Bulletin 1

Saturday 4th January

Session Times

Today

Pairs Qualifying Goulash

1pm-7:30pm approx.
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 Ginan 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
- **4** 2

How about now?

- ♥ AKQ109
- **9** 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

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 $1 \triangleq (4 + \text{cards})$ and became declarer in $2 \triangleq$. You put down this dummy:

- ♠ 9763
- **♥** J84
- **♦** 103
- **♣** AJ98

The defence starts with 2 rounds of diamonds, winning the \bullet A and Ashley, as declarer, taking the \bullet K in hand at trick 2. This is where the fun begins.

Without any apparent pause for thought, Ashley now leads the \$4 from hand... towards that dummy! I do my best to keep a poker face, but I can't imagine a hand where this is the right play. Can you?

It gets worse when the next player shows out of trumps. At this point everyone is giggling. Then Ashley calls for a LOW card from dummy. The giggling now turns to all out laughter. But curiously no one is laughing more than Ashley and he even starts saying "Haha, you can't beat me."

Sure enough, the other defender follows suit with the ♠2 and Ashley wins the trick with his high 4! I reach across the table and give him a high five (with 4 fingers). Having counted at trick 1 that all his spades were good right down to the 4 spot, Ashley now sees that trumps are already drawn, so he works on the side suits. Ashley cashes the ♥A and then leads the ◆5. Dummy now has these cards left:

- **◆** 976
- **♥** J8
- **•** —
- **♣** AJ98

Ashley: "Small." Me: "Small what?" Ashley: "Small." Me: "Which suit?" Ashley: "Smallest."

Me: "My smallest what?"

Ashley: "The six. The six is your smallest

card."

More laughter ensues.

Having discarded a trump and won the trick with it, Ashley realises this is good for him.

He ruffs back to hand and deliberately (this time) ruffs his last diamond loser in dummy, making 12 tricks. This was the full deal from the 2024 Youth Week:

Both Vul ♠ 9763 Dealer **♥** J84 North ♦ 103 ♣ AJ98 **♠** 2 **♥** K6532 ♥ Q1097 ♦ QJ7 ♦ A964 ♣ 107632 ♣ KQ54 ♠ AKQJ10854 Lead: ♦Q ♦ K852 **.**— (Ashley)

Throughout the week we will be interviewing players to better get to know everyone. The below interview with Michael Gearing was from a decade ago when he was at Youth Week in 2015. Michael is now the Qld Youth Bridge coordinator.

Interview with Michael Gearing



Q: Name (and Nickname): Mike.

Q: How long have you been playing bridge? Nearly 2 years.

Q: Favourite card in the deck, and why?

Q: Any memorable bridge moments?

Jess gave me the s**** for not learning to play 2way checkback, so I did learn it and it came up where I bid 2♣ but Jess passed it out.

Q: We do not condone this, but how many Ellena's do you think you can beat up?

I reckon I could take on about 4 before I have to

I reckon I could take on about 4 before I have to surrender and give up and die.

Q: What do you do?

I work.

O: Yoda vs. Magneto?

Isn't Magneto an ice cream? Then Yoda.

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

4 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.

V 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.