



New-look Autumn Nationals

LIAM MILNE reports on the inaugural Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs, won by Justin Williams and David Beauchamp

Test your Matchpoint Pairs technique with these three bidding problems from the 2026 Blue Ribbon Pairs.

See the article on page 8 to find out what worked at the table.

Problem 1

♠ K ♥ A J 2 ♦ K 10 9 5 3 ♣ K Q 10 6

WEST Partner	NORTH	EAST You	SOUTH
	pass	1NT ¹	pass
4♥ ²	pass	4♠	pass
5♣ ³	pass	?	

1. 15-17.
2. Transfer.
3. Slam try with a void club.

Opening 1NT may not have been your choice, but here you are. Slam or not?

Problem 2

♠ J 5 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ 10 9 8 5 2

WEST Partner	NORTH	EAST You	SOUTH
		pass	pass
1♠	2♣	pass	pass
2♥	pass	?	

North-South are vulnerable. What sort of hand is partner showing? Which suit should you play, and at what level?

Problem 3

♠ 7 3 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K J 7 3 ♣ K 7 6 5

WEST Partner	NORTH	EAST You	SOUTH
		pass	1♥
dbl	3♥ ¹	pass	pass
dbl	pass	?	

1. Weak.

East-West are vulnerable. Which option is most appealing – or least unappealing?

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Cover photo by Barbara Travis:
 Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs winners
 Justin Williams and David Beauchamp

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**IMPROVE
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Ron Klinger
Solution on page 23

Teams, dealer West, East-West vulnerable.

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



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

1. 20-21 points.
 2. Major suit inquiry.

You, West, lead the ♠2: five - eight - king. Declarer plays the ♦A: four - seven - two and the ♦3: king - eight - six. What next?



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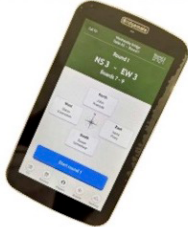
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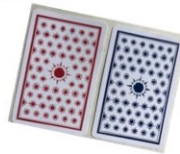
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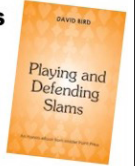
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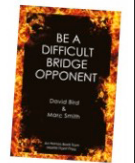
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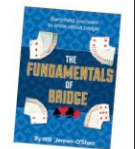
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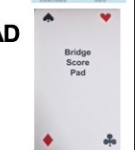
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Stephen Fischer

President

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The ABF Council elected Stephen Fischer as President at its Annual General Meeting in April. He succeeds Allison Stralow after her eight years in the role.

Stephen has represented Australia internationally in two Mixed Teams world championships and has been involved for more than 20 years at all levels of bridge administration. Professionally, he brings extensive experience in leadership, governance and strategy from roles across government, the corporate sector and not-for-profit organisations.

We asked Stephen to tell ABF members a little more about himself, his bridge journey, and what he sees as important for the future of bridge in Australia.

Tell us a little about yourself outside bridge.

Despite being born in Australia, I grew up in the USA until the age of 25. Most of my childhood was spent in Alabama, with stints in California, Chicago and the Virgin Islands, and then I went to Rice University in Houston, Texas, and spent another four years working there. I came back to Australia to complete a degree in computer science at UNSW, which led me to roles in programming, system administration and, most recently, ICT and business consulting with government, corporate and not-for-profit clients. I lived in Sydney and Darwin before settling in Canberra almost 19 years ago.

Outside of bridge I've enjoyed my time on the boards of local theatre companies and, most recently, the National Folk Festival. The culture and challenges in the arts are very different, but I enjoy the diversity and learn something every time.

If we're on non-bridge holidays, we're normally hiking in the wilderness somewhere. We've only walked across one country thus far (England), but we have plans for more.

How and when did you first learn bridge?

They always say bridge is the last thing you learn at university, and I first encountered it when four of my friends were sitting in a dorm room playing cards. Luckily I ran across it late enough to still graduate, but I was immediately hooked and started playing and reading as much as I could. My first ever duplicate partner (Donna Compton), at the local youth game, has since gone on to win a world championship, so I fell into a top group of friends, partners and mentors. Although I went to several US nation-

als to play, I think I learned more by sitting behind top players and just watching – names like Kantar, Sontag, Zia and Hamman come to mind.

I played for a bit when I moved to Australia, before drifting away from the game for years. I moved to Darwin just after the 2003 ANC, and there was an article in the paper about an ex-local who had just won the Youth Pairs. I recognised Tony Nunn from the lunchtime games at UNSW, and sought out the local bridge club. It wasn't long before I was back at the table, and I've been playing regularly ever since.

What do you most enjoy about bridge?

The common thread throughout my career is that I solve puzzles, and that's how I see the game. The fascinating thing about a bridge hand is that the first puzzle is identifying what needs to be solved, and only then can you start thinking about the second part. And just when you think you're starting to understand the game, there is always another layer of complexity to unravel.

What has been your involvement in bridge administration over the years?

My first role was as NTBA President in 2006-07, where I also served on the ABF Council. In 2011 I became Canberra Bridge Club president and joined the BFACT Council for two years. I was BFACT Treasurer for four years, ABF Secretary in 2022-23 and represented BFACT for several years on the ABF Council. I also chaired the MyABF steering committee for three years during the early stages of the project.

Like most not-for-profits, the bridge world would not exist without volunteers who dedicate time to running our clubs, state bodies and the ABF. I've always thought it is important to contribute to your community, and serving in bridge administration fits my skill set and interests.

What motivated you to take on the role of ABF President?

I think it's important to contribute where one can. My favourite part of work has always been looking at large-scale questions and working towards a better future, so the role of President matches my experience and skills well. In her term as President, Allison has made great strides in improving the bridge

community and I want to build on her work to help the game flourish for generations to come.

What do you see as the biggest opportunities for bridge in Australia over the next few years?

As one of the largest bridge communities worldwide with a healthy club and tournament scene across the country, Australia is well positioned to grow the game and provide opportunities for all players. We need to understand how to attract new players in a world of ever-increasing options, which means highlighting the qualities we all love about the game. Specific areas we are looking at include:

- Competition options, both face-to-face and online.
- Attracting and providing opportunities for youth players.
- Ways to improve the “at-the-table” experience through technology and culture.
- A new approach for representative teams to improve performances and increase visibility in the community.

There are also challenges facing bridge. Understanding and addressing these will allow us to focus on achieving our goals.

What do you think is most important for the ABF to focus on?

Much of the good work across Australia is done locally or state-wide, and we don't want to change that. Growth happens at a club level, and we all benefit from having strong clubs. However, the ABF is well placed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and developing a national approach where required.

I have been working with the states and territories to put together the next strategic plan, and key focus areas include:

- Building the volunteer base for clubs.
- Technologies to support clubs – we are a world leader in bridge technology, with MyABF, scoring programs and other software. We want to continue improving the capabilities available for clubs and tournaments.
- Support and resources for our teachers, without restricting individual approaches.
- A more national approach to developing directors.
- Increased communication and cooperation with the states and territories.

It's too early for specifics, but we are working with the states and territories to finalise the strategic plan later this year.

Bridge players often have strong opinions! How would you describe your leadership style?

I believe the best outcomes come through consensus, which can only be achieved by fostering an environment where everyone feels free to talk, listen and contribute. I prefer to empower people in their roles than control things directly.

What would you say to everyday club players around Australia?

Bridge and the bridge community can only grow through your ideas and involvement. Play at your clubs, help new players, and learn from those around you. Each of you has skills that the bridge world needs, whether in teaching, directing, administration, or a range of practical skills from gardening to marketing to catering. Clubs and tournaments run on volunteers, so please consider putting up your hand and contributing where you can.

We are not just competitors – we are also a community of people. We should aim to show respect for each other – our opponents, the directors and the organisers – at all times.

Quick questions

Favourite bridge system: I'll play most systems, but I enjoy Polish Club.

Favourite convention: 1M-2♣ including invitational raises. Being able to invite and stop at the two-level is often valuable. Apart from that, bidding judgment is much more important than new conventions.

Most memorable bridge event: I've always liked the ANC competition. There is something special about representing your state or territory, no matter how well or badly you do in the event (and I've done both).

Bridge player you admire: Bob Hamman – the toughest competitor I've seen. I played on a team with him once and learned some very valuable lessons about how to approach the game.

Tea or coffee: Neither. It made it very hard as a consultant when you spend hours in coffee meetings with clients.

Favourite non-bridge pastime: Lately, exploring the hills of Canberra.

Something people might be surprised to learn about you: I've taken up cheesemaking in the last couple of years. Yummy science is fun!

The ABF thanks Stephen for stepping into the role of President and looks forward to working with him as Australian bridge continues to evolve and grow. Members are encouraged to introduce themselves to Stephen at events around the country. He is keen to hear directly from players, organisers and volunteers about what matters most to them.



David Fryda

Executive Director

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The past two months have been an exceptionally busy period across the Australian bridge calendar, with events taking place right across the country and strong participation at all levels of the game.

Events across Australia

During April and May we saw the successful running of the Women's Playoffs in Canberra, the Central West Festival in Orange, the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide, the Barrier Reef Congress in Townsville and the River City Mixed Pairs in Brisbane.

These events do not happen by accident. They rely on the work of dedicated Tournament Organisers, Directors, volunteers and local bridge communities who put in an enormous amount of time and effort behind the scenes. On behalf of the ABF, thank you to everyone involved.

Thank you also to all the players who travelled, participated and supported these events. One of the great strengths of bridge in Australia is the opportunity to combine competitive bridge with friendship, travel and community. If you have not yet ventured beyond your local club to play in a regional or national event, I strongly encourage you to give it a try.

Looking ahead, we still have two major events on the calendar in the coming months — the Victorian Festival of Bridge in Melbourne and the Australian National Championships in Canberra. If you are interested in participating, you will find all the details on My ABF.

Gold points, club pride and friendly rivalry

The qualifying stages of this year's **Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)** should now be well underway around the country, with regional finals continuing through to the national finals later this year.

The ABF's **Club Teams Knockout** will also return this year in its increasingly popular online format. The event is played over five Tuesday evenings, with one session each month, and teams are grouped based on masterpoint holdings so that clubs compete against others of similar experience and strength.

It is a fantastic opportunity to represent your club, enjoy some friendly rivalry and compete for **gold masterpoints** from the comfort of your home.

One of the great features of the event is the flexibility it offers clubs — teams can use unlimited substitutions, meaning clubs can involve a broad range of players across the event rather than relying on just four or six people.

This year we also plan to provide expert commentary on selected hands, which should add another enjoyable dimension. If your club has not yet organised a team, now is the time to start putting one together.

Australian teams on the international stage

June will see six Australian teams travel to Goa, India, to compete in the **Asia Cup**.

Details of the event, including how to follow the progress of our teams, will be available on the ABF website and through our Facebook page. If you are not already following us on Facebook, I encourage you to do so by searching for the Australian Bridge Federation. We are continuing to expand our social media presence with a broader mix of content — including international results, instructional material, event coverage and lighter content aimed at players of all levels.

In August, Australia will also send five youth teams to the **World Youth Transnational Championships** in Hefei, China. Australia will be represented in the Under-26, Under-26 Women's, Under-21, Under-16 and Under-31 categories.

Participation in international youth bridge is a wonderful opportunity for these players, but it comes at a significant financial cost. Most of these teams are substantially self-funded and are seeking the support of the Australian bridge community to help make the trip possible. Details on how you can assist appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Leadership and service

Following the recent AGM, the ABF welcomed **Stephen Fischer** as the Federation's new President, succeeding **Allison Stralow** after eight years in the role.

Allison provided outstanding leadership during a period of significant activity and change within the organisation and leaves the Presidency with the

thanks of the Australian bridge community for her dedication and service. In recognition of her contribution to bridge in Australia, the ABF Council recently elected Allison to the ABF's Committee of Honour.

I would also like to acknowledge several people who have recently concluded important service roles within the ABF.

Thank you to **Marcia Scudder** for her many years of contribution on the Tournament Committee. Marcia has been deeply involved in the administration and organisation of bridge over a long period and her experience and commitment have been greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank outgoing Councillors **Rob Ward, Eileen Boocock, Caprice Davey and Hugh Grosvenor** for their service to the ABF and to bridge administration more broadly. Their departures coincide with the constitutional changes reducing Council representation from two Councillors per State and Territory to one, and we thank them for the considerable time and energy they have contributed over many years.

Membership and growing the game

At the end of March we completed another annual player registration cycle.

Pleasingly, the total number of registered bridge players nationally was slightly higher than at the same time last year, up from 29,219 to 29,348. While stability is encouraging, the long-term health of the game depends on all of us continuing to introduce new people to bridge.

Many players first discover bridge because a friend, partner or family member encouraged them to try it. If you enjoy bridge, please consider inviting someone else to experience it as well. Every new player helps strengthen clubs, events and the future of the game.

Technology at the table

Players watching the finals of our major events may also have noticed the introduction of electronic bidding-recording tablets used behind screens.

The ABF is now using the same **LoveBridge** technology that is utilised by the World Bridge Federation. Feedback from players and officials has been very positive.

Like many technological developments in bridge, innovations often appear first at the highest levels of the game before gradually filtering through more broadly. It is quite possible that technology of this kind will become increasingly common in clubs and congresses in future years.

Supporting those who support bridge

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the organisations that support Australian bridge through sponsorship, including **TBIB, Fixed Income Solutions, Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies and Red Plum Automotive**.

The support of sponsors plays an important role in helping the ABF deliver events, initiatives and services while keeping participation costs as affordable as possible. I encourage members, where appropriate, to support the organisations that support bridge.



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A promising debut

LIAM MILNE reports on the inaugural Australian Blue Ribbon Pairs

A quirk of the Australian national bridge calendar is that there are a large number of two-day Swiss Pairs events held across the country. Most national meets have at least one such event; if you have ever played in a national, you have probably played a Swiss Pairs.

Why have Swiss Pairs events sprouted like weeds here?

In part, the phenomenon is due to our masterpoint system which awards gold masterpoints for any matches that you win in a Swiss. As a result, Matchpoint events have given out fewer masterpoints to the players, which means Swiss events have been more popular with players, and tournament organisers have followed that trend around the country.

This is a uniquely Australian eccentricity in our bridge competition calendar. In most other countries, the major Pairs events are all scored by Matchpoints, and such events are extremely popular. If we fixed the masterpoint issue, why wouldn't that be the case here?

The ABF became conscious of this issue in recent years. In late 2021, I consulted tournament organisers and experts, both nationally and from overseas, and the end result was a proposal to the ABF Tournament Committee for a three-day Matchpoint Pairs national event modelled on successful overseas formats.

That's where things rested for a few years. Then along came Barbara Travis.

Barbara is the tournament organiser for the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide. For a long time, the schedule of the event has been a two-day Swiss Pairs, followed by a two-day Swiss Teams. The Autumn Nationals Swiss Pairs events had no distinguishing features from the myriad such events on the Australian calendar.

Barbara thought that the three-day Matchpoint Pairs event could work. Naming the event the Blue Ribbon Pairs, she shifted the schedule, putting the Teams first and the Pairs second so it could be held over the weekend and become the focal point of the Autumn Nationals. She also secured generous sponsorship, and unlike some other national events, she ensured this was passed on to the players in the form of a bountiful \$28,000 prize pool. Notably, this included \$5,000 for the winners of the Blue Ribbon Pairs.

The clearest verdict that the change from Swiss Pairs to a longer Matchpoint format was a welcome one comes from the notable rise in entries.

Ignoring one-day events, the total number of tables across all Pairs categories was well up on past years:

2026: 97 tables

2025: 83 tables

2024: 73 tables

Perhaps as a consequence of the popular Pairs events, the Teams events also saw a substantial boost in popularity:

2026: 98 tables

2025: 80 tables

2024: 76 tables

This bump comes despite the Teams moving from the spotlight weekend schedule to a Wednesday-Thursday timing. Players liked the new Pairs format, and the consequences for entry numbers were clear.

92 pairs contested Day 1 of the Blue Ribbon Open Pairs, with the top 50 making the cut to the Semifinal on Day 2. Those 50 were joined by 4 pairs dropping in from the Open Teams Final held alongside Day 1.

One of my favourite aspects of Matchpoints is that you have something to play for on every board. In Teams or Swiss Pairs, if you open 1NT and play there and you can see the contract is cold from the beginning, there is not much at stake for either side; at Matchpoints, the number of tricks you make may mean the difference between a top and a bottom board.



Under Life Master Pairs winners

Michael Jackson and Lucy D'Ambrosio

(photos by Barbara Travis)

Early on Day 2 in Semifinal A, Geeske Joel and I sat down against Ashley Bach and Jon Hunt. Ash is an old mate of mine, being (like me) an expat Kiwi who often plies his trade as a professional in the Australian bridge circuit, although that wasn't the case in Adelaide.

As often seems to be the case when Ash and I play each other, all of the boards had some interest:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither side vulnerable.

<p>♠ 2 ♥ K 10 6 4 3 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A 9 7 4 3</p> <p>♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 6 4 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A J 4 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ J 5 3 ♥ Q 9 5 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ J 8 5 2</p>	<p>♠ K ♥ A J 2 ♦ K 10 9 5 3 ♣ K Q 10 6</p>
--	--

WEST Joel	NORTH Hunt	EAST Milne	SOUTH Bach
	pass	1NT	pass
4♥ ¹	pass	4♠	pass
5♣ ²	pass	6♠	all pass

1. Transfer.
2. Slam try with a void club.

Did you bid this slam?

My thought process started off along the wrong track: "I'm ashamed that I have only one spade, and look at all this wastage in clubs. I don't want to bid a slam that the rest of the field isn't in. I'm really not feeling that there are 12 tricks here."

Then I started imagining some possible hands for partner's bidding.

♠ A Q J x x x x ♥ K x x ♦ Q x x ♣ —

This is a somewhat typical hand for partner. Single-dummy, there is a bit of work to do, but in practice the opponents will almost always lead a red suit after hearing of the club void. That should give us excellent chances.

♠ A Q J x x x x ♥ x x ♦ A x x x ♣ —

Some work to do in 6♠ on a heart lead, and cold on any other lead.

Eventually I decided that the fact that my spade was the king was actually more important than the number of spades I held, and the red suits were both quite promising, so I went for the slam.

What would you lead from Ash's hand against 6♠ – a diamond or a heart? Some like to lead aggressively

Under Grand Master Pairs winners
Tassi Georgiadis and Paul Williamson



against slams, while others avoid giving away a trick. If you are in the former camp, you probably lead a heart. Ash chose a diamond and I had all the tricks. On a heart lead, my safe line is to win and take a ruffing finesse in clubs, discarding the heart loser, making only twelve tricks.

6♠ +1 was worth 85% of the matchpoints; 4♠ making the same number of tricks was only 37%.

Board 2. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST Joel	NORTH Hunt	EAST Milne	SOUTH Bach
		pass	pass
1♠	2♣	pass	pass
2♥	pass	3♥	pass
4♥	all pass		

East's problem over opener's 2♥ rebid depends to an extent on partnership style and trust.

I knew that Geeske would routinely double with 5431-type hands, and that 5422 was highly unlikely (she would pass it out with a minimum facing a hand that couldn't make a negative double, or double herself with a strong hand).

For that reason, I believed (and so did she) that 2♥ should show 5-5. Now my hand, which has never bid, starts to look very promising. Having nothing in clubs was a positive sign, as it meant that all of my values would be working hard (Geeske looked to be short in clubs).

I chanced a raise to 3♥, logically showing a good-looking hand with exactly three hearts. If I had four hearts, I would have found a negative double the previous round. Geeske was happy to bid to the excellent game, losing the obvious three tricks for +420 and 62%.

+170 scored only 31%, while the pairs that struggled in the worse spade fit for +140 received 7%. Pat yourself on the back if you played in hearts, and even better if you found a raise.

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

♠ Q J 10
♥ J 8 7 3
♦ 10 9 8 5
♣ 4 2

♠ A K 9 5
♥ 10 9
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ A 9 8

♠ 7 3 2
♥ 6 2
♦ K J 7 3
♣ K 7 6 5

♠ 8 6 4
♥ A K Q 5 4
♦ 6
♣ Q J 10 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Joel	Hunt	Milne	Bach
dbl	3♥	pass	1♥
dbl	pass	4♣?	all pass

One of the other interesting elements of Matchpoint scoring is the focus on frequency instead of magnitude. In other words, taking the action that is most likely to work is preferred, instead of the action that attempts to achieve the largest score (or avoid the largest minus).

In practice, Teams play incentivises bidding vulnerable games and slams, going for juicy penalties and avoiding doubling partscores where you don't know what the outcome will be. In Pairs, you just want to

Teams runners-up Liam Milne, Lachlan Kennedy (TBIB), Geeske Joel, James Coutts (absent: Shane Harrison)



do what will work most often, even if it won't always give you the biggest possible score.

For that reason, I hate my 4♣ bid in retrospect. The winning action is to pass and defend. Partner's second double at the three level indicates that we clearly have the balance of strength, but there is no appealing fit for our side. On a Law of Total Tricks basis, we expect them to have nine hearts and us to have an eight-card fit somewhere, and 17 total tricks will mean defending 3♥ is usually better than playing 4♣ or 4♦.

Of course, they might make 3♥ doubled sometimes, and at Teams passing would be scary. But at Pairs, passing is simply the most likely positive.

I gave this problem to my regular partner James Coutts later that evening. His response: "I passed without much thought. Boring hand, isn't it?". I'm still learning, clearly!

After the day of play in Semi-Final A there was another cut, this time reducing 54 pairs to 16 for the Championship (joined by the best two pairs from Semi-Final B), the next 18 to the Plate, and then various Consolation fields – all nine tables in size.

This movement will be very familiar to fans of the Bobby Richman Pairs held at the Gold Coast Congress. Each section runs as a barometer movement (everyone plays the same boards at the same time, with live scoring) and you play every other pair over the course of the day. It is an excellent movement that is much fairer than a Swiss movement, where you only play a small part of the field.

Geeske and I had an average day to finish eighth, the same position we had qualified in. As Barbara pointed out while we were having a run at the top placings, it would have been a bit rude for me to win the first time my proposed format was held!

This was a cute hand to finish the event on:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ Q J 8 5 2
♥ A 10 8 4
♦ A 9 6
♣ 4

♠ 7 4 3
♥ 7 6 5
♦ K 7 4
♣ 10 8 7 6

♠ A K 10
♥ K J 2
♦ J 8
♣ J 9 5 3 2

♠ 9 6
♥ Q 9 3
♦ Q 10 5 3 2
♣ A K Q

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brake	Milne	Humphries	Joel
pass	1♠	pass	1♣
pass	2♣ ¹	pass	2♦ ²
pass	2♥ ³	pass	4♠
all pass			

1. Puppet to 2♣.
2. Forced.
3. Invitational.

This looked like the normal auction to a good contract, but we were already ahead of the field with two tables missing game and one table going off the rails to reach slam. Every table but one received a club lead. When the opponents continue with a second club, what is the best line to make the maximum?

At Teams, you would be looking to secure your contract, imagining bad breaks and losing finesses. In Pairs, a healthy level of greed is respectable.

I could see a chance for twelve tricks on a dummy reversal. The idea is to ruff lots of clubs in the North hand, and discard South's losing diamond on the fourth heart. With that goal in mind, I ruffed the second club and played a heart to the jack.

When that held, I could ruff a third club (♣AKQ falling – this hand is too easy!), draw trumps, and run the hearts at the end for +680. This felt good, but I was sure that others would find the same line. Nope, everyone else made ten or eleven tricks, so we had an outright top.

I included this hand, not to brag (maybe a little?) but because it featured a nice technique that was not always obvious to me in my early years of competing. It was also a quintessential Pairs hand, where you are rewarded for taking risks, rather than incentivised to take insurance as you are in Teams.

The Championship soon emerged as a two-horse race between Dave Beauchamp - Justin Williams and Cathy Chua - Jeff Travis. Despite a very strong last few rounds from Chua - Travis, Beauchamp - Williams got their nose ahead at the end to win by 3 masterpoints in a dramatic finish to take home the title and \$5,000.

Congratulations once again to Barbara Travis and her team for the bravery in adopting this new format, and the determination and organisation to carry it through successfully. If you haven't been to the Autumn Nationals before, I strongly encourage you to make the trip down to Adelaide in late April 2027 – this format promises to continue delivering a great experience for keen players.

Photos by Barbara Travis



Teams champions Kate Macdonald, Heath Watkins, Lachlan Kennedy (TBIB), Jane Beeby, Leon Meier

Barrier Reef Congress

Fred Whitaker

The trouble with playing my ... er ... system is that there is hardly anyone else who will stoop to it. Even Ashley Bach, my partner this year, was disgusted to be playing weak notrump, transfers, weak twos and Blackwood, and we have played that since he was a teenager the mid-90s when we enjoyed some success.

Anyway, we wheeled it out again this year, with the usual mixed results.

Our performance in the Pairs was designed to lull our future Teams opponents into a sense of security, as we never sighted the leading tables, though our teammates Phil Markey and David Appleton were in the thick of it right to the end.

With a round to go there were realistically three pairs in with a chance, though others were within range. In the event Hugh McGann and Justin Mill prevailed from Pete Hollands and Mike Doecke by a hair, with Markey - Appleton some distance adrift in third place.

Having been routed in Round 1, Ashley and I were chugging along trying to get into the firing line, when this arose in Round 5:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

Ashley opened 1♣ as South, as I am sure did many others. With silent opponents, I bid 1♥, upon which Ashley reversed into 2♦. He has always had a knack of doing the unexpected at the right time, and 2♦ would not have been the choice of avid point-counters. I made a game-force 2♠ contribution, and

he rebid diamonds, which I raised to four. So there we were in a really good diamond slam, found by no other pair in the event. Down the gurgler it went, when with clubs 3-2, both 3NT and 6♣ both still fail with the queen offside.

Partner squeaked a small compliment about my 4♦ bid, but I may have misheard! It was his reverse that got us there. Datum was +140, and this ended any slim chance we retained. I see we finished 13th, and of course we explained to anxious teamies that we were dusting off the cobwebs – or at least I was.

It was great to see my friends Paul and Sa Smith from Hervey Bay prevail in the Restricted section.

For many years I have hauled old friends from across the ditch for the Teams, but about nine months ago Ashley requested to take over the role of selector for this year. He recruited Phil Markey and David Appleton, who proceeded to qualify to represent Australia later this year in Poland. Nice spot of selecting, Ashley!

After a couple of good wins in the Teams we found ourselves lining up against Mill (Justin Mill, Hugh McGann, Andrew Spooner, James Coutts) first up the next morning. This match was likely to have a significant bearing on the final result. That we won the fixture by 16imps was due entirely to the lead against 6♠ on this board:

Board 4. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

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

My pard Ashley chose fourth best of his longest and strongest, and the diamond lead was fatal. At the other table, the ♣Q was led, giving declarer time to knock out the king of hearts so that was 17 in which was about the final margin.

Next up we faced Kozakos (George Kozakos, Peter Reynolds, Marianne Bookalil, Stephen Fischer) where we met our nemesis!

At our table we went down in two spade slams, which is not helpful, but the most painful result was this collection where I laboured away and escaped for one off in the sub-Moysian 2♦:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

Having mustered seven tricks, I wiped my brow and thought how a bullet had been dodged, but the opponents Marianne and Stephen had done very well to leave us to it. There were many pairs going down East-West in hearts or spades, including our teammates, who were amongst those whacked in 3♠ for a four figure number.

Datum was +320 North-South, yet I was contentedly thinking -100 was a good result!

On to Round 5, where we were back at square one after the resounding licking at the hands of Kozakos.

This was of interest:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither side vulnerable.

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

With a spade barrage on either side we bid to 6♥, which looks not enough until the trump break comes to light. Nonetheless we racked up 980, thinking ourselves lucky we had avoided the grand. That contract was only tried once, and by arguably the best pair in the room (Mill - McGann) which confirms what a cruel game bridge can be. Our teammates had cunningly applied the stripe-tailed ape double to 5♥ (upon what basis I couldn't say) so we picked up a lucky 6 imps on the board!

To emphasise that high-card points are just a guide, and that extreme distribution is very valuable, this deal came up late in the event:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

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

You may be surprised to learn that only six pairs out of 40 bid this to 6♠, and one of those contrived to go down. We were amongst the five that made it, and once again, our teamies brought back an unexpected but good score – in this case -500 in 6♦ doubled.

This was a horrible result in the final round:

Board 15. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

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

Licking my chops, I whacked 5♣ with the North hand after West had shown 5-5 in the minors. That was not a success, as you can see. However, our teamies took a phantom dive in 7♣, so our pair of shockers 'only' cost 13 imps, which was much less in total than had they been on different boards. It was of interest to see that there were seven pairs in 5♣ doubled, and another five in 6♣ doubled, out of the 40 tables.

When the dust had settled, the good guys had prevailed by quite a margin in the event. My thanks to Ashley, David and Phil for making up a happy team, and to my wife Anna who chauffeured us around.

The event was very well managed and directed, with great caddies. The only drawbacks were not being allowed any liquid other than water in the playing area, and the distance to accommodation, restaurants, etc.

On to Cairns next year!

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BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



YOUR ACTION AFTER AN OPPONENT'S PREEMPTIVE RAISE

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
(1♥)	1♠ ¹	(3♥) ²	1♦ ?

1. 1♠ shows five or more spades (double would show four).
2. 3♥ is a preemptive raise (0-6 HCP, 4+ hearts).

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

SOLUTIONS

1. Double. In a competitive auction it is accepted practice to overbid by one level with a sound minimum. This hand therefore qualifies to bid at the three-level but be careful to make a support double rather than bid 3♠, which shows four-card support.

There is a huge difference between three-card and four-card support and the key to success in these auctions is knowing the extent of your trump fit.

2. 3♠. You have an attractive minimum and are happy to stretch by one trick, but be sure to bid 3♠ rather than support double. to show that you have four-card support. Don't be afraid to push the opponents

into game, no one knows who can make what so stretch to your limit.

3. Pass. This time you have a minimum with four spades but your values in hearts make it unwise to compete at the three level despite your known 5-4 fit.

4. 4♠. If you are prepared to double or bid 3♠ with a sound minimum, then you can't afford to bid only 3♠ when you are worth an invitation to game. With this shape and point count you would often open 1NT, but with two worthless doubletons it is better for partner to be declarer.

5. Pass. 3NT looks appealing with your strong heart holding, but you only have a minimum opening and there is no reason for responder to have more than five or six points. If responder reopens with a double, then 3NT is an obvious choice.

6. 3NT. This time you have 18-19 balanced and are fully justified in bidding 3NT. In an unopposed auction you would jump rebid 2NT, while in a competitive auction you take the push one level higher.

7. Pass. With your minimum opening simply pass and await developments. If responder reopens with a double, then bid 4♦.

8. 4♦. Only 12 HCP but a seven-card suit and your wealth of controls make it well worth competing to 4♦. With a couple of aces or an ace and the right two kings partner can raise to 5♦.

9. 5♦. A close call between 4♦ and 5♦, but your extra shape indicates that you will frequently miss 5♦ if you bid only 4♦. If responder had only ♠A and ♣QJ for example they would not raise you to 5♦.

10. 4♣. Only 14 HCP but a powerful hand and well worth the push to the four level. If in doubt, bid one more – this is a fine hand.

Jack now played the king of spades from dummy, West following suit, and Jack discarded a club. Next came the queen of spades, with West following suit, and Jack discarding another low club. Then he played dummy's three of spades, and West refused to trump, so Jack discarded the ace of clubs! Dummy had two low cards left, and when he led one, West had to trump with the nine, allowing Jack to overtrump with the ten and lead the ace of hearts at trick 13 to mop up the king.

East-West were super impressed by the play, and how Jack made a seemingly unmakeable contract. They were especially impressed, since they were Jack's parents. As a family, they all took up bridge at the end of last year!

Note that if Jack had tried to cash his ace of clubs at any stage, his mum would have trumped it and defeated the grand. No one else in the room made thirteen tricks, and many made only eleven tricks with the awful trump break. Absolutely amazing play, by a future superstar of the game. Jack and Alexander went on to win their section at the congress.

If anyone wants to make a donation to the Youth Teams going to China later this year, there is a link here:

<https://buy.stripe.com/7sYdR832ybm4dUxc7a3gkoo>



Allison Stralow elected to ABF Committee of Honour

At the recent ABF Council meeting, former ABF President Allison Stralow was elected to the ABF's Committee of Honour in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Australian bridge.

Election to the Committee of Honour is one of the highest recognitions that can be bestowed by the Australian Bridge Federation and acknowledges individuals who have provided distinguished and lasting service to the game.

Allison recently concluded an exceptional eight-year term as ABF President, having previously served four years as Secretary following earlier service on the ABF Management Committee. During her time as President, she provided thoughtful and steady leadership through a period of significant activity and change within the organisation.

Her contribution extended well beyond the formal responsibilities of the role. Allison consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to good governance, financial stewardship and ensuring the long-term sustainability of bridge in Australia. She worked closely with the Board, Council, committees and the broader bridge community to help guide important initiatives and strengthen the Federation's operations and direction.

In addition to her national contribution, Allison has also devoted many years of service to bridge administration in Western Australia.

Following the completion of her Presidency, Allison has also accepted the role of President Emeritus for a two-year term, allowing the ABF to continue benefiting from her experience and knowledge.

On behalf of the ABF Board, Council and the wider Australian bridge community, sincere congratulations and thanks are extended to Allison for her remarkable service and contribution to the game.





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WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

WORKING OUT WHERE THE CARDS ARE

I have written articles in the past about two defensive topics that help you know what is going on. One of the main techniques that the defenders need to use is signals, and I recommend Low Encourage on our leads and first discard. The other technique is more of a logical and sensible idea, which is that the third player to the trick should try to win the trick, but should use the lowest card necessary. Here is a simple example of this. You lead the two of clubs against 3NT and dummy plays the three:

	Dummy	
	♣ J 8 3	
You		Partner
♣ 2		♣ Q 10 7 4

Since you led a low card, and partner is in third seat, they should play high.

However, the queen is not the best card. Partner should play the ten. Since dummy has the jack, and it wasn't played, the ten and queen will both do the same job, and partner should play the lowest equivalent of those cards. Note that the seven is not good enough, since declarer might win a cheap trick with a nine.

Using those two techniques, you can often work out where some of the missing cards are. I was on lead against 3NT today with this diamond suit: ♦QJ73. I chose to lead the three – I like to have three cards in my sequences to lead an honour against notrumps.

This was the situation, can you work out the cards, and what to do later in the play.

	Dummy	
	♦ 8 5	
You		Partner
♦ Q J 7 3		♦ 9
	♦ A	
	Declarer	

First of all, since you and dummy both played a low card, partner's card is not a signal, it should be an attempt to win the trick. Secondly, partner should play the lowest of equivalent cards, but as high as possible. Partner should not have the king. They

should have played it if they had it.

Declarer has tried a slight false-card and won with their highest winner. Thinking it through a bit further, would declarer have played the ace (or king) if they could have won with a ten?

Almost certainly not! They would have won their ten. Partner started with the ten and nine; declarer started with the ace and king. The location of the six and four is unknown.

Take a look at the diamonds though. Your queen and jack will be able to take care of the eight, and partner's ten. Then your seven will be a winner. When you or partner get the lead back, continue diamonds. You should lead the queen next, and then jack after that.

Here is another suit, where you are on lead against 3NT, and you choose to lead the two of hearts. Can you work out the layout?

	Dummy	
	♥ 7 5 3	
You		Partner
♥ J 8 4 2		♥ 10
	♥ Q	
	Declarer	

Your partner should have played their highest card, and so they should not have the ace or king of hearts. Also, partner should have played the cheapest of equally high cards. Your partner should not have the nine of hearts. Declarer must have started with ♥AKQ9, and partner started with the ten, and maybe some of the low cards. You must give up on hearts. If you lead hearts again, it will give declarer a cheap trick with the nine of hearts. Also, you must never discard a heart, or the nine will become a winner. Leading from a jack is not a great lead, but this one worked out especially poorly.

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



A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

Today's session involved several 20-point hands. Both partner and opponents kept opening 2♣, but let's look at the various hands:

Hand 1

♠ Q J ♥ K Q 7 ♦ A K ♣ A J 10 8 4 2

When I played with Joe Haffer, he said that balanced 20-HCP hands don't exist. They are either less than or more than 20 HCP. I immediately picked up a 20-HCP balanced hand with a doubleton ♥Q-J. Using his definition, I downgraded to a 1♣ opening and we reached five of a minor. The field played in 3NT losing the first six heart tricks – and I was converted!

On this basis, this hand is a 1♣ opening bid, despite the lovely six-card club suit. That doubleton ♠Q-J is a negative feature. A 2♣ opening bid did our opponents no favours, leading to a failing 3NT contract.

Hand 2

♠ A Q 10 9 8 ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ A K 8 6 ♣ —

Whilst this hand has only three losers, I tend not to open 2♣ with a three-suited hand (or a 5-5+ hand). You get too high too quickly and often can't control the auction.

However, the 2♣ opening bid worked a treat this time:

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

1. Promising 6+ clubs.
2. Three key cards.
3. ♠Q ask.
4. An error.

Partner was so keen to show me her ♠Q, that she forgot to show me any relevant kings, so I just punted 7♠, rather unreasonably! However, RKCB had only told me about 14 of partner's HCP, so I knew she had to have some outside kings, at the very least.

♠ A Q 10 9 8

♥ A K 7 2

♦ A K 8 6

♣ —

♠ K J 7 4

♥ 9

♦ 7 2

♣ A J 10 6 5 3

The opening lead was the ♣K. The only thing to realise on this hand, having discarded a diamond on the ♣A is that you need to trump three red suit losers in dummy, so do not draw trumps. Meantime, look at those spade pips – they are fantastic for a cross-ruff.

If you want to cross-ruff, it is recommended that you cash your outside winners first, to avoid ruffs later – so cash the ♥A-K and ♦A-K, then start ruffing in dummy, using dummy's top three trumps.

Five ace-kings and eight trump tricks = 13 tricks and a top.

Hand 3

♠ K J 9 ♥ A K Q 9 4 ♦ A K 8 4 ♣ 9

Once again, I'd just open 1♥ on this hand. If partner can't respond to your 1♥ opening bid, you should be happy playing there. (As it happens, partner responds 1NT, so you can bid 3♦ to game force – and you end in 3NT anyway.)

There were also some genuine 2♣ opening bids, and here's one where I held a two-suiter which was just too good to open at the one-level:

♠ A Q J 6 2 ♥ A K Q 6 4 ♦ A K ♣ 3

Having opened 2♣ and received a 2♦ response, I rebid 2♠. Partner raised to 4♠, which should be weaker than a raise to 3♠. Even so, I thought I was

'safe' using RKCB – just in case she held one key card. When there were no key cards opposite, we subside in 5♠, making, even with a 5-0 trump break (with partner holding the ♠10-9-5 and the ♣K).

What would you (or partner) open with this hand?

♠ A J 10 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ A K ♣ A Q 10 4 3

What is the range for your 2NT opening bid? I like it to be a two-point range, i.e. 20-21 HCP or 21-22 HCP only. Having a three-point range can make life too difficult for responder (with 4 HCP for example). Even playing 21-22 HCP, this hand, with a good 5-card suit as well, probably rates to be upgraded (2♣ – 2♦ – 2NT, 23-24 HCP). That makes life easy for responder who held ♠K-Q-x-x-x-x with not much else. 6♠ was easy.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1♥
2♣		pass	?

What should South now do? With that singleton club, South should reopen with a double, in case North is sitting there with a penalty pass.

East-West were vulnerable and we were not vulnerable, so I had decided to try for a penalty after West's overcall, rather than making a bid over 2♣ (what bid? 2NT?). When South reopened with 2♦, I just punted a wild 3NT, which also should reveal that I had started with a penalty double of 2♣. (By the way, I was right because North-South can make 7 tricks in clubs; 2 off is 500, more than any game!)

East led the ♣7. West should insert the 10, which I would have to duck, to sever their communications. At the table, West won her ♣K and ♣A, then led the ♣J which I won. East favoured me with a discard of the ♠10 – suit preference for hearts! Meantime I had discarded two hearts from dummy. Feeling slightly more comfortable, I led a heart towards dummy, the Queen winning. A spade to the Jack held and another heart was led, East winning the Ace.

After four rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy, the ♥K squeezed West. Holding the ♠K-8 and the top club, she had to reduce to two cards. Sitting after her, I held the ♠A-7 (with dummy holding ♠Q-6) and the ♣9, so I could just discard whichever suit she did not discard – for an overtrick.

Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola, 1967-2026

From www.worldbridge.org

Jacek "Pepsi" Pszczola, a multiple World bridge Champion, was part of the international bridge community for many years. Born in Poland, he played under both the Polish and American flags during his outstanding career. He belonged to that unique competitive circle that gathers around the globe for so many days each year that it becomes impossible not to feel at least a little bit like family.

Today, that community is deeply shaken by his untimely passing, after a devastating illness.

We will always remember his extraordinary talent, his smile, and the quiet confidence of a player who had mastered the art of giving partner their time and space... so much so that he would casually open a book and read it while playing dummy.

Rest in peace, Pepsi.



PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

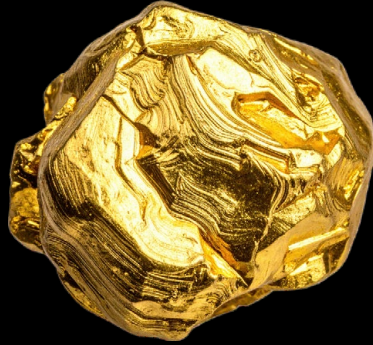
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Wed 18 Nov	7:00pm	Walk-in Pairs
Thu 19 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Teams
Fri 20 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Teams
	7:30pm	Trivia Night
Sat 21 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Pairs
Sun 22 Nov	9:30am	Swiss Pairs

Enter at MyABF:



All Seasons Resort Hotel, Strathdale, BENDIGO



IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



A CALL TO A COUNT

Teams, dealer West, East-West vulnerable.

♠ 10 9 3 2	N W E S
♥ Q 7 4 3	
♦ K 4	
♣ K J 4	

♠ Q J 7 5
♥ 5
♦ Q 9 8 7
♣ Q 8 5 2

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

1. 20-21 points.
2. Major suit inquiry.

You, West, lead the ♠2: five - eight - king. Declarer plays the ♦A: four - seven - two and the ♦3: king - eight - six. What next?

* * * * *

After the auction above and early play, where can you find the four more tricks needed to defeat 3NT? Count the points. You have nine points, dummy has seven and South has 20-21. What useful cards can partner have for you?

The deal comes from the 2024 Gold Coast Teams, in the repechage to select the remaining two semi-finalists:

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

Matthew Thomson deduced that the only hope was that partner held the ♣A. He switched to ♣J. Whether declarer played the ♣Q (ace, East returns the six to the king, then low to the nine-seven) or ducked (♣K and a third club to the ace-nine), the defenders could take four clubs to defeat 3NT.

At the other table, South was also in 3NT. Geeske Joel (West) led ♣J for the same outcome and a flat board.

In the other match, one NS pair reached 4♠, which went one down, EW +50. At the other table:

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

David Gue (West) led the ♣K: two - six - three and continued with the ♣J: queen - ace - ten. Josh Tomlin (East) switched to a heart, jack, queen. Back came the ♣4 to give East two more club tricks, EW +50 and a tied board.

You can find more of Ron Klinger Bridge in The Sydney Morning Herald on Saturdays and The Sun-Herald on Sundays.

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YOUTH BRIDGE NEWS

with Laura Ginnan

Sunday development squad sessions

We're now two months into the weekly Youth Development Squad sessions. These sessions are doing two important things at once: helping prepare our international representatives for the World Championships in August, and providing a consistent weekly online game for players under 31 across the country.

A big thank you goes to Andy Hung, Ben Thompson, Sartaj Hans, Keith Kat, Phil Markey, Anita Curtis, and Renee Cooper, who have been expert presenters in April and May. Their experience and practical insights has been a major factor in making these sessions both useful and enjoyable.

Kate and Heath win the ANOT

We're so proud of u26 Australian representatives Kate Macdonald and Heath Watkins for taking out this year's ANOT!

If you are in a position to help support our young representative players, we are also continuing to raise funds to assist with expenses for those representing Australia at the World Championships: Support Aussie Youth Bridge

State and territory coordinators are kicking goals

Across the country, there has been excellent activity at state level. Special mentions to Paul Brayshaw in Perth, who is running regular training sessions for the Western Australia ANC youth team, and to Suz Wilkinson in Canberra, who continues to drive a range of initiatives. These include the Canberra Bridge Club Youth Online Butler on 26 June, collaboration with the Cootamundra Bridge Club to strengthen youth participation at their Congress in

August, and the return of the Youth Triathlon in October.

Behind the scenes, the ABF Youth Committee is currently reviewing its scope, policies, and procedures, to strengthen structure and clarity.

A final thought on the beauty of bridge

I love that within the last month I've been able to enjoy talking bridge over dinner with an 80+ year-old, and watching a nine-year-old be the only pair in an online field to successfully bid a slam. I'm now the national youth coordinator, but this time last year I was lucky enough to be the non-playing captain of the Australian Seniors' Team, who are almost to the day celebrating the anniversary of their gold medal performance at the Asia-Pacific Championships.

It's pretty special that we have a game where a ten-year-old can be playing alongside a centenarian on equal terms. Bringing people of different ages together is one of the real strengths and, when embraced, one of the most rewarding aspects of bridge.

As a distinct minority, young players sometimes need a bit of support to find their way in bridge environments, and their participation creates an opportunity for curiosity on all sides, along with the occasional need for patience, wisdom, and tolerance as everyone finds their way.

To find out more about the Aussie Youth Bridge Program see

<https://www.aussieyouthbridge.com/supportaussieyouthbridge>

For youth related matters contact me at

youth@abf.com.au

Unusual contract at the club

Bill Griggs

We had finished a round early, so I took the opportunity to visit the toilet, planning to return in time for the next round. A simple enough contract?

After completing my visit, I returned to the door and turned the handle to undo the latch. However, while the handle spun freely, the latching arm did not move. The door could not be opened. The contract was clearly in danger.

Fortuitously, due to my study of problems that might occur while playing bridge, I understood the structure of this lock, and realized that the teeth on the cog around the handle and the teeth on top of the sliding latch were no longer in contact. It seemed the teeth had stripped, and eliminated the usual form of exit. My planned simple play was blocked.

As with any bridge problem, even when the defence looks solid, it is worth considering all the cards you have been dealt and what options you might have.

A quick assessment of my cards:

- Pockets: two
- Loud shirt: singleton
- Keys on key ring: four
- Phone: singleton
- Swiss army knife or similar on keyring: void.

Of course, you must always check to see what dummy has provided, as sometimes there may be a useful surprise:

- Lock: not working (held in by four Philips head screws)
- Door: solid, hinged to open outward
- Windows to the outside: void
- Second door out: void
- Cupboards: void
- Screwdrivers: void
- Other tools: void
- Toilet: singleton
- Toilet rolls: three – perhaps useful if this hand would take a long time to play out?
- Ceiling: three panels which possibly may lift up – a possible consideration for later in the play?
- Ladders or stools to stand on to reach ceiling panels: void

- Toilet cleaning brush: singleton (see comment above regarding rolls).

At this point I recalled that many years ago my mother had imprinted on me the role of the toilet brush as the toilet visit equivalent of the ♦7. The ideal visit will see it as the last card / item played.

Often it is reasonable to start with a simple safe play, to see if more information can be gathered, and perhaps find a way to make the contract, ideally without burning any bridges (or doors). And one must always have backup plans too.

Plans considered (in order):

1) Get a kibitzer to use the mandatory safety slot on the lock's outside to open the lock. But as this also requires the teeth to engage, it is unlikely to work. Tried anyway – fail.

2) Try wiggling the handle to see if teeth would engage – fail. In fact, after the kibitzers' efforts (see 1 above) the handle jammed in place and would no longer turn at all. Double fail.

3) Try to move the latch arm in some other way – unable to gain any grip. As the end goes into the door frame it could not be pushed. Fail.

4) Maybe the screws could be undone using something inside the room? If so, removing the lock should enable the latch to be pulled out. Search dummy for a useful card -->

- a) Remove cistern lid to check for removable metal parts such as a split pin or thin metal strip which could be MacGyvered into a screwdriver: void. Dummy useless, again!
- b) Back to my hand and consider using a key as a screwdriver – will try this next.

At this stage a longer path to success seemed likely, and as with any challenging hand, sometimes it is important to start preparations early for possibly needed later plays. As a precaution, the Director was contacted to let her know this hand may take a little longer to play out than usual.

As often happens with interesting hands, this triggered the interest of a number of kibitzers.

A good bridge lesson is that the early flow of play may open or close options, and that the original planned approach may need to change. Many things can happen. A poor split. A card unable to be forced out. A blockage. So backup options should always be considered before the first card is played on the lead.

Backup options being considered if Plan 4b did not work:

5) Unscrew the outer part of lock on the outside of the door, although my understanding of the structure of the lock meant this was unlikely to solve the problem. Meanwhile, given the absence of Vugraph to watch the actual playing of the hand, it did keep the kibitzers occupied.

6) Maybe a screwdriver could be passed through the ceiling cavity by lifting panels on both sides? But there was no easy way to do that lift on the inside, except maybe with the toilet brush. And lifting the panels, if possible at all, was likely to drop dust and various nasties.

7) Remove the hinge pins on the outside, allowing the door to be removed. This would need a hammer and a punch tool. A handyman could be called who may have these. One of the kibitzers did call a handyman.

8) Kicking / striking the door hard from inside may force the screws out, or possibly break the door itself. This would almost certainly earn a reprimand from the director.

9) Call the Fire Service, who have serious tools which would not be defeated by a mere wooden door. This

may render the Card Caddy unusable in the short term, and may also produce significant paperwork. And everyone hates paperwork.

As it turned out, option 4b was partially successful. Three screws were slowly removed completely. However, after the fourth screw undid part way, it became stuck.

The hand had now been played some way through, and as is often the case, further options had become apparent.

4c) Maybe I could somehow force the last defensive card / screw out?

A check of the lock revealed this could not be done by hand. However, the edge of the lock was now able to be pulled slightly away from the door.

Remembering the lie of dummy's cards from my initial assessment, I recalled that the toilet roll holder (my mother's ♦7) had a flat solid wooden rim on the lid at the top. I was able to get that rim into the gap which provided enough leverage to cause the last screw to pull out and the lock to be removed.

Beer card played.

Door opened.

Contract made.

William (Bill) Nash, 1945-2026

A ten-pound pom, who luckily for him and his family moved to Australia when he was about ten years old, settling in Adelaide.

From being an industrial chemist (whatever that is) to owning and operating milk runs, dabbling in so many other things that I've lost count, he's done it all, a very successful businessman.

He learnt bridge whilst at university, ending up playing for about sixty years. Bridge, you can argue, was one of his, and yours and my, favourite things to do; either you love it or you don't play at all, there's no in-between.

Certainly not the greatest player I've played with, but definitely the best bridge partner you could ask for, even though he didn't always return your suit and hogged a lot of hands!

Introduced to each other by a mutual bridge mate in the late 2000s, we started as bridge partners in late 2010. Playing occasionally overseas and in almost every major event around Australia since then, after a medical issue in July 2025 and a very reluctant six-month break, he finally made it back for what was to be our last date at the Canberra Summer Festival in January 2026. He sure went out with a bang, seeing him smiling and being so happy at the bridge table, having dinners together once again after that very, very reluctant break; life doesn't get better than that.

We very quickly became more than bridge partners; Bill was a friend that you don't have too many of in your life. Unfortunately, I now have one less.

There were no bad times together. I never heard him complain, whether it was sharing a room, having dinner, or just sitting there together watching the time go by. I wish we could start it all again. Thank you, my dear friend Bill; see you in the big bridge club in the sky, where you might let me play a few more hands!

Jim Wallis



Car Buying Service

For every vehicle purchased through Red Plum Automotive by an ABF registered bridge player (or referral), we will contribute to the ABF's Technology Fund, which will help the ABF reduce the planned increases to its fees in coming years.



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MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

Although I took a fair bit of time off during April, there was still work going on with My ABF.

I'd like to thank some people who assisted with testing various new features in my absence - in particular David Sydes (Toowong), Siobhan Davies (Caloundra), and Elizabeth Yoo (Canberra).

There have been two primary releases since the last newsletter. More detailed release notes are available both from your My ABF dashboard and the My ABF resources pages on the ABF website here: <https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/> (separate pages for players, clubs and tournament organisers).

RELEASE 6.3.4 (April 2026)

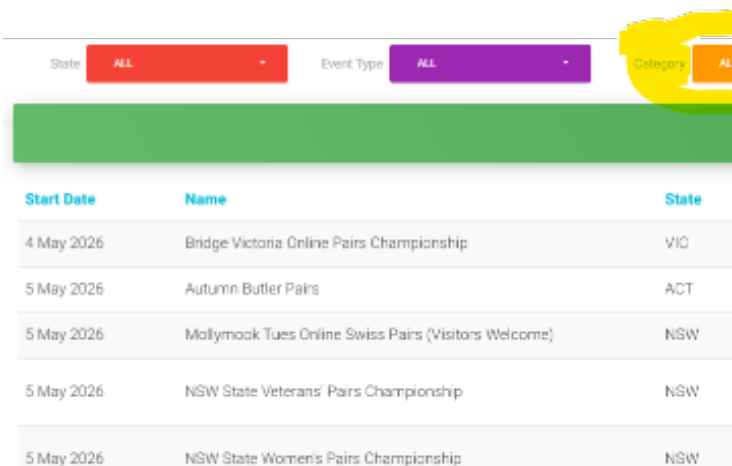
- Extending results display to sessions scored by butlerimps and crossimps (previously only matchpoint sessions could be scored). Plans after this include handling tournament formats - Swiss pairs and Swiss teams.
- Including a double dummy solver with results.
- Better handling of tags for emails (can now bulk add to Contacts as well as Members).

RELEASE 6.3.21 (May 2026)

Now able to filter the main events calendar by "category" of event.

This includes events categorised by:

- masterpoint level (open, intermediate, restricted, novice)
- age (youth, seniors, veterans, etc)
- sex (mens, womens, mixed)



Start Date	Name	State
4 May 2026	Bridge Victoria Online Pairs Championship	VIC
5 May 2026	Autumn Butler Pairs	ACT
5 May 2026	Mollymook Tues Online Swiss Pairs (Visitors Welcome)	NSW
5 May 2026	NSW State Veterans' Pairs Championship	NSW
5 May 2026	NSW State Women's Pairs Championship	NSW

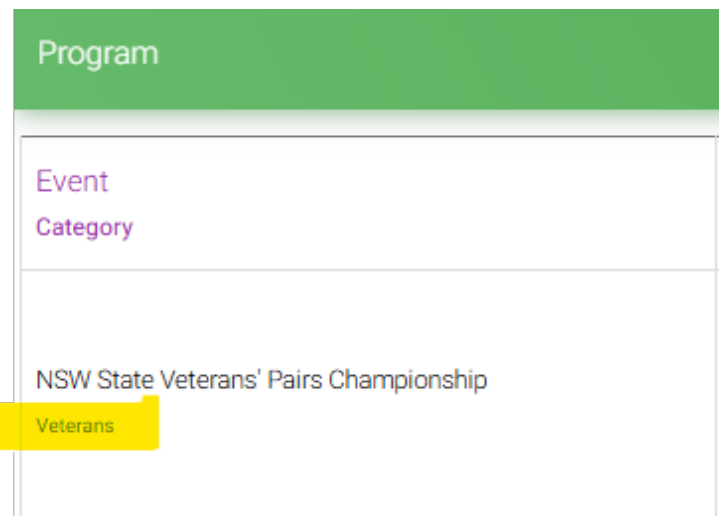
You can therefore use this to filter the main calendar to show events of most relevance to you. Remem-



ber you can save any combination of filters once you choose them so you can always have the calendar start off showing the events you are most interested in. Use these buttons to do that:



Categories selected by the event organiser are also displayed next to the events in the Congress page Program of Events:



REPORT FOR CLUBS LISTING ALL SESSIONS IN MY ABF IN A SELECTED PERIOD (BY PLAYER NUMBERS OR BY DOLLAR VALUE)

This is especially valuable for clubs that use My ABF to assist in taking table money for their sessions. Not only does the system massively streamline their collection process it now provides useful management data for them as well - instead of having to create all that manually.

You can select a date range, session type(s) and whether to see a summary of player numbers or dollar values (and how they paid). All the reports can be exported to CSV or Excel.

Report summarising player numbers:

Date Range: Year to date | Start Date: 01/01/2026 | End Date: 19/05/2026 | Session Type: Duplicate | View: Player Numbers

Player Numbers – 2026-01-01 to 2026-05-19

Totals (181 sessions)						1,455	5,581	65	167	4	28	5,820
Description	Date	Time	Director	Type	Tables	Bridge Credits	EFTPOS	Free Game	IOU	Unprocessed	Total	
MyABF Thursday Morning Section A 1 Jan 26	1 Jan 2026	AM	Graham Killoran	Duplicate	7	28	0	0	0	0	28	
MyABF Friday Morning Section A 2 Jan 26	2 Jan 2026	AM	Graham Killoran	Duplicate	10.5	41	0	1	0	0	42	
MyABF Friday Afternoon Section A 2 Jan 26	2 Jan 2026	AM	Graham Killoran	Duplicate	10.5	41	0	1	0	0	42	

Report summarising dollar value:

Date Range: Year to date | Start Date: 01/01/2026 | End Date: 19/05/2026 | Session Type: Duplicate | View: Dollar Values

Dollar Values – 2026-01-01 to 2026-05-19

Grand Total						1,455	\$34,972.00	\$2,846.50	\$136.00	\$30.00	-\$2,772.00	\$37,984.50
Description	Date	Time	Director	Type	Tables	Bridge Credits	EFTPOS	Free Game	IOU	Unprocessed	Total	
MyABF Thursday Morning Section A 1 Jan 26	1 Jan 2026	AM	Graham Killoran	Duplicate	7	\$199.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$199.00	
Session Total						7	\$199.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$199.00
MyABF Friday Morning Section A 2 Jan 26	2 Jan 2026	AM	Graham Killoran	Duplicate	10.5	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$280.00	
<i>Top up of \$40.00</i>							\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	
Session Total						10.5	\$280.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$320.00

REPORT FOR CLUBS LISTING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STATUS

For clubs using My ABF to manage their annual membership renewals this is an extra report showing the state of play of your renewals at any point in time.

Members

Renewal Status Report – Caloundra Contract Bridge Club Inc

Renewal period: 01 Jan 2027 (Current)

Current period: 01 Jan 2026 – 31 Dec 2026 | Renewal period from: 01 Jan 2027

Generated 20 May 2026 16:31

RENEWED 0 members – Total fees: \$0.00
No members have renewed yet.

RENEWAL NOTICE – AWAITING PAYMENT 0 members – Total fees: \$0.00
No renewal notices are outstanding.

ACTIVE – NOT YET RENEWED 305 members

entries per page

ABF#	First Name	Last Name	Membership Typ
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XERO API

This one isn't visible to players or to clubs but it's actually been the biggest piece of work we have done. It's a way that My ABF can now directly link with Xero (the ABF's accounting system) behind the scenes. That makes it a lot quicker and easier for us to generate club settlement payments and Stripe fee invoices - especially at the end of each month. It's also

looking ahead as this is the way masterpoint and capitation fee invoices will be generated in future after the Masterpoint Centre systems move into My ABF.

RELEASE NUMBERING?

You might notice the strange release numbering I have used above. What, I hear you ask, happened to 6.3.5 through 6.3.20? Yes, there actually have been 16 releases between 4 and 21. Many are small, some are minor bug fixes, some are small technical improvements that are not visible to any user, some are where these features were added but initially only made visible for assigned test users, etc. There is always work going on - but we only periodically publish information about releases when new features become visible and generally available.

Club memberships not showing in My ABF?

A question I am often asked is, "Why does my membership of club X not show in My ABF, and how do I add it?"

Before I answer that, it's not a problem if this is the scenario. Don't worry - it doesn't mean your ABF membership has gone astray!

WHY ISN'T MY MEMBERSHIP SHOWING?

Because it's not yet compulsory for clubs to list all their members in My ABF. The Masterpoint Centre remains the "source of truth" about everyone's home club so that's where new and updated memberships

are always created first. If your membership is not showing in My ABF it means either your club has not uploaded its members to My ABF at all or it has not kept its list up to date and you aren't currently on it even if perhaps you should be. (This might well be the case for a club that doesn't regularly use My ABF for other functions like club sessions, club events, results, or emailing members).

HOW TO ADD IT?

A player can't add a membership, that's always done by a club (exactly the same as with the masterpoint centre today). So to get your membership showing in My ABF may mean talking to your club and suggesting they add or update their list of members.

Ultimately, of course, once the Masterpoint Centre is merged into My ABF this will all exist in the one place. But at present we are still operating across two separate systems.

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

Partnering to grow our game: the "Starter Congress" initiative

The first year of a player's journey is the most critical. Evidence suggests clubs can lose the majority of beginners within their first twelve months. To retain these players and build a more vibrant, long-term playing community, Bridge NSW is launching a new initiative: [the Starter Congress](#).

Event details

Sunday, 9 August 2026, 9:30am to 4:00pm at the Peninsula Bridge Club. \$55 per person, which includes lunch, snacks and post-game drinks.

The goal is simple – to develop confident event players at New South Wales clubs.

Many capable club players hesitate to enter their first congress, fearing they aren't ready for the level of competitive play. This initiative creates a supported pathway that gives developing players the opportunity to try tournament-level bridge.

Learn more about the Starter Congress

Why this benefits your club

Player retention:

Engaged players who participate in tournament-level bridge are significantly more likely to remain as engaged members of their home club long-term.

Skill development:

These events will teach the etiquette and scoring skills for players at this level, making them better players in club sessions and future congresses.

Grow your events:

Building a larger community of "congress-ready" players means a wider audience to invite to your own club's future tournaments.



How your club can get involved

Encourage participation:

Promote the event to newer players at your club (those with six months to two years of experience) to build their confidence and help retain them as more engaged club members.

Become a partner:

Clubs are invited to be a 'Host' or 'Supporter' of a future Starter Congress – an opportunity to showcase your club and directly help grow our statewide bridge community.

Help us promote the Starter Congress

The support of clubs is critical in helping us promote the inaugural event to **eligible players at your club**. The following resources are available to share with your members:

[Share the Starter Congress website page](#)

[Download the promotional flyer](#)

We hope this year's Starter Congress will be the first in a series across both metropolitan and regional areas, so your support in promoting the event is greatly appreciated.

Australia's Bridge Day Out

The Bridge Australia Foundations Primary Fundraiser Tuesday July 28th

Australia's
Bridge Day Out
TUESDAY
July 28th

THE BRIDGE AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

The Bridge Australia Foundation (formerly ABF Foundation), established in 2020, is a not-for-profit organisation that supports bridge through grants and scholarships for research and projects that strengthen the game's future. Funded by bequests, donations, and fundraisers, it has already made a meaningful impact and is exploring charity status.



BRIDGE DAY OUT

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

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

2026 REGISTRATIONS OPEN MAY 1st

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



Real Deal Bridge – Bridge for schools and younger players

Laura Ginnan

Over the last little while, I've received a number of enquiries about the bridge in schools and younger players program being developed by myself and Real Deal Bridge. The enthusiasm and support for this project has been wonderful and really shows how much the bridge community cares about the future of the game.

Bridge in schools is certainly not a new idea, with many successful programs having operated around Australia over the years. I was lucky enough to learn from the late Dorothy Jesner when I was a child and have also seen other successful programs by Andrew Mill, Maggie Kelly and the late Frank Power in action.

In the mid-2010s Peter Hollands and I held weekly sessions for school-aged children with the support of the Waverley Bridge Club. That program produced players who competed internationally, including current Australian youth superstar Heath Watkins, who was first introduced to the game through those sessions.

Post-COVID, getting back to helping grow bridge for younger people became a personal priority of mine. With the help of enthusiastic Gippsland-based supporters including bridge players John Haylock and Lorraine Robinson, along with Kate Earle, a teacher in Cann River, and a very supportive school principal at my son's school, we began trialling ideas in school environments.

In mid-2025, the program was fortunate enough to receive support from the ABF Foundation (now the Bridge Australia Foundation), who see bridge for younger people as an important growth area. That support has accelerated development and also provided the financial backing needed to begin producing materials for future rollout.

From the beginning, the priorities for the program have included:

- A program not reliant on one individual
- A structure that does not require an experienced bridge teacher
- Scalability
- Financial sustainability
- A pathway to play more through clubs or other youth games

- Meeting modern legal and social expectations around child safety
- Most importantly, making bridge fun for students

The bridge content itself has been the easy part. The harder challenge has been building something that achieves all of the other goals.

We always anticipated that getting into schools would be one of the biggest barriers, particularly for programs intended to be classroom teacher-led. Initially, our value proposition focused heavily on academic benefits and curriculum links. However, experience at both Cann River and my children's school showed that many of the non-academic benefits were valued more highly on the ground. Those benefits also provide a unique selling point compared to the many other programs competing for schools' attention. Even with the right balance, it's still not easy getting in the door as schools are busy places with many competing demands.

Based on these experiences and the enthusiasm and support from bridge clubs, an alternative pathway is now also being explored through school-aged sessions run directly in bridge clubs. This comes with different challenges, but we're excited that the Sale Bridge Club will be the first club to trial this model.

One thing we do know is that this is not something that should be rushed or scaled too quickly.

More broadly, one of bridge's ongoing challenges is retention. If people have a poor experience early on, they are likely to leave and often tell others about it. When it comes to school-aged children, the stakes are even higher. A negative experience can affect not just one student, but potentially an entire school or school network. Likewise, getting an opportunity but not being ready to deliver could mean missing the chance to create lifelong bridge players and potentially even future bridge-playing families.

In most areas of life, if something seems like a good idea in principle, I'm one of those people who likes to establish a solid starting point, get stuck into it and refine things through real experience. In this case though, it's incredibly important to get things as close to right as possible before scaling up, because the consequences of getting it wrong go far beyond simply having a low conversion rate.

Tournament results

Photos from daily event bulletins

Barrier Reef Congress

ERIC PARSONS OPEN PAIRS

- 1 Hugh McGann - Justin Mill 115.08
- 2 Pete Hollands - Mike Doecke 115.00
- 3 David Appleton - Philip Markey 105.50
- 4 Peter Reynolds - George Kozakos 102.48
- 5 Ken Dawson - Adrienne Kelly 101.33
- 6 Liz Sylvester - Robbie Feyder 101.04
- 7 Lynda Young - Philip Young 100.65
- 8 Marianne Bookallil - Stephen Fischer 100.56
- 9 Pamela Evans - James Evans 99.87
- 10 Paul Hooykaas - Pele Rankin 99.79

BARRIER REEF RESTRICTED PAIRS

- 1 Sa Smith - Paul Smith 113.86
- 2 Vilma Bonassi - Sally Ruttiman 106.41
- 3 Kate O'Donnell - Helen Baran 101.72
- 4 Kerry Rutter - Carmel Dwan 99.75
- 5 Helmut Geyer - Brian Tierney 98.96
- 6 Maureen Gallichan - Thea Weekes 95.61
- 7 Lyn Adams - Jane Seaborne 94.17
- 8 Anne Wakelin - Connie Derks 92.97
- 9 Sue Smith - Michael Huddart 91.33
- 10 Sue Mittermair - Julie-Ann Bradwyn 86.68

NOVICE PAIRS

- 1 Martin Pearce - Noel Saunders 110.74
- 2 Brad Ross - Stephen Lee 102.31
- 3 Cathy Mckenzie - Michele Rau 97.43
- 4 Maureen Baxter - Justine Mcallister 94.26
- 5 Annemarie Stevenson - Sonja De Rooy 92.82
- 6 Trish Berry - Janice Bates 91.39
- 7 Peter Elliott - Greg Lawler 89.93
- 8 Judith Threlfall - Jayne Dalton 83.53
- 9 Michele Rafter - Rae Russell 82.89
- 10 Toni Barrell - Mary Overell 82.70

JOHN BROCKWELL OPEN TEAMS

- 1 David Appleton, Ashley Bach, Fred Whitaker, Philip Markey 123.99
- 2 David Weston, Tony Hutton, Kim Morrison, Julian Foster 106.41
- 3 Rob Ward, Liz Sylvester, Robbie Feyder, Peter Gill 103.96
- 4 Laura Ginnan, Greg Lewin, Pete Hollands, Geoff Chettle, Mike Doecke, Alex Goss 102.21
- 5 Marianne Bookallil, Stephen Fischer, Peter Reynolds, George Kozakos 97

BARRIER REEF 300 TEAMS

- 1 Chris Ferguson, Eve Sirigos, Sue Smith, Michael Huddart 106.30
- 2 Helen Van Den Broek, Annie Lynch, Jan Harris, Sandra Morris 102.93
- 3 Anne Wakelin, Claire James, John Elliott, Connie Derks 99.25
- 4 Sue Mittermair, Julie-Ann Bradwyn, Sa Smith, Paul Smith 96.56
- 5 Maureen Gallichan, Lyn Adams, Jane Seaborne, Thea Weekes 95.40
- 6 Helmut Geyer, Alan Campbell, Ted Robson, Brian Tierney 93.97
- 7 Michele Rafter, Rae Russell, Annemarie Stevenson, Sonja De Rooy 93
- 8 Jan Nelson, Chris Nelson, Rosemary Floquet, Jan Kinross 89.50
- 9 Ruth Morris, Garry Bolton, Luthile Arlett, Greg Lawler 87.82
- 10 Fran Price, Rex Meadowcroft, Robyn Wells, Ann Sauer 86.86

Central West Festival

TEAMS – OPEN / INTERMEDIATE

- 1 Susan Lusk, Warren Lazer, Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby 117.71
- 2 Maurits van der Vlugt, Stephen Fischer, Sebastian Yuen, George Kozakos 116.26
- 3 Jasmine Skeate, Paul Gosney, Ella Jacob, Andrew Spooner 108.11
- 4 Liz Adams, Tony Nunn, Peter Gill, Martin Bloom 106.92
- 5 Lynleigh Evans, Catherine Chaffey, Rakesh Kumar, Jake Andrew 105.9

TEAMS – RESTRICTED / NOVICE

- 1 Lidy Seysener, Bronwyn Neal, Susan Jensen, Simon Hunter 114.12
- 2 Gwenda Bunworth, David Kenny, Kathleen Kenny, James Walcott 105.0
- 3 Anne-Marie Kelly, Andy Sunter, John Fitzpatrick, David Paul 100.88
- 4 Steve English, Michael Jackson, Cathie Oppenheim, Claire Bonic 100.8
- 5 Neil McMaster, Lucy D'Ambrosio, Jennifer Bissett, Shannon Queree 97.7
- 6 Ann Berry, Gwen Riordan, Elizabeth Moss, Bev Furner 93.18
- 7 Tracey Dillon, Kevin Hughes, Marcelle Goslin, John Aldersley 93.02
- 8 David Hancock, Wieslaw Pietraszkiewicz, Meera Kudva, Louise Lewis 91
- 9 Peter Dayhew, Miriam Dayhew, Jennifer Woodhouse, Greg Brackenreg 87
- 10 Merle Payne, Jane Armitage, Anthony Smuts, Nick Armitage 85.86

SWISS PAIRS – OPEN

- 1 Kevin Steffensen - James Wallis 121.87
- 2 Sue Lusk - Bruce Neill 117.67
- 3 Liz Adams - Peter Gill 115.60
- 4 Jane Rennie - Justin Mill 113.93
- 5 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby 113.65
- 6 Stephen Fischer - George Kozakos 111.88
- 7 Bas Bolt - Rob Hurst 111.09
- 8 Vanessa Brown - Will Jenner-O'Shea 108.58
- 9 Helena Dawson - David Weston 107.46
- 10 Maurits Van Der Vlugt - Sebastian Yuen 106.53



SWISS PAIRS – INTERMEDIATE

- 1 Sandy Carter - Nerida Gillies 137.01
- 2 Trish Berry - John Simmonds 115.18
- 3 Barbara Williams - Megan Grant 110.16
- 4 David Burton - Jane Biscoe 108.39
- 5 Tammy Hubbard - Libby Heyward 104.92
- 6 Jens Skovgaard - Elaine Mcrae 104.21
- 7 Sachiko Cathcart - Annegrete Kolding 103.23
- 8 Kevin Gu - Gayle Bagg 101.72
- 9 Christine Hanley - Craig Mietzke 100.09
- 10 Felix Shteyman - Susan Feeney 96.43



SWISS PAIRS – RESTRICTED / NOVICE

- 1 Bronwyn Neal - Simon Hunter 117.51
- 2 Kate McClymont - Penny Lysaght 114.85
- 3 Jen Woodhouse - Greg Brackenreg 111.13
- 4 Neil McMaster - Jennifer Bissett 110.79
- 5 Ann Berry - Bev Furner 110.37
- 6 Jennifer Allison - Debbie Cambridge 110.26
- 7 Mandy Macdonald - Vibeke Faurby 109.71
- 8 Cathie Oppenheim - Claire Bonic 108.90
- 9 David Hancock - Meera Kudva 107.70
- 10 Wendy Stapleton - Jane Mitchell 103.41



Autumn Nationals

BLUE RIBBON OPEN PAIRS – FINAL

- 1 Justin Williams - David Beauchamp 57.11
- 2 Cathy Chua - Jeff Travis 58.09
- 3 David Gue - Josh Tomlin 54.04
- 4 Peter Gill - David Hudson 53.06
- 5 Tony Nunn - Paul Dalley 55.39
- 6 Magnus Moren - Justin Mill 52.94
- 7 Sue Lusk - Bruce Neill 53.55
- 8 Geeske Joel - Liam Milne 51.84
- 9 Kate Macdonald - Heath Watkins 50.98
- 10 James Coutts - Shane Harrison 48.28



BLUE RIBBON OPEN PAIRS – PLATE

- 1 Nick Fahrer - Philip Markey 56.67
- 2 Nikolas Moore - Tim Runting 55.57
- 3 Alison Dawson - Ken Dawson 55.30
- 4 Marianne Bookallil - Stephen Fischer 53.50
- 5 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell 52.89



FIS ONE-DAY UNDER GM SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Kevin Gu - Gayle Bagg 80.74
- 2 Jeremy Reid - Erica Mccoull 79.50
- 3 Rob Burnell - Michael Ward 77.62
- 4 Raman Jegatheesan - Simon Tissera 75.38
- 5 Sandy Carter - Nerida Gillies 75.22



DAVID LUSK ROOKIE SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Mary Boyd Turner - Amanda Bakker 81.56
- 2 Greg Wark - Penny Wark 79.22
- 3 Rachael Duncan - Janet Macphail 78.10
- 4 Panja & Rajah Thiyagarajah 77.43
- 5 Lyn Keeley - Ros Van Riet 68.85



FIS ONE-DAY UNDER LM SWISS PAIRS

- 1 David Handley - Owen Teakle 85.06
- 2 Cynthia Brinkman - Graham Stucley 80.24
- 3 Mark Carlson - Sara Lynch 79.21
- 4 Brenda Campbell - Eve Clarkson 70.87
- 5 Gordon Travers - Anne Travers 70.60



FIS ONE-DAY NOVICE SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Jacob Dorman - Rebecca Dorman 83.59
- 2 Andrea Bissett - Joan Ketteridge 72.38
- 3 Christopher Jones - Brian Ashton 71.27
- 4 Ann Bills - Vickianne West 70.62
- 5 Jill Braithwaite - Ann Axelby 70.10



BLUE RIBBON UNDER GRAND MASTER PAIRS

- 1 Tassi Georgiadis - Paul Williamson 56.37
- 2 Jan Bennett - Derek Bartosh 56.62
- 3 Keith Walshe - David De Bellis 55.64
- 4 Raman Jegatheesan - Simon Tissera 54.53
- 5 Sandy Carter - Nerida Gillies 54.17
- 6 Caprice Davey - Anthony Gibbs 53.19
- 7 Tina Hesketh - Tony Georgeson 52.82
- 8 Martin Walton - Rodney Macey 52.82
- 9 Barbara Giizel - Pam Murphy 51.96
- 10 Bill Jensen - Petter Carlmark 48.16



STEPBRIDGE UNDER LM SWISS TEAMS

- 1 Nathanael Shoumack, Albert Kong, Mandy Tomney, Audrey Donsen 126
- 2 Anne Morgan, William Morgan, Peter Wilson, Kate Hartley 114.82
- 3 Angy Henn, Ruth Sladek, Andrea Bissett, Joan Ketteridge 94.01
- 4 Nick Hullah, Beverly Hunt, Kerry Barns, Bernard Yates 91.47
- 5 David Drake, Timothy Aley, Jennifer Mcdowell, Margaret Cusack 89.98

TBIB OPEN SWISS TEAMS – FINAL

- Beeby (Jane Beeby, Leon Meier, Kate Macdonald, Heath Watkins) 100
def Yoshka (Geeske Joel, Liam Milne, James Coutts, Shane Harrison) 91

STEPBRIDGE UNDER GM SWISS TEAMS

- 1 Lynda Young, Megan Edwards, Michelle George, Philip Young 112.82
- 2 Michael Young, Mary Poynten, Tony White, Jake Andrew 110.92
- 3 Jan Bennett, Derek Bartosh, Rhonda Graham, Nick Edginton 100.02
- 4 Andrea Dayman, Martin Walton, Julie Roberts, Rodney Macey 94.40
- 5 Brenda Campbell, Kate Pinniger, Eve Clarkson, Helen Cook 93.97
- 6 Ray Dohnt, Helen Gray, Catherine Ellice-Flint, Anthony Gibbs 91.82

BLUE RIBBON UNDER LIFE MASTER PAIRS

- 1 Michael Jackson - Lucy D'Ambrosio 61.52
- 2 Edwina Grant - Sim Cavill 55.39
- 3 Phillip Callahan - Michael Court 55.27
- 4 Matthew Goode - Roy Schulz 51.10
- 5 Megan Edwards - Michelle George 52.45
- 6 Megg Kelham - Peter Solomon 50.37
- 7 Maggie Havyatt - Dave Havyatt 50.49
- 8 Brenda Campbell - Eve Clarkson 50.98
- 9 Pauline Mcentee - Julie Randall 50.25
- 10 Mike Stratton - Briar Saint 48.41



2026 Women's Playoff

- 1 Lori Smith - Barbara Travis 131.31
- 2 Judith Tobin - Karen Creet 109.49
- 3 Jane Reynolds - Viv Wood 104.00
- 4 Marnie Leybourne - Leone Fuller 99.18
- 5 Dagmar Neumann - Jodi Tutty 98.22



TBIB Western 60+ Pairs

- 1 Jonathan Free - Viv Wood 125.60
- 2 Trevor Fuller - Val Biltoft 124.58
- 3 Deana Wilson - Fiske Warren 118.41
- 4 Mitchell Garbutt - Terri Garbutt 115.62
- 5 Tom Lemann - Ron Cooper 114.11
- 6 Geoff Holman - David Matthews 107.34
- 7 Lilia Male - Beata Bieganski 106.84
- 8 Marnie Leybourne - Nick Cantatore 102.33
- 9 Ray Wood - Marleen Medhat 101.68
- 10 Ian Clark - Dave Parham 100.68
- 11 James Steer - Stella Steer 99.65
- 12 Cathy Hood - Cynthia Belonogoff 97.98



River City Gold Mixed Pairs

- 1 Sophie Ashton - Liam Milne 171.26
- 2 Maurits van der Vlugt - Dagmar Neumann
- 3 Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby 163.10
- 4 Tania Lloyd - Hugh Grosvenor 156.37
- 5 Therese Tully - Richard Ward 152.71
- 6 Paul Hooykaas - Pele Rankin 151.54
- 7 Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill 151.45
- 8 Pam Livingston - David Beauchamp 148.54
- 9 Gary Malinas - Jan Malinas 143.98
- 10 Ella Jacob - George Kozakos 143.01
- 11 John Rivers / Linda Norman 141.81
- 12 Alison Dawson / Ken Dawson 141.66



1st BRISBANE GOLD CONGRESS

30th January – 6th February 2027

VOCO Brisbane City Centre 85-87 North Quay

Tournament Organisers: Jan Peach brisbanegoldto.jan@qldbridge.com.au 0487 466 109
Tony Treloar brisbanegoldto.tony@qldbridge.com.au 0468 398 843

Open Pairs Championship: 6 Sessions

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

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

PQP

NEW
PAIRS
FORMAT

Open Teams Championship: 6 Sessions plus Finals

Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th (Qualifying) Friday 5th (Semi-finals)
Late Afternoon Friday 5th to Early Afternoon Saturday 6th (Final)

Special Event: Friday 5th & Saturday Morning 6th 3-Session Cross-Imp Swiss Pairs
Walk In Pairs Late Afternoon Friday 29th

SIMILAR PARALLEL EVENTS FOR U500

