



# NEWSLETTER

## AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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No. 217 October 2022

Approved for Print Post S65001/00163

ABN 70 053 651 666

## WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION





## OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE

President's Report: Allison Stralow	4
World Bridge Series: Brad Coles	5
ABF Marketing Report: Peter Cox	8
MyABF Update: Julian Foster	10
Australians and Bridge: Keith Ogborn	11
World Youth Championships: Andrew Spooner	12
The Aces On Bridge: Bobby Wolff	14
Bridge Into The 21st Century: Paul Lavings	15
A Diamond Pair In The Bridge World: Stephanie Gardiner	18
Workshops With Will: William Jenner-O'Shea	19
A Real Deal Workout: Ron Klinger	20
Joan Butts retires: Sue Falkingham	21
A Game At The Club: Barbara Travis	22
Friends Of Youth Bridge: David Stern	24
Improve Your Defence: Ron Klinger	2, 25
Teaching Tips: Ian Dalziel	26
How Would You Play? Barbara Travis	13, 28
Coffs Coast Gold: Brad Coles	29
Reaching The Next Level: Matt Raj Mal	30
News and results	31

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Front cover image: Nabil Edgtton and Michael Whibley win silver at the World Open Pairs. See report on page 5.

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*Solution on page 25*

E/Nil

♠ 7 4

♥ A J 8 7

♦ A J 9 3

♣ K J 7

♠ A 9

♥ Q 4 2

♦ 8 7 5

♣ Q 8 5 4 2



NORTH SOUTH

pass

1♦ 1♠

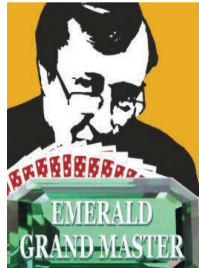
1NT 2♥

3♥ 4♥

all pass

With no opposition bidding, South is in 4♥. West leads the ♣2 (thirds and fifths). Dummy's ♣7 is covered by the ♣9 and South wins with the ♣10. The ♥3 comes next: two - seven - king. East returns the ♣3, taken by the ace. On the ♥5 you play the ♥4 and the ♥J wins, partner playing the ♥6. Declarer continues with the ♠4: two - jack - ace. What do you play next?





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Bridge Club

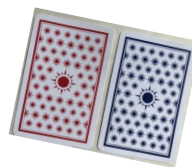
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allison Stralow

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



The World Bridge Federation Congress was held in Wroclaw, Poland in August. Jan Kamras, (Sweden) was elected as the next President of the World Bridge Federation. His term will begin in January 2023. The Australian Bridge community will have the opportunity to meet him in February at the Gold Coast Congress.

The outgoing President, Gianarrigo Rona has been a member of the WBF Executive Council and Management Committee since 1999 and served as President from 2010-2022. He will take on the role of President Emeritus in 2023. I thank Gianarrigo for his service and dedication to Bridge. Ben Thomson (Australia) was unanimously elected by the WBF Executive Council as the First Vice President. New Zealand Bridge and the ABF have regular meetings with Ben and appreciate his summaries of World Bridge matters.

Congratulations to Nabil Edgtton (Australia) and Michael Whibley (New Zealand) for winning the silver medal in the Open Pairs at the 16th World Bridge Series in Poland. Nabil's achievement equals the best result ever by an Australian at a Bridge World Championship. On behalf of the Australian Bridge community, I congratulate Nabil and Michael on this outstanding achievement.

Joan Butts retired from the position of National Teaching Coordinator on 30 September 2022. I thank Joan for her service to the ABF for the past ten years and wish her well in her future endeavours. The ABF Board is currently considering options for how best to continue supporting teachers, and is seeking input on State and Territory requirements for teaching. An in-depth look at this topic is plan-



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

**Scan the QR code above with your camera or favourite scanner. You will then have the option of leaving suggestions anonymously or leave us your contact details and we will get back to you.**

ned for the November mid-term Council meeting, and we welcome any feedback beforehand to help shape this discussion.

Joan will continue to oversee teaching until the end of 2022 to enable a smooth transition to the next chapter.

Keith Ogborn has produced a paper that traces the market for bridge from the beginnings to the present day. This paper can be viewed at

[www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-history/australians-and-bridge/](http://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-history/australians-and-bridge/)

The ABF thanks Keith for highlighting the social and economic factors that have affected the growth, or otherwise, of bridge. This gives us an insight into the longer-term perspective of the issues that we face as we come out of the pandemic and look at the mix of face-to-face and online bridge.

Jenny Thompson has agreed to Chair a committee to embark on a major consultation with stakeholders to consider and make recommendations in relation to online bridge. Mark Guthrie, Bill Jacobs, Liam Milne and Matt Mullamphy have agreed to join.

Committees serve the ABF very well as "two heads are better than one," and they provide a forum for exchanging ideas and making recommendations for the Board to consider. A big thank you to all the players who give up their time to serve on the ABF Committees.

The best of bridge to you all.

cup2go



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





# Australia's first Open Pairs silver medal

*Brad Coles reports on  
Nabil Edgtton and Michael  
Whibley's success at the  
World Bridge Series, and some  
other Australian highlights*

The World Bridge Series was held in Poland over the last two weeks of August. This event is run every four years, and it has an open entry format (meaning that anyone can enter, and the teams do not have to consist of players from the same country). Events at the World Bridge Series include the Rosenblum, the McConnell Cup, and the World Pairs. Australia was well-represented, with a team in each of the four divisions (two in the Mixed) as well as several players scattered across various multi-national teams.

All eyes were on the Hans team (Sartaj Hans - Peter Gill, Nabil Edgtton - Michael Whibley) who had just played in the Spingold in Rhode Island, where they beat the top seeds to reach the round of 16. Hans got off to a slow start in Poland, running 48th with two matches to go, but a strong finish allowed them to scrape into the 32-team knockout phase.

In the round of 32 they faced Team Canada (Kamel Fergani - Marc-Andre Fourcaudot, Nick Gartaganis - Michel Lorber). The match was close at half-time, but a remarkable series of eleven small swings in the third quarter added up to a 60-0 run and a runaway win for Hans. This was one of the largest swings, generated by typically-aggressive preemptive bidding:

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fergani	Gill	Fourcaudot	Hans
2♦ multi	pass	2♥ P/C	2NT
pass	3♥ spades	dbl	pass
pass	rdbl	pass	3NT
pass	4♠	all pass	

4♠ is where you want to be, and all sensible roads lead to ten tricks. At the other table, this contract was harder to reach:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Edgtton	Gartaganis	Whibley	Lorber
2♥	pass	3♥	3NT
all pass			

3NT made just the five top tricks for -200 and 12 imps to Hans.

Canada made a strong comeback in the final set, which stalled when this squeeze went wrong:

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

WEST Edgtton	NORTH Gartaganis	EAST Whibley	SOUTH Lorber
pass	1♠	pass	1♥
pass	3NT	all pass	1NT

West led a diamond to the king and ace. Declarer crossed to the ♣A and played a spade to the queen, West showing out. Next came a heart to the ten and ace, and East played his last diamond. Declarer continued with the ♥Q, ducked by West, leaving this ending:

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

West won the next round of hearts with the ♥7, and dislodged dummy's ♦10, while East discarded a club and a spade. Whibley's club discard was essential for the defence; if he had discarded two spades like a mortal, declarer would have had a 100% line, endplaying East in spades for a club lead into the ♣KJ. By coming down to a singleton club, he gave declarer the losing option of trying to drop the bare ♣Q – an option that declarer took, leaving West with a handful of winners and 12 imps to Hans.

Hans moved into the round of 16 where they were defeated by the Robinson team (Jeff Meckstroth - David Berkowitz, David Gold - Zia Mahmood, Daniel Korbel - Eric Robinson).

The Teams events were followed by the Open and Women's Pairs, with three Australian pairs reaching the 58-pair Open final. Edgtton - Whibley and Gill - Hans reached the final after finishing 6th and 7th in the 119-pair semi-final, while Tony Nunn and Paul Dalley initially missed the semi-final, but earned a spot in the final the hard way, winning the B-semi with a 58.7% score across six sessions.

All three pairs made an appearance in the top ten during the second day of the final, but it was Nabil and Michael who were consistently at the top of the field. In the toughest of fields, they scored a near-top on this board:

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

At most tables South opened 1♣ in fourth seat, and West overcalled 1♥. Sitting North, Nabil was one of only a few players to compete over 1♥, doubling

## Other highlights from the World Bridge Series



Damon Flicker, Jenny Thompson, Eva Caplan and Jamie Thompson reached the round of 16 in the World Mixed Teams, narrowly missing the quarter-final with a 12-imp loss. In the round of 32 they beat the experienced team of Fiona Brown - Oliver Burgess, David Gold - Maggie Knottenbelt and Nevena Senior - Michael Bell (Nevena and Fiona are both multiple-gold medallists at world level).

If I'm reading the WBF web site correctly, Damon now has more WBF Masterpoints than he had ABF points prior to the Adelaide ANC.



Paul Gosney - Tony Leibowitz  
4th in the Open Pairs B-Final



Ian Robinson - Neil Ewart  
12th in the Senior Pairs semi



Sebastian Yuen - Christy Geromboux  
3rd in the Mixed Pairs B-semi



Ben Thompson - Renee Cooper  
4th in the Mixed Pairs semi,  
12th in Mixed Teams qualifying



to show four spades. South raised to game, scoring 91% as most pairs were in a partscore (or worse, defending a heart contract) with North silent throughout the auction.

When the Hans team were reunited in Session 4, both pairs had a chance for a top board:

Board 15
S/NS

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

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

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

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

In a strong club system, it is normal to force to game on the first round with 24 HCP, before knowing anything about shape. Here, Hans opened a 16+ club, and Gill’s systemic response was a game-forcing 2♣ bid showing five diamonds. They inevitably ended up in 4♠ (3NT is no better).

4♠ can be beaten by cashing both aces and exiting with a club, cutting off dummy before trumps are drawn, leaving South with two heart losers. On the actual spade lead, declarer can make by playing for both aces onside; after drawing trumps and playing a diamond, West must either forfeit his ♦A or give dummy two diamond tricks. In practice South took the alternative line of trying to ruff hearts, going one down when East overruffed.

Making 4♠ would have been 96% for Hans - Gill, but one down meant 91% for Edgtton - Whibley.

Edgtton - Whibley reached third place after seven of the eight sessions, and they ended the event with their fourth 60% session of the final. The following board was the first of three consecutive boards where they made a doubled partscore:

Session 8
Board 16
W/EW

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

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

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

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

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

Five pairs were doubled in 3♠, reflecting the need to grab every possible matchpoint in an event like this. But there was no stopping declarer from ten tricks.

In a stressful ending, Nabil and Michael averaged just 20% on the last three boards, but they had already done enough to move up one place and secure the silver medal, giving both Australia and New Zealand their best-ever result in this event.

Combined with Nabil’s second-place in the 2011 Transnational Teams (losing to Fisher and Schwartz in the final) and Michael’s 2017 Bermuda Bowl semi-final, both players now join Mike Cornell and Ashley Bach as WBF Open Life Masters.





# MARKETING REPORT

with Peter Cox  
marketing@abf.com.au



PWC, the second-largest professional services network in the world, publishes an annual Global Entertainment & Media Outlook Report. In the 2022 edition it highlights:

***The 'premiumisation' of the cinema (Bridge) experience**  
With the world of movies available from our living rooms, consumers are demanding more from out-of-home activities, wanting both the content and experience quality to be worth their while. This desire for rich experiences extends beyond the physical to the sensory.*

In the Marketing Column of the August 2022 ABF Newsletter I paraphrased this for Bridge: "With the world of bridge available from our lounges and bedrooms, clubs need to provide the unique, sensory and premium club experience to convince players to continue visiting in person. Clubs and congresses need to work hard on improving their product, facilities, number of sessions, teaching, directing, air conditioning, coffee and food, toilets, transport, parking, the social environment and providing a friendly club."

In this column I am going to concentrate on the future of Congresses. These are not necessarily the views of the ABF but from my experience over many years of analysing corporate strategy and attending many international sporting events. Also worked at bridge congresses around Australia including the SFOB in Canberra, the Gold Coast Congress, the ANC in Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide, the VCC, the Spring Nationals and the ANOT.

In early 2021 ABF Marketing conducted an Online Survey which received over 2,500 responses into the effects of COVID-19 on bridge which included information to help congress organisers planning

future congresses. The findings included the predictions that people who play congresses one to three times a year would play F2F more in local congresses after COVID but play less in State and particularly in National congresses. Further, that those who played F2F more than five times a year would fall by 32% for local, 43% for State and 29% for Interstate congresses.

The actual experience so far this year shows falls in attendances for most major events to be from 25-40% in line with the survey results.

The Survey included a question on "What motivates people to play in a congress?"

## CONGRESS REQUIREMENTS

Conditions for Best Practice include: Location, space, standards, internet, toilets, food, cleaning, temperature, vugraph, equipment, power, break out areas, directors, scoring, reception desk, boards pre-dealt, parking, public transport, PA systems, MC, accommodation, restaurants, sponsors, surveys, broadcasts, photography, promotion and reporting.

I do not have the space to discuss each factor but just to highlight a few, including:

Location, Location and Location. As the research above shows Social/Friends is very important so people need a variety of accommodation in close proximity to their friends. Obviously the GCC sets the standard with Broadbeach having a range of hotels/Units, restaurants, takeaway, supermarkets, coffee shops in walking distance. Some congress locations fail miserably.

Playing Venue. In the USA/World Champs the congresses are held in hotel/resort complexes with first class amenities and accommodation. Air condition-

ing and clean toilets are absolutely essential. However, accommodation and airfares are becoming more expensive for bridge players.

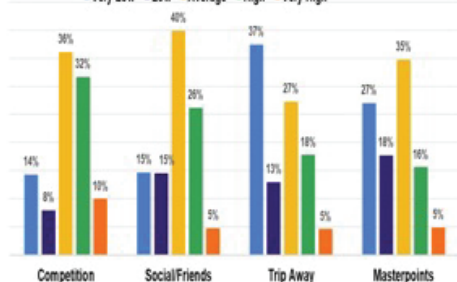
Break Out areas as in Adelaide and the GCC enable players to move out of the playing tables and meet with teammates and friends. Variety of food choices, prices and fresh air vital.

### What motivates people to play in a congress

- The motivations for people to play in congresses is a important subject in bridge
- Respondents ranked Competition, Social/Friends, Trips Away and Masterpoints of similar importance
- It is very important for event organisers to provide a social environment which is clearly obvious with the outstanding success of the GCC in Broadbeach which attracts about 2,600 individual players
- The next highest congress attracts only about 1,000 players and the others even less
- Masterpoints are more important in Congresses than clubs because larger numbers of Red and Gold points are available to improve players rankings
- Medallions, trophies, prize money and PQP all have a similar but very low importance to players

### Importance of Factors to Play in a Congress

Very Low Low Average High Very High





Directors, scoring, hand records. Australia leads the bridge world but consistency is needed.

Parking and public transport desirable for local markets but largely not an issue for visitors if accommodation and playing co-located.

Quality professional PA systems that are set up for all playing areas are very important. Master of Ceremonies, prize-giving stages, sponsor promotion are nearly all poorly performed.

Modern sports presentation requires video, music, social media, photography, Vugraph and BridgeTV broadcasting to create atmosphere and promote the game and its sponsors to the wider market.

**Premiumisation:** Do you have the objective to maximise profit or to provide the best possible experience to attendees to highlight our flagship events without running at a loss? How does your F2F congress score on each of the above tests to convince people to travel to congresses rather than play online from home? **Is your congress a Premium service?**



### BridgeTV Broadcasting of Championships

We have been developing our broadcasting of major bridge congresses over the last six months from the World Teams Championships in Italy, the North American Bridge Championships in Providence, Rhode Island in the USA, The Australian National Championships in Adelaide and the World Bridge Series from Poland.

Our team of expert commentators led by Ron Klinger, Barbara Travis, Elizabeth Havas, Phil Markey, Sartaj Hans, Sophie Ashton and a slew of guests have done a wonderful job. Commentating can be gruelling covering long hours mostly at night for up to 13 days in a row. It is a difficult balance to satisfy the bridge experts but make it understandable and enjoyable for club players. The sessions are long such as in golf, cricket, tennis and many other sports so a mix of expert advice and providing entertaining

anecdotes, discussions and history is crucial to engage and maintain the viewers.

We have to thank our loyal viewers and we recently set a record for BridgeTV of 175 people watching at the one time and many more during the night for the match of Hans, Gill, Edgton and Whibley against the great Zia Mahmood and Jeff Meckstroth team.

Australian players have had some really great results this year beating some famous teams including Nabil Edgton and Michael Whibley coming second in the World Series Pairs in Poland.

Some exciting events we post on BridgeTV including Liam Milne and Andy Hung in the US Spingold QF which has been viewed over 100 times. Sophie Ashton providing terrific enthusiasm commentating on her husband Sartaj playing with Peter Gill beating the world leading Nickell team and viewed 168 times.

### BridgeTV Masterclasses and Videos

The major objective of BridgeTV is to provide Expert Tips to help all levels of players to improve their bridge. Jamie Thompson did a video from the World Youth Championships of a Grand Slam hand which has been viewed 148 times. Sophie Ashton made four videos for BridgeTV analysing hands and giving tips that have been watched nearly 200 times each.

As a huge sports fan all my life I put up a video of one of the great sports commentaries of all time with Bruce McAvaney calling the 2022 Commonwealth Games 1500m win by Australian, Ollie Hoare. On BridgeTV it has been viewed over 1,600 times so presumably not only by bridge players!

New articles include Larry Cohen talking about his former partner playing with Jeff Meckstroth in the World series in Poland taking five rounds of bidding to reach 1♥ doubled. Worth reading by the experts. Separately he also looks at negative doubles, essential for all improving players.

Champion Australian/New Zealand player Liam Milne is interviewed on the sorrypartner.com podcast, starting at about 12 minutes 36 secs in.

After producing a Press Release on the Australian success at the NABC in Providence, Rhode Island an interview resulted by ABC Radio Melbourne which you can find on BridgeTV.

#### LATEST NEWS



**Andrew Robson**  
BRIDGE

How many trump tricks do i need? A lesson from the UK's top teacher, player and bridge journalist.



ABC Radio Melbourne story on Australian Bridge success against a top World Team



World Champions take 5 rounds to reach 1HX – one for the experts but fascinating tips for all players



Sorry Partner Interviews Liam Milne

# MYABF UPDATE

## with Julian Foster

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### ABF Newsletter – October 2022

MYABF continues to expand with more clubs listing congresses. In addition, all our major national events are now being listed. The ANC, Territory Gold and Coffs Gold congresses were all recently handled through MYABF. Canberra In Bloom, Spring Nationals, Summer Festival of Bridge 2023 and Gold Coast 2023 are all now taking entries as well. At the time of writing, about \$475,000 worth of entries have been made between them, and about half of that has already been paid. Let's all hope we can look forward to a full face-to-face calendar of events in the coming year.

### How to manage who you pay for when you enter

Some players like to have one person pay for a pair/team and then reimburse between them. Others like each pair or each player to pay separately. MYABF accommodates both approaches.

When you first start an entry and add another player the Payment Method column initially assumes that YOU are going to pay for that person – that's what "My Bridge Credits" means.

### Enter Event

#### Open Teams in Our Big Congress

2 Day Swiss Teams event. IMP scoring.

Monday 19th Sep 2022 10am

Player	Payment Method	Pay Now	Pending
Julian Foster	My Bridge Credits	20 credits	
Alan Admin	My Bridge Credits	20 credits	

If you are NOT going to pay, and the other players are going to pay for themselves, you need to click on the dropdown icon (highlighted above) for that player. That brings up a list showing available payment methods (exactly what you see here depends on what the Tournament organiser has set up):

Alan Admin	My Bridge Credits
Select...	Select...
Select...	Select...
Select...	Select...

Select...

My Bridge Credits

Bank Transfer

Cash on the day

Cheque

Club PP System

Ask them to pay

You can choose a specific payment method if you know what the player is going to do but it's much simpler to just choose "Ask them to pay". Now it's up to that player to sort out their own payment however they want to. Once you make this change their entry fee moves to the Pending column, so it will no longer be charged to you when you lodge the entry:

Player	Payment Method	Pay Now
Julian Foster	My Bridge Credits	20 credits
Alan Admin	Ask them to pay	

### Paying with bridge credits – what is "Stripe"?

"Bridge credits" is just a general term for paying online. To do that, payments are handled through a commercial payment provider. The provider manages the data security, card numbers, etc – they are always encrypted and never stored within MYABF. The ABF uses a commercial payment provider called Stripe.

I have sometimes been asked why the ABF doesn't accept PayPal. What's more, there seemed to be a perception from some people that using PayPal is somehow "safer" than paying online through MYABF at present. The reality is that there's really no difference. Stripe and PayPal largely do exactly the same thing and the security behind them both (and indeed all major payment providers) is pretty much identical these days.

Stripe isn't perhaps as well known as PayPal in Australia yet, but it's one of the largest payment providers in the world. There are a couple of links below that compare them (I'm sure there are many more available on the internet). The 2nd link also lists some of the largest companies using Stripe for their online payments, which includes some big names like Amazon, Apple, Walmart, etc.

At the time MYABF payments were originally being designed (early 2020) the decision was made to use



Stripe because its transaction fees were a bit lower, but also because its technology was newer so it was easier for the developer to link to it.

[www.smallbusinesswebdesigns.net.au/  
paypal-vs-stripe-review.html](http://www.smallbusinesswebdesigns.net.au/paypal-vs-stripe-review.html)

[https://influencermarketinghub.com/  
stripe-payment-processing-partner/](https://influencermarketinghub.com/stripe-payment-processing-partner/)

### Club admin release

We recently conducted a "UAT" (User Acceptance Testing) exercise for the upcoming Club Administration release. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this testing. In particular I would like to mention Jacqui Dudurovic and Christine Newbery who both put in an enormous effort to assist us with trying to track down some very annoying bugs. Anyone who has worked in the software world

will know that a bug which only happens intermittently is the hardest to fix – until you can reliably cause a problem to happen, you can't fix it. Unfortunately we had several of these this time! We have, however, now resolved all of them.

Because this release includes the ability for clubs to communicate to players via email, our final piece of work is to make sure that players have the requisite privacy controls over the provision of their email address and the ability to subscribe and unsubscribe from various types of email.

We are also continuing to work on the extension of Bridge Credits to enable them to be used to pay for club sessions. This is a lot more complex than you might think at first glance, but we are progressing well and hope to have some clubs operating pilots in the next month or so. I'll provide more information when that starts.

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## The ABF Historian reflects on Australians and Bridge

### HELP US MAKE HISTORY

Why did the development of bridge in the early 1900s have a lot in common with the the World Series cricket of the 1970s? Why was there a sudden influx of young players in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and why did it end so quickly? Why has the number of bridge clubs increased so much in the last 40 years, while the areas they cover has grown so little? What conditions were needed for duplicate to be widespread?

These and many other issues are looked at in a new concise (about 50 pages) addition to the published Australian bridge histories – *Australians and Bridge* – which is now available on the ABF website at [Australians-and-Bridge.pdf](http://Australians-and-Bridge.pdf) ([abf.com.au](http://abf.com.au)).

The last national history, Cathy Chua's *History of Australian Bridge*, was published in 1993. In addition to covering the developments since that time, there seemed to be a need for something that looked at the past in the light of current interests and concerns, which are in many ways quite different from those of those of 30 years ago. In 2022, there is much more concern about the future of bridge and how the popularity of the game has been, and will be, affected by societal trends.

*Australians and Bridge*, therefore, is not a story about leading players, systems, or competition results. Its main purpose is to trace the ups and downs in the appeal of bridge from the 1890s to the current day, and the extraordinary range of factors that have

affected this, ranging from broad social change such as in the role of women, patterns of work and use of computers to things like the development of motels, gambling laws, and better prevention and treatment of heart disease.

What we now see as the normal bridge world of duplicate contract played mainly in clubs is, like previous bridge worlds, a result of the interaction between individuals' efforts and aspirations and the world in which they live. These constantly change. The past cannot tell us what to do in the future but the longer-term perspective we get from knowing where we have been and how we got here can never hurt.

When we are looking at the more remote past, we are heavily reliant on written records. However, for the period since the 1960s, large numbers of participants are still around whose experience might suggest we have not drawn the right conclusions from the data or who will have views on things data cannot tell us – particularly why people did or did not do things, such as take lessons, join clubs, continue, or not continue, playing.

This new history is not intended as the last word. The hope is that it will generate debate and feedback, which can be covered in future revisions of the history and possibly an article in this newsletter. We really want to hear from you. Comments should be sent to

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

Keith Ogborn, ABF Historian

# Juniors in Italy

by Andrew Spooner

*Another of our 2022 silver medallists reports on the World Youth Championships*

The 7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships were held in Salsomaggiore, Italy, from 7-14 August 2022. This event is held biennially, and it is transnational, so players can partner or team up with anyone, regardless of nationality. It is an excellent and very enjoyable event, which always attracts players from a number of different countries.

Australia sent an U26 team (Damon Flicker - Josh Tomlin, David Gue - Jamie Simpson) and an U21 team (Jack Luke-Paredi - Bertie Morgan, Jacob Rose - Lara Topper). For the first time, though, there was also an U31 category, which was great news for players like me who had become too old for youth bridge – particularly if they missed their last chance to play in 2020 or 2021. For this event I was playing with Jamie Thompson, who I had never partnered before, even though we've been teammates on a number of occasions. It was quite an exciting prospect for our first outing together to be an international event! Our teammates were four Japanese players (Takayuki Hino, Tadahiro Kikuchi, Ryoichi Yamada, Hirokana Yuge) who we have gotten to know quite well over the years of playing against one another. The opportunity to build these kind of lasting friendships is one of the best things about youth bridge.

The first event at the Championships was a Pairs competition, with a two-day qualifying followed by a one-day final for each category. Jamie and I ended up reaching the final, as did our teammates; David and Jamie S for the U26; and Lara and Jacob for the U21. There were only six pairs in the U31 final, so it was a three-table event, scored at Matchpoints. That



is small enough to be quite chaotic, since a single result at other tables can have a very significant impact on your score.

Coming into the last nine boards (45 total), Jamie and I were sitting fourth out of six, with just under 50%. We were very close behind the third-place pair, but first and second were far enough ahead that it would take a small miracle to overtake either of them. Amazingly, a small miracle was what we got! Thanks to a combination of solid play, some good fortune, and making Jamie declarer, we averaged 75% over those nine boards, and when the second-place pair finished a bit below average, that was just enough to sneak into second place.

The next event at the Championship was the Teams competition, with one day of qualifying followed by a semi-final and final over the next two days. Unfortunately the Australian teams were less successful in this event, with none of the teams making it to the next stage. During these two days, a BAM event was held for the players who had not reached the knockout part of the teams. Jamie and I teamed up with the U21 Australians, which was a lot of fun and a good opportunity to mix up the partnerships.

The final event was an Individual, with all players (except U16) in a single combined field, and swapping partners and opponents every two boards. The most successful Australian player in the Individual was Jamie Simpson, who finished 14th out of 152.

Overall the Championships were an extremely enjoyable event. It was great to be able to return to playing international competition for the first time since 2019, and it was also great that Australia was able to field such a large group of players, most of whom were getting their first taste of international youth bridge. Last but not least, thanks are due to the captains, Mike Doecke and Will Jenner-O'Shea, who did a fantastic job with organisation and making the event even more fun.



**OPEN UNDER 31**

1. Roy Sagnik (India) – Sayantan Kushari (India)
2. Jamie Thompson (Australia) – Andrew Spooner (Australia)
3. Ioannis Oikonomopoulos (Greece) – Dimitrios K. Balokas (Greece)



# HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with  
Barbara  
Travis



*Solutions on page 28*

## QUESTION 1

♠ Q J 2  
♥ A Q 4 2  
♦ A 6 2  
♣ 6 4 3

♠ A K 10 8 7 5 3  
♥ 5  
♦ 8 3  
♣ K 5 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	pass	4♠
all pass			

West leads the ♦J. How would you play?

## QUESTION 2

♠ Q 10 8 6 2  
♥ Q J 8 6  
♦ A 8 5  
♣ A

♠ A 9 7 3  
♥ A 5 4  
♦ 6 4  
♣ K 9 4 3

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

West leads the ♦10. How would you play?

## QUESTION 3

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

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

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

West leads the ♦Q, followed by the ♦J. You trump the third diamond. How would you play?



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# The Aces on Bridge

by Bobby Wolff



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

Margi represented Australia a record 31 times, while enjoying remarkable success in the Spring National Women's Teams and the Australia National Championships.

Here is Margi at the helm in a tricky 3NT:

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

1. Multi; weak two in either major.

Opening lead: ♦4.

When her partner showed a minimum weak-two bid in spades, Margi plumped for the notrump game, receiving a useful diamond lead.

When the ♦J held, declarer technically had nine tricks if the ♣A was onside, but her entries were fatally tangled up. Even if she could create a heart entry to dummy for the ♠A, she would have to lead up to the ♣K, potentially establishing five tricks for the defense, before the ♥A was knocked out.

Bourke elected to play on hearts without unblocking spades. A heart to the king held, as did the heart queen. East took the third heart and returned a diamond to South's ace. Now declarer cashed the fourth heart (West pitching two diamonds), the ♠K and the ♦K before exiting with a low club. East was stuck. If she won the jack, then played ace and another club, declarer could either play small and claim the last two with dummy's spades, or she could win and exit in clubs. West would then have to lead to the ♠A.

As it was, East won the ♣A and returned the ♣Q. However Bourke simply put East back in with the ♣J to lead into dummy's spade tenace.



## Introducing George Milne

Congratulations to Susan Humphries and Liam Milne on the birth of their first child, George Philip Milne, born on 24 August at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Liam was featured on a recent edition of the podcast *Sorry, Partner*, talking about how to become a good partner, the importance of the social aspects of face-to-face bridge, and the inherently funny nature of the game. Plus, he shares his top tip for developing players. You can find links to the podcast at

[sorrypartner.com/episodes](https://sorrypartner.com/episodes)

You can also follow the links to the previous episodes, including one with Susan from December.



# BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

by Paul Lavings, paul@bridgegear.com



## YOU OPEN, THEN PASS, PASS AND YOUR RHO DOUBLES

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

1. 1NT. If you passed you have the wrong mindset. Yes, you could be doubled in 1NT and find partner with zero HCP and concede a large penalty. Much more likely is that partner has 3 or 4 HCP and you make 1NT in comfort for a juicy 90 or 120 instead of going minus or only +50.

Over your 1NT partner can show a five-card suit or support you by bidding 2♦. Unlike a 1NT opening, after opener rebids 1NT in this situation all responder's bids are natural.

Partscores are the area where the expert shines. Forget experience, technique and skill – think confidence and aggression.

For an article on partscores see page 26 of the May 2013 Youth Bulletin:

<https://www.abfevents.com.au/youth/bulletins/MayJune13.pdf>

2. 1♠. Only 14 HCPs, but a brilliant attacking hand where you could well outbid the opponents if you have a spade fit. The 5-4-3-1 shape seems to fit well no matter what is opposite.

Even if it is not your hand, you may disrupt the opponent's bidding and make it difficult for them to find their best fit or judge the right level.

3. Redouble. It is important that you tell your partner that the hand belongs to your side. With your strong suits and wealth of aces and kings you are almost worth a 2♣ opening, so it is a good idea to slow the bidding down while making a show of strength.

4. 2♦. Only a minimum opening, but you have at least six tricks in your own hand barring horrible breaks. Bidding here takes space away from the opponents and may create problems for them, especially if partner can get in on the act.

5. Pass. A poor suit and a poor hand, so you are better not to help the opponents by revealing your shape with little to gain.

6. 3♦. Provided you and your partner are on the same wavelength, a jump normally indicates a weaker hand with a longer suit. It is not logical to take away your own space by jumping to show a good hand when redouble is available. And of course, your side could have a good sacrifice in 5♦.

7. Redouble. A thorny problem since a jump to 3♦ would be a longer suit and a weaker hand as in question 6 above. The choice seems to be between 2♦ and redouble, so perhaps redouble.

8. 2♣. Only 13 HCPs but your side may have a good club or diamond fit and you find a good sacrifice or win the partscore battle. Even when partner passes your opening bid you should still be active with a promising hand like this.

9. 4♦. You would have opened 4♦ with less HCP so now partner has passed your opening bid the best way to describe your hand is a jump to 4♦, offering partner the opportunity of sacrificing in 5♦. Your leap to 4♦ might test your opponents and they let you play there. That would be good.

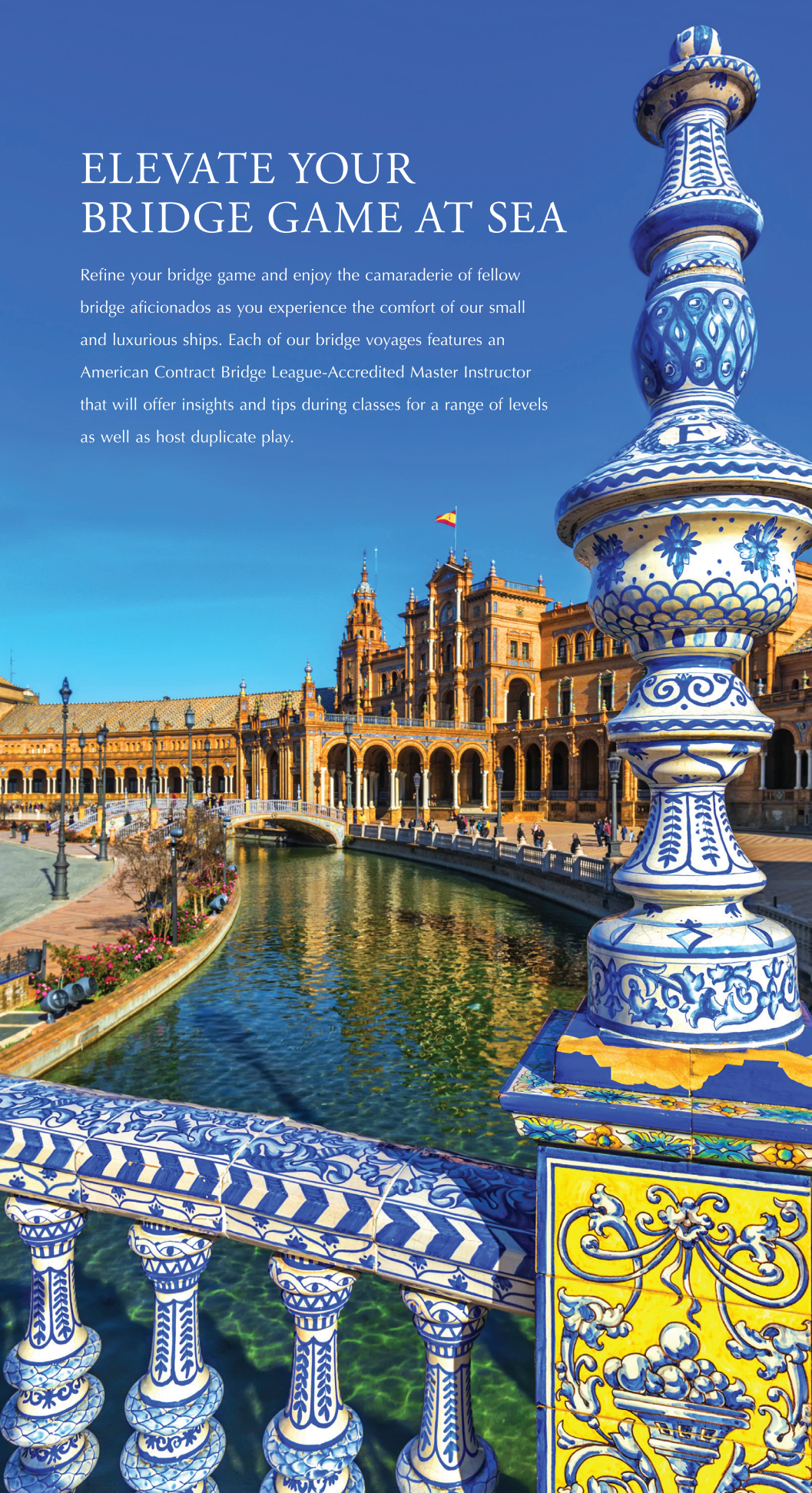
10. 2NT. A 1NT bid here would be 18-19 balanced, and you are worth considerably more than that. In fact, with a little bit of luck you have eight tricks in your own hand.

Where there are eight tricks there are often nine, there's no law against your partner having the ♠K or the ♣K while opponents can take no more than four heart tricks.



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# A diamond pair in the bridge world

by Stephanie Gardiner



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They say diamonds are a girl's best friend. That proved to be the case for Sophie Ashton, though square-cut or pear-shaped jewels had nothing to do with it.

Ms Ashton held a handful of diamonds during a game of bridge, using the cards in a sly, strategic move against renowned player Sartaj Hans.

"I was so proud of myself because I knew how good a player Sartaj was," she told AAP.

"His playing partner said to him quite crossly, 'Do you trust the opposition? Or do you trust me?'"

"There was all this tension at the table."

Mr Hans remembers the moment too: "I suppose you could say she tricked me. And that sparked something."

Nine years later, the couple is married and living in Goulburn, in the NSW southern tablelands, with their two young daughters.

The pair work at the Goulburn Health Hub, a service they developed to bring specialist medical care to the regional centre.

While they seem like ordinary professionals, they are big names in the bridge world in their spare time.

When Australia was dominating sports headlines across the British Open in golf, the Tour de France and the World Athletics Championships in July, Mr Hans and his teammates quietly triumphed too.

They beat the world number one US team, led by a bridge legend, Nick Nickell, in a 12-hour knockout event at the North American Bridge Championships in Rhode Island.

Mr Nickell's team later took out the World Series in Poland in early September. The Australians ranked 16th out of about 100 teams.

"A team we beat went on to be world champions, so that gives us confidence," Mr Hans said.

A talented chess player, Mr Hans was drawn to bridge while studying engineering at a university in India.

He and his classmates had to pass two of three exams, so they skipped one in favour of a card night.

"A friend taught us bridge and we played all night. We went to bed when the exam started," Mr Hans recalls.

The friends played socially before he began taking it more seriously. In his early years, he remembers making risky "hero" plays to get recognition.

"That was a personal flaw. Gradually as I conquered that at bridge, it made an impact on my attitude to life as well."

Ms Ashton cuts in with an affectionate joke, prompting a deep laugh from her husband: "Oh, he's still a little bit arrogant".

Having topped several high-level national tournaments, Ms Ashton describes bridge as an emotional, sophisticated mind game.

It involves strategy and an element of luck as players place bids and use code words while never showing their hand, even to a teammate.

"Bridge is a very heightened version of life," Ms Ashton said.

"You have the highs, you have the lows, you have the partnership and the relationship and it's how you deal with those.

"That's helped me in life. When something bad happens, I'm much cooler, more calm and can be more practical than emotional."

How a game imitates life was the central theme of the acclaimed Netflix show *The Queen's Gambit*, which mixed the dizzying drama of professional chess with high fashion, romance and tragedy.

Bridge is searching for its own revamp. The Australian Bridge Federation wants to shake off the game's old-fashioned stereotype and attract a new crowd.

Ms Ashton and Mr Hans have high hopes for the future of the game, which is increasingly played online.

"You get addicted to the rush. And because you're sharing it with someone else or a team, it's even better because you're not alone in that feeling," Ashton says.

"There's never any end to your discovery of the game."

Mr Hans adds: "It's quite a journey."



# WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

## with William Jenner-O'Shea

### DOUBLING 1NT FOR PENALTIES AND HOW TO ESCAPE

In the Workshop this month, part of the lesson focussed on doubling a 1NT opening. Many people play some sort of Overcall System against the opposition's 1NT opening, like Cappelletti, Landy, or some other system. A common treatment in many of the overcall systems is that a double of a 1NT opening is just showing points, and is not for takeout (it is for penalties). In general, if the partner of the doubler has a few points, they pass the double, and with more than half the high-card points, the defenders will likely defeat 1NT (doubled) and get a good score. **Doubling a 1NT opening shows around 16+ high-card points, and is for penalties.** If the doubler's partner has a very weak hand (say, less than four points), and a long suit, perhaps they should bid their suit instead.

If it's your team who opens the 1NT, and gets doubled, then you could easily end up in trouble. The opener has shown their hand quite well and has no idea whether they should be playing in 1NT or looking for a better place to play, so it is up to the responder to decide what to do. The simplest way to handle a penalty double is to play that responder only passes the double if they are happy playing in 1NT (doubled). If responder has four or five high-card points, that should be enough to play in 1NT and you can be balanced or semi-balanced. If responder has less than four points, then they know that their team is outgunned in high-card points, and is likely to be in trouble. As with any other interference over our 1NT opening, I recommend **systems are OFF after they double our 1NT** – no Stayman or Transfers. Any bid by the responder shows a five+ suit and is a rescue from 1NT – opener is requested to pass, and escape the double, even if they don't like the suit very much. If responder does not have a five+ suit, they have one other option to escape from the double and hopefully find a better



place to play: they can redouble. The redouble says: "I want to run from the double, but I have no five+ suit. You run." Opener bids their five-card suit, or their lowest four-card suit, and both players scramble to find at least a seven-card fit at the two-level.

Some people play that systems are on after a double of 1NT, but it is not so easy to escape the double and find the safest place to play. Playing Systems Off allows responder to simply bid 2♣ or 2♦ and play there.

One related auction is that the opener opens the bidding with one-of-a-suit and the overcaller bids 1NT. The 1NT overcall is almost the same as a 1NT opening, but also shows a stopper in the opener's suit. If the opener's partner has 10+ high-card points, then they can rely on the opener to have 12+ points (maybe less these days), so they know that their team has the majority of the high-card points. **Doubling a 1NT overcall shows around 10+ points and is for penalties.** Sometimes responder has more than 10 points, maybe even enough for a game; however, doubling the 1NT and defeating it by as many tricks as possible will be a better score than bidding and making a game. If you can make ten tricks in 4♥, you might be able to take the same ten tricks in defence against 1NT doubled, leaving them with only three tricks.

As a follow-up to this idea, if the responder isn't going to bid when they have 10+ points, they can bid with a weaker hand (5-9 high-card points) and a six-card suit. **Bidding a new suit over a 1NT overcall shows six+ cards, and is non-forcing.** Game is very unlikely after the opponent overcalls 1NT, so bidding shows a long suit but just a competitive hand.

Mastering these ideas will allow you to compete more often and know how strong you are. It doesn't happen very often, but you will occasionally be able to double your opponents in 1NT and beat them.

*As well as face-to-face Workshops, Will runs several online workshops each month available to all ABF members. To find them, log in to MyABF and click Congresses. You can filter by event type and click "Lessons".*

*You can email [lessons@abf.com.au](mailto:lessons@abf.com.au) for more information.*

# A Real Deal Workout with Ron Klinger

Teams, Dealer South, NS vulnerable

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT <sup>15-17</sup>

?

What would you do as West with:

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

The deal arose in the final of the World Seniors' Teams and the semi-finals of the World Mixed Teams in 2022.

Board 21    ♠ Q T 6 3  
S/NS    ♥ 9 5  
          ♦ A Q  
          ♣ J T 7 5 3

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

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

I would have expected that this was an easy decision for West. With ready-made defence against 1NT, you pass and hope that they stay in 1NT or even better, push on to 3NT. If North runs to Stayman or transfers to a suit, you introduce the hearts later.

As you can see, North-South have 25 HCP and are likely to reach 3NT via

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

West cashes eight hearts for +400. Meanwhile East-West can make only nine tricks in hearts for +140.

Suppose you swap the North and East hands. Now it is likely to go 1NT - all pass. With the ♦A-Q opposite, West can now make 11 tricks in hearts for +450. Good? Yes, but defending against 1NT is still better, with eight hearts plus two diamonds; ten tricks, East-West +500.

If West doubles 1NT, North-South are likely to run to a safer spot. North-South can make 5♣ as the cards lie, but if West passes throughout, North-South figure to reach 3NT. North-South can make 4♠ if played by South. An unlikely club lead can defeat 4♠ if played by North.

When this deal arose only two East-West pairs produced a positive result. In the Seniors' final, at one table it went

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
4♥	dbl	all pass	

West made nine tricks (playing low diamonds twice set up the ♦K), NS +100. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
4♥	dbl	pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>
5♥	dbl	all pass	

1. Pick a minor.

West made nine tricks, -300 and 5 imps away. Still, that was better than if North-South had played and made 5♣ for +600. However, there was a better option for East-West.

In the Mixed Teams' semi-finals, one West bid 4♥, doubled for -100. At two other tables, with East-West passing throughout:

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

Four down, NS -400. At the fourth table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1NT
dbl ?	pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	pass
2♥	dbl <sup>2</sup>	pass	2♠
3♥	3♠	all pass	

1. Too weak to pass for penalties.

2. For takeout.

West led the ♥A, followed by the ♥2 (suit-preference for clubs). East ruffed and returned the ♣6: ace - ♠7 - ♣3. Declarer had the rest, NS +170.

The East-Wests who passed went plus. The East-Wests who bid went minus. Quod erat demonstrandum. Note the Power of Pass.

*You can find more Real Deal Workouts,  
five per week, via the web site*

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



# Stepping down from the ABF

Sue Falkingham

*Joan Butts returns to playing the game she loves, after teaching over 6000 students*

Since 2011 Joan Butts has been the ABF National Teaching Coordinator. I am sad to say she is stepping down from this role and I don't know how her efforts can be overstated or thanked enough by us all in the bridge community. Joan has estimated she has taught over 6000 people how to play bridge. If we add in the hundreds of teachers Joan has trained, her exponential effect on bridge in Australia is enormous.

Joan began playing bridge in Brisbane in her early twenties. She completed a BA, Dip ED and a Dip Ed/Psych. Initially working as a teacher, then school guidance officer, moving into staff placement and training, then a career in consulting.

This all changed in 1989 when Joan was asked to play bridge for Australia, and bridge took over her life completely, representing Australia three times and Queensland ten times with impressive results.

In 1991 Joan started her own bridge club. A few years later, in 1996 Joan met the great bridge teacher, Canadian Audrey Grant. Audrey was working for the American Bridge national organisation and had created fantastic teaching materials and courses. Joan was much inspired and returned with a renewed passion to teach both players and teachers. The Queensland Bridge Association subsequently asked Joan to help with teaching and training.

When in 2011 the ABF advertised for a National Teaching Coordinator, it was obvious that Joan's depth of teaching, focus on teacher training and range of resources made her an ideal candidate. After taking on this role Joan then developed an original accreditation program, with training modules and Professional Development sessions. Joan believes that teachers are how this wonderful game of ours will thrive by helping teachers be more effective, organised and enthusiastic.

I have attended many of Joan's presentations both for teachers and for players. She is an excellent



communicator with a very relaxed manner that belies how incredibly prepared and organised she is.

Hundreds of teachers have benefited from the development programs. The new players that are so essential to keep our clubs going are due to all those teachers.

Joan is an author of four bridge books, workbooks and resources for teachers.

As well as running her own bridge club for a very long time, Joan also taught on travel holidays and cruises.

Joan started the Celebrity speakers at congresses. She also hosted the teacher get-togethers at the Gold Coast and Coffs Harbour Congresses.

In 2017 Joan created and administered the ABF Summer School of online videos and lessons for novice players which had over 1500 players participate. Joan also has her own online School of Bridge which is very successful.

Now playing competitive bridge again, Joan has won the 2022 NSW State Mixed Pairs and the ABF Victor Champion Cup Mixed Pairs.

She has also won the latest Gold Coast Rescue Online Pairs, and a few other Real Bridge NSBC tournaments.

Joan told me recently she is "now happily back to playing more of the game I love!"

The ABF, teachers and players of this game we love, owe a great deal of thanks to Joan for what she achieved for the ABF in the last 12 years. Her drive, enthusiasm and commitment to the game are inspiring.



# A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

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

This first hand has a few messages to it. You hold:

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

You open 1♠ and partner responds 1NT, showing 6-9 (or maybe ten) HCP. Would you rebid 2♦?

I'm not sure that it is a good idea to bid 2♦ when you have so many of your points in your short suits, and such poor spades. Partner will correct to 2♠ on too many hands and, with such poor spades, that may not be a wise action. Anyway, if you rebid 2♦, as expected, partner corrects to 2♠:

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

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

♠ Q J 7  
♥ A J 10 6 3  
♦ 10 7 5 4 3  
♣ —

North leads the ♦2, which South can read as a singleton. They should play the ♦3 on the lead, a clear suit preference signal for clubs. Declarer leads a trump, ducked to South's ♠J. South returns the ♦4, continuing their message for a club lead. North's remaining trumps are the ace and king. At the table, they didn't really want to trump with the ♠K – but they should! If they don't, declarer can remove a second round of trumps, losing only four spades and the ♥A.

They ruff with the ♠K to lead the requested club – ruffed by South. Now the defence is clear: another low diamond, ruffed by North (with the ♠A), followed by a club, ruffed by South with their ♠Q. The defence now have five trump tricks (four ruffs) and South simply cashes the ♥A – one off.

Of course, 1NT by East makes eight tricks: four diamonds, three clubs with the finesse (North does

**not** cover) and the ♥A. That's not really a surprise, however it does emphasise that passing 1NT is the likely winning action.

I watched a lot of players mismanage the following hand:

♠ 2    ♥ Q 9 6 5 2    ♦ Q J 10 7 5    ♣ J 10

Partner opened 1♣ and RHO overcalled 1♠ (or 2♠). I was horrified to see that some players bid 1NT on this hand! You have no spade stopper. When opener rebid 3NT, they were not happy, and it was self-inflicted – and I was not sympathetic!

After the 1♠ overcall, or even a 2♠ overcall, you should make a negative double on this hand. Doubling a major suit overcall shows 4+ cards in the other major. Then you will hear opener rebid 4♥, with their excellent hand and fit:

♠ A K 6 5    ♥ K J 4 3    ♦ 9    ♣ A K 9 6

I thought that those who responded 1NT were rather lucky to find their partner with such good spade stoppers. 3NT made, but 4♥ is far superior, making 11 tricks.

Whilst the hand is a little weak to make a negative double at the two-level (over a 2♠ overcall), the 5-5 hand shape offsets this flaw.

Two hands arose (with different partners, but in successive sessions) on the same theme:

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

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

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



The auction, both times, was:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
dbl	all pass		

Having made a slightly off-shape takeout double, what should West lead?

He should lead a trump! Partner has, after all, converted the takeout double into a penalty double, meaning it is time to draw declarer's trumps. On a trump lead, declarer goes down four tricks (1100).

At the table, the doubleton club was too tempting; ♣A, followed by another club, left partner on lead. East couldn't give a ruff yet; declarer would get a 'free' discard. So hearts had to be cashed first, with the plan to continue trumps after. (I think, after this start, there was an opportunity for declarer to go down only three tricks, but he still conceded 1100.)

On that hand, the choice to 'go for the penalty' was easy, because North-South were vulnerable, East-West not vulnerable, so the vulnerability was distinctly in favour of taking the penalty (200 beating part-scores, 500 outscoring all non-vulnerable games).

On the second hand, everyone was vulnerable, so the choice to defend was slightly less clear-cut, but still correct. The auction was identical, with the doubler's partner holding:

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

Unfortunately, 1♠ doubled could only be defeated one trick (!), with 3NT making for our side. The difference was the spot cards in spades. This time, declarer held A-J-9-7-x, so could always make four trump tricks. Still, I'd pass again in such a position, and I'd still expect partner to lead trumps (unless they didn't have one, which is possible).

Check out this hand:

	♠ J 9 8 6 5 4 ♥ A Q 10 5 4 ♦ 5 4 ♣ —		
♠ K Q 3 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ K Q J 9 8 2 ♣ 3		♠ A 10 ♥ K J 9 2 ♦ 10 6 3 ♣ A 9 8 2	
	♠ 7 2 ♥ 8 ♦ A 7 ♣ K Q J 10 7 6 5 4		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	2♦ majors	dbl penalty	3♣ to play
3♦	pass	pass	3NT
all pass			

South was happy with 3NT and didn't want the opponents to escape to 4♦, so passed, and led the ♣K. Declarer looked a little surprised when North showed out, then won the ace to lead a diamond. If North held the ♦A, there were still chances. However, South flew the ♦A and could cash seven more club tricks and the ♥A. A few lucky (greedy?) Souths did double 3NT and scored 1100 for their good fortune; of course, 4♦ only fails by one trick.

There are occasions when you pick up a hand that you've never seen before. Here's one:

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

My immediate reaction was to check who was dealer, and the vulnerability – given the spade void! Hmm, fourth-in-hand, typical. If the auction had been passed around to me, I had decided to open 4NT, a specific ace ask. (Responder bids 5♣ with no ace, bids any ace they hold or 5NT with two aces.) Instead, it went

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	?	pass	pass

Since we were vulnerable and the opponents were not, I considered drastic action was required, before the opponents knew to save. So I just bid 6♥. I didn't need much from partner: two hearts and maybe diamond length.

Given that nobody expects their opponent's first bid to be at the six-level and we don't use 'Stop Cards' in Australia, I did comment to my LHO that they were allowed to bid out of tempo! He thought briefly, then passed, so I played in 6♥.

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

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

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

For a rubbish dummy, it was ideal! However, given the vulnerability, it strikes me that East should bid 6♠, a bid made by quite a few of the field. It should be cheap (against 1430). I guess the ace swayed him to defend.

# FRIENDS OF YOUTH BRIDGE FUND

In 2002, The ABF Youth Committee (of which I was Chairman) and I were making an effort to promote and increase participation in Youth Bridge as we saw it as the future of the game. This view was prompted by seeing the 'aging' of all the players in Australia and around the bridge world.

In early discussions with Peter Gill and Avon Wilsmore, both products of the youth bridge movement, we agreed to start a Trust Fund known as the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund. Established as a trust with funds managed by the ABF but not under the control of the ABF, I have been overseeing the fund ever since its establishment.

The initial fundraising was by donation and a series of fundraising sessions held at the Double Bay Bridge Centre which my late wife Linda and I owned at the time. Over the years additional funds have been added by way of:

- Pro-am bridge tournament with auction.
- Some players have made donations.
- Some players who were beneficiaries of the fund have donated back to the fund.
- The Gold Coast Congress donates the improver's lecture income to the fund.
- Renting out screens that the FofYB fund owns following the 2005 World Bridge Championships.
- Interest earned each year.

So what does the FofYB Fund do?

The primary objective is to fund any activities that are not the domain of the Australian Bridge Federation and which are aimed at increasing youth awareness and participation in Bridge.

One of the major undertakings, which in fact had little to no cost, was to underwrite the staging of the 2005 World Youth Championships in Sydney. In doing this, the ABF was able to commit a fixed amount to the event without fear of any cost overruns.

However, it is the ongoing funding commitments that are the primary focus of the fund and it is broken down into the following components. The fund:

- ensures that no youth player is excluded from attending an event based on financial need. So if a youth player lives in a remote location from a tournament, we will offer a subsidy to assist with airfare and/or accommodation. Of course, we generally reserve these subsidies for students in genuine need.
- assists any bridge teacher who is teaching in schools or elsewhere whose primary audience is youth players. We do this by paying the teachers a nominal amount to assist them, buying boards, books cards etc. to ensure that they are not out of pocket.

- has recently assisted youth player accommodation at the Gold Coast Congress.
- together with the Late Rabbi Helman's donation, cosponsors prizes for leading youth masterpoint achiever and youth player of the year.
- in the past has financed youth triathlon events.
- has made available subsidies for contingents of youth players to attend and compete in the Bateman's Bay congress.
- has made a donation towards an academic study of the positive contribution of bridge in social and cognitive skills.
- made a subsidy available to assist in an under-15 team competing in the 2015 World Youth Championships held in Croatia.

In general terms we are very disposed to domestic initiatives and less so to international events and participation in those events which we view as the domain of the Australian Bridge Federation.

So why this article?

It was suggested to me that the fund has substantial reserves, which it indeed does, and that we should be encouraging worthwhile causes and candidates to seek subsidies from the fund. So here we are awaiting your submissions.

Here are some testimonials about the fund.

*The FofYB Fund was a huge help both financially and otherwise in helping Adam and myself develop as bridge players and people. We were able to attend many tournaments that our family would have otherwise struggled to get us to. I'm a huge believer that bridge teaches young kids an incredible array of life skills – and I'm very grateful FOYB helped myself, my brother and many others to gain those valuable experiences.*

– Nabil Edgtton

*The FofYB Fund meant a lot to Nabil and me, helping us to play events around Australia. At that age all we wanted to do was play bridge and to know that we could get financial support to play events, that we would otherwise not have been able to compete in, meant so much to us.*

*As time progressed, we got to play in major events and with the higher standard, we were able to improve and develop as players during the journey. It was exciting making the transition from being a youth player who was happy to play in a big tournament to competing in those tournaments and finally winning them.*

*Overall, I think we appreciate it more now that we have to pay our own way in life – thanks to the FofYB Fund.*

– Adam Edgtton

David Stern



# IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

*Solution to problem on page 2*



## A LAP OF LAPSES

On this deal from a World Teams' Championships the play and defence was not as sharp as it might be.

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

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

Lead: ♣2 (thirds and fifths).

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Dummy's ♠7 was covered by the ♣9 and South won with the ♣10. The ♥3 came next: two - seven - king. East returned the ♣3, taken by the ace. On the ♥5 West played the ♥4 and the ♥J won, East following with the ♥6. Declarer continued with the ♠4: two - jack - ace. What should West play next?

This was now the position:

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

West knows South's shape, 5-4-1-3, almost for certain. If South's remaining spades were stronger, K-10-x-x, it is hardly possible to defeat 4♥. To cut down declarer's ruffing power West should exit with the ♥Q. After that declarer has no hope.

If West exits with a diamond instead of the ♥Q, declarer can take the ♦A, ruff a diamond, cross to the ♣K, ruff a diamond, cash the ♠K and claim ten tricks.

As it happens a third club will also work, as it takes out a vital entry to dummy. Now ♦A, diamond ruff, ♠K, spade ruff, allows West to discard the third diamond and score the ♥Q on an overruff. Dummy then is left with a diamond loser when West plays another club.

In practice West did play a diamond after taking the ♠A, but declarer went one down: ♦A, diamond ruff, ♠K, spade ruff (West ditching a diamond).



# TEACHING TIPS with Ian Dalziel

## HUMANS CAN'T SHUFFLE – COMPUTERS CAN

The game of bridge requires random hands which are achieved by shuffling the cards. The trouble is bridge players are not very good at shuffling and, consequently, the deals are not truly random. Thus, each deal is still related to the previous deal in a complex but ordered fashion. The result is more flat hands and suits which break more evenly than the statistics predict. There are fewer really long suits, freakish hands and slams than true randomness would achieve.

In home bridge, when the dealer is dealing, his partner shuffles. It takes about 30 seconds to deal a pack of cards so, in theory, you get a 30-second shuffle, but, in practice, the shuffler does it for only half that time. Duplicate is much worse, as I would say 10 seconds is the norm. Some people's shuffling is so bad they are really just cutting the cards several times thus not changing their order. Dealing itself breaks up the cards but doesn't randomise them.

So how long does it take to shuffle a pack of cards properly? It depends on the person – some people are much better than others. Here's how to test yourself: take an ordered pack, shuffle for exactly 15 seconds and note the number of cards which are still touching the one above. Now continue for another 15 seconds and again note the number of 'touchers' and continue in this fashion till the number has been reduced to zero. I thought I was a good shuffler, but my results (shown on the next page) were not impressive. My guess is that it would take at least two minutes for most people to do a satisfactory shuffle, and that will never happen.

Some clubs use more elaborate methods, like pre-dealing into seven piles before the shuffle, but that isn't random. Neither is the riffle shuffle – indeed after eight perfect riffle shuffles the deal is back where it started. These shuffling machines are just mechanical riffle shufflers. Pre-shuffling each hand will help and, in fact, the laws require it before the cards go back in the board, but I'm not sure if everyone does this at the last hand of the previous session. I have sadly come to the conclusion that efficient human shuffling is not practically possible.

The solution, of course, is computer dealing. That way you get truly random hands and a printout to go with it, which is a great aid to learning. It does mean, though, that we are playing two different games: truly random hands in tournaments and the big clubs and badly shuffled hands everywhere else.

I don't have a dealing machine at my club (like Duplimate) so we make up computer dealt hands manually using printouts from Dealmaster Pro software. The hands are suited by the 'early birds' at the club and a non-player takes the boards home and makes them up for the following week. Either that, or you could find a bright teenager who wants to make some extra pocket money. It only takes 30-40 minutes to do.

When you play computer dealt hands, it's like a different game. Those who are used to human dealing



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



complain that some of the hands are weird. Indeed, I'm often asked at my bridge club if I fix the hands or have created a theme. In fact I delegate the computer dealing, so it would need a conspiracy of several people to fix the cards, but they are still not convinced.

Bridge, with computer dealt hands, is the way the game was meant to be and it is more exciting. All district and national competitions now use computer dealt hands so, if your club shuffles manually, your members will be ill-prepared for playing at a higher level.

Hand printouts are given out at my learners' club so that players can study them at the end of play. We don't have Bridgemates, but the matchpoint results are emailed within two hours. The contracts, tricks and leads are typed into Scorebridge, hence the full traveller information is on view – not just the scores – which is another aid to learning. The email also includes the hands again, so anyone with an iPad or

Smartphone can view everything, wherever they are. At the classes, they are always poring over the hand printouts from their last session at the club and discussing them with others, which is great.

When I took up bridge, I just loved the occasional simultaneous pairs to see the hand printout afterwards. To get a printout every week would have been bridge heaven – we never dreamt it would ever happen. Now, truly random hands and printouts are attainable at every club in the land at a low cost. It just needs a bit of extra effort.

Give it a try at your club, you won't regret it. Once your members get used to more exciting hands and the printouts they will never want to go back to the old ways. After all, has any club which introduced bidding boxes, ever gone back to silent bidders?

[ildalziel@gmail.com](mailto:ildalziel@gmail.com)

*Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK*

A sorted pack of 52 cards.

A	K	Q	J	T	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A	K	Q	J	T	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	K	Q	J	T	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A	K	Q	J	T	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥

After 15 seconds of shuffling 26 cards are still touching.

2	6	5	4	3	T	9	T	J	5	T	9	8	7	6	5	2	A	K	Q	J	3	J	Q	J	3	A	4	A	K	7	6	5	4	3	9	8	7	8	K	4	8	2	A	K	Q	T	9	7	6	Q			
♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣

After 30 seconds of shuffling 14 cards are still touching.

5	7	2	4	J	K	Q	T	9	Q	5	3	2	A	9	3	T	9	T	J	8	K	4	8	2	T	8	7	7	6	2	6	7	6	5	4	3	8	A	4	A	K	6	5	A	K	Q	J	3	J	Q				
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠

After 45 seconds of shuffling 8 cards are still touching.

J	4	5	4	K	6	6	K	5	7	2	A	K	Q	J	5	2	T	9	8	3	8	A	4	A	2	T	9	Q	5	9	K	9	4	6	7	T	J	8	2	A	3	J	Q	7	6	3	8	T	7	3					
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠

After 60 seconds of shuffling 5 cards are still touching.

4	5	2	A	K	Q	8	3	9	9	T	7	3	5	9	K	J	5	8	K	5	7	6	T	Q	4	3	2	A	J	Q	4	K	6	T	9	Q	3	8	A	4	2	T	A	2	6	J	6	7	7	8						
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠



The ABF is planning to hold two more Pro-Am events in early 2023. We will be auctioning a session to play on RealBridge with professionals and leading players.

The first session will be held on Tuesday 31 January, and we are also planning another separate event for Tuesday 7 March.

The auctions will be held online, and details will be announced in the near future. There will also be separate BBO Sessions for auction, on dates to be arranged between the Professional/Expert and the winning bidder.

Proceeds will support the ABF Foundation. Enquiries to

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

# HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

with Barbara Travis

*Solutions to problems on page 13*

## HAND 1

♠ Q J 2  
♥ A Q 4 2  
♦ A 6 2  
♣ 6 4 3

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

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

♠ A K 10 8 7 5 3  
♥ 5  
♦ 8 3  
♣ K 5 2

You are playing in 4♠, South. West has led the ♦J.

You can count nine top tricks. You certainly do not want East on lead at trick two (they may switch to the ♣Q through your king), so you should win the ♦A.

One option is to hope that the ♣A is onside. Another option is to hope that the ♥K is tripleton, and you can cash the ♥A, then ruff hearts twice – and the last spade entry will allow you to cash the queen. The final option is to try the heart finesse.

This hand was played in a Teams match. One declarer tried the second option: they won the ♦A, cashed the ♥A, then ruffed a heart. They crossed to dummy with the ♠J and ruffed another heart. When the ♥K had not appeared, they crossed back to dummy's ♠Q and tried leading a club towards the king, hoping that East held the ace. When that failed, they were down one trick.

The other declarer won the ♦A, cashed two trumps ending in hand, then tried the heart finesse. When it worked, they discarded a loser on the ♥A, then tried a club towards hand, hoping for an overtrick. They had ten tricks.

How do these two lines compare?

The first line, relying on the ♥K falling in three rounds, or the ♣A being onside, has about a 61% chance of success.

The second option, trying the heart finesse, or hoping that the ♣A is onside, is a matter of one of two finesses working, so about a 75% chance, and is clearly superior.

After all, even if the heart finesse fails, you will still make when the ♣A is onside, since you can discard your third club on dummy's ♥A. (You simply risk a second undertrick.)

## HAND 2

♠ Q 10 8 6 2  
♥ Q J 8 6  
♦ A 8 5  
♣ A

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

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

♠ A 9 7 3  
♥ A 5 4  
♦ 6 4  
♣ K 9 4 3

You are playing in 4♠ and West has led the ♦10.

Win the ♦A, cash the ♣A, cross to the ♠A and cash the ♣K, discarding a diamond from dummy.

Only now can you lead a spade towards the queen. West can win the king and play a second diamond, but now there is no trump promotion, so you can win the continuation and draw the last trump, just losing to the ♥K.

If you win the diamond lead and play a spade to your ace, then another spade towards dummy's queen, West will win, cross to his partner's ♦K and another diamond through sees his ♠J win. With the defence still holding the ♥K, you will go one down.

## HAND 3

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

♠ 8 4 2  
♥ 5 4  
♦ Q J 10 6  
♣ J 9 8 6

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

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

Against your 4♥ contract, West leads the ♦Q, followed by the ♦J. You trump the third diamond.



Firstly, count your losers. You have lost two diamonds and have a club loser and a potential heart loser.

Given East's opening bid and West's pass and opening lead, it is very likely that the heart finesse will fail (they have already shown three HCP in diamonds). In these situations, one should not take the heart finesse. Sometimes, the ace will drop the ♥K offside, though not on this hand.

However, there may be a way to avoid a club loser. If clubs are 3-3, you will have a club loser no matter what you do. But if East has only one or two clubs, then you may be able to throw him in with his ♥K.

All this planning depends on East holding only two hearts (K-x) and two clubs.

You have already trumped the third round of diamonds. Try leading a heart to the ace, hoping the king falls. It doesn't. Now cash the ♠A and ♠K, discarding a club from dummy. Trump a spade, cash the ♣A and ♣K, then trump your last spade in dummy.

Your preparatory work has been done, and you are ready for the elimination:

♠ —  
♥ Q 9  
♦ —  
♣ 10

♠ —  
♥ 5  
♦ —  
♣ J 9

♠ Q  
♥ K  
♦ 4  
♣ —

♠ —  
♥ J 10  
♦ —  
♣ 5

You exit with a heart to East's king. You are hoping that East has no more clubs (and that hearts are 2-2), so they have no suitable exit card. If he plays a spade or a diamond, you can ruff in one hand and discard from the other hand. Your elimination has succeeded, giving you the desired ruff-and-sluff.

This solution is reliant on your ability to recognise that the heart finesse is failing, having watched the auction and the first couple of tricks.

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

## 2022 Coffs Coast Gold Congress

Liam Milne and James Coutts won the Open Swiss Pairs, and teamed with Justins Mill and Williams to win the Teams. The Intermediate Swiss Pairs was won by Stephen Miller and Nick Walsh, and the Intermediate Swiss Teams was won by the home team of Pauly Griffin, Jamie McFall, Frances Gaunt and Roderic Roark (pictured).



This board from Round 7 of the Swiss Pairs featured an unusual extreme score for both NS and EW:

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

Two pairs reached the grand slam. Ian McLaren and Margaret Owen initially bid to 6NT, with South on

lead. Not knowing a good thing when they saw one, South doubled 6NT and East ran to the making 7♣.

The top score went to Sartaj Hans and Sophie Ashton, after a professional control-bidding auction:

WEST Ashton	NORTH	EAST Hans	SOUTH
		1♣ <sup>16+</sup>	pass
2♥ <sup>11-13 bal</sup>	pass	3♣	pass
4♣	pass	4♦	pass
5♣	pass	5♥	pass
5♠	pass	7♣	dbl
pass	pass	rdbl	all pass

Sartaj's 5♥ bid, failing to cue 5♦, denied the ♦K. When Sophie cued 5♠ (showing third-round control, having failed to cue the suit on the previous round) Sartaj could tell that she also had the ♦K – otherwise she would have just signed off in 6♣. The redouble was worth 2660 and an extra twoimps (17 in total).

Some NS pairs went plus, taking five tricks against 3NT, but the best NS score went to this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♣	dbl
rdbl	1♥	pass	pass
dbl	all pass		

Making 1♥ doubled was 160, for 15imps to NS.

*Brad Coles*

# Reaching the next level

## Matt Raj Mal

***Uncover your mental mistakes and you will improve your performance***



For many who play bridge, it is well known that the mental part of this game is very important. Although many use this aspect to their benefit, there are even more players who have allowed mental mistakes to hurt their successes at the table.

When looking to transition to the better grades, understanding what these mistakes are, and ensuring they don't occur, can be a major part of your successful transition into the level of your choice.

One mental lapse can lead to a bad pass or missed contract that could change the outcome of the game. You have to be prepared – mentally – to play at your peak for 3 to 3½ hours. Therefore, your level of mental toughness can help you thrive in bridge by boosting confidence, coping with adversity, and performing at your peak, especially under pressure. Uncover these mental mistakes and you will improve your performance that could help you and your team achieve greater success.

### **Don't leave self-confidence to chance**

It is important that you truly believe in your ability. If you do, you're less likely to become anxious before big games or high-pressure situations such as Red Point and Championship events.

In a game, if you fail to bid, or make a bad pass before feeling confident, you're prone to have very unstable confidence.

What happens to your confidence when you start a competition poorly with a couple of mistakes? Your performance suffers if you react to mistakes with self-doubt!

With reactive confidence, you are less likely to recover from mistakes. You want a proactive approach to confidence – not a reactive approach.

*HINT: Your confidence should be stable and based on your lifetime of training. It should not change due to one mistake in a game. Try to recall the reasons you have to be confident before games. Visualize your highlights in your head, of your incredible bids and defence.*

### **Placing strict expectations on your performance**

Do you place unrealistic demands or expectations on your performance in games? How frustrated do you become when you don't meet your own expectations? In many cases, maintaining high or strict performance expectations can actually limit your success in bridge.

Essentially, expectations set you up to fail before you even start, because most players will set extremely high expectations. In addition, expectations are usually based on desired results or stats. Bridge players, like any other competitors, often judge their game based on these expectations. In most cases, your expectations equal pressure, and pressure can turn into pre-game anxiety or trying too hard to meet your expectations. The score is important, but focusing on it will not help you perform in the moment.

*HINT: Replace your unrealistic expectations with manageable objectives. Examples of manageable objectives, also called process goals:*

- Go in hard on bids
- Keep shape in defence
- Check into the possibilities

### **Too much emphasis on results or outcomes**

How much do you worry about winning or losing the game? Do you stress out about your stats for the game? Pre-game anxiety can come from several sources, depending on your level of confidence and how you interpret it. Each player reacts differently to stress and adversity. This worry comes from focusing too much on results or more specifically, the consequences of results, such as worrying about disappointing a partner or teammates.

If you focus only on avoiding mistakes and failure, you'll under-perform and not reach your potential. You will also feel more doubt, which sabotages your confidence.

*HINT: One of the most powerful mental strategies to improve your performance is to simply let go of any concerns about the outcome and instead focus solely on the process of playing and enjoying playing. If you find yourself worrying about the outcome, refocus quickly on the current play and ask yourself what you can do to execute the play.*

After sessions, discuss "hands" and "outcome" and "your thoughts" with partner / teammates. Remember, each pair / team you play against are different than others. They all have their own game plan. Study them, especially their System Cards, and restructure your own form of attack and defence accordingly.



# News and results

## Central Coast Bridge Club Novice & Restricted Congress

The Novice and Restricted congress on the Central Coast, on the weekend of 27-28 August, was a great success. The Novice and Restricted event is somewhat noisier, and there seems to be more hilarity and laughter. Bridge, for the majority of players is a social pastime, and certainly players at the congress seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.

The Restricted Swiss Pairs was won by Maeve Doyle and Robyn Rogers (pictured), and the Novice by Maureen and Kevin Carson. Colin Speller, Jodie Gudaitis, Nerida Gillies, Sandy Carter won the Restricted Teams, and David Purkiss, Peter Cloughessy, Jan Lawson, Mark Mathews won the Novice. Best under-50 MP team was Kyna Foo, Stephanie Price, Marlene Velecky and Chris Hamam (pictured).



## HGR Memorial

### MIXED SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Gerry Daly - Viv Wood
- 2 Chris Cullen - Gill Gavshon

### WOMEN SWISS PAIRS



- 1 Florence Maltby - Di Brooks
- 2 Deborah Frankel - Deidre Greenfeld

### RESTRICTED SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Jackin Clare - Eamonn McCabe
- 2 Robert Kirberger - Ian Clark

## 2022 Territory Gold Festival

### MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1 Phil Gue - George Kozakos
- 2 Kim Ellaway - Raymond Ellaway

### TEAMS

- 1 Simon Hinge, Joachim Haffer, Phil Gue, George Kozakos
- 2 Lyn Martin, Jim Martin, David Christian, Alison Dawson

### SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Phil Gue - George Kozakos
- 2 Belinda Taranto - Mark Doust



## Swan River Swiss Pairs

- 1 Shane Harrison - Andy Hung
- 2 Karol Miller - Val Biltoft
- 3 Marie-France Merven - Nigel Dutton

## Australia-Wide Open Pairs (25-31 August)

- 1 Robin Pellen - Henry Dyall *Blue Lake* (pictured left)
- 2 Florence Maltby - Di Brooks *Rockingham* (pictured above)
- 3 Mick Koziol - Sam Brown *Gawler*
- 4 Neville Nott - Sanjay Sinha *Wellington*
- 5 Heather Brown - Kerry Harding *Grafton*
- 6 Farzin Meshki - Tim Freeman *Eastern Suburbs*
- 7 Josephine Dundas - Alan Dundas *Mandurah*
- 8 Bill Webb - Bob Powell *Mandurah*
- 9 Colin Tolley - Barbara Herring *Coffs Harbour*
- 10 Bea Stallbom - Richard Hooper *Gawler*

# 2023 SUMMER FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

January 10-22

Canberra Rex Hotel

150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon, ACT

## *Week One 10-14 JANUARY*

Senior And Women's Teams

Senior And Women's Playoffs

Non Life And Life Masters' Teams

Chris Diment Swiss Pairs

One Day Novice Teams and Two Day Novice MP Pairs

PENLINE Swiss Pairs

## *Weekend 15-16 JANUARY*

TBIB Open, <100 And Mixed (**New With PQPs**) And

PENLINE <500 Swiss Pairs

## *Week Two 17-22 JANUARY*

South West Pacific Teams

<750/300 MPs Teams

Neura Swiss Pairs

Pack Up & Go Home Pairs

NOT Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals

All Enquiries: [Ian Thomson](#)



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