



2024 Barrier Reef Congress

Fred Whitaker

A fine turnout gathered in Mackay for this year's Barrier Reef Congress. They came from not only Queensland, but also raiders from Sydney and Melbourne, not to mention my Kiwi friends who were in attendance.

A very welcome sight were a good number of youth players, who were an absolute pleasure to encounter and wonderful ambassadors for our pastime.

My good mates Duncan Badley, Paula Boughey and Ashley Bach go back more than three decades, so it was a treat to catch up, have dinner and a beer or two – or in Ashley's case a coke 😊.

Now, on to the bridge, the organisation of which appeared to run like a well-oiled machine. Our caddies were brilliant – unobtrusive yet observant – and the directing staff went about their jobs without fanfare. The only grizzle seemed to be about the coffee, for which one had to travel downstairs, and it was not highly spoken of. My thermos accompanied me for morning sessions.

For myself it was a gruelling program, as I play nothing of this length except when I can get to the Barrier Reef, and the years are adding up.

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Cover photo: Barrier Reef Teams winners.

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**IMPROVE
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 with
Ron Klinger
Solution on page 17

Dealer East, East-West vulnerable

♠ 10 7 3
 ♥ A Q J 9
 ♦ J 9 7 2
 ♣ K 8

♠ 9 8 5 4
 ♥ 5 3 2
 ♦ 8 6 4
 ♣ A 6 2



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

West leads the ♠8: three - jack - two. East continues with the ♠Q, won by South with the ♠A. South now plays the ♣4. What would you play as West?



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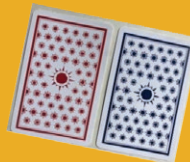
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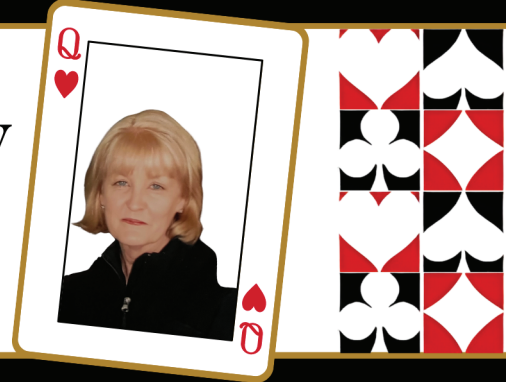


Allison Stralow

President

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ABF AGM and Board Meeting

ABF Board changes

At the ABF's Annual General Meeting held in Brisbane on 24 May, the ABF Board for the period 2024-2026 was announced as follows:

- Allison Stralow, Western Australia (President)
- Jenny Thompson, Victoria (Secretary)
- Dagmar Neumann, NSW (Board member)
- Richard Ward, Queensland (Board member)

The ABF Council elected Dr Laurie Kelso and Julian Foster as Supplemental Councillors for a period of two years.

David Fryda, the ABF Executive Director was also appointed as a Supplemental Councillor.

David makes recommendations to the Council and the Board for the adoption of policies promoting the objects of the ABF. He also oversees employees and contractors of the ABF. David has weekly meetings with key personnel to discuss issues and make recommendations.

Phillip Markey continues as ABF General Counsel as does Professor Michael Bryan as Deputy Legal Counsel.

Retiring Board Members

Rob Ward joined the ABF Board in 2020. I thank Rob for taking on the role of Treasurer in January 2023 and for his considered contributions to the Board. Rob will remain as Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, where his skills will continue to be utilised.

Chris Mulley stepped into the role as Secretary on short notice. His attention to detail and carefully considered views will be missed. This is not a farewell to Chris as he will continue as a BAWA delegate on Council, and he has also offered to assist Phil Markey on legal matters as necessary. Sue Falkingham filled the vacancy as an Ordinary Board member in 2023. The Board thanks Sue for stepping in when needed and for her contributions to Education. We wish

her well as she continues to introduce a significant number of new players to our game.

Retiring Councillors

ABF Councillors are an integral part of the administration of bridge in Australia. Thank you to the retiring councillor Rosemary Mooney from the Northern Territory for her time on the ABF Council. A warm welcome to Eileen Boocock who replaces Rosemary as an NTBA delegate.

Retirement of ABF Secretariat Jane Rasmussen

Jane made the move from Victoria to Canberra 18½ years ago to take on the job as the ABF Secretariat. She quickly learnt the skills necessary to master the role, especially the Masterpoint System when she was in charge for some months as the ABF was transitioning from one person to the other. Jane's knowledge of scoring programs, technology and dealing machines is second to none. When MYABF came on-board, Jane kept herself abreast of all the updates and was able to help people when they could not navigate their way.

We will not lose Jane from the bridge world, as her intent is to increase playing club bridge and attend some more national congresses.

A huge thank you Jane, enjoy your retirement.

New Constituent Association of the ABF

A new entity, Bridge NSW Limited, has been formed to replace New South Wales Bridge Association Limited. The ABF Council, in accordance with Clause 32(2) of the ABF Constitution, approved the withdrawal of New South Wales Bridge Association Limited as a constituent association of the ABF. Bridge NSW Limited will become the constituent association of the ABF for New South Wales, effective from 31 May 2024.

Capitation and Masterpoint Fees

Two resolutions relating to Capitation and Masterpoint fees were tabled at the Annual General Meeting and amendments to the resolutions were pro-

posed and defeated. The original resolutions were passed by the majority of Council. The ABF Executive Director will provide details of the agreed changes in the coming weeks. These changes will be effective from 1 April 2025.

Financial Performance

The ABF's audited financial statements for 2023 were approved by Council. A copy of the statements is available on the [ABF website](#).

National Director Register

The National Event Coordinator Laurie Kelso is responsible for monitoring, mentoring, assessing and accrediting ABF national-level directors. Based on the information received the Board approved:

Promotion to National Director, Level 3:

- Brian Wade (WA)
- Daryl Whitfield (ACT)

Congratulations Brian and Daryl.

Player Behaviour

The Board continues to reinforce the importance of Law 74A: Proper Attitude.

1. A player should always maintain a courteous attitude.

2. A player should carefully avoid any remark or extraneous action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

This law needs to be enforced so that all bridge sessions are enjoyable to all, and we retain players.

Feedback and Future Meetings

The Board welcomes feedback and suggestions on the above matters or other subjects.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday 10 July at the Orange ANC.

ABF Board (pictured):

Allison Stralow (President)

David Fryda (Executive Director)

Jenny Thompson (Secretary)

Dagmar Neumann, Richard Ward (Board Members)

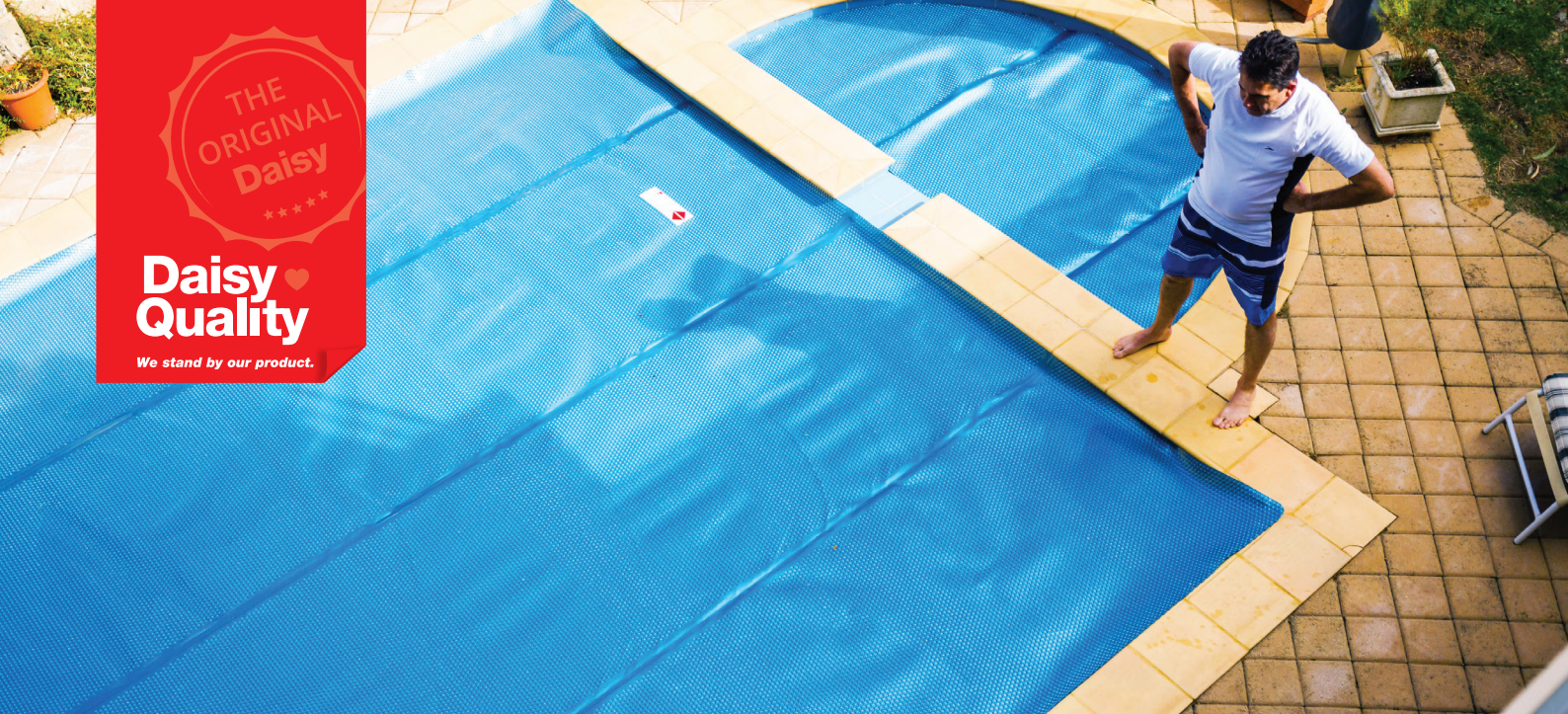
In attendance:

Phil Markey (General Counsel)

Michael Bryant (Deputy General Counsel)

Jane Rasmussen (Executive Secretary)





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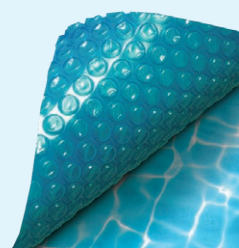
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David Fryda

Executive Director

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It is hard to believe that I have been in my role with the ABF for more than six months already! I know that time is meant to be a constant but it certainly feels like just the other day that I signed up!

Since our last newsletter I have attended both the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide and the River City Gold in Brisbane. Both of these ABF-licensed events were very well run and the tournament organisers deserve a lot more credit than we tend to give them for all the hard work they put in to ensuring we enjoy ourselves. I remarked to someone that the River City Gold reminded me of the country congresses I used to attend in my youth. Everyone was so friendly and the catering was amazing, the scales at home implied that I enjoyed the food way too much! If you would like to see some photos from these events then search for us on Facebook (or LinkedIn).

If you would like to get a piece of this action then in June and July we have three more gold point events coming up: the Victor Champion Cup in Melbourne, the Western Seniors Pairs (for players born before 1 January 1961) in Perth and the Australian National Championships (ANC) in Orange in July. The ANC this year incorporates the inaugural Central West Festival of Bridge, so even if you don't want to play in the championship events, there are a wide range of options available. Details regarding all of these events and more are available on MyABF.

I would like to thank all of the Australian bridge players who encouraged their young family members or friends to sign up for our online lessons for 14 to 24 year olds. We had over 100 potential youth bridge players register for the lessons which ran throughout May. Hopefully, you will start to see some of them playing at your local club soon. Please be sure

to welcome them and encourage them to continue on the path to becoming regular players.

In May, the World Bridge Federation (WBF) hosted a two-day seminar in Bangkok for officers of National Bridge Organisations from across Asia and the Pacific regions. Jenny Thompson and I represented the ABF and we had the opportunity to not only learn a lot about the WBF, but we were also able to network with representatives from New Zealand, Thailand, China, Chinese Taiwan, Malaysia, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan and the Philippines!

The topics covered included youth bridge (Jenny and I presented on the ABF's online lesson program), women's bridge, recruitment of new players, ethics, online bridge and unfortunately, cheating in bridge. There was a lot of sharing by the delegates of both their challenges and the successes. In addition, the WBF facilitators shared with us a lot of very useful resources that have been developed in other parts of the bridge world. I am looking forward to investigating the adoption of some of their practices.

Our youth teams (Under 26 and Under 26 Women's) will be heading off to Poland in July. I wish them all the best of luck for both the pairs and teams events. To keep up with their progress, you can either look on the WBF's website or watch out for our posts on social media.

Finally, by the time you read this article, Margaret Cusack will have started in her role of ABF Executive Administrator, taking over from Jane Rasmussen, who is retiring in July. When you get the opportunity, please be sure to wish Jane well in her retirement and welcome Margaret to her new role.



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2024 Barrier Reef Congress

Fred Whitaker
(continued from page 1)



After a modest effort in the walk-in with my wife Anna, it was a somewhat different game to sit down opposite Ashley an hour later and watch him weave his magic at close quarters.

The Pairs at our table was a bit of a pain, as we declared only 19 boards out of 56, making it hard work.

When scores went up at the end of the event, Simon Hinge and Mike Doecke were on top of the ladder and I congratulated Simon as we passed. That was prior to a rescore which saw them drop to third, with Michael Courtney and Sue Ingham anointed victors. Nice one Freddie! Ashley and I battled away and limped in sixth which was good enough at the dinner table as our teamies were two spots behind.

How would you bid this after partner deals and opens 1♣ (three or more) with opposition silent? We were playing a 12-14 notrump if it helps.

♠ — ♥ K x x ♦ A 9 x x x ♣ A K Q x x

Not having any system to entangle the auction makes it easier, so I blasted 6♣, which partner played very carefully to make. Nine pairs went down, two of them two down. Five made on the nose and two made all 13 tricks. It is a cruel format as our opponents Therese Tully and Richard Ward were powerless, yet went -10imps on the board.

Here is the full deal:

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

My bedtime reading in the days preceding the event had been a couple of Victor Mollo's Menagerie

books. Of course, I was planning to model myself upon the Hideous Hog (HH), who places all the cards at trick one and bamboozles opponents and partner with his brilliancies. The Rueful Rabbit (RR) is often featured in the plots. He blunders about and seems destined to come up smelling of roses despite sub-optimal plays.

After an auction best left 'on tour' HH declares 4♥ from the North seat with

♠ 3 2 ♥ A J 7 6 3 ♦ J 10 8 2 ♣ K 6

after South has opened 1♠ at favourable vul and West overcalled in clubs. The ♣A is led. Dummy is not overflowing with riches, though the lead means there is a place for the potential diamond loser:

♠ Q 10 8 6 5 ♥ Q 9 8 2 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 3

It seems that we need 'only' play the hearts for no losers, and the question is how best to do it.

Clearly the ♥K needs to be onside. Playing as HH demonstrated in my pre-event homework, I won the ♣K at trick two, crossed to dummy with a diamond, and ran the queen of hearts (covered by the king). Returning to dummy with another diamond, and pleased to see East's queen come down, I tried the nine of hearts, to which West followed low.

Now you may well argue that West is marked with six clubs and four diamonds to go with two hearts, ergo at most one spade. But RR had taken over, and the thought never entered my head. So, after some thought, the nine of hearts was run.

In all the books, it holds, and declarer claims, but sadly this did not eventuate. LHO seemed surprised to score his ten of hearts but, overcoming the shock, he banged down the ace of spades. At that, RR ruefully put down his cards preparing to concede one down, but was arrested by partner crying, "The king has come down! You made it!"

The full deal:

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

'Ah yes' I recovered sagely... 'a residual chance 😊'

It would take longer than our readers would choose to spend cataloguing all the errors made in this deal. Good old partner sat there apparently not going through the fires of hell, though how he managed I cannot guess.

There was only one bit of system Ashley tried to introduce, and it revolved around hands with either 25+ HCP, game in hearts or very strong with hearts and another.

So when 2♣ is opened, responder bids 2♦ relay, opener bids 2♥, and responder MUST bid 2♠ to discover what manner of 2♣ bid it was. So help me, it came up! 2♣ he said, and I obediently relayed with 2♦ and alerted his 2♥. Then I had yet another senior moment and raised hearts to the three-level. The moment I had done that, before even the pass on my left, the penny dropped, and after Ashley's 3NT I raised to 6NT (since he was 25+ after all).

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

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

As you can see, 6NT needs a bit of help, but it scored up well. Once again RR had landed on his feet.

In the penultimate round we arrived in a very ordinary 6♣ from, inevitably, my North seat.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

West, on my right, had doubled our keycard response for a heart lead, which would have simplified matters, but East had been playing with Terry Brown all weekend so tried his own king of diamonds.

Now we must bring in the spade suit, and the critical moment was reached after drawing trumps. This time my poor play was not blessed by the Rueful Rabbit's guardian angel.

Reaching the point at which trumps are drawn, two rounds of spades have been played with all following and RHO follows small to the jack. What do you do? If you run it you make of course. Sadly I wasn't up to it. Perhaps someone could point out how it should be played, and why. I have an uneasy feeling I should have been paying attention to East's carding. Some Easts may have been sleepily giving count, but this East was clearly a good player and that would have been unlikely.

For me the Monday morning was predictably my most feeble session, having played 56 boards on each of the three preceding days. The old battery was getting flat.

My back had been to Michael Courtney for the entire four sessions of the Teams, so I was the victim of a number of whacks on or about the shoulders as boards moved about. Michael was gracious enough to apologise at the conclusion of the event on the grounds he thought I was someone else – so it wasn't a complete accident!

There was a super and encouraging performance by the youth team Reid (Lauren Morgan, Alex Goss, Jasmine Skeate, Jeremy Reid), who made a late run into the runner up position. Very best wishes to them on their journey to Poland later in the year.

Ashley is a super partner, and Duncan and Paula kept bringing back scorecards to die for, so old RR (alias Freddie) was able to have his horrors covered at both tables. We were all very proud to have been successful in the John Brockwell Teams.

2024 Autumn Nationals



Barbara Travis

This special deal arose in Match 3 of the Pairs.

Board 5. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

In the Mixed Pairs (12 tables), only Warren Lazer made 6♠. In the Open Pairs (28 tables), only Zoli Nagy and Peter Buchen made 6♠. Well done.

The deal is an exercise in “never give up”, even with the 4-0 trump break offside.

Typically, declarer found North with the four spades and conceded one off. Watch what happens if you play the hand. Bear in mind, South has made a high level preemptive overcall in clubs, sometimes 4♣ and sometimes 5♣ (which was often doubled for 800).

The ♣4 is led and won with dummy’s ace.

You lead a trump towards hand, South showing out. You win the trump, cash the ♥A, and cross to dummy in diamonds. When you lead the ♥K from dummy, South shows out, so you now have a count of North’s hand – four spades, five hearts, one club (likely from the lead of the four, especially if South played the two at trick one), and three diamonds.

You can discard two diamonds on the top hearts, then trump a heart to hand, beginning to shorten your trumps. Now you cash one top diamond, then trump the other top diamond in dummy, so that you can trump another heart.



At this point, North and West are reduced to three spades:

	♠ Q J 5	
♠ K 8 7		♠ 10
	♠ —	

You simply exit with the seven, and North is end-played.

Too many declarers were too quick to concede! I must say, I’m glad my opponent was one of them.

From the Open Teams final, Justin Mill and Hugh McGann combined for a perfect defence:

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

At the first table, South played in 3NT after East overcalled in spades, so West led a spade and declarer had nine tricks. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
McGann	Rew	Mill	Kozakos
			1♦
pass	1♥	1♠	3♦
pass	3NT	all pass	

After South’s mild overbid, there was less bidding space available, leading to North being declarer. Justin Mill led the ♥A and Hugh McGann played the nine, starting a critical unblock. Mill continued with a small heart to the eight and jack. Declarer now led a spade, and Mill rose with his ace to lead the

club nine to McGann's ace. McGann led his carefully preserved ♥3 through declarer's queen-six, and the contract was down two tricks, after a card-perfect defence.

There were two interesting lead hands that I noticed:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

♠ K 4
♥ 8
♦ 10 9 7 6 3
♣ K 10 6 5 3

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

1. Either major.
2. Enquiry.

East's 2♦ overcall showed a single suiter in a major. West has a perfect hand for a preemptive jump to four of partner's major, whichever suit it is. A current response structure: 4♣ asks for partner to transfer to their major (so you become declarer) and 4♦ simply asks them to bid their major.

What should South lead? Logic dictates that they should lead a trump.

Why? South holds 6 HCP and North has shown 15-17 HCP. Therefore, this game has been bid on distribution rather than HCP, meaning you should lead trumps to reduce the ability to ruff.

The trump lead is the only lead to defeat the contract. When partner regains the lead, they can lead

another trump, leaving East only able to trump two clubs in dummy.

In the Open Teams, only one South led a trump, and 4♥ failed. Kudos to Mathew Vadas.

Finally:

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

A typical auction involved East opening spades, South bidding hearts and, in some cases, East saved in 4♠ with South continuing to 5♥, passed out.

What should West lead? Logic dictates that they should lead the ♠K rather than a small spade.

Why? They know there is a 9+ card fit, and therefore it is likely that only one spade will win.

If that's the case, then they will only have the lead once if they lead a small spade. Given partner has the better hand, it may be important to receive a suit preference signal from partner at trick one.

On the ♠K lead, partner plays the ♠2, which should be suit preference for club. West can now lead the ♣J, taking declarer down one trick. Where West led a small spade, 5♥ was cold – making eleven or twelve tricks. Whilst a few Wests led the ♣J, only three Wests led the ♠K, and two defeated the contract. Kudos to Lauren Travis and Andrew Peake.



*Top three pairs from the TBIB Open Butler Swiss Pairs
Ron Cooper - Phil Gue, Mathew Vadas - Jamie Thompson, Axel Johannsson - Kate McCallum*

River City Gold Mixed Pairs

by Kim Frazer

Held at the Toowong Bridge Club in Auchenflower, the River City Mixed Pairs just goes from strength to strength. The event was upgraded to become a national gold point event a few years ago. The increasing popularity of Mixed Pairs events showed, with the event booked out early, and the 106-strong field included many of the top-ranked Mixed pairs from the Eastern seaboard.

Toowong club members did a magnificent job with organisation, providing a multitude of all-day snacks, a yummy lunch on both days and après bridge snacks and drinks at the end of event prize-giving. The ladies in the kitchen were enjoying a well-deserved glass of champers when I left for the airport on Sunday night.

Most of us will be familiar with my partner for the event, Laurie Kelso, who is more commonly seen wearing his director's hat. It is not often that Laurie gets to play in national events, but he is an exceptionally fine card player and I was delighted to accept his invitation to play with him – my first foray into the River City Gold Mixed Pairs. Laurie's go to contract was 3NT and he was declarer in this a total of 14 times making 13 of those – often with an over-trick or two.

Our opening round presented an early challenge as we came up against the very talented Sophie Ashton, who had paired up with well-known international David Beauchamp.

We started with three decent boards, including this one played in 1NT doubled. South opened 1NT and East doubled in the passout seat, showing values.

Board 6. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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



The faces behind the scenes at the River City Mixed Pairs

There wasn't much to the play when West started with a spade, won in dummy where I ran the ♣J around to West's queen. West continued with spades and I again won in dummy and played another club. With the king falling, I could play off the clubs and exit with the ♥K to make seven tricks. Sophie and Dave then reeled off three good boards to level the match and it was an overtrick and a partscore that swung the match our way for a small win.

We won our next two matches and in Round 4 it was the battle of directors as we came up against Simon and Jane Edler. This board helped them to their win against us when I played in the poor Matchpoint contract of 3♦:

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

While ten tricks can be made, on the line of defence taken and having already lost a club, heart and diamond I did not pick the spade suit correctly and nine tricks was a poor result.

In Round 8, Kelso - Frazer came up against the eventual runners up, Paul Gosney and Laura Ginnan. Gosney (East) found a nice endplay on North (Kelso) when declaring 3♠:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both sides vulnerable.

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

On the ♣8 lead, ducked, North won with the king and continued with a spade, ducked around to dummy. Declarer now called for the ♦Q, won by South, who elected to draw dummy's trumps with the ♠A and a low spade, thinking that declarer wanted to ruff diamonds. Gosney then crossed back to hand with a heart to the ace, and played two rounds of spades and the two diamond winners. North had to find a lot of discards and when eventually thrown in with the top diamond, had to lead away from the ♣K into dummy's ace with the ♣J winning the ninth trick.

Round 11 was one of those rounds bridge players hate where pairs sitting in one direction seemed to get all the hands and make the most of the opportunity. We were lucky to be sitting the 'right' way and picked up a great win heading into the penultimate round where we faced Shane Harrison and Jessica Brake who were perhaps a little unlucky on this board after the following auction:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

Holding the West cards, I felt uneasy about having passed 2♥ doubled when dummy appeared holding the ♥10, a huge card in the context of the auction. South had a robust hand for their 2♥ overall,

and maximising the result required careful defence. I started with the ♠10, and after cashing two spade tricks, partner exited a heart won by declarer.

Not many reached 4♠ for East-West, and with 2♥ going two off for 500, we were happy to take the plus result.

This was Laurie's favourite deal from the event:

Board 15. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

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

South led the ♠3 (fourth best) against 3NT. North won with the ♠Q and returned a heart. Declarer won in hand and continued with the ♣10. North won with the king and returned another heart, won in dummy with the ♥K. Declarer now played a low spade from dummy towards the ♠J, won by North with the ♠A, who exited another heart won in dummy. Declarer now played a low club towards the ten in hand (ducked by South) crossed to dummy's last heart, and played ♦J, covered by the ♦Q and ducked. North had no useful exit and declarer was home with nine tricks.

We kicked off the final round defending a grand slam that was pretty much laydown:

Board 19. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

A scoring glitch had delayed this round slightly, and players commenced play not knowing their exact positions, while the scoring team worked out how to resolve the problem. We drew the pairing of Andrew

Spooner and the in-form Ella Jacob who has won or been in contention in a number of events this past year. They reached 7♣ on this board – any time the opponents reach a grand slam at Matchpoints you are pretty much guaranteed a poor result, and Andrew and Ella scored 96% on the board.

The runners-up did even better on the board, as Paul Gosney made 7NT on a squeeze. With North (Harrison - Brake) having made a 1♠ overcall, South duly led a spade to North's jack and East's king. From here, when South holds the ♥J, it is simply a matter of running five clubs and three hearts, leaving this end position as the third heart is cashed:

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

Needing to keep the diamond guard, North has to throw a spade on the ♥Q, as declarer throws the now-useless ♦6. Then two rounds of diamonds, ending in the West hand, force South to also come down to a singleton spade (in order to keep the ♥J).

With a complete count on the hand, declarer can return to hand with the ♠A, dropping the queen to take a well-deserved 100% for the board.

The next board also presented an opportunity for an advantage to be gained when East-West pushed on to 4♥ after the following auction:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

On lead, Kelso (North) opted for the ♦9, promising the ten and a higher honour, or a doubleton. Declarer put up the jack, covered by South's king and ruffed. Declarer then played the ♠A and ruffed a spade in dummy before playing a club up to hand, losing to the ♣A. North opted for another diamond shortening declarer's trumps.

Declarer, hoping for the ♠Q to drop on the third round, crossed to dummy with a club and played a heart up to the jack and North's queen. North cashed the ♥A and exited with a diamond – declarer was forced to ruff with the last trump, and eventually drifted three off.

A few boards later came an interesting Matchpoint bidding problem.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♣ ²⁺	pass	pass
pass	2♥	pass	1♦ ^{hearts}
dbl	3♥	3♠	pass
dbl	all pass		4♥

As South I opted for a pass in first seat at this vulnerability with the 6-4 holding. When partner showed a heart fit and 11-14, I opted for the plus score and passed given the amount of work that might be involved in making 4♥ (at Teams I would have no problem inviting game). Once West balanced with a double and North showed a goodish hand, I had to bid over 3♠ since it was entirely possible that East-West had a lot of black-suit cards. If 3♠ had been making, West now had to double 4♥ to preserve their potential result. This backfired when 4♥ doubled made with an overtrick.

Matchpoints is generally played at the local club in duplicate sessions, but is seen rarely in congresses or national events. The River City event was a most enjoyable weekend and I look forward to returning again in 2025.

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29TH AND 30TH June 2024

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**Melville Bridge Club
431 Canning Hwy, Melville**

Entries: MyABF (using MyABF credits)

Entry fee: \$200 per pair

Director: Jonathan Free

Scorer: Brian Wade

Tournament Organiser:

Josephine Dundas. Phone 0411477194.

josephinedundas607@gmail.com

Prizes: Reflect 50% of net income together with the support of TBIB sponsorship. A perpetual trophy will also be provided by TBIB.

**Prize Presentations & Cocktail Party
Sunday approximately 4:30pm.**

Please note that there will be no lunch available. Lunches can be purchased 5 minutes away across the road.

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



YOUR ACTION WHEN YOUR RHO OVERCALLS 1NT

What would you call on the following hands, neither side vulnerable?

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

SOLUTIONS

1. 2♠. When your partner opens and RHO overcalls 1NT, a new suit by you is not forcing. The theory is that if responder had a good hand they would double 1NT, which is for penalties.

In so many situations the easy way to get a good score is to double opponents for penalties, and this one is high on the list. Experts are constantly on the lookout for penalties at the one and two-level.

2. Double. The strength of your penalty double of a 1NT overcall depends on the strength of your opening bids.

In my partnerships we open all hands with 11 HCP except when 4-3-3-3. You want to have more HCP than the opponents, at least 21 vs 19, so our double is 10+ HCP. If partner's opening is less than 11 HCP with a long suit or a two-suiter they can remove the double.

If you double and all pass, what would you lead? With only a four-card suit, the ♠J lead doesn't seem worth the risk of leading into declarer's ♠AQ. I would lead ♣8 and give nothing away.

3. Double. Having said you need 10 HCP to double the 1NT overcall, with this hand you have an easy lead in ♠Q. You will take at least three spade tricks and two kings in defence. Surely, it's not asking too much for two defensive tricks from your partner's opening bid to defeat 1NT.

4. Pass. You might consider 2♠ but opener could well have a singleton spade, and a 5-1 fit at the two-level would not play well. Pass is recommended but then what do you now lead to 1NT? The choice is between ♠6 and a high heart. The ♠6 is all or nothing so perhaps a high heart is better idea, especially if your partner is good at finding defensive switches.

5. 2♦. When I had this hand recently, I bid 2♥ and opener had four spades and two hearts. 2♠ would have scored +140 but 2♥ was down two.

Highly recommended is that after a 1♣ or 1♦ opening and a 1NT overcall, the other minor by responder shows both majors. Now you bid 2♦ and get to your better major-suit fit in a breeze. Most methods of competing against a 1NT opening include a bid to show both majors as a matter of priority. This situation is no different.

6. 3♦. You would normally bid 2♦ but if that is for the majors it's not on the menu. You have the choice of 3♦ or pass and a lot of good things can happen if you bid 3♦.

7. 2♦. A reminder that 2♦ shows both majors. You only have 5 HCP but the fact you can play in your better major-suit fit makes competing a big winner. Without 2♦ for the majors you would probably bid 2♠ and hope to bid 3♥ later, or meekly pass.

8. 2♣. If you play Better Minor, 1♣=3+ and 1♦=3+, a raise to 2♣ is an easy choice. At worst you have 4-3 fit, which is acceptable at the two-level. If opener has 4+ clubs they can now compete to the three-level or higher and often win the contract or push opponents one too high.

If you play Short Club, where 1♣=2+ and 1♦=4+, you can't bid 2♣ since you could have a 4-2 fit. Of course, you are much better off playing Short Club when you open 1♦.

9. 3♣. Assuming Better Minor, the choice is between 2♣ and 3♣. The overcaller likely has ♣K so you know the finesse is working. If you bid only 2♣, opponents could find a fit and then compete to the three-level scoring 110 in 3♦ or 140 in 3♥ or 3♠. Better to bid a tactical 3♣ now and hope to shut them out.

10. 3♥. You might be tempted to play it safe and bid just 2♥ but you are worth 3♥. If you bid 2♥ you might miss a game in 4♥ or let opponents into the bidding cheaply to find their possible spade fit. Bid the full value of your hand at your first opportunity.

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



SPEEDING TICKET

Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

♠ 10 7 3
♥ A Q J 9
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ K 8

♠ 9 8 5 4
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A 6 2



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

West leads the ♠8: three - jack - two. East continues with the ♠Q, won by South with the ♠A. South now plays the ♣4. What would you play as West?

From Session 3 of the final of the 2023 Australian Interstate Youth Teams:

Board 28. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

♠ 10 7 3
♥ A Q J 9
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ K 8

♠ 9 8 5 4
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ A 6 2

♠ K Q J 6
♥ 10 8 6 4
♦ Q 10 5
♣ Q 3

♠ A 2
♥ K 7
♦ A K 3
♣ J 10 9 7 5 4

After the opponents' auction as above, West led the ♠8. East's ♠J won and East continued with the ♠Q (the ♠K might have been clearer). South won the ♠A at trick two and played the ♣4. West rose with ♣A and continued spades. The defence had four tricks, but when the ♣Q fell under the ♣K, declarer had nine tricks for +400.

With South having shown long clubs, there was no urgency for West to rise with the ♣K. If declarer had seven tricks in the red suits, there was no way to defeat 3NT with one club and three spades. If you duck, the defence can come to two clubs and three spades.

At the other table, South was one off in 3NT. Other results: Open: 3NT +400, +10 imps vs 3NT -50; Women: 3NT -50 both tables; Seniors: 3NT +400, +10 imps vs 3NT -50.

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A GAME AT THE (Young Chelsea) CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

The Friday night game at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London is run as Pairs but with IMP scoring (Teams-style scoring) across the field's results. On the night I played, there were 16 tables (a recent 'high') and we played 13 rounds, so each result was divided by 13, to bring it back to a 'table-style' result.

We sat East-West, though there is an arrow-switch for the final two rounds, so the result is a single winner – a very popular format in my experience at games in England.

Let's start with the most expensive of our bad boards. You are sitting West, all vulnerable, and South opens with a strong 2♣. You hold:

♠ A J 9 8 7 4 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ K 7 ♣ J 4

You really should overcall 2♠, given the six-card suit. If you pass, the auction will proceed:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2♣
pass	2♦	pass	3♥
pass	4♣	pass	4♥
all pass			

Unless you lead the ♦K, which is a viable lead given that overtricks are fairly unimportant, 4♥ will make 10 tricks. However, if you overcalled 2♠, you will find partner raising you to 4♠. 4♠ also makes ten tricks, though South is likely to bid 5♥, but at least you take that down, for a plus score.

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

4♥ making cost us 8.67 imps; 5♥ down one would have gained us 4.67 imps. Nobody was allowed to play in 4♠.

The following deal had its humorous elements:

♠ A Q J 8 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ A K 2 ♣ Q J 8

We were playing Acol (weak 1NT, four-card suits), so I decided to open 1♠, planning to rebid 3NT. Partner, however, responded 2♥ (10+ HCP, 5+ hearts). I decided this hand looked better played from my hand, given how balanced it was, and rebid 2NT (game forcing, 15+ HCP). Partner now rebid 3♠, showing 3+ card spade support, and I rebid 3NT, confirming only four spades. Partner now corrected to 4♠, showing four spades and about 11 HCP – this was an auction we had already had earlier in the evening! Partner's hand:

♠ K 10 9 6 4 ♥ 7 6 ♦ Q 5 3 ♣ 9 4 3

He'd psyched his 2♥ response! But, of course, there were four top losers in 4♠ and... the odds were that we'd have made nine tricks in 3NT! I just told partner that he should have trusted my bidding!!

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

After the 2♥ response, East would most likely have led a club, giving me a ninth trick immediately.

Of course, a heart lead followed by a club switch would damage the contract, but how likely is that on our auction?

4♠ was a normal outcome, losing 1.92 imps. Making a non-vulnerable game would have brought in at least 9 imps.

One of the beauties of this game is that, even each of us having played for 55+ years (individually), partner and I can still witness an auction that neither of us has ever seen before. Try this auction (East-West vulnerable):

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Partner		Me	
1NT ¹	pass	2♠ ²	pass
2NT ³	pass	3♥ ⁴	pass
3♠ ⁵	pass	5♣	pass
pass	5♥	dbl	all pass

1. 12-14.
2. Clubs.
3. Minimum.
4. Shortness in hearts.
5. Spades.

Neither of us could ever recall an opponent coming in at the five-level after passing three times. Obviously North had been 'trap passing' with solid hearts, hoping to defend 3NT. Our auction had determined that 3NT was a poor contract, so I just punted 5♣, which fails on the 7-4-1-1 heart break (a club in North's hand is promoted). Here's the hand:

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

Our auction had identified the heart weakness, though I was being pushy on my East cards – I forgot that we were playing a weak notrump for some of the auction! We took 5♥ doubled down two tricks, but should have taken it down three tricks – dummy's spades were established before the ♣K was removed as an entry.

However, it seems that nobody else had the same auction, or found this sacrifice, so we gained 9.67 imps anyway for our +300. +500 would not have gained much more.

The next hand was challenging for both of us. Nil vulnerable, my hand was:

♠ K Q 10 9 8 2	♥ 10 9 3	♦ 8 5 2	♣ 5
----------------	----------	---------	-----

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
1♣	1♠	pass ¹	pass
2♠ ²	pass	2NT	pass
3♣ ³	pass	pass ⁴	pass

1. I was hoping to hear partner reopen with a double, which I would have passed.
2. Holding 18 HCP and a 0-3-3-7, partner decided to show a strong hand, rather than doubling (which gives us 300 – or more likely 500 – against 1♠ doubled). What could I bid after the 2♠ bid? I assumed 2NT showed spades were stopped and that I held a weak hand but a penalty double of 1♠. With a stronger penalty double hand, I'd have rebid 3NT.
3. Partner thought that 3♣ was forcing...
4. I thought I'd already bid my hand and couldn't see how 3NT could make.

Partner held:

♠ —	♥ A Q 5	♦ K Q 10	♣ A K 10 9 7 6 2
-----	---------	----------	------------------

3NT by East (or West) should fail, on a heart lead. It is an awkward contract, given that my hand cannot be reached. However, I would have preferred to defend 1♠ doubled! We lost 0.42 imp, but could have gained 3.92 for 1♠ doubled (down two) or more for down three or 3NT making. Ah well... it's just a game.

At this form of scoring, which is more like Teams, bidding and making your games and slams is important. Overtricks are less important, generally being worth 1 imp at a time. How would you value this hand after partner opens 2NT (20-22 HCP)?

♠ 7 3	♥ Q J 9 2	♦ 3	♣ K J 9 7 5 3
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One of the other elements of Teams scoring is that one can explore for slam, then subside in five of a minor, for little cost – perhaps losing an imp when you play game in the minor, but gaining a slam swing when that contract is sound.

Ideally, after the 2NT auction, one should use Stayman. If partner shows 4-5 hearts, look for slam. If partner denies four hearts, you can now bid 4♣, showing long clubs (probably 6+ cards) and a four-card major, slam interest. Our North simply rebid 3NT when opener denied a major. 6♣ by South was an excellent contract. By North (as would have been the case) it was on one of two finesses, South's hand being:

♠ A Q 6	♥ A 4	♦ A 5 4 2	♣ A Q 8 6
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The four pairs who bid to 6♣ gained themselves 7.50 imps. Those who played in 3NT, despite making plenty of tricks, lost 3.25 imps. That's simply the way the scoring works.

After the game, the bar was open – till 3am, from what I heard. There was lots of socialising, lots of bridge, lots of discussion and lots of learning (between clients and bridge professionals).

MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

My ABF Project manager
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A name change from “Congresses” to “Calendar”

When MYABF launched over three years ago, the first part built was the ability for tournament organisers to list congresses and take online entry and payment.

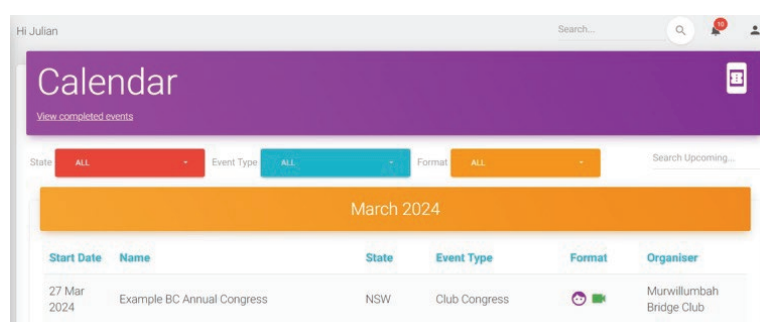
Whilst that is still a key function within MYABF, it is no longer anywhere close to being the only thing available.

What’s more, calling the main listing page “Congresses” was becoming increasingly inaccurate, because all of the following things have at some stage now been listed on the page:

- Congresses (at all levels)
- Multi-week club events
- Single weekly club events (e.g. a red point duplicate session)
- Workshops
- Lessons
- Dinners
- Club membership renewals (this was a bit of a “fudge” just to offer a bridge credit payment facility – a full member management function is in the process of being developed).

Basically, anything where an organiser wants to collect entries and/or payments in advance can use this listing. Where entries are not taken in advance the club sessions function can be used instead – that’s where a list of player names/numbers is uploaded on the day and charges applied at the time.

So, to better reflect the ongoing use of the main listing, it has been renamed from “Congresses” to “Calendar”. Here’s a guide to the main changes you will see:



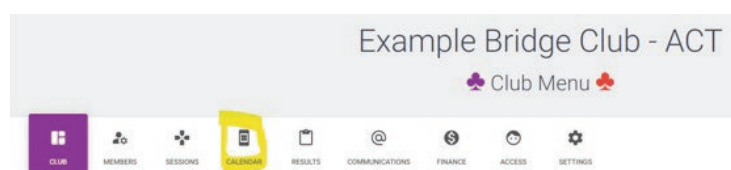
The following changes have been made:

1. The main menu item and main header is now “Calendar” instead of “Congresses”.
2. The link to view past events now says “View completed events” instead of “View completed congresses”.
3. The “Congress Type” filter has been changed to “Event Type” (but the selection options are the same).
4. The “Congress” title has changed to just say “Name”.
5. The “Congress Type” title has changed to say “Event Type”.

As part of this change in the main menu, we have also moved Congresses (now Calendar) to the first item after the dashboard, as it tends to be the most common place users visit.

Impact on Club Administrators

For people with club administration access, a similar change from Congresses to Calendar has been made in the Club Admin menu:



However, the content within that section is unchanged.

Impact on Tournament Organisers

For tournament organisers, you use the Calendar area of Club Admin to manage the initial creation of your events. But thereafter the existing structure remains, so you will still see references to “Congress” in the setup and management screens there. Whilst the main listing page will no longer say “Congresses” at the top, as you will see from the screen example earlier, you can always include the word Congress in

your event title if you wish to emphasise that your event is indeed a congress.

What are we currently doing?

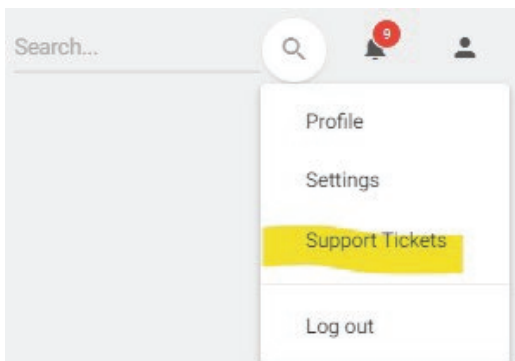
At present our focus is still mainly on Club Administration. As well as the Calendar change, the most recent release contained a lot of enhancements to the email functions available to Clubs (and now also to Tournament Organisers).

Our next major focus is to complete the membership handling module. At the moment clubs can upload their member list but it's just a current listing. They can't yet track which members have paid to what dates, or process annual membership renewals. These features are being added, and will also give the option for membership to be paid via bridge credits.

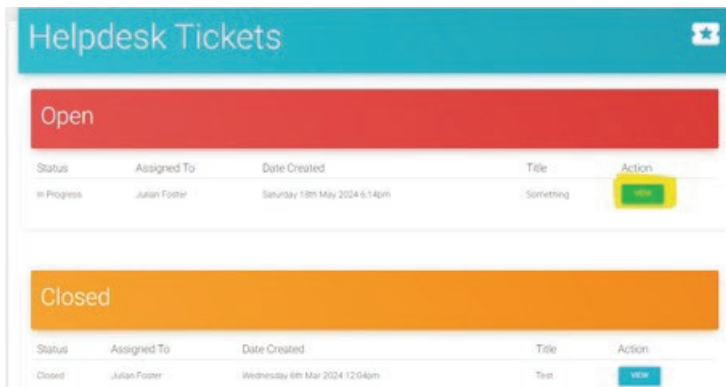
Scheduled release date is September/October 2024, in time for clubs with 31 December membership years to use for their annual renewals.

Tips and Tricks – Support tickets

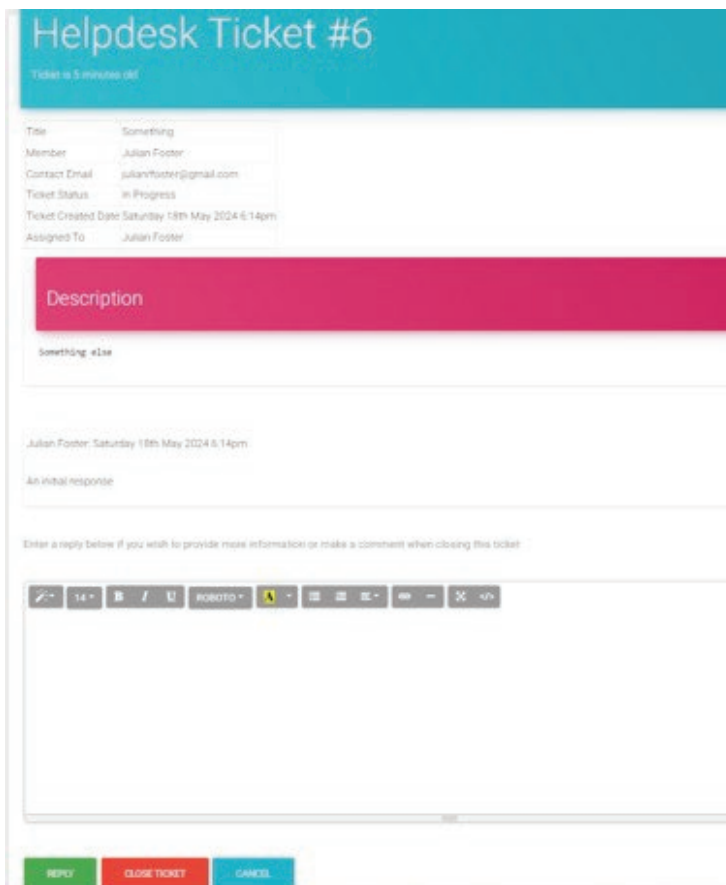
I reckon that when I respond to a support ticket, even when I have not resolved the query but am instead asking the person a question, over 80% of the time I never hear anything more. Hopefully that's because the issue gets resolved. But if you are logged in you can always view any support ticket you have raised and add further comments. It's done through the same area you reach your Profile and Settings pages at the top right of your screen (or via the Account menu on a tablet or phone):



Support Tickets will open a page showing all your tickets, split between open and closed ones.



Click View to open the details where you can then add a further reply or close the ticket yourself:



Continuing a discussion in a single ticket is much better than raising new ones each time because it keeps all the previous dialogue in one place.



Territory Gold Bridge Festival



at the

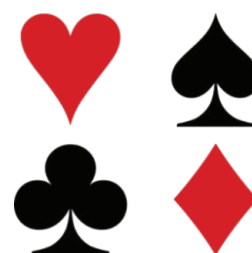
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Darwin is very busy in August*



Chief Tournament Director:
Tournament Organiser:

Matthew McManus
Pam Nunn 0402 852 820
tqbf@abf.com.au



WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

DECLARER PLAY IN 4-4 FITS

This month's Workshop looked at declarer play, and had a discussion about playing in 4-4 fits.

Here is an example where you and your partner have an uncontested auction:

Dummy (Responder)

♠ 9 8 5
♥ 9 8 6 3
♦ A K Q 8 3
♣ 7

You (Opener)

♠ A K 3
♥ A K Q 2
♦ 6 4
♣ J 6 5 2

You open 1NT, 15-17. Partner bids Stayman, and then raises you to 4♥.

They lead the queen of spades against your 4♥ contract.

If you win the opening lead and start drawing trumps, East only has one heart, and starts discarding clubs. You could potentially draw two or three rounds of trumps with your ♥AKQ and leave West with the ♥J as a winner.

It is well-known technique, that when the opponents have one trump left, and it is a winner, you should leave it outstanding.

If you switch to diamonds now, you can play the top two diamonds, but when you lead the ♦Q, West can trump, and dummy's little diamonds are not yet winners. Dummy has one trump left, but can't establish their diamonds anymore.



You have four little clubs, which are all losers, and 4♥ will now go down.

Note that if you stopped drawing trumps after two rounds, seeing that East had shown out, you could end up in the same unmakeable position if West leads back a trump after ruffing your ♦Q winner.

One useful technique, when handling a bad split, is to play your winners, and even though West trumps, they are trumping with a trump that was going to win anyway. This sometimes helps you keep control. The issue on this hand though is that there are bad breaks in both diamonds and hearts, and you don't have enough tricks.

If hearts and diamonds had split nicely, this hand would have easily made, and possibly made up to 12 tricks. However, the bad breaks mean that you are at risk of going down.

One tip about playing in 4-4 fits is that if one hand has very strong trumps, they can be used to draw trumps. You should look to use the weaker trumps for ruffing, before you draw trumps.

A great way to play this hand is to win the opening lead with your ace of spades and play a club immediately, to void dummy in clubs. You will lose the lead, but when you get the lead back, you can lead your ♣5 and trump it in dummy. If possible, you can try to lead another club and trump in in dummy.

This will get you one or two more tricks than you would have made if you didn't trump any clubs.

An additional tip when you are playing in a 4-4 fit is to usually avoid trumping from both hands, unless you can make enough tricks from completely cross-trumping the whole hand.

Here is a [link](#) to let you bid and play this deal. You can replay the hand to see how it would go if you tried it a different way.



A NEW MEANING FOR DOUBLE DUMMY

"I don't like playing notrump contracts," is a common cry from beginners – even from some who have been playing for years. They even admit to avoiding bidding notrumps for that reason which, of course, means that they don't get any better. In fact, playing a notrump contract is actually easier than a suit contract, because all the notrump skills can be used in suit contracts – though not the other way round, as the trump suit adds another dimension.

There are six basic techniques for playing in no-trumps. These are:

- suit establishment
- unblocking
- overtaking
- preserving entries
- ducking
- the hold-up.

I cover these topics over several lessons, and anyone who grasps these skills will never fear playing in no-trumps again.

In my previous articles on declarer play, I demonstrated my flash cards and wallet pairs, where the students worked in twos, getting much more practice than playing in fours. When teaching notrumps, however, I use normal play with wallets after a short spoken lesson. There is no bidding, the contract is specified (usually 3NT), South is always declarer and they take turns to be South.

These wallets don't include finessing, as that over-complicates the issue, so finessing is taught separately.

There is no need for a 'human' dummy, so they practice in tables of three where possible. This means their turn to be declarer comes around more often. Declarer plays dummy's cards, and a defender turns them over after each trick. Both declarer's and dummy's cards are stacked from declarer's left to right, so that the play can be more easily reviewed if required.

Now comes the radical bit: declarer and dummy's hands are face-up on the table during the play. Although there are two dummies, it's not 'double dummy play' as the word is normally used – the defenders' hands are hidden. From declarer's point of view, it makes no difference; he sees only two hands, as would be the case in a game. Defenders, however, see three hands so can 'work out' the fourth; for them it's true 'double dummy' defence.

There are three reasons for this seemingly bizarre method of play:

1. It's essential that declarer receives the best defence; otherwise an incorrectly-played contract might make.
2. The exercise is not to teach defence; the defenders are merely making up the numbers at the table.

By seeing both hands, the defenders can be thinking how they would have played the contract, but say



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

nothing at the time. So they learn even when it's not their turn, and are better able to discuss the hand afterwards.

3. The teacher can observe the play at any table without having to stand behind declarer.

The contract is played to the point of no return – play stops when the contract is made or defeated. The players then have their own post mortem and play the hand again if they feel it would help.

Each wallet has a booklet with the contract and lead on the outside and the answer inside. The suit to be established is called the 'work suit' and I use the mnemonic WISH (Win In Short Hand) to prevent blocking it.

If the contract fails but no one knows why, the cards are left in order of play and turned over, giving a visual record of the card play – the teacher can show them easily where they went wrong. Hence a written record of card play is not needed.

I put the tables in a circle; at each table the 'true dummy' is nearest the middle of the room and all declarers have their backs to the wall.

The wallets circulate anti-clockwise and each table has an 'IN' and 'OUT' card, and they note the wallet number. They swap seats after every wallet to take turns as declarer.

When explaining a hand, the teacher sits in the vacant chair, which is less intimidating than standing over the players. These hands, though, are really self-teaching, so one teacher can cope with quite a large number of tables.

Each lesson has at least nine hands with duplicates, and they play three each. Some have grasped the topic after the spoken lesson and whizz through the wallets; others are just starting to get the hang of it when time is up. Hence it's essential that the slower students go over the hands from the printouts at home, preferably playing them out with cards or on a computer.

Board 1	♠ J T x x x ♥ x x x ♦ x x ♣ A x x	♠ A 9 8 7 ♥ x x ♦ x x x ♣ Q J T 9
	♠ x ♥ Q J T 9 ♦ K Q J T 9 ♣ x x x	♠ K Q x ♥ A K x x ♦ A x x ♣ K x x
South to make 3NT, ♦K led		
Play: You should hold up the ♦A until the third round of the suit. Then establish spades playing ♠K, ♠Q first. Win In Short Hand.		
Short suits: 5 tricks (♥AK, ♦A, ♣AK). Work suit: Spades will provide 4 tricks.		
Danger suit is diamonds. When opponents get in with the ♠A (in the work suit) they might cash enough diamonds to defeat the contract.		
Why: Holding up the ♦A until the third round means East will have no diamond left (if diamonds are 5-3). You hope East has the ♣A and when he gets in with it has no diamond to return.		

'Play only' wallets are hard work for the students, and 45 minutes is long enough, so they are glad to have their tea break – after which it's computer dealt random hands with post mortems.

I have designed 100 hands in booklet form on basic notrump declarer play (like the one shown). If you would like a free PDF / Publisher copy with associated lesson notes, then email ildalziel@gmail.com.

Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK



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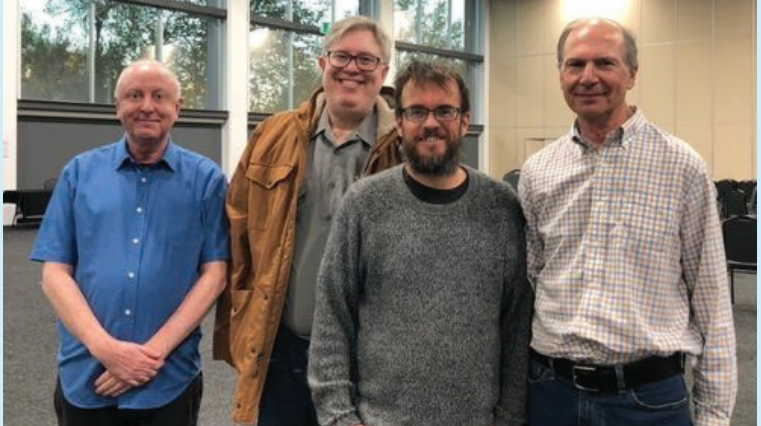
Tournament results

Photos by Helen Rollond, Julie Randall, Di Marler and Marge Henry

Autumn Nationals

TBIB OPEN TEAMS FINAL

Matthew McManus, Hugh McGann, James Coutts, Justin Mill 140 def Brad Coles, David Appleton, Fraser Rew, George Kozakos 126



TBIB OPEN BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

1 Ron Cooper - Phil Gue	114.82
2 Mathew Vadas - Jamie Thompson	107.14
3 Axel Johannsson - Kate McCallum	103.56
4 Paul Weaver - Terry Bodycote	102.14
5 Jeff Travis - Jon Hunt	99.02

TBIB MIXED BUTLER SWISS PAIRS



1 Fraser Rew - Ella Jacob	108.63
2 Christy Geromboux - Sebastian Yuen	107.88
3 Arjuna de Livera - Lori Smith	106.93
4 David Beauchamp - Sophie Ashton	95.56
5 Jane Reynolds - Peter Reynolds	89.91

STEPBRIDGE UNDER LM BUTLER PAIRS



1 Julie Roberts - Julie Clark	103.07
2 Penny Bowen - Bill Griggs	101.68
3 Kari Heikkonen - Petter Carlmark	100.46
4 Matthew Goode - Roy Schulz	96.68
5 Owen Teakle - Alice Handley	94.88

DAVID LUSK ROOKIE BUTLER SWISS PAIRS



1 Susan Roberts - Antony Kimber	83.09
2 Elizabeth Laird - Rosalie Vaccaro	82.06
3 Rosemary Duggan - Cathy McAuliffe	78.62
4 Matthias Birkner - Geoff Marks	78.30
5 Marvin Bunting - Sharon Harris	76.88

STEPBRIDGE UNDER GM BUTLER PAIRS



1 Gail McKenzie - Peta Drake	113.81
2 Paul Williamson - Tassi Georgiadis	101.22
3 Rhonda Graham - Nick Edginton	100.84
4 Terry King - Terry Driver	96.91
5 Lynda Young - Philip Young	95.56

STEPBRIDGE UNDER GM SWISS TEAMS



- 1 Helen Gray, Anthony Gibbs, Catherine Ellice-Flint, Ray Dohnt
- 2 Mary Tough, Bev Crossman, Vicki Taylor, Sally Fraser
- 3 Chris Fernando, Paul Corry, Sue Beckman, Jens Norlyng
- 4 Lynda & Philip Young, Ceda Nikolic, Rodney Macey, Young
- 5 Tony Wilkinson, Robert Chattaway, David De Bellis, Robert Fleet

STEPBRIDGE UNDER LM SWISS TEAMS



- 1 Caprice Davey, Alice Handley, Tina Hesketh, Tony Georgeson (not pictured)
- 2 Keith Walshe, Julie Roberts, Julie Clark, Claire Geller
- 3 Bill Griggs, Matthew Howie, Del Ford, Penny Bowen
- 4 Anne Morgan, William Morgan, Peter Wilson, Kate Hartley
- 5 Gonz Uyttenhove, Cynthia Brinkman, Chris Mroczek, Carolyn Mroczek

Barrier Reef Congress

ERIC PARSONS OPEN PAIRS



- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Sue Ingham - Michael Courtney | 110.22 |
| 2 Lyn Carter - Malcolm Carter | 108.16 |
| 3 Mike Doecke - Simon Hinge | 108.08 |
| 4 Alex Goss - Jeremy Reid | 107.45 |
| 5 Janelle Conroy - Janet Hansen | 105.44 |

RESTRICTED PAIRS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Kate Gargan - Patricia Ottone | 106.58 |
| 2 Melissa Pressley - Jane Gryg | 96.15 |
| 3 Mary Cruickshank - Ian Cruickshank | 93.28 |
| 4 Mike Morrissey - David Cumming | 89.54 |
| 5 Alan Campbell - Ted Robson | 88.46 |

NOVICE PAIRS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Debbie Carroll - Jacinta Lee | 114.35 |
| 2 Sandy Patterson - Geoff Cowan | 99.90 |
| 3 Joy Brunette - Linda Priday | 95.20 |
| 4 Annie Lynch - Sandra Morris | 93.83 |
| 5 Sue Mcinnes - Deb Breeze | 93.46 |

JOHN BROCKWELL OPEN TEAMS

- 1 Duncan Badley, Paula Boughey, Ashley Bach, Fred Whitaker
- 2 Lauren Morgan, Alex Goss, Jasmine Skeate, Jeremy Reid

300 TEAMS

- 1 Mary & Ian Cruickshank, Jan Van Riel, Sally Foster
- 2 Rex Meadowcroft, Kathleen Clifford, Althea Crowley, Jacqui Dudurovic

River City Gold Mixed Pairs



- 1 Kim Frazer - Laurie Kelso
 - 2 Paul Gosney - Laura Ginnan
 - 3 David Beauchamp - Sophie Ashton
 - 4 Tania Lloyd - Hugh Grosvenor
 - 5 Anita Curtis - David Hudson
- Plate: Jasmine Skeate - Jack Luke-Paredi
 Consolation: Peter Lang - Sherrell Cardinal
 Novice: David Ward - Elizabeth Ward



Asia-Pacific Open Teams (Bangkok)

- 1 Nick Jacob, Geo Tislevoll, Ashley Bach, Leon Meier



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