	\$9,988.00	
Settlements		\$7,188.00	View
Event Entries		\$210.00	View
Club Sessions		\$1,000.00	View
Club Memberships			View
Other			View
Closing Balance	31/10/2025	\$4,010.00	

The transactions in the period are separated into the categories shown. Other is for anything not allocated elsewhere. Clicking View expands to see the items making up that section.

This is designed to help club treasurers see how their club's balance has moved in the period.

Stripe fee reduction

You may have already seen David Fryda's announcement that, **from 1 January 2026, the fees paid on settlements to clubs via MyABF will be reduced from 2% to 1.85%**. This has come about due to a renegotiation with Stripe (the online payment provider the ABF works with) – aided by the significantly higher volume of transactions now going through compared to the previous deal.

This was always the intention. By bringing together a lot of online transactions through a single platform we can leverage that volume to negotiate better fees for everyone.

There has been some misunderstanding in the past regarding this arrangement. Contrary to the opin-

ions of some, the ABF does not make any money from the MyABF settlement fees. Here are the facts of the matter:

1. The ABF is NOT making ANY money out of fees charged to clubs. Quite the contrary – it’s actually subsidising them!
2. The ONLY charge made to clubs for MyABF is the fee charged on a settlement. That fee is to recoup Stripe transaction charges that the ABF has ALREADY PAID ITSELF when players put money into MyABF in the form of bridge credits.
3. Here’s a picture showing the stages to money flowing through MyABF (this is modelled on 2% for simplicity):

WHAT HAPPENS	MY ABF BRIDGE CREDIT ACCOUNTS		WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CASH				NOTES
	PLAYER ACCOUNT	CLUB ACCOUNT	PLAYER	STRIPE	ABF	CLUB	
Player tops up \$100 online	\$ 100	\$ -	-\$ 100	\$ 100			Player pays \$100 and gets full credit in their account.
Stripe pays the ABF				-\$ 98	\$ 98		Stripe fees are deducted here so the ABF only receives \$98.
Player enters a congress \$100	-\$ 100	\$ 100					No cash moves at this point - just a transfer from player to club in MyABF.
Congress finished, ABF settles club		-\$ 100			-\$ 98	\$ 98	ABF deducts 2% fee to recoup Stripe fees - club receives \$98.
Final Balance	\$ -	\$ -	-\$ 100	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 98	

NOTE: You don't HAVE to manually top up credits first. You can do all this in a single step by just entering a congress. Above is what then happens behind the scenes.

4. If the club was taking payments via its own merchant facility, it would be paying these transaction fees directly.

5. As for the amounts – I do a monthly reconciliation of total bridge credits. As part of that, we track the total charges made to clubs, and the total fees the ABF has paid to Stripe. Every month the two are broadly the same. Since the inception of MyABF up until 31 October 2025, the total fees the ABF have paid are \$234,571; the total amounts charged to clubs are \$234,000.

So in fact the ABF is not even quite recouping the fees it’s paying – especially when you also factor in the administration time for myself and Margaret Cusack at ABF HQ.

I recently had a club claim that there is “no way the 2% fee can be justified”. Presumably that club believes the ABF should pay every transaction fee on every entry fee or session table money paid by players to a bridge club? If the club was offering EFTPOS payments, they wouldn’t expect the ABF to pay their merchant fees would they? This is no different.

Hopefully, as usage volumes grow even further, we will be able to obtain further improvements to the fees and then also pass those onto clubs. Why not take a look at what your club can do? The administrative savings for a club are enormous, as well as increased convenience for players.

*Julian Foster, MyABF Product Manager
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And don't forget, for less experienced players we now have the online “Club Edition” of the magazine, which can be instantly delivered straight to the recipient's inbox for \$25 per year.

Tournament results

Photos from the respective event bulletins

Canberra in Bloom

ROYAL BLUEBELL OPEN MP SWISS PAIRS

1 Kate McCallum - Axel Johansson	88.02
2 Lyn Carter - Malcolm Carter	87.20
3 Chris Stead - Janeen Solomon	86.85
4 Nick Jacob - David Hudson	85.58
5 Jessica Brake - Shane Harrison	83.35
6 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell	82.95
7 Michael Courtney - Joan Butts	79.62
8 Arlene Dalley - Tony Nunn	79.53
9 Ian Robinson - Neil Ewart	78.52
10 Jasmine Skeate - Paul Gosney	77.95

MARGARET BOURKE OPEN TEAMS

1 Stephen Williams, David Wiltshire, Sue Lusk, Bruce Neill	98.14
2 William Zhang, Yumin Li, Michael Courtney, Joan Butts	94.81
3 Lyn Carter, Malcolm Carter, George Bilski, Martin Bloom	88.33

CANBERRA BELLS IMP SWISS PAIRS

1 Ella Jacob - Andrew Spooner	102.94
2 Michael Courtney - Joan Butts	95.23
3 Axel Johansson - Kate McCallum	94.44
4 Paul Gosney - Jasmine Skeate	92.35
5 Arjuna De Livera - Lori Smith	91.76
6 Rob Hurst - Desmond Manderson	90.75
7 Geeske Joel - Liam Milne	89.57
8 Vanessa Brown - Will Jenner-O'Shea	88.81
9 Jessica Brake - Shane Harrison	86.15
10 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	86.09

VAL AND JOHN BROCKWELL MIXED TEAMS

Semi-Final

Lloyd 85 def Skeate (Lara Topper, Jasmine Skeate, Nick Jacob, Paul Gosney) 19

Bookallil (Marianne Bookallil, Pele Rankin, Stephen Fischer, George Kozakos) 63 def Van Der Vlugt (Maurits van der Vlugt, Ella Jacob, Dagmar Neumann, Andrew Spooner) 45

Final

Bookallil (Marianne Bookallil, Pele Rankin, Stephen Fischer, George Kozakos) 135 def Lloyd (Jeremy Reid, Erica McCoull, Tania Lloyd, Hugh Grosvenor) 93



Sydney Spring Nationals

Photos on front cover

MIXED TEAMS

Photo 1: Lauren Morgan, Liam Milne, Sophie Ashton, James Coutts 135 def Axel Johansson, Kate McCallum, Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby 114

OPEN TEAMS SEMI-FINAL

Hung 132 def McCallum (Axel Johansson, Peter Gill, Kate McCallum, David Hudson, Peter Buchen, Bruce Neill) 112

Milne 136 def Dalley (Ashley Bach, Arlene Dalley, Tony Nunn, P Dalley) 122

OPEN TEAMS FINAL

Milne (Photo 2: David Wiltshire, Jessica Brake, Susan Humphries, Shane Harrison, Liam Milne, James Coutts) 148 def Hung (Ben Thompson, Jamie Thompson, Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung) 124

PLATE

Jacob (Zachary Yan, Lysandra Zheng, Leon Meier, Nick Jacob, Ella Jacob) 61 def Kozakos (Hugh Grosvenor, Terry Brown, Andrew Spooner, Matt Mullamphy, Ian Thomson, George Kozakos) 51

SHIELD

David Appleton, Brad Coles, Stephen Fischer, Michael Wilkinson

WOMEN'S TEAMS

Nazife Bashar, Kinga Moses, Marcia Scudder, Judy Mott

SENIORS' TEAMS

Axel Johansson, Peter Gill, Kate McCallum, David Hudson, Peter Buchen, Bruce Neill

TED CHADWICK RESTRICTED PAIRS

Photo 3: Louise Cowan - Susan Bezette

NOVICE MATCHPOINT PAIRS

Photo 4: Denise Reid - Judy King

NOVICE PAIRS

Photo 5: Tim Jackson - Shane Grogan

FIXED INCOME SOLUTIONS NOVICE TEAMS

Photo 6: Melissa Iverach, John Fitzpatrick, Andy Sunter, Anne-Marie Kelly

PAUL LAVINGS INTERMEDIATE TEAMS

Photo 7: Michael Young, Mary Poynten, Tony White, Martin Clear

INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

Photo 8: Christine Hanley - Craig Mietzke

RESTRICTED PAIRS

Photo 9: Elena Rochtchina - Oleg Glushchenko

2025 Golden West Swiss Pairs

1 Marnie Leybourne - Leone Fuller	130.04
2 Ron Cooper - Jonathan Free	129.86
3 Gerry Daly - Viv Wood	117.60
4 Kimberley Zhao - Alan Cransberg	114.51
5 Gwyneira Brahma - Deana Wilson	113.13
6 Andrew Swider - Tad Bieganski	112.84
7 Hamish McCracken - Fiske Warren	111.24
8 Mark Goddard - Rohan Bandarage	108.81
9 Karol Miller - Martin Doran	107.86





NZ National Congress

TEAMS

Michael Cornell, Ashley Bach, Peter Newell, Martin Reid, Tony Nunn, Paul Dalley 171 def Geeske Joel, Liam Milne, James Coutts, Andy Hung, Sartaj Hans, Shane Harrison 131

PAIRS

1 Peter Newell - Martin Reid	57.42%
2 Michael Cornell - Ashley Bach	59.92%
3 James Coutts - Shane Harrison	61.42%
4 Michael Ware - Jamie Thompson	58.75%
5 Rachelle Pelkman - Malcolm Mayer	54.33%
6 David Wiltshire - Zachary Yan	51.42%
7 Anthony Ker - Kathy Ker	55.67%
8 Brian Mace - Graeme Tuffnell	49.58%
9 Blair Fisher - George Masters	50.17%
10 Susan Humphries - Denis Humphries	54.33%

ABF Club Knockout Teams

OPEN

Victorian Red (Kevin Chan, David Beckett, Martin Willcox, Neil Ewart, John Yang) 77 def Western Australia (Jonathan Free, Linda Coli, Mimi Packer, Cynthia Belonogoff, Vinod Nasta, Ron Cooper) 50

UNDER 750 MP

Central Coast Leagues (Mary Colling, Steve Colling, Pauline Caust, Alan Bustany) 58 def Stepbridge Purple (David Hancock, Mike Morrissey, Steven Kemp, Elsie Chua) 50

UNDER 300 MP

Canberra (Craig Becconsall, Paul Birkby, Debra Birkby, Bricet Kloten) 88 def Moonee Valley (Nicholas Yule, Toni Arnott, David Methven, Bronwyn Simmonds, Fraser Thorpe) 70

UNDER 100 MP

Canberra (Gary Renfrey, Karen Renfrey, John Lee, James Walcott) 68 def Ocean Grove (Jessamy Del Papa, Marg Gosch, Lyn Gray, Stella Jansen, Lydia Erving) 50

UNDER 50 MP

Illawarra: Paula Corbett, Annette Lopez, Don Clark, Julie Rollinson

CONSOLATION

Parramatta Gold U750: Carlyn Dun, Peter Dun, Kerry Rymer, Kit Meyers



Grand National Open Teams

SEMI-FINAL

Adelaide 2 132 def ACT (Brad Coles, David Appleton, David Wawn, David Hoffman, Ian Robinson, George Kozakos) 106

Adelaide 1 89 drew Melbourne (Simon Henbest, David Beckett, Neil Ewart, Ben Kingham) 89

FINAL

Adelaide 2 (Russel Harms, Arjuna De Livera, Nicolas Croft, Philip Markey) 142 Def Adelaide 1 (George Smolanko, Chris Lorimer, Attilio De Luca, David Anderson) 122

GNOT NON-METROPOLITAN FINAL

1 Roger Yandle - Ken Berry - Chris Dibley - Michael Seldon
2 Justin Stark - Gary Ridgway - Arthur Robbins - Douglas Newlands
3 Zyg Roberts - Cathy Giltrap - John Friesen - Richard Harman



2025 Super Vets Swiss Pairs

1 Anne Banks - Mary Johnston	79.92
2 Ian Bailey - Bill Symons	79.19
3 Geoff Holman - Wendy Driscoll	76.71
4 Tim Wright - David Schokman	75.75
5 Chris Ingham - David Matthews	75.54
6 Jenny Skinner - Judy Havas	74.27
7 Gill Blakey - Ross Blakey	73.13
8 Jan Kochmanski - Andrew Swider	71.71
9 June Mulholland - Mike Mulholland	71.07
10 Brian Embleton - Phil Jacobsen	68.92



Australian Bridge Directors' Association
in conjunction with Bridge Victoria

Interactive Workshop for Directors

3 Breen Drive, Brighton East VIC

21 & 22 February 2026

Program

Saturday Morning – 9:30am

Common Calls for the Director – role play demonstrations
Bridgemates – friend and sometimes foe?

Afternoon – 1:15pm

Mis-bids, Mis-explanations, Failure to Alert – with work groups
Collecting Information and Ascertaining Facts
Q & A Panel Discussion (1)

ABDA AGM

Sunday Morning – 9:00am

Common Misconceptions in Law and Ethics

Stream A

Unauthorised Information – with work groups
Adjusted Scores – Philosophy and Approach

Stream B

Issues relevant to the New Director
How to efficiently run a session of Duplicate

Afternoon – 12:45pm

Judgement Rulings – with work groups
Multi-session Events – Design and Execution
Q & A Panel Discussion (2)

Presenters

Jonathan Free (WA)
Laura Ginnan (VIC)
Laurie Kelso (VIC)
John McIlrath (NSW)
Geoff Schaller (VIC)
Sebastian Yuen (ACT)

Enrolments via MyABF

\$80 for both days (Non-Members \$100) - includes lunch each day
\$50 for one day (Non-Members \$70) - includes lunch

The ABDA will provide a limited number of subsidies to attendees from each of the States. Directors wishing to apply for a sponsored place should email the ABDA Treasurer, Dave Havyatt, at david@havyatt.com.au before 31 December 2025.