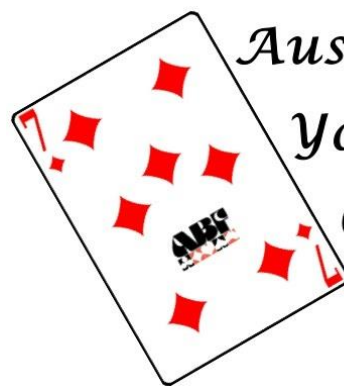


Bulletin 4

Tuesday 7th January



Australian Youth Bridge Championships

Session Times Today

Youth Teams 10:30am-6:30pm
 Cliff Wake Bridge 6:30pm-7pm
 Speedball Bridge After dinner

Session Times Tomorrow

Butler 9am-6:30pm
 Coaching 9:30am-10:15am
 Consolation 10:30am-6:30pm
 Dinner Out & Games/Trivia & Hopscotch



At the halfway point of the Youth Teams, here are the current standings:

Teams – current standings				
Rank	Team	Imps	VPs	W-D-L
1	Reid	237	121.87	7-0-0
2	Flicker	239	119.60	6-0-1
3	Morgan	144	112.43	7-0-0
4	Le	119	103.08	6-0-1
5	Werder	80	92.53	5-0-2
6	Minogue	28	75.93	4-0-3
7	Davey	15	72.00	3-1-3
8	Gold	-42	64.46	3-0-4
9	Brayshaw	-6	62.56	2-1-4
10	Langford	-96	49.46	3-0-4
11	Rhodes	-105	39.32	1-0-6
12	Lai	-156	31.50	1-0-6
13	Carthew	-212	19.07	0-1-6
14	Millar	-245	16.19	0-0-7

“Emma’s Bridge” Results

North/South		
Rank	Pair	Score
1	ALEX GOSS - ZAC ROSS	69.61%
2	LEIGH MATHESON - LAUREN MORGAN	64.30%
3	ELLENA BLACK - ALAN STONEHAM	55.60%
4	ZARA CHOWDHURY - ANNE DAVEY	52.40%
5	SAMUEL GOSS - SEB WRIGHT	51.92%
6	JACK LUKE-PAREDI - DAMON FLICKER	49.05%
7	TAMATI GREIG - MOLLY MEEK	46.59%
8	EMMA LANGFORD - ALEXANDRA MILLS	46.14%
9	JEREMY LIN - CAMPBELL MILLAR	45.39%
10	TAYDON GOLD - JADE WILKINSON	41.88%
11	ANTHONY MILLS - MARCUS DUDLEY	41.20%
12	GRACE GISSING - SEBASTIAN REDIN	35.93%
East/West		
1	MATTHEW SIEREDZINSKI - FLETCHER DAVEY	66.90%
2	MITCH DOWLING - AADHI HARIHARAN	57.60%
3	SAM ANGOVE - JEREMY REID	55.50%
4	ZARIAS WERDER - LEON MEIER	51.82%
5	NOAH KLUGMAN - ALEXIS WILSMORE	51.26%
6	TIMOTHY OMVIG - MACKENZIE RHODES	50.89%
7	EDMOND LEE - DARREN BRAKE	50.17%
8	LIZZY BRAYSHAW - PAUL BRAYSHAW	45.97%
9	MAXWELL ASHURST - LIAM MINOGUE	43.80%
10	RICKY CARTHEW - JASSY CARTHEW	43.18%
11	KAT HOLMES - HEATH WATKINS	41.61%
12	TOMER LIBMAN - BERTIE MORGAN	41.30%

Note to all: At the conclusion of play today we will all walk to Rex for the Cliff Wake challenge. The buddy system applies: Everyone will be responsible for their buddy until they return.

Suit Combinations Quiz

What is the best play in this trump suit?

♣ AK2

♣ J9843


If:

- a) You need all of the tricks?
- b) You need all but one of the tricks?

Answers later in the Bulletin.


A defensive beer card

Marcus Dudley reported kibitzing an interesting defensive beer card. On the following deal West was Aadhi Hariharan and East was Adrian Le:

All Vul	♠ KJ8		
Dlr: West	♥ J85		
	♦ J9		
	♣ A7654		
♠ Q972		♠ 3	
♥ K73		♥ AQ109642	
♦ 10743		♦ Q8	
♣ J10		♣ Q32	
	♠ A10654		
Lead: ♥3	♥ —		
	♦ AK652		
	♣ K98		

South	West	North	East
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	4 ♥
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Declarer ruffed the heart lead, successfully finessed the ♠J and continued with two top diamonds. When the ♦Q dropped, the suit was abandoned. Declarer then played cashed a spade and played another to West's ♠Q (don't ask). The defence continued with hearts and declarer elected to discard diamonds twice, leaving these cards left:


	♠ —		
	♥ —		
	♦ —		
	♣ A7654		
♠ 9		♠ —	
♥ —		♥ 109	
♦ 107		♦ —	
♣ J10		♣ Q32	
	♠ A		
	♥ —		
	♦ 6		
	♣ K98		

Declarer finally ruffed this round of hearts and Aadhi discarded the ♣10. Note that even if West could overruff this would cost the beer card! The ♣A was cashed next and Aadhi scored the last three tricks with the ♠9, ♦10 and ♦7. Well done.

A Fantasy hand

by Leigh Matheson

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

N/S Vul	♠ 7643		
Dlr: South	♥ Q10		
	♦ K973		
	♣ K83		
♠ AK5			
♥ —			
♦ AQ108			
♣ AJ9642			

South	West	North	East
2 ♥	Dble	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

You lead a top spade and partner plays the ♠J (denying the ♠Q).

What do you play next?

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

♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠ ♥

If you only consider the standard card to lead in each suit, you might conclude that playing any of the 3 suits is likely to give away a trick.

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

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

	♦ K973		
♦ QJ108		♦ A2	
	♦ 654		

Clearly the correct play is to duck twice in the suit, scoring the ♦K later.

The full deal:

N/S Vul ♠ 7643
Dlr: South ♥ Q10
♦ K973
♣ K83

♠ AK5
♥ —
♦ AQ108
♣ AJ9642



♠ Q82
♥ K9865
♦ 654
♣ Q7

♠ J109
♥ AJ7432
♦ J2
♣ 105

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

Tip: You are allowed to lead any card in your hand. After dummy has come down you can often find creative ways to get better value for money out of the cards you lead.

So why is this hand a fantasy?

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

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

A note to everyone intending to contest the Australian Junior Team selection: To be eligible to play in the Butler, you will need to fill in an eligibility criteria form, and declare yourself eligible and intending to represent Australia if successful, in accordance with the ABF regulations:
https://www.myabf.com.au/media/congress-downloads/2024/09/30/2025_Australian_Youth_Championships_Supplementary_Regulations.pdf

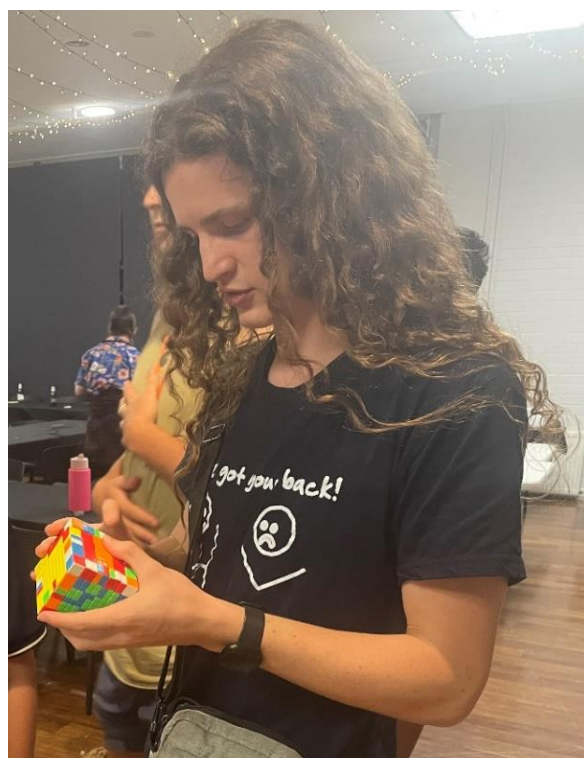
Rubix Cubers!

People get up to all sorts of cool and interesting activities at Youth Week. This year was the first time I've seen Rubix cubes. And I mean cubes, plural.

Here's my first sighting: Matthew Sieredzinski with a 5×5×5 Rubix cube:



Then I turn around and see another one:



Yes, that is a 9×9×9 Rubix cube!

Interview with Liana & Alexander

"Where are you from?"

Both:
Canberra

"What year are you in at school?"

Both: year 5

"How long have you been playing bridge?"

L: 1 ½ years - I stopped after about a year and came back
A: 2 years

"What is your favourite thing about bridge?"

A: Ummm.....
L: How anyone can play it and it's a bit complicated. That's my favourite part. Having to think a lot.
A: Probably because it's cooperative, but competitive at the same time. You can't communicate using your voice, but only using your cards. And that's pretty cool to do that. It's just a deck of cards so its easy to pack up and set up again.

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

All: "scissors, paper, rock"

*I show paper, Alexander shows scissors and Liana shows rock

"Why did you go scissors?"

A: Because you said you were going to go paper. And generally you want to do scissors when that happens.

"Why did you go rock?"

L: I didn't hear you say you were going to go paper.

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



Liana Wilsmore and Alexander Wilkinson

A: I haven't actually had this hand, but it would be fascinating to have all the cards in a suit. Or all the aces, all the kings, all the queens and a jack. Do you know why you can't have all the jacks?

"Is it because you'd have 14 cards?"

A: No, you'd have 16 cards.

L: My favourite hand would be all the aces, no kings, no queens and a few jacks.

"Anything else you want to say?"

L: My little brother thinks he knows everything about bridge. I told him there's a lot of food here, so he's interested. But he doesn't want to play bridge yet.

L: Do you know the periodic table song?

"I know some of it, but not well enough to s..."

L: There's Hydrogen and Helium, then Lithium Beryllium, Boron, Carbon... (eventually Liana comes up for oxygen)

L: Do you know the Pi song?

"I do actually know a bit of that one."

Together: Three point one four one five nine... this is Pi... followed by... two, six, five, three, five, eight, nine... circumference over diameter...

Puzzle Corner

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

LANG4UAGE

ABCDEFGH
IJKLMNOP
OPQRST
VWXYZ

ATLANTIC
PACIFIC SAW
ARCTIC

↑ 2U

Answers to yesterday's puzzles:

- Top secret
- Forget it
- Try to understand
- Cornerstone

Suit Combinations

by Leigh Matheson

In today's layout:

♣ AK2

♣ J9843

there is not much we can do to forcibly remove the ♣Q. If we need all five tricks, the best we can do is play the ♣A and ♣K, hoping the ♣Q falls.

But what if we are not fussed about losing a trick, but instead want to maximise our chances of getting 4 of the 5 tricks?

In this case it seems intuitive to make the same play. After all, if West shows out we can still lead the ♣2 towards the ♣J next, holding this layout to one loser if East has ♣Q10xx. But there is a stronger play available: After cashing one top card, cross back to hand and lead the ♣9, planning to run it if West plays low. Now we ensure being able to make 4 of 5 tricks if *either* opponent has ♣Q10xx. This is because if West shows out on the second round, we win in dummy and can still lead towards the ♣J.



Winners of the 2025 Scavenger Hunt