



NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD.

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

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Diamonds are forever

by John Brockwell

Fifteen thousand masterpoints! As the 2024 winter turned to spring in Sydney, Pauline Gumby was ascending a mountain. She was close to the summit where lay a glittering prize – Diamond Grand Master. The story of Pauline's final steps of the ascent began long ago.

South Australian David Askew was an academic at Flinders University, an accomplished bridge player, and an iconoclastic thinker. David had a brain-wave – a national tournament for every bridge player in Australia. He called it the Grand National Open Teams. It began in 1986. The GNOT is a multi-step affair. Initial qualifying rounds are played in clubs, and the next rounds are in regions. Teams that win regional finals qualify for a national final. At its zenith, the GNOT had a starting-gate field of nearly 7,000 players. Prior to 2024, all GNOT play was face-to-face. Then convenor Fraser Rew made an innovation – qualifying rounds could be played online.



ABF Masterpoint Manager, David Weston, describes the exciting culmination of Pauline Gumby's ascent of Masterpoint Mountain. At the end of August, she had 14,988.76 MP. Early in September, she earned 0.50 from a club game at Hunters Hill and 10.27 from a GNOT qualifying round – and was now just 0.47 short of the 15,000 barrier. Then Pauline played two events simultaneously – a multi-session event at Hunters Hill and the online GNOT Sydney Metropolitan regional final. Which event would be first to register its masterpoints with the Masterpoint Centre? The GNOT finished on 22 September and registered 21.11 MP for player 24732 at 10:32am on 24 September. Pauline Gumby (ABF number 24732) was a Diamond Grand Master. (Less than two hours later Hunters Hill registered 3.76 MP.)

It takes a long time to accumulate 15,000 masterpoints. Pauline Gumby played her first duplicates at the Double Bay and Sydney bridge clubs. (She cannot recall when she first won masterpoints and official records are lost in the mists of time.) It did not take her long to rise to national prominence – in 1977 she and Ron Klinger won the Interstate (ANC) Mixed Pairs Championship. International prominence representing Australia commenced two years later – four Far East Women's Teams Championships, two Women's Olympiads, two Venice Cups. Pauline and Sue Hobley were partners in all but one of those internationals.

As time passed, Pauline Gumby sought the extra challenge posed by open competition. She formed a partnership with Warren Lazer, and together they did wonderful things. They won a silver medal for Australia at the 2018 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships and represented on several other occasions. Over the years domestically, they won event after event at almost every tournament on the ABF's national calendar (including, appropriately, the 2018 GNOT). As still more time passed, Pauline and Warren became eligible for seniors competition. It is no surprise to anyone that they continued to win – most significantly Interstate (ANC) Seniors Teams Championships in 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2024.

Anyone who has played a lot of bridge over a lot of years has had a lot of partners. How many people have had the privilege of partnering Pauline Gumby? No one knows, not even Pauline herself. But what everyone does know is that she has gathered far more masterpoints with Warren as her partner than with anyone else.

Pauline, every bridge player in Australia congratulates you on becoming a Diamond Grand Master. It's a monumental achievement. Enjoy it. Diamonds are forever.



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Front cover: Pauline Gumby reaches Diamond Grand Master ranking

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

Teams, dealer West, both sides vulnerable

♠ K 5 2
 ♥ A J 10 6 4
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ 7 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 4
 ♥ K 8 7
 ♦ K J 9 3
 ♣ A Q 8 2

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

1. 15-18 points.
2. Transfer to hearts.
3. Inviting game.
4. Not forcing.

West leads the ♣3: four - ace - nine. East returns the ♣2: jack - six - five. South plays the ♥2: nine - jack - king. What do you play next as East?



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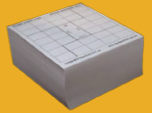
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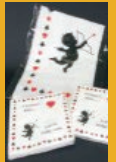
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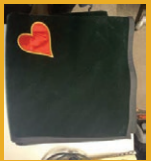


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As 2024 comes to a close I am feeling positive about the future of bridge here in Australia.

Summer is always a great season in our lives as bridge players. Not only do we get to enjoy the festive season and new year with our families and friends, we get to attend parties at our local bridge clubs and we get the opportunity to participate in two of our premier events!

The Summer Festival of Bridge is one of the stalwarts on the Australian Bridge calendar. Over the years it has grown and shrunk and now it is back in growth mode. Laura Ginnan is our Tournament Organiser this year and Laura has put together a great program that not only includes the regular topflight events, there are several opportunities for newer players to share in the experience playing against other newer players. If you haven't played the Summer Festival before I encourage you to give it a try in 2025. Oh and by the way, this event is held at Canberra Rex Hotel and if you like the idea of immersing yourself in the event they are offering some great rates for their quality rooms. But you should get in quick and book as they are in high demand. You will find all the details on the My ABF website

[https://www.myabf.com.au/
events/congress/view/1785](https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1785)

including a link to get the bridge player rates for your accommodation at The Rex!

The Gold Coast Congress (GCC) is typically held towards the end of summer but in 2025 it starts on 1 February. It moved to the earlier time because that was the only slot the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) was offered by the Convention Centre. Most of you will have heard that the 2025 GCC will be the last one! That's because the Convention Centre is not offering the QBA any dates for 2026, so the 63rd congress marks the end of an era. The ABF will be working closely with the QBA to create a new national event in Queensland but unfortunately that won't be until 2027.

So, if you haven't already, I encourage you to find a partner and teammates and join the fun, helping us

celebrate the passing of what has been considered Australia's best event. Head to the My ABF website

[https://www.myabf.com.au/
events/congress/view/1445#program](https://www.myabf.com.au/events/congress/view/1445#program)

for more details and if you can't find a partner or teammates then the GCC team will gladly help.

A good friend of mine recently sent me a link to an article on bridgewinners.com. If you are not familiar with this website, I encourage you to take a look. There's lots of content on their written by bridge players. Sometimes they share hands, other times they talk about things that are going on in the bridge world. This particular article was titled *Spirit of the Game* and the author spoke about a situation where his partner had to leave a tournament unexpectedly and that his fiancée, who had only been playing for a year and hadn't progressed beyond supervised play, had to step in. They were bidding a hand and the author bid 4NT asking for aces. His fiancée started to ask whether she was allowed to ask what the bid meant so he quickly jumped in and said no. But what happened next was that one of their opponents turned to his fiancée and said, "you've been playing for a year, you can ask whatever you'd like". How nice was that opponent! I think we could all take a leaf out of her book and then Australia would be an even more enjoyable place to play bridge!

Before signing off I would like to congratulate the MARKEY team of Phil Markey, Joe Haffer, Sophie Ashton and Dave Wiltshire on winning the Open Teams Playoff recently. They have earned the right to represent us all at next year's World Championships in Denmark. By the time the next newsletter comes out all four of our teams will have been determined and I will provide more details then.

As 2024 ends and 2025 is just around the corner, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. However you celebrate at this time of year, I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you at a bridge event in the future. In the meantime, as always, I welcome your thoughts on how the ABF can work to improve bridge, at all levels, throughout the country. My email address is at the top of the page!



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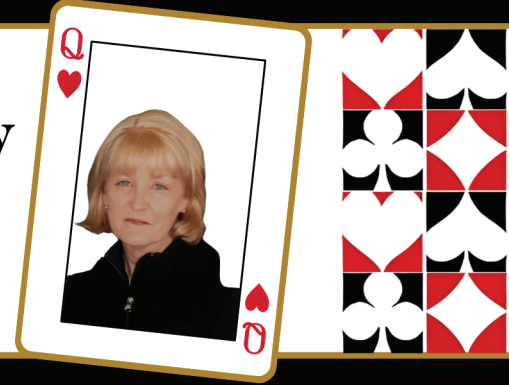


Allison Stralow

President

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In October, Pauline Gumby became Australia's first Diamond Grand Master, after accumulating 15,000 masterpoints. Her passion for the game and her national and international achievements are a testimony to her love for the game and her exceptional skills. On behalf of all the Australian bridge community, I congratulate Pauline on reaching this significant milestone.

The Mid-Term meeting of the ABF Council was held online on 30th November. The council thanked retiring councillors Justin Mill, Bridge Victoria and Ian Thomson, BFACT for their contributions to the administration of Australian Bridge. I look forward to working with the new councillors Wendy Boxall, BFACT and Neil Ewart, Bridge Victoria.

ABF Councillors are all volunteers who are an integral part of the administration of Australian bridge. Thursday 5 December is International Volunteer Day, and I urge you to take the time to thank our volunteers and celebrate their efforts, to promote

the game of bridge and build the Australian Bridge community.

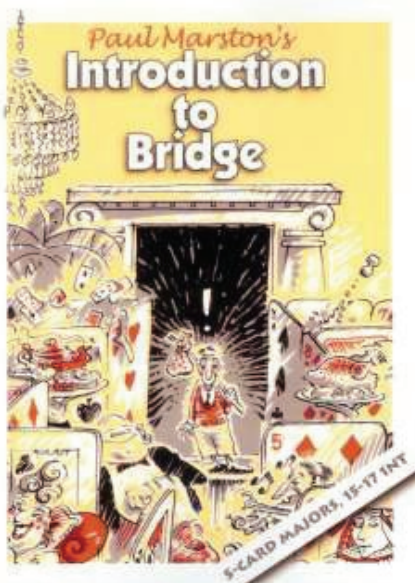
David Fryda has completed his first year as the ABF Executive Director. Many of you met and chatted to David when he attended congresses and events this year. His skill set and experience has supported a changing agenda for the ABF. David, joining ABF, has given us the chance to modernise, and be innovative. I look forward to continuing working with David in 2025.

On behalf of the ABF Council and Board, I wish you a very Merry Christmas if you celebrate Christmas. For those who do not, I wish you the very best during this holiday season. To all of you, I hope you have a very Happy New Year filled with good health and success at the bridge table.

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

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And the nominations are...

CHRIS DEPASQUALE reports on his team's narrow defeat in the final of the Open Team Playoff

Less than twenty-four hours after the playoffs for the Open team to represent Australia at the 2025 World Championships had concluded, I received a request to write something about it here. I certainly didn't feel like doing so, as the loss in the final by a handful ofimps that could so easily have been reversed was still so recent and raw, but I said yes. For the same reason I said yes when Ron Cooper asked if Michael Courtney and I would join the team he was putting together for the playoffs – I always worry that if I ever say no they will simply stop asking.

When I asked Phil Gue if he had any thoughts, comments, or hands worthy of inclusion in this article he responded with, "Nothing that springs to mind, other than my errors, which my therapist is working to expunge!" Last century, during my chess playing days I observed that when you travel to the major events you arrive with luggage and depart with baggage. Except for the winners, of course, although...

The winners

By now you should know that the winning team was Phil Markey - Joachim Haffer and Sophie Ashton - David Wiltshire. In the quarter-final they defeated Lakshmi Sunderasan - Alex Goss and Charles McMahon - John McMahon by a score of 366-286. By a score of 290-260 they overcame the powerful lineup of Paul Dalley - Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans - Shane Harrison and Joshua Tomlin - Peter Gill. Then, in the final they defeated Phil Gue - Stephen Burgess, Jonathon Free - Ron Cooper and Michael Courtney - Chris Depasquale 247-236.

It may surprise some that a four-person team prevailed against some strong six-person teams, but it should not. In the playoff for the 2020 Open team the final saw Hans - Gill - Edgtton - Hung defeat Coutts - Milne - Mill - Nunn, while the six six-person teams had been eliminated in earlier rounds. The disadvantage for a four-person team is a gruelling schedule of 360 boards in six days. By way of comparison, the 2024 ANC Butler in Orange saw the finalists play 'just' 336 boards over six days, although some of those Butler finalists were backing up after playing the Interstate Teams.

The big advantage of being a quartet is that you can hardly get anything wrong before the first bid is made each set! The six-person team always has

decisions to make (which pair sits out) and it is easy to get those wrong. I think our team made a serious strategic error at the beginning of day two (set 5) of the final. After losing the first three (of 8) stanzas by a combined 49imps we roared back into contention with a 45-14 win in the fourth stanza. For stanza 5 we had seating choice and could have sat the same four people in the same seats as for our successful fourth stanza.

I have undertaken a lifetime studying the difference between success and failure. Largely it is about recognising key moments and grasping them. Here, I think we missed a key moment. In stanza 5 we slipped further behind, but then levelled up the scores when the same quartet who had won stanza 4 won stanza 6 by 45-23. We did, of course, have our chances from there but...

When an AFL game is won by a goal kicked after the siren, the total focus is on that moment. But during the previous two hours there had been dozens of moments where opportunities were missed to gain a goal for one side or prevent a score for the opponents. The player-captain-coach that recognises this is the one who will improve future outcomes.

I want to take this moment to step away from the event in Canberra and go back to Orange where you will find my nomination for non-playing captain of the year. He is Mark Hann (pictured) who captained the Northern Territory Open team at the ANC. Mark is "non-playing" in the true sense of the word – he has never played a hand of bridge in his life! An amusing moment occurred in our match with WA which Mark was watching when Jonathon Free needed the bathroom after putting down his dummy and asked Mark to play dummy's cards for him. Reluctantly (there was nobody else around in the closed room) Mark took the seat. When Mimi Packer asked for a small club from dummy Mark looked up at her and earnestly asked, "which one is a small one?"

Yet Mark had all the skills of a superb captain. He was in touch with each of the six players' wants and needs, be it coffee, a meal, sitting out a set, or whatever. He always had our lineups in on time and di-





Phil Markey, David Wiltshire, Sophie Ashton, Joachim Haffer

rected each player to the correct room and seats. And then he had a big impact on which team made the final. After a not wholly unexpected eight consecutive losses Mark brought the team together and told us that he had heard the Victorian captain say that he would have to wear the "bag of shame" on his head if his crew lost to the NT. (Whether the Victorian captain actually said that is beside the point – Mark just knew this would fire us up for the match.) We defeated Victoria by 9imps, a 53-imp turnaround from our first meeting, and Victoria missed the final by just 1.1 Victory Points.

One can look at the results of any bridge event and focus on the scores, the bidding, the declarer play and the defence, but I don't think any of those have as big an impact as the issues of captaincy, and team/partnership accord. On the first page of our NT team system notes you will find a list of Our Values which include, "We treat each other with kindness and respect on and off the table". To me, that is both obvious and important, yet it was not what I always observed during the 2025 Playoffs. Here is an example:

♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ A 7 6 4 3

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

I reached the normal contract of 4♠ by South and got the ♥9 lead. I decided to win in dummy and try a diamond to the queen because if this succeeds you are halfway home. This drew the eight from East and the king from West who continued with the ♥7. I won, cashed the top two trumps (both following), crossed to dummy in clubs (the king covering my queen en passant) and led a diamond. East ruffed with the boss trump and tried to cash the ♣J, but I ruffed that, cashed the top diamond, ruffed a diamond and claimed.

Before the scores were entered West was already tearing strips off East. "We will take him down if you don't ruff the diamond." West insisted. Really? These had been the cards at that moment:

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

While it is true that East doesn't need to be in a hurry to play the master trump, discarding at this point will not defeat the contract. Declarer will win the diamond ace and play another diamond. West

can win but declarer will ruff the return and ruff a diamond in dummy. The defence will get one trump and two diamonds only. After that barrage, however, both EW played poorly for the rest of the set. And West might have saved any ire for his teammates who also made ten tricks in spades on this hand but played at the six-level.

Contrast and compare how Courtney dealt with a similar issue. He waited until we were back at our hotel, having dinner and a drink when he put forward that he was not convinced that mine was the best line in the 7♠ contract I had played. This was the hand:

♠ J 5 4 2
 ♥ J
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ A K Q 10 3

♠ A K Q 9 6
 ♥ A K 10 6
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ 7 4

North dealt and opened 1♣, then supported my spades. RKCB got a 5♦ response (one keycard) which was doubled by East seeking a diamond lead. I now asked for kings and North showed the king of clubs specifically. That was enough for me to bid seven, as the round suit queens are the most likely cards to bring his hand up to an opening bid.

I won the diamond lead, drew trumps in three rounds, and played the top three clubs (discarding a diamond). East proved to have four clubs to the jack, but it was an easy matter to ruff the fourth round, cash a heart, ruff a heart and discard the remaining heart loser on the 13th club.

North's 6♣ response to my 5NT inquiry shows either the club king or the two red kings (which I knew to be impossible). Courtney thought a superior line was to play a top heart at trick two, ruff a heart low in dummy, cross back to hand with a trump and if they both follow ruff the heart ten with the ♠J, draw trumps and claim. I suspect my screen-mate also thought my line inferior: "good auction" was his comment after the hand was over! Perhaps though, it wasn't a comment on the line I chose – he might have had genuine concern his teammates wouldn't find the grand slam, and he was right.

Courtney's line is perfect except when trumps are 4-0. In that event you cannot afford to ruff the second heart high. But even if your low ruff doesn't get over-ruffed, after you cash the spade Jack there is no convenient way back to hand to draw the remaining trumps, so that makes it about 90%. Unless of course the defence ruffs the first round of hearts...

Earlier in the event I played 7♦ doubled with these hands:

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

♠ A 7 6 5 4
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ K J 4 3
 ♣ 10 4

As dealer I got to show a hand with five spades and 4+ of a minor by bidding 2♠. Partnered asked which minor I had, used RKCB to establish that I had both the ace of spades and king of diamonds and confidently bid 7♦. East doubled the final contract, West led a random heart, East ruffed, and that was 14 imps away when the wimps at the other table stopped in six. Perhaps this was why I was paranoid about a heart ruff in 7♠!

Alerted to the heart situation North could have pulled this to 7NT making (West had all the missing hearts and the ♣Qx). Why didn't North do this? Earlier in the event this hand arose:

Board 5. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

At one table West valiantly doubled North's 7♥ contract, seeking a spade lead through South's first bid suit. North redoubled to reassure his partner that he had first round control of spades. That should have been the end of it but South panicked to 7NT! This was also doubled, and went one down after a spade was led. (On a club lead this might go five down!) Well over 30 imps swung on that bidding decision.

Perhaps this was why Courtney was so paranoid about pulling 7♦ to 7NT.

You could write an entire book about just the grand slam hands in this event – and I haven't even mentioned the one where declarer played 7♥ at one table and was able to claim as soon as dummy went down. At the other table the pair playing that same

direction chose 7♠ as their final contract, and that went seven down for -350. Or the one where 7♥ failed when declarer, needing two club tricks with Q10 opposite Ax ran the queen losing to a singleton king.

Back to the winners

It is a curious thing, but until she became my screen-mate during the final I had never encountered Sophie Ashton. She confused me by apologising to her partner after the first board, because I couldn't think of anything she had done wrong or could have done differently. Only later did I realise that she apologised to her partner after EVERY hand where they got a minus score! That makes some sense – you wouldn't get many minus scores sitting opposite a master craftsman like David Wiltshire. But Sophie has the traits that everyone should be looking for in a partner. She is competent, calm, alert and exudes kindness to everyone at the table.

Phil Markey and Joachim Haffer arrived at the event as the in-form pair in the nation. They racked up a phenomenal score in the pair datums of the Open Teams in the Spring Nationals just before the play-off, and with Ashton - Wiltshire won that event. Both Markey and Haffer put maximum pressure on their opponents in the bidding and the play. This was the first board of the final stanza with the Markey gang holding a slender lead.

♠ Q 3
♥ Q J 9 7 5
♦ Q J 9
♣ 10 6 5

♠ A 6 2
♥ 10 3
♦ 8 6 5 4 2
♣ K Q 8

♠ K 10 9 7
♥ A 4
♦ A K 10 7
♣ A 3 2

♠ J 8 5 4
♥ K 8 6 2
♦ 3
♣ J 9 7 4

Haffer, West, declared 3NT. Courtney led his fourth-best 7 of hearts. The genuine way to make on the layout is the double finesse in diamonds, which is (empirically) only about a 25% chance. Playing for 2-2 diamonds is (empirically) better at around 40%. Haffer went for the suicide squeeze instead, winning the ace at trick one and returning one. We all know the percentages for various breaks and finesses, but what are the true odds of both defenders keeping all the correct cards for the endgame? On the hearts Haffer discarded three diamonds from hand and a spade, diamond and club from dummy, while I discarded a spade.

Chris Depasquale and Michael Courtney



In the bidding the West hand had denied a four-card major so I assumed that West had begun with 3-2-4-4 distribution, thinking he would have played the hand differently with five diamonds. When Michael exited with the ♣10 that reinforced my view of West's distribution. This became, what Hercule Poirot liked to call the Idée Fixée, so when declarer won the ace and cashed two more clubs (on which he discarded dummy's diamond ten) I failed to notice partner follow suit on the third round! When two diamonds were cashed, and I was down to ♠Jxx and ♣J I let go a spade, keeping the irrelevant 13th club! This let the contract make for -600. At the other table our teammates were +500 defeating 3♥ doubled, so my rookie error cost 15imps in a match decided by less than that.

On the bright side, I will no longer wake up screaming from the nightmares about those chess moves I played last century...

Earlier in the event I also had to choose between taking a low percentage shot at a genuine way to make or testing the opponents discards and signals. This is what I began with as declarer in 6NT.

♠ K 4 2
♥ Q J
♦ A 8 3
♣ A K Q 5 3

♠ A Q J 10
♥ A 3
♦ Q 10 6 4
♣ 9 8 7

The lead of 7♥ went queen-king-ace. On the second top club East showed out. There are some diamond configurations that enable you to make the contract, such as both missing honours in the East hand, or exactly Jxx with East but I didn't like it. Empirically

there is a 50% chance of finding the diamond Jack in the East hand, while, in isolation, a 3-3 break is around 35%. Once the only suit you know the distribution of (here, clubs) is 4-1 that reduces the likelihood of even breaks in the other suits quite dramatically. If I play a diamond to the ten now and it loses to the Jack, or even to the singleton King my chances are down to zero. Is there a better chance?

I decided to establish the long club, giving me 11 top tricks and some chances in the endgame, where I could prevail by force against a singleton \spadesuit K or by pinning a singleton jack in the East hand. West won the fourth club and played another heart, and I cashed my black suit winners. Both defenders guarded hearts! When I played my last spade at trick 11 West, who had the heart ten and Kx of diamonds

discarded the \spadesuit K. East had come down to two hearts and the bare \spadesuit J. This had been the full deal:

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

Yes, a diamond to the ten (after the club break was disclosed) would have worked this time, bad(?) luck. You probably think East was at fault here for not discarding all his hearts. Technically, that is correct, but... This hand came shortly after he had been bawled out for ruffing the diamond lead in the 4 \spadesuit hand given earlier, and he had already lost his equanimity for the remainder of that set. These things are important!

Heartiest congratulations to the winners. I will be following your every card at the Bermuda Bowl and hope you can do Australia proud. The best advice I can give you is... choose your non-playing captain with care.

Australian Open Team Playoff Results

SEMI-FINAL

Gue 262 def Thompson (Ben Thompson, Renee Cooper, James Coutts, Liam Milne, Peter Newman, Matthew Thomson) 233

Markey 290 def Dalley (Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Shane Harrison, Joshua Tomlin, Peter Gill) 260

FINAL

Markey (Philip Markey, Joachim Haffer, Sophie Ashton, David Wiltshire) 247 def Gue (Phil Gue, Stephen Burgess, Jonathan Free, Ron Cooper, Michael Courtney, Chris Depasquale) 236



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Letters to the editor

The following letter was written before the results of the 2024 Open Playoffs were known.

It is fair to say that Australian Teams have not been outstanding at the world teams' championships this century. In the odd-numbered years and the even-numbered Olympic years, no Australian team has reached the semi-finals and far fewer than half have reached the quarter-finals. This year our Open Team and our Mixed Team did not make the Round of 16. Our Women's Team qualified 10th and lost in the Round of 16. Our Seniors' Team qualified 13th and lost in the Round of 16.



Some suggestions for the ABF Open and Mixed Playoffs:

(a) Reduce the Open and the Mixed Playoffs, currently held over six days, from eight subsidised teams to four subsidised teams, based on PQPs, and reduce the number of boards from 120 per match currently to 90 per match. That will reduce the playoffs to three days without a significant loss of talent in the results. In past years, only one team outside the top four has won the Open Teams Playoff in the odd-numbered years and the Olympic years.

OR

(b) Reduce the Open and Mixed Playoffs to three subsidised teams based on PQPs. For the fourth semi-final team, hold a one-day round-robin event before the semi-finals for up to six non-subsidised teams, based on PQPs. The winner becomes the fourth semi-final team and then receives the appropriate subsidy.

Benefits: Players with representative ambitions will need to compete in more ABF events to acquire sufficient PQPs = More income for the ABF. Fewer teams in the playoffs = greater savings to the ABF and greater savings for the players who would have been in teams 5-8 for the playoffs.

Ron Klinger

BRIDGE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Paul Lavings, plavings@gmail.com



YOUR ACTION AS OPENER WHEN YOUR RHO OVERCALLS 1♠

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

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

SOLUTIONS

1. Pass. With your lifeless 12-count take the opportunity to warn partner you have a minimum opening and would prefer to defend. Normally you cannot pass when partner responds in a new suit to your opening bid but when your RHO overcalls you have that option. No call tells your story as effectively as pass.

Your partner is still there and if your side plays 1NT then it is better your partner is declarer.

2. 1NT. You have good intermediates, two spade stoppers and you like your hand. Take the opportunity to make a "free bid" to show your extra assets.

3. Double. The key to this auction is the extent of your heart fit. When you make a support double or redouble to show three-card support you are way ahead of the field. The 1♥-bidder knows exactly how many hearts your side has and can compete for the partscore or bid to game with accuracy.

4. Double. You would normally jump to 3♦ to show your six-card suit and around 15-18 HCP but why not show three-card heart support along the way. If partner now bids 1NT you can jump to 3♦, or 3NT if you prefer.

5. Double. Without the 1♠ interpose you would bid 2♣ and later support hearts to show you have three card heart support and extra values. Why not show your three-card heart support now without using any space whatsoever? That will create extra space later.

6. 2NT. Even though you have three hearts you should still show your 18-19 balanced rather than make a support double. Bidding 2NT keeps things clear and simple and the strong hand will declare the notrumps and be hidden from view. Most partnerships have methods to find fits after opener's 2NT rebid.

7. 3♥. In my methods the jump raise to 3♥ shows 18-19 balanced with four hearts. Many systems require this hand to jump to 4♥, which has three drawbacks.

Responder, for various reasons, occasionally fudges their first response and over 3♥ can refuse the invitation when nine tricks is the limit of the hand. Secondly, the 3♥ bid saves space and now there is more room to cue if slam is on the horizon. Thirdly both hands may be 3-4-3-3 and now you can play in 3NT, which invariably makes the same number of tricks as four of a major.

8. 2♣. Without the 1♠ overcall I would rebid 1NT. Knowing very little about the hands I like to keep the bidding low with 1NT and bring two-way checkback (XYZ) into play. In this auction clubs may be your only fit and you need to introduce the suit now to compete in clubs at the three-level if necessary.

9. 2♠. Asking for a stopper in spades to bid 3NT. At first glance, with only 15 HCP, this hand looks like a normal jump to 3♦. On closer examination you have eight tricks in notrumps and partner will often pass 3♦ when all they need for a ninth trick is a spade stopper.

10. Pass. You hope to defend 1♠ doubled. Give partner a bit extra, say 8+ HCP and hopefully they will re-open with a takeout double. You have four spade tricks and two aces, give partner ♣K and ♦K and you are already collecting +300 from 1♠ doubled and it could well be +500.

You plan to lead ♣A and another club, maybe partner can ruff a few clubs and you will score +1100. It is important to overcall frequently, but it is even better to collect juicy penalties from frivolous overcalls.



A GAME AT THE VCC

Barbara Travis

www.bridgeatbeaumont.com

After being away for a while, I returned to several games and plenty of material! You, South, hold:

♠ J 8 7 5 4 ♥ A ♦ 6 ♣ A J 9 8 7 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♦	1♥	1♠ ⁵⁺
2♥	dbl (3)	pass	?

Would you bid 2♠ or 4♠, knowing partner has specifically 3-card spade support (a raise to 2♠ would promise 4 spades)? I think I'd bid 4♠, given the 6-5 hand shape, which plays far better than most hands.

Partner held:

♠ 10 9 4 ♥ K 7 6 2 ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ K 4

That hand is a minimum, with plenty of wasted values in the red suits; the ♣K and ♦A being the only 'useful' honour cards. One club ruff and draw trumps, and 10 tricks are straight-forward. With a known fit, the more shape you have, the more you should be bidding.

The next hand was an interesting declarer play issue, which most declarers failed, but the defence also tended to be flawed:

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

Having opened 1NT, South played the hand in 2♠, with West leading three top hearts as East discard-

ed a diamond. Now West exited with a diamond to South. Declarer now led the ♠A and another spade to the ♠9 - king. East returned a diamond, leaving declarer stuck in hand. On the club lead, West simply has to rise with the ♣A to lead another diamond (or a heart), to promote a trump for East, who holds the ♠8-7 behind dummy's ♠Q-10-6-5.

What can South do? After the diamond switch, declarer can cash the ♠A if they want, but now they have to lead a club towards dummy. If West wins, communications have been severed.

If West ducks, then you win the ♣Q in dummy but now you can lead two more diamonds, throwing dummy's losing ♣J away, meaning East gets a trump trick but the defence lose their club winner.

These hands where entries and timing are essential require thoughtful planning, to foresee the potential dangers afoot.

There are cue raises, then there are cue raises; they all seem to differ! Try this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	1♥
2♠	3♠	pass	?

In this sequence 3♠, whilst a cue raise, shows more than the defined 10+ TP. This cue raise is a game force, since even with a minimum opener has to correct to game. A 3♥ bid here would be about 9-11 TP, and the cue raise shows a game force.

And, imagine if West had overcalled 3♠? That's a great overcall, especially when not vulnerable, because it removes North's ability to cue-raise below game. Keep such considerations in mind.

Assuming you play Jacoby 2NT, game forcing major raise, have you and your partner discussed continuations after an overcall?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
pass	2NT ^{GF raise}	3♣	?

What are the different meanings for any actions, especially (a) Pass, (b) 3♠, and (c) 4♠ (obviously still the weakest bid).

Talk with partner and discuss what the other actions mean after interference (not just 3♣, imagine a four-level intervene too).

One of the things I love about this game is that different scenarios arise, even having played the game for 50+ years:

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

Sitting East, I had opened with 11 HCP in fourth seat. Dummy produced 7 HCP. So, at trick 1, I expected that both South and West held 11 HCP each. It's always interesting to place the values around the table so precisely, though I didn't know the exact points held by each player. Of course, everyone else at the table thought I was nuts, but I found this a classic 'Trick 1 Thinking' situation.

How would you play this hand in 4♥, West, on a small club lead?

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

You win the ♣A at trick 1. What is your plan?

Firstly, you probably need dummy's trumps for ruffing clubs.

Secondly, entries to your hand – West – are very limited; in fact, the ♣A has been removed by the opening lead. It's important to use your entries to best advantage, i.e. lead the ♦J at trick 2 and take your diamond finesse, to establish discards for your losing spades.

If you take the diamond finesse, and time the hand perfectly, you can make 12 tricks, rather than just 10 tricks. Since your job as declarer, especially at match-point pairs, is to take as many tricks as possible, it's important to develop a sound plan for the play.

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

Actually, After the auction, where East bid diamonds, then spades, then raised hearts to game, I'd lead a trump from North. East should hold a 4-3-5-1 so you want to minimise dummy's ability to trump clubs!

And I would hope people would, otherwise, lead the ♠K, though it is not recommended on such an auction.



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World National Teams

In the World Championships in Buenos Aires, the Australian Senior Team finished 13th of 24 teams in the qualifying rounds, to qualify for the knockout stage.

From the World Championship Daily Bulletin, BRIAN SENIOR reports on the team's round-of-16 match against Israel.



Australia won the first quarter of their Seniors Round of 16 match with Israel by 48-23 imps. However, Israel won the next two sets to close the gap to 98-104 going into the fourth quarter, which proved to be a low-scoring affair.

Board 21 offered some scope for a swing:

Board 21. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

Both EW pairs stopped in game and the cold slam was missed:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Braithwaite	Engel	De Livera	Cohen
	1♠	2♠	3♠
dbl	pass	4♥	all pass

For Australia, Arjuna de Livera made a Michaels Cuebid, and Andrew Braithwaite showed values by doubling the preemptive spade raise, but de Livera felt unable to do more than rebid 4♥ due to the weakness of his second suit. Dani Cohen led the queen of spades, and Engel overtook to play a second spade, but that was ruffed and de Livera quickly claimed the rest for +480.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kalish	Lavings	Grinberg	Krochmalik
	1♠	2♥	3♠
dbl	pass	4♥	all pass

Nir Grinberg preferred to start with a simple overcall. Avi Kalish too made a value-showing double but Grinberg, like de Livera, felt unable to do more

than bid the heart game. Robert Krochmalik led his club, so Grinberg made all 13 tricks for +510 and 1 imp to Israel, making it 101-105.

Of the six matches in the Senior series, only one pair reached slam. They were Steve Hamaoui and Mario Abate of Italy, against Türkiye. Hamaoui made a two-suited overcall and Abate made a pass or correct jump to 5♣. Hamaoui could afford to go on with a passable 5♥ slam try:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Abate	Ince	Hamaoui	Kokten
	1♠	2♠*	3♠
	5♣	pass	5♥
	6♣	all pass	pass

Abate liked his minors sufficiently to go on to 6♣, to gain 10 imps against 4♥ making 12 at the other table.

Then, at last, a significant swing:

Board 23. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

Both Norths opened 1NT, both Souths transferred to hearts, and both Norths broke the transfer with a jump to 3♥. Cohen went on to game, Krochmalik did not.

Grinberg led the eight of hearts against 3♥, Kalish allowing dummy's queen to score. Paul Lavings played the jack of hearts to the king and ace, then a diamond to the ten. When that held the trick, he played a second diamond to the king, which was ducked, but Grinberg had to win the third diamond with the ace and he returned the three of clubs, hoping to get partner in for a spade lead through declarer's possible ace-queen holding. Kalish duly won the king of clubs and switched to the queen of spades, but Lavings could win that, ruff out the ace of clubs, and take a spade discard on the queen of diamonds. That was 11 tricks for +200.

De Livera led the five of hearts against 4♥, covered by the queen, king and ace. Joseph Engel drew a second round of trumps then led dummy's club to the queen and ace. De Livera returned the seven of spades for the queen and ace, and Engel played the jack of spades back to De Livera's king. Engel ruffed the spade return and ruffed a club then, having put the decision off for as long as he could, led the eight of diamonds off the dummy and put up his king. That lost to the ace and back came the six of diamonds. Engel put in the nine and had his contract; +620 and 9 imps to Israel, who had moved into the lead by 111-105.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Braithwaite	Engel	De Livera	Cohen
pass	pass	1♣	1NT
pass	2NT	pass	3NT
all pass			

Both Souths overcalled 1NT and both Norths responded 2NT, transfer to diamonds.

Cohen liked his diamonds so much that he took a shot at 3NT – facing long diamonds he had eight tricks, and needed very little in dummy to provide a ninth.

Braithwaite led the queen of hearts and continued with a low heart. The defence took its heart tricks, then Braithwaite switched to a club round to the ace-jack, and Cohen had nine tricks for +400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kalish	Lavings	Grinberg	Krochmalik
pass	pass	1♣	1NT
pass	2NT	pass	3♦
pass	pass	dbl	pass
3♥	all pass		

Krochmalik did as requested and bid 3♦, showing that he liked the suit, and when Lavings passed that, Grinberg doubled to compete the partscore, and passed the 3♥ reply. Just looking at the EW hands, 3♥ looks to have chances, but Lavings led his single-

ton spade and collected three ruffs, so the contract was down three for -150 and 6 imps to Israel, growing their lead to 117-105.

Board 25. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Braithwaite	Engel	De Livera	Cohen
pass	pass	pass	pass
2♣ ¹	pass	2♥ ²	pass
2♠	pass	3♠	pass
4♣ ³	pass	4♦ ³	pass
4♥ ³	pass	4♠	all pass

1. Game force, or 22+ balanced, or Acol-two in any suit.
2. 7-9 HCP, any shape.
3. Control bids.

Both Wests opened their systemic strong artificial bid. De Livera's 2♠ response showed 7-9, nothing to do with hearts. Spades were bid and supported and cuebids exchanged, but Braithwaite had had enough by the time that de Livera signed off in 4♠. Engel led a diamond to the nine, two and ace. Braithwaite played three rounds of spades, Engel winning the third and returning a diamond. Braithwaite won the ♦K, pitching a club from hand, then tried to split the hearts and, when they failed to oblige, conceded a club at the end; 11 tricks for +650.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kalish	Lavings	Grinberg	Krochmalik
pass	pass	pass	pass
2♣	pass	2♦	pass
2♠	pass	3♠	pass
3NT	pass	4♠	pass
4NT	pass	5♣	pass
5♦	pass	5♠	all pass

Grinberg responded 2♦, showing 5+ HCP, and again spades were bid and supported. 3NT may have been a non-serious slam try, but Kalish went on with key-card, then asked for the queen of trumps and settled for 5♠ when Grinberg denied that card. Lavings led the eight of clubs to the five, three and ace. Kalish cashed the ace and king of spades and ace of diamonds, then played a third spade. Lavings won that and returned a diamond to dummy's king. Kalish

cashed the king of clubs and his two remaining spades, and that squeezed Krochmalik who, obliged to guard the clubs, had to throw a heart so that they produced four tricks and 12 in all; +680 and 1 imp to Israel, 118-105.

Twelve tricks are always available via the heart-club squeeze, unless the defenders lead clubs twice. This breaks declarer's communications and there is no squeeze because the king of diamonds cannot be cashed in a timely fashion. Four pairs bid and made 6♠, three bid it but went down (at least one of them having received a club lead).

No sooner do we see one borderline slam, than a second comes along on the very next deal:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ Q 7 5 4 3
♥ K 6 4
♦ —
♣ A 10 9 8 2

♠ K 10 9
♥ J 3
♦ A Q 9 8 7 2
♣ Q 5

♠ A
♥ A 9 7 2
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ K J 4 3

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ J 10 4
♣ 7 6

WEST Braithwaite	NORTH Engel	EAST De Livera	SOUTH Cohen
3♣ ¹	pass	1♦	pass
3NT	all pass	3♥ ²	pass

- 1. Invitational raise.
- 2. Heart values.

Braithwaite's 3♣ response was invitational with at least four diamonds and 3♥ a notrump probe. Engel led the ten of clubs against 3NT, Braithwaite running

this round to his queen and playing a club straight back to the king. He cashed the ace of spades next then rattled off the diamonds. Engel kept the ♣A and two spades, while Cohen kept both major-suit guards, so the defence came to two tricks at the end for +660.

WEST Kalish	NORTH Lavings	EAST Grinberg	SOUTH Krochmalik
2♦ ¹	2♠	1♦	pass
3NT	all pass	3♠ ²	pass

- 1. Inverted raise.
- 2. Asking for a stopper.

Kalish made an inverted diamond raise then admitted to a spade stopper when Grinberg requested one. Lavings too led the ten of clubs round to declarer's queen but, when Kalish played a club back at trick two, Lavings won the ace so giving away the twelfth trick; 1 imp to Israel, whose lead crept up to 119-105.

6♦ is all about the opening lead, with a heart required to beat it as otherwise a club can be set up for a heart discard. In the Seniors' event nobody bid the slam, but it was bid once in the Open, and North led the ace of clubs.

Time had run out for Australia; Israel picked up an imp in 3NT on Board 27, and the last three boards were flat. Australia had scored only one single over-trick imp in the 15-board set. Israel had hardly been prolific scorers either, but their 22 imps meant that they were through to the quarter-finals by a score of 120-105.

With other matches using the same boards, 70 imps were shared in the Türkiye v Italy match, while in the Women's series the English women (featuring Fiona Brown) managed to turn around a 50-imp deficit, winning the fourth quarter on these same deals by 69-13.

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Australian Seniors' Team:

*Andrew Braithwaite, Arjuna de Livera, Stephen Burgess,
Gabi Lorentz, Robert Krockmalik and Paul Lavings*



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PRESENTS



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IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE

with Ron Klinger

Solution to problem on page 2

OUT FOR THE COUNT

Teams, dealer West, both sides vulnerable

♠ K 5 2
♥ A J 10 6 4
♦ 8 7
♣ 7 5 4



♠ 10 4
♥ K 8 7
♦ K J 9 3
♣ A Q 8 2

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

1. 15-18 points.
2. Transfer to hearts.
3. Inviting game.
4. Not forcing.

West leads the ♣3: four - ace - nine. East returns the ♣2: jack - six - five. South plays the ♥2: nine - jack - king. What do you play next as East?

The deal comes from the final of the 2022 Australian Gold Coast Open Teams.

What is the first thing you do after you see the opening lead and dummy?

Count the high cards points in dummy, add those in your own hand and estimate how many HCP declarer has. Deduct the total from 40 and that gives you a good idea of how many points partner can hold.

East has 13 points, dummy has 8, total 21. Declarer's 1NT was 15-18, but from South's rejection (3!) of the game invitation, you can place South with 15-16 points, total 36-37.

That leaves 3-4 points for partner. Where can those points be?

You already know partner has no king. Three are visible and as the ♣J won trick two, South has the ♣K. If partner has a queen and a jack, that will be of no use to you. The ♥Q with partner will fall under the ♥A. If partner has ♠Q-J-x or longer, the defence might

come to a spade, a heart and a club, but that is all. If partner has 3 points, declarer will always succeed.

What about 4 points with partner? If partner has the ♦A, a diamond switch can immediately collect two tricks there to take 4♥ down. If partner has the ♦Q and the ♠Q, a diamond now will set up a diamond trick and as long as West's spades are as good as Q-9-8 or longer, you will be able to come to a diamond and a spade. It is imperative to switch to a diamond at trick four.

This was the full deal:

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

After ♣3 to the ace and the ♣2 return, won by the ♣J, and the ♥2: nine - jack - king, East erred by playing a third club. South won, drew trumps and ran the spades, ditching a diamond loser from dummy. Making 4♥, North-South +620. As you can see, a diamond switch at trick 4 would have defeated 4♥.

At the other table, it went:

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

1. A 1NT overcall is preferable if the hand fits 1NT.
2. 4+ spades, 2-6 points.

East led the ♠10, won by the ♠Q. The ♥2 to the ♥J lost to the king. East continued spades and declarer also made ten tricks, +170 but -10 Imps. Notice that both Souths began trumps with a low heart, not the ♥Q. On this layout it made no difference but leading the ♥Q would lose a trump trick if the heart layout was like this:

♥ A J 10 6 4	♥ 9 8 7 3
♥ K	
♥ Q 5 2	

If South leads a low heart, there is no heart loser. Lead the ♥Q: king - ace - three and East comes to a heart trick. Leading the ♥Q would be recommended if South had no outside entry to repeat the heart finesse. Leading the ♥Q would not do any harm if West began with K-x or K-x-x or K-x-x-x.



TEACHING TIPS

with Ian Dalziel

THE HUMAN SIDE OF BRIDGE

Teaching

How do we measure our success as bridge teachers? I don't think the EBU do OFSTED-type inspections and there are no student exams, but there are some yardsticks.

- How many students remain till the year end?
- How many friendships are made at the class?
- How many join a learners' bridge club?
- What standard have they reached?

It's important they join a club of some sort as home games rarely last and are not practical for many. Lots of my students say their greatest benefit from taking up bridge is the friendships they made which is great, but the hardest part of the teacher's role is to get the students to a level where they feel competent in a game. The 'naturals' will get there anyway no matter who is the teacher, but such people don't really need a bridge class.

Does their skill really matter? If they enjoy the game and make friends, isn't that enough? Not really, for although winning isn't everything, I don't know any bridge player who wouldn't like to be better. If the social side of the game was all that mattered, teaching could be done with a fraction of the preparation.

The main problem is that students learn at vastly different rates. Some have played bridge or other card games before, but that is only a temporary advantage. If the teaching is of good quality, progress depends on their attendance rate, the homework done, how often they play between classes but, above all, their aptitude for the game. Any class has a wide range of natural ability, so some need to work much harder than others. Unfortunately, those who most need to do homework are least likely to do it. Perhaps such people only learn with the cards in their

hands and written notes and quizzes just don't help much.

I find those who take up bridge are usually very busy people even though lots are retired. Many say they intend to do the homework but can never find time. Actually, what they mean is

that it's not a high enough priority, because some of the busiest people somehow get the homework done.

I run classes up to fifth year and while most are ready to move on at the end of each year, there are always those who would benefit from repeating the year. No-one does, of course, for they want to remain with their friends and to stay back would be seen as a humiliation, reminiscent of the 'dunce's cap'. Hence by the fifth year, the range of ability in the class can vary widely. Unless someone has a good grasp of the basics, they will gain nothing from the more advanced lessons; indeed it will just confuse them. I can understand that players want to know more about the game, but for some, 'talking the talk' seems to take priority over 'walking the walk'. Even though conventions are the last thing most learners need, some feel 'deprived' if you don't teach them and may go elsewhere for lessons.

One year I gave up 'whole class teaching' and they worked in groups using self teaching exercises, and everyone progressed at their own pace. I produced extensive 'home lessons' which replaced the spoken lessons in class. Those who went off for long holidays just slotted in where they left off. I thought I had finally 'cracked it', but I had to abandon it after six months as so few were doing the homework.



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

My conclusion is that bridge lessons in class will never be the most efficient method of learning, people are just too different. With a self-selecting group of people, all we can do as teachers is make the lessons as enjoyable and effective as possible and some learning will take place. Those who seriously want to be good can use the classes as a springboard for their real learning which must be done by home study backed up by playing a lot.

Partnerships

I draw for partners at my classes, but they choose their own partners at the bridge club. Some partnerships work very well but others are unequally yoked. If your partner isn't as good as you but you enjoy the partnership, that's great. However, if you are constantly frustrated by your partner, but stick it out because you 'couldn't hurt their feelings' then you are making a big mistake. You need to grasp the nettle and politely end it; you have the right, be kind to yourself. In any case, your partner may realise themselves that they are holding you back. A bridge partnership is not a marriage or even a contract. Just say, 'I feel our partnership isn't working and think we should both seek new partners, but remain friends.' Not easy to do, I admit, but you won't regret it. Honestly, it will be such a relief and be best for both of you.

Behaviour

I have met so many nice people through bridge and I'm sure you have too. Most bridge players are polite, educated, law abiding citizens. At the bridge table, all are treated equally regardless of race, religion, age, wealth and gender – that is honestly my experience. Imagine a country where everyone was the sort of person who becomes a bridge player; there would be no crime apart from traffic offences, our doors wouldn't need locks, there would be no litter on the streets and no bad language. Do you think I'm being idealistic?

Unfortunately, a minority of these esteemed citizens, pillars of the community, who do great charitable work, transform into table terrorists (TTs) when playing bridge. Indeed, when I try to persuade my students to go to a bridge club, they don't ask about the standard of play, the comfort of the premises, the ease of parking, the systems played, how well it's organised or the speed of play. They simply ask, 'Is it a friendly club? Are the players fierce? Will I get told off if I do the wrong thing?'

Of course, all bridge clubs claim to welcome newcomers; just as all brides and babies are beautiful. It's like motherhood and apple pie. While the club welcomes newcomers, some of its inhabitants might

be anything but welcoming. Many bridge clubs have best behaviour policies, but from the stories which still come to my ears and from the letters I read in BRIDGE, the TTs are still alive and kicking and putting people off the game as they always did. Why does such bridge lawlessness continue to exist among the most law abiding of citizens?

I'm sure the TTs don't intend to spoil the enjoyment of others; they just lack the self awareness to know they are doing it. The trouble is that no-one tells them, people just mutter amongst themselves about the problem and some just vote with their feet. Sometimes the TTs are the club's best players or committee members who do a power of work for the club so no-one wants to offend them. They are often the nicest of people away from the bridge table.

Edmund Burke said many years ago that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. And that is the nub of the problem – people put up with it and don't complain. It's just not British to do so; no-one wants to be a grass. So if your club has such a problem then the members are to blame even more than the TTs.

Don't suffer in silence. If someone is rude to you, do something. Call the director, who might be at a loss – it might cause embarrassment, who cares. If everyone did this, the problem would be solved very quickly. If you are stunned into silence by an unexpected onslaught, then complain to the director or the club president at the end; failing that write a letter to the club secretary. Even if you are a newcomer, don't hold your peace, the club needs you more than you need it. There are lots of clubs competing for new members, you are of great value. If the club gives a dismissive response to your complaint, then seek another club, but not before.

Behaviour problems are less common at the bridge class as the teacher can usually spot it and deal with it tactfully or with humour. But don't think you know everything that goes on at your class, as some people are very cunning and do their bullying when the teacher is out of earshot. However, if you are approachable people will tell you about it; always thank people for a complaint, don't be defensive.

As a long time bridge club proprietor, I have had to confront the TTs over the years, for if I didn't I could lose my club. I do so as diplomatically as possible, but it can be awkward, embarrassing and messy. I always think I could have handled it better, but the problem always gets resolved, one way or the other.

There is a downside though to running a club which is a TT free area – a long waiting list!

MYABF UPDATE

with Julian Foster

Release 6.0

Full club membership management

myABF release 6.0 went live on 21 November. This release has been in the making for many months. It includes a lot of things but the most important is giving clubs the ability to fully manage their membership list through myABF.

Some of the things that have been added for clubs:

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

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

There is a lot more information available for clubs at

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/clubs/>

WHY WOULD A CLUB WANT TO MANAGE THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN myABF?

1. So that everything can ultimately be done in one place.

Today some clubs may be managing their membership records in as many as three different systems:

- a. ABF Masterpoint Centre (still used to record home club members which the ABF in turn uses to determine capitation fees).



- b. myABF (where member lists already facilitate clubs sending emails to members, enabling them to pay club table money with bridge credits, plus potentially also giving access to member rates for congress entries and table money).

- c. An existing membership management system (whether that's an Excel spreadsheet or something like Compscore or Pianola).

Wherever the same data has to be maintained in multiple systems it's a nuisance and risk things getting out of sync.

Release 6.0 now enables (b) and (c) to be done in myABF. Next year the plan is to merge (a) the Masterpoint Centre into myABF as well so clubs will be able to truly have everything in one place.

2. So that payments for membership can be made with Bridge Credits.

This option makes things really convenient both for players and clubs. It's something that's only possible with myABF because we already have the bridge credits payment system.

Players can now pay their annual membership fees via bridge credits. Better than that, however, is a further ability to set those payments up to go through automatically.

We've called it "Auto pay". It allows clubs to set a date on which the subsequent year's annual membership fee will be collected via bridge credits. This date is shown in the email communication sent to all players when a club initiates its annual membership renewals process (usually a month or so before its membership year end date).



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Here's an example of a membership renewal email generated by the club in MYABF to be sent to a player:



Membership Renewal

Hi Kevin,

Thank you for your continuing membership. Please find your renewal details below

Renewal Details:

Club: Tasmanian Bridge Association
Membership Type: Away Concession
Period: 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025
Fee: \$30.00
Due: 1 Feb 2025
Auto pay: 1 Feb 2025

You can pay your membership fee using Bridge Credits by going to your [My ABF profile page](#) and clicking the 'Pay Now' button for this renewal in the Club Memberships section.

The club will attempt to pay your membership using Bridge Credits on 1 Feb 2025 if it has not been paid by that time. If you would like to pay this way please ensure that you have sufficient Bridge Credits in your account or have auto top-up enabled.

You can prevent automatic payment with Bridge Credits by changing your permissions for this club on your [My ABF profile page](#) before 1 Feb 2025.

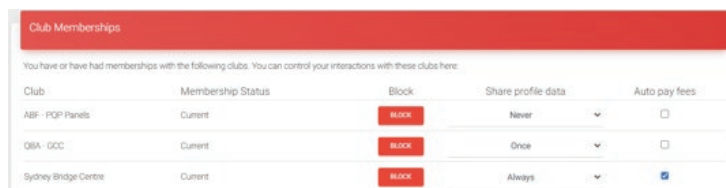
On the Auto pay date, if all goes through, payment will be made which means neither the player nor the club needs to do anything. Just like a table money fee or a congress entry, the charge goes to the player's account and a credit goes to the club's (later settled by the ABF to the club in the same way as happens now). All the transactions appear in both the player's and the club's bridge credits statements. Plus there are detailed reports available to the club to follow up who has and hasn't paid, etc.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT MY MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT TAKEN THAT WAY?

No problem. Firstly it can only happen if:

- The member has signed up with their own MYABF account (members without their own account can't use Bridge Credits in the first place).
- The member has sufficient funds in their account at the time (or has auto top-up enabled).

Secondly players now have an area in their profile pages about their membership(s) and can make various choices – one of which is to opt out of Auto pay for club membership fees.



Club	Membership Status	Block	Share profile data	Auto pay fees
ABF - POP Panels	Current	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
QBA - GCC	Current	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sydney Bridge Centre	Current	<input type="checkbox"/>	Always	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Simply untick the Auto pay fees option on the far right for the club(s) in question. You can then make your membership payment outside MYABF in whatever way you previously have. [You can still choose to pay with bridge credits – but just do so manually at a time of your choosing rather than have the automatic payment collection mechanism operate.]

What else can a player now do?

1. You can choose to share personal data (email, phone, date of birth) from your MYABF profile to your club's membership record. Remember your profile is in your MYABF account – it's your data not your club's. But you can elect to share some of that information to make things easier – otherwise your club membership record will be separate and, invariably, things will get out of sync over time.

You can choose to always share that data (so any future changes you make to your profile will automatically update your club membership record as well) or to do so just once (so the data at the time is copied to your club membership record but subsequent changes won't be) or not to share it at all (in which case the two records remain completely separate as they are today).

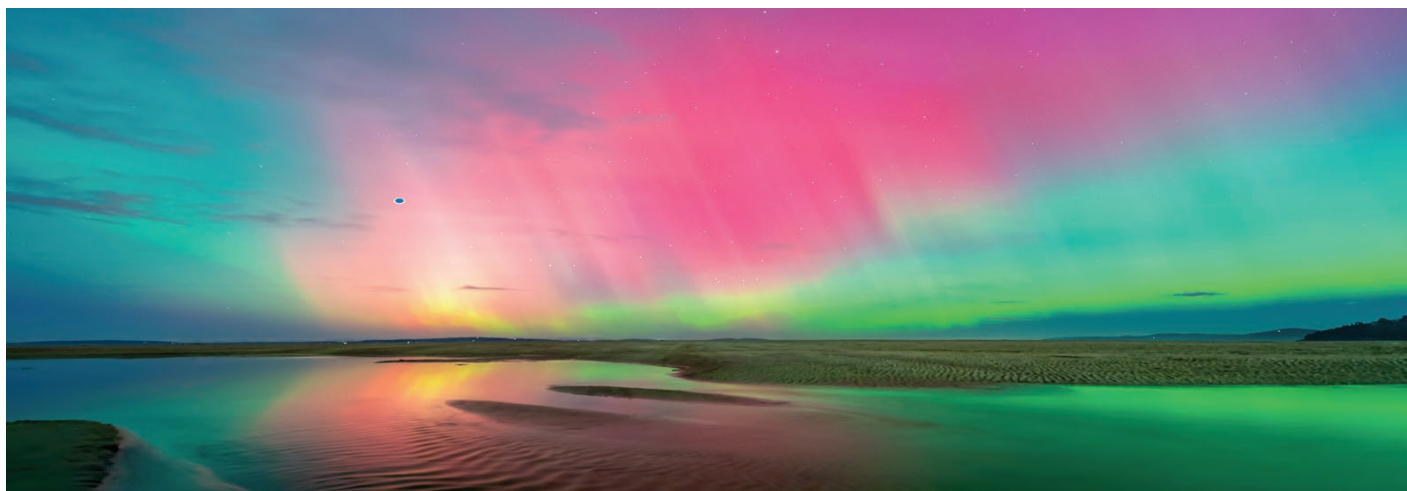
2. You can block a club that has listed you as a member. Note this is NOT the same as resigning your membership (that would be handled in the normal way and the club would update its member list). This is simply indicating that you think there is an error and you weren't a member of this club in the first place. Clubs can add players to their membership list in MYABF but there have been some occasions where they added someone by mistake. This gives the players visibility to which clubs are listing them as a member in MYABF. A notification is sent to the club if a player does this and their membership is removed. You can of course unblock a club later if you wish.

By the time you read this we hope several clubs with 31 December membership year ends will have sent out their annual renewals and perhaps some payments will have already been made. Welcome to the next generation of managing bridge club membership!

As usual please contact MYABF support or your local MYABF champion for more information. Some webinars have already been run about Release 6.0 and more assistance and training is planned.

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

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WORKSHOPS WITH WILL

with Will Jenner-O'Shea

POWER DOUBLES OR POWER OVERCALLS

The Workshops this year have featured a lot of contested bidding. One topic that many players have a basic awareness of but have not mastered is the **Power Double**. The concept of a Power Double is a way for the overcaller to show a very strong hand. Originally, a Power Double was used to show 16+ points, but I recommend only making a Power Double with 18+ points.

If your opponents open the bidding and you have a very strong hand it is hard to show. Note that the overcaller can't bid 2♣ (since that is a real suit by the overcaller), and often can't use 2NT (since that might be a convention, like the Unusual 2NT). The way that overcaller shows a strong hand is to start with a double. At this stage, partner will think that your double is simply a takeout double, showing around 12+ points, and support for every unbid suit. Note that if you double, you will always get another bid. Either your partner is forced to respond to your double, or if the opponent bids in between, and partner doesn't have to respond, but you get another go anyway.

After doubling, if you then overcall with a suit, or notrumps, it shows that you have a very powerful hand. If you had a simple double (12 points, support for the unbid suits), then you generally pass the next time around.

Note that is not the double that necessarily showed the strong hand. It is your two calls together, double-then-overcall, that shows the powerful hand.

Here are some specific situations. Your opponent opens 1♦, and you double. The opponents are now silent for the rest of the auction. Your partner responds 1♠ to your double. If you have a 'normal' takeout double, you would typically pass the 1♠ call, or perhaps raise to 2♠ to confirm that you have four trumps. Instead, if you now bid 2♥ it is a

double-then-overcall, and shows five or more hearts. The reason that you didn't simply overcall 1♥ the first time is that you are very strong, 18+ points. Partner is not forced to respond, but should look for any reason to get to game.



Here is another example where the auction again begins 1♦, double by you, and pass by your opponent. Partner again responds 1♠ and you now bid 1NT. If you had 15-18 points, with a balanced hand and a diamond stopper, you would have bid 1NT at your first call. If you only had 12-14 points, you should settle for partner's spades. To bid again after doubling, you must have **more than a 1NT bid on the previous round**. You are showing 19-22 points.

One common question that always comes up, is why don't you jump to 2NT to show that many points. The simple answer is that after an opening bid by your opponents, even 2NT might be too high! Sometimes the double-then-overcall auction reveals itself at a lower level, and also you get to hear about partner's best suit on the way.

Everybody refers to these as Power Doubles, but it is actually the combination of doubling first, and then overcalling, that reveals that you are very strong.

In one last example. Your opponent opens 1♦ (again) and you double (again). Your opponent is quiet, and partner responds 1♠ to your double. In this auction, raising partner's 1♠ forced response to 2♠ just shows that you have four spades and a normal double, around 12-15 points. Jumping to 3♠ is inviting game and shows around 16-18 points. You could jump to game if you were very strong.

Power Doubles don't come up very often, but it is important to know how to handle them when they do, since it could be your game, or possibly slam!

Tournament results

Canberra in Bloom

SPIDER ORCHID NOVICE MP SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Patrick Horsley - Louise Horsley 93.29
- 2 Paul Birkby - Debra Birkby 83.49
- 3 David Kenny - Kathleen Kenny 80.77
- 4 Gary Renfrey - Karen Renfrey 79.32
- 5 Gabrielle Bastow - Shane Brown 73.62
- 6 Jacques Cherbuin - Nicola Meares 72.08
- 7 Paddy Farrell - Sue Game 69.63
- 8 Penelope Shilling - Susie Thearle 69.05

SPIDER ORCHID RESTRICTED MP SWISS

- 1 Angelique Morin - Erik Moller 88.59
- 2 Maxwell Ashurst - Jennifer Carter 82.17
- 3 Ruth Fingret - Claire Bonic 81.07
- 4 Gwen Riordan - Liz Moss 69.68
- 5 Mirza Dato - Sherryn Dato 67.76
- 6 Tony Webb - Robert Still 66.60
- 7 Brenda Watts - Paul Appelby 64.60
- 8 Sean Quinn - Thais Morgan-pertus 61.98

ROYAL BLUEBELL OPEN MP SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Chris Depasquale - Michael Courtney 90.87
- 2 Stephen Mendick - Niek Van Vucht 83.84
- 3 Ian Robinson - Neil Ewart 82.64
- 4 David Wawn - Christopher Quail 76.75
- 5 Andrew Peake - Giselle Mundell 75.19
- 6 Elizabeth Havas - Bernard Waters 75.12
- 7 Bas Bolt - Ros Roworth 74.14
- 8 Lori Smith - Howard Melbourne 73.98

BUTTERFLY ORCHID ROOKIE

Lyndall Kennedy, Kate Latimer, Subhash Dang, Sneha Dang

GOLDEN WATTLE OPEN TEAMS

Tony Marinos, Peter Grant, Stephen Mendick, Bernard Waters

GREVILLEA GEM RESTRICTED/NOVICE TEAMS

- 1 Zara Chowdhury, Liam Minogue, Diya Shah, Dev Shah
- 2 David Kenny, Kathleen Kenny, Belinda Moss, Jenny Bell
- 3 Rose Sogal, Amy Holman, Gwen Riordan, Sally Burns, Liz Moss

FEDERATION ROSE NOVICE IMP PAIRS

- 1 Craig Becconsall - Bricet Kloren 109.86
- 2 Gabrielle Bastow - Shane Brown 87.13
- 3 Christine Chodasewicz - Gek Low 79.07
- 4 John Lee - James Walcott 76.62
- 5 Jen Woodhouse - Greg Brackenreg 75.85

FEDERATION ROSE RESTRICTED IMP SWISS

- 1 Maxwell Ashurst - Jennifer Carter 100.82
- 2 Gwen Riordan - Liz Moss 98.77
- 3 Zara Chowdhury - Liam Minogue 96.15

- 4 Althea Crowley - Jacqui Dudurovic 76.49
- 5 Brenda Watts - David Clarkson 75.64

CANBERRA BELLS IMP SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Alex Goss - Kate Macdonald 104.17
- 2 Tony Marinos - Peter Grant 92.26
- 3 Alan Stoneham - Mitch Dowling 89.99
- 4 Stephen Mendick - Bernard Waters 88.96
- 5 Chris Depasquale - Michael Courtney 86.82

VAL AND JOHN BROCKWELL MIXED TEAMS

Semi-Final

Jacob 76 def Reynolds (Lori Smith, Howard Melbourne, Jane Reynolds, Peter Reynolds) 63

Giura 75 def Mundell (Pele Rankin, Andrew Peake, Giselle Mundell, George Kozakos) 32

Final

Jacob (Ella Jacob, David Wiltshire, Andrew Spooner, Sophie Ashton) 125 def Giura (Nicoleta Giura, Axel Johannsson, Kate Mccallum, Nick Hughes) 103

Sydney Spring Nationals

PENLINE OPEN SWISS PAIRS

- 1 Wieslaw Przewozniak - Patrick Jiang 106.21
- 2 Yumin Li - Peter Jeffery 103.66
- 3 Daniela Von Arnim - Geeske Joel 102.66
- 4 Fraser Rew - Kim Morrison 100.99
- 5 Janeen Solomon - Alison Dawson 99.32
- 6 Jamie Thompson - Mathew Vadas 96.83
- 7 Paul Weaver - Terry Bodycote 95.52
- 8 Patsy Mccartney - Richard Brightling 95.50

PENLINE SWISS PAIRS - INTERMEDIATE

- 1 Rosemary Millar - Margaret Prentice 107.72
- 2 Mary Carter - Felix Shteyman 103.90
- 3 Lydia Gibbs - Kevin Murray 95.55
- 4 Noah Klugman - Clive Klugman 93.22
- 5 Alex Penklis - Phil Halloran 91.48

PENLINE SWISS - RESTRICTED AND NOVICE

- 1 Kathryn Stewart - Susan Feeny 110.41
- 2 Margaret Cusack - Rhonda Khong 98.82
- 3 Mark Schwartz - Margaret Wayland 93.72
- 4 Denise Reid - Judy King 88.40
- 5 Starlette Beaumont - Edna D'cruz 87.24

GERDA STERN MIXED PAIRS

- 1 Giselle Mundell - Andrew Peake 164.91
- 2 Kate Macdonald - Philip Markey 152.57
- 3 Axel Johannsson - Kate McCallum 152.11
- 4 Sue Lusk - Bruce Neill 143.09
- 5 Kevin Steffensen - Carolyn Miller 137.83
- 6 Therese Demarco - George Kozakos 137.39

MATCHPOINT PAIRS

- 1 Daniela Von Arnim - Geeske Joel 751.33
 - 2 Matt Smith - Joshua Tomlin 706.70
- Under-500: Richard Carter - Jay Novak

MIXED TEAMS

Semi-Final

Dalley 183 def Miller (Ann Liu, Usher Zeng, Kevin Steffensen, Carolyn Miller) 79

Wilson 165 def Johannsson (Kate Macdonald, Philip Markey, Axel Johannsson, Kate McCallum) 155

Final

Dalley (Ashley Bach, Arlene Dalley, Paul Dalley, Barbara Travis) 162 def Wilson (Pim Birss, Gwyneira Brahma, Deana Wilson, Dave Munro) 86

BRIDGEGEAR INTERMEDIATE TEAMS FINAL

Meyers (Jenny Barnes, Kerry Rymer, Kit Meyers, Fiona Fawcett) 151 def Nelan (Bill Doman, Bruce Nelan, Peter Cloke, Craig Mietzke) 85

TWO MEN AND A TRUCK RESTRICTED TEAMS

- 1 Julie Hamilton, John Fitzpatrick, Orsolina Aroney, Robyn Rogers
- 2 David Drake, Timothy Aley, Margaret Cusack, Rhonda Khong
- 3 Meredith Bunn, Kerry Rutter, Eileen Nielsen, Persephone Lobb

DICK CUMMINGS OPEN PAIRS

- 1 Nick Jacob - Paul Gosney 171.89
- 2 Ashley Bach - Arlene Dalley 155.29
- 3 Andrew Spooner - Matt Mullamphy 154.97
- 4 Tomer Libman - Lavy Libman 152.32
- 5 William Zhang - Yumin Li 151.60

INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

- 1 David De Bellis - Rodney Macey 153.49
- 2 Richard Carter - Jay Novak 151.22
- 3 Daria Williams - Tony White 146.73
- 4 Roy Cotton - Stephen Calcroft 143.96
- 5 Christine Hanley - Craig Mietzke 143.76
- 6 Sachiko Cathcart - John Simmonds 135.29
- 7 David Emmerson - Peter Bardos 133.15
- 8 Aadhi Hariharan - Alex Heller 127.90
- 9 Peter Lyons - Warren Males 127.45
- 10 Janis Grauds - Mary Atkinson 126.17

OPEN TEAMS

Semi-Final

Haffer 133 def Hoffman (Richard Brightling, David Hoffman, Ian Robinson, Neil Ewart) 108

Mundell 135 def Tomlin (Yiwei Qi, David Gue, Matt Smith, Joshua Tomlin) 118

Final

Haffer (Joachim Haffer - David Wiltshire - Sophie Ashton - Philip Markey) 166 def Mundell (Michael Courtney - Andrew Peake - Joan Butts - Giselle Mundell) 143

NOVICE PAIRS

- 1 Julie Hamilton - John Fitzpatrick 178.26
- 2 Andrew Refshauge - Michael Chouefate 145.46
- 3 Julie Stark - Paul Stark 126.80
- 4 Carolynne Mucharsky - Kevin F. Hughes 126.54
- 5 Michael Green - Steve Marton 120.40

Grand National Open Teams

SEMI-FINAL

Sydney 3 167 def Sydney 1 (David Wiltshire, Jessica Brake, Shane Harrison, Liam Milne, Sophie Ashton, James Coutts) 127

Adelaide 1 141 def SA Provincial (Jarrad Dunbar, Bertie Morgan, David Gue, Joshua Tomlin) 84

FINAL

Adelaide 1 (George Bartley, Arjuna De Livera, Nicolas Croft, Philip Markey) 144 def Sydney 3 (Fraser Rew, Ella Jacob, Matt Smith, Jamie Thompson) 85

NON-METROPOLITAN FINAL

Roger Yandle, Ken Berry, Chris Dibley, Michael Seldon

Golden West Swiss Pairs

- 1 Karol Miller - Martin Doran 122.94
- 2 Chris Cullen - Gill Gavshon 119.13
- 3 Gwyneira Brahma - Deana Wilson 114.97
- 4 Tom Lemann - Joann Theriault 111.55
- 5 Pim Birss - Ian Clark 111.34
- 6 Geoff Holman - Chris Ingham 107.89
- 7 Pauline Collett - Catherine Hood 107.59
- 8 Tim Wright - David Schokman 107.38
- 9 Gerry Daly - Viv Wood 106.15
- 10 Simon Brayshaw - Chris Mulley 106.06
- 11 Kaiping Chen - David Matthews 105.35
- 12 Phil Tearne - Val Biltoft 105.18
- 13 Richard Grenside - Sue Grenside 104.40
- 14 Cynthia Belonogoff - Vinod Nasta 103.93



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>





AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 BRISBANE

6th – 17th July 2025

EVENTS



Welcome Butler Swiss Pairs – Open & Restricted Sunday 6th
Interstate Teams Monday 7th-Friday 11th
Interstate Swiss Pairs Friday 11th
Open Butler Pairs Saturday 12th →
Mixed Butler Pairs Monday 14th →



Swiss Pairs Monday 14th-Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th-Thursday 17th

VENUE



Brisbane Technology Park Conference and Exhibition Centre
1 Clunies Ross Court, Eight Mile Plains
15 minutes from Brisbane City via the Pacific Motorway



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



Entries AND Accommodation options are on MyABF

GOLD POINTS