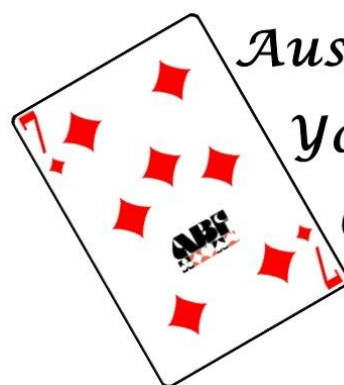


# Bulletin 3

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January



## Australian Youth Bridge Championships

### Session Times Today

Youth Teams 10:30am-6:30pm  
Emma's Bridge After dinner

### Session Times Tomorrow

Youth Teams 10:30am-6:30pm  
Cliff Wake Bridge After dinner  
Speedball Bridge After dinner



**Congratulations to Zara Chowdhury – Liam Minogue, winning the Youth Pairs Final, and Duncan Lai – Aadhi Hariharan who came second.**

**Congratulations to Tatami Greig – Kat Holmes, winning the Youth Pairs Consolation, and Lauren Morgan – Paddy Taylor who came second.**

### Pairs Final Scores

Rank	Name	Score
1	ZARA CHOWDHURY - LIAM MINOGUE	58.33%
2	DUNCAN LAI - AADHI HARIHARAN	57.27%
3	DARREN BRAKE - ANDREW SPOONER	57.09%
4	EDMOND LEE - ALAN STONEHAM	56.62%
5	JEREMY REID - SEB WRIGHT	56.15%
6	ZAC ROSS - KATE MACDONALD	52.40%
7	TOMER LIBMAN - DAMON FLICKER	49.60%
8	ALEX GOSS - BERTIE MORGAN	48.29%
9	ZARIAS WERDER - LEON MEIER	47.78%
10	HEATH WATKINS - MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI	43.31%
11	ADRIAN LE - JADE WILKINSON	40.22%
12	TOM LANGDON MACMILLAN - SEB LANGDON MACMILLAN	32.95%

### Pairs Consolation Scores

Rank	Name	Score
1	TAMATI GREIG - KAT HOLMES	61.28%
2	LAUREN MORGAN - PADDY TAYLOR	60.43%
3	SAM ANGOVE - SAMUEL GOSS	54.48%
4	MAISIE GOLD - TAYDON GOLD	54.28%
5	RICKY CARTHEW - ALEXANDRA MILLS	54.21%
6	MAXWELL ASHURST - ALEXIS WILSMORE	54.08%
7	ANNE DAVEY - FLETCHER DAVEY	53.44%
8	TIMOTHY OMVIG - MOLLY MEEK	52.60%
9	MACKENZIE RHODES - GORDON ZHONG	51.58%
10	ANTHONY MILLS - MARCUS DUDLEY	51.50%
11	GRACE GISSING - EMMA LANGFORD	50.67%
12	OLIVER BRAYSHAW - LIZZY BRAYSHAW	50.64%
13	NOAH KLUGMAN - SEBASTIAN REDIN	49.58%
14	JASSY CARTHEW - ELLENA BLACK	49.18%
15	ASHLEY MATHESON - JAMIE THOMPSON	45.69%
16	CHARLI-ROSE COOTE - CAMPBELL MILLAR	39.60%
17	ALEXANDER WILKINSON - LIANA WILSMORE	33.65%
18	JEREMY LIN - MOLLY LANGDON MACMILLAN	33.48%

### Scavenger Hunt Success!

Many thanks to all the people who helped organise yesterday's scavenger hunt. Everyone who participated had a great time and we also learnt a few new words to add to our bridge vocabulary!

See last page of bulletin for photos of scavenger hunt activities.

### Suit Combinations Quiz

What is the best play in this trump suit?

♥ 7654

♥ AJ1098

If:

- With unlimited entries?
- Dummy has no outside entry (the lead is in dummy for the last time right now)?

Answers later in the Bulletin.



Zara Chowdhury – Liam Minogue, winners of the Pairs Final



Duncan Lai – Aadhi Hariharan, runners up in the Pairs Final



Tamati Greig – Kat Holmes, winners of the Pairs Consolation



Lauren Morgan (& Paddy Taylor), runners up in the Pairs Consolation

## Cash Prizes!

The competition to feature the best bridge article now has financial backing courtesy of Paul Brayshaw!

Summary of Prizes:

- \$100 cash prize for the best played bridge hand at Youth Week 2025
- \$200 cash prize for the author of the above bridge hand (cannot be the same person featured for the best played hand prize)
- \$100 cash prize for the best beer card\* (player may write up the article themselves for this one)

The full list of terms and conditions is posted on flyers around the venue. In short, Paul Brayshaw will judge all submissions, award all prizes and have sole discretion in all matters, including whether to accept late submissions etc.

Please include details of the bidding, the play, and the players at the table (thought it may be appropriate to withhold the identity of some players if it would cause embarrassment).


If you would like assistance in writing an article, Leigh is available to help you. Good luck to all and I look forward to reading all the articles.

Definition of beer card (from Bulletin 1):  
 \*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.

## A doubled beer

by Leigh Matheson


Playing in the Pairs Final, Tomer Libman found himself in an unmakeable contract... doubled. Problem? Not on this occasion.

Both Vul	♠ 8		
Dlr: South	♥ AJ102		
	♦ 87653		
	♣ A104		
♠ K6532			♠ Q
♥ K4			♥ Q8765
♦ KQJ94			♦ A2
♣ 5			♣ KJ972
	♠ AJ10974		
2♠X	♥ 93		
Lead: ♣5	♦ 10		
	♣ Q863		

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West, seeking a club ruff, started with the ♣5. Tomer ducked in dummy and when East won the ♣K, followed suit with the ♣6, making it look like West had a doubleton club.

East switched to the ♠Q and Tomer played trumps from the top. The defence played two rounds of diamonds, forcing Tomer to ruff and he played all of his trumps. East held on to hearts, which allowed Tomer to cash all his clubs, carefully preserving the ♦7 in dummy:

	♠ —		
	♥ AJ		
	♦ 7		
	♣ —		
♠ —			♠ —
♥ K4			♥ Q87
♦ J			♦ —
♣ —			♣ —
	♠ —		
	♥ 93		
	♦ —		
	♣ 8		

On the ♣8, West also held onto hearts. So Tomer made 10 tricks, finishing with +1070, but more importantly the beer card.

## Interview with Mitch Dowling

"Where are you from?"

M: Sydney

"What do you do for work?"

M: I'm a high school maths teacher.

"When did you start playing bridge?"

M: 2013

"What is your favourite thing about bridge?"

M: Just one thing? I like the problem solving aspect of it. I like that bridge is a combination of problem solving, psychology and socialising.

"Scissors, Paper, Rock. I'm going paper."

Both: "scissors, paper, rock"

\*both of us show paper

"Why did you go paper?"

M: Because you could have swapped to something else. Do I trust you? Wait, are you my partner or my opponent?

"Do you have a favourite bridge hand or type of play?"

M: I'm really bad at remembering plays. A hand that I always go back to and think about (because it was so ridiculous) was at the 2017 Gold Coast Congress. I had something like:

♠ xx  
♥ Kxx  
♦ AKQxxx  
♣ xx

South	West	North	East
—	2 NT*	Dble**	Pass
?			

\* Both minors, weak hand

\* Takeout for Majors



Mitch enjoying life at 2025 Youth Week

I chose to pass and opener passed the hand out! Partner ran his 6 solid spades, cashed the ♥A and led a heart to my ♥K. Meanwhile declarer had discarded their diamond stopper, so when the contract went down 8. We scored +2300 and +18 Imps to win the match by 10 Imps.

Another interesting hand came up, playing with Alan in the 2023 Gold Coast Congress:

♠ 95  
♥ 108  
♦ AQ1097632  
♣ 3

North	East	South	West
—	—	2♦*	2 NT
?			

\* Flannery: showing and opening hand with exactly 4 spades and 5-6 hearts

I chose to bid 4♦, which was doubled and passed out. Alan had to play the hand:

E/W Vul	♠ 95	
Dlr: South	♥ 108	
	♦ AQ1097632	
	♣ 3	
♠ AJ4		♠ K762
♥ KJ2		♥ 754
♦ KJ		♦ 854
♣ AK984		♣ 652
	♠ Q1083	
	♥ AQ963	
	♦ —	
	♣ QJ107	

West leads the ♠K and after staring at dummy for a while eventually switches to the ♦K! He probably figures his diamonds will get finessed anyway. Alan proceeds to run trumps, which squeezes West, allowing this doubled contract to make. Teammates took 3♦ down 1 trick (the par result), so we picked up 11 Imps.

Mitch is the NSW youth coordinator.

## Puzzle Corner

Can you work out the following puzzles (solutions tomorrow):

<p>SECRET ←</p> <p>SECRET</p> <p>SECRET</p>
<p>GET IT</p> <p>GET IT</p> <p>GET IT</p> <p>GET IT</p>
<p>TRY      <u>STAND</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">2</p>
<p>E</p> <p>N</p> <p>S T O</p>

Answers to yesterday's puzzles:

- For once in my life
- Split decision
- When in Rome
- Slightly overcast

## Suit Combinations

by Leigh Matheson

By far the most commonly occurring suit combination that is worthy of study (in my opinion) is the nine-card fit missing the King and Queen:

♥ 7654

♥ AJ1098

This layout comes up both in trump and notrump contracts, largely depending on whether the suit is a Major suit or a minor suit. So what's the best play to win 4 of the 5 tricks?

Let's work it out. Options include:

- a) Cash the Ace
- b) Finesse once then cash the Ace
- c) Finesse twice

Now we need to summarise the possible layouts that are able to be made:

Layout	Frequency	Works	Fails
— KQ32	5%	b c	a
H H32	12.5%	a c	b
x KQx	12.5%	b c	a
KQ 32	6.7%	a b	c

\*note: H (for honour) could be the K or Q.  
x (for small card) could be the 3 or 2.

Option (a) fails 17.5% of these cases.  
Option (b) fails 12.5% of these cases.  
Option (c) fails 6.7% of these cases.

As such, the odds indicate that the best line of play is to finesse twice. Or if you are in dummy for the last time, finesse once and then cash the ace is your best chance.

However bridge is rarely this easy. In practice, it's usually best to cash the Ace first virtually any time this layout occurs. Why?

Cashing the Ace has so many upsides relating to the other suits, which frequently matter! Playing the Ace and then another trump significantly reduces the chance the opponents can get a ruff. This play also does not require you to burn entries to finesse – entries that are frequently needed for something else.

