



NEWSLETTER

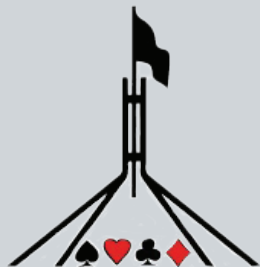
AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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

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**IMPROVE
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Ron Klinger
Solution on page 25

Dealer West, North-South vulnerable.

♠ 10 4 3
 ♥ 8 7 6 4 3 2
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ K 9



♠ Q 2
 ♥ K 9
 ♦ A 8 5 4 3
 ♣ Q 8 7 2

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

1. 15-17.
 2. Transfer to hearts.

West leads the ♦10 and East wins with the ♦A. What next?



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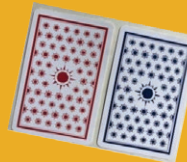
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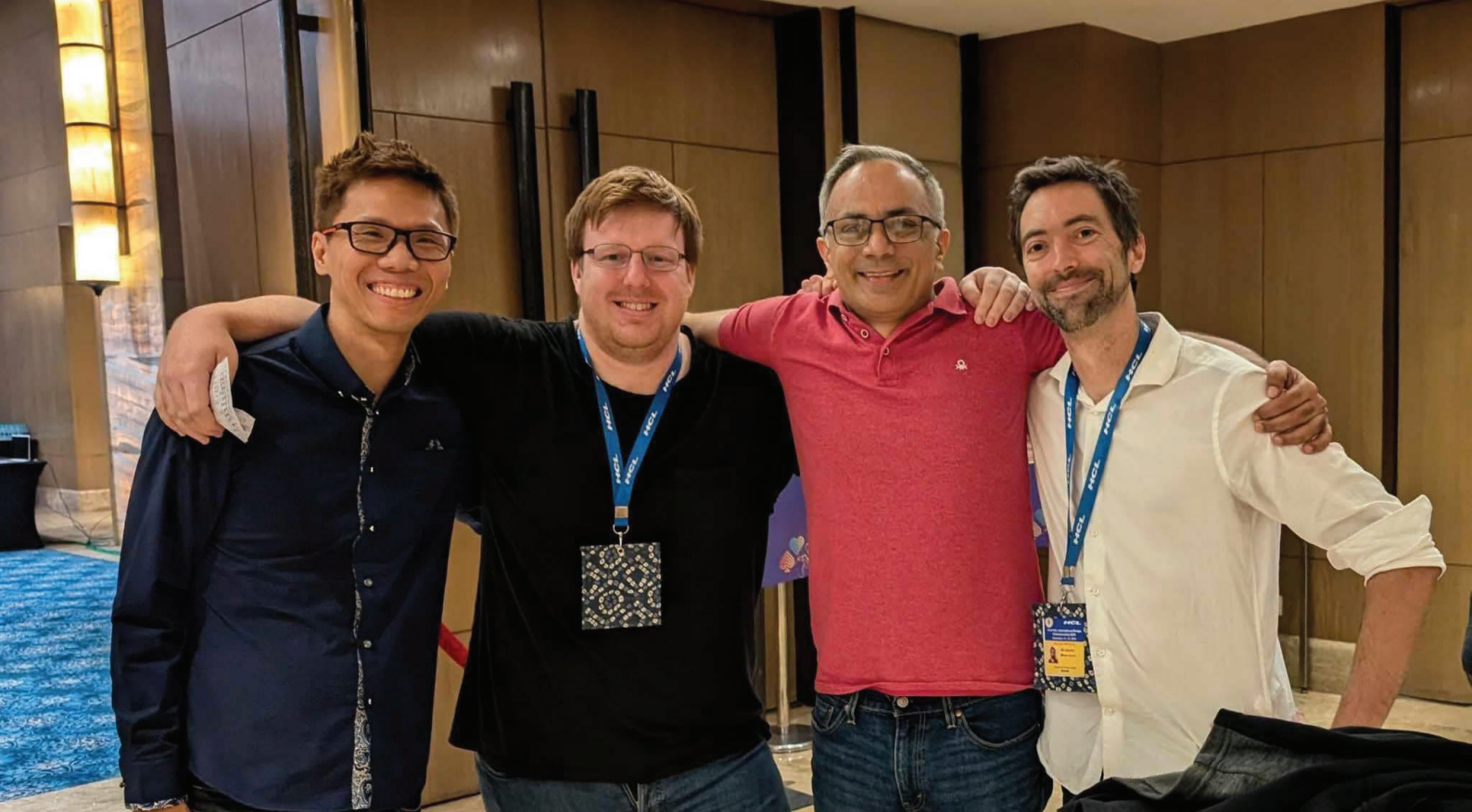
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21st HCL International Bridge Championships

Mark Horton

The luxurious surroundings of New Delhi's Leela Ambience Hotel provided the setting for the most prestigious tournament in India, the HCL International. The main Teams event was won by Wham from Australia / New Zealand (Andy Hung, Matt Brown, Sartaj Hans and Michael Whibley, pictured). The team brings home a cash prize of more than US\$50,000.

This deal is from the qualifying rounds of the Teams:

Round 6: Formidables vs Shourie.

Board 25. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

♠ A K Q 3
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ 10 5

♠ J 10 6 2
♥ K 5 3 2
♦ 6 4
♣ 8 7 3

♠ 9 8 7 5
♥ 10 6
♦ J 9 7
♣ Q 9 6 4

♠ 4
♥ A J 9
♦ A Q 10 8 3
♣ A K J 2

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

1. 3+ diamonds.
2. Splinter.
3. Control.
4. RKCB.
5. Two keycards.
6. Control.

When South made a grand slam try with 6♣, North decided to accept. In the other room North-South had stopped in 6♦, so there was sure to be a swing.

East led the ♥10 and declarer took dummy's ♥A, cashed the top clubs, ruffed a club and played trumps, leaving the North hand with four spades and the ♥Q.

When he cashed the ♦8, West had to part with a spade in order to retain the ♥K, and East had to do the same in order to keep the ♣Q. This meant that the thirteenth trick was taken by the ♠3.

One of the books in the *Master Bridge* series by Terence Reese and Roger Trezel was entitled *When to Duck, When to Win*. With that in mind, look at this deal from the knockout stages:

R16: Shree Cement vs Wham.

Board 2. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST Brown	NORTH Bapat	EAST Whibley	SOUTH Bahuguna
		1NT	pass
2NT ¹	pass	3♣ ²	pass
3NT	all pass		

- 1. Diamonds.
- 2. No fit.

South led the ♠5 and declarer won with the ♠Q and played the ♦6 for the two, queen and king, North returning the ♥8.

Declarer won with the ♥A and looking for overtricks tried a club to the king. North won and continued with the ♥Q and declarer won, cashed dummy's diamonds and then played a spade to the ace for +400.

In the other room:

WEST Goenka	NORTH Hung	EAST Bagadia	SOUTH Hans
		1♣	pass
1♦	1♥	1NT	pass
3NT	all pass		

Here South led the ♥5 for the two, jack and king and declarer continued with a diamond to South's eight and dummy's ten. Holding ♦K4, North followed with the four, letting dummy's ten win. A spade to the jack saw South win with the king and return the ♥9 for the seven, three and ten. A club to the jack lost to the queen and declarer took the return of the ♥Q, cashed the ♠AQ and played a diamond to the queen. North produced the king, and cashed two hearts and the ♣A for two down.

When it comes to bidding, I prefer auctions where one or more of the players must exercise some judgement as to the worth of their hand, as opposed

to those that rely on the application of science (not least because they are more readily understandable to most players).

Here is an example from the Teams final:

Final: Wham vs Shourie.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST Kranyak	NORTH Hung	EAST Demuy	SOUTH Hans
			2♠
pass	3♠	dbl	pass
4NT	pass	5♣	all pass

When South chose to disregard Meckstroth's Law, West was able to jump to 4NT, but East did not look beyond game.

South led the ♠J and declarer won, drew trumps and took a diamond finesse, claiming when it lost, +600.

In the other room:

WEST Brown	NORTH Hurd	EAST Whibley	SOUTH Bathurst
			1♠
pass	2♠	dbl	3♠
4NT	pass	6♣	all pass

This time when West jumped to 4NT, East, appreciating that his partner must have some good cards in diamonds, judged it was right to bid the slam. Aside from the possibility that 6♣ would be anywhere from playable to cold, there was always a chance that NS might decide to sacrifice.

South led the ♠10 and declarer won perforce with the ♠A, cashed the ♣A and ran the ♦J. North winning and returning the ♥Q. Declarer ruffed in dummy, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♣K, played a diamond to the queen, cashed the ♣10 and claimed, +1370 delivering 13 imps.

Declarer would have had a tougher time had North smoothly ducked the ♦J, but that does not detract from East's evaluation.

See the December issue of Australian Bridge Magazine for a full report on the event. Subscribe at australianbridge.com.

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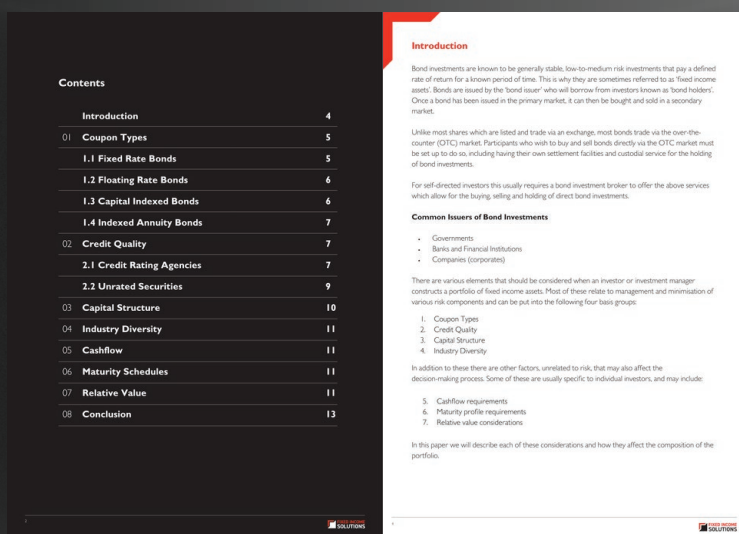


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Executive Director

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Hello everyone! It's hard to believe that I am only a month away from celebrating my first anniversary in the role of Executive Director for the ABF!

It's been a whirlwind year for me and I have learned a lot about not only the workings of the ABF but also bridge operations around the country. I am exceedingly grateful for the support I have had from everyone ranging from our President Allison Stralow, my fellow Board members through to bridge players throughout the country.

In my article in the previous edition of this newsletter I encouraged you all to put together a team from your club and participate in this year's Club Teams Knockout. I was pleased to see that we have a total of 55 teams entered this year in this Gold point event. This is eight more than last year and 23 more than in 2022. The event is graded based on the masterpoints held by the participants and is run online (on Realbridge) enabling you to play against teams from other clubs all around the country. If you didn't get a team together this year then I hope you will consider doing so next year.

I also wrote a separate article in the previous newsletter about the fee increases we will be introducing next year. As I expected, I received correspondence from several individuals and clubs on this topic. I have endeavoured to answer everyone's questions as I recognise how important it is to help everyone to understand the reasons for these increases. I remain available to respond to your questions via the email address at the top of this page.

Over the past twelve months we have continued to receive extraordinary support from several sponsors including of course our long time sponsor Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB). Their support of many of our major tournaments as well as providing insurance advice to bridge clubs around the country is greatly appreciated. In addition to TBIB we have

been generously supported by Fixed Income Solutions (FIS) this year. They have provided prize money to several of our major events and if you would like more information about their offers please see their advertisement in this newsletter. Of course, TBIB and FIS are not the only supporters of the ABF and bridge here in Australia. You will see the names of many other sponsors when you enter events (on myABF) and at the playing venues. I urge you all to consider supporting our sponsors, without them the cost to play bridge competitively in Australia would be higher.

The myABF team are making good progress with the development of more functionality. The current focus is on delivering a mechanism for clubs to manage their annual membership renewals. We are on track to release this upgrade in time for those clubs who have a membership year aligned to the calendar year. You may have noticed that we have advertised for an experienced IT Project Manager to join our team. The role is available on a part-time basis and would suit someone who is in semi-retirement mode. More details are included in an advertisement in this newsletter and on the ABF's website.

I would like to formally wish our representative teams the best of luck at the World Championships that will be held in Buenos Aires starting later this month. If you would like to follow their progress, we will be posting a link on our website to the results page and by following Australian Bridge Federation on Facebook you will see progress updates and photographs.

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Nationals in Sydney in October and please do feel free to chat to me about ABF related matters that may be on your mind! And if I don't see you there then hopefully I will see you at another bridge event in my second year in the job!



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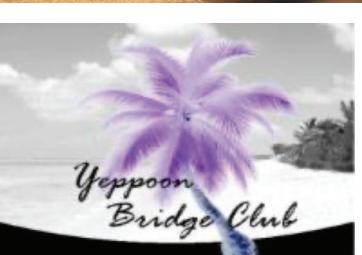
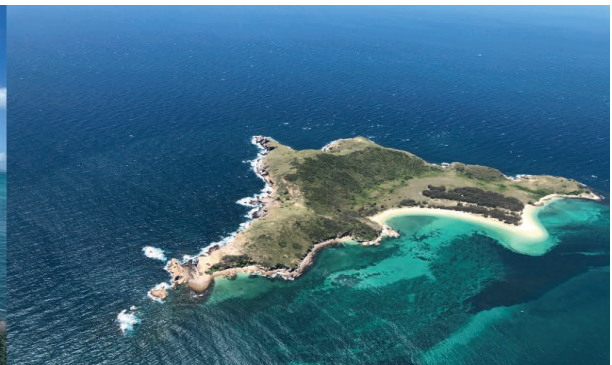
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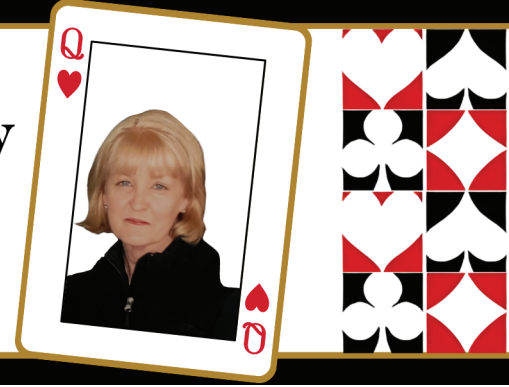


Allison Stralow

President

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When people ask me why I play bridge, my first response always relates to the social benefits of the game, because bridge brings people of all ages together with a common interest, and creates a community spirit of belonging. Allan Morris, the Chair of New Zealand Bridge, shared this article with me recently, and I'm sharing it with you as it is well worth reading. *Embrace the renaissance: The resurgence of Bridge* was published in Sunlive online news. The next time you are asked why you play bridge, share the article and invite your family and friends to join in on the fun of playing bridge.

The Board sees youth development as a key strategic priority for the future of bridge. All eligible youth players should keep the dates 4-10 January free for Youth Week 2025. This week presents an ideal opportunity for young players to, not only play bridge, but also enjoy the social interactions with other youth players. A new fund has been set up to make Youth Week 2025 as affordable as possible for all participants. The money raised will go towards helping players with their travel costs to get to Canberra for this great opportunity to develop their skills. I encourage you to **donate** if you can.

The ABF values the relationship that has been developed over the last twelve years with our sponsors TBIB, and it is pleasing to see that they now provide various styles of support, sponsorship and promotion in every state and territory. We also welcome Fixed Income Solutions, as they are now sponsoring licenced events around Australia. I encourage all players to support those who support us.

Australian Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed teams will be competing in the 16th Bridge World Bridge Games in Argentina from 22 October to 3 November 2024. The best of bridge to all teams as they represent Australia on the International stage.

Find out more about our representatives by clicking [here](#).

The Mid-Term Council and Board meetings will be held online on 30 November and 1 December. If you have any issues you would like to raise with the ABF Board, please email

president@abf.com.au

The best of bridge to you all.



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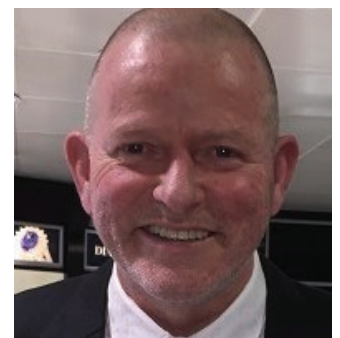
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2024 Under-26 Transnationals

George Bartley



The U26 Youth Transnational tournament was held in Wroclaw, Poland during July 2024. The open U26 team finished ninth out of 19 teams, while the women's U26 team (reported on by Lauren Travis in the August newsletter) finished an incredible fourth in their field.

In the pairs event, Jack-Luke Paredi and I (pictured) finished fourth in the A-Final. The other Aussies narrowly missed the final. The U26 open team was Bertie Morgan and Alex Goss, Lara Topper and Tomer Libman, and Jack Luke-Paredi and me. Our captain was the ever-youthful Mike Doecke. It would take far too long to thank everyone involved, but suffice to say that a large number of expert players have proved a great help to our bridge.

No review is complete without a few interesting game swings, so what follows are the most notable.

Board 7-23. Dealer South. Both vulnerable.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 ♥ A K Q 10 8 4 ♦ Q 10 6 5 4 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 7 5 ♥ 5 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ Q 10 9 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K J 6 3 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K 9 7 ♣ 8 5 4 2</p>
--	--

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

1. Two places to play, most likely diamonds and hearts.

WEST	NORTH George	EAST	SOUTH Jack
pass	4♥	all pass	pass ¹

1. A youth player passed a 12-count in first seat? Game's gone soft.

For this board, all credit must go to Liam Milne. There is absolutely no chance I would have bid 4♥ here if not for a discussion I had with Liam only a few weeks prior to the World Championships. He had proposed that 4♥ is an excellent pressure type bid

to make, and it can lead to lots of tricky decisions for the opponents. Of course, I hadn't imagined that the dummy would be so nice; indeed Jack understandably considered slam. A fantastic low diamond lead from East put the hand in early trouble. The defence only have three top tricks, but a diamond ruff would set the contract. I falsecarded by dropping the ten and queen on the ace-king of diamonds, which convinced the defence to switch to spades. The contract was now secure, and +620 was worth 12 imps when 5♥ went down one at the other table.

Board 10-21. Dealer North. NS vulnerable.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K 9 5 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ K 9 7 3 ♣ 9 6</p> <p>♠ 10 2 ♥ K Q 10 7 5 ♦ J 5 4 2 ♣ 10 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q J 7 4 3 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K Q 8 2</p> <p>♠ 8 6 ♥ A 6 ♦ A Q 8 6 ♣ A J 7 5 4</p>
--	--

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

1. Puppet stayman, asking for a five-card major.
2. Denied a five-card major.
3. Showed four spades.

WEST Jack	NORTH	EAST George	SOUTH
pass pass all pass	1♦ 1NT 3♥	1♠ 2♣ pass	dbl 2♠ 5♦

On this board, both Australia's Tomer Libman and the German South, Felix Doermer, did well to make

their contracts. Tomer won the ♥K lead with the ♥A, noting a discouraging ♥8 by East. A diamond to the king, and a diamond back to the ace revealed the bad news. He played a club towards dummy's nine, west winning the ten and shifting to a low heart, which Tomer won with the jack. Tomer proceeded to strip the black suits and endplay West with the ♥9! West was helpless, forced to give up the ninth trick in the diamond suit, with 3NT= yielding +600.

At my table, I elected to lead the ♠Q, though admittedly perhaps a diamond is preferable to cut ruffs. Regardless, Felix took note of a very different auction, and immediately played a club to hand. I split honours, so he won, played the ♦A and finessed partner's jack, proceeding to play another club to hand. The defense was now screwed, as declarer could pitch hearts from dummy on the ♣J and the long club, being restricted to the ♦J and ♣K. A well played 11 marbles also for +600, and a flat board.

Well done Tomer and Felix.

Board 12. Dealer West. Nil vulnerable.

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

WEST Lara	NORTH	EAST Tomer	SOUTH
pass	1♠	3♥ ¹	4♠
5♥ ²	6♠ ³	all pass	

1. Wide ranging preempt opposite a passed hand.
2. Getting in there.
3. Throwing the kitchen sink at the auction.

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

1. 3+ support, decent hand.

This board is from the BAM segment of the event, where Bertie did very nicely to make 12 tricks while Lara and Tomer's opponent went off in slam! On the lead of the ♥K, Bertie won the ace, drew trumps, stripped his hearts and clubs and ran the ♦9! There was nothing East could do. East was endplayed, forced to concede a ruff and discard or play a diamond into the tenace. Even if West had a high diamond, Bertie simply covers whatever diamond West

plays. At the other table, declarer did not find the endplay and simply tried the diamond finesse.

The final board of note is from the Pairs. It involved some spectacular declarer play by a Dutch superstar, Xavier Friesen, and the most humiliating board of my life.

Pairs Final, Session Two.

Board 11. Dealer South. Nil vulnerable.

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

WEST George	NORTH	EAST Jack	SOUTH
pass	3NT	all pass	1NT ¹⁰⁻¹²

I elected to lead the ♥3. Declarer thought for a long time then stuck in the nine, which held. Declarer has seven tricks in the red suits, so will presumably need two club tricks. The problem is the defenders can take four spades and a club trick at their leisure. So, trying to distract us, declarer called for the ten of spades! Partner obviously ducked, declarer played low, and I thought for a bit before ducking as well! With a spade trick in the bank, declarer could simply set up a club for his ninth trick. The insight I took away from this board is that I should've thought about this earlier when declarer was thinking, and realised that there's not really any reason to duck the spade. Regardless, Xavier got a well-deserved top board for his play, and went on to win the Silver medal with his partner Ronald Goor, to go with their Silver in the Teams for the Dutch. In fact, Xavier and Ronald finished a mere 0.11% behind Castor Mann and Alexander Sandin from Sweden who took Gold in the Pairs.

It is always an honour to represent Australia. On behalf of the youth team, I am grateful for all the help we have received over the last couple of years. In particular, there was an unbelievable effort put in by our captains, Mike Doecke and Lauren Travis, to improve our bridge. I would also like to thank my partner Jack; I only occasionally wish he never took up bridge, the rest of the time I'm grateful that he's around.



A GAME AT THE VCC

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

There were lots of interesting and educational hands during the VCC. Let's start with a declarer play hand:

♠ A 10 7 6 5
♥ A
♦ J 7
♣ A K J 10 9

♠ J 9 4
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ A K 4 3
♣ 3 2

♠ 7
♥ K 3
♦ A K 10 9 2
♣ K 10 8 4 3

♠ J 4
♥ A 10 8 5 2
♦ 7 5 3
♣ Q 7 5

♠ K Q 10 9 3 2
♥ —
♦ J 8 6 4
♣ A J 6

♠ A 8 6 5
♥ Q J 9 7 6 4
♦ Q
♣ 9 2

You've had an aggressive auction to 5♠, stopping when you discovered that you were missing one key card and the ♠Q (and specifically an eight-card fit). East led a heart, won with the ace.

Rather than drawing trumps, you should think about the need to trump some club losers. Cash the ♣A and ♣K, then continue with the jack. East shows out, so you trump with the ♠4. Now you cash the ♥K, discarding a club, and the ♦A and ♦K – in case East gets too many opportunities to discard diamonds, then trump a heart to hand. You should now lead your last club and trump it in dummy, and finally you are ready to lead the ♠J, running it to East's queen (West playing the ♠8).

You only have spades left, but East proves to hold ♠K-Q-3-2, so you have two trump losers.

Those who led trumps suffered the indignity of going down, losing two trumps and a club (since East could exit with a trump to prevent club ruffs).

What a difference a lead can make!

On the next deal, some Wests doubled 4♥, based on the trumps:

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

They then led the ♠J, which proved fatal – to the defence. South won the ♠A, cashed the ♦Q, then trumped a spade to dummy. The ♦A and ♦K allowed for the losing clubs to be discarded, then a club was ruffed to hand, and another spade led.

The spade was trumped in dummy, and declarer could trump a second club. Eight tricks taken, with declarer still holding ♥Q-J-9-7, and having to win two more trump tricks by force, since West only had trumps left!

What lead defeats the contract? The ♥A and another heart. Now declarer has no ruffs in dummy but, even worse, no entries to dummy! They can cash the ♦A and ♦K, discarding one spade loser, but they will still lose ♥A, two spades, two clubs, and the ♥10.

Congratulations to Bertie Morgan's team, the only West to lead the ♥A (or any trump).

A lot of the field found this hand too challenging to bid to slam, on the following hand/auction:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
1♥	1♠	3♦	4♠
pass	pass	?	

What would you bid now (vulnerable against not)? These decisions, which seem like wild bashes, are all based on visualising what partner's hand can be. If they didn't have the ♠A, then they probably held the ♦K, so 6♥ looked like a 'winning bid' – another practical bid. (Two pairs managed to bid 7♥ but, perhaps, South didn't raise to 4♠ on his almost-yarborough, removing plenty of bidding space.)

Whilst we were successful with that slam, look at this hand:

♠ 7 6 4
♥ 6
♦ A K Q J 9 8 3
♣ Q 8

♠ A K 10 9 8
♥ A Q 5
♦ —
♣ K J 7 4 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
pass	2♦ game force	pass	3♣ extras
pass	?		

As with most of the field, I now bid 3♠, to set spades. After some cue bids, I bid 4NT (North) and found that we were missing one key card and the ♠Q. What now? Given partner's extra values, I pictured the ability to discard my spade loser(s) on clubs (or hearts) and tried 6♦. This failed when partner – naturally – bid 6♠. I didn't think 6NT was a good idea, because we may not have had an entry to my hand. (Yes, some people failed in 3NT!)

How should I have bid it? Over 3♣, I should have bid 4♦, showing a solid diamond suit and setting the suit as trumps. Then we could have played in 6♦. Think about these opportunities.

Declarer fell for an 'optical illusion' on this hand, playing in 3NT, West, with no opposition bidding:

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

North led the ♣2, fourth-highest. He ducked South's ♣10, winning the ♣J in dummy. Now he led a heart towards his Jack, hoping to generate four heart tricks, since he only had eight top winners. North won the ♥Q, and continued clubs. Declarer now continued with his plan to work on hearts. He cashed the ♥A and ♥K, then gave South their fourth heart – hearts having broken 4-2. Down two, since we now had two clubs, two hearts and two diamonds.

What should he have done? He should have double-checked his plan, since it was flawed. There was a much better line, especially since the ♣2 suggested that clubs were 4-3. He should have looked at the diamond suit. His J-10-9 could be made into winners. Win the club, lead the ♦K, losing to the ace. Cross to hand (club or spade), and continue with the ♦J. The defence now have two clubs and two diamonds, but declarer has the rest.

Keep checking your plans for flaws or faults. Keep working on planning at trick one.

My final hand was amusing rather than anything:

♠ A 9 7 5 4 3 2
♥ 5 4 2
♦ K
♣ A J

♠ Q J 10
♥ —
♦ A J 9 2
♣ 10 8 7 4 3 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
1♥	3♠ *	4♥	5♠
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

* I decided to make a weak jump on a stronger hand because I had a weak suit and partner had passed.

Before he led, East asked about South's bid. I suggested it was a 'sucker bid' to make him double.

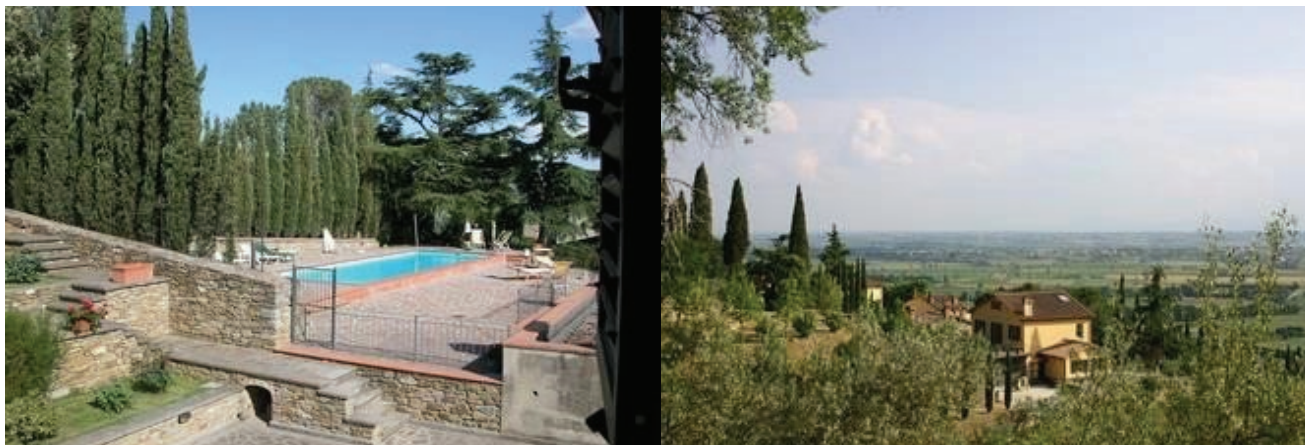
Partner was looking a little bewildered, so I pointed out the jump to the five-level. It usually indicates extreme length in our suit; of course, partner simply didn't notice the availability of the 4♠ bid – so it was, in fact, the sucker bid!

East led a heart, ruffed in dummy. ♦K, heart ruff, ♦A, throwing the ♣J, club to the ace, and another heart ruff. I ruffed a diamond to hand and cashed the ♠A, dropping West's singleton king, for 13 tricks. The only lead to stop 13 tricks was a trump, yet there was only one score of 850 (two overtricks) amongst the various 5♠ doubled contracts.

Of course, you know I like to use dummy's trumps, hence the result.

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Some reviews of recent holidays:

Location: * *Beautiful views overlooking valley. Wake to cocks crowing and church bells calling to service.*

Hosts: * Host facility was excellent. Rosalinda was a marvellous host, very friendly, even under pressure.

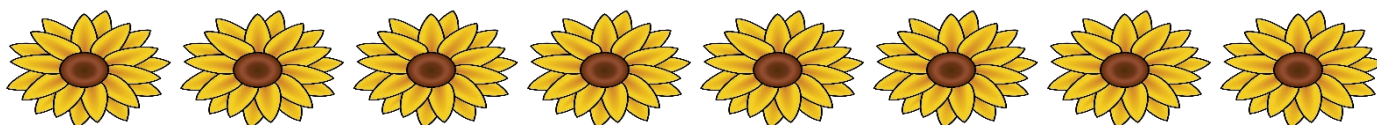
Tours: * Every trip was well organised and interesting. Tuscany is enchanting.

Food: * Utterly delicious. Suited me very well.

Bridge: * Bridge was well organized and fun and lessons were terrific. Mary is a wonderful teacher.

Venue: * The accommodation was very good and I really enjoyed the visits to local towns and villages.

Overall: * It was a delight!



BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



YOUR ACTION WHEN YOUR RHO OVERCALLS 2♥

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

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

SOLUTIONS

1. Double. Support doubles and redoubles are indispensable in the partscore battle. The difference between a 4-3 and 4-4 fit is well known, and the difference between a 5-3 and a 5-4 fit is also critical. The 1♠ bidder could have only four spades but could also have five, six or even seven.

Popular is to use double here as a "Power" double or a "card-showing" double showing say 15+ HCP. I much prefer to sort out the level of our trump fit.

2. Pass. There is a big difference between this hand and the hand in Question 1. Both hands have 12 HCP but the hand in Question 1 has a bit of shape and well-positioned high cards; if responder has nowhere to go over your double, and is forced to rebid a four-card spade suit, little damage will be done.

This hand is flat and with strength in the opponent's suit. Best to pass and if responder reopens with a double now bid 2♠. Responder should get the picture that you don't like your hand.

3. Pass. To rebid 2NT when responder has replied at the one-level would show 18-19 balanced so that is not an option. Keep in mind responder may only have 5 or 6 HCP. Pass is strongly indicated, with length and strength in the opponent's suit, and if responder has extra values and reopens with a double you should pass and collect 300, 500 or more.

4. Pass. How strong should opener be to rebid their six-card suit in this situation? I would suggest that a sound opening would be ample and here you have an inconspicuous 11-count. If partner has 8+ HCP and short in hearts they can reopen with a double, and now you can bid 3♦.

5. 3♦. This is a much better hand, and competing with 3♦ is strongly indicated. Note I would open 1NT and hope for the best.

6. 3♣. Only 14 HCP but with this well-upholstered hand I am happy to compete to the three-level.

7. 3NT. The jump to 3NT is not 18-19 balanced, 2NT shows that. 3NT should be some hand like this where you simply want to play 3NT and warn partner off spades.

8. 3♥. You want to be in 3NT if responder has a heart stopper so you cuebid opponent's suit. Your plan is that seven diamond tricks, ♣A and partner's heart stopper adds up to at least nine tricks.

9. 3♥. As in Question 8 you cuebid, but this time you have great support and shortage in opponent's suit. Whatever responder bids you will go back to spades and show you have four-card spade support with a heart shortage.

Even though the 3♥ cuebid is ambiguous it is important to save space and not jump splinter to 4♥. You need very little for slam and it would be nice to show controls and get there if 12 tricks are laydown.

10. 3♠. Showing 18-19 balanced with four spades. Most likely 6 HCP in responder's hand will not be enough for game so it is wise to give responder a chance to pass.

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

In Memoriam

George Riszko 1944-2024

George Riszko lost a brave fight with cancer on 17 August 2024. Australia and Australian bridge lost a unique personality.

George was born on 5 July 1944 in Przemyśl in south-eastern Poland. The city is close to the border with Ukraine, and George's father Wladimir was an ethnic Ukrainian who lived almost all his life in Poland. Wladimir was a hero of the Holocaust. For years, he sheltered Jewish people in the cellar of his home to hide them from Nazi attention. At the time of writing (2024), Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, is conducting a verification study that may culminate in Wladimir Riszko's recognition as a "Righteous Gentile".

One of the people sheltered by Wladimir Riszko was a young woman called Rifka. She and Wladimir wed. (There were two children – George and his younger sister Eva who was born in Hungary). The marriage was tempestuous. Rifka was beset by problems that were not of her own making. Firstly, her extended family, except for a brother, had all been massacred in concentration camps; she suffered from survivors' guilt. Secondly, because she had married outside the faith, she had to bear the scorn of sections of the Jewish community. Perhaps these ambivalences passed on to son George. For much of his life George vacillated between a feeling of Jewishness and a slight desire to hide it.

War's end brought a new threat to the Riszko family – USSR colonisation of Eastern Europe. The family kept ahead of the Russians by moving west through central Poland and Hungary until they reached West Germany, where they found sanctuary and temporary stability in a refugee camp. From there, they obtained visas to migrate to New Zealand.

The years immediately following World War II triggered widespread immigration of northern and central Europeans whose lives had been disrupted by the war and its aftermaths. Hundreds of thousands of families left their homelands to start a new life far away. New Zealand and Australia were often the countries of choice. The Riszkos made their new home in Wellington where George grew up.

George Riszko chose dentistry as a career, and completed his tertiary education (BDS) at the University of Otago in Dunedin. With fine-boned hands, long fingers and acute eye-hand coordination, George was made to be a dentist. Before coming

to Canberra, he had practised in New Zealand, the UK, Sydney and Gosford. For a half-century, he kept well abreast of the spectacular advances in dental technology that have transformed a visit to the dentist from a dreaded ordeal into a matter of routine. It was clear to the observer that George enjoyed his profession, and it was clear to his patients that he was good at the job. So much so, that the list of his patients included scores of Canberra bridge players.



I was one. Once, as I reclined in his surgery chair, I asked George whether he found dentistry a boring occupation. I've not forgotten his reply. "Of course, 85% is repetitive" he said, "but the rest is compensation – unusual and sometimes unique problems." Then he added, "Not unlike bridge".

The analogy was apt as it related to George Riszko's own bridge career. Although not in the very top echelon, George was a fine player. Four times he represented ACT in ANCs, he held five club titles and, for a quarter century, was a prolific winner on the country congress circuit. These achievements represented the "85% repetitive".

Three occurrences epitomise the "15% compensation". The first was at ANC2001 in Canberra. George, with Hashmat Ali and their ACT teammates, reached the final of the Seniors Teams. The opponents, Victoria, were firm favourites. At the halfway mark, ACT trailed by 25imps. Then came the fourth stanza. George and Hashmat and team-mates at the other table won the 10-board set 55-3. It was the stuff of legend. The 27-imp buffer ensured ACT of the title.

The second occurrence was at the trials to select three pairs to form the 2002 Australian team to contest the inaugural Asia-Pacific Seniors Teams Championship in Bangkok. George Riszko and Hashmat Ali entered the trials. Despite being rank outsiders, they qualified in second place. Then, in a strong field in Bangkok, they were second again. It was a performance for personal and national pride.

The third occurrence was of a different nature. George and his teammates were doing well in the qualifying rounds of the NOT and were drawn to play a strong New Zealand team. Having sat down at the table and greeted the opponents, George said "Our system is Symmetric Relay; you may be familiar with it – it was invented by New Zealander Roy Kerr." "Thank you" responded an opponent, "I am familiar with Symmetric Relay. I am Roy Kerr".

Nikki Varkonyi, a Hungarian refugee, and George Riszko first met in Wellington when they were barely teenagers. For many years they were just friends. Then the relationship blossomed into romance, and they married in 1965. George was in the second year of his five-year dental course; Nikki left Victoria University in Wellington and completed her Arts Degree in Dunedin. On a whim, they took bridge lessons from a fellow student and were instantly addicted. Bridge became a pastime that engaged, enthralled and entertained them for the rest of their lives.

Nikki and George had two daughters, Gaby and Tonja. (They knew about bridge but never played seriously – although Tonja was a Summer Festival caddy for two years.) Both girls have made successful professional careers for themselves and have been a source of great pride for their parents. Gaby lives in Melbourne and is a prominent social worker in non-government organisations; Tonja lives in America and is a distinguished academic with unrivalled expertise in the relationship between the US Supreme Court and the US political system.

For several years after graduation, George practiced dentistry in London. Nikki with two small children, never came to terms with the English climate, so the family returned to Wellington in 1974. Six months later, George bought a practice in Canberra. One of their first acts was to join the Canberra Bridge Club where they continued to play until the present.

Time took its toll on their marriage and, after very many years, they went their separate ways, remaining good friends. As Nikki put it, "We've known each other much longer than we've known anyone else".

George Riszko was an enigma. He had no hobby apart from bridge. When not actually playing, he spent much of his leisure time reading about the game. But, although bridge was an abiding passion, George had multiple other interests, in particular politics and current affairs. These subjects can lead to heated debate and, with a lively intellect, George never hesitated to participate. Indeed, he loved nothing more than a vigorous argument about anything and everything.

George was an accomplished player who, it seemed to those of us who knew him well, never achieved his full potential. We wondered why. Was an uneasy, challenging childhood in some way responsible? Was an inherent Eastern European excitability too difficult to control? Was an argumentative nature, albeit non-aggressive, too taxing on stable partnership? We'll never know. What we do know is that George was a person of utmost goodwill (but sometimes misunderstood) and that his very best bridge was played with the hyper-phlegmatic Hashmat Ali.

George Riszko, you were one of a kind who will never again pass our way. We are going to miss you.

John Brockwell

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Book review

by Avon Wilsmore

A Compulsive Pastime: a history of bridge in the ACT and surrounding regions

by John Brockwell and David Hoffman

The 1976 Youth Teams, held in Canberra before the NOT, was my first national championship. Ursula College, at the ANU, was the venue. I recall learning quite a bit at the event; mostly, how little I knew about bridge at that time. I also recall being impressed by someone I met there. I walked into the playing area the day before the event started, and saw that work was being done on setting up things. A man approached me.

Man: Hello, my name is Barry Turner. I am the convener of this event. I don't think we've met before. What's your name?

AW: Avon Wilsmore.

Man: Ah, you are on the team from Perth. Now, I have a couple of things to say. First, my job is to make sure this event runs as smoothly as possible. As well, I am very happy to see new players, and I want you to know that you are welcome to come and talk to me at any time. Young players are very important, and I want you leave this event happy that you took the time to participate.

Over the next decade, I saw Barry at NOTs and Youth events, and he was always to come and say hello and wish me well. My view, then and now, is that Barry Turner was a genuine gentleman, with a great affection for bridge and a belief that both young players and well-run events are necessary to secure the future of bridge.

Now, why all that stuff about Barry Turner? Well, I have been sent a book for review: *A Compulsive Pastime: A History of Bridge in the ACT and Surrounding Regions* by John Brockwell and David Hoffman. I knew that Barry did much good work in Canberra, and I looked forward to learning more about him. And I did.

It's time for a complaint. From the title, given above, you might reasonably suppose that the book contains little outside an account of the players and happenings over the years around the ACT. This is not the case. Many subjects are covered; some light and amusing, some deep and, at times, troubling. About 1800 players are in the index; some are covered in enlightening detail, some are mentioned only as office-bearers or event-winners.

One interesting chapter is about the National Open Teams. Apart from an early bloop, Canberra has hosted the event since 1974. I was unaware of a matter that troubled Canberra bridge in the 1970s; that the success of the NOT decimated Canberra's then-biggest event, the January Congress. Barry Turner stepped in to kick a few heads and turn things around. The chapter ends with a thoughtful discussion of the diminishing numbers of participants at the NOT; the contrast between the rise in numbers at the Gold Coast and the fall in numbers at the NOT is a matter that administrators should contemplate.

Co-author and one-time ABF President John Brockwell was the convener of the first 21 NOTs. Many players will recall their times at the Australian Youth Championships with affection; John was the Convener of the first seven (1969-1975). I recall John's fine organisational skills and am sure I am not alone in hoping he is back on the job soon. Enough with the loafing.

Meanwhile, let's celebrate John's contribution with a deal from the 1989 Far East Open Pairs, where John partnered New Zealand's John Wignall:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
J Borin	Wignall	N Borin	Brockwell
	1♦	pass	2NT ¹
pass	3♦	pass	4NT
pass	5♥	pass	5NT
pass	7♦	pass	7NT
all pass			

1. Game force raise.

Matchpoint madness inspired John's conversion to 7NT. I have found that partners are very forgiving of this under one circumstance only.

Jim Borin made the helpful lead of the ♣Q; John won and cashed six diamonds and the ace and king of spades. Dummy discarded a club and the ten and nine of hearts. From George Havas' column in *The Australian*:

"Look at the unbearable pressure this put on the defence. West has to keep two clubs to avoid declarer

making an extra club trick but what other two cards should he keep? If West keeps two hearts then, when declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and cashes the club ace, East is squeezed in hearts and spades. To avoid this, Jim Borin kept one heart and one spade. But then John Brockwell crossed to the heart ace dropping West's jack, cashed the club ace and finessed the heart eight on the way back. Notice the importance of declarer's careful heart discards. Had he kept the nine or ten in dummy, then the heart suit would have been blocked and declarer could not usefully have taken the heart finesse when East did not cover."

The book has many gems. One that I enjoyed was the chapter, *To Smoke or Not to Smoke*. This was a hot topic in days gone by; newer players will have trouble believing the heated disputes that arose between the two camps. We are shown a very fine letter by Victorian Dr David White, and the counter-arguments by a Queenslander show, yet again, that being a good bridge player is no bar to saying or doing stupid things. As further evidence, we read that three senior Canberra bridge players gave up the game rather than be without cigarettes at the table. Another outraged player formed the "Canberra Smoker's Bridge Club", which didn't last long. Not for nothing did Dr White's letter end, "Some of my best friends were smokers."

There are ten chapters on bridge players of all sorts; from internationals to club helpers, from youth players to nonagenarians. Along the way, you, too, can add "myrmidon" to your vocabulary. I was pleased to see myrmidons finally get some acknowledgment; without them, bridge nationwide would not run as well as it does.

I am going to balance that earlier complaint with a compliment (I am not normally so magnanimous in real life): a noteworthy attribute of the book is its remarkable quality of production. It is more like a coffee table book than a bridge book. The dense, lustrous paper and fine binding are remarkable.

Now, on to the second problem (see top of next column). This deal is from the 2011 World Transnational Open Teams Championship, and appears in the book under Hugh Grosvenor's entry. Australia's loss by 27 imps over 48 boards in the final represents the closest Australia has ever come to winning a world championship. Convicted and banned cheats Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz picked up 13 imps, with both tables playing 3NT.

In the other room, Paul Gosney opened a plain weak two and Nabil led his partner's suit. Lotan Fisher, instead, led a spade. To what extent is this suspicious?

♠ A 7
♥ Q J 7 4 3 2
♦ 7 5
♣ K 6 2

♠ J 5 4
♥ 6
♦ K Q 6 4 3 2
♣ Q 10 5

♠ K 6
♥ A K 8
♦ J 9
♣ A J 8 7 4 3

♠ Q 10 9 8 3 2
♥ 10 9 5
♦ A 10 8
♣ 9

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

1. Weak two in either major.

I posted Fisher's lead problem on Bridge Winners; at this current time, 89% prefer a heart.

Brockwell and Hoffman write, "While there is no firm evidence of collusive cheating by the Fisher - Schwartz partnership in the Veldhoven Transnational, certain hands cause suspicions." Readers may review the following article, which looks at some deals from that match:

<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/the-maze-of-fisherschwartz/>

I am sure we will agree that Brockwell and Hoffman are masters of the understatement.

To summarise, Brockwell and Hoffman's book is mostly a history of bridge in Australia, with a focus on Canberra and the clubs in nearby towns. But there is much more of interest to bridge players and administrators. It is my opinion that decades of national-level directing and event management, in conjunction with the excellent research skills required in his day job at the CSIRO, have given John Brockwell the knowledge to provide valuable insights into what makes for successful bridge events, and what helps bridge to grow. My view is that senior ABF administrators would do well to study the last brief chapter, *Where To From Here*.

Finally, what is the association between the creation of Aerogard, Queen Elizabeth, and bridge? If you don't read the book, you'll die wondering.

A Compulsive Pastime: A History of Bridge in the ACT and Surrounding Regions by John Brockwell & David Hoffman is available from the author at davidhoffman@iinet.net.au or phone 0407 782 756 (\$60 + \$12 postage), or pick up a copy in person at the Canberra Bridge Club.

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Prefer to compete in your own skill division? There are a wide range of events with divisions for U20, U100, U300, U500, U750, U1000, and Open players.

Single-Session Play & Workshops

If you're looking for a more relaxed experience, we have plenty of **single-session events** and **casual workshops** to enjoy. It's the perfect way to get your bridge fix at a leisurely pace while soaking up the vibrant festival atmosphere. **Table numbers are limited**, so pre-booking is required to secure your spot.

Club Development Day: Free for ABF Affiliated Clubs!

On Tuesday 7 January, **two representatives from each ABF-affiliated club** are invited to join the **free Club Development Day**. It's a fantastic opportunity to network, hear directly from the ABF, and explore ways to grow your club through teaching, marketing, and more. Whether you're looking to strengthen connections or learn new strategies, this day is designed to inspire and support club development.

Swiss Pairs Events

This festival features four exciting Swiss Pairs events:

- **Chris Diment Matchpoint Swiss Pairs:** 8-9 Jan
- **Fixed Income Solutions Swiss Pairs:** 10 January
- **TBIB Swiss Pairs (including U100/U300, U500/U750 and Open divisions):** 11-12 January
- **Mixed Matchpoint Swiss Pairs (PQP Event):** Friday 17 January to Sunday 19 January

A Luxury Stay at the Canberra Rex Hotel

The home of the festival is the **4½-star Canberra Rex Hotel**, offering **exclusive room deals** for participants, an onsite bar and restaurant, and a short walk to Canberra's CBD. It's the perfect setting for a relaxing and memorable bridge getaway.

Early Bird Draws

Book in by 31 October to be in the running for two fantastic early bird draws:

- **ABF Early Bird Draw:** Win ABF credits up to the value of your festival entry fees! One lucky player will win a prize of up to **\$900+**, drawn at the Festival on Tuesday 7 January.
- **Rex Early Bird Draw:** One hotel guest will win a **\$100 voucher** to the Howling Moon rooftop bar – perfect for celebrating your bridge victories! This draw will also take place on Tuesday 7 January.

Don't Miss Out!

With top-class competition, exciting development programs, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, the 2025 Summer Festival of Bridge is shaping up to be an unforgettable event. **Tables are limited to 120 per day** and have reached capacity in previous years. Book in now to secure your place and avoid disappointment.

Support those who support bridge

We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful sponsors, Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB), Fixed Income Solutions and The Bridge Shop for making the 2025 Summer Festival of Bridge possible. TBIB has been a longstanding partner of the Australian bridge community, offering tailored insurance solutions to players, clubs, and organisers alike. Their sponsorship of the TBIB Swiss Pairs ensures a thrilling competition across all divisions. Fixed Income Solutions provides financial services and is supporting the One Day Swiss Pairs. The Bridge Shop provides books, software and club supplies and also sponsoring the Under 20 and Under 100 Masterpoint events with fantastic prizes. We warmly encourage you to support these amazing sponsors who play such a vital role in making our festival a success!

Check Out the Program and Sign Up!

- You can explore the full program by clicking [here](#).
- Book your entry via MyABF [here](#).

I can't wait to see you there for an incredible celebration of bridge, fun, and friendship!

Warm regards,

*Laura Ginnan, not@abf.com.au
2025 Summer Festival of Bridge Tournament Organiser*

Around the clubs

Did you notice the extra King?

King Charles congratulates Joan Riley, a great example of how to play good bridge and still make it a pleasure to play at her table

Our Wednesday players recently had another King in the room. But unlike the normal Kings of Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs we are all used to, this honour wasn't sitting in the boards waiting to be played.

It was a congratulatory letter from HRH King Charles to celebrate Joan Riley's 100th birthday along with similar letters from the Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson and the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese.

Not a bad start. Their sentiments were warmly endorsed by one of the biggest Wednesday crowds this year who were there to wish Joan a happy 100th birthday. She's been playing bridge for the past 30 years and is our longest playing member.

Before the 15 tables started playing Joan's current partner for the past three years, Yvonne Deakin, paid tribute to her.

"What stands out to me the most about Joan is her rare and admirable quality to never utter a bad word about anyone," Yvonne told the audience.

"In a world of negativity, Joan's ability to see the good in everyone is truly a remarkable gift. Her ability to stay gracious and find the good in every situation is inspiring."

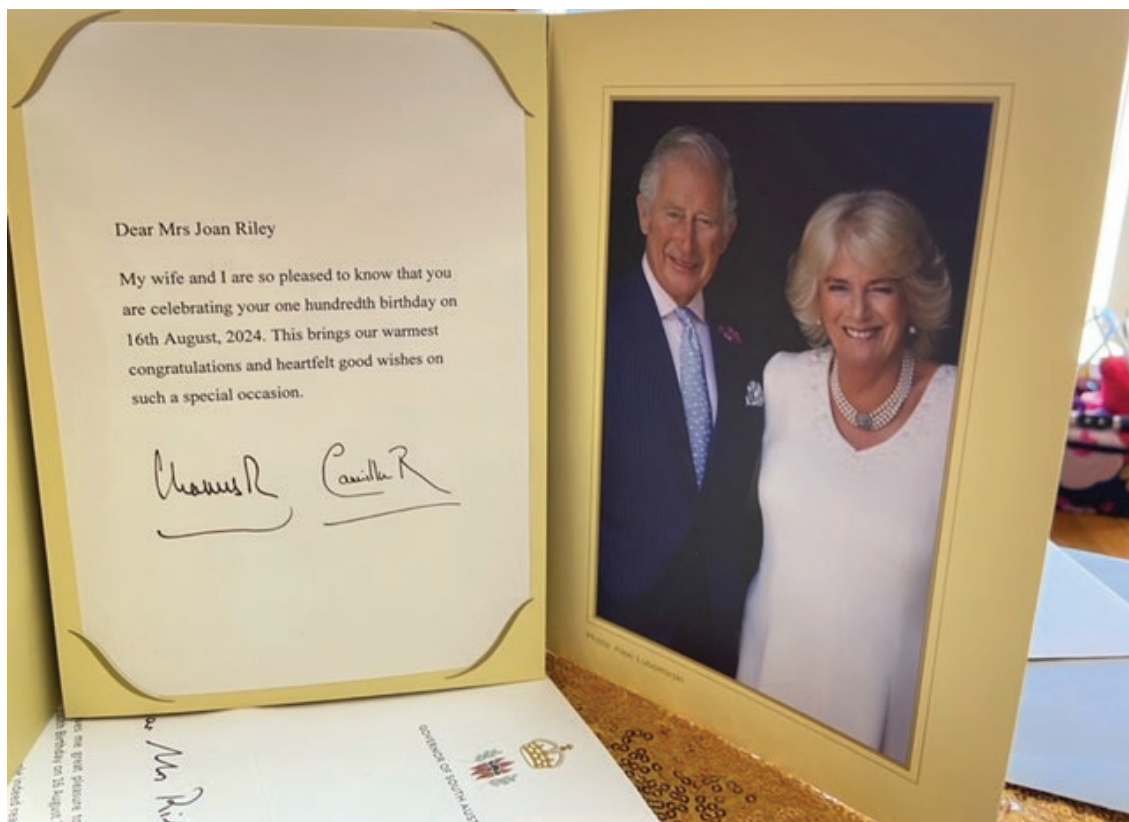
But don't be fooled, Joan's not there to make up the numbers. She and Yvonne recently won the monthly eclectic competition! And they've made their fair share of small slams as well.

One of Joan's favourites, club president Graeme Hammond, met Joan while they were volunteering more than a decade ago.

"She is one of life's generous and dignified personalities," he said. "Joan's a great example of how to play good bridge and still make it a pleasure to play at her table."

And Joan's best tip for everyone. "Just enjoy your bridge."

*June Hammond
Glenelg Bridge Club*



MYABF UPDATE

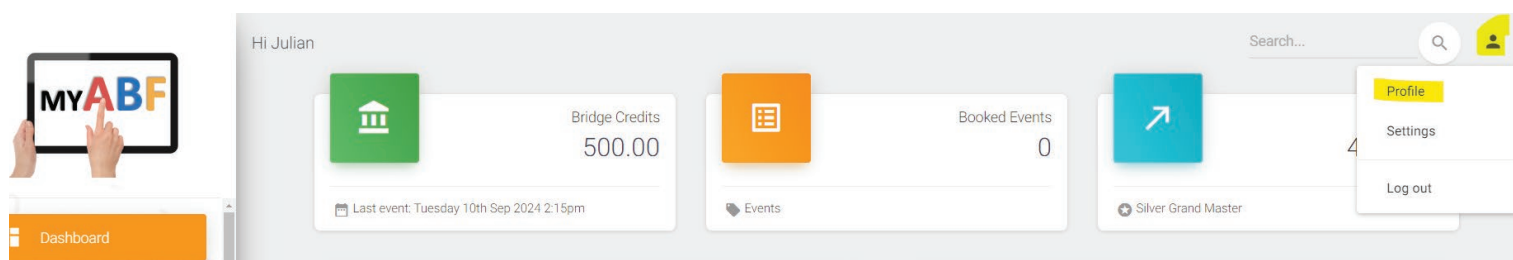
with Julian Foster

**Things you may not realise
you can do yourself!**

We frequently receive help desk tickets from users advising us that they have changed their email address and asking us to update their MYABF account. Sometimes we also get asked to give someone else access to a club's administration area.



Like many things in MYABF, however, you can do both of these yourself – you don't need to ask us to do it!

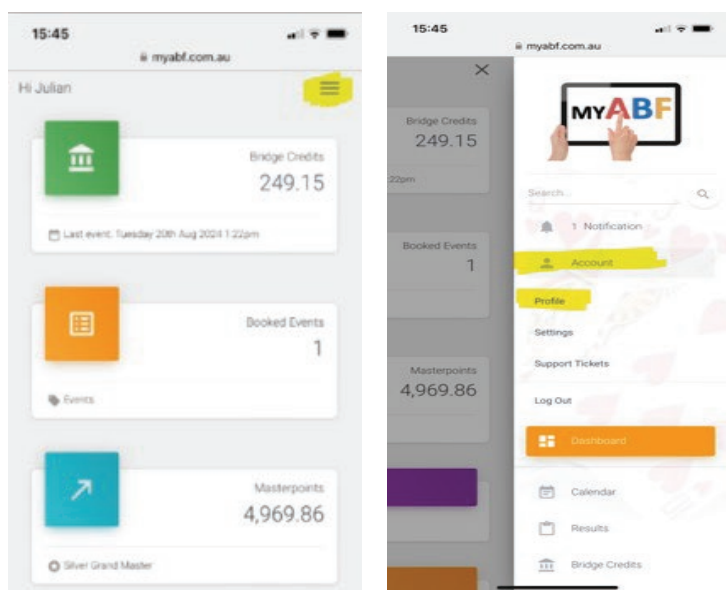
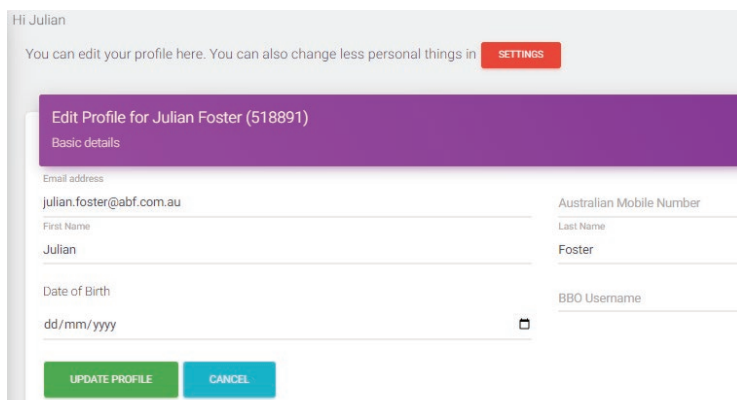


1. UPDATING PERSONAL DETAILS (E.G. EMAIL)

You can update your email address and other personal information at any time in your profile page.

You access your profile slightly differently depending on whether you are using a computer or a tablet/phone.

- On a computer – via the person icon at the top right of your dashboard (pictured above).
- On a phone or tablet – via the Account menu:

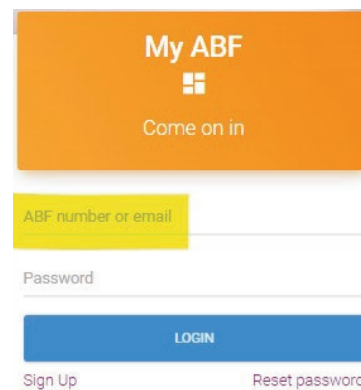


These will open your own Profile page where you can update everything except your ABF number (which is fixed and is the unique reference point for your MYABF account):

So this is where you can update the email address associated with your account. That's the email that needs to be input in order to reset your password. **But you don't need your email to log in.**

When you login, you can usually use either your email OR your ABF number to login.

If you share an email with someone else, then only one of those accounts can login with the email; others will need to use ABF number.

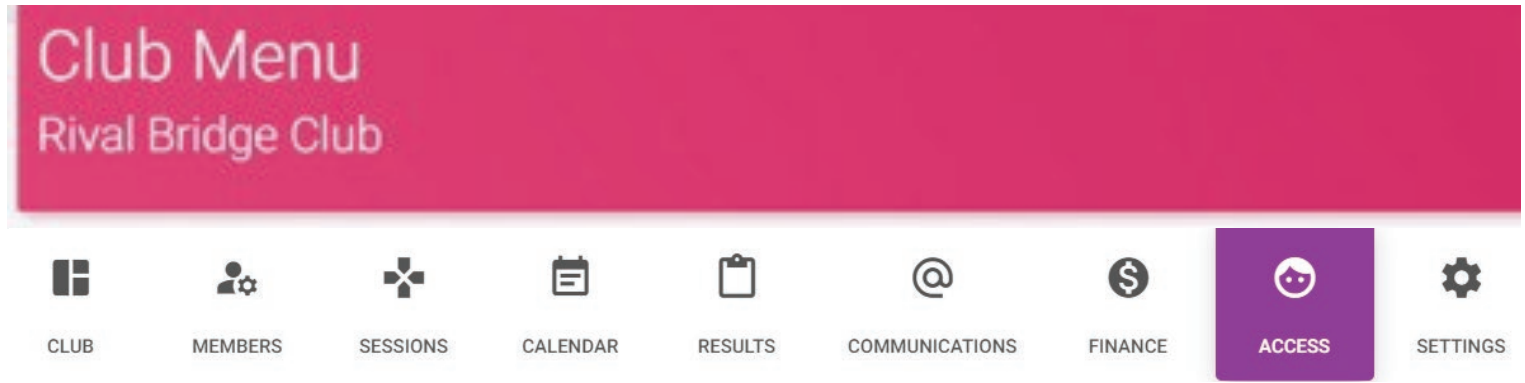


Personally I always login with MYABF number. It's easier to type one six- or seven-digit number than an entire email address. What's more, it doesn't change, so you don't need to remember what email address you have registered in MYABF!

2. ADDING OTHER PEOPLE TO CLUB ADMIN

Once your club is set up with an initial administrator then that person has control over the administration rights – and can give other people access.

It's done in the Access area of the Club Administration menu:



There are two ways access can be configured here (Simple where one group of people has access to all areas, or Advanced where separate groups are created for access to separate areas). How you want to manage this is something clubs are recommended to have a look at early on.

Next Release: Full club membership management

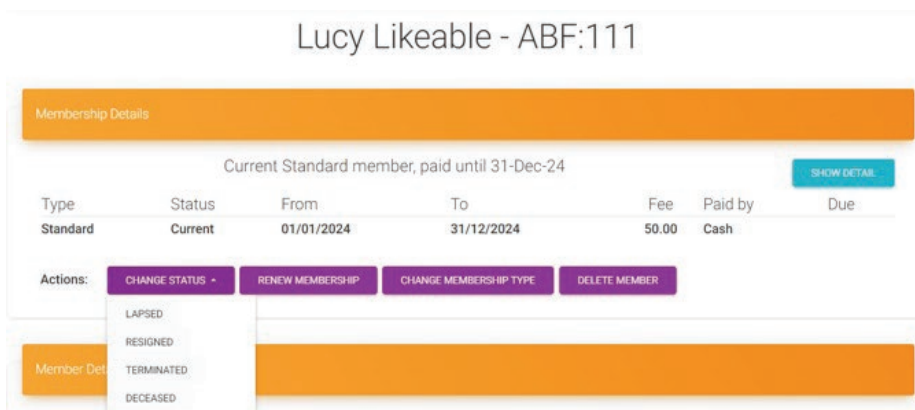
We are currently hard at work finalising and testing the next major release due later this month aimed at giving clubs the ability to fully manage their membership list through myABF. Some of the things being added for clubs are:

- Add "Contacts" (non-members - regular visitors or beginner lesson attendees being the two obvious such groups), include them in email distributions, and later convert them to club members.
- Record your members and their details, including what date their membership is paid up to.
- Manage changes in membership (status and perhaps membership type).
- Issue membership renewals - either individually or as a bulk renewal sent to all members of the club.
- Allow members to pay for their membership online using bridge credits (automatically if the player gives permission). Other payment methods can obviously also be accommodated.

This release is also paving the way for the ABF Masterpoint centre functions (which include home club member management) to be incorporated into myABF in 2025.

We are conducting a "User Acceptance Testing" exercise in early October – thank you to those who have expressed interest in participating in that, both clubs and individuals. I look forward to working with you and obtaining your feedback.

Here's a sneak preview of what a member's screen looks like with the various things that can be done to manage someone's membership:



As is usually the case, there are an awful lot of things that can occur with memberships (all of which we have to consider and work out how to handle!) so there's a lot of complexity behind the scenes – but we have tried to hide that away since it won't be relevant to most clubs for the vast majority of the time. Like the congress area, clubs will have the ability to manually override membership details to accommodate unusual circumstances.

Julian Foster, myABF Manager (julian.foster@abf.com.au)

Discover your ideal bridge partner with Partners4Bridge

If you're a bridge enthusiast, you know the joy of a well-played hand and the satisfaction of a successful partnership. However, finding and retaining a reliable partner can sometimes be as challenging as the game of Bridge itself. What if you could take the hassle out of pairing up and focus solely on the game you love? Join **Partners4Bridge** – a groundbreaking new web-based app designed to connect Bridge players of all skill levels with their ideal partners.

What is Partners4Bridge?

Partners4Bridge is a FREE innovative online platform designed to match bridge players based on their skill level, playing style, and personal preferences. Whether you're a seasoned expert or a casual player, **Partners4Bridge** simplifies the process of finding a suitable partner. Less time searching – more time playing.

The app uses a sophisticated matching algorithm to pair you with players who complement your style and expertise. By creating a personalised profile, you provide the app with information about your bridge experience, preferred playing style, and availability. **Partners4Bridge** then uses this data to suggest potential partners.

How Does it Work?

1. **Create your Profile.** Start by signing up for P4B:

www.partners4bridge.com

and filling out your profile. The more detailed your profile, the better your match will be.

2. **Find Matches.** Once your profile is complete, **P4B's** algorithm gets to work.

3. **Connect and Communicate.** When you receive matches, it's time to review and to reach out. Keep an open mind here – you might be in for a very pleasant surprise.

4. **Best of all, it's FREE!**

Why Partners4Bridge?

1. **Tailored Matches.** The more we grow the more successful the matches will be.

2. **Time-Saving.** No more showing up at the club hoping for a game. With **P4B** you can schedule games with ease.



3. **User-Friendly Interface.** We have designed the app with simplicity in mind. However, it will evolve as our numbers grow. Please send feedback and suggestions. We are listening.

4. **Community and Support.** **P4B** isn't just about matching players, it's about helping to grow the Bridge community. We want to ensure that no one is missing a game, be it face-to-face, or online. And we certainly want to reach out to the youth market, the future of Bridge.

Get Started Today!

Don't let the challenge of finding a bridge partner keep you from enjoying the game you love. Sign up for **Partners4Bridge** today and discover how easy it can be to connect with your ideal bridge partner. Whether you're looking to improve your game, find someone to play in local tournaments, or simply to enjoy a friendly match, **Partners4Bridge** has got you covered.

For membership, please sign up via

www.partners4bridge.com

and for all other enquiries please email

jay@partners4bridge.com

Support for Partners4Bridge

Partners4Bridge would like to acknowledge the **ABF** for the opportunity to showcase our new Web-based app in this newsletter; and **StepBridge**, an ABF-affiliated online bridge club, who are offering StepBridge Members 100 Participation Points for signing up to **Partners4Bridge**. We are grateful for your support.

Our goal is to ensure Bridge continues to grow and flourish, and we are open to the opportunity to partner or collaborate. Please email Jay Novak at

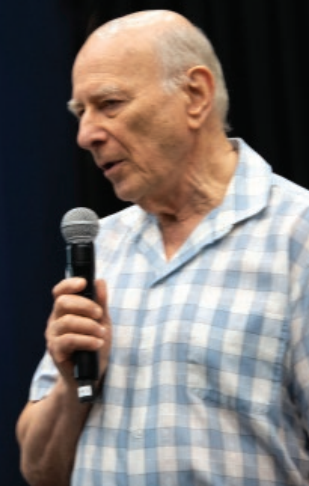
jay@partners4bridge.com

with ideas or suggestions.

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2



LOW TRICK

Dealer West, North-South vulnerable.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

- 15-17.
- Transfer to hearts.

West leads the ♦10 and East wins with the ♦A. What next?

From Stage 2, Round 9 of the 2023 Butler Trials:

Board 9, Dealer West, North-South vulnerable.

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

After South opened 1NT in fourth seat and North bid 2♦, transfer to hearts, South's 2♥ was passed out, West led the ♦10 and East won with the ♦A. What next?

Clearly, the defence will have one club trick at best and at most one more diamond trick. The heart position is a mystery, but it is also clear that the best suit to attack is spades. Partner's spades do not include the ♠A-K, would have led, but partner might have the ♠K or the ♠J or ♠A-J.

If East switches to the ♠Q, taken by the ♠A, when West gains the lead later, West cannot continue spades without allowing dummy's ♠10 to win. Therefore, after taking the ♦A, East should switch to the ♠2. That is what happened and by retaining the ♠Q, East enabled West to continue spades safely later.

Winning trick two with the ♠A, South played the ♥5. West won with the ♥10 and returned the ♠8: four - queen - king. South played the ♦K and ♦Q, pitching dummy's ♠10, as West ruffed with the ♥J. West continued with the ♠J, ruffed with the ♥8 and overruffed with the ♥K.

The defenders had taken four tricks and still had the ♣A and ♥A to come for one down, East-West +100 and +2 imps (datum EW 30).

Other results: N-S 2♥ +110 x 2, +4 imps, -300 (♠8 lead) x 1, -7 imps; EW 3♣ -50, -2 imps.

The Real Deal Workout with Ron Klinger

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Bridge questions and answers emailed to you and featuring deals from actual events, local and overseas.

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LIMIT BIDS AND CAPTAINCY

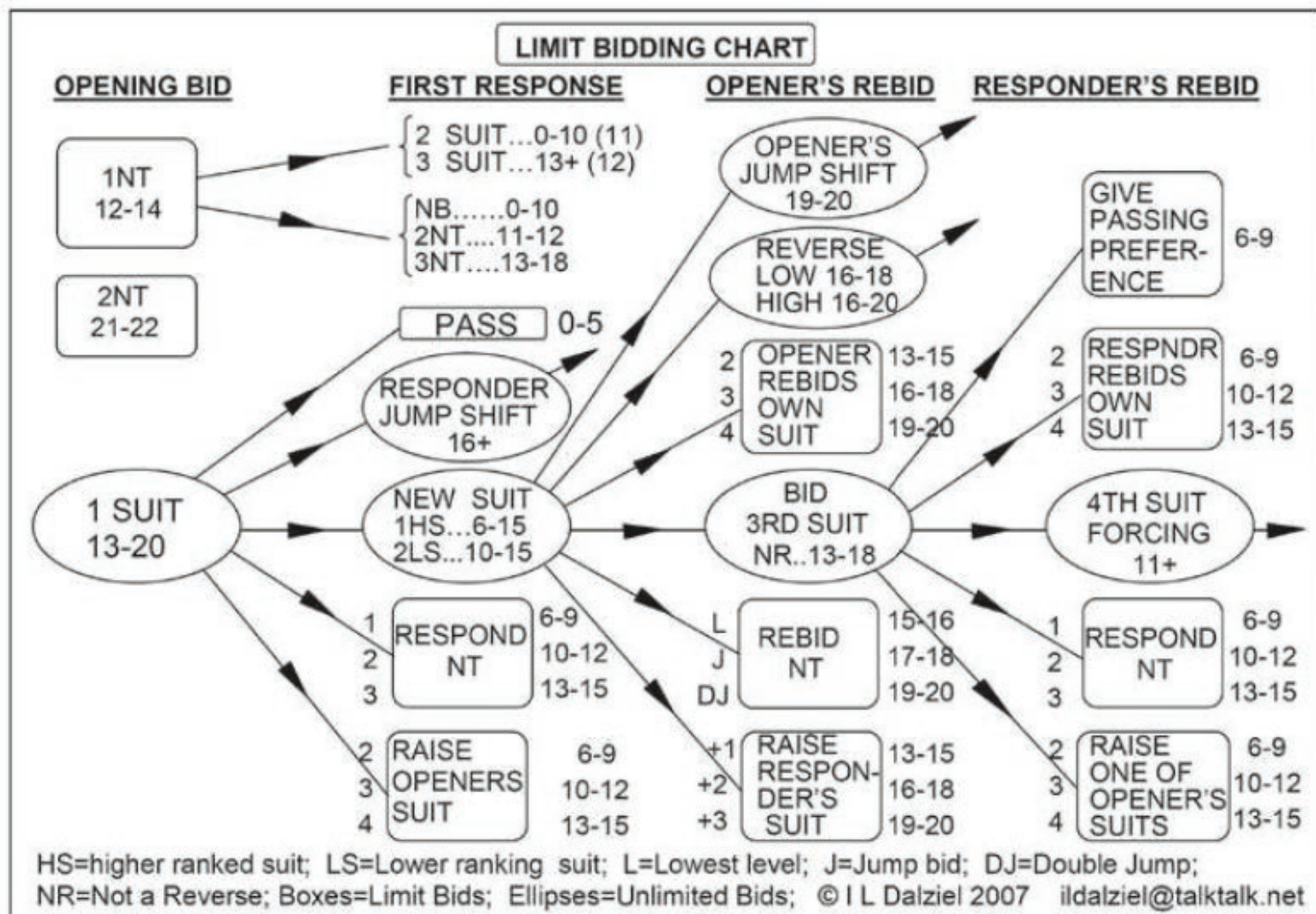
In the uncontested auction, points really matter. If you can calculate the combined points of your partnership (high card and distribution points), you know how high to bid – partscore, game or slam. The easy bit is counting your own points; working out your partner’s strength is the hard bit and that is what a bidding system is for.

Now here is the key. It is not necessary for each member of the partnership to tell the other their points. All that’s necessary is, that at some point in the auction, one player declares his point range by making a limit bid; his partner then knows the total, becomes the captain, and takes charge of further bidding.

A limit bid is a notrump bid or the second bid in the same suit by the partnership, whichever comes first. The limit bid shows a narrow point range and the shape of the hand. In the



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



following auctions the limit bid has its point count shown.

1. 1NT (12-14).
2. 1♥ - 3♥ (10-12)
3. 1♣ - 1♥ - 2NT (17-18)
4. 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♣ - 2♥ (6-9)




A limit bid is non-forcing, but it doesn't necessarily limit or end the bidding. It simply means that the points and shape of the hand are within defined limits.

A bid of a new suit is forcing (usually) so the limit bid must 'arrive' when you run out of suits. As it is quite rare to bid all four suits, this means a limit bid occurs in the first four bids most of the time.

In the Limit Bidding Chart shown, the limit bids are in square boxes and unlimited bids are in ellipses. Most of the point ranges are repeated, so you don't need to remember too much. It's all based on logic and you are simply bidding what you think you can make based on partner's minimum. All point ranges in the chart include points for distribution, if appropriate, and each limit bid must have suitable shape.

The chart takes you to the limit bid – the bidding may not end there but further bidding is done 'off the chart'. The partner of the limit bidder becomes the captain and takes charge of the bidding. The captain simply adds the points in his hand to the range promised by the limit bid and arrives at the total point range. He then decides if the hand belongs in partscore, game or slam zone. He has three basic 'traffic light' commands, as shown, but there is only one limit bid in the auction.

You'll notice from the chart, that after a jump shift, a reverse bid, and the fourth suit forcing bid, you leave the chart without reaching a limit bid. These areas have sub-systems of their own which are taught separately.

CAPTAIN'S COMMAND	MEANS	EXAMPLES OF THE COMMAND BID
	Please pass	Pass (ends the bidding) Game bid or slam bid Return to previous suit at lowest level Weak takeout after 1NT
	Are you max or min?	Raise limit bid below game Bid of 2NT Jump bid in previous suit 4NT after NT (slam invite)
	Tell me more	A new suit seeking more information. Usually means game is possible.

The structure of the Acol system is based on the rule that a new suit is forcing and bids of previous suits and notrump bids are not forcing. You can have exceptions to these rules as long as you agree them with partner. Limit bids don't just show points; there are shape rules too, but these are straightforward. Most mistakes are made with errors in the point range – so learn this chart no matter how long it takes you. It will be well worth the effort. Believe me, a good grasp of limit bids and captaincy will profit you more than all your conventions put together.

Study the seven auctions shown. Each has a limit bid and captain's command. These are the key bids in the auction – if you get these two bids correct everything else falls into place. Note all bids after the limit bid are not on the chart. If you would like a free PDF and/or Word copy of my charts and lesson notes, please email ildalziel@gmail.com.

I am sure most bridge teachers will agree with most of the figures on my chart, but the Word copy can be edited if you want to change any of the point ranges.

Previously published in Mr Bridge, UK

No.	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
1	1♥	1♠	2♥ ¹³⁻¹⁵	3♣ force	3♠	4♠
2	1♠	1NT ⁶⁻⁹	2NT invite	---		
3	1♣	1♦	2NT ¹⁷⁻¹⁸	3♦ signoff	---	
4	1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠ ⁶⁻⁹	3♠ invite	4♠
5	1♠	2♣	2♥	3♣ ¹⁰⁻¹²	3♦ force	3NT
6	1♦	1♠	2♦ ¹³⁻¹⁵	2NT invite	3♦	---
7	1♥	1♠	2♦	4♦ ¹³⁻¹⁵	4♠ signoff	---



ANC



2025



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 BRISBANE

6th – 17th July 2025



EVENTS

Interstate Teams Monday 7th-Friday 11th
Interstate Swiss Pairs Friday 11th
Open Butler Pairs Saturday 12th →
Mixed Butler Pairs Monday 14th →
Swiss Pairs Monday 14th-Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th-Thursday 17th

VENUE

Brisbane Technology Park
Conference and Exhibition Centre
Eight Mile Plains
15 minutes from Brisbane City via the Pacific Motorway



Multiple accommodation options, restaurants, public transport, \$5 daily parking



Entries AND Accommodation options will be on website from August 2024

GOLD POINTS

WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

SUPPORT DOUBLES

Last month I delivered Workshops in Sydney and Canberra to do with Doubles. We covered all the usual types of Takeout Doubles, including the specifics of the **Negative Double** and the **Responsive Double**. One very common problem that players face is when you respond a suit showing four or more cards, and you actually have five cards in that suit. If you repeat your own suit later in the auction, it tends to show six+ cards. One excellent convention that solves this problem is the Support Double.

The situation that a Support Double applies is that opener has opened a suit, and responder has responded a major at the one-level showing four or more cards in that suit. When there is interference over responder, opener can double on their second bid to show precisely three card support for responder's major.

Here is an example auction:

1♦ (pass) 1♥ (1♠)

Opener has opened 1♦, and responder called 1♥, which shows 4+ cards in hearts. There has been a 1♠ overcall.

If opener has four or more hearts, then can simply raise hearts. They can bid 2♥ with a minimum hand, or jump to 3♥ if they have around 16-18 points. Opener can jump to 4♥ with 19+ points (or splinter, if you play them). Note that if opener jumps to game it is not a shut out, it is a strong bid, responder can bid on to slam if they have a good hand.

If opener has precisely three hearts, they often have a fit in hearts, but not always. Raising hearts might lead you to play in the wrong contract. They can double the 1♠ overcall to promise precisely three-



card support. They can use the Support Double with any number of points, since they will get another bid later. After the Support Double, if responder has five or more hearts, they have found a fit, and can bid straight to the right contract. If responder only has four hearts, they can try another option (often notrumps, or returning to opener's suit). *There is one other option: like with any other double, responder can pass the double and leave it in for penalties if they have three or four good cards in the opponent's suit.*

If opener does not have three- or four-card heart support, they can rebid anything else (notrumps, another suit, or their own suit), and responder will know that they don't have three-card support. This means that if responder does bid again, they have more idea about if there is a heart fit or not.

Like any convention, there will be a little bit of a learning curve as you and your partner muddle your way through a few mistakes, but Support Doubles are a useful convention to help you find your best contract. I recommend that you play Support Doubles if the interference is below the two level of responder's major. If the interference is higher than that, then I recommend that double is simply takeout, but shows a few extra points.

Support Doubles don't apply if responder bids 1♦, only if they have responded 1♥ or 1♠.

If responder has shown a five-card spade suit, over a 1♥ overcall, then you don't need to Support Double to show three-card support. You can use double to be takeout, and showing a few extra points.

Support Doubles only apply to opener, and only apply on their second bid. In all other situations, a double tends to deny a fit for partner. In other auctions, if you have a fit for partner, you can simply raise, or cue raise, or something else to show the fit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to query a new philosophy being employed in first-round draws in Swiss events. The approach is the random draw. Perhaps this has merit in relatively balanced fields or events run over multiple days where the first round result is not critical to the final placings. However, in one-day events with six rounds, and a field with a wide standard spread, the approach can give some contending pairs an unfair advantage against other contending pairs. It's not uncommon to see Seed 1 vs Seed 3 and Seed 2 vs the lowest-ranked contender. Par outcomes for these matches give one contender a 10 VP head start against the other contenders, a big margin to haul back over the remaining five rounds. The format also yields some unlikely big first-round winners, meaning the beneficiary of the head start may get a second soft match to follow.



Yes, Seed 1 and Seed 3 were probably destined to play each other anyway, but the point is, other contenders would be expected to have balanced matches if this was happening a few rounds in.

Surely it's much more equitable for all contenders to have starting matches with closer degrees of difficulty. A previous method, where the top 25% of field were drawn against the mid 50% seems a more balanced start. Yes, matches favoured the stronger seeds, but there were no top seed vs bottom seed matchups or predictable severely lopsided encounters.

Has this approach been recommended, and if so, what are the benefits?

Gerry Daly

Gerry,

WBF director Laurie Kelso agrees with your suggestion that the opening match should have a closer degree of difficulty. In fact, he tells me that simulations have indicated that the fairest draw for Round One is 1 v 2, 3 v 4, etc, but he believes that this would be "a significant departure from what the average participant has come to expect" (which I think is another way of saying "likely to be unpopular"). I have actually played in one event where that format was used, and I didn't hear a lot of favourable comments.

In a national Teams event, held over several days, simulations have shown that a random first-round draw does produce a better outcome than the old approach, but a six-round Swiss Pairs congress will always be a fairly random event. The field will always be under-swissed, so each of the main contenders is going to experience a very different path through the day. You won't be able to avoid that by changing the first-round draw.

These one-day events will usually produce one deserving winner – even with a good head start, it is hard to hold on to first place for a whole day without fighting off challenges from at least a couple of the other top-performing pairs. But these short events are quite poor at producing a meaningful ranking for the remainder of the field, even within the top three.

If you intend to win a one-day event, then you should aim to beat the strong teams – or at least not suffer a debilitating loss – in whatever round you meet them. If your expectation is second place, then you will have to accept some randomness; whoever loses to Team One in the final round will often fall some way down the rankings.

Editor

Phil Gue's ONLINE Bridge Club

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www.bridgewebs.com/21stcentury

Tournament results

Coffs Coast

OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Justin Mill - Mike Doecke 114.96
- 2 Axel Johannsson - Kate McCallum 109.04
- 3 Jane Dawson - Peter Gill 107.61

INTERMEDIATE SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Lydia Gibbs - Kevin Murray 122.52
- 2 Kerry Rymer - Kit Meyers 108.88
- 3 Patricia Powis - Sue Robinson 102.20

OPEN TEAMS

- 1 Justin Mill, Mike Doecke, Justin Williams, James Coutts
- 2 Susan Humphries, Sartaj Hans, David Beauchamp, Jodi Tutty, Sophie Ashton
- 3 Nicoleta Giura, Sandra Richman, Nick Hughes, Andrew Richman

INTERMEDIATE TEAMS

- 1 Kerry Rutter, Don & Margaret Robertson, Carmel Dwan

Joan Prince Swan River Swiss Pairs

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 James Steer - Stella Steer | 145.60 |
| 2 Kimberley Zhao - Alan Cransberg | 133.72 |
| 3 Ron Cooper - Phil Gue | 132.67 |
| 4 Ben Thompson - Renee Cooper | 129.88 |
| 5 Angeline Christie - Kaiping Chen | 123.18 |
| 6 Tom Lemann - Gerry Daly | 121.55 |
| 7 Linda Coli - Mimi Packer | 121.22 |
| 8 Trevor Fuller - Nick Cantatore | 119.68 |
| 9 Tim Wright - David Schokman | 118.83 |
| 10 Andrew Swider - Tad Bieganski | 118.82 |
| 11 Marie-France Merven - Nigel Dutton | 118.75 |
| 12 Paul Brayshaw - Chris Mulley | 117.59 |
| 13 Tom Peacock - Donna Crossan-Peacock | 117.54 |
| 14 Hamish Mccracken - Fiske Warren | 117.38 |
| 15 Wence Vahala - Anton Pol | 114.97 |
| 16 Belinda Taranto - Mark Doust | 114.85 |
| 17 Gwyneira Brahma - Dave Munro | 113.46 |
| 18 Wendy Driscoll - Allison Stralow | 113.09 |
| 19 Richard Illingworth - Noriko Sakashita | 111.10 |
| 20 Helene Kolozs - Helen Kemp | 110.44 |

HGR Memorial Congress

RESTRICTED PAIRS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Sandra Veling - Jeff Veling | 115.90 |
| 2 Sandra Hardie - Peter Knight | 103.48 |
| 3 Jamie Luxton - Yulia Koh | 100.37 |
| 4 Faye Shelton - Lyn McClain | 90.00 |
| 5 Lynne Roberts - Rory O'Hanlon | 89.95 |
| 6 Jenny Dawson - Brian Wade | 83.95 |
| 7 Anne-Louis Dubrawski - Andy Cayley | 81.91 |
| 8 Will Nunn - Jodie Basham | 80.33 |

MIXED PAIRS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Renee Cooper - Ron Cooper | 126.95 |
| 2 Trevor Fuller - Leone Fuller | 123.37 |
| 3 Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill | 113.70 |
| 4 Paul Hooykaas - Pele Rankin | 112.80 |
| 5 Gerry Daly - Viv Wood | 112.55 |
| 6 Jonathan Free - Mimi Packer | 108.07 |

Australia-Wide Open Pairs

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1 Debbie Pepper - Jennifer Hickmott <i>Alice Springs</i> | 75.4 |
| 2 Richard Lawrie - Terry Johnston <i>Geelong</i> | 72.5 |
| 3 Henry & John McMahon <i>Wagga Wagga</i> | 71.5 |
| 4 Geof Blacklaws - David Kininmonth <i>Swan</i> | 71.2 |
| 5 Dee Jierasak - William Van Bakel <i>Malanda</i> | 70.1 |
| 6 Neah Williams - John Burrows <i>Coffs Harbour</i> | 69.2 |
| =7 David Samuels - Fraser Thorpe <i>Moonee Valley</i> | 68.7 |
| =7 Lyndall Steed - Joan Barnett <i>South Perth</i> | 68.7 |
| 9 Jill Mooney - Fran Hannan <i>Barossa</i> | 68.4 |
| 10 Dita Hunt - Edith Jones <i>Moruya</i> | 68.3 |
| 11 Manda Labuschagne - Jian Williams <i>Orange</i> | 68.2 |
| 12 Robin Pellen - Henry Dyall <i>Blue Lake</i> | 67.8 |
| 13 Chris Fernando - Lindsay Young <i>Mornington</i> | 67.6 |
| 14 Lyn & Bob Dillon <i>Orange</i> | 66.9 |
| 15 Pauline Grodski - Dot Sofer <i>KLTC</i> | 66.7 |
| 16 Victor Clarke - Paul Barnett <i>Sydney</i> | 66.5 |
| 17 Steve & Liz Hurley <i>Illawarra</i> | 66.4 |
| 18 Alessandro Gado - Alex Kemeny <i>Trumps</i> | 66.2 |
| =19 Glenda Webb - Barb Evans <i>Ocean Grove</i> | 66.1 |
| =19 Tom & Jan Hackett <i>Yarrowonga</i> | 66.1 |

Territory Gold Festival

MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1 Ella Jacob - Mike Doecke
- 2 Shane Harrison - Martin Bloom
- 3 Terry Brown - Ian Thomson
- 4 Ann Liu - Usher Zeng
- 5 Liz Adams - Peter Gill
- 6 Jane Beeby - Helen Lowry

SWISS TEAMS

- 1 Sue Ingham, Michael Courtney, Terry Brown, Ian Thomson
- 2 Ella Jacob, Mike Doecke, Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum
- 3 Geoff Holman, Chris Ingham, Martin Doran, David Matthews

SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Shane Harrison - Martin Bloom
- 2 Ron Cooper - George Kozakos
- 3 Geoff Holman - David Matthews
- 4 Axel Johannsson - Kate McCallum
- 5 Cathryn Herden - Matthew Thomson
- 6 Terry Brown - Ian Thomson

63RD INTERNATIONAL Gold Coast Bridge Congress Saturday 1 - 8 February 2025

VENUE: Gold Coast Convention Centre,
Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia

QBA MANAGER: Kim Ellaway
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Theme: *Silly Shoes and Kinky Boots*

