

Bulletin 1

Saturday 4th January



Australian Youth Bridge Championships

Session Times	Today
Pairs Qualifying	1pm-7:30pm approx.
Goulash	After dinner

Session Times	Tomorrow
Pairs Final/Consolation	10:30am-6:30pm
Scavenger Hunt	After dinner



Tournament Organiser Welcome

Welcome to Youth Week 2025! Extra cheers for our newcomers and the Kiwi crew—you've officially upgraded the event to *trans-Tasman fabulous*.



This week is all about meeting new friends, mastering the game, and maybe even winning one of the two National titles up for grabs. No pressure, though — fun and slams, doubled and redoubled contracts are mandatory, part scores are optional. Whether you're here to dominate or just avoid revokes, I hope you have an awesome time. Let's make it a week to remember (and not just because someone bid 7NT with no aces)!

◆ *Laura*



Laura Ginnan at Youth week in 2001

Some of the things that are the same as last year:

- ◆ Same location: Canberra Accommodation Centre, 210 Northbourne Ave, Braddon
- ◆ Same convenor: Laura Ginnan
- ◆ Accommodation on site
- ◆ All meals included

Some differences from last year:

- ◆ Daily Bulletins
- ◆ Several first-timers and nine Kiwis!
- ◆ New director: Daryl Whitfield
- ◆ More evening events, including Scavenger Hunt & Emma's Bridge
- ◆ Accommodation rooms now have fans
- ◆ Players not contesting Australian Junior Team selection to compete in Summer Festival of Bridge (Open Pairs or Under 100 MPs Teams)
- ◆ Australia vs New Zealand Test Match to be held as one of the consolation events on Wednesday

Suit Combinations Quiz

What is the best play in this suit for five tricks?

♠ AKQ103

♠ 2

How about now?

♥ AKQ109

♥ 2

Answers later in the Bulletin.

We want your bridge hands

Throughout youth week, you will play many bridge hands. And several of them are worth telling people about. This could be because:

- ◆ You did something awesome
- ◆ It was a good learning experience for you
- ◆ You scored a beer card*
- ◆ You found the hand particularly interesting for some other reason

When this happens we want to hear about it! Please let Leigh, Laura or Daryl know what happened on the hand, including the auction and the play (names of partner/opponents optional). If needed, Leigh is happy to help transform your interesting bridge hand into an interesting article. Alternatively, if you are able to write or type up the description of the hand Leigh will give you a free USB to keep! (one per person)

*A "beer card" occurs when you win the last trick with the seven of diamonds. If playing this "game within the game", your partner owes you a beer. There are a few provisos for it to count, starting with that you need to get a positive score on the hand (either make your contract if you are the declarer, or defeat declarer's contract if you are a defender). For declarer-related hands, it cannot be in a diamond contract, or a no trump contract where the diamond suit is the main source of tricks (i.e. a 8+ card diamond fit). Any contract is acceptable for a defensive beer card.



Renee Cooper will be arriving Saturday night

◀◀ From the Past ▶▶
2024

Super Youth Bridge

By Leigh Matheson

How old was the youngest person you've ever played a game of bridge with? Until recently my answer, like yours I imagine, was a 2-digit number.

Introducing Ashley Matheson, a 6-year-old from Sydney who learnt bridge 2 weeks ago and usually can't stop talking at the table.



"Make me dummy. Make me dummy. Please, please, please make me dummy!" Here's a fun hand where that operation failed, and curiously the story is best told from dummy's point of view.

Ashley opened the bidding 1♠ (4+ cards) and became declarer in 2♠. You put down this dummy:

A note to everyone intending to contest the Australian Junior Team selection: To be eligible to play in the Butler, both you and your partner are required to play together as a partnership for both days of the Youth Teams event.

Main Events Schedule	Day	Evening
Saturday 4th	Youth Pairs Qualifying (1pm – 7:30pm approx.)	Goulash Bridge
Sunday 5th	Youth Pairs Final (10:30am – 6:30pm approx.)	Scavenger Hunt
Monday 6th	Youth Teams Day 1/2 (10:30am – 6:30pm approx.)	Emma’s Bridge
Tuesday 7th	Youth Teams Day 2/2 (10:30am – 6:30pm approx.)	Cliff Wake & Speedball Bridge
Wednesday 8th	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Consolation (10:30am – 6:30pm)	Dinner out & Games / Trivia
Thursday 9th	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Consolation (10:30am – 6:30pm)	Crazy Pairs
Friday 10th	Butler Stage 1 (9am – 6:30pm) Coaching (9:30am – 10:15am) Side Event – SFOB Open Pairs or U100MP Teams	BBQ (6pm)
Saturday 11th	Butler Stage 2A (Times TBA) Side Event – SFOB Weekend Pairs	Butler Stage 2A (Times TBA)
Sunday 12th	Butler Stage 2B (Times TBA) Side Event – SFOB Weekend Pairs	Butler Stage 2B (Times TBA)

Under-25 Junior Team Selection Format:
 After 3 days of the Australian Junior Butler, the top pair will automatically qualify for the Australian Junior Team. The next 4 pairs will contest Stage 2A on Saturday 11th. At the end of Saturday, the top pair will join the Australian Junior Team and the bottom pair will be eliminated. On Sunday 12th the final two remaining pairs will fight it out in Stage 2B for the final spot on the Australian Junior Team.

Suit Combinations Answers

♠ AKQ103

♠ 2

ANSWER: Finesse to the Ten

The layouts on which you can win five tricks are when an opponent has precisely Jxx or when LHO has Jxxx. Playing off AKQ will win in the Jxx case only. Finessing will win if LHO has Jxx or Jxxx. Since there are more combinations in which LHO has Jxxx compared to RHO having Jxx, finessing is the better option.

♥ 2

ANSWER: Play from the top

As opposed to the previous example, playing from the top also wins five tricks if RHO has J singleton or Jx, whereas finessing still wins in the same cases. The additional upside for playing from the top make it a slightly better line in this example.

♥ AKQ109