

63RD INTERNATIONAL Gold Coast Bridge Congress Saturday 1 - 8 February 2025

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Saturday 1st February 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

BULLETIN 1

Meet the Bulletin Editors

BARRY RIGAL

My first attendance was in 2009 when the Yeh Bros Cup coincided with the Gold Coast.

I started working on the Bulletin in 2010, and occasionally managed to play; I have played the Teams on several occasions (on a five or six player team) but never the Pairs. My wins have been... in the Trivia Quiz!

The Gold Coast is my favourite tournament in the world. I owe a huge debt to David Stern for arranging for me to come out and facilitating the Bulletin for so many years. The play format is also the greatest. For a decade, I've been trying to persuade the ACBL to pick up on the best features of the events!

While my wife Sue was alive, we visited all the major cities in Australia and were offered such generous hospitality that it isn't only the country I love, it is the people (and also the wine... the list goes on).

LAUREN TRAVIS

As a poster girl for bridge nepo babies in Australia, my teacher and first partner was my mum, and my first national was the Women's ANC in 2008 – no prizes for guessing who I partnered.

After that came a years-long love affair with youth bridge, during which I represented SA several times as well as playing in Australian U21, U26 and Girls teams. Highlights of that time include winning the 2015 Youth ANC and two silver medals at the 2013 World Juniors.

I have also won National Women's and Mixed Playoffs, the National Women's Teams, and the Open ANC.

I first attended the GCC aged 16, playing and staying with other youths in a tiny apartment, and loved it. This year marks my return after a 12(!) year absence – time flies!

BARBARA TRAVIS

In late 1978, Peter and Kathy Buchen convinced me to attend my first Gold Coast Congress (in 1979). My partner was to be Peter Jamieson. Accommodation for the week and airfare cost \$119. I turned 20 on the first day of qualifying.

With one round of the Pairs remaining, we were leading! After two nerve-racking poor boards, we stabilised to win! First prize was \$500 per person plus a mantle clock each.

After moving to Adelaide, I didn't manage to fit the Gold Coast back into my life until 2007. Would you believe, the event started on my birthday again? I congratulated the winners of the Pairs, John Armstrong and Howard Melbourne, meeting my now-husband in the process. With Howard, I've won the Pairs twice more, in 2013 and 2016.

I continue to love the game, and have passed a few skills on to my daughter too.

TODAY'S
CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Liam Milne

*"How to Win a World
Championship Silver Medal"*

More information on page 5



THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS: THE FIRST 50 YEARS

Written by Tony Jackman in advance of the 50th Gold Coast Congress in 2011

Our author Tony Jackman was, for a long time, convenor and 'genial host' of the Gold Coast Congress. Among his claims to fame: he is the only person to have played in all 49 congresses, and he easily holds the record for most wins (six) in the Pairs Plate. This caused him to derive 'Jackman's Law - 'It's better to win the 'Z' grade than come nowhere in the Open'.

PREAMBLE

Med students' common room, late 1958. A couple of us were sitting there, waiting for the poker school to assemble. Next one in said - "Mum taught me a new game last night - Bridge". It wasn't quite new, we'd played 500 and Solo, but for me that kicked off a love affair that endures 50 years on. Soon, med studies slipping away, I was involved with the now burgeoning bridge scene in S-E Queensland. The game had almost died after the war, but the arrival from Scotland of the energetic and enthusiastic Dr. George McCutcheon changed that rapidly. He got new clubs started, then weekend congresses, first in Toowoomba, then in Brisbane. Tim Seres and Dick Cummings came up for the first Brisbane Congress. They endorsed McCutcheon's view that a week-long congress at a holiday venue would be viable. They were right!

EARLY DAYS: THE CHEVRON HOTEL

The first GCC was played late February 1962; dead off season so prices were low. The venue was the Chevron Hotel in Surfers Paradise. Play was in a poky conference room below ground level. Still, it was large enough for the 60-ish players who assembled. To my young eyes everything was hugely glamorous. I was playing, talking, drinking, eating for days on end with Queensland's best and superstars from the South. All enjoyed, loved the Pink Elephant Bar, the beach and other Gold Coast attractions.

They vowed to return, and to spread the word.

Queensland scored a never to be repeated double. Harold Hiley/ Bob Williams won the Pairs and, with George McCutcheon, Tony Jackman, Denis Priest and Bruce Mearns, edged out Seres-Cummings with Ron McIntosh-Jim Waugh (SA) in the team's final.

We were off and running. By 1964 the Chevron had a fine new conference facility, great for the times and able to accommodate our steadily increasing numbers. It was on the Eastern side of their magnificent pool and garden complex. This was to be our playing venue until 1989.

There are myriad stories about the pool area. I recall the great Queensland woman player Molly Dawson on the diving board of the top pool. She remembered she had her bath robe on so - still on the board - she removed it, pitching it back on the edge. However, at no stage did she take away the ever-present cigarette from her lips - it dived with her.

There is still a mystery relating to which player caused the underwater viewing window in the pool to meet its demise in the early a.m. midweek at a '60s congress. My understanding is that Roelof Smilde denies all knowledge of, or responsibility for the ensuing flood!

Numbers grew through the 60s. The format, effectively a five session (two qualifying, three final) Pairs, then three days of Teams culminating in finals, followed by a celebratory Victory Dinner has been expanded but is still the basis. "If it 'ain't broke, don't fix it."

For many of the early years the team's final was a clash between a Seres led group, usually with Mary McMahan, Roelof Smilde and Jessel Rothfield among others and a partially Queensland line-up of Tony Jackman, Frank Jarvis, Mike Robson with Don Evans and Ian Weiss.

Most memorable was the 1968 final. It was our first attempt at Vu-Graph.. Unfortunately, we didn't realize the procedures added a lot of time. The 40-board final started at 8.00pm, and was only halfway through at 11.15p.m. with Tim's team up 36imps. Board 40 finished at 2.45am, still with 200 people watching! We had clawed our way back and the result was - a tie! A four-board playoff ensued immediately, our team losing by 2 IMPs. We learnt; for following years the Vu-Graph became only 20 boards.

Various people, George McCutcheon, Arthur Hoffmann, Denis Priest and Jimmy O'Sullivan, were convenors through the 60s. O'Sullivan, later to be ABF President

for a decade, always at our congress and later many others, was renowned for his hospitality.

Then, for most of the 70s the convening responsibility was given to George Cuppaidge (and wife Patricia). The congress continued to grow and, imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, spawned competition. The most notable is the Summer Festival now permanently held in Canberra in mid-January. Since its inception in Sydney in 1972, it has become a great success. These two events are, by far, Australia's largest.

Through the 70s, the strength and size of the field continued to increase. Tim Seres and Mary McMahon were dominant winning both Pairs and Teams many times. In that period their team-mates often included Bobby Richman and Ron Klinger – both on their way to stellar careers.

But 1977 was 'one to us'. For the last time – to date – a Queensland team took that Championship. My group 'Tony Jackman/ Mike Robson, Ian Morris/ Mike Pemberton', came from well back to grab the second finals spot, miles behind Tim. QBA VP Jan Kirk's non-bridge-playing (but punter) husband, Arthur, got 50-1 against us in the final. We won – but it's been a long time since those victory drinks.

MID-TERM: OFF TO THE ANA

By the early 80s, the QBA Executive of the time had taken over the direct running of the Congress, notably via Reg Busch and Ivy Dahler.

1985 was most memorable – a long State-wide power strike was in effect and players had to cope with little light and no aircon during the Pairs. The strike ended during the last pairs session and all was well by the start of the Teams.

When Keith McDonald became QBA President, the Executive decided to revert to giving the responsibility again to a Convenor. As his VP (who believed VPs should be largely ceremonial), I suddenly had "an offer I couldn't refuse", and became Convenor/ Congress Chairman in 1988.

My first year at the helm came with one considerable shock. Early in the week the Chevron Hotel management advised that we had to move – their site was to be redeveloped. There were regrets – a great 26 year

HIDEAWAY

KITCHEN & BAR

10% discount off food bill
(Show a hand record from the day)

2657 Gold Coast Highway

experience had come to an end. The new ANA Hotel became our next home from 1989. The new venue worked, and we had a happy partnership with the ANA Hotel.

Growth continued. By 2001 we needed extra space. The Gold Coast International Hotel, 400m north, became a second site. New teams' divisions – Seniors and Restricted – were added that year, and similar Pairs events in 2002.

During my time, some 17 years, I was aided by many good people. All were valuable but, most valuable of all was QBA manager Kim Ellaway – always efficient, nothing ever too hard. Richard Grenside (who had taken over from Ian McKinnon) was Chief Tournament Director until international commitments forced him to resign in 1997. Reg Busch, who had for many years been Assistant Chief Director (as well as numerous other significant Congress roles) took over for two years and was succeeded admirably by Laurie Kelso, still in the chair. Roger Penny, Michael Kent, Sean Mullamphy, David Anderson and Richard Ward were among other national directors who contributed much in my term. Locals John and Joy Carbis, now succeeded by Gerald Schaaf, were invaluable – players get sick, mistake the times or simply don't turn up. Joy, unflappable, had always a Gold Coast substitute on hand to play (or work). Joan McPheat through much of my term and before has led our scoring team and did this magnificently. When she stepped down, Martin Willcox came on board. The transition was seamless. Ray Ellaway was everywhere, and along, first with Judy Nothdurft, later with Sue Kelso, Sarah Jane Reid and Marg Jabore have given us meticulous floor management.

To my mind the hospitality aspect of the Congress ranks equally in importance with playing circumstances. We want – and mostly achieve this – our competitors to go home, perhaps thinking that they could have played better, but knowing that they have had a great time and certainly “value for money”. The then-ABF Secretary Dennis Yovich wrote some time ago stressing the value of a final presentation. The Closing Dinner at the Gold Coast has for years been, in our view, a big factor in the continuing success of the Congress.

Others who have contributed much in my term have been my wife Clare and our great friend Meta Goodman. Through the ANA years they ran the ‘Hospital’ – after session hospitality. Meta has been a driving force in making our Congress known overseas.

Leading overseas players Brian Glubok, Karen McCallum – both US – and England’s Richard King were early visitors. In 1994 we invited Larry Cohen and Eric Rodwell (with his soon to be wife Donna Burt) to visit Queensland and play in the event. They were super guests and I, believe, “added value” – and glamour. The great Japanese player Akio Kurokawa has also made a couple of visits leading a party. Teacher/writer Phillip Alder combined a teaching tour with play, as later did then ACBL official teacher Audrey Grant.

During 1994 on a family visit to the UK I spent a day at the English Bridge Union (EBU) headquarters at Aylesbury (near Oxford). Then EBU Secretary, John Williams was most helpful and I left him an invitation. It essentially provided free entry (and much hospitality) to an EBU accredited team.

Soon after London solicitor, Geoffrey Wolfarth brought out the first of such teams including, among others, Mark Horton and Brian Senior (and wife Nevena). Mark and Brian – apart from being great players – were editors of the two major English bridge magazines. They enjoyed their visits and the subsequent stories they printed gave the Gold Coast increased recognition on the world scene.

In 1997 the EBU returned (and upped) our offer. They then invited us to send “an Australian team with a Queensland flavour” to the major Brighton Festival. We accepted and Jim Wallis/Ish Del’Monte, Mike Robson and I enjoyed the occasion and the opportunity to proselytize.

In 1998 (and 1999) leading English professional Paul Hackett led teams including his twin sons Jason and Justin (world junior champions) to the event. They were to return along with other EBU teams. Bill Hirst/John Hassett, Mike Pomfrey/Ron Morrish were next. All proved popular and successful. Since then, Bill Hirst has acted as unofficial recruiter for the GCC in England and has brought out quality teams almost every year.

Slightly closer – ‘across the ditch’ – New Zealanders had discovered the GCC. Much credit here goes to Jim Wallis who was a relentless advocate for us on his many trips to the NZ Nationals. Kiwi numbers at the congress now approach 200. They had much success through the later ANA years. Some liked it here so much that they based in Australia. Stephen Burgess, Paul Marston, Ish Del’Monte and Ash Bach have been multiple winners.

Triggered by long term CTD Richard Grenside’s resignation in 1997, my committee decided to create a Gold Coast Congress “Roll of Honour”. The Honour Board is on display at the QCBC during the year and at the venue in the playing week. Those who rendered conspicuous service before 1997 are shown at the base and those who since have had to part company are listed separately above. We felt it our honour to add the names of Mary McMahan and Tim Seres in 2002. It was Mary’s last Congress. She had played in all 41 up to that year winning, mostly with Tim, a staggering 13 teams titles and six pairs.



15% discount off food bill
(Show a hand record or system card)

95 Surf Parade

RECENT TIMES: THE GOLD COAST CONVENTION CENTRE, THERESE TULLY

After the 2004 Congress it was obvious that our venues – two conference floors at both ANA and GCI – were almost at capacity and a site move had to be planned. Time for a ‘hospital pass’, as footballers say. I had decided to step down and this seemed the right time.

We were fortunate to find Therese Tully willing to take over. She has been in charge since then and has done magnificently. With her team, spearheaded by QBA manager Kim Ellaway and CTD Laurie Kelso, she coped with the last two crowded years at the existing venues, and managed the negotiations and planning for the impending move to the new Gold Coast Convention Centre at Broadbeach. There was some terror: Would the players like it? Would they be happy with the available accommodation and eateries? Would they come? Would they return?

The answer to all these questions was a resounding ‘Yes’.

2007 was the first year there. The site proved superb. In one great room it has space for well over 400 team along with terrific aircon and acoustics. Parking is easy and, close at hand, there’s a wide variety of places to stay and places to heat.

On the playing front it’s now obvious that the GCC has become a truly international event with great players from all over the world finding their way here. Therese, for many years a regular in Australian women’s team, has long been a driving force in popularizing our event overseas.

A recent masterstroke was bringing the Yeh Bros Cup to the Gold Coast. Played just before our tournament. It brought many of the world’s best players here with most staying for the GCC. This influx is a little embarrassing for our own players – the visitors are often winners – but should also be an inspiration.

WINNERS

Barbara and Lauren will be taking photos of all the winners. If you win an event, please see one of us after play for your photo!

TODAY’S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Liam Milne

“How to Win a World Championship Silver Medal”



At the World Bridge Games last October in Buenos Aires, the NZ-Australian team ‘PERO BUENO’ defied expectations to win the silver medal in the World Transnational Open Teams. Come along and find out the secrets of performing at the highest level from team member Liam Milne.

Liam Milne is a current member of the Australian Open team. As well as playing professionally, Liam also teaches and directs in Sydney. His recent national titles include the 2023 South-West Pacific Teams, the 2024 Open Playoff, and the 2024 Open ANC Teams.

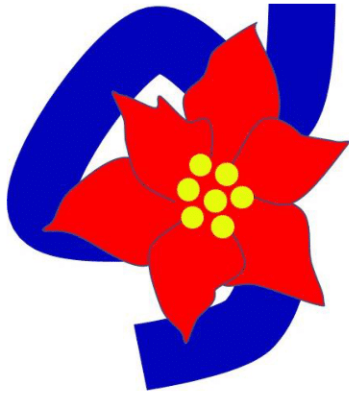
Location: Upstairs opposite Administration

Minimum \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge

1:30-2:15pm

We have a definite policy towards retaining the basic format. Changes are introduced, but slowly. In recent years, for example, we have moved to a longer finals series for the teams – now with six teams making playoffs. This has freed some time at the end of the week for extra events for those not in the finals. Most prestigious of these are the Ivy Dahler Butler Pairs and the Seres/McMahon Mixed Teams (the ‘Tim and Mary’) – both named in honour of long time Congress stalwarts. Specific events for novices, Pairs and Teams, were introduced in 2008. They went well and similar competitions for intermediates are now included. Other add-ons include ‘You ask, we answer’ sessions hosted by volunteer experts and extra walk-in pairs late in the congress.

The GCC it is now Gold Pointed, has Play Off Qualifying Points and is run totally in accordance with ABF regulations. My own belief is that our Congress has a different – I believe better – flavour to it than the other Nationals, and should continue in its distinct style.



RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS 2025

Hosted by TOOWONG BRIDGE CLUB
22 Roy Street AUCHENFLOWER QLD 4066

Gold Masterpoints and ABF Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP)

Residentially qualified pairs also play for the Queensland Mixed Pairs Title
and the Queensland Novice Mixed Pairs Title

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th May

9.30 am start both days

All ENTRIES and PAYMENTS on



\$180 per entry

Chief Director: Alan Gibson

Tournament Organiser: Janet Lovell

E: tbccompetitions@gmail.com

T: 0409 387 527

- ABF Regulations as modified by the Supplementary Regulations apply
- Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments
- Swiss Pairs - Matchpoints converted to VPs - 12 x 9 board matches

LUNCH INCLUDED

(Please advise if gluten free - any other dietary needs BYO)

Wellness Guidelines

Players and officials are asked not to attend any event if they are infectious, or if they are supposed to be isolating or quarantining. Those who come to play and, feeling unwell, self-diagnose that they may be infectious, should inform the director and leave the venue.



HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST OPEN PAIRS

(renamed Bobby Richman Pairs Championship in 2014)

1962	Harold Hiley – Bob Williams
1963	Tim Seres – Roelof Smilde
1964	Mary McMahon – Ruth Eaton
1965	Don Evans – Ian Weiss
1966	Tom Landy – Donald Neill
1967	A.J. Selinger – Graeme Westcott
1968	Mary McMahon – Tim Seres
1969	Mary McMahon – Tim Seres
1970	Gerda Stern – Rudi Stern
1971	Don Evans – Ian Weiss
1972	Frank Bellingham – Harry Hochmuth
1973	Don Evans – Ian Weiss
1974	Mary McMahon – Tim Seres
1975	Ian McCance – Wally Scott
1976	Mary McMahon – Tim Seres
1977	Mary McMahon – Tim Seres
1978	Don Evans – Paul Lavings
1979	Barbara Gill (Travis) – Peter Jamieson
1980	Norma Borin – Jim Borin
1981	Bob Richman – David Smith
1982	Bob Richman – John Lester
1983	Paul Marston – Stephen Burgess
1984	Paul Marston – Stephen Burgess
1985	Brian Glubok – David Greenwald
1986	Bob Richman – Stephen Burgess
1987	Ron Klinger – David Lilley
1988	Norma Borin – Jim Borin
1989	Elizabeth Havas – Alan Walsh
1990	Bob Richman – Seamus Browne
1991	Bob Richman – Jim Borin
1992	David Beauchamp – Unal Durmus
1993	Ishmael Del'Monte – Bob Richman

1994	Ishmael Del'Monte – Ashley Bach
1995	<i>Equal:</i> Phil King – Rick Bentley and Mel Watson – Michael Courtney
1996	Brian Senior – Mark Horton
1997	Bert Polii – Giovanni Watulingas
1998	Bob Richman – Hugh Grosvenor
1999	Richard Brightling – Seamus Browne
2000	Zhu Huilin – Tony Ong
2001	Tom Jacob – Ryszard Jedrychowski
2002	Howard Melbourne – Mike Pomfrey
2003	Bruce Neill – Ron Klinger
2004	Jacek Pszczola – Ryszard Jedrychowski
2005	John Holland – Michelle Brunner
2006	Marek Szymanowski – Jeremi Stepinski
2007	Howard Melbourne – John Armstrong
2008	Hugh McGann – Tom Hanlon
2009	Howard Melbourne – Arjuna de Livera
2010	Krzysztof Martens – Dominik Filipowicz
2011	GeO Tislevoll – Michael Ware
2012	Ashley Bach – Nabil Edgtton
2013	Barbara Travis – Howard Melbourne
2014	Ishmael Del'Monte – Justin Mill
2015	Magnus Moren – Neville Francis
2016	Barbara Travis – Howard Melbourne
2017	Tony Nunn – Justin Mill
2018	Matthew Brown – Johnno Newman
2019	Therese Demarco – Stephen Fischer
2020	Jovi Smederevac – Sascha Wernle
2021	<i>Cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Paul Dalley – Tony Nunn
2023	Adam Kaplan – Finn Kolesnik
2024	Ella Jacob – Phil Markey

ZEPHYR EDUCATION: The charity supported by the Gold Coast Congress

My name is Carmel Martin, co-founder and treasurer of Zephyr Education. For the few who don't know, Zephyr helps those affected by domestic and family violence to resume their education – usually within 24 to 48 hours of receiving a request for assistance. The vast majority assisted by Zephyr are children – starting with little preppies.

You will no doubt be as dismayed as I am that we are probably attending our last GCC as we know it. The bridge community has been behind Zephyr from the very beginning – almost 12 years ago. That was when we started by registering 2 Women's shelters in Brisbane so that we could supply them with the full educational needs of children. When my sister, Zephyr's president, approached them to see if this need was being addressed, she expressed her idea that we would provide what they needed whether it was a pair of shoes or the full kit, including stationery made to the booklist of the new school the children would be attending – within 24 to 48 hours... they thought she was crazy. She asked them to give us a go and the rest is history.

We started Zephyr as a family charity with Isabella, David, Terry and me. David had not long retired and thought he'd be off to the beach. Isabella and Terry were still working and I was working on making bridge my full-time occupation. Not to be – Isabella promised to stop registering shelters when we got to 25. She lied. Once the amazing Followmont Transport came on board to transport thousands of boxes to every corner of the state free of charge, her eyes widened with the potential for expansion. Upon visiting Zephyr, Victor Feros wryly commented that the definition of our name means 'a gentle breeze' but that what had been created was more like a hurricane.

As of October, when I am writing this, Zephyr operates in EVERY State and Territory in Australia. We have 231 DFV shelters, Family Service organisations and outreach services registered for Zephyr's support. This even reaches families living in their cars.

We provide (mostly) children with some or all of their school needs, as and when required – on approval only, which approval is frugally and carefully assessed. We don't pay into any private accounts. The range of what Zephyr pays for includes: the full book list specific to the child's year and school; full uniform including shoes, socks and hats; swimwear; lunchbox and water bottle; resource fees, camp fees, iPads and laptops - expensive, yet indispensable learning tools. Since Covid – our second highest expense.

Our aim is solely to have that child, the saddest and most vulnerable victim of domestic violence, look like every other school child, so they do not feel out of place, nor appear less valuable than others, nor attract the eye of a potential bully. This is all in the hope that they can resume their education successfully. This needs to happen immediately though and this is Zephyr's distinguishing quality and reason for success as a game changer in the sector.

Last financial year, we provided for over 3,000 children at a cost of \$884,573 – an increase of 18.7% on the previous year. Our overheads remain at around 2%. We receive no government funding and this leads me to you – my fellow bridgies, who stagger me every year with your generosity and moral support. I am now imploring you to keep following and supporting Zephyr once my collectors and I will no longer be in your faces when all you want to do is play bridge.

The heart of Zephyr is an incredibly selfless, generous, unpaid, motivated team of over 50 volunteers working daily to ensure that we are responding to and completing every request as quickly as possible, raising funds, delivering to all corners of the country (thank you again, Followmont Transport and all the suppliers who deliver free of charge) and attending to the myriad logistics which come with operating what is now a sizeable business.

Zephyr wouldn't exist without the hugely compassionate contribution of these tireless good men and women some of whom you will find as partners or opposition at this very congress. On top of all this is the support and motivation received from everyone who supports Zephyr's vision – you are all an indispensable part of the team.

I can't begin to thank Kim Ellaway and all the team who nominated Zephyr as its charity for the GCC. I can't individually thank the many, many people who give us ongoing financial and moral support which gives us the confidence to expand, but please know we are supremely grateful.

Our focus is, and always has been, on the children and their education. But this, of course, also assists the carers of all children who fall within our scope, including Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, foster carers and guardians. You've all got behind us and huge numbers of children have felt less alone and a little more loved.

We frequently receive unsolicited feedback from both case workers and mothers that confirms the impact of the support Zephyr provides.

The first is from a case worker at a Sydney shelter:

Please find attached the receipt from Shoes and Sox and I can't express how much these shoes mean to the client. You made her week!! She just wants to be able to provide for her boys and this means they can now have brand new shoes which will bring them so much joy! Also thank you for the school packs and stationery items!! You are such a beautiful organization and making such a difference in the world for women and children who have survived domestic and family violence. Thank you so much.



Here are some recent examples including two Facebook posts from DFV support organisations we help:

Dear Zephyr Education Inc,

I am a client of (a DFV support organisation Zephyr helps). My son is starting school on Monday and I just wanted to say the biggest Thank you! We have received a lovely starter pack for school, which is just incredibly amazing during tough times. You are so very kind.

Wonderful Steve (Steve is one of 12 Zephyr volunteers who monitor, respond to, and action requests for support.)

Thank you so much. Little man came into the office yesterday and insisted on showing us his new school uniform. Proud as punch and had a fantastic day as he had everything he needed to feel and look like he belonged.

So appreciative for everything Zephyr does. Have a great day.

Thank you Kelsey (Zephyr's Operations Manager),

I have worked in the refuge for 7 years and I cannot express just how much your support means and how grateful the mums I see are to be able to provide the right resources to their children.

Facebook post from Women's Crisis Support Service Inc:

There are many volunteers who donate their time to support victim-survivors of Domestic and Family Violence and WCSSI attributes much of our success to these humble behind-the-scenes heroes who rarely ever receive any recognition. The team at Zephyr Education Inc are all volunteers, and they ensure every single child who enters a DV shelter has the uniforms, stationery, and other resources to start at their new school.

These are provided by Zephyr Education free of charge and we cannot convey how much difference this makes to each and every child we support.

And just one last blow of my own trumpet, a group of donors visited Zephyr recently and we received this:

Dear Carmel,

I couldn't let today go by without thanking you [all] for your hospitality and candour in sharing your Zephyr stories.

It has affected me very deeply to have seen for myself that out of a basement carpark so much good is being done without fanfare or fuss. Your vision and practical commitment is inspiring. May your work continue to prosper as long as the need is there.

If you would like to make a donation, we will be rattling collection boxes and have Eftpos machines on hand. Kim Ellaway in the main office has kindly volunteered to accept donations as well.

All donations are tax deductible and for those of you who may wish to donate by bank transfer – Zephyr's bank account details are:

NAB Zephyr Education Inc

BSB: 084-004

ACC: 15-629-0526

Please Reference Your Name and send your email address to admin@zephyreducation.com.au so I can forward your receipt.

And to repeat what I said last year - have a safe, brilliant congress. We're so lucky to have this fabulous game in our lives - non bridge players have no idea what they're missing.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Carmel Martin

Co-founder and Treasurer

Zephyr Education Inc

ABN 47 805 738 577 ARBN 615 454 227

PO Box 6096 Fairfield Gardens Qld 4103

Tel: 0438 873 620

admin@zephyreducation.com.au

www.zephyreducation.com.au



Sage

Cafe Restaurant

15% discount off food bill

**5/20 Queensland Avenue
(corner of Surf Parade)**

SCORING CORRECTION PERIODS

World Championships have been awarded based on scoring errors. E/W Pairs should not simply acknowledge the scores on the Bridgemates but should check them carefully. Incorrect scores can change the result of an event, even though the relevant pairs may have nothing to do with the scoring error.

Errors in scoring must be advised to the Scoring Enquiries desk before the following times:

PAIRS:

Morning sessions: 3.00pm on the day of the session.

Afternoon sessions: One hour after that day's final session scores are posted.

TEAMS:

Matches 1, 3, 5, 7, 9: One hour after the end of the next even numbered match.

Matches 2, 4, 6, 8, 10: At the start of the next even numbered match.

Matches 11, 12: 8.30pm Thursday for corrections affecting Final series qualification. Midnight, Thursday, for all other corrections.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TBIB Daily Prize Wheel: You Must be Present to Win.

A TBIB lucky star under a chair in main playing area for a spin opportunity (in the GCCEC foyer).

Directors Get Together: Thursday 6th February at 8.30am, upstairs in Meeting Room 12A. Enquiries: Chris Snook 0413 136 435 chris@snook.id.au

CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM



Location: Upstairs opposite Administration
Min \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge (Free for Youth Players)
100 participants maximum – GCCEC Health and Safety Regulations

<p>Saturday 1st 1.30-2.15pm Liam Milne How to Win a World Championship Silver Medal</p>		<p>At the World Bridge Games last October in Buenos Aires, the NZ-Australian team 'PERO BUENO' defied expectations to win the silver medal in the World Transnational Open Teams. Come along and find out the secrets of performing at the highest level from team member Liam Milne.</p> <p>Liam Milne is a current member of the Australian Open team. As well as playing professionally, Liam also teaches and directs in Sydney. His recent national titles include the 2023 South-West Pacific Teams, the 2024 Open Playoff, and the 2024 Open ANC Teams.</p>
<p>Sunday 2nd 1.30pm-2.15pm William Jenner-O'Shea Introduction to 2NT Scramble</p>		<p>Scrambling 2NT, the most useful convention you probably have never heard of...</p> <p>Will Jenner-O'Shea has represented Australia in several bridge events, including the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008. Will has also built a very successful career teaching Bridge over many years.</p>
<p>Monday 3rd 9.00am-9.45am Andy Hung Stoppers: Showing, Asking, or Neither?</p>		<p>Having a suit stopped or not can make or break a No-Trump contract. Is it better to show a stopper, or ask for a stopper, or not worry about them entirely? Andy will give you some easy rules to remember when dealing with stoppers (or lack thereof). Andy Hung is a professional bridge player and teacher who has represented Australia in Open competitions. He has won several Australian National Titles, an international tournament in India, and was also the runner up of the recent US National Reisinger tournament. When he's not competing in tournaments, you will find him teaching Bridge at various Bridge clubs, or running bridge holidays in Australia, or overseas - contact him for more info!</p>
<p>Tuesday 4th 1.30pm -2.15pm Joan Butts Shining a Light on the Defence</p>		<p>There are new ways to look at defence which are sure to improve your results. Use your own logic: look at dummy, take a lot of notice of partner's lead, and observe the way declarer is playing the hand. There are many clues...Joan Butts is a world class Bridge teacher who has represented Australia and taught thousands of students worldwide. As the National Teaching Coordinator with the ABF for 12 years, Joan created a comprehensive Teacher Accreditation Programme training hundreds of Bridge teachers across Australia using her background in education and psychology. In 2017, Joan launched the Online School of Bridge, which was updated in 2023 offering advanced features.</p>
<p>Wednesday 5th 9.00am – 9.45am Paul Marston How to Bid a 5-3 fit</p>		<p>How to bid a 5-3 fit when responder has five – the right way and the wrong way.</p> <p>Paul Marston has long been one of Australia's top Bridge teachers. His classes are very popular, both face-to-face and online. He has a special interest in teaching beginners where his retention rate is greater than 80% face-to-face and 95% online.</p>
<p>Thursday 6th 1.30pm -2.15pm Barry Rigal When to Pre-empt and the Theory of Flaws</p>		<p>We don't want to teach players only to pre-empt with the perfect hand. We don't want to teach them to open any six- or seven-card suit. What is the happy medium? Barry Rigal was born and bred in London and has lived in NYC for the last 30 years. He has won most UK major championships, representing England at The Camrose five times, without ever losing.</p> <p>Barry has also won two US major national titles; a journalist for 40 years he became President of IBPA a decade ago. Barry is a syndicated columnist (Bridge with the Aces) and travels to most major world and European events doing bulletins and Viewgraph. Barry has attended the GCC for over 10 years as co-editor of our Bulletin, he is on record stating the GCC has been his long-time favourite tournament to visit.</p>



ANC



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 BRISBANE

6th – 17th July 2025

EVENTS



Welcome Butler Swiss Pairs – Open & Restricted Sunday 6th

Interstate Teams Monday 7th-Friday 11th

Interstate Swiss Pairs Friday 11th

Open Butler Pairs Saturday 12th →

Mixed Butler Pairs Monday 14th →

Swiss Pairs Monday 14th-Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th-Thursday 17th



VENUE



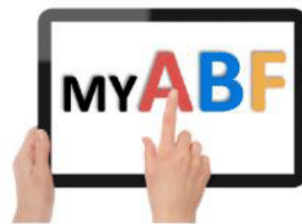
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GOLD POINTS

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNING AND LOSING AT BRIDGE: CONCENTRATION, PARTNERSHIP HANDLING, TEMPERAMENT AND FOCUS

This is a modified version of Peter Gill's presentation at the Gold Coast Congress in 2013

Experts will tell you that the most important elements to playing good bridge are concentration, temperament and partnership handling. Given these results, shouldn't our improvement at bridge include coaching in these areas?

CONCENTRATION

Distraction and **fatigue** are among the main causes of poor concentration.

Distraction can occur when emotion from what just happened interferes with one's concentration. Mike Lawrence in his bridge tip called Ecstasy gives great advice – that you have to beware after any triumph (the distracting emotion = ecstasy) or disaster (the distracting emotion = despair).

Trick 1 is a very important time for all players – as soon as dummy comes down, thinking hard is essential. Yet this is a time when many dummies distract declarer by saying something like: “Sorry I didn't use Stayman, I guess I should have” or the like. Many declarers cannot concentrate fully when they listen to partner's comment.

Here's a sample hand:

You hold:

♠ K J 9 7 4

♥ 10 9 5

♦ 8 6

♣ A K Q

RHO opens a weak 2♥, vulnerable. You overcall 2♠. Pass by LHO, and your partner raises to 4♠, which is doubled in the pass out seat by LHO, who leads the ♥J.

Dummy comes down with:

♠ A 5

♥ Q 4 3

♦ A K 10 5

♣ 5 4 3 2

If you say to partner “Why didn't you bid 3NT?” you fail. If partner (dummy) makes a comment to you, he has erred.

The solution is that you should duck ♥J with as few hints of desperation as you can manage. If RHO plays you for a singleton or doubleton in hearts, and ducks, you have a chance.

Let's look at the full deal. LHO had:

♠ Q 10 8 6 3

♥ J

♦ Q 9 7 5

♣ J 10 8

Any form of distraction at trick 1 reduces your chances of smoothly finding the only play that gives you a chance. If the ♥J is ducked, you can make 4♠X in various ways that involve cashing winners then end-playing West who has to trump his partner's hearts in the ending. (After the heart lead and club shift you ruff a diamond low in hand, play off the top clubs and ♠A, trump another diamond, then exit with a heart.)

One good player says he counts his cards multiple times, in order to “clear my brain of all extraneous thoughts”. He recommends that you develop a focusing routine such as that, and use it at the start of play, at the start of each hand, after a disaster, and after protracted breaks in play.

Mike Lawrence's tip means that it should also apply after +1100 or slam success (Ecstasy), before the last board (keep focusing on the bridge, not on the lunch break), and whenever you are distracted.

Another “focusing routine” is to say internally to yourself “Next Hand” or “This Hand” multiple times, so that you forget about the previous hand.

Jens Auken from Denmark said in a BOLS Bridge Tip that you should try to develop the ability to spot Kill Points, i.e. points in the bidding or play when stopping to think are crucial. That's not so easy to do, and Jens gives little advice on how to do so. However, it is certainly something to think about.

Decision Fatigue, or even general tiredness which is something different, can also cause concentration errors. When you are suffering general tiredness, Zia's advice is to

take it easy and let partner be in charge - let partner make most of the decisions.

PARTNERSHIP HANDLING

When Jeff Meckstroth was asked in an interview if he and Eric Rodwell (the world's best pair) ever get angry, he replies "just about every hand". But "we're very good at rooting for each other", he adds. (Handling of team members also is important.) Successful partnerships are all about looking after your partner and ensuring they are in their 'comfort zone'.

TEMPERAMENT

Getting irritated with partner is one thing. Anger management is an issue we will skip past.

Getting annoyed with oneself is more common and is a serious problem, partly because when you are annoyed with yourself, you are more likely to lash out at partner, especially if he could have prevented your own error, which upset you. This happens a lot at bridge.

We all have problems and we all try to deal with our anger. At bridge, making a massive effort to take it easy and not get upset is necessary if you want to become a better player.

FOCUS

The (2013) Gold Coast Pairs began with a "hiccup" when some boards were put on the wrong tables. Directors halted play while the problem was rectified.

At our table where play had already started, concentration was difficult, so our opponent reassuringly said to his partner, "I understand that you are distracted, but we are in our little 'Oasis of Calm' now". They promptly got a good score, so clearly the "Oasis of Calm" worked. At the end of the session, this particular pair had topped the whole field! It seemed that their approach to distraction management / focus was very effective.



ROOM SET-UP AND COLOUR CODING OF SECTIONS

For player convenience, playing areas will be colour coded for the whole event through the use of coloured tablecloths and matching coloured flag. This will help to identify your section, results and playing area.

- Open Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Light and Dark Blue
- Under 1500 Teams - Orange
- Intermediate Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Light and Dark Yellow
- Restricted Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Light and Dark Green
- Novice Pairs/Teams/Ivy Dahler - Maroon
- Rookies/0-50/Walk-Ins - Fuchsia**
- Open Saturday, Sunday, Monday Butler Swiss Pairs in Orange
- 0-500 Saturday, Sunday, and Monday Butler Swiss Pairs - Purple
- Friday Open Butler Pairs - Purple**

***This may change on the day depending on the layout approved by the GCCCEC.*

TEA, COFFEE AND WATER

As a service to participants, volunteers will be operating a tea and coffee service for this event. Coffee is made from ground coffee beans with fresh milk and will cost \$4 a cup. The service will start around one hour before play and continue until late into the last session.

Fixed Income Solutions are subsidising coffee costs in 2025, allowing us to keep the prices the same as in the past.

There will be \$40 vouchers available for purchase from the Coffee Shop. \$40 voucher entitles you to 11 coffees.

As we are not allowed to run the free water service in the playing area, we will be selling bottles of water at \$2 from the coffee shop. These can be purchased via your \$40 voucher in lots of two.

We will not be doing double shots this year. We cannot provide free water - hot or cold - it is a public liability issue.



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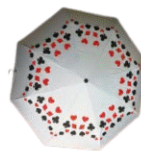
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PRIZE MONEY**BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP***Finals and Open Plate*

	Open		Intermediate	Restricted	Novice
	Champion	Plate			
First	\$1800	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$400
Second	\$800	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$350
Third	\$600				

Best Women's Pair: \$200 (donated by David Stern in memory of Gerda Stern)

Best Queensland Pair in each category: \$200 (V)

Qualifying: Pens to top 10 N/S and E/W in open for each qualifying round. Pens to top 4 N/S and E/W in Intermediate and Novice for each qualifying round. Pens to top 6 N/S and E/W in Restricted for each qualifying round.

Other Sections

	Open	Intermediate	Restricted	Novice
First	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$300
Second	\$100 & \$100 (V)	\$100 & \$100 (V)	\$100 & \$100 (V)	\$100 & \$100 (V)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/MONDAY/FRIDAY BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

0-500 Field only applies to the Sunday and Monday events.

One field only

	Open	0-500
First	\$200	\$150
Second	\$150 (V)	\$125 (V)

Sessional winners to receive pens.

TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

	Open	U1500	Intermediate	Restricted	Novice
First	\$5000	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000	\$1500
Second	\$3000	\$1500	\$1500	\$1500	\$1000
Third	\$1500	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$700
Third	\$1500				
Fifth	\$1000				
Fifth	\$1000				

Categories

First: \$300 & \$100 (V) in all categories

IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS

	Open (NS and EW fields)	Intermediate	Restricted	Novice
First	NS \$400 EW \$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
Second	NS \$300 EW \$300	\$250	\$250	\$250

IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS**Rookie Pairs**

First	\$80 (NS) \$80 (EW)
Second	\$60 (V) (NS) \$60 (V) (EW)

Under 50 Pairs (2 sessions)

First	\$160
Second	\$120 (V)

WALK INS

\$50/\$60 restaurant vouchers for North/South and East/West daily winners when there are more than 10½ tables. One prize only for 10 tables or less.

No Frills Walk Ins – sectional and directional winners to receive wine and pen.

**PRIZES**

If you win a prize, please see the prize board near the office.

Qualifying Rounds – number of prizes will be determined on the final number of tables. The policy is to divide the number of tables in the event by 14 and this will determine how many will receive a Gold Coast Prize Pen. Winners of each final round are entitled to a Gold Coast Prize Pen.

House players are eligible to win prizes.

Youth players who had free entry to an event and win a prize, may have half the entry fee deducted from their prize should the prize money exceed \$150.

All cash prizes will be paid via **Bridge Credits**. Prizes denoted with a (V) are **vouchers for bridge supplies** to be collected at **Paul Lavings Book Shop** situated in the Convention Centre.

PAIRS CHECKLIST

- Look for overtricks
- Bid to the highest scoring game – think about 3NT (even ahead of 4-Major)
- If you have received a favourable lead, then play safely. You are already ahead!
- If you have received an unfavourable lead, then take more risks to catch up to the rest of the field
- If you are in a normal contract (ie you will get an average score) then you should take risks for overtricks
- If you are in a great contract that others will not reach, then play safely for your contract
- If you are in a hopeless contract but can see that the opponents can make a contract their way, try to minimise your 'damage' to a score that is less than what they can make
- Don't push for close games or slams (it is all about getting 'plus' scores)
- Overcall often – but in and out early
- Be aggressive competing – try to push the opponents around if they are in a part-score and have found a fit – 'steal but don't get stolen from'
- Double aggressively (+200 is often a top and -200 a bottom) – if they are stealing the hand/contract from you, you need compensation
- Try to interfere over the opponents' 1NT contracts, because it's a tough contract to defend

INTO THE MIXED (PART 1 OF 8)

Peter Gill and Michael Courtney

INTRODUCTION BY PETER GILL

Each day in 8 bulletins this week, we will present a hand or two and a tip from the Mixed Playoff. Our team of Liz Sylvester - Peter Gill and Arlene Dalley - Michael Courtney was the bottom-ranked of the six entries in December's Playoff for the 2025 Australian Mixed Team which will go to Denmark. We begin with a few misfires and missed opportunities.

Have you ever played bridge against Michael Courtney? If not, you might have the pleasure this week. Today's article provides an insight into how Michael's mind works, and why it's so diabolically hard to play against him. Over to Michael



Neither of us fancied bidding with the dreaded three card holding in spades, so we missed a 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 ♣Q, 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.

In the Grand Final against the Lazer team, we had two more such deals, where we came close to scoring unlikely game swings.

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.

Quarter Final - Board 72 of 120

<p>♠ Q 9 6 5 3 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ J 3 ♣ A 10 5</p> <p>♠ K 10 4 ♥ K Q 10 6 ♦ -- ♣ K Q 9 7 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ Q 10 7 6 4 2 ♣ 8 6</p>	<p>♠ A 8 2 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ A K 9 8 5 ♣ J 3</p>
---	--

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Spooner	Courtney	Jacob
	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Grand Final - Board 66 of 120

	♠ A 9 5 2		
	♥ K 10 6 5 4		
	♦ Q 10		
	♣ 9 3		
♠ Q J 7 6		♠ 10 4	
♥ Q 7 2		♥ J 8 3	
♦ K J 9 6 5 3		♦ 4 2	
♣ --		♣ Q J 10 8 7 4	
	♠ K 8 3		
	♥ A 9		
	♦ A 8 7		
	♣ A K 6 5 2		

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Peake	Courtney	Mundell
			1♣
X	1♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♦ was a transfer response, showing 4+ hearts, 3♦ was another transfer and 3♠ showed 4-5 in the majors.

The very cornerstone of our defence was West's magnificent double of 1♣. Arlene's hand was only worth one bid – so she chose Double, expressing her ability to play in any of the other three suits.

To 3NT of course she led her 4th best diamond. Declarer won dummy's queen and tested clubs. Arlene discarded a spade.

Now Giselle pictured Arlene as 4450. She played ♥A, then ♥9 to my Jack. I returned a diamond.

I hoped declarer would win and cash her top club. Arlene must keep her ♥Q (because declarer doesn't know she has only three hearts) and discard a diamond, reaching this ending:

<p>♠ A 9 5 2 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ -- ♣ --</p> <p>♠ Q J 7 ♥ Q ♦ K J 9 ♣ --</p> <p>♠ K 8 3 ♥ -- ♦ 7 ♣ 6 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 4 ♥ 8 ♦ -- ♣ Q J 10 8</p>
---	---

Now we can see that declarer owns 5 more tricks playing majors from the top. But declarer cannot see that hearts are 3-3.

She still imagines that West (originally 4450) has Qx of hearts remaining – an identical ending except that West holds one more heart and one less diamond. So declarer plays ♠A, ♠K and triumphantly exits with her carefully preserved diamond.

Arlene takes three diamonds and the ♠Q for down one. Hearts were 3-3 all the time. I was so pleased that Arlene's Double would lead to 3NT going down.

But

Dreams are not always reality. Because declarer could endplay Arlene with a spade, declarer wisely ducked the second diamond. Seeing the 6-2 diamond break when I

showed out on the next diamond, Giselle's recount revealed Arlene's shape to be 4360, so declarer confidently played for 3-3 hearts, minus 630. 4 imps out when our teammates collected 500 from 3♦ doubled down three.

If declarer did take ♦A on the second round of diamonds instead of the third round, Arlene would have to retain her "useless" ♥Q when CK is cashed, to create the impression that she had Q8 of hearts left. This point leads us to tomorrow's hand.

Finally a deal that looks very similar, yet somehow almost opposite. Last time we had to keep the worthless heart to confuse. This time it's oddly opposite....

Grand Final - Board 79 of 120

	♠ A 8 3	
	♥ K 10 4 2	
	♦ K Q 6	
	♣ 9 5 2	
♠ K 9 5 4 2		♠ Q 6
♥ A J 6		♥ 9 8 7 3
♦ 9 4		♦ 10 8 2
♣ Q 6 4		♣ A J 10 8
	♠ J 10 7	
	♥ Q 5	
	♦ A J 7 5 3	
	♣ K 7 3	

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Geromboux	Courtney	Yuen
			1♦
1♠	X	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

On a spade lead, declarer can make (double dummy) by rising with the ace to lead a heart to the queen. If declarer ducked the spade lead, I'd have to guess whether to play partner for K10xxx/KJxxx in spades or switch to ♣J.

Arlene led the ♦9, K, 2, 3. Declarer (Sebastian Yuen) played a heart to the nine, queen and ace. ♥9 was natural count. Arlene shifted to the ♣4. ♠A, ♠Q and ♣K won the next three tricks.

Now declarer ran diamonds. West can see that declarer already has nine tricks IF THEY TAKE THE HEART FINESSE.

The way to discourage that is to cheerfully discard the ♥6 on the third diamond.

♠ A 8 3

♥ K 10

♦ --

♣ --

♠ K Q 9 5

♥ 7

♦ --

♣ --

♠ 6 5

♥ J 8

♦ --

♣ 8

♠ J 10 7

♥ 5

♦ (A)

♣ --

Imagining this to be the end-position, declarer will discard dummy's ♥10!, cash the ♥K and play a low spade to endplay West.

Now I can rise ♠Q and cash the club for one off, or I can play low. Arlene would win ♠K and seem to be endplayed into leading away from her ♠Q. So declarer ducks in triumph. I win ♠Q for two-off.

Once again, my dreams and reality differed. West retained ♥6, so all my dreaming was for nought.

Today's Tip: On both deals West did not need to foresee the various endings – simply had to think I MUST KEEP (or discard) THIS or declarer will know he is cold.

HISTORIC GCC STORIES AND BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

As editors of the Daily Bulletins, we want to celebrate the lifespan of the Gold Coast Congress.

If anyone wants to submit amusing historic stories, especially from the earlier days, please send them to gccbulletin2025@gmail.com and we will endeavour to publish your tale.

We are, of course, looking for interesting hands from this week too!

Thanks,
Barbara, Lauren and Barry

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CHANGES IN 2025

New in 2025 - 2025 Gold Coast Congress

Updated 08.07.24

1. **New Eligibility Restrictions for 2025**
 - i. New Zealand Players - as at the cut-off date the following eligibility restrictions apply;
 - **Restricted** MUST be below the rank of NZ Provincial Master
 - **Under 500 MPs** MUST be below the rank of NZ Master
 - ii. Overseas Players may only play in Open events unless they provide evidence from their National Bridge Organisation that their ranking (i.e. experience and skill level) is such that warrants entry into a lower division.

2. **Programme Changes**

Weekend Swiss Event - this previous 3 session event has been replaced by 2 separate 2 session events being;

 - Saturday Butler Swiss Pairs with Open and Under 500 categories
 - Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs with Open and Under 500 categories

3. **Closing Time for Entries for Events**

All events except Friday events (mentioned below) close 24 hours before the event starts, or prior within the final week if it suits the movement of the event.
Online entry via MyABF is preferred.

Friday events:

Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs	Thursday 8.00pm
Friday Butler Swiss Pairs	Thursday 8.00pm

The only way of entering the Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs and the Friday Butler Swiss Pairs after February 1st, is via My ABF.

Any player making changes to their entries at the venue will be charged an administration fee of \$10 per player.

No changes to lower masterpoint divisions are permitted on the starting day of the event without permission from the Chief Director and Chief Scorer.

No withdrawals or changes can be made after 8.00 pm to entries for Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs or the Friday Butler Swiss Pairs.

Withdrawals for Friday events (not finalists) will be charged at least 25% of the entry fee.

4. **Walk-Ins**

All Walk-Ins payments are by pre-paid coupons that can be purchased from the GCC Administration office or Walk-In desk. No money is to be transacted at the table.

5. **Partnership Desk**

The GCC is running a Partnership Desk to assist players in finding a partner or team mate/s. To know how it works click on the Partnership Desk link in the Links section of the congress.

6. **Prizemoney**

All prize money will be paid by bridge credits into the placegetters My ABF Bridge Credit account.

7. **Exclusions for 2025**

For many reasons including financial and availability of personnel etc some services provided in the past can no longer be provided and these are;

 - The Bridge Companions Programme (Assistance will be available at ALL reception desks)
 - The GCC Courtesy Bus
 - The GCC Dinner Dance



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Tournament Organiser: Karin le Roux 0428 859 898

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Yeppoon Bridge Club is proud to present the 29th Barrier Reef Congress, from Friday 2nd May - Monday 5th May 2025.

Join us for the only Gold Point Congress in Regional QLD for 2025.

Bring your partner and family, take a few extra days or week, and get a glimpse of what we have to offer - along with a fabulous weekend of Bridge. Our town hosted our first Barrier Reef Congress in 2017, and COVID cancelled the 2020 event. The 2017 congress was well supported, and players enjoyed our place in paradise. Yeppoon will be pulling out all the stops for you.

Direct flights are available to Rockhampton from Brisbane and Mackay with Qantas and Virgin. All other airports will have a stopover in Brisbane or Mackay.

Visit www.visitcapricorn.com.au for

1. Transport options from Rockhampton to Yeppoon
2. Accommodation
3. Dining

Yeppoon offers a range of day trips to tempt players and nonplaying partners to our local beaches, the lagoon, the Keppel Islands, Byfield National Park, our Local Pottery close to Byfield, a Crocodile Farm close to Emu Park, Golf Courses, Scuba Diving, Sailing, Reef Fishing etc. departing from Roslyn Bay.

Whether it is playing bridge, relaxation, adventure or natural experiences, Yeppoon is picture perfect and won't disappoint.

We look forward to welcoming you to Yeppoon.

STOP AND THINK BEFORE YOU PLAY TO TRICK 1

Barbara Travis

♠ 4 3 2
♥ J 4
♦ A Q J 9 8
♣ A J 6

♠ A 10
♥ A 3 2
♦ 10 7 5
♣ K Q 10 9 5

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♦	Double	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♠2.

You can count eight top tricks: 1 spade, 1 heart, 5 clubs, 1 diamond. The diamond finesse can provide any additional tricks.

Trick 1 proceeds - ♠5 - 2 - King - your play.

Many people would duck the spade at trick 1. However, if you check that West's lead is fourth-highest, then the ♠5 reveals that the spades are breaking 4-4, so you only have three losers in spades. If you duck trick 1, can anything go wrong? Yes! East might switch to hearts.

Since the auction has marked the points around the table, with West seemingly holding the ♠Q, and East holding the remaining HCP - ♠K-J, ♥K-Q-J, ♦K - for his double, you should win the opening lead with your ♠A. Now just take the diamond finesse (or lead to the Ace in case the ♦K is singleton). East can win their ♦K, and the defence can take three more spade tricks, but you have nine tricks.

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Australian Bridge

Your national bridge magazine

Here's the full hand, exactly as you would expect:

♠ 4 3 2
♥ J 4
♦ A Q J 9 8
♣ A J 6

♠ Q 8 7 5
♥ 8 7 6 5
♦ 6 4 2
♣ 7 3

♠ K J 9 6
♥ K Q 10 9
♦ K 3
♣ 9 4 2

♠ A 10
♥ A 3 2
♦ 10 7 5
♣ K Q 10 9 5

Equally, as defenders, you need to stop and think at trick 1. If South ducks your ♠K, you should switch to the ♥K rather than automatically returning partner's suit. Why? Well, you can see that the diamond finesse will fail, so you can count five winners (1 spade, 1 diamond, 3 hearts) as long as you establish your heart tricks immediately.

If you can see a sure way to defeat a contract in your own hand, then there is no need to return your partner's suit.

Try this hand: Dummy
♠ A 5 4 3
♥ K 4 3
♦ 10 4 3
♣ 4 3 2

Declarer
♠ 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ A K Q J 9 8 7
♣ A 6

All Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

West leads the ♠K and you have to plan the hand. You have 11 tricks: 7 diamonds, ♠A, ♣A, ♥A-K.

However, the auction should warn you to think before playing the ♠A at trick 1. It is very possible that West has 8 spades for a vulnerable 4♠ opening bid. If West has 8 spades, then East will have a void and will trump the ♠A, if it is played.

Do you need to play the ♠A at trick 1? Given your singleton, the answer is “no”; you can lose trick 1, trump a second spade lead, then reach dummy later via the ♥K and take a discard on the ♠A instead. Therefore, a wise declarer will play low at trick 1, ensuring their 11 tricks.

Listen to the auction, analyse the lead, think about the distribution, then play to trick 1.

TRUMP PROMOTIONS

Barry Rigal

This theme of ducking or discarding in order to avoid trump promotions, uppercuts, or simply to keep your powder dry, is a rich vein in bridge literature. Consider the following hand:

Dlr East	♠ A K 3		
NS Vul	♥ J 5 2		
	♦ 8 7 2		
	♣ A 9 7 5		
♠ J 10 9 4		♠ 8 7 5	
♥ 10 8 7 4		♥ --	
♦ Q 3		♦ A K J 9 6 4	
♣ Q 4 3		♣ K J 10 6	
	♠ Q 6 2		
	♥ A K Q 9 6 3		
	♦ 10 5		
	♣ 8 2		
West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♥
Pass	2♦	Double	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West leads the ♦Q, overtaken by East to play two more rounds of diamonds. It would be careless to ruff this low, and get over-ruffed. It would be unlucky to ruff the third diamond high, and to run into a 4-0 trump break, offside yet! – and go down. It would however be no more than appropriately careful to discard a club on the third diamond, to preserve your trumps, and ensure ten tricks.

It is not as if the club loser might go away, so you are giving up nothing by losing that trick at the right moment, and not the wrong one.

On today's hand, we see an expert player following a text-book play. Alas for him, it is sometimes necessary to set aside the manuals when other issues demand it. Fortunately for our hero, the defence were also on autopilot, and not using their imagination sufficiently.

Dlr North	♠ A Q 6 2		
NS Vul	♥ A 8 5		
	♦ A 8 6		
	♣ 6 5 2		
♠ 10 8		♠ K 9 7 5 3	
♥ Q 6		♥ K 4 3	
♦ K Q J 10 9		♦ 5 4 3	
♣ J 8 7 3		♣ 10 4	
	♠ J 4		
	♥ J 10 9 7 2		
	♦ 7 2		
	♣ A K Q 9		
West	North	East	South
Westra	Bocchi	Chemla	Zia
	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Westra led the ♦K, which went to the 6-3-7 (a routine false card from Zia). Westra rather unimaginatively continued with a second diamond, and Zia won and crossed to hand twice in clubs to take two finesses in hearts, making the routine 10 tricks for an above average score.

Unremarkable, you may say. Yes, but Zia had given the defence a chance when he ducked the first diamond, a play which in practice could hardly gain. Similarly, Westra could have worked out that if declarer has two diamonds, continuing the suit achieves nothing, while even if he has three diamonds there are no entries back to the West hand to reach the defence's second trick in that suit. If Westra had shifted to a spade at trick two, the defence can lead that suit at every opportunity, and can arrange a trump promotion for the ♥Q, whatever Zia does.

BRENT MANLEY**1947 - 2024**

Brent Manley, who worked with David Stern and Barry Rigal on the Gold Coast Bulletins for many years, died in Memphis on 21st December 2024.

Barry Rigal and I worked with Brent on the Gold Coast Bulletin for 10 years.

During that time, Brent was assigned to cover matches involving restricted and intermediate and occasionally novice players, something he did incredibly well. These players, who had never had a kibitzer watch them, occasionally invited him to come and watch a second and even third time reflecting the fact that he treated them as valued members of the Bridge community and wrote articles about their bids and plays with deep sensitivity and understanding of their difficulties they faced at that level.

That said he did once submit an article stating “ I think I should receive the silk purse from a sow’s ear award”.

Working with Brent was always a pleasure but a greater pleasure was dining with him and relaxing after the hard work.

David Stern



In addition to being Editor of the ACBL’s Bridge Bulletin, Brent was editor and contributor to many world championship bulletins, and he and I worked round the world, especially at the Gold Coast with David Stern for the best part of a decade. Brent edited the most recent edition of the encyclopedia. He also served as awards secretary for International Bridge Press Association, and generally made my life easier in that role for about a decade.

Softly spoken with a subtle sense of humor, he rarely spoke ill of anyone. He was generous as a writer and colleague. He covered the novice and intermediate sections at the Gold Coast and was rarely unable to find something that glittered – a feat that would have been beyond me.

Barry Rigal

Ed (BT): I particularly liked this tribute, from Sue Munday:

I came out of retirement, and Jim and I moved from Southern California to Horn Lake, Mississippi, so that I could work for Brent Manley.

Being on Brent’s team made me feel special. Sure, producing a monthly bridge magazine isn’t brain surgery, and with the four of us humming along in harmony, it didn’t actually feel like work. That’s the magic of a boss who understands people chemistry – who trusts his team and humbly inspires everyone around him to reach for their highest, most creative potential.

As much as Brent loved bridge, he perhaps loved bridge players even more. Gentle, sensitive and curious, he wrote marvelous player profiles. From experts to novices, club owners to directors, he was a master at showing the human side of the game in a way that made readers excited to be part of our community.

TIPS FOR NEWER PLAYERS

Frank Stewart

Frank Stewart, from the USA, is a world-recognised bridge journalist. His daily articles appear on the Bridge Baron website: www.bridgebaron.com

PLAN, THEN PLAY

When you're declarer, you can't act like Cy the Cynic, a denizen of my imaginary club. Cy plunges ahead, adopting the first line of play that occurs to him. Cy maintains that his approach saves wear and tear on his brain, but he loses many makeable contracts.

Before you call for the first card, make a plan, beginning with a count of winners (often at notrump or at a low-level suit contract) or losers (often at a game or slam where, let us hope, you don't have many losers).

What would be your plan at this 4♠, playing IMPs (Teams)?

Dlr: South ♠ K Q 2
 Vul: None ♥ 6 5
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ A K 6 4 2

♠ A J 10 9 3
 ♥ A 7 2
 ♦ 9 3 2
 ♣ Q 5

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Many players would open as South, but you must draw the line somewhere. Though North has only three-card spade support, a raise to 2♠ was his best call. West leads the ♦J and a second diamond. East takes the K-A and leads a heart; your ace wins.

You have nine winners: five trumps, three clubs, one heart. If the missing clubs break 3-3, no problem: draw trumps and run the clubs. If clubs are 4-2, you can take the queen and ace, ruff a club, and hope to draw all the trumps ending in dummy and take two more clubs. But that plan will fail if the trumps break 4-1.

Start with the A-K of trumps. If East-West follow, take the ♣Q-A and ruff a club; if trumps break 4-1, draw trumps and rely on a 3-3 club break.

You will play many contracts that seem routine. Those require a second look.

Dlr: South ♠ Q 9 4 3
 Vul: None ♥ A 7 5 2
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ K 4

♠ J 7 6 5	♠ --
♥ 10 9	♥ Q J 8 6 3
♦ A 9 6	♦ K J 10 4
♣ J 7 5 2	♣ Q 10 9 6
	♠ A K 10 8 2
	♥ K 4
	♦ 8 7 3
	♣ A 8 3

South played at a dull-looking 4♠, and West led the ♥10. Declarer won with the king and cashed the ♠A ... and East discarded. Declarer led a second trump to dummy's nine, took the ♣K-A, ruffed his last club and cashed the ♠Q. but then he was stuck in dummy. When he took the ♥A and ruffed a heart, West overruffed, and the defence took three diamonds.

It took care and foresight for South to correctly win the first trick with the ♥A. Plan, then play!

FUNNY GCC MEMORY

Lauren Travis

As a teenager, I played the Gold Coast Teams with Jamie Thompson, back before he understood reverses. Aside from several interesting auctions, the most memorable moment was when an opponent asked us how old we were. Jamie and I politely responded that we were 14 and 17. Without missing a beat, the opponent said to me, "You look 12!" I still haven't forgiven her.

MY ABF – ANDROID APP

We are aware that the Android version of the My ABF App (used for notification of tournament results and next round draws) has not been available in the App Store for a while.

We have been working on this behind the scenes and have ended up having to replace the App with a new one. It is not yet publicly available for download because Google requires it to go through a formal testing phase first. It is, however, possible for players **who have a gmail address** to register to be part of that test which will enable them to receive a functioning version of the App. We need a minimum of 20 people to be part of the test so this is a perfect opportunity!

Therefore – **if you wish to obtain the new Android App to be able to use during the Gold Coast Congress** please send an email to myabf.dev@gmail.com and confirm your gmail email address. You will then get sent a link to be able to download it (and it will be fully functional - you don't have to do any active testing).

For those with the existing Android App, it should still work so there is no need to do anything. But be aware it will not be maintained so there may come a time in the future when it will fail – and you will then need to replace it with the new one.

The Apple App is unaffected.



ARE YOU AND YOUR CLUB USING My ABF?

My ABF now has 15,000 active users (plus another 12,500 added by clubs) and over 150 clubs are using it to manage their activities.

If you would like to understand the benefits to you and your club, come along to hear an update from Julian Foster.

**Wednesday 5th February Location: Upstairs opposite administration
1.30–2.15pm**

- My ABF team changes
- It's for all players and all clubs - how usage is expanding across the country
- Latest release (Nov 2024) – Membership
 - Allow clubs to fully manage their membership
 - Maintain member records
 - Issue annual membership renewals
 - Allow players to pay memberships by bridge credits (manually or automatically)
- Coming during 2025
 - Behind the scenes technical updates
 - Masterpoint Centre migration
- Questions

If you can't attend in person more information can be found here:

<https://www.abf.com.au/member-services/my-abf-resources/>



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Each day we'll be drawing names from the successful 'Name that City' entrants to win Gift Vouchers and a range of TBIB goodies. Don't Miss out!

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AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Australia's national bridge magazine now comes in two different editions, Regular and Novice. You can subscribe to either magazine at Paul Lavings' book stall or visit www.australianbridge.com

DAVID STERN

In memory of his mother, Gerda Stern, the best Women's Pair in the Open Pairs will receive prize money and a trophy donated by David Stern.



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Paul has been a stalwart support of this event for well over 20 years and all third-placed pairs win vouchers for items from his stall. The best way you can support Paul is by checking out his stall in the foyer. You will love the range of items and his reasonable prices. www.bridgegear.com

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www.stepbridge.com.au



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To those who wish to remain anonymous – we can only say thank you.

To the surrounding bridge clubs – thank you.

To the volunteers – players, friends and family who donate their hours to make this event the success it is – thank you.