



# NEWSLETTER

## AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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## Australia's Bridge Day Out 23 September 2025







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*Cover photos: scenes from the Bridge Day Out, held in clubs around Australia on 23 September. Successful pairs from Central Coast (above), and some imaginative outfits from Maitland.*

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**IMPROVE  
YOUR  
DEFENCE**  
with  
**Ron Klinger**  
*Solution on page 21*

**Teams, dealer South, East-West vulnerable.**

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

N	E
W	S

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	3♦	all pass	1♦

West leads the ♥8: three - ace - seven. What would you play at trick two?



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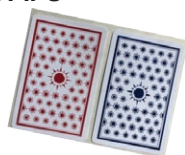
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**SAVE THE DATES**

# **2026 AUTUMN NATIONALS**

**WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL – SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2026**

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

**INTRODUCING**  
**THE AUSTRALIAN BLUE RIBBON PAIRS:**  
**a top-level three-day matchpoint pairs event**

## **NEW FORMAT**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**SWISS TEAMS:**  
Open, Under Grand, Under Life

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

Open Teams Final (drop into Pairs SF)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Qualifying**  
Open, Under Grand, Under Life, Novice

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Semi Finals**

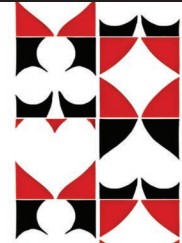
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**BLUE RIBBON PAIRS: Finals**  
and consolations

**PQPs in Open Teams and Blue Ribbon Pairs (Open)**







Some people think bridge is all about the cards. We know better. It's about the bidding misunderstandings, the post-mortems that go on longer than the hand itself, and the endless search for a decent cup of coffee at the venue. Behind all that, though, there's a lot happening to keep our game thriving – from new event formats to big international campaigns and even the odd bit of unglamorous but essential software. Here's a peek at what's been going on.

### Masterpoint Centre Integration Project

For nearly 20 years, the software that powers the Masterpoint Centre has been doing its job quietly in the background. But it's well past time for an upgrade. Work is well underway on a brand-new system designed specifically for Masterpoint Secretaries – the unsung heroes who ensure points are tracked, recorded, and awarded correctly.

Players may never notice the change directly, but this new platform will streamline a vital part of the bridge ecosystem and make life much easier for the volunteers who keep it all running smoothly. If you're a Masterpoint Secretary and would like to help with testing or the rollout next year, please reach out.

### Spring Nationals and the Gold Coast 2027

The Spring Nationals, NSW's biggest annual gold-point event, kicks off this October at Canterbury Racecourse. This year brings something new: a double-knockout teams event inspired by one of the most popular formats on the UK bridge calendar. It's an exciting twist – even if you're knocked out of the main draw, you roll straight into fresh side events, keeping you in the action with another chance to win.

We know Canterbury isn't everyone's dream venue, but in Sydney – one of the world's most expensive cities – finding affordable options is a challenge. What matters is that the bridge will be top-class, and the atmosphere just as lively.

Meanwhile, over in Queensland, organisers of the Gold Coast Congress are asking players a big question: would you be prepared to pay substantially higher entry fees in 2027 for the chance to play at a smaller venue? Rising costs are affecting everyone, and your feedback will help shape the event's future.

### Summer Festival of Bridge 2026

Entries for next year's Summer Festival in Canberra are already rolling in. At this stage we don't expect

to need a second venue – but if you're planning to play, getting your entries in early is a huge help.

Think of the Summer Festival as the ultimate bridge holiday. For seasoned competitors, there are marquee events like the TBIB Pairs and South-West Pacific Teams. For newer players, there are novice and restricted games complete with tuition to help you sharpen your skills. With such variety, there really is something for everyone.

### Flying the flag: international performance

Australian bridge had plenty to cheer about at the recent World Championships, with four teams representing us on the world stage. The standout was our Women's Team, who powered their way into the quarter-finals – a first for Australia!

But we know there's more potential to unlock. Over the past nine months, an ABF Task Force has been examining how we can raise the bar and deliver more consistent results internationally. They've now presented a broad set of recommendations to the Board, and we'll be sharing our plans with the community over the coming months.

In the meantime, our top players are gearing up for pairs-based playoffs early next year. The winners will go on to potentially represent Australia at the 2026 Championships in Poland and at the Asia Cup in Goa, India. Watch this space!

### Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Congratulations to all the teams that have qualified for this year's GNOT Finals. Two teams from Adelaide, one from Melbourne, and one from ACT will be battling it out for a spot in the GNOT Final. In the Non-Metropolitan Final, teams from Geelong, Central Coast, Hunter, Northern Victoria, NSW South Coast, Capricornia, and Northern Territory will compete for national honours. It's a terrific showcase of talent from every corner of the country. The Sydney finals in November promise plenty of drama and excitement – best of luck to all competing teams!

### Closing thoughts

That's it from me for now. Whether you're plotting your next slam, grumbling good-naturedly about your partner's lead, or just enjoying company at the club, I hope the months ahead bring you plenty of bridge (and maybe even the occasional top board). Thanks for being part of this community – your enthusiasm is what keeps Australian bridge thriving.





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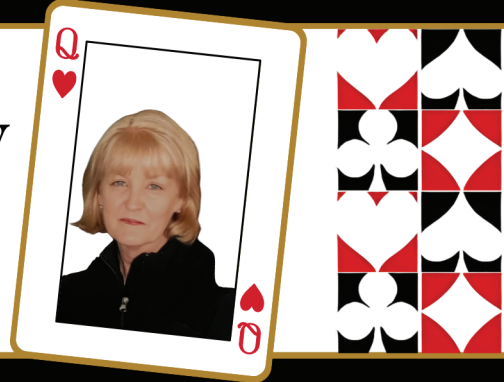


**Allison Stralow**

**President**

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The Australian Open, Women's, Seniors' and Mixed teams competed in the 47th World Bridge Teams Championships in Herning, Denmark from 20-31 August. I am very proud of the Australian Women's Team, who are the first Australian Team to make the quarter-finals of the Venice Cup. Congratulations Sue Lusk, Therese Demarco, Ella Jacob, Renee Cooper, Jodi Tutty, Dagmar Neumann and non-playing Captain Axel Johannsson and Coach Kate McCallum.

In August and September many ABF and ABF Licensed events were held across the country, including Coffs Harbour, the Australia Wide Open Pairs, the Joan Prince Memorial Swan River, Territory Gold, the Hans Rosendorff Mixed Pairs, and the Grand National Open Teams Qualifying. Although over 800 players participated in these events, most events lost players in the weeks before the start due to illness. Whilst this was disappointing for them and added extra work for the Tournament Organiser, it is pleasing to see that players are taking heed of the advice not to attend if they are unwell.

The ABF Executive Director, David Fryda, and I attended the Territory Gold, with a view to looking at the venue for the 2028 ANC which will be held in Alice Springs. We met with the Convention Centre Operations Manager, and she was very positive about the ANC. The venue is very close to various

levels of accommodation and dining options. In my opinion all goes well for the ANC in 2028.

After 20 years, this year's Territory Gold was Eileen Boocock's last as Tournament Organiser. The NTBA presented her with a bouquet of flowers and announced that Eileen would have free entry to the TG in future years. Thank you, Eileen, for your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to making this a successful event.

Thank you to the International Performance task force members Pele Rankin, Andrew Spooner, Stephen Fischer, Jodi Tutty, Maurits van der Vlugt, and Chair Axel Johannsson for the detailed presentation to the Board on their recommendations to improve Australia's results internationally. The absence of target events in 2026 provides a window to introduce changes and the same opportunity will not occur for another four years. The Board is currently considering the recommendations, and more information will be communicated shortly.

The Mid-Term Council and Board meetings will be held online on 8-9 November. If you have any issues you would like to raise with the ABF Board, please email

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

The best of bridge to you all.

## Championing the future of youth bridge

Angeline Christie is a passionate advocate for the next generation of bridge players in Australia. She not only gives her own time and resources, but also works tirelessly with players and the wider community to raise essential funds for youth bridge.

These funds open doors for young players – helping them travel to major events, access expert coaching, and build the skills and temperament needed to succeed both at the table and in life. Thanks to Angeline's dedication, more opportunities are available for youth to experience bridge at the highest level.

When Angeline contacts you for support, we ask you to contribute generously. Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference in helping our youth players thrive today and become the leaders of Australian bridge tomorrow.





# Australia in the Venice Cup

## Brad Coles

The Australian Women's team finished 8th in the qualifying rounds in this year's Venice Cup, earning a rare and coveted spot in the world quarter-finals. The team had actually spent the entire qualifying stage in the top seven, and went into the last round with a 12 VP buffer over 9th place – a heavy loss to 2nd-placed China saw them fall to 8th place for the first time, still qualifying with a few VPs to spare.

The team was Renee Cooper - Ella Jacob, Sue Lusk - Therese Demarco, and Dagmar Neumann - Jodi Tutty, with Axel Johansson as non-playing captain and Kate McCallum as coach. Their quarter-final opponents were Netherlands (Merel Bruijnsteen - Doris van Delft, Judith Duursma - Magdalena Ticha and Wietske van Zwol - Martine Verbeek) who had won the qualifying stage and would also go on to win the event.

The Australians got off to a great start in the quarter-finals, with some help from these four boards:

### Board 5. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
van Delft	Neumann	Bruijnsteen	Tutty
3♥	pass	pass	1♥
all pass	4♥	5♦	dbl

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lusk	Duursma	Demarco	Ticha
2NT	pass	pass	1♥
all pass	4♥	5♦	dbl

At most tables South led a top heart, with declarer ruffing in dummy and taking the trump finesse. With

the Australians defending, Tutty cashed the ♠A at trick three, and when declarer eventually misguessed the ♣AQ the defenders had two clubs, a spade and a diamond for +300.

At the other table Ticha found a passive heart at trick three, preserving her second spade trick and keeping 500 as a possibility. However, when declarer crossed to hand and played the ♣2, Ticha panicked and rose with the ♣A, and then cashed the ♠A to settle for just one off. The extra trick was worth 5 imps to Australia, who were leading 9-5 by this point.

This was the only match where the auction ended so tamely. Several other tables competed to the six-level, and one pair reached 7♦ (still better than defending 4♥, as this declarer was also permitted to take ten tricks).

Another five-level sacrifice did not go so well on Board 7, with my least favourite 1NT defensive method (2♥ = hearts and a minor) leading to a 4-3 club fit and -1400. Australia bounced back quickly with this board:

### Board 9. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

		<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ K 10 5 3 2 ♦ K Q 8 7 4 2 ♣ —</p>	
♠ J 9 6 ♥ Q 9 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ A Q 8 7 6		♠ A 10 4 2 ♥ J 8 6 ♦ J 6 3 ♣ K 9 4	
		<p>♠ K 8 7 3 ♥ A 7 4 ♦ A ♣ J 10 5 3 2</p>	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lusk	Duursma	Demarco	Ticha
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
dbl	2♦	pass	3♣
all pass	3♥	pass	3NT

There isn't a strong agreement on what you should open with six diamonds and five hearts. Australian Bridge Magazine posed the hand as a bidding forum problem recently, and the consensus was that you shouldn't choose 1♦ unless you are strong enough to make several bids. North's hand here doesn't quite cut it, and North never felt she was strong enough to show the fifth heart. I think if you are going to travel this path, you need to just bite the bullet and bid 4♥ at the end.

Lusk led the ♣7 to the king, and the ♣9 return was covered by the jack and queen. Wisely leaving the



clubs alone, Lusk tried the ♥Q next, and declarer won with the ace to finesse into East's jack. Another club through declarer's ten left the defenders with four clubs, a heart and a spade for two off.

Two other tables also played in 3NT, but one of them was allowed to make it when West persisted with clubs at trick three.

At the other table in Australia's match, Neumann avoided the problem by opening 1♥:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
van Delft	Neumann	Bruijnstee	Tutty
	1♥	pass	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	3♦	pass	3♠
pass	4♥	all pass	

This was an easy 11 tricks for 11 imps to Australia. Australia recaptured the lead with 11 more here:

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lusk	Duursma	Demarco	Ticha
			pass
1♥	2♣	dbl	pass
2♠	pass	3♣	pass
3♥	pass	4♠	all pass

Australia reached 4♠ from the West seat, and the ♣A lead was not a good start for North. When Lusk began hearts by cashing the ace, the fall of North's king presented her with an overtrick.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
van Delft	Neumann	Bruijnstee	Tutty
			pass
pass	1♣	1NT	pass
2♣	pass	2♠	pass
4♠	all pass		

The Dutch team played the hand from the other side, losing the first two tricks on a club lead. When declarer finessed the ♥Q, losing to the singleton king, there was no way to avoid a second heart loser to go with the two club losers. One off was 11 imps to Australia, now ahead 31-30.

The final swing of the set was a slam deal:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lusk	Duursma	Demarco	Ticha
	pass	1NT	pass
4♣	dbl	4♥	pass
4♠	pass	5♦	pass
6♥	all pass		

Lusk viewed her eight playing-trick hand as a slam force opposite the strong notrump. North's double of 4♣ certainly didn't slow her down, indicating that Lusk's singleton club was probably not opposite wasted values. It also made it less likely that South would find a killing spade lead if East held the ♠A and ♣K.

The Dutch pair were unable to find the slam after a 1♣ opening and some mild interference from the opponents:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
van Delft	Neumann	Bruijnstee	Tutty
	pass	1♣	1♠
2♦	2♠	4♥	all pass

East's jump to 4♥ was intended to show a good hand, but it did nothing to ease West's concern about holding two losers in the opponents' suit.

The slam was 13 imps to Australia, for a strong 44-30 start to the match.

The full match was 112 boards, and Netherlands regained the lead in the second set, gradually adding to their lead across the two days of play for a 95-imp win. They next defeated France by 45 imps in the semi-final, and a 39-imp win over China saw Netherlands comfortably take the Venice Cup trophy.

The Gold Coast Bridge Club has many decks of playing cards to give away.

For more information, email Jane Parry at

[janelparry1958@gmail.com](mailto:janelparry1958@gmail.com)

or phone 0403 369 467.

# GNOT national qualifiers

Brad Coles

South Australia backed up their July ANC win with Adelaide 1 and Adelaide 2 remaining undefeated at last month's GNOT qualifiers.

My team, ACT 1, managed to eliminate Adelaide 3 and SA Provincial before eventually falling to Adelaide 1 in the final match. Here are two boards where our defenders could have beaten a contract by setting up a trick for declarer's jack of spades.

## Round 4: SA Provincial vs ACT 1.

### Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

			♠ K 9 7 5 4 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ J 5 4 ♣ 7 3
♠ J 6 2 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ A 10 ♣ J 8 5 4 2		♠ A 10 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ Q 8 6 2 ♣ K Q 10 6	
			♠ Q 8 ♥ Q J 10 9 7 ♦ K 9 7 3 ♣ A 9
WEST Gue	NORTH Hoffman	EAST Tomlin	SOUTH Wawn
pass 3♣	2♠ all pass	dbl	1♥ pass

North led the ♥K and another heart, declarer winning the second round. The ♣K was played from dummy, won by South's ace. South tried to cash a top heart, but North ruffed his partner's winner and played back a spade, declarer winning with the ace. Declarer drew the last trump, leaving this position:

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

When declarer exited with a spade, South took the queen and was endplayed. A ruff and discard would obviously be fatal, so South tried a diamond, and declarer had the rest of the tricks.

This diamond position is known as a **frozen suit**, which means none of the four players can touch it. If South plays a diamond, it runs to the queen; if North plays one first, dummy plays low, and South still has no answer. East and West will face similar problems if they are first to touch the suit.

The correct defence is hard to spot: North has to overtake his partner's ♠Q with the king, and play another spade. Declarer scores an unexpected trick with the jack, but the defence's diamond trick is still secure for one off.

Equally effective, South could have jettisoned the spade queen under the ace to avoid the endplay.

At other tables, the declarers went off by playing a diamond to the ten. This line will set up the ♦Q if North has to win with the king, but it leaves you with no time to unblock the ♦A and enjoy that trick before South gets in with the ♣A to cash a heart. The best outcome for this line of play is if South holds ♦J9x, allowing two spade discards, but even that layout fails if North plays back a spade immediately.

David Gue's line, playing on trumps and hoping North-South get themselves tangled, is almost certainly the better choice – especially on the given auction, with South likely to have a doubleton spade, and needing an honour for the vulnerable opening bid.

A similar situation arose in the next match:

## Round 5: Adelaide 1 vs ACT 1.

### Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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



WEST De Luca	NORTH Appleton	EAST Smolanko	SOUTH Coles
4♥	all pass	2♥	pass

Declarer won the ♦6 lead with the queen and cashed the ace and king of trumps, as North discarded the ♣9 to show an odd number. Declarer played a diamond to the jack, then a club to the queen (he would have done much better to reverse the order of these two tricks).

My defence at this point was careless; I thought that if I ducked the club ace, I would just have to win it on the next round and be endplayed. Figuring that I needed partner to have the ♠J either way, I saw no harm in taking the ♣A immediately.

After I cashed the top trump, declarer was home with five hearts, two clubs and three diamonds, using the second round of clubs as an entry to dummy.

If I had ducked the club, and won the second round, this would have been the position after cashing the top trump:

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

I had spent the whole deal in fear of East holding the jack of spades, but, just like on the previous deal, that card was never a real threat.

South leads a spade in the diagrammed position, and North puts in the ten. Declarer once again scores an unexpected trick with the jack, but is still faced with two losers in the suit. The contract now goes one off, while three winners remain stranded in dummy.

My partner is full of helpful tips for players who are prone to lapses of judgement like this: he pointed out that after I (wrongly) decided that there was no point in ducking the club, I should have ducked it anyway. It can't hurt, and it protects me against the frequent possibility that there has been an error in my analysis.

At the other table, David Anderson defended the same way that I did (also after receiving a count

card from partner at trick three, although his partner gave him a slightly ambiguous ♣6, rather than the thoughtful ♣9 that my partner provided). However, Anderson was defending a partscore, so Adelaide 1 gained 10 imps.

In the other match, both Souths led a spade, so declarer should have had no problems. However, the Melbourne declarer rose with the king, playing for South to have led away from the ace at trick one. He lost two spade tricks plus the ♥Q and ♣A, for one off and 12 imps to Adelaide 2.

## Results:

The two undefeated teams from the knockout go straight through to the semi-finals in Sydney in November:

Adelaide 1 (George Smolanko - Attilio de Luca, David Anderson - Chris Lorimer) and Adelaide 2 (Cathy Chua - Russel Harms, Mike Doecke - Philip Markey, Arjuna de Livera - Nicolas Croft).

They will be joined by the top two teams from the Swiss repechage:

Melbourne 1 (Simon Henbest - Ben Kingham, David Beckett - Neil Ewart) and ACT 1 (George Kozakos - Ian Robinson, David Wawn - David Hoffman, David Appleton - Brad Coles).

In addition, the top eight regional teams from the repechage will be going to Sydney to contest the GNOT Non-Metropolitan Teams Final:

- Geelong: Douglas Newlands, Gary Ridgway, Arthur Robbins, Justin Stark
- Central Coast: Di Coats, Jan Clarke, Sharon Mayo, Sally Clarke, Ros Roworth
- Northern Territory 1: Chris Depasquale, Dimitri Hnaris, Mairead Kelly, Rosemary Mooney, Alexandra Wilson, Luke Black
- Hunter 1: Michael Seldon, Chris Dibley, Ken Berry, Roger Yandle
- WA Country 2: Eamonn McCabe, Dianne Dwyer, Florence Maltby, Gerald Merven, Patricia Anderson (withdrawn due to player unavailability)
- Northern Territory 2: Tony Abbott, Neil Williams, Sue Moffitt, Ken Moffitt
- Northern Victoria: Richard Harman, Cathy Giltrap, Zyg Roberts, John Friesen
- Capricornia: Don Cameron, Jan Randall, Karin Le Roux, Malcolm Allan, Adrian Lohmann
- Far South Coast: Kevin Tant, Lauri Perino, Ken Harrison, Michael McTiernan



# A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

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

I cannot emphasise enough the need to plan a hand. Your plan needs to cover how many winners you have, how many losers you may have, and your entries, among other things.

Here's the first hand from today's game:

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

You are East, playing in 4♠, and South leads the ♥Q. Have you developed your plan?

If the spade finesse works, you have an easy ten tricks, perhaps eleven tricks. However, if the ♠K is offside, you may well go down, depending on how you have played at tricks one and two.

The heart lead will remove one of your two stoppers in the suit, exposing you to a potential third-round loser in hearts. If you win the ♥K and take the trump finesse immediately, should the finesse fail, a second round of hearts will leave you with a heart loser, in addition to the two minor-suit aces and your trump loser.

Therefore, before you play to trick one, you must think about the potential heart loser, and the need to deal with it before tackling the trump suit. The reason you need to think about this before you play to trick one, is that entries are an issue. If you decide to use the club suit, you can discard one heart from dummy. But this does not eliminate your heart loser, since dummy has four hearts. If you decide to work on the diamond suit, you can discard a heart from

hand, which does remove your potential heart loser. However, since you want to use dummy's diamonds, you must retain the ♥K in dummy, since that is your later entry. (Yes, there is a risk of a ruff, but the importance of the entry outweighs that risk.)

Now you are ready to start play. You should win the first trick in hand with the ♥A. At trick two, lead the ♦J (unblocking the short honour). Should an opponent duck, you can continue diamonds, creating the additional diamond winner in dummy. The opponents win the second diamond, and continue hearts. You win the ♥K, discard your heart loser, and then you can finally take the trump finesse.

South wins the ♠K, and you give yourself a pat on the back, having made a game contract where many will fail. If the spade finesse wins, you make an over-trick (which may also be a good score).

Let's try another hand:

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

You are East, playing in 4♠. South has led the ♥Q through dummy's king. You duck, the queen winning. South continues with the ♥J, which you also duck and, unfortunately, North does not hold the doubleton ♥A. South continues with another heart, to the king and ace, and you will ruff.

Have you planned your play? You have already lost two heart tricks and you must always lose the ♦A. That means you need the club finesse to work to



make the contract. However, you need to take the club finesse twice, meaning you require two entries to dummy. While the ♠J and ♠10 are entries, they will only be entries if you still hold both your small spades in hand. At trick three, you must trump with one of your high trumps! You also need to use each entry to finesse in clubs.

Now you can cross to dummy with a spade to the ♠10 (both follow), then take a club finesse. Now draw the remaining trumps – ♠A, then a spade to dummy's ♠J – taking a second club finesse. Finally, create your diamond winner.

When dummy is weak but holds good trumps (entries), you will often have to trump high in your own hand – or vice versa – to retain and manage your entries.

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

East is playing in 4♠ and South has led the ♥A.

All too often, I see players win the ♥A, then cash the ♠K, drawing trumps. What's the problem, you say? Well, if you choose to play that way, you will go down in your contract, since you no longer have any entries to dummy.

You have two unavoidable heart losers, and at least one club loser. In order to make your contract, you need North to hold the ♣A – so that you only have one club loser. Thus you need to lead clubs from dummy and towards your hand... twice. Dummy has two entries, but one of them is being removed by the opening lead.

Win the ♥A and, using your entry, lead a club towards hand. Assuming North ducks, draw trumps – ♠A, then ♠Q – then a spade to dummy's king. Make sure you use this entry to lead the second club towards hand, making it whenever North holds the ♣A.

You just have to realise that you cannot afford to lead clubs from your own hand, or you will have two club losers, going down. Again, dummy is weak, so utilising your entries is essential.

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

East is playing in 4♥, with South leading the ♦Q.

You have three aces that you cannot avoid losing. Are there any other issues? You are also at risk of a diamond loser. If you lead trumps immediately, when the opponent wins the ♥A, they will remove your second diamond stopper, and you now have four losers.

Instead of starting trumps at trick two, you must plan to discard your diamond loser as soon as possible. This means planning what suit you will use and in which hand you need to retain the top diamond as an entry. All that forward planning is required before you play to trick one.

If you plan to use clubs to discard the diamond, you need to keep the ♦A as your re-entry. On the other hand, if you intend using spades for discard purposes, you should retain the ♦K as your entry (winning trick 1 with the ♦A). Which suit should you use?

Using clubs requires clubs to break 3-3 (odds of such a break are always less than 50%, being about 35.5%); using spades requires the suit to break 5-3 or 4-4 (odds of such breaks being well over 50%, approximately 84%). Clearly it is superior to utilise the spade suit.

Having determined that, you should win trick 1 with dummy's ♦A, keeping the entry to your hand. Now lead the ♠K from dummy, ensuring you untangle the entries for that suit too. When the opponents win the ♠A, you will always have the ♦K as your entry. Then you cash your spades, discarding the diamond loser from dummy.

The final step in this hand is to ensure you ruff the diamond loser that you have in dummy, before leading trumps. Once you have done all that, you can start drawing trumps, taking your ten tricks.

Planning before you play at trick one, and thinking about how to manage your entries, are both really important elements to improving your declarer play. Stop and think before diving into the play.



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# GOLDEN WEST 2025

Gold Point Event

Swiss Pairs

**Saturday 15th November 10:00 am and 1:45 pm**

**Sunday 16th November 9:30 am and 1:15 pm**

Venue: Mandurah Bridge Club, Cnr Murdoch & Bortolo Drvs, Greenfields.

**Entry fee \$100 per player**

Celebrate with prize giving and light refreshments at conclusion of the event (Sunday)

BAWA aims to generate a 15% return on event income to invest in youth programs and bridge developments

**Welcome Pairs Red Point Event**

Friday Afternoon 14th November 12:45pm Hosted by Mandurah Bridge Club

**Tournament Organiser:** Sandra Hardie 0434 211 657 [sandra.myabf@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.myabf@gmail.com)

**Tournament Unit:** Neville Walker 0418 944 077, Sandra Hardie

Entries via: <http://myabf.com.au/go/2025GoldenWest>





Under-21 team Jade Wilkinson, Alexis Wilsmore, Tom Langdon-Macmillan, Pete Hollands npc, Aadhi Hariharan, Adrian Le, Taydon Gold. Photos by Mike Doecke.

## Thank you, from the Under 21 Team

On behalf of the Australian Under 21 Bridge Team, we would like to thank the Australian bridge community for your generous support in helping us travel to and compete in Italy earlier this year.

The donations raised through clubs, events, and individuals across the country made a huge difference in ensuring that each of us could take part in this incredible experience. Representing Australia on the world stage was both an honour and a highlight of our bridge journeys so far.

We are especially grateful for the encouragement, enthusiasm, and generosity shown by so many players and supporters. Your contributions not only supported our team but also helped pave the way for future youth players to follow in our footsteps.

Thank you again for believing in us and in the future of youth bridge in Australia.

*Aadhi, Adrian, Alexis, Jade, Taydon, Tom, and captain Pete Hollands (the 2025 Australian U21 Team)*

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# BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



## WHAT DOES DOUBLE IN THESE AUCTIONS MEAN?

### Hand One

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♦	dbl	

### Hand Two

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♥	dbl	

### Hand Three

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♠	dbl	

### Hand Four

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1NT	dbl	

### Hand Five

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	dbl	

1. At least 5-5 majors.

### Hand Six

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	2♦	dbl	

### Hand Seven

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

### Hand Eight

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
dbl			

### Hand Nine

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♠	2♦	2♠
dbl			

### Hand Ten

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

## SOLUTIONS

### Hand One

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♦	dbl	

Shows 4-4 in the majors, possibly 5-4 with a minimum hand. The danger is that if you bid 1♥ and the next hand jumps to 3♦ you won't know if you have a 4-4 spade fit. When responder doubles 1♦ with 4-4 in the majors opener can bid 3♥ or 3♠ over 3♦ with a minimum.

Assuming your side has an eight-card fit and they have a nine-card diamond fit, the TNT (Total Number of Tricks) is seventeen so if you make nine tricks then they make eight, or if they make nine tricks then you make eight. In both cases it is good tactics to compete to 3♥ or 3♠.

### Hand Two

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♥	dbl	

Showing exactly four spades. With 5+ spades, bid 1♠. With the Law of Total Tricks (TNT) being so pre-

cise below the game level, you want to know how many spades your side has to make the correct decision at the three or four level. Despite what some believe, most doubles have very precise meanings.

### Hand Three

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♠	dbl	

Showing 4+ hearts, no exceptions! The modern trend is to occasionally double without 4+ hearts with which I strongly disagree. It is important to have strong agreements and stick to them.

The double could include a hand with six hearts where you aren't strong enough to bid 2♥. In the last week I have seen two such hands:

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

So, if you double 1♠ and then bid hearts, you won't have a good hand.



### Hand Four

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1NT	dbl	

Penalties, with 10+ HCP. You might consider this conservative but if you open with most 11HCP hands you want to have more HCPs than the opponents.

### Hand Five

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	dbl	

Competitive values, say a suitable hand with 8+ HCP. There was a time in the murky past when this double meant you could penalty double at least one of their suits. A better idea is to suggest you have a suitable hand to compete to at least the three level.

### Hand Six

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	2♦	dbl	

A negative double, with many possible meanings to many partnerships. I prefer to always have a landing spot, so at least 4-4 in the majors or one major and 4+ support in partner's minor. That way you should always end up in a 4-4 fit.

### Hand Seven

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

A support double showing exactly three spades. I observe that many partnerships do not play Support Doubles, and in fact hardly ever double in competitive auctions.



I thought I invented Support Doubles in 1979, in [this article in Australian Bridge Magazine](#). But no, Eric Rodwell invented them in 1974. He played Precision and he would sometimes reply to 1♦ in a three-card major. The problem was his partner liked to raise with three, so Rodwell introduced Support Doubles. At least when opponents interposed, they could now avoid a 3-3 fit.

Double is a "call" rather than a "bid". Space is so vital, and a double takes up zero space, while telling a precise story. If you want to sharpen up your game, use doubles more often, especially Support Doubles.

### Hand Eight

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣ dbl	1♥	1♠	2♥

The 1♠ shows 5+ spades (see Hand Two), so show the measure of your spade fit. Double here shows three spades and 2♠ shows four-card support.

### Hand Nine

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣ dbl	1♠	2♦	2♠

A Support Double, showing three-card diamond support. If you bid 3♦, you show four-card support. There is a huge difference between three-card support and four-card support, and even better, if you pass their 2♠ you deny three-card support.

### Hand Ten

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

This time the defenders make a double. Over the years I have used this double to indicate an honour in partner's suit for leading purposes, a Rosenkranz Double. One partner never remembered this, so nowadays it is say 8+ HCP, or maybe 10+ HCP, depending on the vulnerability without three of partner's suit but sufficient values to suggest competing further.

**With the retirement of Nick Fahrer and the closure of The Bridge Shop, Paul is now the only retail outlet in Australia where you can buy both bridge books and supplies.**

**Paul loves to get your phone calls, so save time and call him on 02 4295 0870 or 0408 888 085.**



Australia's  
Bridge Day Out  
September 23rd



# Australia's First Bridge Day Out

Laura Ginnan

The inaugural Bridge Day Out was held on September 23rd – and what a fun day it was! Players from across Australia gathered in clubrooms and online to enjoy a day of bridge, fun, and fundraising in support of the ABF Foundation.

The ABF Foundation, established in 2020, is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to securing the future of bridge. Through grants and scholarships, it supports vital research and initiatives that strengthen the game and its community.

Sustained by bequests, donations, and fundraising efforts, the Foundation has already made a significant impact and is actively pursuing charity status. A central focus for 2025-2028 is the ambitious goal of building a nationwide Bridge in Schools program – scalable, sustainable, and designed to introduce the next generation to our game. Funds raised through Bridge Day Out will go directly towards making this vision a reality. Learn more at [abffoundation.org.au](http://abffoundation.org.au).

## A day full of spirit

Bridge Day Out wasn't just about the cards – clubs added their own flavour to the celebrations. From raffles and sausage sizzles to best-dressed competitions and even avocado sales, members went above and beyond to make the day memorable while raising extra funds.

Clubs also awarded RED masterpoints for the event, and a big thank you goes to the state masterpoint secretaries for processing them so efficiently.

## Bridge stamina at its finest

Hands from the day were analysed in a marathon nine-hour drop-in Zoom session! Hosted by Peter Hollands, the session welcomed guest analysts

Sophie Ashton, Mike Doecke, Renee Cooper, and Liam Milne, who generously shared their expertise. Players could jump in and out, ask questions, and compare their play against some of Australia's best.

For those who missed it (or want to revisit), a two-hour highlights video is available here:

[youtu.be/3x-HoZyt9H8](https://youtu.be/3x-HoZyt9H8)

Whether or not you played the hands, there are gems of insight and entertainment throughout – and of course you can pause, rewind, or watch in bite-sized pieces.

A special thanks also goes to Andy Hung, who donated an online lesson won by lucky players all over the country which will run on 31 October.

A huge thank you to every participating club, online platform, and especially the enthusiastic organisers on the ground – your efforts made Bridge Day Out truly special. Thank you to the following clubs: Bright, Cairns, Coffs Harbour, Cootamundra, Kenmore, Maitland, Malanda, Melton, Mildura, Moonee Valley, Muswellbrook, Nedlands, Newcastle, North Shore (on RealBridge), Port Macquarie Hastings, QCBC, Rye Dromana, SABA, Sale, South Perth, Step-Bridge Australia, Sunbury, Tasmanian Bridge Association, Taree, Toowong, Toowoomba, Traralgon, Victorian Bridge Centre, Waverley, West Australian, West Coast, Williamstown and Yamba. Thank you also to Orange and Peninsula for their support.

## Looking ahead

The total funds raised are still being finalised and will be reported in the next issue – along with the announcement of dates for the 2026 Bridge Day Out. We look forward to welcoming even more clubs to next year's celebrations.

In the meantime, you can follow along and relive the highlights on Facebook:

[Bridge Day Out](#)



# WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

## with Will Jenner-O'Shea

### MINOR-SUIT TRANSFERS

One topic that we covered in this month's Workshop was systems after 1NT. We revised and expanded Stayman, and also transfers to majors, and had a brief discussion about Transferring to minors.

For most players the responses to 1NT are 2♣ is Simple Stayman (and I don't recommend any other version), 2♦ and 2♥ are transfers to hearts and spades, and bidding 2NT or 3NT is just notrumps at the appropriate levels.

The simplest use for 3♥ and 3♠ are six-card suits and a hand that is possibly interested in a slam. Partner can bid 4♥ or 4♠ with an unsuitable hand, or bid 4NT if they have a good hand for slam.

Over 1NT, bidding 3♣ or 3♦ is the only natural way to show a minor, and I recommend that it should show a six-card suit and a hand that is either worried about 3NT (usually a singleton or void somewhere), or a very strong hand, possibly interested in a slam.

Using these simple bids there is no way to show a weak hand with a minor, but there is a simple way to do that. I recommend that a 2♠ response to 1NT shows a six-card minor and a weak hand, usually less than six points. In response, partner will bid 3♣ always, and then responder will pass with clubs, or bid 3♦ and expect the opener to pass.

This is a rescue from 1NT, but you will end up playing at the three-level. To rescue 1NT into a minor you do need a six-card suit, and you also need to think that 1NT was a poor alternative. If you have 6-8 points, playing in 1NT will be fine, and if you have 9 or more points, your long suit will be worth having a go at 3NT.

There are more sophisticated ways of transferring to a minor, for example, using 2♠ to transfer to clubs, and either 2NT or 3♣ to transfer to diamonds. You can use these transfers with either weak or strong hands, so long as you and partner know what to do next.

After learning how to show minors, the Workshop had quite a few possible example hands.

Here are three hands that happened. How would you respond to a 1NT (15-17) opening bid with these hands, either using a simple or more sophisticated method?

Hand 1:

♠ Q 9 ♥ K 8 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ Q J 10 9 8 3

Hand 2:

♠ K 5 3 ♥ 10 3 ♦ J 9 8 5 4 2 ♣ Q 9

Hand 3:

♠ 2 ♥ K 3 ♦ K Q J 9 7 3 ♣ A 9 8 3

On Hand 1, no matter which method you use to show a minor, you shouldn't do it. You only have 9 HCP, but the long suit adds value to the hand, and you should look for game. You absolutely don't want to play in clubs, so don't even show them during the auction. Bid 3NT and wish partner luck.

On Hand 2, with 6 HCP playing in 1NT will probably be ok, so pass and wish partner luck again. If you either had a weaker hand, or a singleton somewhere, then perhaps you would transfer to diamonds and play in 3♦. Using the simple system suggested above, you would bid 2♠, partner would bid 3♣, and you would correct to 3♦. Having learnt how to show minors after 1NT, the main objective is to not do it very often!

On Hand 3, you have game points and a genuine problem for 3NT with the singleton spade. Bid 3♦ playing the simple methods, or transfer to diamonds. You might let partner play in 3NT next, but at least you offered an alternative. In the more sophisticated minor-suit transfers, I recommend that bidding a new suit next shows a singleton or void. This allows partner to judge whether 3NT or diamonds will be the better contract.

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



# SAVE THE DATE !



30<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Barrier Reef Congress



## Townsville

**Monday 11 May to Friday 15 May 2026**

**Hosted by Townsville Bridge Club**

### *Program*

**Walk-in Pairs Monday 11 May (afternoon)**

**Open and Restricted Pairs – 2 Sessions Tuesday 12 (morning/afternoon)**

**Open and Restricted Teams – 4 Sessions Wednesday 13 (afternoon),**

**Thursday 14 (morning/afternoon), Friday 15 (morning)**

***Venue: Townsville Stadium***

***40 – 48 Murray Lyons Crescent***

***Annandale***

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Chief Scorer: Peter Busch; Director: Bill Bishop

Tournament Organizer: Toni Barrell 0488 545 543

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Partners: Sam Bishop 0409578214





# IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

*Solution to problem on page 2*

## BIDDERS ARE WINNERS

Teams, dealer South, East-West vulnerable.

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



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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	3♦	all pass	1♦

West leads the ♥8: three - ace - seven. What would you play at trick two?

\* \* \* \* \*

There is a fair chance that the ♥8 is a singleton. If not, top from ♥8-5 doubleton is more likely than from ♥K-J-8 (a most unattractive lead in an unbid suit). If it is a singleton, you can return a heart and partner will ruff it. If you do return a heart, which heart will you play? If you play the ♥10, suit-preference for spades, partner might play you for the ♠K, perhaps ♠K-x. Partner might switch to a low spade from ♠A-x-x-x-x or ♠A-Q-x-x-x (in the hope of giving you

a spade ruff or to unblock the suit) to cater for your holding ♠K-x. The ♥10 return courts disaster.

How about the ♥2? That is better, since a club return will set up your ♣K. Anything else? Yes, indeed. Take the ♥A and switch to the ♠10 yourself. Then if partner has the ♠A, you can collect a spade ruff and maybe two ruffs if the ♥8 lead was a singleton.

The deal arose in one of the matches in the Round of 32 in the 2024 Spingold (USA Open Teams):

Board 15, dealer South, East-West vulnerable.

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	3♦	all pass	1♦

West led the ♥8. East took the ♥A and returned the ♥2: seven - ♦2 - ♥4. The ♥2 was suit-preference for clubs and West duly switched to the ♣9. Declarer took the ♣A and drew trumps, ending in dummy. Then came the ♠5: ten - king - ace. West cashed the ♠Q and declarer had the rest, nine tricks, North-South +110.

See the difference if East switches to the ♠10 at trick two. West collects two spade tricks and continues with the ♠8, suit-preference for hearts. East ruffs and now the next heart is ruffed by West to take 3♦ one down.

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♦
1♠	3♦	3♥	pass
4♣	pass	5♣	all pass

Note East's 3♥ bid here, where East passed at the other table. Bidding 3♥ turned out to be a good decision. North led the ♦3. South won with the ♦K and continued with the ♦A. West ruffed and played the ♣4: jack - king - eight. Declarer crossed to the ♠A, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart. On the next spade, the ♠K came down and declarer had 11 tricks, East-West +600, +12 imps.

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# Book reviews

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## Tales From the Past by Avon Wilsmore

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Ingram Content Group Australia Pty Ltd, Australia, 2025, soft cover, 432 pages.  
\$39.95 post-free from Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies.

When I received *Tales From the Past* I planned to read a chapter a day, as is my practice. Part 1 and Part 2 were excellent card play problems, irresistible. Part 3 contained stories that are part of the history of bridge in Australia and Part 4 was about cheating, starring the Italians in their heyday.

I was still reading. Next came more stories from Australia, Tim Seres, Bob Richman, Don Evans.

The book was so absorbing that I finished the whole 432 pages in one sitting.

There are many hands featuring Tim Seres at the helm. The lesson on this one is to not give Tim any information:

**Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.**

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

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

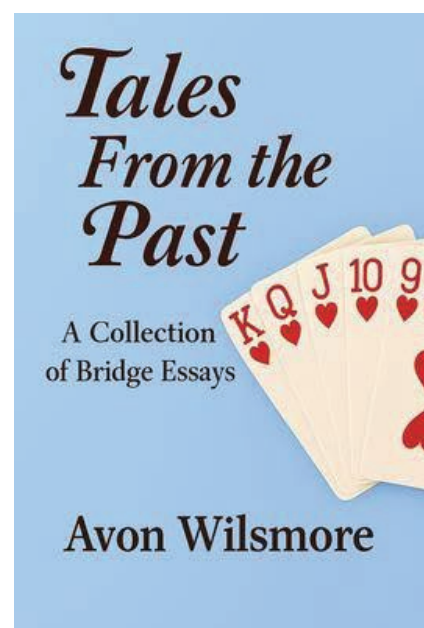
Seres won the club lead with ♣A, cashed a top heart, crossed to hand with a trump and finessed the ♥J.

Next he cashed the ♥K discarding his club and ruffed a heart.

He then ruffed a diamond in dummy leaving this position:

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

Tim still hadn't lost a trick, and he ruffed a club from dummy high, ruffed a diamond, and played dummy's winning heart throwing his last diamond. West could ruff but Tim had only good trumps remaining.  
A great read.





# The Fundamentals of Bridge by Will Jenner-O'Shea

*Everything you need to know about bridge*

Self-published, Australia, 2025, 146 pages.

\$24.95 post-free from Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies.

Most larger clubs that host advanced bridge lessons in and around Sydney have Will as their star attraction. His lessons certainly draw in the crowds.

In nine chapters Will describes the key conventions Stayman, transfers, weak twos and the strong 2♣, plus overcalls, doubles and other conventions such as reverses, fourth suit forcing and Jacoby 2NT.

The first eight chapters each have eight practice hands, illustrating bidding points from the chapter, plus a simple point in the play.

This deal is from Chapter 7, Rebidding, Raising and Decision Making:

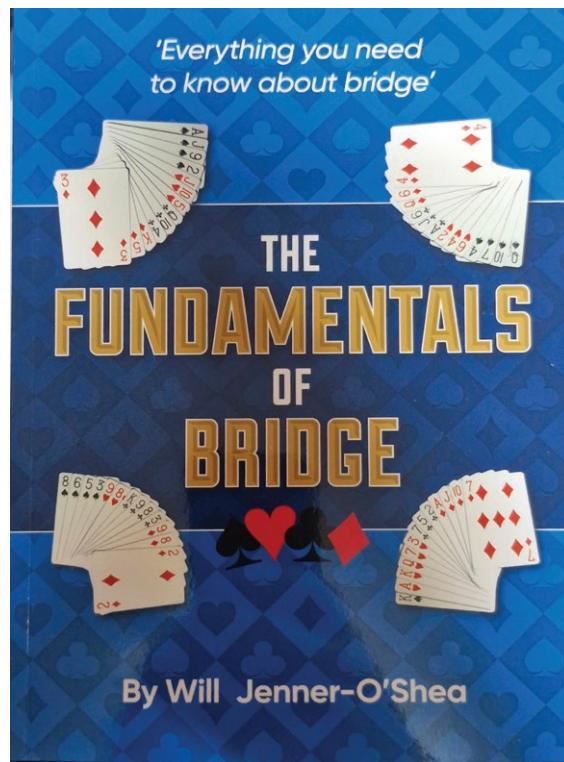
**Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.**

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

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

East is too strong to rebid just 2♣ with 17 HCP so rebids 3♣ and with a heart stopper and a bit extra West bids 3NT. North starts with a heart, partner's suit, and declarer sees they will have plenty of tricks when they knock out the ♣A if North-South don't take four heart tricks.

Declarer ducks the first and second heart and wins the third. Success. When North wins the ♣A they are out of hearts and declarer makes ten tricks. Highly recommended for the newer player.



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# Red Plum Automotive

Over recent months, two of Australia's well known bridge identities have utilised the services of Red Plum automotive when purchasing a new car. By doing so, they are also supporting bridge in Australia as Red Plum have donated some of their brokerage fee, received from the dealers, not the players, to the ABF's Technology Fund.

## **David Hoffman, Gold Grand Master, Canberra**

David recently purchased an MG4 utilising the services of Red Plum. Here's what he had to say about them:

This is the second car we have purchased through Red Plum. In both cases, after we had decided what car we wanted (including colour), they went out and found a seller at a price below what we could negotiate. As well, they found a buyer for our old cars.

In the first instance (2020) we purchased a Mazda CX5. We picked up the car from a local dealer, and dropped off our trade in (to a QLD buyer) at the same place. We were very happy with the whole operation.

In the second instance (2025) we purchased a MG4 (electric). This again went well. However, the person

who purchased our trade in (they picked it up from our house) complained that it had a fault that we were unaware of, and further negotiation resulted in us having to pay for the repair.

However, I can recommend using Red Plum. They do all the negotiations. As well, the two dealers who provided the new cars had no problem with the later servicing of the cars. In fact, both dealerships were used to dealing with Red Plum.

Summing up the process was "almost stress free".

## **Warren Lazer, Emerald Grand Master, Sydney**

Warren purchased a new Toyota Corolla Ascent in May. We asked Warren about his experience:

### **Q. What prompted you to start looking for a new car?**

Previous car was well over 20 years old. The annual service was costing more than the value of the car.

### **Q. How did you hear about Red Plum's car buying service through the ABF?**

Remembered Red Plum from the previous time they were ABF sponsors. Bruce Neill said he bought one



David's wife Julia Hoffman with their recent purchase through Red Plum



of his new cars through them and said they were good. So I was always going to give them a go. Then they turned out to be sponsoring ABF again.

**Q. What was your first impression of the service?**

Very responsive. Finished filling in the online form and had phone call from Loraine almost immediately.

**Q. How did the broker help you choose the right car for your needs?**

Not sure she did. I basically did like-for-like replacement, new hybrid Corolla Ascent hatchback for old petrol Corolla Ascent hatchback.

**Q. What made the process easier or better than buying a car on your own?**

I didn't need to go to any dealerships. Loraine sourced a number of possibilities including a few almost new options, sent photos, price, specs, etc. I was expecting to have to wait about 6 months for delivery but managed to get one in the colour I wanted in about one month. All I had to do was go for a test drive (again arranged via Red Plum) and then go pick it up when ready.

**Q. Were there any surprises – good or bad – during the process?**

All the modern features on new cars – still discovering new ones and getting used to them.  
Main surprise was that the Red Plum blurb suggests that their service doesn't cost anything. But when you get the itemised contract from the dealer, there's a brokerage fee of \$770 which they pay to Red Plum. So yes, you do pay them, just not directly. But she did negotiate a \$643 discount on price, so that basically paid for their service.

**Q. What car did you end up choosing, and what do you love most about it?**

Hybrid Toyota Ascent hatchback. Much smoother ride than previous car. (Hybrids and EVs don't have traditional gears.) Useful features that previous car didn't have: reversing camera, blind spot indicators, it "knows" the speed limit and indicates if you're exceeding it (though it's not 100% accurate – school zones confuse it).

**Q. How much time, money, or stress do you think the service saved you?**

Money: No idea. Time: probably 6-12 months, not counting the physical time going round a number of different dealerships. Stress: incalculable – I hate shopping at best of times.

**Q. Would you recommend the service to other members, and if so, why?**

Yes, very much so. Just took all the hassle out of it. I had heard reports that the minimum wait for a new Toyota was six months. I had my new car in about six weeks from start of process.



# Car Buying Service

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



## Our Services



**Car Buying**

The no-cost to user service makes car buying easier and saves money!



**Trade-In**

We ensure you receive the best market price on your trade.



**New Car**

We negotiate on all new car makes and models.



**Pre-Loved Car**

Our search for a pre-loved car is nation wide and reduces the risk of buying a lemon!



## Why Choose Us?

Chris Lee has owned and operated RPA since 2012 and helped many bridge players find the right car and achieve significant savings without doing the searching and negotiating!

- ✓ Australia Wide
- ✓ Professional Advice
- ✓ Personalised Service
- ✓ Exceptional Savings

Contact Us



# MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

## Upcoming enhancements release

By the time you read this, we should have released a few bug fixes and enhancements. Items visible to congress and club admins are listed below (there are also other bug fixes and system-admin level changes not shown here).

Tournament organisers:

- A dedicated area to place a link to congress results
- Blocks on editing old congresses, to stop organisers mistakenly editing last year's congress to create this year's, thus leaving all last year's entries in! Instead they need to copy it to create a clean draft.

Club admin users:

- New bridge credits report for clubs summarising the movement in their account for a selected period (most commonly the last month)
- Can now clear email blocks for members

General user search:

- User search now includes unregistered users and displays all memberships listed in My ABF. Note that doesn't always mean yours will be shown – it depends if your club has uploaded its members into My ABF. This is currently optional (it will become compulsory when the Masterpoint Centre functions move into My ABF).

## Masterpoints

I have mentioned this a few times as it's the next major development work planned for My ABF.

In mid-September a group sat down for nearly 2 days in Sydney with our developers to start sorting out the details of the Masterpoint Centre Integration Project "MPCI". This will bring in the Masterpoint Centre functions to My ABF (the existing software is old and realistically near the end of its life).

### WHAT WILL AND WON'T CHANGE?

Not everything is decided yet but the basic proposals at this stage are:

- The masterpoint scheme itself (point calculations, ranks, etc) will not change.
- Billing for masterpoints and capitation fees will continue but My ABF will generate them. They will be visible in a club's Bridge Credits account.



- Reports for masterpoints will be made available in My ABF – and the range of reports will be wider.
- It will be possible to submit masterpoints directly (and largely automatically) from a scoring program without the need for a lot of manual steps at either the club end or the MPC end.
- Provisional points will disappear – your masterpoint totals will update "live" (although there will still be an end of month process to lock them and provide a clean baseline).
- We are looking at the current manual approval processes with an aim to remove/reduce some of them.

## What will you notice?

### PLAYERS – GREATER RANGE OF REPORTS

Today there are a number of fixed reports that interested parties can open from the MPC page – at National, State and Club level. There are also additional reports sent directly to clubs from the MPC; and some for internal use by the MPC only.

We are planning to build a broader reporting "engine". This will include the existing reports but also offer the chance for players and administrators to create (and save) their own reports to view a wider range of information (this area can no doubt be expanded further over time).

### CLUBS: SIMPLER TO GET MASTERPOINTS PROCESSED

Today there is quite a manual process involving several people to get masterpoints from their origin (nearly always a scoring program) into your actual masterpoint records.

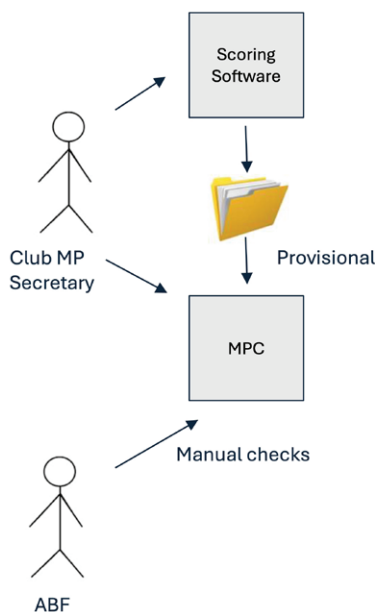
What we are seeking to achieve is the ability to submit files direct from a scoring program with a single click and have masterpoints appear in players' accounts almost immediately.



Here's an illustration of what it might look like:

# Masterpoint Upload Process

## Current



Club MP Secretary manually extracts file from scoring software with calculated masterpoints. These are uploaded into the MPC which checks them. Provisional points exist mainly because of issues with promotions.

The aim is to reduce manual handling at all levels and only have files failing validation checks being flagged for manual intervention.

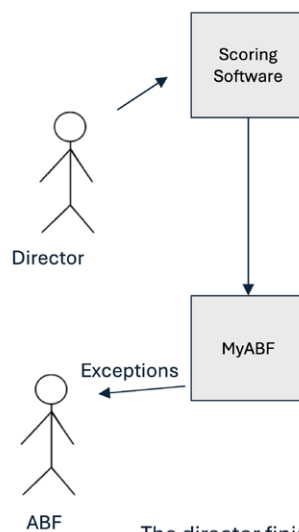
We are also looking at the processes for red point event approvals and considering relaxing or removing some of them (red points no longer being as significant as they were when the scheme began). These include club b4C sessions, congresses and other state level events

## CLUBS: MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT IN ONE PLACE

Clubs can already manage all their members in My ABF if they wish to – but that is currently independent of the MPC and its tracking of home club members.

This project will bring those together – so clubs can manage both in one place if they wish. As a minimum they will have to maintain their home club members in My ABF just like they do today in the MPC – but they will have the option to do more and then use their whole membership list for other purposes as well.

## Future



The director finishes the session and the results are uploaded to MyABF which calculates the masterpoints. These can still be changed if errors are found. Promotions are not notified immediately and levels are dynamically calculated. All of the masterpoint logic lives in MyABF.

Existing upload method will also be available for older scoring programs.

## CLUBS, STATES AND THE ABF: FUTURE REPORTING

Receiving session data direct from the scoring programs also creates the possibility for My ABF in future to provide analysis of that data – results or masterpoints over time, etc. Maybe even a rating scheme. Today that's impossible since all the MPC receives is a file listing masterpoint awards – it doesn't receive results, nor does it know whether the points are from 1 session or 100 sessions.

## FEEDBACK?

That's a summary of our thinking at the moment. Do you have an interest in masterpoints? Are you a club or state masterpoint secretary? Will these changes be of value to you? Are there other things you would like to see? This is your chance to let us know!

Email either of the My ABF Product Managers at

Julian Foster

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Sean Munley

[sean.munley@abf.com.au](mailto:sean.munley@abf.com.au)

# Around the clubs

Grafton Bridge Club conducted our Annual StepBridge Congress on Saturday 1 June. We had a very successful Congress, and by all accounts everyone thoroughly enjoyed their game of bridge. We would like to thank Tournament Director Chris Snook and helpers and all participants for a great day of bridge. It was a wonderful competitive day and we would like to congratulate the following winners:

Open: 1 David Weston - Kim Morrison, 2 Deb McLay - Ian Michelson, 3 Alan Toohey - Pauline Greig

Category B: 1 Kay Pearson - Vicki Ivosevac, 2 John Burrows - Sharyn Dilosa

Category C: 1 Margot Hosie - Debbie McGuinness, 2 Tess Bloomer - Denise Llewellyn

Best Grafton Pairs: 1 Dennis Ford - Carolyn Seymour, 2 Bob Northam - Kerry Harding

*Denise Llewellyn, Secretary*

Kim Morrison and David Weston



Deb McLay and Ian Michelson



**Australian Bridge**  
Your national bridge magazine

Coffs Open Pairs winners,  
Sandra and Andrew Richman

Also in this month's issue...

- Five-over-five quiz from the Swan River Swiss Pairs
- Australia's top two pairs meet in Bidding Challenge
- Norway vs Switzerland in the Bermuda Bowl final
- Trans-Tasman rivalry heats up in Marrakech

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# Summer Festival of Bridge

Laura Ginnan, [not@abf.com.au](mailto:not@abf.com.au)



Are you the best all-rounder in your grade? Find out at the 2026 Summer Festival of Bridge!

Canberra is calling! The 2026 Summer Festival of Bridge (SFoB) runs from 14-25 January and is packed with clever hands and plenty of fun for players of all levels, from beginners to seasoned champions.

Pick and choose the events that suit you – whether it's a single competition, the graded all-rounders, or vying for the prestigious National Open Teams, you can tailor your experience to match your schedule and appetite for competition.

The graded all-rounders series is a fantastic way for players to experience the Festival and test their versatility across formats. Designed for players under 20 MP, 100 MP, 300 MP, and 750 MP, these three-day events include:

- Day 1: Matchpoint Pairs
- Day 2: IMP Swiss Pairs
- Day 3: Swiss Teams (teammates can be arranged)

In the open division, the South West Pacific Teams and National Open Teams promise world-class competition. The final matches will feature bidding tablets, just like at the world championships, adding a high-tech, thrilling edge to the pointy end of the event.

The National Women's Teams and National Seniors' Teams also feature a finals series that's open to teams ineligible for Australian representation. These events still serve as entry qualifiers for the playoffs, offering a unique chance for a broad range of players to compete at a high level. For more details, see the [ABF 2026 Playoffs Announcement](#).

Whether your goal is competitive glory, testing your all-round skills, or just enjoying a few days of bridge, the SFoB offers an electric atmosphere with intense hands, lively discussion, and plenty of fun at every table.

Find out more and register at the [ABF SFoB Event Page](#).

Planning to stay on-site? The Rex Hotel offers an [early-bird special](#) (must be booked at least 30 days in advance, non-refundable).

Whether it's your first festival or your 50th, the 2026 Summer Festival of Bridge is your chance to play, learn, and soak up the excitement at the ABF's premier event.

A big thank you to our fantastic sponsors: Paul Lavings [Bridge Gear](#), [TBIB Insurance](#), and [Fixed Income Solutions](#).



PLAY YOUR CARDS **RIGHT**

# Tournament results

*Photos from Coffs Coast Daily Bulletin*

## Coffs Coast Gold Congress

### OPEN SWISS PAIRS

1. Magnus Moren - Justin Mill	111.71
2. Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell	106.82
3. Mandy Johnson - David Johnson	104.52
4. Judith Tobin - Ruth Tobin	104.07
5. Lyn Smith - Catherine Whiddon	103.26
6. Ian Price - Bruce Tier	102.69
7. Nicoleta Giura - Nick Hughes	102.15
8. Hugh McAlister - Diana McAlister	101.52
9. Bill Powell - Marjorie Askew	101.16
10. Frances Garrick - Jamie Thompson	100.93
11. Paul Hooykaas - Pele Rankin	99.14
12. Tony Nunn - Martin Bloom	98.33
13. Murray Perrin - Gabrielle Elich	98.12
14. Murray Wood - Rachelle Pelkman	97.90
15. Rachel Langdon - Kim Morrison	94.60
16. Paul Lavings - Peter Cox	94.51
17. Jim Stewart - David Owen	94.32
18. Jane Rennie - Andrew Macready-Bryan	93.07
19. Andrew Mill - Annette Maluish	92.11
20. Lauri Perino - Kevin Tant	91.99

Best Under 1000 MPs:

Mandy Johnson - David Johnson

### INTERMEDIATE SWISS PAIRS

1. Frances Gaunt - Roderic Roark	110.42
2. Paul Ruan - Lilly Jia	106.38
3. David Burton - Stuart Schon	106.06
4. Jenny McGowan - Vanessa Brewis	104.18
5. Anna Irminger - Eugenie Mooney	103.61
6. Ross Shardlow - Peter Gruythuysen	101.14
7. Mary Poynten - Tony White	99.71
8. Don Robertson - Margaret Robertson	94.72
9. Erica McCoull - Sue Falkingham	94.42
10. Sue Sharp - Andrew Sharp	94.41
11. Trish Berry - Sachiko Cathcart	94.30
12. Jenny Rose - Ludo Onstein	93.56
13. Mary Carter - Felix Shteyman	93.18
14. Pam Browne - Kevin Birch	93.11
15. Shirley Bettman - Neil Lawrence	92.82
16. Agnes Levine - Carolyn Jebken	92.76
17. Margaret Regan - Robyn Rogers	91.80
18. Annette Hogan - Sally Hall	91.12
19. John Burrows - Sharyn Dilosa	89.61
20. Margaret Giebels - Mick Fawcett	88.48

Best Restricted:

Anna Irminger - Eugenie Mooney

### OPEN TEAMS



1. Andrew Peake, Magnus Moren, Justin Mill, Giselle Mundell
2. Kathryn Yule, Ken Yule, Murray Wood, Rochelle Pelkman
3. Richard Solomon, Harry Shepherd, Anna Kalma, Kevin Skoropada
4. Alan Davies, Vivien Eldridge, Lyn Smith, Catherine Whiddon
5. Paul McGrath, Michael Simes, Chris Dibley, Michael Seldon
6. Andrew & Sandra Richman, Nick Hughes, Nicoleta Giura
7. Kim Frazer, Mindy Wu, Malcolm Carter, Lyn Carter
8. Peter Cox, Paul Lavings, Sylvia Schwarcz, Ben Kingham
9. Paula McLeish, David McLeish, Pele Rankin, Paul Hooykaas
10. Michael Johnstone, Paula Gregory, Hugh & Diana McAlister

Best Under 1000 MPs:

Paul Rooms, Jody Swaine, Deanna Stuart, John Stuart

### INTERMEDIATE TEAMS



1. Nerida Gillies, Sandy Carter, Paul Ruan, Lilly Jia
2. Libby Heyward, Tammy Hubbard, Roderic Roark, F Gaunt
3. Cathryn & Philip Hocking, Stephen Miller, Rodney Bell
4. Deborah & Gary Gibbards, Peter Gruythuysen, Ross Shardlow
5. Aaron Poon, David Zheng, Noah Klugman, Yi Long Lai
6. Frank Hardiman, Stuart Schon, Andrew Grace, David Burton
7. Warren Males, Peter Lyons, Annette Hogan, Sally Hall
8. Ludo Onstein, Jenny Rose, Shirley Bettman, Neil Lawrence
9. Sue Michelmores, Jayne Hanlon, Sally Clarke, Merrie Beasley
10. Fiona Fawcett, Jenny Barnes, Kerry Rymer, Kit Meyers

Best Restricted:

Aaron Poon, David Zheng, Noah Klugman, Duncan Lai



## Territory Gold Bridge Festival

### SWISS TEAMS

1. Therese Tully, Paul Hooykaas, Pele Rankin, Stephen Fischer	133.77
2. Arjuna De Livera, Lori Smith, Sandra & Andrew Richman	122.52
3. Jeff Travis, Susan Emerson, Felicity Smyth, Attilio De Luca	118.83
4. Yolanda Floris, Toni Bardon, Kim Ellaway, Raymond Ellaway	107.12
5. Kevin Steffensen, James Wallis, David Fryda, Allison Stralow	103.03
6. Caprice Davey, Justin Williams, Jon Hunt, Sheila Bird	96.84

### MATCHPOINT PAIRS

1. Kevin Steffensen - James Wallis	61.22
2. Justin Williams - Attilio de Luca	60.90
3. Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	59.29
4. Jon Hunt - Susan Emerson	58.33
5. Kim Ellaway - Raymond Ellaway	58.01
6. Pele Rankin - Stephen Fischer	57.05
7. Caprice Davey - Felicity Smyth	48.08
8. Susie Groves - Alastair Lowe	47.76
9. Patricia Grigson - John McIlrath	45.51
10. Julie Clark - Rodney Macey	40.38

### SWISS PAIRS

1. Arjuna de Livera - Lori Smith	152.96
2. Pele Rankin - Stephen Fischer	143.65
3. Jeff Travis - Jon Hunt	132.21
4. Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	131.61
5. Felicity Smyth - Sheila Bird	130.92
6. Kevin Steffensen - James Wallis	130.78
7. Kim Ellaway - Raymond Ellaway	129.45
8. Caprice Davey - Justin Williams	126.05
9. Nick Edginton - Chris Depasquale	123.18
10. David Fryda - Allison Stralow	122.11

## Australia-Wide Open Pairs

1. Joan Whitehead & Merri Drutchinin <i>Ocean Grove</i>	76.5
2. Will Jenner-O'Shea & Vanessa Brown <i>Canberra</i>	71.7
3. John Sarena & Geoff Brewis <i>Hamilton</i>	71.2
4. Norm Berger & John Redfearn <i>Central Coast</i>	69.8
5. Simone Proust & Barb Woolfe <i>Bathurst</i>	69.1
6. Janet Jones & Judy Herring <i>Sanctuary Cove</i>	69.0
7. Mike Trafalski & Sharon Schneider <i>Albany</i>	68.5
8. Ken Muhling & Alan Giles <i>Ingham</i>	68.4
9. David Paul & Andrew Sunter <i>Sydney</i>	68.2
10. Kay Smith & George Wagner <i>Benalla</i>	67.8
11. Tony & Francie Cullenward <i>Deniliquin</i>	67.8
12. Elizabeth & Derrick Nonamé <i>Trumps</i>	67.6
13. Margaret Price & Janice Lafferty <i>Rockhampton</i>	67.3
14. Luba & Louis Klein <i>Maylands</i>	67.1
15. Kerri Grant & Trish Burke <i>Bathurst</i>	67.1
16. Margot & Peter Brennan <i>Monaro</i>	67.1
17. Susan McLean & Suzi Ledger <i>Sanctuary Cove</i>	66.7
18. Jan McLennan & Brian Ody <i>Peninsula</i>	66.3
19. Des Ward & Brenda McClean <i>Hervey Bay</i>	66.2
20. David Woodward & Stephen Mendick <i>Batemans</i>	65.9
20. Pauline Grodski & Dot Sofer <i>KLTC</i>	65.9
22. Eva Berger & Sue Smith <i>Gold Coast</i>	65.5
23. Janet Ruskin-Rowe & Shirley Frost <i>Dubbo</i>	65.5
24. Bill & Heather Cornwall <i>Bairnsdale</i>	65.3
25. Graham Harms & Mick Koziol <i>Barossa</i>	65.3
26. Janice Wright & Lorraine Carr <i>Moreton Bribie</i>	65.3
27. Rakesh Kumar & Margaret Malcolm <i>Sth High.</i>	65.1
27. Shayne Wurf & Jo-anne Heywood <i>RACV</i>	65.1
29. Tom & Jan Hackett <i>Yarrawonga</i>	65.1
29. Jenny Maley & June Mulholland <i>Mandurah</i>	65.1

## HGR Memorial Mixed Swiss Pairs

1. Jonathan Free - Mimi Packer	126.84
2. Kaiping Chen - Susanne Gammon	120.39
3. David Matthews - Catherine Hood	108.26
4. Martin Doran - Pauline Collett	105.39
5. Nick Cantatore - Val Biloft	105.28
6. Gerry Daly - Viv Wood	104.71
7. Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside	103.88
8. Kimberley Zhao - Nigel Dutton	101.91
9. Gwyneira Brahma - Dave Munro	99.85
10. Marnie Leybourne - Hamish McCracken	99.56
11. Pim Birss - Deana Wilson	97.55
12. Mark Goddard - Patricia Anderson	95.92
13. Colleen Stone - Patrick Garnett	91.54
14. Tim Wright - Tomoko Nakamatsu	90.38
15. Roz Trend - Ron Cooper	88.94
16. Lynne Milne - David Burn	88.76
17. Cynthia Belonogoff - Vinod Nasta	86.71
18. Steven Rogoysky - Helen Rogoysky	86.59
19. Geoff Holman - Tracy Kudelka	81.96
20. Tuya Cooke - Tad Bieganski	78.87

## Joan Prince Memorial Swiss Pairs

1. Tim Wright - David Schokman	120.05
2. Paul Brayshaw - Chris Mulley	119.03
3. Warren Lazer - Pauline Gumby	117.28
4. Geoff Holman - David Matthews	115.77
5. Gwyneira Brahma - Dave Munro	115.39
6. James Steer - Stella Steer	111.03
7. Cynthia Belonogoff - Vinod Nasta	109.67
8. Chris Cullen - Gill Gavshon	108.06
9. Marnie Leybourne - Trevor Fuller	107.93
10. Jonathan Free - Ron Cooper	107.03
11. Lilia Male - Beata Bieganski	105.83
12. Ian Bailey - Bill Symons	105.79
13. Pim Birss - Deana Wilson	104.73
14. Shirley Lavarack - Ziggy Morawiec	104.31
15. Pauline Collett - Catherine Hood	101.26
16. Steven Rogoysky - Helen Rogoysky	100.44
17. David Fowler - Tuya Cooke	100.07
18. Nick Cantatore - Val Biloft	99.10
19. Tom Lemann - Joann Theriault	98.28
20. Andrew Swider - Tad Bieganski	95.06





## AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

January  
10th-16th(18th)  
Canberra

For players born on or after  
1/1/1995

See MyABF for  
more info

