



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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

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2023 ANOT winners

Clockwise from top: Stepbridge Under Grand Master Teams winners Eugene Pereira, Martin Wu, Rob Holgate, Neil Williams; Stepbridge Under Life Master Pairs winners Rob Chattaway & Tony Wilkinson with Chris Larter from Stepbridge; Stepbridge Under Grand Master Pairs winners Sue Read & Penny Blankfield; Rookie Pairs winners John Pumpa & Richard Collis with convenor Barbara Travis; Stepbridge Under Life Master Teams winners Philip & Lynda Young, Penny Bowen, Rod Macey; TBIB Mixed Pairs winners Christy Geromboux & Sebastian Yuen with Steve Weil from TBIB; TBIB Open Pairs winners David Hudson & Liam Milne.





JUNE 2023

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Front cover image: 2023 ANOT winners.
See page 15 for article on the event.

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST EDITION ADVERTISING: 15 JULY ARTICLES: 12 JULY

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**IMPROVE
YOUR
DEFENCE**

with
Ron Klinger

Solution on page 13

Teams: East dealer, East-West vulnerable

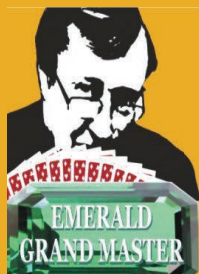
♠ K 8 7 3
♥ A J 6
♦ A K 2
♣ 8 4 3

♠ 10 9 4 2
♥ —
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ A K 10 9 2



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	4♥	pass	3♥
		all pass	

West leads the ♣A: three - seven (playing low-en-couraging) - queen. What would you play at trick 2?



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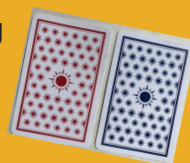
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What should I bid?

with Lauren Travis

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



Here's a doozy. I'm West and my partner opened 1♠. When I made a forcing bid of 2♦ he sat for some time and bid 3♦. I was then excited, seeing a diamond slam or notrump. My next bid was 4NT and we ended up in 6♦. I was surprised when I saw just three diamonds in dummy. Down one were my thoughts. Can't recall the opening lead, but think it was a heart which put me nicely in dummy. I played a low diamond to my ace and bingo down came the ♦Q from South. I prayed South wasn't tricking me and led a low diamond to the ten in dummy which held. I then had the contract losing just ♦J. Scored poorly as others in 6NT. Don't think anyone bid 7NT. I was reluctant to bid 6NT as wasn't sure of partner's club holding. As East I'd have bid 3♣. What did I miss?

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

Hi Del,

Thanks for writing in.

I like your partner's 3♦ rebid! These sorts of hands are tricky after partner responds at the two-level, because you have to compromise with whatever rebid you make.

Some pairs play that opener rebidding their major is a 'default' bid and doesn't promise a sixth card – if you had this agreement then your partner could have rebid 2♠. 3♣ would be a reverse, so would be game forcing opposite your 10+ HCP, which I'm sure he didn't want to do. 3♦ shows support, presumably an unbalanced hand, and doesn't promise any extra HCP or spades. In the likely situation that you play in game, it also keeps 3NT firmly in the picture. It's worth noting that a 2♦ response almost always has either three-card support for opener's major or a five-card diamond suit (unless responder has specifically a 2-4-4-3).

On your hand, I'd be excited too after hearing a 3♦ bid. From the 5♥ response to keycard it looks like you play Blackwood rather than Roman Keycard

Blackwood – this is a convention I would strongly recommend adopting! Since you have the red aces, it's certain he has ♠A and ♣A, and you would assume at least four more HCP from his opening bid. This has to be some combination of ♠K, ♥Q, ♦KQJ, ♣QJ – all of which are helpful in 6♦ or 6NT. Knowing he has the ♣A strengthens the suit for you to feel more confident bidding 6NT – if the opponents lead a club and then get the opportunity to knock out your other club honour, you'll be needing to take the rest of the tricks anyway.

There are two reasons why I think 6NT is preferable to 6♦. The first is that you're playing Matchpoints, so every little advantage in the scoring counts, as you observed when you scored poorly compared to those in 6NT. The second reason: if diamonds break poorly, you might still be able to find your way to 12 tricks without requiring additional tricks from the diamond suit (e.g. five spades, three hearts, two diamonds, two clubs), whereas in 6♦ you can't afford two trump losers.

Happy slamming,

Lauren



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E/Nil

♠ 10 9 6
♥ J 10 6 4 2
♦ J 8 2
♣ 10 2

♠ 7 4
♥ A K
♦ 9 7 3
♣ A Q J 6 5 3

♠ J 8 3
♥ Q 9 7 3
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 7 4

♠ A K Q 5 2
♥ 8 5
♦ 6 5 4
♣ K 9 8

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

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

I wanted to pass 2♣, until I realised that it is forcing! I didn't want to bid 2NT with only ♠Jxx, though that might be right. I knew I couldn't bid 2♥ because it would be a reverse (and surely partner would have made a negative double with four hearts).

So I rebid 2♦. What would you do?

NEXT: How does West continue? Partner bid 3♣ and now I passed, happy to get out of this auction. When North didn't lead a spade (though they obviously should have), we made 13 tricks.

Everybody seemed to have problems bidding the hand, though two pairs reached 5♣, which looks to be a sensible contract. How did they do so?

Hi Dean,

I've chosen your question as the winner for March because I think it's representative of so many auctions we have where there's no 'right' bid and you end up choosing between several options, none of which are ideal.

In this case, if you had a spade stopper 2NT is easy; an extra diamond makes 2♦ the standout; and even a third club would allow you to support partner with 3♣. You have the worst possible shape for this auction!

I suppose your options are 2♦, 2♥ and 2NT. I would rule 2♥ out immediately for the same reason as you – it would be a reverse and I'm sure partner would have made a negative double of 1♠ if they had four hearts. Now you basically have to decide which of the other options would be less misleading to partner.

If we consider the pros and cons, if you bid 2♦ at least you have a good quality diamond suit but there are only four of them, whereas 2NT would convey your balanced hand and 12-14 HCP but would also suggest a spade stopper.

The questions I ask myself in these scenarios are:

1. How likely do I think it is that we'll play in game?

I've opened the bidding and my partner has bid two over one so we're around the 22+ HCP mark – game is still in the picture but not a certainty.

2. What is/are the most likely or best game/s?

We don't have a major-suit fit, so it's probably 3NT – unless partner has long clubs or a sneaky diamond fit. All we might need from partner is a full

or half spade stopper; something like Qx or 10xxx would be enough help to stop the opponents from taking five spade tricks.

3. Which bid will give partner the information they might need to make the correct decision?

If I bid 2♦ they might rely on me having longer diamonds and think I have an unbalanced hand. Maybe we'll play in 5♣ or 5♦ when 3NT would have been better, if we both have balanced or semi-balanced hands. If I bid 2NT can partner cuebid 3♠ to ask me how good my stopper is (kind of like a fourth-suit forcing auction but using their overcall suit)? If that's something in our toolbox then 2NT seems more appealing. (Note: in competitive auctions at the one-level it's far more common for opener to rebid 1NT without a stopper in their suit. If you were a level lower I would be advocating for a notrump rebid without much further thought.)

I think I would bid 2NT.

Subsequent bidding: West's 3♣ rebid was non-forcing, and I would also pass. If West is able to cuebid the opponent's suit to force me to bid again and usually ask for a stopper, I would do that. If not, then it looks like they have to choose between 3NT, 5♣ and 5♦ – yuck! (I acknowledge that if East opted for 2NT like me, then West may confidently bid 3NT and we'd go down.)

If I had to guess, I'd say that the pairs who reached 5♣ either had West make a lucky guess or had some more conventions at their disposal to help them find the right game.

I hope this helps you with future bidding misadventures!

Lauren

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

president@abf.com.au



The ABF AGM was held in Adelaide on 3 May. Barbara Travis (South Australia), Adel Abdelhamid (South Australia), Julian Foster (New South Wales), and Christopher Leach (Victoria) have retired from Council. The Board and Council thank them for their valuable and generous contributions. A warm welcome to Justin Mill (Victoria), Dagmar Neumann (New South Wales), and Michael Court and Caprice Davey (South Australia) who join ABF Council.

Julian Foster, myABF Project Manager, was elected as a Supplemental Councillor for a period of two years.

Ian Thomson joined the ABF Board as Treasurer in 2020. Ian resigned as Treasurer in January 2023 and decided not to renominate for a position on the Board at the AGM. Rob Ward took on the role of Treasurer in January. As there was no other nomination for Treasurer Rob Ward will continue in the role until the AGM 2024, which is an election year. Sue Falkingham was the only nomination for the vacant Ordinary Member of the Board. The Board welcomes Sue and we look forward to her input in the coming year.

Many players have returned to face-to-face bridge, from club level through to national level, and numbers at Licensed-events are slowly improving. Council discussed the importance of addressing bad behaviour at all levels of bridge. Doing so will require changing the culture across Australia, from the national events to club duplicates. The Board and Council intend to make this issue a priority over the next year and will work closely with the states and territories to drive these changes. ABF General Counsel is leading an overhaul of the Recorder system for the ABF, including the rules for etiquette and behaviour. He has formed a committee to consider changes to the ABF approach.

The year ending 31 December 2023 is a pivotal year for the ABF as we navigate our way towards 2025 in implementing our Strategic Plan 2022-25. The themes of our plan Attract, Develop and Retain Players is key to the success of bridge in Australia. COVID



We are looking for your ideas to improve your bridge experience and enjoyment.

Scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone or your favourite scanner app. You will then have the option of leaving suggestions anonymously, or you can also leave us your contact details and we will get back to you.

has had a 10% downward impact on our player numbers. The good news is that it looks as though the decline has eased. We now need to grow, increase revenue, and reduce costs. At the 2023 AGM, Council approved Capitation fees effective 1 April 2024 at \$20 per player. Masterpoint fees across all levels were increased in line with inflation along with the commencement of a three-year adjustment to gold points to align with the top level red masterpoints. While costs have gone up, we are very excited by the benefits myABF is already providing congress tournament organisers, clubs, and players over the next two years and beyond.

Jenny Thompson advised Council on the progress of the Online Strategy committee. Surveys of players and clubs have been successful with 155 clubs, approx. 50% of affiliated clubs, and 2,490 members responding. The committee has now formed small working groups which will provide a more in-depth analysis of each aspect. A final report will be presented to the Board by October 2023 and discussed at the ABF Council mid-term meeting. The interim report can be viewed at <https://www.abf.com.au/abf-online-committee-interim-report-april-2023/>.

Richard Ward highlighted the changes to the ABF Education structure. New criteria are being established by states and territories for teacher accreditation and teacher recognition has become a state/territory responsibility. Sue Falkingham will take on the role of ABF Teaching Liaison.

ABF Council confirmed the mid-term meeting date as 28 October, 2023, followed by a Board meeting on 29 October in Sydney.

There will be a major calendar review, effective from 2025, will take place at the mid-term meeting.

The best of bridge to you all.



MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox
marketing@abf.com.au



THE GOOD NEWS

Recently the Tamworth Bridge Club was invited to run a stall at the "Loving Your Life Expo" in Tamworth. David Cohen approached ABF Marketing for assistance. Our graphic artist, Angela Bettess, quickly designed a leaflet. We provided advice on a banner and we showed them on BridgeTV "How to Write a Media Release" and then suggested some edits.

David writes, "The two day expo ended this afternoon and we were very pleased with the press (local TV and newspaper) coverage that we received. Around 20 flyers were picked up by patrons and it will be interesting to see what response we get for the beginner lessons that commence on June 1st. We really appreciate the help that you and the ABF have provided."



Club President, Rob Morgan-Jones said that they were "ecstatic over the response the club received from patrons of the recent expo. We want all our members to go home after a session of bridge feeling like they have had an enjoyable time."

Expos and seminars are popping up regularly now, as the retirement market is so large and growing. They offer opportunities to promote your bridge clubs, advertise beginners classes and attract new members. The same approach can be used in shopping centres and street fairs.

If you want assistance contact us at marketing@abf.com.au.

CONGRESS PERFORMANCE SURVEY

The purpose of the surveys is to give us a common format on which we can measure the crucial elements of any one congress and be able to comparatively score a number of congresses.

The factors measured include satisfaction with event selection, directors/scoring, location (Location, Location), venue, food, toilets, break out areas, parking, public transport, accommodation, restaurants, coffee shops, PA systems and an overall assessment.

In this way we can determine the factors in determining the success and failures of individual aspects of running a congress and improve the performance of all congresses in the future.

With so many major congresses being well down on participants, the cost of venues increasing substantially and the costs of accommodation and airfares so high the future viability of congresses is under threat.

If you would like to receive an independent evaluation of these factors and improve your congress please contact

marketing@abf.com.au

We can add questions that you would particularly like answered for your next congress.

53rd Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships

2023 06 09 ~ 06 17

Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Kowloon East

Find IIP

Check Pin Code

Convention Card

Home

Participants

Result

Big Data

Bulletin

News

Open Team

Team

06-09 ~ 06-16

Team list

13

Ladies Team

Team

06-09 ~ 06-16

Team list

11

Senior Team

Team

06-09 ~ 06-16

Team list

8

Mixed Team

Team

06-09 ~ 06-17

Team list

12

Open Pairs

Pair

06-09 ~ 06-17

Pair list

0

The APBF Championships are being held from 9-17 June in Hong Kong. Australia has Open, Ladies, Senior and Mixed Teams competing, and New Zealand has Open, Ladies and Mixed teams entered.

BridgeTV will try to provide coverage of matches when Australian teams will be playing on vugraph. However, we often do not get informed of the vugraph schedule until very late which makes it difficult to promote. So keep an eye on the BridgeTV web site and I will try and put up the timing for Australian matches when they become available. This also makes it difficult to organise expert commentators in advance, so we would appreciate people joining in and enjoying the camaraderie of the BridgeTV Club.

THE GREAT DEBATE – Slow Play Penalties of 19.75 in the USA Playoffs

In Australia the Autumn Nationals were being played in Adelaide and the final of the Open Teams was broadcast live on BridgeTV. During the final, a very interesting discussion occurred about the challenges of an ageing bridge cohort with increasing disabilities. The discussion centred on the US Playoffs, where the legally blind Mike Levine was penalised for slow play.

A huge debate had erupted on Bridge Winners because the Levine Team were penalised 19.75 imps for time violations in 2023 USA Open Playoffs. Levine's team had beaten the Fleisher team by a few points at the end of play. Mike Levine is a visually impaired player. He is granted some assistance in reading cards, as well as an additional three minutes per set (12 seconds per board). There were over 350 comments in the original thread, *Should slow play decide championship matches*, and a further 48 comments to his response to the USBF. A USBF statement included: "There were many accommodations made for Mike Levine including displaying his hand on the television rather than the Chromebooks, allowing him to have a person in the room to help him read the cards and giving him extra time. At no time during the match did anyone on the Levine team inform anyone that these were inadequate."

This edited discussion occurred during the BridgeTV commentary of the 2023 Autumn Nationals Open Teams Final in Adelaide:

<https://youtu.be/wCDLZmVCa70>

Bridge Discussion on Slow Play Penalties of 19.75 of the Mike Levine who is visually impaired in the USBF Open Play Offs and the issues involved.

Speakers:

Allison Stralow, President of the Australian Bridge Federation
Kate McCallum, 7 Times World Champion, USA now residing in Aust
Ron Klinger, writer of over 60 Bridge Books and Bridge columnist SMH
David Beauchamp, Australian Representative, Bridge TV Commentator
Peter Cox, Head of Marketing ABF and BridgeTV Host

Edited discussion occurred during the BridgeTV commentary of 2023 Autumn Nationals Open Teams Final in Adelaide

The Great Debate – Slow Play Penalties of 19.75 in the USA Play Offs

BridgeTV Australia
94 subscribers

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CLUBS UNDER PRESSURE

The Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) conducted the *Your Sport Your Say* research in early 2023, which represents the perspectives of 2,984 sporting clubs across Australia.

The research is well done. The key findings relate to bridge in varying ways:

FIVE KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY CLUBS IN 2023

01. Almost one in four small clubs are considering closing their doors.
02. Rising costs are impacting participation and pushing many clubs toward insolvency.
03. Teenagers are continuing to disengage with community sport.
04. Clubs are struggling with less volunteers and more administration.
05. Clubs want facilities, participation and volunteer support ahead of 2032.

1. Smaller clubs are in more danger of closing. This applies to bridge. In 2022, ten clubs left the Masterpoint scheme and four clubs joined the scheme, which is much better performance than most community sports. However, many small bridge clubs are struggling.

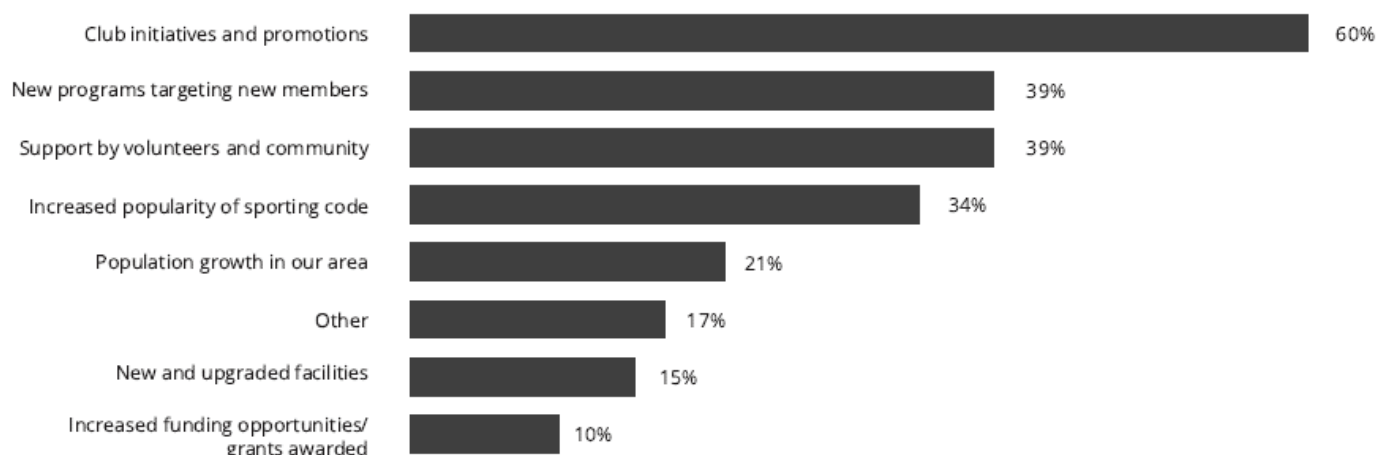
2. Rising costs may affect bridge. Participation in congresses is affected by the increased costs of venues, accommodation and airfares.

3. Teenagers are continuing to not engage with bridge with competing school and other extracurricular activities including video games.

4. Bridge clubs are also struggling with fewer volunteers, officials such as teachers, directors and tournament organisers, and more administration work.

5. The Brisbane Olympics are not so relevant to bridge. However, the priorities are the same for bridge: "Clubs want facilities, participation and volunteer support". These are all points I keep writing about for bridge in my ABF Newsletter columns.

REASONS PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION HAS INCREASED



MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

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



Latest updates – save your settings on the main Congress listing

A feature requested quite a lot has been the ability to save filter settings on the main congress listing so you can focus on events of particular interest to you. This is now available.

There are three ways you can filter the listing:

A screenshot of the filter options at the top of the MYABF website. It shows three dropdown menus: 'State' with 'ALL' selected, 'Congress Type' with 'ALL' selected, and 'Format' with 'ALL' selected.

- **Congress Type** is level of event – typically National, State or Club.
- **Format** is Face to Face or Online (and which platform)

Although you can't filter to a specific club name, there is a search facility at the top right:

Search Upcoming...

Start typing in your club name there and the list will compress further to just your club events.

If you select any combination of these things you will then see up to three buttons at the top right of the screen:

A screenshot of the filter buttons at the top right of the MYABF website. There are three buttons: 'CLEAR FILTERS' with a circular arrow icon, 'SAVE FILTERS' with a floppy disk icon, and 'DELETE FILTERS' with a trash can icon.

- **Clear Filters** will set all filters back to "All" (this does not save anything, it is just a quick way for you to return to the full listing when browsing on this particular occasion).
- **Save Filters** will save the settings you currently have selected (including any search text). The next time you open the page it will start with those.
- **Delete Filters** removes whatever you have saved. The next time you open the page it will start with the full view of everything.

Login tip – use your ABF number!

I have had quite a few people contact support recently saying they've forgotten what email address they used when they registered for myABF and therefore they "can't login".

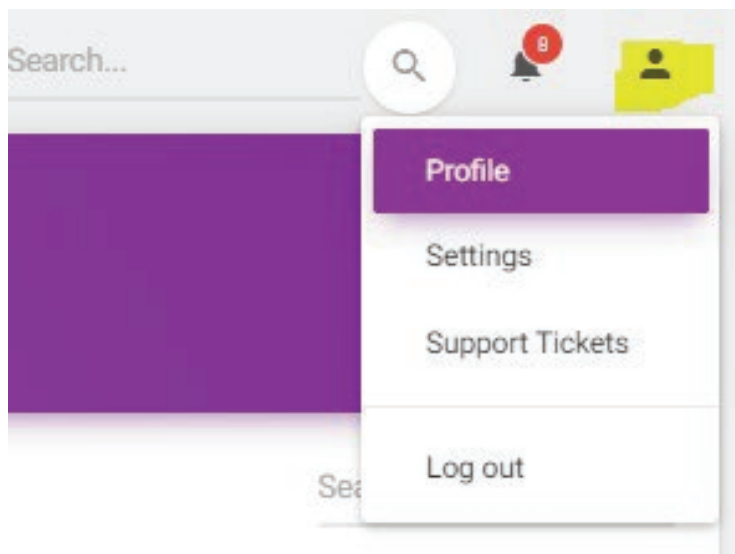
But you don't have to use your email address to log in – check the login screen carefully and it says ABF number or email (see below). So you can always login with your ABF number.

Personally I always use my ABF number – it is far shorter to type than an email address and often easier to remember.

A screenshot of the MYABF login screen. It features an orange header with the text 'My ABF' and a logo. Below the header is a yellow box with the text 'Come on in'. The login form has two input fields: 'ABF number or email' and 'Password'. Below the input fields is a blue 'LOGIN' button. At the bottom of the form are two links: 'Sign Up' and 'Reset password'.

If you can't remember the email address in your account, once logged in, you can always go to your profile page to see and change it if you want to.

Access your profile via the person icon at the top right of the screen (or via the Account menu on a tablet/phone):



Your email is the top left most field in the profile page:

A screenshot of the 'Edit Profile' form in the myABF app. The form has a purple header with the text 'Edit Profile for Julian Foster (518891)' and 'Basic details'. Below the header, there are several input fields: 'Email address' (with the value 'julians_email@gmail.com' highlighted in yellow), 'Australian Mobile Number', 'First Name' (with the value 'Julian'), 'Last Name' (with the value 'Foster'), 'Date of Birth' (with a date picker showing 'dd/mm/yyyy'), and 'BBO Username'. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'UPDATE PROFILE' (green) and 'CANCEL' (blue).

To change your email address in myABF, simply edit it and click Update Profile.

List of clubs in myABF

We will shortly be starting work on transitioning the Masterpoint Centre system into myABF. One part of that involves the list of clubs. We will therefore be setting up a record for each club not already in myABF which will start by importing the information about the club that's in the Masterpoint Centre system. It will sit dormant in myABF for now unless the club wants to become active.

There are now lots of reasons why a club may want to become active in myABF. Far from myABF just being a vehicle to list congresses there are now multiple other club functions available:

- **SETTINGS:** Maintain basic information and build a short profile page.
- **MEMBERS:** Upload and manage a list of members.

- **SESSIONS:** Accept cashless payment from players for table money (and extra items if you want) via bridge credits.
- **CONGRESSES:** Set up congresses and manage entries and payments for them.
- **RESULTS:** Upload duplicate pairs results so players can view them in myABF.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Communicate with members, or tagged groups of them, using customisable email templates.
- **FINANCE:** View and manage the club's "bridge credits" balance with the ABF.
- **ACCESS:** Control who has administration access to these areas.

An introduction and a detailed guide are available on the myABF Resources Club page here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/clubs/>

Club sessions

The pilot program for this area has successfully concluded and it is now possible for any club to take advantage of this feature. It allows clubs to accept online payment for club sessions by bridge credits.

It offers great convenience for players who can literally just turn up and play – no need to bring cash, card, voucher, etc.

It's also far easier for the club as well – it can dramatically reduce the amount of cash a club has to collect, count, reconcile and bank. Even for a club that is already cashless, it still removes the need to issue, track and reconcile vouchers or tokens and to process individual EFTPOS receipts.

Table fees collected by bridge credits later get settled to the club and there are reports available for every session so the financial reconciliation is greatly simplified.

Contact us for more information and assistance if your club is interested.

SMS notifications of tournament results and next round draws

Some people have noticed that the tickbox in the myABF Settings page enabling you to subscribe to SMS notifications is no longer there. This area has been in a state of flux for a while so I thought it worthwhile explaining what's been going on.

First some history. There are actually two completely different SMS notification systems.

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 someone's desk! It proved extremely popular and worked fine for most small events (it is still in use for quite a few).

You sign up for that using the ABF's own form on the website - not via myABF:

www.abfevents.com.au/forms/signup/

That system couldn't handle the larger volumes of the major national events, however. We therefore developed a newer SMS system which was delivered through myABF. But that was not used for every red and gold point event – it was only a pilot for the Gold Coast congress used in 2022 and 2023. The tick box in the Settings page in myABF related only to that pilot system.

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

The latest development, however, is looking at an alternative approach. Instead of SMS, it's also possible to send notifications to phones via an app. This is preferable to SMS because the messages are free and it can also be used by overseas players without an Australian mobile number (a limitation of the cur-

rent system). A draft app was successfully trialled by a small number of people at the Gold Coast this year. The method of subscribing is simply to download the App and login. When logged in it will receive notifications. They look very similar to the existing SMS ones. Here's an example:



More information will be published in due course once the final mix of options has been resolved.

As usual, please contact me with any questions.

YOUTH BRIDGE NEWS with Rebecca O'Reilly

This month we are jumping over to NSW to hear from Mitch Dowling and his experience starting a bridge club in the high school where he teaches.

* * * * *

For the last few years I have wanted to start up a bridge club at a school. As a high school teacher this required a few factors to align: I needed an open-minded principal to let me run a club on my own, and well-behaved students who demonstrated aptitude in their willingness to learn a new thing. Previously schools I had taught at never met both of these criteria and I figured maybe it just wasn't to be.

In 2023 I recently started working at yet another school, this time fulfilling the requirements previously listed. And it has been fantastic so far!

I have started off with one bridge session per fortnight because time is quite limited, but each session has had a massive turnout and the kids love it!

Granted, I haven't properly taught the game of bridge to them just yet. No bidding, no dummy, no scoring. Just leading, playing cards one at a time, establishing tricks, and a little bit of trumps thrown in. Next term I hope to teach them more about counting points and how the play looks when there is a dummy involved. Some kids even have shown interest in weekly after-school sessions, which we are looking into – time permitting.

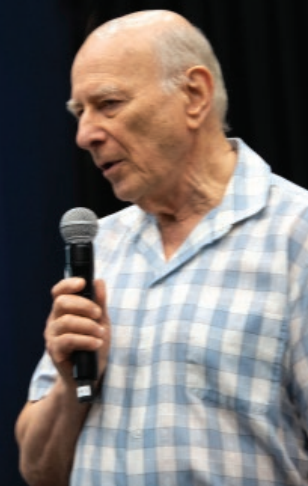
A big thank you to Will Jenner O'Shea, Derrick Browne and Wing Roberts for all your help in giving me the confidence and resources to start up this wonderful club!

Mitch Dowling

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



THE SWINGING DEFECTIVE

Teams, East dealer, East-West vulnerable

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	4♥	pass	3♥
		all pass	

The deal is from a Butler Trials event. After South opened 3♥ and North raised to 4♥, West led the ♣A. East played the ♣7 and South the ♣Q. As East-West were playing low-encouraging, the ♣7 was clearly a discouraging card.

To beat 4♥ West needs to switch to a diamond at trick 2. The defenders then have the timing to collect one trick in each suit.

West feared that South might have ♦Q-x and ♣Q-J or ♣Q-x and a club trick might vanish on the diamonds. He therefore tried to cash the ♣K at trick 2. That was fatal.

E/EW

♠ K 8 7 3
 ♥ A J 6
 ♦ A K 2
 ♣ 8 4 3

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

♠ A J 6
 ♥ K 9 2
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ J 7 6 5

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

South ruffed and played a heart to the jack and king. East switched to the ♦4, but it was too late. West covered South's ♦10 and dummy won. A low spade to the queen won and the next spade was ducked to East's ♠J. Dummy won East's diamond exit and declarer played a low spade from dummy.

East's ♠A appeared and South ruffed. The ♥Q and a heart to the ace drew East's trumps and the ♠K provided a parking place for declarer's diamond loser. 4♥ +420 gave North-South 5 imps against the datum of NS 210. Beating 4♥ is a swing of 11 imps, collecting six instead of losing five.

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2023 Autumn National Open Teams



The main event at this year's ANOT was dominated by two teams: the 7th seeds Neill (Bruce Neill, Kim Morrison, David Weston, Julian Foster) and the 3rd seeds Hans (Michael Ware, Sartaj Hans, Hugh McGann and Matthew McManus, pictured).

Both teams were almost undefeated in the qualifying rounds, with Neill losing just their match against Hans, followed by a one-imp loss in their last match.

JULIAN FOSTER reports some deals from his team's journey to the final.

Board 24 of Match 4 was an example where passive defence is necessary:

Board 24	♠ J 7 4	
W/Nil	♥ 7 5	
	♦ K 10 7 3	
	♣ A K 7 5	
♠ A K 8		♠ 10 9 6
♥ K Q J 10 9 8 6 3		♥ 4 2
♦ —		♦ A Q 9 6 4
♣ 6 3		♣ Q 9 2
	♠ Q 5 3 2	
	♥ A	
	♦ J 8 5 2	
	♣ J 10 8 4	

Playing 4♥ by West, the defence need to avoid giving an entry to dummy. A diamond lead at any point is of course fatal. North can lead a spade once, but not if on lead a second time. South needs to lead a spade when in with the ♥A. In our match one table managed this but the other led three rounds of clubs which allowed the spade loser to be discarded.

Match 5, Board 2 was all about how high to preempt:

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

We started with a tame 2♥, raised to 4♥. North chose not to act over it. Today, this was the wrong decision. 4♥ went one off for a quiet -50 when North-South could make at least a vulnerable game.

The other table were much more aggressive, bidding 3♥ - 5♥! This, however, galvanised North into doubling and, when South showed two places to play, North chose 6♦. This was the only making slam, as the fifth spade provided a discard for South's losing club.

It's interesting that the simple 4♥ bid worked better here. It could be based on a strong hand and leaves North guessing who has the values. 5♥ gives away whose hand it is, but gives the opponents less room to find their contract and hence a greater chance of a plus score if they get it wrong. A classic case of swings and roundabouts!

In Round 6 we played Hans, our eventual final opponents. There were no major swings although, as usual, there was potential! This was the largest swing:

Board 23	♠ —	
S/All	♥ A 7 3	
	♦ A J 8 6 3	
	♣ K Q J 10 9	
♠ 10 8 4		♠ A K Q J 9 7 6 3 2
♥ Q J 10 8 4		♥ —
♦ Q 10 4		♦ 7 5
♣ A 6		♣ 8 2
	♠ 5	
	♥ K 9 6 5 2	
	♦ K 9 2	
	♣ 7 5 4 3	

WEST Weston	NORTH	EAST Foster	SOUTH
pass pass	1♦ 5♣	4♠ ?	pass pass

You don't see nine-card suits very often. I chose to bid 5♠ over 5♣, and was left there. The contract had play because there are three trump entries to dummy. Had North held ♥AK, it would have been possible to take two ruffing finesses against them to set up the ♥10 for a club discard. But on the actual layout there was no chance of avoiding -100. Team-mates pushed onto 6♣ at the other table going -200 for a loss of 7 imps.

It's never easy to decide what to do when you have two suits where one is much longer or stronger than the other. If you repeat one suit you might miss a good fit in the second suit altogether; if you show the second suit you might end up playing in an inferior fit. The South hand on Board 6 of Round 7 was an example:

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

WEST Weston	NORTH	EAST Foster	SOUTH
3♥	pass	2♥ pass	3♦ ?

What should South do? Bruce Neill chose 4♦, and this ended the auction. At the other table Chris Mulley bid 4♣, and when his partner corrected to 4♦ he raised to 5♦. 11 tricks and 6 imps.



2021 and 2023 runners-up in the ANOT Teams:
David Weston, Kim Morrison, Bruce Neill, Julian Foster

Leading with a match to go, we just needed to avoid a disaster in the final round. Board 19 produced a revolting bidding problem:

Board 19	♠ K Q 10 7 4
S/EW	♥ 10 9 5 2
	♦ A 10
	♣ K J
♠ 8 3 2	♠ A J 9 5
♥ Q J 4 3	♥ A K
♦ 9 6 4	♦ Q
♣ 10 9 4	♣ Q 8 7 6 5 3
	♠ 6
	♥ 8 7 6
	♦ K J 8 7 5 3 2
	♣ A 2

WEST Weston	NORTH	EAST Foster	SOUTH
pass	pass	?	3♦

You have to bid something, as partner could be sitting there with a quite a reasonable hand including spades or clubs. I elected to double and, of course, heard the inevitable 3♥ bid from partner! I gave up, and poor partner had to struggle in a silly 4-2 fit going three off. But we actually gained imps as the same thing happened at the other table, and the same contract went four off! There isn't a winning action on the hand – those that did the best were the ones who chose to bid 4♣ and have partner pass it.

After a 1-imp loss at the end of the qualifying we had just, by the skin of our teeth (0.04 VP), held on to first place. The final would be Neill v Hans, both teams about 12 VP ahead of Hinge and Leibowitz who finished 0.01 VP apart in third and fourth.

Board 5 of the final produced a slam swing:

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

WEST Foster	NORTH	EAST Weston	SOUTH
2♦ ?	pass pass	pass 2♥	1♠ 3♠

Tempting though doubling 3♠ was, sadly it would have been competitive. I chose a somewhat wet pass and partner re-opened with 4♦. Now what? There's certainly a case to bid 6♦ now, but I was put off by partner's presumed values in hearts. You also know South's spades are bad so he must have at least seven, quite possibly eight. That creates another risk of South winning ♦A and giving his partner a spade ruff. So I went the conservative route with 5♦ and then cursed at the sight of the perfect cards in dummy! 11 imps out when McManus and Ware bid to 6♦ at the other table.

The biggest action of the set was here:

Board 22	♠ 5		
E/W	♥ A Q J 10 8 7		
	♦ K J 9 8 5		
	♣ 9		
♠ A 9 7 6 4 3		♠ K J 10 8 2	
♥ K 9 6 4		♥ —	
♦ —		♦ 7 6 2	
♣ J 3 2		♣ A K Q 6 4	
	♠ Q		
	♥ 5 3 2		
	♦ A Q 10 4 3		
	♣ 10 8 7 5		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Ware	Morrison	McManus	Neill
4♦ ²	4♥	1♦ ¹	pass
dbl	all pass	6♠	7♥

1. 4+ spades, unbalanced, 10-20 HCP.
2. Splinter.

Neill found a great 7♥ bid which went three off for -500. The defence can take it five off by leading a diamond for three ruffs, but this is hardly obvious. Things took a different turn at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Foster	Hans	Weston	McGann
4♦	4♥	1♠	pass
dbl	pass	4NT	5♦
6♥	7♦	5♥	pass
7♠	all pass	pass	pass

Dave tried Blackwood (not usually ideal holding a void, but it was murky what 5♥ would mean in this auction). McGann bid 5♦ showing diamonds and implying heart support. I doubled showing one key-card (there was no way at this point for me to show the void). Dave asked for the ♠Q, which I showed due to holding extra spade length. I also showed the ♥K which was dubious given it's almost certainly useless on the auction. Hans found the good 7♦ save but

there was a big downside this time. It allowed Dave to make a forcing pass, showing a willingness to play 7♠. Given the diamond void was the only feature of my hand that he didn't know about, I duly bid 7♠ for +2210 and 17 imps. It's not often you can confidently bid a grand slam holding what is effectively a four-count (the ♥K and ♣J being useless)!

Both sides reached 6♣ on Board 46:

Board 46	♠ A J		
E/NS	♥ A Q 8 2		
	♦ J 6 5		
	♣ A 9 8 6		
♠ Q 9 6		♠ 10 7 5 2	
♥ K 9 7 4		♥ J 6 3	
♦ K Q 8 4 2		♦ 10 9 7 3	
♣ 3		♣ 10 4	
	♠ K 8 4 3		
	♥ 10 5		
	♦ A		
	♣ K Q J 7 5 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	1♣
dbl	1♥	pass	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	3♣
pass	4♣	pass	4♦
pass	6♣	all pass	

Maybe if North had continued cuebidding with 4♥, there might have been a chance of reaching 7♣. Normally you wouldn't dream of trying that on a finesse but here, both the heart or spade finesses were odds on to work after West's initial double. Given the state of the match, perhaps it would have been worth a gamble. As it turns out, 7♣ is only on the heart finesse. 7NT can also be made but it also requires the spade finesse and a double squeeze! Finesse the ♠J, cash the ♠A, then run six rounds of clubs and cash the ♠K. As declarer cashes his final winner dummy's last four cards are ♥AQ8 ♦J. West has to keep a top diamond (the ♦J is then thrown from dummy) and East has to keep the ♠10 so neither can keep three hearts. With the aid of a heart finesse, the ♥8 will be the 13th trick.

Thanks to Barbara Travis and her team for the event organisation – let's hope all the major events in our calendar can pick their numbers back up again. We need thriving face-to-face bridge for the sake of the game – online obviously has a place these days but I don't believe the game will survive purely in an online form. Besides, a "proper" congress is so much better as a social experience – for a start you can talk to more than the people at just your table! Hope to see many of you at many more events!



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South African National Pairs

David Beauchamp

After a couple of days sight-seeing in Cape Town, our team competed in the South African national bridge tournament. The tournament ran for a week and was split into a Teams' event and finished with a three-session Pairs qualifying event and a three session final.

The Pairs final had 22 qualifiers and each pair played four boards against each opponent. My partner Ian Thomson and I qualified in first place and Jamie Thompson and Tony Leibowitz came third.

Below are a few exciting hands from the final.

<p>♠ 10 ♥ 10 9 5 2 ♦ 9 7 ♣ J 10 5 4 3 2</p>			
♠ A J 6 2 ♥ Q J 8 7 6 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 9 7		♠ K 9 8 7 5 3 ♥ A ♦ A K 10 8 6 ♣ A	
<p>♠ Q 4 ♥ K 4 3 ♦ J 5 3 2 ♣ K Q 8 6</p>			
WEST Gower	NORTH Thomson	EAST Apteker	SOUTH Beauchamp
2NT ¹	pass	1♠	pass
5♣	pass	4NT	pass
7♠	all pass	6♦ ²	pass

1. Four-card raise, limit or better.

2. Asking for third-round diamond control.

This was an impressive auction to the grand slam! Alon Apteker presumed with a ten-card trump fit, that the trump queen was not an issue.

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

WEST Minwalla	NORTH Thomson	EAST Minwalla	SOUTH Beauchamp
1♠	2♠ ¹	4♠	5♥
5♥	pass	pass	6♥
dbl	all pass		

1. 2[promised five hearts and a five-card minor.

It is often wrong to bid five-over-five, but bidding six-over-five was a gamble. Down one was a great result, but I would have looked silly if East-West had bid on to gin 6♠.

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

WEST	NORTH Thomson	EAST	SOUTH Beauchamp
		1♠	pass
2♠	4NT ¹	4♠	5♣
5♠	6♣	dbl	all pass

1. 4NT promised 6-5 or 6-6 shape in minor suits.

4♠ was insufficient, but the director said I could accept the call, so I did! 6♣ was a good choice – West led ♠2 so the slam made, but we would go one down on an unlikely diamond lead.

Sadly in Australia, there are very few national Match-point events. I really enjoyed the experience of spending time in Cape Town and participating in the South African nationals. We were made very welcome by all the players and organisers.

Next year's event will be held in late February.



Australian players participating in event at the picturesque Newlands cricket stadium. The winners of the Pairs event were current South African team members Rob Stephens and Bernard Donde, with Ian and David a close second.

The Aces on Bridge

by Bobby Wolff



This is the fifth in a series of deals featuring Margaret Bourke. These articles are taken from Bobby Wolff's daily bridge column, The Aces on Bridge, which appears in various publications across the USA. The Aces On Bridge was started by Ira Corn, founder of The Aces, the first professional bridge team. Wolff, one of the original Aces, took over the column in 1982. In it he reveals the secrets of a championship bridge player to both tournament and at-home players.

Defend 4♥ in Margi Bourke's shoes as East after partner leads the ♣4 to dummy's queen and your ace.

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

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

Opening lead: ♣4.

Partner presumably has the ♠A or ♠K – more likely the ace than king. If he has the ♣K, you may well have four top tricks to cash. You could be forgiven

for returning a club before declarer gets his losers away on the diamonds.

However, that is only a danger if declarer has a singleton diamond. With two, he will be unable to pitch his loser in time, as partner will be ruffing. Even if declarer does hold a singleton diamond, he will still have a passel of spade losers.

Your best shot is to shift to a diamond now, aiming to cut the link between declarer and dummy. Declarer wins the ♦J and leads a heart to dummy's king. You win and play a second diamond, cutting the dummy adrift. Partner ruffs the third diamond and exits with the ♥9, leaving declarer to negotiate spades from his own hand. He is doomed for at least two down.

Any other play at trick two would let the contract through. If you played a club, declarer would ruff and draw trumps, then guess spades on a low-card shift, because partner had failed to lead the unbid suit at trick one. A spade shift would not suffice. West does best to insert the nine, but declarer could give up a spade, win the trump shift, (ducked by East) ruff a spade, then ruff a club to hand to give up a trump. East would not have a spade to cash.

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A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

These hands come from Teams, where the safety of the contract is paramount, not overtricks.

Sometimes one changes one's mind as an auction develops. Try this hand:

♠ K Q 3 ♥ A Q J 2 ♦ A Q J 3 ♣ A 6

Partner opened 2♠ showing five spades (our agreement is never six in the major) and 4+ cards in a minor, less than opening values. You are not vulnerable v. vulnerable, so partner can be lighter than when vulnerable (when it shows a 5-5).

It seemed wise to find out partner's second suit, so I bid 2NT – an enquiry. Partner responded 3♦, specifically four diamonds (with five cards in the minor, we bid 3♥: clubs, 3♠: diamonds and we can bid four of a minor to show a 5-6).

Without much in the way of discussed continuations, it seemed practical to bid a slam; partner held the right minor for my hand. However, the choice of slam was 6♦, which allowed for a bad spade break (say 4-1 with J-x-x-x). Partner held:

♠ A J 8 7 4 ♥ 7 ♦ K 9 8 2 ♣ 9 5 4

Nice key cards though with diamonds 4-1 (singleton ♦10), 6♦ was comfortable and 7♦ involves trumping two hearts in dummy, before drawing trumps. Dummy's remaining cards can go on the spades.

Remember that 4-4 fits tend to play better than 5-3 fits, because the outside five-card suit can provide discards.

This auction amused me:

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

North held:

♠ K J 5 4 ♥ 9 8 7 4 ♦ K J 9 8 6 ♣ —

and suspected that the takeout double was about to be passed out (correctly!), so chose to 'rescue' immediately. Why was the auction amusing? Because West had likely shown a four-card spade suit with their negative double, but we landed in our 4-4 fit regardless. Not only that, but 2♠ doubled was cold, partner holding:

♠ Q 10 8 3 ♥ K 10 ♦ Q ♣ A J 9 7 4 2

Whilst one is discouraged from leading unsupported aces against suit contracts, there are times when one should. Your opposition have voluntarily bid to 5♠ and you are on lead with:

♠ Q J 7 3 ♥ J 6 4 ♦ A 9 7 6 ♣ 8 7

You know your RHO holds the spade length, so your hand may hold three defensive tricks. Make sure that you cash any outside aces immediately, before declarer can take discards:

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

If you don't cash your ♦A at trick 1, when declarer finds the bad trump break he can use dummy's clubs to discard his diamond loser.

The defence failed this challenging test:

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

After a competitive auction, with North-South bidding spades (and West wanting to double!), East arrived in 5♦. Can you find the defence to defeat the contract? (Only two pairs defeated the contract, and I know that one of these declarers refused the diamond finesse to go down, deciding that the ‘free’ entry to dummy was a Greek gift.) South has to cash the ♥A and ♥K, then switch to the trump! North simply covers the card played from dummy, and declarer can never reach dummy, so should lose the ♣Q at the end.

Sometimes one can draw inferences which carry through the whole hand, as happened on the next hand.

	♠ A 9 7		
	♥ 8 4 2		
	♦ 10 6 3		
	♣ 10 8 4 2		
♠ J 10 8 6		♠ K Q 4 3	
♥ J 9 7 5 3		♥ K Q 10 6	
♦ 7 5		♦ A K J	
♣ 7 5		♣ K 6	
	♠ 5 2		
	♥ A		
	♦ Q 9 8 4 2		
	♣ A Q J 9 3		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	2NT ²⁰⁻²²	pass *
3♣	pass	3♥	pass
4♥	all pass		

West was relatively aggressive looking for game opposite a 20-22 point hand but, once East held

four hearts, bidding game in hearts was reasonable. South, on the other hand, had definitely hesitated after the 2NT opening bid, and clearly had a problem, before deciding to pass.

She led the ♥A then switched to the ♠5 and, if North had switched to clubs, there was no chance. North, however, won the ♠A and returned a spade (playing declarer for five spades and four hearts? – or for partner to trump with no trumps remaining? – stop and think when defending).

Trumps were drawn in two more rounds, then South’s shape was exposed with the remaining rounds of spades – with 2-1 in the majors, South must have wanted to show a minor two-suiter. The discards seemed to indicate that the ♣A was offside, and suddenly the line of play was obvious, using South’s hesitation in the auction, shape and discarding.

It was just a matter of cashing the last two trumps, exerting impossible pressure on the South hand.

On the last trump, this position arose:

East	
♦ A K J	
♣ K	
South	
♦ Q 9 8	
♣ A Q	

with South still to discard. If she threw a diamond, there were three diamond tricks. If she threw a club, a club exit left her to lead into declarer’s ♦A-K-J, for ten tricks, no matter what.

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com



RHO OPENS A STRONG 2♣

What would you call on the following hands, nil vulnerable:

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

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

SOLUTIONS

1. Pass. After a Precision 2♣ opening, 11-15 with 5+ clubs, an overcall at the two-level would show a good hand and more often than not your side would have the balance of power.

The situation is much different when your RHO opens a strong 2♣, announcing they want to go to game 98%

of the time. Now you are the preemptor, the underdog. You have a good hand with a bad suit, so pass and defend.

2. 2♠. You don't have much of a hand but you do have a good suit and your spades rank highest. You have more to gain than lose so get in there and hope to at least inconvenience opponents.

3. 2♥. There is a temptation to pass and hope that opponents end up in 3NT and you can take the first five tricks without breathing hard.

Not a good idea and strongly recommended is 2♥. Maybe partner can bid 3♥ or 4♥, and getting the right lead is all important. If you pass they may reach 3NT with partner on lead. Misery. They could also reach a suit contract with partner on lead. More misery.

4. 3♠. You could bid a meek 2♠ but because your RHO has announced game-going values you have a bigger budget and with your strong suit and good shape you should risk 3♠ to cramp their auction.

5. 3♠. You have a lot of losers and a broken suit seven-card suit and 4♠ seems too much. You don't want to go three down doubled for -500 if opponents only have a game on.

6. 4♠. This time your semi-solid suit gives you more protection and bidding 4♠ is a good risk.

7. 4♦. You have quite a good hand and you trust your RHO's 2♣ opening so you preempt to your limit. With all your losers (and defence) 5♦ would be too much. With a diamond fit your partner can bid 5♦.

8. 2♠. Your only choices are to pass or to bid 2♠ and hope to get a chance to bid hearts later.

A good solution is to play RCO (RANK-COLOUR-ODD) against strong 2♣ openings, as well as over strong 1♣ openings. Against 2♣, double is at least 5-4 with two suits of the same rank (spades and hearts, or diamonds and clubs); 2♦ is two suits of the same colour (spades and clubs, or hearts and diamonds); and 2NT is the two odd suits (hearts and clubs, or spades and diamonds). Responder's replies are pass or correct, thus maximizing the preemptive effect.

9. 3♥. Not a pretty hand to make a jump but keep in mind you are the preempting side and an overcall of 2♥ won't have much impact or opening lead-value.

10. 2♥. With your freak your plan is to bid both your suits. With as little as four diamonds and one heart opposite you are a big favorite to make 12 tricks in diamonds. The hand came up at the Illawara Bridge Association 2022 pre-Christmas pairs:

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

We were warned there might be some trick deals but this took the cake. I was North and my dear wife Helen was South. Helen opened 2♣ and the next hand bid 3♥. I looked at my bizarre collection with one ten and three lots of 2-3-4-5 and passed, and the bidding went back to Helen.

What would you do on her hand? With barely a second's thought Helen passed! I got quite a shock, but after a few inaccuracies in the play declarer made just two tricks for -700. Note declarer can ruff the opening lead and play diamonds to guarantee seven tricks.

After the deal, Helen suggested that I should have doubled 3♥ for takeout.

As you might well imagine, some Souths opened 7♥, and, after calculating they had seven hearts to South's maximum of six, West doubled.

The next day I was looking through Marty Bergen's classic *Points Schmoints!* for a lesson hand, and discovered this deal on page 149. It is the famous Mississippi Heart hand, where gamblers in the 1800s lost fortunes at Whist, backing themselves to take all the tricks with hearts as trumps.

Nothing much has changed, except now players lose only matchpoints instead of their mansions or large amounts of their cash.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

28th Barrier Reef Congress

May Day Long Weekend

3rd - 6th May 2024

Venue - 500 Pavilion

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Tournament Organiser - Diane Morgan 0427574328

Youth Bridge Fundraiser Trivia Night

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of entertainment and brain-teasing challenges at the Youth Bridge Fundraiser Trivia Night! Join us on Sunday evening, 11 June, as Real Deal Bridge proudly puts on this exciting event at the Moonee Ponds Bowling Club in Victoria. Prepare to be dazzled by an array of mind-bending puzzles including some puzzles donated by the brilliant David Astle.

Beyond the promise of a fun-filled and intellectually stimulating night, attendees will be treated to a delectable winter meal provided by Brother Hen.

And let's not forget the incredible prizes awaiting our participants! Thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsors, the Australian Bridge Federation has generously donated 1000 Bridge Credits, valued at \$1000. Additionally, TBIB, the renowned Tony Bremrose Insurance Brokers, has provided a cash donation for us to acquire more fantastic prizes.

Here are the essential details you need to know:

Date: Sunday, 11 June, immediately following the conclusion of the VCC event (Trivia starts approximately at 7pm)

Cost: \$65 per person, inclusive of a sumptuous dinner, a welcome drink, and an assortment of entertaining games.

Venue: Moonee Ponds Bowls Club, located at 776 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.

Registration: Pre-registration is absolutely essential, and you can secure your spot by visiting

www.realdealbridge.com/vcc-trivia-night

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to ABF, TBIB and Leeron Branicki for their generous prize donations, and several bridge clubs have kindly donated lessons and duplicate sessions to further enhance the prize pool, including Ballarat Bridge Club, Canberra Bridge Club, Joan Butts Bridge, Kattery Bridge, Kenmore Bridge Club, Mornington Bridge Group, Northern Suburbs Bridge Club, Patterson Lakes Bridge Club, Paynesville Bridge Club, Sydney Bridge Centre.

Mark your calendars and join us for a night of thrilling trivia, the opportunity to win some great prizes and this incredible fundraising event in support of youth bridge. Secure your place now at

www.realdealbridge.com/vcc-trivia-night

We look forward to welcoming you on 11 June!

If you are unable to attend the event but would still like to contribute to this wonderful cause through a donation, please feel free to reach out to Laura at

laura@realdealbridge.com

Your support is greatly appreciated!



ABF Foundation News

Thanks to the wonderful support of our donors, the ABF Foundation has now accumulated an amount of funds which we are putting towards the support of our first key project – the rejuvenation of bridge in universities.

In early 2023, the Foundation ran a test program aimed at regenerating bridge at an Australian University - UNSW. Our test case identified several factors which will be required to make this initiative successful which include:

- an active youth bridge player who is a student at the University who is willing to be involved; to engage with potential players during Orientation-week and generally drive the program at the university;
- access to and use of University social media accounts to advertise and promote the 'University Bridge Club';
- support from the local State Federation's youth group to support bridge education and learning amongst students who sign up.

We plan to fund this initiative further in 2024 and will be keen to hear from any State or Territory who has a youth player(s) undertaking studies at university who may be willing to get involved with supporting this initiative. More news on this fabulous initiative will be provided in future editions of the ABF newsletter as it takes shape.

During the ANOT, ABF Foundation Trustee Sophie Ashton spoke to players about the Foundation and its objectives. We received feedback asking about providing more information on how to leave a bequest to the Foundation in your will. A detailed guide with suggested wording on this is available on our website at

<https://abffoundation.org.au/bequests.asp>

Earlier this year Andrew Richman stepped down from his role as Chairman of the Foundation due to personal commitments and we thank Andrew for his leadership over the past two years. Andrew will remain on the Board as a trustee. The Trustees unanimously elected Kim Frazer to the role of Chairman.

Many of our trustees including Andrew Richman, Simon Hinge, Kim Frazer and Mimi Packer will be playing in the VCC in Melbourne in June. If you are interested in making a donation or bequest, or just talking to one of us about the Foundation's work and its goals, please come and say hello to one of us.

Apology: In the previous issue we reported that Tony Nunn and Phil Hassall won both of the Pro-Am events, held in January and March. In fact, the East-West winners in January were Kate McCallum and Alan Stoneham.

WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with William Jenner-O'Shea

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: ATTITUDE SIGNALS

This month's face-to-face workshop focussed on defending, and a large part of the lesson involved attitude signals. I play and recommend Reverse Attitude (sometimes called Upside Down), where a Low card suggests you Like the suit.

The most common and useful application of Attitude Signals are at trick one, when partner leads a suit.

If your partner makes an opening lead of an honour, or dummy plays a card that you can't beat, then the card that you play is a signal. A low card says, "I like your lead, and I can help, please continue playing the suit," and a high card says, "I can't help, you are on your own."

Imagine that you are defending against a notrump contract, and your partner leads the ♦A. Which cards would you play from these four example suits:

- 1) ♦ Q 9 3 2
- 2) ♦ 10 9 3
- 3) ♦ 8 2
- 4) ♦ 5 4 3 2

The first thing to think about is what your partner is leading from. The lead of the ace is from at least the ace and king, and often the queen, and usually from a long suit. Before giving your signal, think about whether your cards could help partner if they were to continue playing the suit.

On the first example above, you have the queen, which is the next winner after partner's ace and king – you should play the two (low encourage). On the second example, your ten and nine are not winners, so you should play high to discourage – play the ten, not the nine, to make the signal clear. On the third example, you can't help partner so play the eight – this is not showing a doubleton, it is just discouraging. The fourth example is interesting, since you don't have any honours, but you do have a long suit, and often in notrumps you should encourage if you have length in the suit.

Let's take a look at a similar set of problems, except this time you are defending a suit contract.

Partner leads the ♣A.

- 1) ♣ Q 9 2
- 2) ♣ J 7 3
- 3) ♣ 8 2
- 4) ♣ 5 4 3 2

Against a suit contract, partner will usually have two touching honours, so you should assume that they have the ace and king, but not always the queen.

On the first example, your queen is the next best card after partner's ace and king, so you should Encourage by playing the two.

The second example is trickier, since your ♣J looks like a useful card, but if partner plays their ace, then king, then another club, your jack usually won't be a winner. You should discourage by playing the seven (high discourage, but don't use honour cards to signal with).

The third example is commonly misunderstood, since people are so used to thinking, "Lead Top Of A Doubleton". Since you are signaling, you would quite like your partner to play their ace, then king, then another club which you could trump. You should play the two to encourage. Partner doesn't know if you have the queen or a shortage, so should play the king next before playing a third round.

The fourth example is clearly a case where you don't like the suit, and can't help, so you should play the five. Note that there is no rule for which card is high or low; it is relative. The five is your highest. This is not always easy to do, but remember that partner can see their cards, plus dummy, and whatever card declarer plays. Despite the fact that your five is high-but-not-very-high, partner won't be able to see any of the two, three or four, so might be able to work it out.

Signaling is not always easy, but the most effective way to improve your defence. It is not perfect, but it is better than nothing and the defenders need all the help they can get.





TEACHING TIPS

with Ian Dalziel

ESTIMATING YOUR MATCHPOINT SCORE

As far as I know, most bridge clubs in England use Matchpoint scoring at pairs, to such an extent that the word 'Pairs' is synonymous with 'Matchpoint scoring'. This isn't strictly correct as there are other forms of pairs scoring – some clubs use Butler (or cross-imp scoring) which is effectively teams scoring at pairs. In Scotland, many clubs use aggregate (total point) scoring and Matchpoint scoring alternately. On the other hand, rubber bridge is still popular in England but rarely played in Scotland.

Let's stick with Matchpoints though. When I started bridge, it took several hours to manually score the weekly duplicate; now all you need to do is enter the data in a computer which takes a fraction of the time – and if you have Bridgemates it's all done automatically. Hence, no-one needs to matchpoint a traveller manually any more, but it's essential to know how it's done because you need to know what you are trying to achieve when playing matchpoints.

For this reason, I devote a complete lesson to this topic, usually in the second year. I matchpoint a traveller on the whiteboard/screen with the students' help, show them the recapitulation sheet/matrix leading to the final result with the percentages. We then look at a few matchpointed travellers which show how small differences in actual scores can lead to a large difference in matchpoints and vice versa. Matchpoint tactics is a vast subject and books have been written about it so I just scratch the surface; my main aim of the lesson is to give them an understanding of the mechanics of matchpoint scoring.

Matchpoint scoring means you get two points for every pair that you beat and one point for every pair you tie with (playing your way) on each board. If you beat every other score on the board you get a 'top' which is twice the number of entries on the traveller excluding your own. Your matchpoints are totalled

and converted to a percentage of your maximum possible score (if you got a top on every board). Sounds simple enough, but how can you be sure that everyone has understood your presentation? Well, unless you are a mind reader, you can't – the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Just as the best way to learn card play is with the cards in your hands, the best way to understand matchpointing is to do it yourself.



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

After the spoken lesson, the class play random hands which have plenty of scores on the travellers, having been played at other classes. The players stay at the same table and the boards circulate. After each board, they enter their score on the traveller (shown in yellow) then calculate only their own matchpoints and the current top on the board. This is entered on a separate scorecard as shown. There is one scorecard per table so it's a combined effort but I ensure everyone at the table understands it.

So it becomes a mini competition between NS and EW at each table and it doesn't matter that the tops are different on each board. At the end, the NS and EW columns are totalled and converted to a percentage of the total TOP column. It's good fun and I assure you they all understand matchpoints by the end of the lesson.

Now let's move on to the bridge club; assuming you don't have Bridgemates, you need to be able to quickly estimate your matchpoint score on each board by looking at the traveller. This enables you to know if you have done well or badly and why. There isn't enough time to work it out accurately, but an estimate is good enough. A pairs session usually consist of 24-27 boards, so each board is worth about 4% of your total score (100/25). You score each board ac-

ording to the table shown and write it on your personal scorecard. At the end, you total all your pluses and minuses and add it to 50% (par) to get your final percentage. You can keep a running score if you wish.

The first few boards will be an inspired guess as there won't be many scores on the traveller, but towards the end of the session your scores will be quite accurate. The main benefit of this method is that it forces you to 'think matchpoints' and that's really important.

You can check your estimate when the final scores are published, often your errors cancel out and you can be amazingly accurate. If your club publishes the results on their website or emails them out, you can study the travellers in more detail, especially if a hand printout is available too (with computer dealt hands).

It's true that Bridgemates can show your current percentage on each board and you also can scroll down to see the other scores, however, I feel I gain more from seeing the 'old fashioned' traveller. So if your club still has them, make the most of it.

NS....John & Susan.....			
EW....Bill & Sarah.....			
BOARD NUMBER	MATCH POINTS		
	NS	EW	TOP
1	13	5	18
2	10	10	20
3	0	16	16
4	8	10	18
5	13	7	20
6	4	12	16
7	18	0	18
8	3	17	20
Total MP	69	77	146
Percent	47.3%	52.7%	
SCORING:- 2 mps for every score beaten your way. 1 mp for every score equalled.			

LOVE ALL				Board...1	
CONTRACT	PLAYER	LEAD	TRICKS	NS +	EW +
4H	N	4D	9		50
3S	E	AH	9		140
4H	N	QC	10	420	
3NTX	S	KS	6		500
3H	N	QC	10	170	
4H	N	QC	10	420	
4S	E	AH	9	50	
3S	E	AH	9		140
3NT	S	6S	7		100
3H	N	QC	10	170	

Anyone wishing a digital master copy of my match-point scorecard should email:

ildalziel@gmail.com

Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK

DESPERATE MEASURES

by Dennis Zines

Last night in a club game, I encountered the following deal. Dealer North, both sides vulnerable:

♠ —
 ♥ Q J 10 7 6 5
 ♦ A Q 6
 ♣ Q 10 5 3

 ♠ A K 7 3
 ♥ A 4 3
 ♦ K J 7 2
 ♣ J 2

After South opens 1NT (15-17 HCP), North transfers to hearts and raises to four hearts. West leads the ♦8. How do you plan to succeed?

It looks a fairly simple deal with just the loss of two clubs and maybe one heart. However, the diamond lead may well be a singleton threatening a potential ruff. For example, if you take a losing heart finesse, then the defence will definitely work out how to get two clubs and a diamond ruff. So, what to do?

The answer is anti-intuitive but offers alternative possibilities. Win the ♦A and then cross to the ♥A (maybe the ♥K is singleton), but no, East plays the ♥9 and West the ♥2. Follow with the two top spades

pitching the two diamonds (one a winner). Next lead another heart, hoping for a 2-2 break.

Again not, as West wins the ♥K while East discards a low diamond. West now leads a spade which you ruff in dummy with East playing the ♠Q. You draw the outstanding trump on which East pitches a diamond.

Last chance. You lead a low club towards the ♣J. Luckily, East has both ♣A and ♣K, so your squandering of the diamond winner pays dividends. You have held the losers to the two clubs and the one heart.

Here is the full deal:

♠ —
 ♥ Q J 10 7 6 5
 ♦ A Q 6
 ♣ Q 10 5 3

 ♠ J 9 8 6 4 2
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 8 7 6

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

 ♠ A K 7 3
 ♥ A 4 3
 ♦ K J 7 2
 ♣ J 2

Notice that your fears of a singleton diamond proved to be correct. So, well done for seeing the problem and giving yourself extra chances for success.



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ENTRY INFORMATION

Please note that entries to the ANC open on the MYABF website.

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