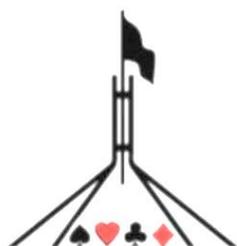




♠♥♦♣ Edition 2: Wednesday January 8th

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2025 Canberra SUMMER FESTIVAL of Bridge

Summer Festival of Bridge: A Bittersweet Start

The 2025 Summer Festival of Bridge has begun, but not without a heavy heart. We were deeply saddened to learn of Simon Hinge's sudden passing on his way to Canberra. Simon, a character in the bridge community, would no doubt be the first to say '*#it happens, get on with it*'. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts are with his family and the many friends of Simon's here at the event and around the globe.

Despite this blue beginning, the festival has quickly found its rhythm. Yesterday saw the start of several exciting 3-day teams events, including the Women's and Seniors' categories, where top teams are also battling for a spot in the National Selection.

A highlight of the day was a fantastic workshop by Will Jenner O'Shea, who shared invaluable insights on bidding judgment. The room was filled with eager participants, with more than half of them joining the festival for the first time.

Already, the stories are flowing. One particularly memorable moment came from the Women's event, where 3NT went a dramatic 8 down—just the kind of unpredictable action that makes bridge so exciting!

While the festival's start was bittersweet, we look forward to the many unforgettable moments yet to come.

In this edition

- Vale Simon Hinge (2)
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- The Baker's Dozen (5)
- Need Help (5)
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Hot lunches are available for purchase on level 5





VALE SIMON HINGE

By Stephen Lester

The Australian Bridge community is reeling today after the sudden loss of one of the most colourful bridge personalities in Australia for more than half a century, Simon Hinge.

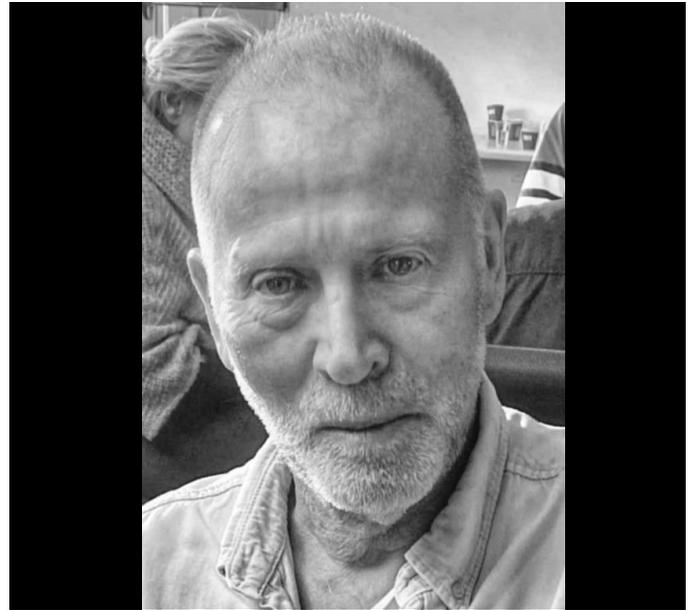
Simon was my favoured bridge partner in a bridge career spanning 55 years. I was proud to be his partner and admired both his bridge brain and his sometimes devilish decisions. He would say after something went wrong "well, at least you gave it a go".

I can't say with any certainty when we formed a partnership, but it was enduring, and while we didn't always agree, we never argued. Simon, known to be intolerant of what he considered stupidity, could appear aloof and irascible, but he could also be extremely loveable.

In his 50+ years of competitive bridge, with Simon partnering many notable partners, Simon amassed nearly 11,000 masterpoints, making him a worthy Emerald Grand Master.

Simon also served the bridge community well. He was on the ABF Management Committee for a number of years, and was instrumental in helping design the current ABF website.

Simon was like an iceberg, with only part of his immense personality showing above water. He was successful in compartmentalising areas of his life. His beloved rubber bridge game on a Friday evening saw him rub shoulders with bridge players seldom if ever seen at a bridge club.





VALE SIMON HINGE (Continued)

His love for cryptic crosswords and trivia online with his band of cronies, his fascination for Collingwood Football Club, and his album of "old sheds" photographed on his travels these are all legendary facets of the man. While he grew up in South Australia his many friends in Victoria are the ones who knew him best, some of them now lost to us all.

My most satisfying win in recent years (the 2018 Spring National Open Teams) saw Simon and I team with talented youngsters Ella Jacob (Pattison) - Nye Griffiths. Simon's personality could span the generations, and he was great friends with young people like Laura Ginnan, our Summer Festival Organiser, who showcased her imagination by organising Simon's 70th birthday party in June 2022.

He was also a great friend to the late Jeannette Collins, and they could be seen enjoying strong lattes at all the trendy cafes in Simon's favoured St Kilda/Middle Park/South Melbourne zones.

Today, the end came suddenly for my dear friend. Travelling to our favourite event, the Summer Festival, a sharp cry and his head turned to one side, the life went out of Simon's eyes and despite the efforts of Andrew Mill, two willing onlookers, the ambulance and paramedic personnel Simon could not be revived.

Simon boasts an impressive bridge career that spans decades of elite competition. He represented the Open APBF Team in 1994 and 2005 and competed in the prestigious WBF d'Orsi Senior Teams in 2013. Simon also served as the Non-Playing Captain of the Venice Cup Teams in both 1991 and 2007. These international accolades complement his numerous National Titles.





**Howling Moon
rooftop bar and
Swan and King
Restaurant
(level 5/6) open daily
after play**



WHAT'S ON TODAY (WEDNESDAY 8/1)

Red Masterpoint duplicate and workshop

Workshop 10.00-12.00 (Ballroom), Red Masterpoint Duplicate 1.00 -4.30 (Location TBC)

Rookies (u20 MP) Workshop and Swiss Pairs (day 1/2)

Workshop 10.00-12.00, Swiss Pairs 1.00-4.30 (Ballroom)

Novice (u100 MP) Workshop and Swiss Pairs (day 1/2)

Workshop 10.00-12.00, Swiss Pairs 1.00-4.30 (Ballroom)

National Women's Teams Championship (day 2 of 3)

Session times 9.45am, 1.00pm, 3.50pm, conclude by 6.30pm (Great room))

National seniors' Teams Championship (day 2 of 3)

Session times 9.45am, 1.00pm, 3.50pm, conclude by 6.30pm (Great room)

National 750 Masters' Teams Championship (day 2 of 3)

Session times 9.45am, 1.00pm, 3.50pm, conclude by 6.30pm (Great room)

Chirs Diment Swiss Pairs (day 1/2)

Session times 9.45am, 2.00pm, conclude by 6.00pm (Great room)

WHAT'S ON TOMORROW (THURSDAY 9/1)

Red Masterpoint duplicate and workshop

Workshop 10.00-12.00 (Ballroom), Red Masterpoint Duplicate 1.00 -4.30 (Ballroom)

Rookies (u20 MP) Workshop and Swiss Pairs (day 2/2)

Workshop 10.00-12.00, Swiss Pairs 1.00-4.30 (Ballroom)

Novice (u100 MP) Workshop and Swiss Pairs (day 2/2)

Workshop 10.00-12.00, Swiss Pairs 1.00-4.30 (Ballroom)

National Women's Teams Championship (day 3 of 3)

Session times 9.45am, 1.00pm, 3.50pm, conclude by 6.30pm (Great room))

National seniors' Teams Championship (day 3 of 3)

Session times 9.45am, 1.00pm, 3.50pm, conclude by 6.30pm (Great room)

National 750 Masters' Teams Championship (day 3 of 3)

Session times 9.45am, 1.00pm, 3.50pm, conclude by 6.30pm (Great room)

Chirs Diment Swiss Pairs (day 2/2)

Session times 9.45am, 2.00pm, conclude by 6.00pm (Great room)



Mixed Playoff - The Baker's Mixed Dozen by Peter Gill and Michael Courtney

Introduction by Peter Gill

Each day in 13 bulletins this fortnight, we will present a hand and a tip from the Mixed Playoff. We begin with a few misfires and missed opportunities; next week will have the drama of the big comeback.

Have you ever played bridge against Michael Courtney? If not, you might have the pleasure in this week's Senior Teams or a subsequent event. The first three days provide an insight into how Michael's mind works, and why it's so diabolically hard to play against him. Over to Michael

Empathy or point of view - dashing deals from the recent Mixed Playoff conflict

By Michael Courtney

Empathy.

The most important skill at bridge (and perhaps life) is the ability to see things from other people's points of view. Here is a master-class example from the quarter-finals of the Mixed Teams Playoff.

Neither of us fancied bidding with the dreaded three card holding in spades, so we missed a game reached at the other tables. Even so, this was my favourite deal from the Playoff. Arlene led the club king, which held. Now Arlene looked at the deal from declarer's point of view. Ella is unlikely to hold the club jack (or she could win the first club to ensure two club winners. But partner's club jack is most certainly doubleton, so on a low club continuation, declarer will duck and partner is unable to continue clubs.

So Arlene played the CQ, anticipating declarer's duck at Trick 2. Which is exactly what happened. Arlene could therefore stay on lead to continue clubs at Trick 3. So they made only dummy's two aces for minus 250.

A splendid play and a bone crusher. Declarer suffers the indignity of knowing that she would have won two club tricks had she won the ace at trick two.

Peter Gill has a habit of interrupting - here's his interruption.

We lost 8 imps when EW bid and made 5C at my table. North's 11 point opening and South's 1NT response on 3 points were duplicated at both tables.

Today's Tip: *Even if your defence is wonderful, you still have to get into the auction when you're vul vs not vul, when the opponents might be stealing from you on light values.*

The BBO commentary was by Australian bridge royalty Barbara Travis and Phil Markey. Phil has had an extraordinary year, winning three major events at year's end to score more than 200 masterpoints in just over a month and overtake Ella Jacob as

QF Board 72
Dealer North
EW Vul

♠ Q9653	♠ A82
♥ A52	♥ J94
♦ J3	♦ AK985
♣ AT5	♣ J3

♠ KT4	♠ J7
♥ KQT6	♥ 873
♦ -	♦ QT7642
♣ KQ9742	♣ 86



leader of the McCutcheon Trophy for most masterpoints in Australia in 2024. In 2024 Phil (stiffqueen on BBO) also became a member of the 2025 Australian Open Team and won huge worldwide online games with robots on BBO. Since then, Phil and his partner Joe Haffer have already been practising in Schafer games on BBO where they have been beating the world's best.

Barbara and Phil wrote a massive 35 lines of commentary on BBO about whether such a 1NT response needed to be alerted. Phil wrote:

"It is an awkward area where pairs think that the expectation of having 6-12 justifies the same explanation"

Barbara wrote:

"here's what a good convention card looks like. Gill-Sylvester: 0-12 NV, 6-11 Vul". Liz Sylvester alerted 1NT as "0-12 (♠ fit possible)". The other table didn't alert. Phil wrote:

" We can agree that 0-12 is the better thing to go on the card." and " I think i am fine with the card either way as long as it is properly explained."

It's not just great bridge results that Phil is having this year - when he commentates, he's also trying to make sure we're all being actively ethical by informing our opponents accurately of our agreements and bidding style.

Footnote: How did we access Vugraph comments later on? Go into the BBO app, click on Vugraph, then Vugraph Archives, then in the Search box write "Sylvester" or the name of the player whose hands you're looking for.



2025 Australian Mixed Team



NEED HELP?

DURING THE GAME

DIRECTORS (RED SHIRTS)

Bridge related matters

CADDIES (BLACK SHIRTS)

If you run out of boards to play

VENUE RELATED + LOST PROPERTY

Rex reception/foyer

EVERYTHING ELSE

Mary Elson Player Experience Specialist

EVENT OFFICIALS

TOURNAMENT ORGANISER

Laura Ginnan

(not@abf.com.au, if urgent 0411 694 248)

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Laurie Kelso

REVIEWERS

Matthew McManus & Nick Hughes

REVIEW CONSULTANTS

Jonathon Free, Shane Harrison & Jodi Tutty

ABF ON SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Warren Lazer & Liam Milne

RECORDERS

Dee Harley, Phil Markey, Pele Rankin & Marcia Scudder

BIDDING BOXES ARE USED IN ALL EVENTS.

IF YOU HAVEN'T USED A BIDDING BOX

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH A VIDEO](#)

**SYSTEM CARDS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL
SUMMER FESTIVAL EVENTS**

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH A VIDEO](#)

Unpleasant Experience?

The ABF is committed to ensuring that all players compete in a pleasant and respectful environment. To assist in this, we appoint recorders to facilitate the smooth running of bridge events. The role of our recorders is to:

- Receive information (either verbal or written) from individual players as to concerns which may arise from events at the table
- Be available for consultation prior to commencement of play (10 minutes) and at the end of play (20 minutes); and
- Consider the issue/s raised and take appropriate action.

If you require a recorder, simply speak with one of the directors (red shirts).





Elizabeth & Vicki
(Top left),

Debra and Paul
(top middle),

John (top right),

Rhonda & Margaret
(bottom left),

Kate and Lyndall
(bottom right)

OUR FIRST WINNERS

First Winners of the 2025 Summer Festival

Congratulations to the first winners of the 2025 Summer Festival of Bridge!

Under 20 Masterpoint Welcome Pairs

N/S: Lyndall Kennedy & Kate Latimer

E/W: Elizabeth Redman & Vicki Hildebrand

Under 100 Masterpoints Welcome Pairs

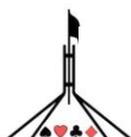
N/S: Margaret Cusack & Rhonda Khong

E/W: Paul & Debra Birkby

Red Point Duplicate

John Donovan & Perelle Scales

Well done to all the winners – what a fantastic start to the festival!





DECISION DYNAMICS

As part of the 2024 Championships fundraiser, a bidding challenge was organised. In each bulletin, we'll feature a problem along with answers from some of Australia and New Zealand's top players.

Here's your problem (IMPs scoring, nil vul, you are South):

♠ 8432	North	East	South	West
♥ 9743	1NT	Pass	?	
♦ KT84	(15-17)			
♣ 9				

EXPERT SUBMISSIONS ON NEXT PAGE

CHRIS DIMENT MATCHPOINT SWISS PAIRS

(starts today)

Chris Diment, who passed away in 2011, was a significant figure in the Australian bridge community. As a director, teacher, and administrator, he made substantial contributions at both local and national levels. Chris was one of only five 'A Grade A1 (International)' directors in Australia, a testament to his expertise and dedication. Known for his warmth, calm efficiency, and insightful guidance, Chris enriched the game for all players, especially beginners. His legacy of professionalism and kindness is something we can all aspire to.





DECISION DYNAMICS EXPERT SUBMISSIONS

2C: 11 votes, Pass: 1 vote

Player name	Bid	Comments
Ishmael Delmonte	2C	This is a perfect hand for garbage stayman Bid 2C and pass the response Knowing my luck partner will have 3316 with Stiff Queen of diamonds
Mike Doecke	2C	Stayman and pass. Most of the time this will improve the contract and 1NT is going to play badly.
Ben Thompson	2C	I routinely garbage stayman my way out with this sort of hand. Not absolutely ideal with only 4D (better is 5D, 43M, short C) but the 108 improve my position a little. Losing bridge to play 1NT with a very weak hand with a shortage opposite - provided you're reasonably likely to be able to get out to a fit
Mikey Ware	2C (don't mind pass)	(typed summary prepared from the live stream) I bid 2C but don't mind pass opposite a strong NT. The problem with the modern style is that we open 1NT with 5 card majors so it isn't just a 4-4 major that you are missing if you pass, it's potentially a 5-4.
David Gue	2C	Junk Stayman - I'll pass whatever partner rebids. A 4-4 major fit is likely to be better than 1NT, or a 2D contract should be fine if partner doesn't have a 4 card major.
Renee Cooper	2C	Definitely garbage staymaning here. I think I will pass 2D if partner responds that; my diamond pips are much better than both my majors.
Peter Gill	2C.	Stayman. I plan to pass partner's response. Many beginners are taught that you need 8 points to Stayman. Wrong. But much of what is taught to beginners is wrong.
Pele Rankin	2C	This hand is so weak. If opener's response is 2D, I will bid 2H - showing both majors, weak. Opener will pass or correct to 2S.





DECISION DYNAMICS EXPERT SUBMISSIONS CONTINUED

James	Coutts	2C	Because of the significantly higher trick-taking potential in a suit contract, I believe it's right to bid stayman with this shape. Whether to bid 2H showing weak both majors, or to pass a 2D response is trickier!
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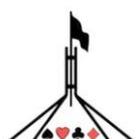
Sophie	Ashton	2C simple stayman	I think I'm going to hope p can respond with a four card major. I don't think I'll pass partner in 2D - that could easily be a 42 fit (p could have a 3325 or even a (32)26. At least if I bid 2H over 2D I'm pretty much guaranteed to play in a 4/3 fit which should be ok. If p is 22 in the majors, well I've done badly!
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Ron	Klinger	Pass	Playing simple Stayman, one can bid 2C and pass partner's response, which works out poorly only when partner has a 3-3-2-5 pattern. If partner bids 2H or 2S that figures to be better than 1NT. If partner bids 2D, the odds are reasonable that partner has 4 diamonds. In our methods, we cannot bid 2C as we play an extended version of Stayman.
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Liam	Milne	2C	My plan would be to try 'Garbage Stayman', passing any bid from partner. Occasionally we will play a silly 4-2 diamond fit but we will also find some great 4-4 major (or diamond fits). My hand is so much better for suit play than notrumps that I'm willing to have a look for a better spot.
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Playing room at the Australian Youth Bridge Championships





2025 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2025 Australian Youth Bridge Championships are heating up, with over 65 participants, including 8 from New Zealand, battling it out across the road at the Canberra Accommodation Centre.

Stage 1 of the Australian Junior Team Selection kicks off today, with players testing their mettle against tough competition—and sometimes tough contracts! One brave soul found themselves navigating a 7-card Moysian fit with a 6-0 trump break. While it may not have been the highlight of their day, it's certainly one to laugh at.

Good luck to all competitors as the drama unfolds!

The competitors in the Australian Junior Team Selection are:

GEORGE BARTLEY / JACK LUKE-PAREDI

ALEX GOSS / BERTIE MORGAN

LAUREN MORGAN / PADDY TAYLOR

HEATH WATKINS / MATTHEW

SIEREDZINSKI

JEREMY REID / SEB WRIGHT

ANNE DAVEY / FLETCHER DAVEY

ADRIAN LE / AADHI HARIHARAN

ZAC ROSS / KATE MACDONALD

MAXWELL ASHURST / ALEXIS

WILSMORE

TOM LANGDON MACMILLAN / SEB

LANGDON MACMILLAN





“Enough!”

Jane Lennon, here from Christchurch to play with Simon Hinge in the NOT, was just one of the throŕg dismayed and devastated by his untimely death on Monday. Simon and Jane have been practising via online bridge and a clever bidding app called Cuebids. Simon actually became addicted to bidding sets of 16 deals with Jane, and the pair had amassed around 4500 deals up to his death. It was all instinct, however on the following deal from the quarter finals of the NZ Teams at Mt Maunganui last year. With a good win required to vault the team into the semi-finals, Simon faced this bidding challenge:

	Simon	Jane
		pass 1C
pass	2C ¹	pass 2NT
pass	3C ²	pass 3D
pass	3h	pass 3S
pass	4C	pass 4h
pass	4S	pass 4NT
pass	5D ³	pass 5h ⁴
pass	7c	all pass
	1. GF	
	2. Confirms club fit	
	3. 3 Key Cards	
	4. cQ?	

Board 26
Dealer East
All Vul

♠ A3
 ♥ KJ9
 ♦ A9
 ♣ T86432

♠ J752
 ♥ QT764
 ♦ K874
 ♣ -

♠ T98
 ♥ 3
 ♦ QJT532
 ♣ Q97

♠ KQ64
 ♥ A852
 ♦ 6
 ♣ AKJ5

Simon, in the North seat asked for the trump queen late in the auction. Despite Jane denying ♣Q, Simon leapt to 7C. With ♣Q to three outside, the grand slam was easy, but Simon was not happy with his auction.

One of his favourite expressions when he had had enough of cuebidding was “Enough I’ve got it”, was his expletive before barging into ♣7. He decided that with six clubs, this constituted ♣Q.



Hugh Grosvenor, Tania Lloyd, Jane Lennon & Simon Hinge winners of the Cormack Cup (NZ)

