



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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

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2025 National Open Teams

This year's champions are Andy Hung, Liam Milne, Geeske Joel, Shane Harrison and James Coutts.

See inside for our report on the event.



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Front cover: 2025 NOT champions

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**IMPROVE
 YOUR
 DEFENCE**
 with
Ron Klinger
Solution on page 23

Teams, dealer South, both vulnerable

♠ A 10 6 4
 ♥ K 4 2
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ Q J 6 4

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



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

1. Primarily for takeout.

West leads ♦8: three - jack - six. East continues with ♦A: nine from South. What would you play as West?



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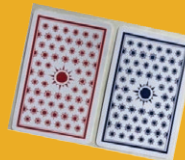
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David Fryda

Executive Director

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Happy New Year to all Australian bridge players and anyone else reading our newsletter.

For those of you who came to the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra in January, I trust that you had a good time. I thought the vibe of this year's event was excellent and that Laura Ginnan did a great job as Tournament Organiser on her first foray!

This was my first year qualifying for the Seniors and I played for 13 days straight. That was definitely easier when I was a youth player as I was flagging by the end (please do not study my results too closely).

I am about to head off to the Gold Coast and do it all again. Regarding the Gold Coast and the sad news that it will be the last one, I can assure you that we are working hard to try to turn that situation around and ensure that we have a premier event like the GCC on the calendar, if not in 2026 then in 2027. We have a meeting lined up with the General Manager of the Convention Centre so, you never know, they may be able to offer us something after all (one can only hope).

Since our last newsletter the playoffs for the Mixed, Seniors and Women's teams to represent Australia in 2025 have taken place. The SYLVESTER team of Liz Sylvester, Peter Gill, Arlene Dalley and Michael Courtney won the Mixed Playoff. They have since augmented Jessica Brake and Shane Harrison and will be captained by Martin Doran. Winning the Seniors Playoff was the BEAUCHAMP team of David Beauchamp, Maurits van der Vlugt, Avi Kanetkar, George Kozakos, Terry Brown and Ian Thomson. They have asked Laura Ginnan to be their non-playing captain. The TUTTY team won the Women's Playoff with Jodi Tutty, Dagmar Neumann, Ella Jacob and Renee Cooper. At the time of writing their third pair and captain are yet to be ratified. On behalf of you all I congratulate all the teams and wish them well as they represent us at the highest level.

At Youth Week this year the event to decide our Youth representative team for 2025 took place. The format is different to our other Playoffs with pairs qualifying separately. Congratulations to Matthew Sierdzinski and Heath Watkins who were the first pair to qualify, followed by George Bartley and Jack

Luke-Paredi and finally Kate Macdonald and Zac Ross. We wish them well representing us at the 19th World Youth Championships in July.

In closing, I would like to remind you all that I am always keen to hear from you with any ideas or thoughts you have on how we can improve and grow bridge in Australia. My email address is at the top of the page and I look forward to hearing from you either via email or in person at a bridge event.



A Happy New Year to you all from the ABF Board. 2025 will be my final tour as President and I look forward to connecting with my many friends and acquaintances, as well as forming new friendships.

2025 will see our Australian Open, Women's and Seniors' and Mixed teams competing at the World National Teams Championships MCH Herning Kongrescenter, Herning, Denmark from 20 – 31 August 2025. The Under 26 Youth Team will compete at the 20h World Youth Championships from the 12 – 17 July with the venue still to be decided. I wish all teams every success as they compete as our Australian Teams at International Bridge Tournaments in 2025.

Congratulations to Laura Ginnan and her team for another successful Summer Festival of Bridge. There was a wonderful friendly, relaxed atmosphere at the event, even though the play at the table was very competitive.

I am currently playing at the 63rd Gold Coast Congress which may be the last as we know it. Kim and Ray Ellaway again stepped up when they knew they were needed for the last hoorah and Richard Ward as QBA President has been tireless in his efforts to make 2005 a wonderful event.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with the ABF Board please email

president@abf.com.au



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GOLD POINTS

National Open Teams

Brad Coles

Here is a selection of some notable deals from the National Open Teams, beginning with this deceptive partscore:

Board 50. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

Semi-final: Emul vs Dalley.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dyke	Hughes	A Dalley	Giura
pass	1NT	pass	1♥
pass	1NT	all pass	

A couple of pairs in the NOT were playing four-card majors, and this pair was also playing that a 1♥ opening denies four spades. Therefore, North had no reason to bid his spades, and they settled in 1NT. This was not their best contract (2♣ or 2♦ would have been better) and it went one off for -100.

At the other table, with South opening a more traditional 1♦, East-West had the heart suit to themselves. Sadly, they got too high, going one down in 4♥ doubled, so the Emul team were -100 at both tables for a 5-imp loss.

The real action came from the other match:

Semi-final: Ashton vs Yoshka.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Beauchamp	Milne	Ashton	Coutts
3♥	4♣	2♠ ¹	dbl
5♥	pass	4♥	5♣
all pass		pass	6♣

1. Spades and a minor.

This auction was a battle between hearts EW and clubs NS, ending at the six-level. This is particularly ironic because East was the first to bid clubs (the unknown minor in the 2♠ opening) and South was the first to show hearts (with the takeout double of 2♠).

It's an array of scores that you won't often see on one board: one North-South pair failing in 1NT, another doubling 4♥, and another taking a six-level sacrifice over 5♥. The fourth pair was in 5♣; a very reasonable contract if you look at just the North-South cards, but it still had to go two off.

Here's an even wilder board, although every table produced a similar auction (despite each of the four East players choosing a different first move):

Board 37. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

Semi-final: Ashton vs Yoshka.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Beauchamp	Milne	Ashton	Joel
2♥	1♣	1♠	pass
4♥	4♦	7♥	all pass

Ashton produced the only successful auction, after getting off to a great start. After hearing an unsolicited 2♥ bid from partner, the 7♥ rebid was the least she could have done.

Andy Hung had the toughest rebid decision:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Harrison	Hans	Hung	Smirnov
pass	1♣	4♠	pass
	4NT	5♥	all pass

After chewing up so much space with the 4♠ bid, there wasn't any room left for either partner to make an informed decision.

In the other match:

Semi-final: Emul vs Dalley.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Clifford	P Dalley	Emul	Nunn
4♥	1♣	2♣ ^{majors}	pass
	4NT ^{minors}	6♥	all pass

WEST Dyke	NORTH Hughes	EAST A Dalley	SOUTH Giura
4♥	1♣ ¹⁶⁺	dbl ^{majors}	pass
	4NT ^{minors}	6♥	all pass

I don't think either of the 6♥ bidders here will be feeling very proud of themselves. With North opening the bidding (in one case with a 16+ strong club) any missing king is likely to be onside. 7♥ is a great spot opposite the king of hearts, and a decent spot opposite any hand with a singleton spade; not a lot to ask from a partner who has just jumped to game.

Tony Nunn picked up 8 imps here, instead of losing 9 imps, with an old trick:

Board 36. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST Clifford	NORTH P Dalley	EAST Emul	SOUTH Nunn
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♥	pass	2NT	pass
3NT	all pass		

Almost any layout of the cards will give EW a decent play for 4♥ on this deal, but three of the four tables reached 3NT via the above auction. The fourth table ended the auction prematurely when Audrey Dalley passed 2♥, making twelve tricks for +230.

In one match, both Souths led the ♣Q against 3NT, and there was not much to the play: the heart suit is the only source of tricks, so you have to finesse the jack of hearts and cross your fingers. When the ♥J held and the ♦J came down, declarer had nine tricks, and the 3-3 break provided three more. One North threw a club on the run of the hearts, allowing declarer to pin the ♣9 for 13 tricks.

Tony Nunn took a different approach. He started with the ♠K, eventually picking up declarer's ♠10 to take the first four tricks. He then switched to the jack of clubs. Declarer had not been feeling too good about his prospects up to that point, but the ♣J gave him a ray of light: he took the jack with the king, and then finessed the ten, playing North for the queen. This lost to Tony's queen for one off.

That's a useful lesson for all tournament players: if you ever think that Tony Nunn has given you a chance to make an unmakeable contract, you're wrong.

At this week's Gold Coast congress, Paul Marston gave a talk on Wednesday morning about three-card raises by opener. Here are a couple of deals from the NOT where a three-card raise paid off.

Board 34. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

In the Dalley vs Emul semi-final, both tables bid 1♥-1♠-2♦. In the Ashton vs Yoshka match, both tables bid 1♥-1♠-2♠.

As the cards lie, both contracts can only be beaten on good defence; both Souths found the killing trump lead to defeat 2♦, but a club lead against 2♠ allowed an overtrick for +140.

I think it's clear that 2♠ is the safer bid – it's a guaranteed seven-card fit, and on a good day it might be eight. In fact, that is literally the rule for raising on three: if there's a reasonable chance that you might have an eight-card fit, then you are allowed to raise on three (assuming that you are open to the idea of three-card raises).

The three-card raise provided a bigger swing on this deal:

Board 51. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

Semi-final: Ashton vs Yoshka.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Harrison	Hans	Hung	Smirnov
1NT	pass	3NT	pass all pass

With 25 HCP, East-West quickly bid to 3NT. This contract can be beaten on a spade lead (or a heart lead and spade switch) but North had no information from the auction and led his best suit, a club. The result was 600 to Yoshka.

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Beauchamp	Milne	Ashton	Coutts
pass all pass	1♠	pass	1♥ 2♠

With only 15 HCP between the two hands, as well as favourable vulnerability, North-South were strong favourites to win this board after finding their spade fit so quickly. 2♠ turned out to be unbeatable, for +110 and 12 imps. If East-West had somehow managed to get into the bidding, North would have had no trouble beating 3NT after this auction.

This deal illustrates an interesting point of bridge philosophy: is it better to find your spade fit, and possibly scare the opponents out of 3NT, or is it better to stay out of the auction, let them bid 3NT, and hope that partner can find the winning defence on his own?

Sartaj Hans faced a similar dilemma on this slam deal from the quarter-final.

Quarter-final: Ashton vs Doecke.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wiltshire	Hans	M Smith	Smirnov
1♣	pass	1♥	pass 1♠
dbl ^{support}	pass	2♠	pass
2NT	pass	3♥	pass
3♠ ^{cue bid}	pass	4NT	pass
5♣ ^{one or four}	pass	6♥	all pass

South led a diamond against 6♥, and declarer had time to set up clubs for a spade discard (and a diamond discard) to score 1430 and 13 imps.

It's hard to fault the diamond lead. South's shockingly wild vulnerable 1♠ overcall set the defence up nicely: his partner had a chance to redouble 1♠ (which would show an honour in some partnerships) and also had a chance to double the 3♠ cuebid. In the absence of either of these encouraging efforts, the fatal diamond lead is perfectly reasonable.

My question is: is doubling 3♠ worth the risk? If you warn the opponents that they are getting a spade lead, they might decide not to bid the slam. This would mean that you aren't at risk of scoring -1430, but it also means that you will never get +100 (in the cases where partner was planning to lead a spade against 6♥ without your help).

At best, I think East's 6♥ was a gamble; East was hoping to find West with the ♠K and ♣A (just losing a spade) rather than the actual layout with a loser in each suit. A double of 3♠ from North would have been disconcerting for East, adding ♠Ax with North as another danger in bidding 6♥.

Is it better to scare the opponents out of the slam, and settle for a moderate -650, or let them bid slam and just hope that partner finds the right lead?

On balance, I think North's priority should be to help his partner, as opening leads are one of the most difficult parts of the game. This is why lead-directing doubles are so prevalent in the USA.

This tricky subject was discussed in great detail in the June 2021 issue of Australian Bridge Magazine, in an article called *Delayed Lead Directing Doubles*. The article proposes a convention that allows you to keep your plans for the opening lead a secret until after the opponents have committed to a final contract.

In closing, I'd like to congratulate Laura Ginnan and her team on an extremely well-run Summer Festival with a pleasant and lively atmosphere. Using her considerable skills developed over years as convenor of Youth Week, Laura did a wonderful job in spite of the tragic loss of one of her close friends at the start of the event. Laura's attention to detail was so great that when I spilled my partner's coffee all over him at the start of play in the quarter-finals, Laura appeared seconds later with a towel, a phone with which to arrange a change of clothes, and a replacement coffee. Truly a five-star event.

Yoshka (pictured on our front cover) won their semi-final with a one-imp win over Ashton, and beat Dalley in the final 133-102 to take the title.



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AUSTRALIAN YOUTH WEEK

Leigh Matheson

The curse of the 4-3-3-3 hand

Board 26 of the Youth Pairs Qualification dealt North-South some big hands. With enough points to bid slam, plus a major-suit fit, what could possibly go wrong? (If in doubt, please refer to title.)

Board 26. Dealer East. Both sides vulnerable.

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

At most tables, South opened 2NT. How should North plan the auction?

With 2NT showing roughly 20-22 points, depending on partnership agreement, North can see the partnership has 34-36 points. This is typically enough to bid a small slam, but not a grand slam. But with a potential 4-4 heart fit, should North go looking for a trump suit?

Normally with a four-card major, the answer is yes, and you should start with 3♣ (some version of Stayman). But with a 4-3-3-3 shape (and especially at Matchpoint scoring) it is frequently better to not bother. With this hand I'd expect most experts would simply raise to 6NT. Why?

Firstly, there is a lot to be said for bidding directly. It is good to have an honest conversation (i.e. the auction) with partner about what the best contract should be. But once the auction has ended, declarer should be sorry for every piece of information he has told his opponents, who can now use this to their advantage during the play of the hand. By not revealing much whenever there is a choice of options you make your opponents' lives harder.

Secondly, even if you find a fit, what can you ruff? If partner has a four-card side suit you would not want to risk the opponents ruffing, so you would have to start with drawing trumps and would not get a

chance to use the suit profitably to discard losers in other suits.

Finally, as is the case here, bidding a trump suit has the added drawback that it might break badly.

On this deal exactly half the North-South field bid 6NT. True, it is only the lucky heart layout that allows this contract to make. But if the heart suit were less friendly and 6NT goes one down, it would still score better than 6♥ at Matchpoint scoring.

A fantasy hand

An interesting hand came up in round 6 of the Youth Teams:

Board 12. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2♥
dbl	3♥	pass	pass
dbl	all pass		

You lead a top spade and partner plays the jack of spades (denying the ♠Q). What do you play next?

No, seriously, try to find the safest way to get off lead before you keep reading.

If you only consider the standard card to lead in each suit, you might conclude that playing any of the three suits is likely to give away a trick.



But if you consider each individual card, you may notice that leading the $\spadesuit Q$ is unlikely to cost a trick. If dummy wins the $\spadesuit K$ (a trick they were always entitled to), you still retain the $\spadesuit A10$ sitting over declarer's $\spadesuit Jx$.

This lead also has a lot of deceptive value: from declarer's vantage point it will look like the suit is distributed like this:

\spadesuit K 9 7 3
 \spadesuit Q J 10 8 \spadesuit A 2
 \spadesuit 6 5 4

In that case, declarer's correct play would be to duck twice in the suit, scoring the $\spadesuit K$ later.

The full deal:

\spadesuit 7 6 4 3 \heartsuit Q 10 \diamondsuit K 9 7 3 \clubsuit K 8 3	\spadesuit J 10 9 \heartsuit A J 7 4 3 2 \diamondsuit J 2 \clubsuit 10 5
\spadesuit A K 5 \heartsuit — \diamondsuit A Q 10 8 \clubsuit A J 9 6 4 2	\spadesuit Q 8 2 \heartsuit K 9 8 6 5 \diamondsuit 6 5 4 \clubsuit Q 7

After the defence wins the top spade and declarer ducks two rounds of diamonds, East is now on lead to push spades through. The defence proceeds to collect a diamond ruff and even endplay declarer in trumps to score the $\heartsuit J$.

So why is this hand a fantasy?



Pairs winners Zara Chowdhury and Liam Minogue



At the table West didn't play the $\spadesuit Q$ at Trick 2. We don't need to discuss the play here. We'll just say declarer went a bunch down.

We all suffer from bad breaks from time to time, but when was the last time you could say that trumps split 6-0?

A bunch of tricks on defence

Tomer Libman (West) and Damien Flicker (East) produced a neat defence on the following hand:

Dealer East. Neither side vulnerable.

\spadesuit Q 10 5 4 3 \heartsuit Q 6 3 2 \diamondsuit K 7 \clubsuit Q 9	\spadesuit A K 7 6 \heartsuit K 9 \diamondsuit 10 8 6 \clubsuit K 4 3 2
\spadesuit J 2 \heartsuit A J 10 \diamondsuit A Q 5 3 \clubsuit A 10 8 7	\spadesuit 9 8 \heartsuit 8 7 5 4 \diamondsuit J 9 4 2 \clubsuit J 6 5

We won't talk about the bidding, except to say that declarer found themselves in $4\heartsuit$ doubled.

West led the $\clubsuit A$ and switched to the $\spadesuit J$, covered by the $\spadesuit Q$ and $\spadesuit K$. East cashed the $\spadesuit A$ and continued another spade, on which declarer discarded a dia-

mond and West ruffed. The defence then cashed the ♦A, ♣K and continued another spade, declarer again discarding a diamond and West again ruffing. West cashed the ♥A, East claimed the ♥K and they wrote down +1400.

By ruffing twice, West shortened his trumps to fewer cards than partner, allowing the defence to score that extra trick – a defensive dummy reversal.

Picked it like a nose

Matthew Sieredzinski and Heath Watkins won the Butler from the Australian Junior Selection. I feel it fitting to finish this bulletin with a hand where Heath made a doubled contract in the event:

Board 13. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

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



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

West led the ♥Q, which went to the ♥K and ♥A. East switched to the ♦9, which went to the ♦J and ♦A. West switched to the ♣Q, taken by the ♣A.

Heath now had a choice of play in trumps, but he chose the correct one. He played a spade to the ♠10, dropping the nine! The ♥9 was taken by West, who played a club to the ♣K. East got off lead with the ♦8, which went to the ♦10, ♦Q and ♦K. This set up a big card beer card in dummy (though it would be put to use prior to trick 13).

Heath now called for a low spade, intending to run it. East was awake and covered with the ♠J, so Heath took the ♠Q. He now played a diamond to the ♦7 (a critical entry). When everyone followed suit he claimed the rest of the tricks with the marked spade finesse and the good ♦5 in hand.

Nine tricks made for +730.



Australian Youth Team members
Heath Watkins and Matthew Sieredzinski



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The 2024 International Bridge Press Association Awards

The world's best bidding, declarer play and defence as voted by the IBPA

JUSTIN LALL PLAY AWARD

Winner: Justin Mill

Journalist: Nick Jacob



Justin Mill is one of Australia's finest talents. His partner, Rodrigo Garcia da Rosa of Uruguay, is one of Argentina's best players. People who know the two young stars have been excited to see what they can produce as a partnership. Take this board, where Justin found a beautiful line of play in the quarter-finals of the 2023 National Open Teams in Australia.

Board 41. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Butts	Mill	Courtney	Garcia da Rosa
	1♠	4♣	4NT ¹
pass	5♠ ²	pass	5NT ³
pass	6♦ ⁴	pass	6♥ ⁵
pass	7♠	all pass	

1. RKCB for spades.
2. Two keycards and the queen of spades.
3. Confirming all keycards.
4. King of diamonds, denying the king of hearts.
5. Last train.

Lead: king of clubs.

Justin and Rodrigo brushed aside Michael Courtney's preempt to breeze into the grand slam. The contract was excellent. Trumps breaking 2-1 would allow declarer to draw trumps and claim on a crossruff. Three trumps in East would allow declarer to draw trumps and establish the thirteenth trick in hearts. Hence, Justin played a small trump towards dummy's ace.

East's club discard posed a problem for declarer. Had East held seven clubs – which looked a near-certainty on the auction – declarer would have been unable to trump a club low on the table without being over-ruffed. Hearts 4-3 would still provide the thirteen trick, so Justin turned his attention to that suit. A heart to the ace was followed by a diamond to the ace. The heart king was cashed for a club discard, but West's club discard on the third round of hearts showed that this suit would not break either.

Justin trumped the heart low and took stock. East was now marked to be 0-5-2-6. Joan Butts' spade jack would prevent a full crossruff, so Justin set about pruning East's idle cards for an exquisite ending.

The diamond king was cashed before declarer trumped his third diamond on the table. Justin now finessed the spade ten to reach the following ending:

<p>♠ J ♥ — ♦ Q J 10 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 9 6</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ Q 7 ♦ — ♣ Q J</p>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ J 10 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
---	--	--	---

When declarer continued with the spade queen from hand, East was caught in declarer's entry shifting squeeze. A heart discard would allow declarer to overtake the spade with dummy's king, a heart would be trumped to fell East's queen, and dummy could be reached with a club ruff to cash the good heart for trick 13. A club discard fared no better. Declarer could duck the spade in dummy, remaining in hand to trump East's last club. Now a heart ruff to hand allowed declarer to win trick 13 with that precious club.

"Ah, an over-under squeeze," mused Michael. "That's what they used to call this in 1935." With the opponents failing to reach grand slam at the other table, Justin's one-in-a-million play was rewarded with +1510 and 11imps.

JUAN-CARLOS VENTIN BIDDING AWARD

Winners: Linlin Hu and Yinghao Liu

Journalist: Jian-Jian Wang

When watching a tournament, it is always delightful to see players achieving the best result with an outstanding bid or play, sometimes both. The following deal is from the Chinese National Club Championship.

Board 12. Dealer West. North-South vulnerable.

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

It was a deal with East-West holding 32 HCP, but no eight-card fit in any suit. Linlin Hu and Yinghao Liu, representing ORG Club demonstrated their slam bidding skills with this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Yinghao Liu		Linlin Hu	
1♣ ¹	pass	1NT ²	pass
3♦ ³	pass	3♠ ⁴	pass
3NT ⁵	pass	4♦ ⁶	pass
4NT ⁷	pass	6♥ ⁸	all pass

1. 16+ any shape.
2. 12+ balanced.
3. 16-17 balanced with four-card major.
4. Four hearts.
5. Four spades.
6. Four diamonds.
7. Denies four diamonds.
8. Great four-card suit, offering choice of slams.

Liu upgraded his 15-count because of the nice middle-card combinations. Then Hu tried to locate a fit in red suits. When that effort didn't pay off, he made the most important bid in the whole auction – 6♥ as a choice of slam. With good three-card support and doubleton diamonds, Liu decided that was the best spot to land. Among 16 pairs of competitors in this top-flight tournament, Hu-Liu were the only pair to choose heart as trumps. All other 15 pairs played notrump, with ten pairs gaining overtricks in 3NT or 4NT while five pairs went minus in 6NT.

South led a trump against 6♥, and it was up to Hu to bring the contract home. Hu won the jack of hearts in dummy, followed by cashing the king-queen of diamonds and the heart eight to hand. After ruffing the third diamond, Hu came back to hand with the ace of spades and drew trumps. If hearts broke 3-3,

a simple play of the spade three to dummy's nine would secure the contract, as North would be end-played after winning the trick. However, when South showed four hearts, Hu had to clear trumps. Because South had nine cards in the red suits, Hu believed it was time to give up the simple finesse in clubs, and went for the strip-squeeze instead. When Hu played the ace of diamonds, North was hopelessly looking at dummy's last four cards: ♠K10 and ♣AQ. He could not afford to leave his spade queen or club king unguarded, which would give declarer two tricks in that suit. However, keeping two cards in both suits was no better. Hu played the spade king and exited to North's queen, allowing the club ace-queen to become the slam-going winners.

An excellent performance in the bidding and play!

GIDWANI AWARD FOR BEST DEFENCE

Winner: Yinghao (Dunga) Liu

Journalist: Jian-Jian Wang

The 2022 Asian Games, officially the 19th Asian Games, were held from 23 September to 8 October 2023 in Hangzhou, China. Since 2018, bridge has been among the mind sports with full medal status at this second-largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games.

Here is a brilliant defence executed by the bronze medalist Yinghao (Dunga) Liu of the China Open Team, in the early round-robin match against the final gold medal winner, Hong Kong, China.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Yinghao	Sze	Hu	Chiu
1♦	dbl ²	pass	1♣ ¹
2♠	dbl	2♦	dbl ³
pass	4♥	3♦	3♥
		all pass	

1. 2+ clubs.
2. 4+ hearts.
3. Takeout.

The contract is played from the correct side, as a spade lead from East would easily set it. With West

on lead, to give the defense any chance a diamond underlead away from the ace of diamonds is required, and that is exactly what Dunga did. First hurdle cleared!

Hu won his king, and duly shifted to the five of spades. Chiu's ten was taken by Dunga's jack. Now, it was time for some serious thought. Based on the bidding and play so far, Dunga was able to correctly deduce the actual layout, but was there a way to beat 4♥? Even the expert tournament commentators were unable to figure it out when looking at all four hands, until Dunga put the six of spades on the table.

At the first glance, this seemed to solve declarer's problem in spades, but a closer look reveals that it was actually a big trouble-maker. The bridge between the declarer and dummy was broken! Declarer could no longer set up the clubs and clear trumps at the same time.

In reality, declarer took dummy's nine, and ruffed a diamond back before drawing trumps. When he tried the king of clubs from dummy next, Dunga could score his ace along with two diamond winners for two down.

It took two marvelous moves by Dunga to defeat this solid contract: an underlead to his partner first, then a free finesse for the declarer next. A candidate for next year's best defense award?

In the other room declarer had no trouble taking 11 tricks:

WEST Mak	NORTH Liu Jing	EAST Lai	SOUTH Zhuang
		pass	1NT
dbl	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	3NT	pass	4♥
all pass			

Zhuang started with an offshape 1NT and was transferred to hearts, while West's double of 1NT showed a four-card major and 5+ minor.

The defense here was straightforward: Mak started with the ace of diamonds and another diamond. Zhuang ruffed in hand and played a club. Mak grabbed the club ace, which was the last trick for the defense. Having set up the club suit, Zhuang claimed 11 tricks seconds later.

DICK FREEMAN AWARD FOR JUNIORS
Tomas Popowsky & Francisco Guerra
Journalist: Carlos Pellegrini

Carlos Pellegrini, non-playing captain of Argentina's under-21 team, provided this deal from his team's match against England.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ A Q J
 ♥ Q 9 6
 ♦ A K 4 3 2
 ♣ Q 5

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

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

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

WEST Popowsky	NORTH Hutton	EAST Feintuch	SOUTH Sanderson
1♥	1NT	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♦
pass	3♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

WEST Winter	NORTH E'borda	EAST A'katis	SOUTH Guerra
1♥	dbl	3♥	pass
pass	4♠	all pass	3♠

Both Wests opened 1♥.

For England, Aaron Hutton overcalled 1NT and Liam Sanderson transferred to spades then showed his diamonds, and the partnership were soon in 4♠.

Clara Feintuch led a heart and Tomas Popowsky won the king and switched to the six of diamonds, a nice play. Hutton put up the ace and Feintuch ruffed – and the contract was doomed, all thanks to that nice low diamond switch. There simply hadn't been enough EW bidding for declarer to be sure of the diamond layout.

At the other table, Baltazar Etchepareborda, for Argentina, doubled the opening bid and Sam Anoyrkatis added to the list of manic preemptive bids we have seen in the last ten days with a jump to 3♥ on his three small. 3♥ did not prove to be sufficient to silence South, Francisco Guerra, who competed with 3♠ and was raised to game by Etchepareborda.

Daniel Winter led the king of hearts and, on seeing dummy and partner's count card, also made the same nice switch to the six of diamonds – but Guerra made an even nicer play, when he called for a low card from dummy! Anoyrkatis got his ruff, but there was just one club to come and declarer was home with his vulnerable game. Very well played.

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



YOUR ACTION WHEN YOUR PARTNER OVERCALLS 1♥

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

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

SOLUTIONS

1. 1NT. Your hand will play much better in 1NT than 1♥. Not only are overcalls becoming weaker, the suit-strength required is also becoming less. In the quarter-finals of the main event in Canberra this year, after the auction

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	pass	1♥	?

a player overcalled 1♠ with

♠ A 8 5 4 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ Q J 5

vulnerable vs not, presumably after taking a deep breath.

2. Pass. You don't like to leave partner in 1♥ with your singleton but you aren't strong enough to bid 1NT, which should be around 8-12 HCP.

3. 1NT. Without a spade stopper you might consider passing 1♥, which might do better than 1NT. However, the overcall could be quite strong, perhaps 17-18 HCP, so passing risks missing a cold game.

4. 2♦. After a one-level overcall is a new suit at the two-level forcing? I play it as non-forcing but I would be in the minority. The problem with passing 1♥ is

that the bidding might end in 1♥ while you do much better in diamonds. I like to rescue partner from a probable poor spot and suggesting diamonds via a non-forcing 2♦ makes sense with this hand.

5. 2♦. Your choice is between 1NT and 2♦ and while your suit is poor, you have a hand with potential that is worth exploring. If partner passes, 2♦ is probably the best contract.

6. 1♠. With five hearts and four spades would you overcall 1♣ with 1♥ or make a takeout double? You need to get your five-card suit in and not lose your 5-3 fit so most would prefer to overcall 1♥.

This means responder needs to show their four-card spade suit, and new suits at the one-level in response to an overcall are forcing for one round. Now you will find your 4-4 spade fit, and perhaps even play 2♠ on a handsome 4-3 fit.

7. Pass. If you bid 1♠ partner will play you for some values and might quite reasonably bid something like 3♥. An educated guess is that your RHO has passed 1♥ because they have a heart stack and are waiting to pass opener's takeout double of 1♥ for penalties.

You are planning to tell your story of a weak hand with a long suit with this auction:

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

8. 3♥. Showing 0-5 HCP and making life awkward for the opponents by taking away two levels of their bidding space. Under the safety of your 5-4 fit and you will make it far more difficult for opponents to judge.

9. 2NT. Becoming more popular and showing four- or five-card support and 6-9 HCP. The overcaller now has space to make a trial bid at the three-level, creating far more accuracy and far less uncertainty.

10. 1♠. Your two choices appear to be 1♠ and 2♦. 1♠ keeps the bidding low and if partner rebids 1NT you will be happy to pass and take your chances. Learn to love 1NT!

SIMON HINGE

1952-2025

From the Summer Festival Daily Bulletin, 8 January

The Australian bridge community is reeling today after the sudden loss of one of the most colourful bridge personalities in Australia for more than half a century, Simon Hinge.

Simon was my favoured bridge partner in a bridge career spanning 55 years. I was proud to be his partner and admired both his bridge brain and his sometimes devilish decisions. He would say after something went wrong, "Well, at least you gave it a go".

I can't say with any certainty when we formed a partnership, but it was enduring, and while we didn't always agree, we never argued. Simon, known to be intolerant of what he considered stupidity, could appear aloof and irascible, but he could also be extremely loveable.

In his 50+ years of competitive bridge, playing with many notable partners, Simon amassed nearly 11,000 masterpoints, making him a worthy Emerald Grand Master.

Simon also served the bridge community well. He was on the ABF Management Committee for a number of years, and was instrumental in helping design the current ABF website.

Simon was like an iceberg, with only part of his immense personality showing above water. He was successful in compartmentalising areas of his life. His beloved rubber bridge game on a Friday evening saw him rub shoulders with bridge players seldom if ever seen at a bridge club.

His love for cryptic crosswords and trivia online with his band of cronies, his fascination for Collingwood Football Club, and his album of "old sheds" photographed on his travels these are all legendary facets of the man. While he grew up in South Australia his many friends in Victoria are the ones who knew him best, some of them now lost to us all.

In my most satisfying win in recent years (the 2018 Spring National Open Teams) Simon and I teamed up with talented youngsters Ella Jacob (Pattison) - Nye Griffiths. Simon's personality could span the generations, and he was great friends with young people like Laura Ginnan, our Summer Festival Organiser, who showcased her imagination by organising Simon's 70th birthday party in June 2022.

He was also a great friend to the late Jeannette Collins, and they could be seen enjoying strong lattes at all the trendy cafes in Simon's favoured St Kilda/Middle Park/South Melbourne zones.

Today, the end came suddenly for my dear friend. Travelling to our favourite event, the Summer Festival, a sharp cry and his head turned to one side, the life went out of Simon's eyes and despite the efforts of Andrew Mill, two willing onlookers, the ambulance and paramedic personnel Simon could not be revived.

Simon boasts an impressive bridge career that spans decades of elite competition. He represented the Open APBF Team in 1994 and 2005 and competed in the prestigious WBF d'Orsi Senior Teams in 2013. Simon also served as the non-playing captain of the Venice Cup Teams in both 1991 and 2007. These international accolades complement his numerous National Titles.

Stephen Lester



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A GAME AT THE CLUB

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

You are declarer (West) in 2♠ and see:

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

North leads the ♥K, which wins. He then switches to the ♦A and another diamond to South's King. South returns a diamond. What do you play/discard on the diamond (dummy's ♦Q will win the trick)?

You should discard a club. By reducing your hand to 2 clubs, you no longer have a 'guess' for the ♣Q. Furthermore, you can always trump the hearts, so there's no need to discard one.

I held this hand and thought that the auction everyone had lacked some 'finesse':

♠ 9 8 5	♥ 10 3	♦ Q J 10	♣ J 8 6 5 3
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	pass	pass	1♦
2♣	2♠	3♣	1♠
pass	3♠	pass	pass
4♥	all pass		

1. Dubious, opposite a passing partner!

Well, partner should have started with a strong double, but he did manage to convey his 6-4 shape eventually – though he did underbid until he bid 4♥.

The full deal was as shown at the top of the next column, and 4♥ made easily. Clearly, South should not have re-opened on that 12 HCP hand, with North passing. I can understand why West didn't want to make a 'big' double initially, in case my hand jumped in spades... but perhaps he should have rebid 3♣ over 1♠? However, imagine if South had passed out

♠ K J 10 4 2
♥ J 9 6
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 4 2

♠ 6
♥ K Q 7 5 4 2
♦ A K
♣ A K 10 7

♠ 9 8 5
♥ 10 3
♦ Q J 10
♣ J 8 6 5 3

♠ A Q 7 3
♥ A 8
♦ 9 8 5 3 2
♣ Q 9

1♥ and we had languished there. All in all, an initial double, then bidding one's own suit, would have described the strength of the hand better.

You hold:

♠ Q 10 4 3	♥ Q J 9 2	♦ 9 3	♣ K 10 3
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♥	pass	1♥
all pass			4♥

What would you lead? What would you not lead?

When I have long trumps, I tend to try a long suit lead. I would have led the ♠3. I don't want to give away tricks or allow declarer discards. My second choice would be to lead the ♦9, but I don't particularly like short suits leads when I have natural heart tricks, as here.

Leading the ♣3, around to the strong hand, is far too dangerous – and gave away the contract when declarer held ♣A-Q-9-4 and dummy ♣J-5 (and the ability to trump).

I picked up one of the better hands I've held recently:

♠ A ♥ A K J 5 3 ♦ A K Q J 4 3 ♣ 10

and was very pleasantly surprised when partner opened 1♠. How do you plan to bid this monster?

Whilst I could bid diamonds, then hearts, I could see quite a few rebid problems (especially if my second suit were to become fourth suit forcing). Eventually I decided to respond 2♥ because, if partner couldn't support hearts, I could then trump them in dummy. It seemed like a good solution!

Our auction:

1♠ 2♥
 3♣ overbid 7♦ !

I guess my bid of my second suit was fourth suit (forcing?). I just had to hope that partner didn't try to put me back to hearts. He didn't, holding:

♠ K J 10 7 3 ♥ — ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ A Q 9 8 2

Perfect!

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

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

How long is it since I've talked about counting?

South led the ♥A then switched (wisely) to a trump, won with the Ace as North played the Jack. I tried to sneak a spade through North, hoping to embark on a cross-ruff. North alertly won her ♠A and led a second diamond, the ♦Q, won with the King, trumps being 2-2.

I could trump only one heart in dummy and I could discard one loser (club or heart) on the ♠K, so it was time to stop and count. South clearly held the ♥A and ♥K but was a passed hand and had not made a cue raise. It seemed that North held the ♣K. It seemed like the hearts were 4-4, so North held 5 spades, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and therefore ♣K-x.

That provided various options for 10 tricks. Mine was to cross to the ♣A, cash the ♠K discarding my club loser, then I played a small club – King – trumping. I led the ♥Q – King – trump, cashed the ♣Q discarding a heart loser, and lost one more heart at the end, losing the ♥A, ♠A and trick 13. Taking the club finesse would result in only nine tricks though.

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Email: reservations@crowneplazaalicesprings.com.au or phone: (08) 89507777

Enquiries to the Tournament Organiser: Eileen Boocock
Mobile: 0409 677 356, phone 08 8952 4061
eileenbck@gmail.com

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2

PITCH IMPERFECT

Teams, dealer South, both vulnerable

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



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

1. Primarily for takeout.

West leads the ♦8: three - jack - six. East continues with the ♦A: nine from South. What would you play as West?

* * * * *

You have a safe discard with a spade. Dummy has four spades. While it is good practice to keep length with dummy, you do not need to keep more than four spades. A club discard might not cost, but it does entail a risk.

When the deal arose in a qualifying round (at the NSW Bridge Association) for the 2024 Australian Grand National Open Teams, it turned out that a club discard was by no means safe.

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

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

1. Primarily for takeout.

West led the ♦8. East won with the ♦J, followed by the ♦A. West discarded the ♣7. East switched to the ♣9: three - ten - queen. South finessed the ♥J, returned to the ♥K and played the ♠4 to the ♠K. Then came the ♦10: ♣8 - ♥4 - ♣5. This was now the position:

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

When declarer played the ♣4: king - ace - ♥9, West's ruff was at the cost of a natural trump trick. West switched to the ♠Q. Declarer won with the ♠A, ruffed a spade and drew West's last trump with the ♥A. Declarer made the last two tricks with club winners and had ten tricks in all, +620.

Had West discarded a spade at trick two, preferably an encouraging spade signal, 4♥ could have been defeated. The defenders can come to a heart and a club, as well as the two diamond tricks already taken.

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♥ ¹	3♦	1♣
pass	dbl ²	pass	pass
pass	4♣	pass	3♥
pass	4♥	pass	4♦
pass	5♣	all pass	4♠

1. 4+ spades.

2. Primarily for takeout.

West led the ♦8. East won with the ♦J and cashed the ♦A. West discarded the ♠3, low-like. East shifted to the ♠7. South won with the ♠K and played the ♣3 to the ♣Q and ♣K. Declarer managed the rest, but that was one down, East-West +100 and +12 imps.

Had West at the other table discarded a spade on the second round of diamonds, it would have been a flat board.



TEACHING TIPS with Ian Dalziel

THE INCOMING FINESSE

Every bridge teacher gives a lesson or two on finessing. However, the finessing usually taught is when declarer has the lead (outgoing finesses); have you ever thought to give a lesson on finessing by declarer when defenders lead (incoming finesses)? The techniques are a bit different and most learners don't do the right thing naturally. This important topic is rarely covered in bridge books or magazines.

Cover up the answers and try the quiz below. West leads a small card in notrumps, what do you play from dummy (North)?

How did you get on? If you are a bridge teacher, how many would your students get right?

These are not exotic plays, but basic combinations that come up all the time. My explanations are brief but I give a fuller explanation in class. The quiz is just to convince teachers that this is an important topic for your syllabus and to convince students that they might need to study it. The number of tricks lost by average players mishandling these combinations is

enormous. Even worse, they don't know they have misplayed them; they think they were just unlucky. It seems to be assumed that if students are taught the basic concept of finessing, then they will surely work out these 'incoming finesses' for themselves.



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

Believe me, very few do; it's a different skill that needs to be taught separately. If defenders lead a suit which contains a finesse, they often give away a trick or save declarer a guess – but declarer needs to know how to take advantage of this. The second hand nesse is an honour played by second hand (nos. 2, 5, 7, 8, 11 above). The come to me nesse is when the second hand plays low and lets the lead

<p>1)</p>	<p>2)</p>	<p>3)</p>	<p>4)</p>	<p>5)</p>	<p>6)</p>
<p>7)</p>	<p>8)</p>	<p>9)</p>	<p>10)</p>	<p>11)</p>	<p>12)</p>

run to an honour in the fourth hand (Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12). There are many combinations of this type of finesse, but most are variations of those shown above. If students grasp the thinking behind the 'top twelve', they should be able to work out the others when they come up.

When I teach this in class, I use prepared hands where declarer has to make 3NT. Each wallet has a different finesse at trick one but also reinforces the skills of suit establishment – unblocking, overtaking, preserving entries, finessing and ducking. As well as getting trick one right, they meet lots of 'old friends' which they need to recognise. There is no bidding, so they work in threes with declarer and dummy's hands face up on the table, as I explained in the June 2024 issue. Each wallet has a booklet with the contract and lead on the outside and the answer inside (as shown).

These wallets also emphasise the importance of planning before playing a card from dummy at trick one – a wrong choice at trick one and the contract is unmakeable. An 'incoming finesse' can happen the first time any suit is led by defenders; it doesn't need to be at trick one and the lead can be from declarer's right as well as declarer's left. It also applies to suit contracts though that adds another dimension. However, once you have a good grasp of trick one finessing at notrumps, you will be able to apply the skill to the other areas of the game.

I had been teaching bridge for years before I ever thought to do a lesson on the above topic. I assumed that my students would work it out for themselves from my lessons on 'normal' finessing – I was wrong. It was only when I started doing post mortems on random hands in which dummy recorded the winning tricks (see June 2021) that I realised how many tricks (and contracts) were being lost by incorrect play at trick one.

Board 1

<p>♠ x</p> <p>♥ Q J 10 9</p> <p>♦ K Q J 10 9</p> <p>♣ x x x</p>	<p>♠ J 10 x x x</p> <p>♥ x x x</p> <p>♦ x x</p> <p>♣ A x x</p>	<p>♠ A 9 8 7</p> <p>♥ x x</p> <p>♦ x x x</p> <p>♣ Q J 10 9</p>
<p>♠ K Q x</p> <p>♥ A K x x</p> <p>♦ A x x</p> <p>♣ K x x</p>		

South to make 3NT, ♦K led

Play: You should hold up the ♦A until the third round of the suit. Then establish spades playing ♠K, ♠Q first. **Win In Short Hand.**

Short suits: 5 tricks (♥AK, ♦A, ♣AK).

Work suit: Spades will provide 4 tricks.

Danger suit is diamonds. When opponents get in with the ♠A (in the work suit) they might cash enough diamonds to defeat the contract.

Why: Holding up the ♦A until the third round means East will have no diamond left (if diamonds are 5-3). You hope East has the ♣A and when he gets in with it has no diamond to return.

I have designed 20 hands in booklet form which teach trick one finessing at notrumps and revise suit establishment. If you would like a free PDF and/or Publisher copy with associated lesson notes, then email

ildalziel@gmail.com

Answers to finessing quiz when defenders lead		
1	x	Ensures three tricks wherever the queen lies. I call this the come to me finesse .
2	J	Hoping West has the queen. I call this the second hand finesse .
3	x	Ensures two tricks wherever the king lies.
4	x	Ensures three tricks if West has the king.
5	Q	It's now or never for the queen.
6	x	Ensures one trick no matter what lies where.
7	K	It's now or never.
8	J	It's now or never.
9	x	Ensures one trick no matter what lies where.
10	x	Ensures two tricks no matter what lies where.
11	Q	If West has the ace your K-x is now a partial stop.
12	x	Ensures two tricks no matter what lies where.



YEPPOON BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS



29th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2025

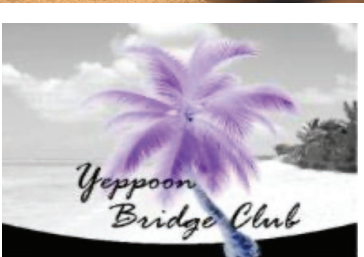
2- 5 MAY 2025

VENUE: ST URSULA'S COLLEGE
42 QUEEN STREET, YEPPOON QUEENSLAND

Chief Director: Chris Snook | Chief Scorer: Peter Busch

Tournament Organiser: Karin le Roux 0428 859 898

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MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

31 December 2024 club membership renewals

In November 2024 release 6 of MYABF went live and offered clubs the chance to fully manage their members, handle annual renewals, and accept membership payments via bridge credits.

Several clubs with 31 December membership years used it to manage their annual membership renewals. A large number of their members paid with bridge credits (in many cases having the payment collected automatically) making things far more convenient for both the club and the players. Being able to handle the payment side of membership in the same system that lists the members is a huge benefit (I speak from personal experience having done the accounts for my own club for many years where reconciling incoming memberships each year is painful!) It also saves having to maintain a list of members in multiple systems.

There are a significant number of clubs with 31 March membership year-ends as well, no doubt to match the ABF capitation year-end. So they may also wish to consider doing the same. Talk to us if you want to learn more.

Gold Coast Congress Presentation

There will be a short MYABF presentation at lunch-time on Wed 5th February. I'll talk a bit more about the membership release, as well as what's going to be happening over the next 12 months. Come along and learn more. There will be time for questions too.

“Membership” in ABF Masterpoint Centre and MYABF compared

Talking to some clubs and players after the recent release has shown me there do seem to be some misconceptions about membership in MYABF in general so I am going to devote most of this column to that.

We all know the ABF Masterpoint Centre (“MPC”) handles the recording of our masterpoints. But it does more than that – it manages the full list of ABF numbers and it also records which is our “home club”. MYABF now also allows clubs to upload their members. This means there is some overlap.

The key thing to understand is “Membership” in MYABF is much more broad than it is in the MPC! It also aligns to the real world a lot more.



The table on the next page compares various things between the two systems as they exist today.

What are the key differences?

- You can be a member of multiple clubs in MYABF. In the MPC your home club is recorded but that may be all.
- Clubs must have their home club members recorded in the MPC. It's optional whether clubs upload their members into MYABF. But when they do, they should upload ALL their members, not just their home club ones.

What does that mean for players?

A list of all your club memberships recorded in MYABF is now shown in your MYABF profile page.

Don't worry if you don't see all your club memberships displaying there yet. It's because your club hasn't uploaded its members (why not suggest to them that they do?) You can't add yourself to a club – but you can block a membership if you think a club has added you when they shouldn't have done.

You can be included as a member of multiple clubs. MYABF doesn't (yet) care which is your home club – it just cares about membership in general.

What does that mean for clubs?

It's up to you whether to upload a list of your members in MYABF. But if you do you should have ALL your members there – don't just upload your home club members from the MPC and leave it at that.

After all it is all your members who:

- you want to be able to send emails to;
- will pay member entry fees if you list club events in MYABF;
- will be able to enter if you list a “member only” event in MYABF;

	ABF Masterpoint Centre (MPC)	My ABF
An ABF number	Is created here. All ABF numbers exist here.	Not all ABF numbers exist here. An ABF number only exists if: a) Player registers an account themselves; or b) One or more clubs list that ABF number as a member of their club.
Home club	Fundamental concept. Every active ABF number has exactly one club designated as the home club.	Largely irrelevant – only matters for annual membership payments (see below).
What if you are a member of another club as well as your home one?	May not be recorded at all (there is an “Alternates” concept where clubs can add other people but it’s optional and many clubs don’t use it).	Multiple club memberships are fine. You can be added as a member by any number of clubs.
Who adds members?	The club (compulsory) – it needs to maintain a list of its home club members in the MPC.	The club (optional) – it can upload a list of all its members.
Who does the list of members for a club include?	Home club members only.	Depends what the club uploads! But it should be ALL members – NOT just home club members.
What is the list of members used for?	Limited things (by the MPC): • To confirm active players. • To enable the ABF to bill for annual capitation fees.	Many more things (by clubs): • To send email communications. • To calculate member rate to tournaments which have differential entry fees. • To allow entry to events designated as member only. • To calculate the right table money at a club session when paying with bridge credits. • To issue annual renewals.
How are members categorised?	They aren’t – only home club members are listed.	Entirely up to the club. Multiple membership types can exist (My ABF comes with three default ones but custom ones can be added). You want different ones for: • Groups who pay different annual membership renewal fees (this will often be Home and non-Home members) • Groups who pay different table money.

- will pay member table money rates if you use myABF to run club sessions;
- will need to pay annual membership fees.

None of these things are limited to just home club members are they? So why should the member list in myABF be?

You certainly might wish to categorise home club members differently because they usually pay a different annual membership fee. And you can set up whatever membership types you want (go to Club Settings - Static Data - Membership) to help do that.

How does a club get its members into myABF?

Up to you! There are four options:

1. Add manually (not practical unless you are a really small club)
2. Import from the MPC (but that will only import your home club members because that’s all the MPC has reliable records of)
3. Import from an existing membership system (myABF is set up to read member files exported from Compscore and Pianola)

4. Import via a csv file you create yourself (we have a template with defined columns that can be used).

Which of these makes the most sense for your club depends on how many members you have and what sort they are.

For example, if you're a club with, say, 200 members and 195 of them are home members then importing from the MPC could be a sensible approach and you can just add the other 5 manually. But if only 100 are home members then you probably want to be going about it differently - or importing the other 100 via one of the other methods.

What about the annual cancellations at 31 March 2025?

The annual cancellation process will still need to be completed in the MPC this year. We were hoping to have that in MYABF but, regrettably, that hasn't proved possible.

Therefore, please bear in mind that the number of home club members listed in the MPC on 31 March 2025 will drive the capitation fees you will be invoiced in April - NOT what is in MYABF.

What will be changing in future?

During 2025 our main focus will be bringing the MPC functions into MYABF (but at the same time trying to streamline some of the manual processes that occur today). We'll be running some sessions to discuss our current thoughts and seek feedback from interested parties.

After the MPC has moved into MYABF (exact timing TBA but the aim is late 2025/early 2026):

- All ABF numbers will be maintained in MYABF
- Issuing a new ABF number will automatically create a new MYABF account
- Clubs will have to maintain their home club members in MYABF
- Clubs will have the option of maintaining their whole member list in MYABF.

What else are we doing?

Although the MPC will be the main focus, we will also be aiming to do assorted enhancements and fixes to other areas. Before all of that, however, we will be doing some behind the scenes work on some of the technology behind MYABF. That's really important to keep things running smoothly even though it won't be visible to end users.

More information?

For more on membership there's lots of information in the Club Admin and Club Membership user guides available here:

www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/clubs/

or speak with your local MYABF champion or State body.

*Julian Foster, MYABF Manager
julian.foster@abf.com.au*



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2025 CWF GOLD

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Orange Ex Services Club

10th to 13th April 2025

Thursday 10 th	Friday 11 th	Saturday 12 th	Sunday 13 th
Swiss Pairs 9:30 am, Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Novice sections. \$140 per player (includes 2 buffet lunches, all-day tea and coffee)		Swiss Teams 9:30 am, concludes 1pm Sunday, Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Novice sections, \$140 per player (includes 2 buffet lunches, all-day tea and coffee)	

Early Bird rates: \$130 per player if paid by 31 January 2025

Chief Tournament Director: Matt McManus

Organisers:

Murray Paterson 0418 206 485, murray.paterson@keystosuccess.com.au

Rob Ward 0418 611 908, rob@robward.com.au



<http://myabf.com.au/go/CWF2025>



WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

OPENING LEADS AND BAD OPENING LEADS

The first Workshop for 2025 covered a lot of fundamentals of bidding, play and defense, to brush off some Christmas and New Year's rust.

One topic of discussion was opening leads, and we went through the main techniques that everyone knows. The best leads are leading partner's suit, or a sequence of three touching honours, and perhaps leading a singleton versus a suit contract. The other commonly taught leads are to lead from two touching honours against a suit contract (especially ace-king and king-queen combinations), or fourth-highest from a suit where you have an honour.

During the workshop, there were several hands where the opening leader didn't have a nice lead, and had to weigh up several unattractive choices. One holding that we discussed was a suit headed by the ace, but with no king. In general, it is not a good lead. If you lead the ace, it establishes the king as a winner, and more often than not, the opponents have the king between them. Leading a low card in that suit is potentially even worse, since the opponent's might win their king, and subsequently be void in that suit, or discard their cards, and you might never get your ace.

This leads to a poorly understood phrase, "**Don't lead away from an ace**". That phrase should be expanded to include "... against a suit contract" since it is fine against notrumps, your ace can't be trumped later. The other reason that this is a poorly worded tip is that it is misinterpreted to mean *lead the ace, not a low one*. That is often a bad lead as well. It is generally good to lead a different suit. If you partner bids one suit and then leads another, you should try to work out why, but often lead back the suit they bid. They often have the ace but no king. Leading from a suit where you have the ace but no king risks giving away a trick to the opponents king.

The other commonly used lead that needed some discussion was the concept of leading a doubleton. Doubleton leads require several things to fall into place before they gain tricks. You need to have a second round of the suit played to create your void. Then you need a third round of the suit to be

played, and you still need to have trumps left. Also, you don't want to be trumping if you have moderately good trumps, since they will be winners anyway. A doubleton lead is fine and sometimes you manage to trump the opponents, but be careful leading from an honour doubleton. If you have a queen doubleton, you might think that you have little to no chance of your queen winning, but the opponents don't know that you have the queen, or that it would be dropping, and you often win your queen via a failed finesse. **Doubleton honours are generally poor leads.** Leading a doubleton honour risks you not winning your honour which might have won otherwise.



The other type of lead to be careful of making is a suit where you have several gaps in your own suit, for example the KJ963, This sort of lead is great when your partner has an honour or two in this suit, but will give away a cheap trick when they don't. **Be careful leading from a suit where you have some honours, but some gaps.** Leading from a suit with gaps in it risks giving away a cheap trick.

The interesting part of the discussion was to discuss the alternatives to these poor leads. The type of lead that some people know, but most people don't use enough is leading from a bad suit. Leading from a suit where you have three or more small cards, with no honours, is a fine thing to do. You don't stand to win any tricks in that suit, but you usually don't give away any tricks. If you choose to make a passive lead, it is actually fine to lead a suit bid by the opponents, preferably a suit bid on your left, not your right. When you do lead from a bad suit, make sure to lead the top, or second highest card in the suit. Leading a high-ish number card sends the message that you are leading from a bad suit, and don't necessarily want to the suit returned.

One final note about opening leads is that if your partner has bid a suit, then leading their suit is a good lead. It doesn't matter so much if you have an ace with no king, or a doubleton honour, **leading your partner's suit is almost always a good idea.**

Tournament results

Summer Festival and Youth Week

NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

Semi-Final

Dalley 163 def Emul (Cevat Emul, Nicoleta Giura, Colin Clifford, Nick Hughes) 122

Yoshka 124 def Ashton (Alex Smirnov, Sartaj Hans, David Beauchamp, Sophie Ashton) 123.1

Final

Yoshka (Geeske Joel, Shane Harrison, Andy Hung, Liam Milne, James Coutts) 133 def Dalley (Kieran Dyke, Ashley Bach, Arlene Dalley, Tony Nunn, Paul Dalley) 102

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC TEAMS



David Appleton, Brad Coles, Philip Markey, Joachim Haffer

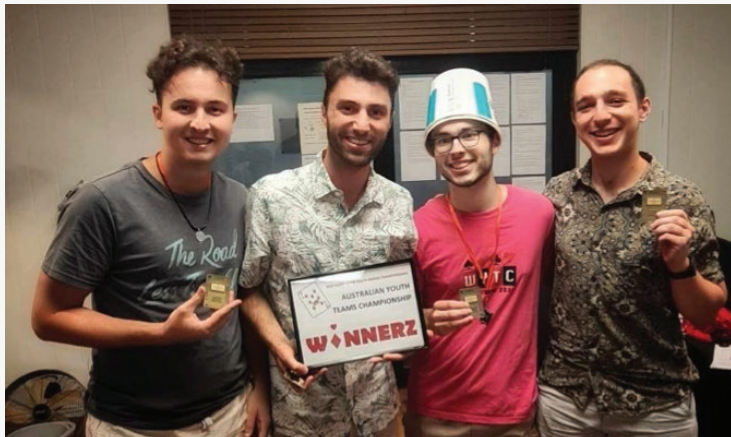
AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION

Matthew Sieredzinski, Heath Watkins, Jack Luke-Paredi, George Bartley, Zac Ross, Kate Macdonald

YOUTH PAIRS

1 Zara Chowdhury - Liam Minogue	58.33%
2 Duncan Lai - Aadhi Hariharan	57.27%
3 Darren Brake - Andrew Spooner	57.09%

YOUTH TEAMS



Jack Luke-Paredi, Damon Flicker, George Bartley, Tomer Libman

CHRIS DIMENT MP SWISS PAIRS



1 Jenna Gibbons - Julian Foster	57.70%
2 Hugh Grosvenor - Leigh Gold	56.00%
3 Sue La Peyre - Bob Cox	54.70%
4 Tomer Libman - Lavy Libman	54.60%
5 Marlene Watts - Michael Prescott	54.80%

TBIB OPEN SWISS PAIRS

1 Ashley Bach - Arlene Dalley	159.90
2 Geeske Joel - Liam Milne	157.30
3 Tony Nunn - Paul Dalley	149.86
4 Ben Chosid - Christy Geromboux	143.28
5 Jane Lennon - Stephen Lester	143.24

FIXED INCOME SOLUTIONS SWISS PAIRS



1 Jack James - Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin	96.55
2 Lucy Stevenson - David Wiltshire	85.18
3 Therese Tully - Richard Ward	85.14
4 Elli Urbach - Kevin Davies	82.15
5 Tomer Libman - Damon Flicker	80.73

MIXED MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

1 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell	61.40%
2 Wei Zhang - William Zhang	56.80%
3 Jane Lennon - Hugh Grosvenor	54.90%
4 Terry Strong - Jill Magee	53.40%
5 Christy Geromboux - Sebastian Yuen	53.40%

TBIB 300-100 SWISS PAIRS

1 Geoff Hayes - Chris Hamam	153.99
2 Ann Berry - Bev Furner	142.95
3 Josh Schwartz - Maxwell Ashurst	142.11

UNDER 100 MPS MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS



- 1 Carolyn Hope - Sharon Michael 89.25
- 2 Penelope Shilling - Susie Thearle 82.82
- 3 Paul Birkby - Debra Birkby 78.21

UNDER 20 MPS MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Sharon Woodard - Robert Longair 82.10
- 2 Sally Macallan - Brenda Templeton 80.68
- 3 Lyndall Kennedy - Kate Latimer 78.88

TBIB 750/500 SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Kevin Gu - Lilly Jia 148.42
- 2 Sandy Carter - Nerida Gillies 139.05
- 3 Chris Hasemore - Peter Lardy 133.65

UNDER 500/300 TEAMS

Ann Berry, Gwen Riordan, Liz Moss, Bev Furner

THE BRIDGE SHOP ROOKIES



Mark Lakota, Peter Brook, Maria Mills, Stephen Mills

THE BRIDGE SHOP NOVICE



Craig Beconsall, Paul Birkby, Debra Birkby, Bricet Kloren

NATIONAL 750 TEAMS

Eugene Pereira, Phil Halloran, Daria Williams, Barry Koster



Australian Mixed Team Playoff

Semi-Final

Sylvester 288 def Giura (Nicoleta Giura, Nick Hughes, Jane Reynolds, Peter Reynolds, Jonathan Free, Mimi Packer) 246

Lazer 269 def McIlrath (George Kozakos, Pele Rankin, Dagmar Neumann, Maurits van der Vlugt, David Beauchamp, Laura Ginnan) 207

Final

Sylvester (Liz Sylvester, Peter Gill, Michael Courtney, Arlene Dalley) 274 def Lazer (Warren Lazer, Pauline Gumby, Giselle Mundell, Andrew Peake, Christy Geromboux, Sebastian Yuen) 269.1



Australian Women's Team Playoff

Semi-Final

Tutty 226 def Bird (Judith Tobin, Felicity Smyth, Karen Creet, Sheila Bird, Marcia Scudder, Judy Mott) 121

Travis 192 def Mundell (Jane Reynolds, Ruth Tobin, Helene Pitt, Giselle Mundell) 130

Final

Tutty (Ella Jacob, Dagmar Neumann, Renee Cooper, Jodi Tutty) 197 def Travis (Marnie Leybourne, Leone Fuller, Lori Smith, Barbara Travis) 158



Australian Senior's Team Playoff

Semi-Final

Bloom 212 def Free (George Smolanko, Jonathan Free, Attilio de Luca, Ron Klinger) 199

Beauchamp 212 def Krochmalik (Stephen Burgess, Paul Lavings, Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna De Livera, Avon Wilsmore, Robert Krochmalik) 119 conc

Final

Beauchamp (Maurits Van Der Vlugt, Avinash Kanetkar, Terry Brown, David Beauchamp, Ian Thomson, George Kozakos) 194 def Bloom (Malcolm Carter, Nigel Rosendorff, Martin Bloom, Tony Hutton) 93 conc

Letters to the editor



PLAYOFF FORMAT

After the ABF discontinued PQPs (Playoff Qualifying Points) for the Women's and Seniors' Playoffs, the number of teams in ABF Women's and Seniors' Teams has declined. No surprise there. These Playoffs with semi-finals and finals take place after the qualifying rounds of the National Women's Teams (NWT) and the National Seniors' Teams (NST), events which can include non-qualifying teams. Would it be a better and fairer scheme to hold Women's and Seniors' Playoffs akin to the Open and Mixed Playoffs?

How about restoring PQPs to Women's and Seniors' events and thereby leading to a probable increase in the entries for these events (and adding revenue for the ABF). Then, hold the playoffs for four teams based on PQPs, with semi-finals one day before the start of the NWT / NST. Losers can then compete in the NWT / NST as separate events. The NWT / NST Playoffs final takes place on the first day of the NWT / NST (which carry PQPs) and the winner and the loser can then join the NWT / NST on Day 2 of the qualifying.

Ron Klinger

THE JOHN ASHWORTH BRIDGE LIBRARY

John Ashworth was from the 1960s into the 2000s one of the leading players in Western Australia, and was well known as a player nationwide. At the same time, he was also an avid collector of bridge books. He dragged his poor long-suffering wife round the world's second-hand bookshops in the search for important volumes not yet in his library. As a result, he built up one of the best collections of bridge books in Australia. There are around 1800 volumes, ranging from some early books on whist and auction bridge to a quite comprehensive collection of books on contract bridge published up to the early 2000s.

Before he passed away, John said he hoped a good home could be found for the books, and indeed it would be a tragedy if the collection had to be broken up. So, we are asking whether any bridge club feels it would benefit from offering a home to the collection. There would be no financial charge involved, but there would be two conditions. First, John's main concern was that the collection should not be broken up, so we are looking for a home for the whole collection. Second, I think there should be some form of recognition of John's role in building up the collection. If any club is interested, please contact Tim Wright (timwright1906@gmail.com) and I would be happy to provide a full list of the books and to respond to any further queries.

Tim Wright

NORTH STAR

Chris Depasquale's splendid article about the Open Playoffs gave me pause for some personal reflections. Here they are.

The Playoffs to determine the 2025 Australian Open Team finished on 21 November. It had been a hard

slog – 360 boards over six days. The winners were Sophie Ashton - David Wiltshire, Joe Haffer - Phil Markey who defeated runners-up Stephen Burgess - Phil Gue, Ron Cooper - Jon Free, Michael Courtney - Chris Depasquale by 11.1 imps over the final 120 boards.

Those of us who followed proceedings on BBO saw a lot of good bridge from a lot of good players. It was difficult for most of us to decide who was the star. For me, however, it was no contest. My choice for "Star of the Tournament" was Chris Depasquale.

Chris lives in Darwin and is a home-club member of the Arafura Bridge Club – membership 36 players. Total membership of the three Darwin clubs is little more than 100. So, it is impossible for Northern Territorians to get regular exposure to tough competition. It is reflected in their masterpoint holdings. Chris entered the Playoff final with 890 masterpoints which was far fewer than the holding of any of the other nine finalists.

In the Playoffs, Chris partnered his close friend Michael Courtney. As a pair, they played (i) six 15-board stanzas in their quarter-final, winning 245-223 imps; (ii) four 15-board stanzas in their semi-final, winning 133-119 imps; and (iii) five 15-board stanzas in the final, winning 161-144 imps. That equated to an overall winning total of 539-486 imps. It was stirring stuff.

Chris Depasquale is the first Northern Territory resident ever to contest an Australian Playoff final. His outstanding performance is a matter for pride, not just for himself but for every other bridge player in the Top End of Australia. Chris is a North Star.

John Brockwell

2024 McCutcheon Results

OVERALL

1 Philip Markey	547.20
2 Ella Jacob	498.92
3 Arjuna de Livera	422.63
4 Pauline Gumby	414.67
5 Kate McCallum	412.14
6 Warren Lazer	402.87
7 George Kozakos	399.88
8 Axel Johannsson	394.10
9 Michael Courtney	377.19
10 Shane Harrison	376.99

SILVER GRAND & OVER

1 Philip Markey	547.20
2 Arjuna de Livera	422.63
3 Pauline Gumby	414.67
4 Warren Lazer	402.87
5 George Kozakos	399.88
6 Michael Courtney	377.19
7 Shane Harrison	376.99
8 Sophie Ashton	359.88
9 Neil Ewart	357.23
10 Giselle Mundell	353.05

GRAND MASTER

1 Ella Jacob	498.92
2 Kate McCallum	412.14
3 Axel Johannsson	394.10
4 Gwyneira Brahma	331.50
5 Paul Dalley	318.98
6 Jessica Brake	309.80
7 Maurits van der Vlugt	280.32
8 Andrew Spooner	277.06
9 Deana Wilson	272.66
10 Hans van Weeren	258.67

GOLD LIFE MASTER

1 David Gue	219.93
2 Kimberley Zhao	217.66
3 Rachel Langdon	188.94
4 John McMahon	159.38
5 Charles McMahon	144.48
6 Neil Williams	133.80
7 Janelle Conroy	131.11
8 Robyn Pearce	124.86
9 Marcey Spilsbury	124.05
10 Vinod Nasta	121.36

SILVER LIFE MASTER

1 Mardi Grosvenor	309.94
2 Dianne Dwyer	269.53
3 Alan Cransberg	164.92
4 Phil Bapty	153.25
5 Jake Andrew	150.66
6 Ann Liu	148.76
7 Usher Zeng	148.76
8 Colin Clifford	142.49
9 Eugene Pereira	133.78
10 Lisa Yoffa	127.95

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

1 Josh Tomlin	342.95
2 Arlene Dalley	263.68
3 Frank Hardiman	130.86
4 Christine Newbery	129.25
5 Maryanne Bird	125.87
6 Shayne Palfreyman	122.73
7 Helen Gray	121.31
8 Megan Grant	114.21
9 Tony White	110.31
10 John Grosvenor	107.17

LIFE MASTER

1 George Bartley	219.89
2 Bertie Morgan	133.34
3 Raman Jegatheesan	125.67
4 Sonya Palfreyman	122.73
5 Marieta Borthwick	118.59
6 Felicity Wivell	106.51
7 Sandy Carter	104.49
8 Patrick Jiang	103.67
9 Lilia Male	84.41
10 Mary Poynten	84.32

SILVER NATIONAL

1 Wence Vahala	94.64
2 Tony Georgeson	93.36
3 Bob Ranson	65.18
4 Robert Stammel	63.92
5 Claire Stammel	63.92
6 Sue Shadbolt	62.91
7 Paul Han	59.86
8 Sandy Spencer	59.07
9 Gideon Azar	56.85
10 Patrick Morgan	54.42

BRONZE NATIONAL

1 Sachiko Cathcart	178.97
2 Seb Wright	144.01
3 Jamie Simpson	130.01
4 Philip Young	129.16
5 Simon Tissera	113.02
6 Martin Wu	103.78
7 Vanessa Brewis	102.00
8 Ken Hubbell	100.63
9 Jenny McGowan	94.97
10 Nerida Gillies	94.36

NATIONAL MASTER

1 Kate Macdonald	192.71
2 Luke-Jack Paredi	159.30
3 Lynda Young	120.20
4 John Simmonds	92.90
5 Eamonn McCabe	90.93
6 David Cumming	90.17
7 Robyn Rogers	87.72
8 Trish Berry	87.44
9 Peter Lyons	81.16
10 Alan Stoneham	77.95

BRONZE STATE

1 Joann Theriault	210.68
2 Jeremy Reid	134.78
3 Davis Zhang	101.03
4 John Henderson	99.86
5 Steven Kemp	97.42
6 Mike Morrissey	87.82
7 Libby Heyward	85.59
8 Tammy Hubbard	82.86
9 Jasmine Skeate	81.21
10 Michael Huddart	78.34

STATE MASTER

1 Glen Chick	141.27
2 Kevin Gu	125.00
3 O'Hannah Donnell	101.40
4 Lauren Morgan	100.25
5 Zac Ross	96.82
6 Tina Hesketh	90.52
7 Penny Cory	86.41
8 Erik Moller	85.65
9 Matthew Sieredzinski	76.75
10 Tien Chey	69.70

BRONZE REGIONAL

1 Elly Papasavas	39.02
2 Peter Turnbull	33.50
3 Daphne Field	32.19
4 Elza Schilling	27.72
5 Liz Reynolds	26.37
6 Kitty Ranson	26.34
7 Margaret Pember	25.64
8 Don Cameron	24.91
9 Patricia Martell	24.55
10 Alex Zarnowski	24.03

REGIONAL MASTER

1 Michael Sput	54.47
2 Andrea Dayman	53.96
3 Gek Low	52.72
4 Jian Williams	50.92
5 Pauline Curin	50.40
6 Sue Mittermair	48.74
7 Marcus Brodmeyer	47.32
8 Paul Fredheim	46.94
9 Meera Kudva	46.21
10 Elena Rohtchina	45.66

SILVER LOCAL

1 Yiwei Qi	75.01
2 Kerry Rutter	56.85
3 Erica McCoull	56.64
4 Kevin Hughes	55.66
5 Ronnie Malthouse	49.07
6 Vic Pietraszkiewicz	45.93
7 Roger Brake	42.32
8 Joanne McCarthy	41.83
9 Jan van Riel	40.14
10 Melissa Pressley	39.52

BRONZE LOCAL

1 D'Lucy Ambrosio	100.9
2 Margaret Cusack	68.94
3 Nalin Samarasingha	48.31
4 Hiranthi Samarasingha	48.31
5 Dianne Holst	48.01
6 Oleg Glushchenko	45.66
7 Joan Lenahan	41.71
8 Angelique Morin	40.91
9 Annmaree Jones	39.56
10 Fiona Evans	36.10

LOCAL MASTER

1 Zhan Wan	57.66
2 Stella Jansen	44.67
3 Robert Ford	42.15
4 Zara Chowdhury	41.95
5 Forster-Anton Rohal	37.38
6 Duncan Lai	36.65
7 Cheryl Buttner	33.31
8 Trish Christy	32.89
9 Mike Bennett	31.99
10 Brian Clark	30.44

CLUB MASTER

1 Sharon Michael	48.48
2 Ellice-Edward Flint	46.93
3 Liam Minogue	44.95
4 Vladimir Antropov	42.25
5 Sue Lyons	39.66
6 Mark Lyons	39.15
7 John Hewitt	35.70
8 Michael Green	35.00
9 Rebecca Mackiggan	34.75
10 Lisa Evans	33.12

GRADUATE MASTER

1 Paul Ruan	144.84
2 Heath Watkins	87.14
3 Craig Becconsall	44.19
4 Maxwell Ashurst	41.28
5 Bob Ren	41.25
6 Joanne Scott	25.02
7 Kim Mikolic	23.67
8 Keith Hill	23.65
9 Toby Meredith	22.67
10 Bill Richtsteiger	21.07

NIL MASTER

1 Sebastian Redin	37.80
2 Forster-Gregor Rohal	35.32
3 Rob Branson	34.61
4 Samuel Goss	34.45
5 Theo Armenis	32.40
6 Amy Holman	29.26
7 Blair McKenzie	27.41
8 Angela van Daal	26.45
9 Kevin Gosling	23.83
10 Michael Zhu	21.45

2025 VICTORIAN

FESTIVAL

OF BRIDGE



KING'S BIRTHDAY PERIOD
JUNE 4TH - 9TH, 2025

AMORA HOTEL
RIVERWALK
RICHMOND (VIC)



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