

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

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Sunday 2nd February 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

BULLETIN 2

The Finals of the Bobby Richman Matchpoint Pairs Championship commence today, with players battling it out over three sessions for titles in the Open, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice categories. The top qualifiers in the Open were 2025 Australian Open Team members Liam Milne and James Coutts (NS) and New Zealander Michael Ware with Pete Hollands (EW). In the Intermediate, Peter Schmidt and John Rivers topped the NS field, and Paul Ruan and Lilly Jia won EW. Jing Geng and Jo Pavy won the Restricted NS qualifying with Mike Morrissey and David Cumming leading in the EW field. Gordon Travers and Sharon Michael along with Jessie Pelenato and Bridget O'Brien were the top qualifiers in the Novice section.

Today will also see the two-session Butler Swiss Pairs contested by Open and Under 500 MP players, the Rookie Pairs for players with under 10 MPs this morning, and Walk-In Pairs events in the morning and afternoon.

In yesterday's Butler Swiss Pairs, Simon Rose and Barry Rawicki won the Open from Trevor Fuller and Nick Cantatore. Jennifer Andrews and Meredith Goodlet triumphed by 0.1 VP over Simon Fleming and Charles Page in the 0-500 MP event.



James Coutts and Liam Milne, top qualifiers in the NS field of the Bobby Richman Open Pairs Championship



TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Will Jenner-O'Shea

"Introduction to 2NT Scramble"

More information on page 4

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!

IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT DEAL...

Barry Rigal

For the first segment of the pairs qualifier I decided to watch the N/S number one seeds, three deals at a time and to follow the deals in chronological sequence. So this report features the best of the best – or so it says here. You be the judge.

Board 1, Dealer North, Nil Vul

	♠ K 7 6 2		
	♥ 6 3		
	♦ J 5		
	♣ Q 10 9 8 5		
♠ 8 3		♠ A 5 4	
♥ Q J 10 5		♥ A 8 7 4	
♦ A 10 9 2		♦ K 7 6	
♣ 6 3 2		♣ K 7 4	
	♠ Q J 10 9		
	♥ K 9 2		
	♦ Q 8 4 3		
	♣ A J		
West	North	East	South
Hollands	Kaplan	Ware	Brown
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠	All Pass	

A hotly contested auction (not a surprise given the age of three of the four experts at the table, and especially given the vulnerability) saw West breaching the Law of Total Tricks with huge success, pushing his opponents out of what should be a straightforward 2♠ contract (but see below) to a less appealing spot. Even if N/S could double 3♥ they would surely not collect more than 100?

Against 3♠ Michael Ware led a trump. West followed up the line as Kaplan won the first trump in dummy and played a second. Perhaps this persuaded Ware that his partner was likely to have club values, but in any event he won the second spade and played a third. At this point Kaplan should surely settle for one down by winning and playing ♣A then a second club, overtaking. He actually won the third trump in hand as Hollands pitched a revealing ♥Q, then finessed clubs, cashed the ♣A and led a diamond to the jack and king.

Ware now took his ♥A and played a second diamond, letting Hollands win and exit with ♥J. Kaplan salvaged a trick to get back to one down by leading a third heart pitching a club, forcing Hollands either to set up clubs for declarer while he still had a trump left, or lead a diamond, after which dummy would be high. Down one was a 67% result for the defenders.

The third board of this set saw what seemed like a normal play punished harshly. On reflection I wonder if my analysis was over-simplified (no surprise there).

Board 3, Dealer South, EW Vul

		♠ Q 7	
		♥ A Q 4 2	
		♦ J 9	
		♣ Q 9 7 3 2	
♠ 9 5			♠ 8 4 2
♥ K 9 6			♥ J 8 3
♦ 6 3			♦ K Q 10 8 7 4 2
♣ K J 10 8 5 4			♣ --
		♠ A K J 10 6 3	
		♥ 10 7 5	
		♦ A 5	
		♣ A 6	
West	North	East	South
Hollands	Kaplan	Ware	Brown
			1♠
Pass	1NT	2♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Brown declared 4♠ on an auction where the carding to trick one made it clear diamonds were 7-2. What should you play at trick two? Brown did what I would have done at single dummy. He led the ♣A, ruffed away by Ware, who cashed a diamond. After that, the defenders eventually collected a club for -420 and a 76% result.

It is clearly wrong to try the ♣A if clubs are 6-0 but maybe less obvious that this is also the case if clubs are 5-1...West will duck the second club to let East ruff, and now the defenders will still get whatever they are due in hearts since declarer has no discard coming.

If clubs are 3-3 or 4-2 long on your left, you may well need to play clubs before trumps to preserve your extra dummy entry to allow you to establish the clubs. All in all

the losing line does seem best – but roughly half a top rode on finding the line that worked at the table of playing trumps before clubs.

Part of the secret of winning at pairs is to be in the right place at the right time. George Kozakos is obviously a founder member of the group who believe that if your opponent wishes to make an error it would be uncivil not to give them the opportunity to do so.

Board 5, Dealer North, NS Vul

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

George sat North and heard his opponent in the West seat open 1NT. She ended up in 4♥ after George's partner Fraser Rew had doubled a transfer to hearts. So George obediently led a diamond. Declarer pitched a spade from dummy and won the ace then drew three rounds of trumps. (Arguably one should play on clubs before drawing the third trump...) Then she led a spade to the jack and queen. Kozakos exited with a second diamond; declarer ruffed and led a club to the king, followed by a second club. Kozakos ducked his ace...hardly an obvious play but he knew that if he took his ace declarer would claim, and if he ducked the best declarer could do was lead a third club and discard. In fact, when the second club held, declarer finessed in spades. Kozakos won and played a third diamond, leaving declarer with a losing diamond whatever she did. Saving the overtrick turned a 42% result into an 86% score.

PENLINE®

Board 7, Dealer South, All Vul

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

The field not unreasonably overbid here. While the South hand is certainly not worth a 3♥ rebid over partner's response of 1♦, even the simple raise might get you to 4♥ when partner likes his extra shape and invites game.

So when you get a trump lead you might panic and assume you need to make your game to score on the board. That is a huge error; if you believe the field may be in your shoes, what you have to do is play for nine tricks. And the solution is fairly simple. Draw two or three rounds of trumps – it doesn't matter a lot but say you draw three rounds then play a spade and cover West's card. The best East can do is win cheaply and play two more rounds of spades.

Thanks to the fall of the spot cards, you win the third spade in dummy and run the ♦K pitching a club. East can see he will be endplayed if he takes this so he ducks. You lead a low diamond, and West hops up with the jack, and you discard again. That forces him to shift to a club, and when you stick in the jack you have nine tricks (two spades, five hearts, and one trick in each minor). Even if East had both club honours, you would still come to nine tricks by ducking the first club to force another minor-suit play from East. Down one was worth 64% to the declaring side, down two was a 38% board.

Australian Bridge
Your national bridge magazine

Board 11, Dealer South, Nil Vul

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

If there is one rule I have learnt over the years it is that if the opponents decide they want to penalize you at the one level they are generally right and you should run... no matter where!

Alan Watson had the South cards and opened 1♠, doubled on his left and passed back to him. It doesn't look attractive to run, does it, and yet...follow the rule. Had he redoubled his side would have reached the relative haven of clubs – and I'm not sure that his opponents would have tried 3NT or made it.

But he sat for 1♠x and, rather than follow the textbooks by leading trumps, Himanshi Joshi led a top heart and

continued the suit. Pradeep Kulkarni won the third to shift to the ♦9, and Watson read the position accurately when he won the ♦A and returned the suit. Now Joshi played a low diamond (I'm guessing a trump might still be right in theory). Kulkarni ruffed in with the 10. Watson overruffed and returned the ♠9, then guessed well when Kulkarni won and returned a low spade by putting in the eight to swallow up the seven. Even after all that he could still score only the club ace for down 500 and 91% for his opponents.

Board 16, Dealer West, EW Vul

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

Sometimes your MP expectation on a deal goes up and down like a yo-yo, not to mention your blood pressure. Put yourself in Phil Markey's shoes (defending his title from last year but with a new partner in Renee Cooper). Sitting North, he heard a 3♠ preempt at unfavourable vulnerability to his left, and he passed it round to Renee, who doubled. After mature (maybe not a word you'd associate with Phil) consideration he passed and now had to decide what to lead. He plumped for a MUD diamond and when dummy came down it really wasn't clear if he had done well or badly, however when declarer ruffed the second diamond he could be sure that however badly he was felling his partner was feeling worse...

Not to worry, declarer for some reason led a club to dummy to play trumps and Markey sat back and collected one trick in each minor and two tricks in each major, for 500 and virtually all the matchpoints. A club lead would have meant 200 at best and a 23% board. With no slam halfway decent on the board, this was the best his side could do.

TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Will Jenner-O'Shea

"Introduction to 2NT Scramble"



Scrambling 2NT, the most useful convention you probably have never heard of...

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.

Location: Upstairs opposite Administration

Minimum \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge

1:30-2:15pm

Board 25, Dealer North, EW Vul

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

It was the Duke of Wellington who commented on his own troops "I do not know if they frighten the enemy, but by God they frighten me!". I had recourse to that thought as I sat behind my fellow bulletin editor Lauren Travis playing with Matt Mullamphy.

E/W appear to have an easy game in clubs or no-trump, and if East gets to open 1♥ or overcall in hearts, they will surely get there. Not through the Iron Duke, to mix Wellingtonian metaphors. Lauren selected the right moment with her hand of power and quality to open 4♦ as North... and you really cannot blame her opponents for giving up without a struggle. The fall of a diamond honour allowed her out for down three – a rather disappointing 57% result. Maybe I underestimated how many Norths would act here and push their opponents to the wrong game?

FUNNY GCC MEMORY

Paul Lavings

It was 1971 and I was playing the GCC with Graham Westcott. (He hobbled about, having lost a leg in WW2.) We walked into the playing area for the Pairs Final and all the prizes were laid on a table. His eyes focused on a large wall clock, which he instantly fell in love with. "OH NO!!" I thought. It was 2nd prize in the Pairs.

We had a very big score in the first session, but Graham played very carefully in the second set (two session final) to ensure we won the clock!

On the following deal Matt Mullamphy dug himself deep into a pit and needed extraordinary measures to extract himself.

Board 26, Dealer East, All Vul

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

How would you evaluate the South cards after opening 1♣ in second seat, then hearing 1♠ to your left, 2♥ from partner? No one could quarrel with bidding no-trumps sooner, or if you prefer, later, after a cuebid. Mullamphy cuebid and heard a double from Adrian Fontes to his left, passed back to him. Now what? Partner's failure to bid diamonds clubs or hearts means they are balanced. I'm guessing 3NT is the only makeable game, but Mullamphy cuebid again, perhaps asking for a half-stopper. The message was not received, and he ended up in an inelegant 5♣ on a top diamond lead. He ducked, won the next diamond, then took the ♥K, ruffed a diamond, and drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy before taking the ♥A and ruffing a heart to hand. Finally, he drew the last trump and in the three-card ending he had brought his hand and Fontes' down to three spades. He exited with a low spade, forcing West to win and lead away from his remaining honour into the tenace. +600 was a 62% result – down one would have been a disaster.

I came in to watch the latter half of the second qualifying session, and the first (numerically speaking if not chronologically) of the deals I watched had a subtle point to it.

You are defending 4♥ as North, the contract being played by West – so cover up the South and East cards and look just at your hand and dummy.



International stars Adam Kaplan and Matt Brown

Board 13, Dealer North, All Vul

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

Imagine you are defending 4♥ on the auction:

West	North	East	South
			2♠
Double	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Your partner's 2♠ opener can be five. You lead a low spade, and declarer captures partner's 10 with his ace and plays the ♥Q. Your move.

When you have decided, take a look at the full deal. Of course, this line of play does lose out an overtrick when West has a significant doubleton including the jack and on many lies of the cards where he has three hearts. At teams, this play has something to recommend it, though we weren't playing teams...

Andrew Peake tackled trumps in a more traditional way and ended up with nine tricks. Meanwhile 3NT has nine toppers... should N/S have been there.

Exactly one pair made 4♥ here; congratulations to Roslyn and Tony Howes for doing so. Meanwhile +600 was a 79% result for N/S with -100 worth 28%.

A few deals later Michael Johnstone declared 3♥ on a competitive auction where there was some significant tempo issues he could absorb.

Board 18, Dealer East, NS Vul

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

Roeder	Gregory	Popper	Johnstone
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦*
2♦	Double	Pass	2♥
3♦	3♥	All pass	

*1♦ = Precision 2+, 11-15

Rick Roeder's 2♦ call was natural and he clearly did not want to pass out 3♥. he led a top diamond, Johnstone winning to return that suit. When Richard Popper discarded an encouraging club Roeder shifted to the jack...3, K 7. Back came a club and on declarer's eight West produced the two. Play on.

At this stage to have a chance West must have at least one heart, and his tempo strongly suggests the ace – with less he would have preempted initially and sold out more happily.

It looks best to me to overtake the club eight and run the heart 10. Even if East covers with the queen and your king loses to the singleton ace, what can West do? On a third diamond you ruff with the five in dummy, prepared to pitch a spade, and no other defence works any better. (This wasn't found at the table.)

Board 20, Dealer West, All Vul

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

At the table I was watching Elizabeth Havas doubled a natural club opener as North and Peter Reynolds collected a drama-free +110. By contrast where Kim Morrison and Chris Hughes were North-South their East bid 1NT after 1♣ was doubled. Hughes competed to 2♦ and East bid 2♠ to show spades and clubs, and no one felt like disturbing that. Hughes led a heart; declarer played low so the jack won, and back came a spade. Hughes won and cleared diamonds, and declarer gave up a second spade. Now Hughes tried a second heart; declarer could still have salvaged a soupçon from the wreckage but not surprisingly went for the marbles by inserting the queen. Morrison won, drew trumps, and ran the diamonds – down 600! (And that is how to get 100 percent on a board – not easy in this field, beating the 580 in 2♦x.)

Board 21, Dealer North, NS Vul

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

The next deal produced difficult problems for everyone. Havas sensibly passed the North cards and heard Martin Bloom open 4♠, doubled by Reynolds. Had Nigel Rosendorff passed, no doubt Havas would have pulled the double to... 4NT? Now West's job is to continue bidding until somebody doubles. At the table, though, West bid 5♠ and Havas elected to bid 6♣, sensibly reasoning that this must guarantee subsidiary hearts as a passed hand – how else could you pass initially then act, without a two-suiter? 6♠ bought the contract, and the difference between 1430 and 1370 was just 11% on the deal. But the save in 6♠ would have given N/S a below-average score. Unless one plays some sort of anti-slam doubles this is very hard to do.

Board 26, Dealer East, All Vul

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

Bridge can sometimes feel like a game of inches. One false step turns a top into a zero. Here Marianne Bookallil sat East and passed initially then heard the auction go: (3♠)-x-(4♠)-P-(P)-X, back to her. Bid or pass, facing a double that suggests real extras? Sensibly, she viewed to pass, since her spade value was worthless on offense but turned into a trick on defense. Partner's four winners stood up and +500 was 96%, while bidding 4NT would have led to at least -800 at the five-level!

**Vugraph operators required on
Friday and Saturday.**

Please see GCC Office if interested

Payment: \$3 per board



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All welcome

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

Barbara Travis

You are playing Teams (IMPs scoring), so you should make a plan to give yourself the best chance of making your contract, even if that means you may give up an overtrick.

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ 10 8 4
♣ A K J 7 2

♠ A 9 5
♥ K Q 8 7 6 3
♦ A 5
♣ Q 5

Your contract is 4♥, South. West leads the ♠K. How would you play?

You may have missed a slam if hearts break 3-2.

You win the ♠A at trick 1, then cash the ♥A and the ♥K, but West shows out.

What is your plan now?

You could draw another trump then work on the clubs, but if East has only one club, he can trump and your club winners will be stranded in dummy, since there is no re-entry.

You can avoid any problems simply by losing your trump trick now. You will also lose two spade tricks, but now you can win the ♦A and use the clubs to discard the diamond loser.

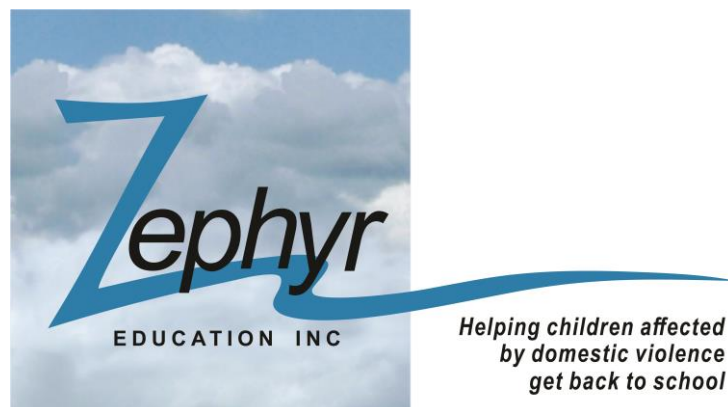
♠ 8 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ 10 8 4
♣ A K J 7 2

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

♠ A 9 5
♥ K Q 8 7 6 3
♦ A 5
♣ Q 5

ZEPHYR EDUCATION

The charity supported by the GCC



GCC Congress and QBA are supporting Zephyr Education Inc again in 2025. A huge thank you to the many bridge players who continue to support Zephyr Education. Zephyr provides the full educational needs of children affected by domestic and family violence in 231 DFV shelters, Family Service organisations, and outreach services across every Australian State and Territory. They are all volunteers at Zephyr and no one is reimbursed for personal expenses - let alone paid a wage. No rent is paid for premises and overheads are minimal, so virtually all money donated by you is spent helping these vulnerable children fit in and be given the opportunity of a full education.

In the words of one of the shelter managers:

It was lovely to hear about the wonderful work that Zephyr does. It is so great that we have wonderful people in our community who think about and really understand what our kids go through when they experience DFV and are forced to suddenly leave their homes and come into a crisis refuge away from other family, friends, pets and forced to change schools and not know anyone. It is so important for them to try and fit in and feel part of it all as quickly as possible so thank you for what you do, it is absolutely amazing.

Collections will be held during the congress before play and after lunch on SUNDAY and WEDNESDAY so please give generously to this very practical and worthwhile charity. Kim Ellaway will also take donations at the office. Carmel Martin is available to answer any questions you may have.

BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS**QUALIFYING 1 – NOVICE SECTION***Barbara Travis*

Qualifying Session 1 saw me kibitzing in the Novice field. For some of the hands, I plan to discuss better bidding options, and I'll start with such a hand:

Board 5

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

This is the auction I recommend after West opens a strong 1NT (15-17):

1NT	2♣ (starts as Stayman)
2♥	4♥

An extension of Stayman is Smolen; when you hold a game forcing response with 5-4 in the majors, you start with 2♣. If partner responds with a major, you bid game. If partner responds with 2♦, then 3♥ shows 5 spades and 4 hearts, and 3♠ shows 5 hearts and 4 spades. If opener has 3 cards in your 5-card major, you play 4-major from the stronger holding.

North leads the ♠K which you win with the Ace. It's the best lead, because if they lead anything else you can establish the clubs for spade discards, potentially making 12 tricks instead of 11 (if trumps break 2-2).

Board 13 was an interesting hand:

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

This was the auction I witnessed:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♣	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

When I saw dummy, I thought that perhaps 3NT could have been bid by North since he took South's 3♠ to be invitational. It is definitely better for North to be declarer, with East on lead! Any lead helps declarer, especially when the points are marked in East's hand. 3NT isn't terminal; South can opt to bid 4♠ with a more distributional hand.

Deep Finesse says that 3NT by North makes 11 tricks, given you can double finesse the diamonds (two spade entries to dummy).

In 4♠ you get the ♣J lead, ducked to East's King. East cashes the ♥A and ♥K and leads a third heart (so it didn't matter if you unblocked your ♥Q to gain another entry to dummy), but you are still not out of the woods. When you cash the ♠K in hand, you discover the 4-1 break when East drops the ♠J. Now you have two options: you can cross to the ♠10 and finesse the diamonds, then cross back to dummy's ♠A to finesse the diamonds again; the other option is to draw trumps and keep leading all your trumps. Poor East gets squeezed in clubs and diamonds! You retain your ♣Q and ♦A-K-10, and dummy keeps two diamonds and the ♣A-9. East can't keep both two clubs and the ♦Q-J-6, so you make the last four tricks.

A TALE OF TWO 4♥x*Julian Foster*

Often when you double a contract that makes you can be a bit gun-shy on the next board. However...

Board 25 of the second pairs qualifying session went (1♥) X (2♥) 2♠ (4♥) P (P) X. My double was probably silly and duly earned us -790. A 5% board.

But I got my revenge! Board 26 went (P) 2♠ [weak 2 – I suspect quite a few opened more than 2 but Dave's bid worked well as it continued...] (X) P (3♥) P (4♥). This time I felt a bit more confident doubling with AK109xx trumps! That one duly went for 800. A 93% board.

Board 15 was full of traps for Novice players:

♠ K J 4 2
♥ K 2
♦ J 8 6
♣ A K 5 4

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

♠ Q 9 3
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ A K 4
♣ 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♥7. Richard Collis played low (check your Rule of 11 if you have any doubts about this play), East showed out, discarding a diamond, and declarer won with the ♥8. He continued with a spade at trick 2, but look what Beth Bannister and Gail Wray from South Perth did to him defensively. Beth won the ♠J with the ace and led a diamond! The ‘obvious’ club switch doesn’t damage Richard’s communications, but this lead certainly did. Richard ducked and West won her ♦Q, continuing with another diamond.

Richard recognised that he needed to establish some heart winners so led a small heart towards dummy. Gail ducked and now the defence had really messed his communications! In reality, he had needed to work on the hearts at trick 2 while he had better communications, but this was really unlucky. Eventually the defence erred slightly, giving him three spade tricks and his contract, and he sighed with relief.

On Board 21, West played in 2♠ after this auction:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Barometer scoring in the early days of the Pairs. Do you recognise the two ladies in this photo?

Richard, South, held:

♠ A Q 7
♥ Q 9 5
♦ 10 5 2
♣ 9 6 5 3

Tim led the ♣7, East tabling a 1-4-5-3 shape. Declarer won the club in hand and continued with the ♣A at trick 2, which Tim trumped. At the end of the hand (and round), poor Richard had to put up with me grilling him, “Did you realise at trick 2, when Tim ruffed, that declarer had 6 spades and 5 clubs?” He admitted that he’s still working on his counting, mainly focusing on HCP rather than shape, but loved the mini-lesson.

I did give them one other lesson in the three rounds I watched. The opponents had an ideal auction:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	All Pass

This auction calls for a trump lead. I explained why: West has shown really short spades by passing 2♦, so a trump lead is mandatory to reduce the ruffs in dummy. Thankfully everyone at the table enjoyed that quick lesson, too. (No write up on the hand because there was a revoke.)

I watched nine boards with Tim Lebbon and Richard Collis sitting North-South – and they finished the morning session in 1st place. They may be calling me back for the Final.



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BOBBY RICHMAN OPEN PAIRS**QUALIFYING 2 – INTERMEDIATE SECTION***Barbara Travis*

During this session I watched a few pairs, including Imogen von Muenchhausen and Ian Wright from Tura Beach (Sapphire Bridge Club) in southern NSW. Imogen was very gracious towards me and various opponents who all asked about her surname. She replies very casually that her first husband is a direct descendent of ‘the’ von Munchhausen, who was a man who used to tell lots of tall tales. Ian, on the other hand, explains that he is her second, and last, husband.

They were playing against Owen Teakle and Alice Handley, a young(ish) South Australian couple.

On board 3, Owen opened 1NT and Alice, sitting East, held:

♠ QJ984
♥ QJ62
♦ 94
♣ 82

She transferred to 2♠ then passed. Alice was clearly unhappy with her bidding and asked me how I'd bid it. I waited till after the hand, then suggested that she should have used Junk Stayman. Bid 2♣ and wait for Owen's response. On the actual hand, he will respond 2♥ and you pass. If he bids 2♠, you might invite with 3♠ though there isn't a lot to work with there. On the other hand, if he bids 2♦, you correct to 2♠, showing a weak hand with 5-4 in the majors.

Those who played in 2♠ made 8 tricks, but playing in hearts you make 9 tricks – even with a 5-0 spade break.

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Board 4 must have been one of the boards of the day.

♠ A 10 5 3 2

♥ 4

♦ 9 7

♣ K 10 6 4 3

♠ J 7

♥ A Q J 8 7 5

♦ A K Q 10 4

♣ --

♠ 9 8

♥ K 9 6 3

♦ J 8 5 3 2

♣ Q 2

♠ K Q 6 4

♥ 10 2

♦ 6

♣ A J 9 8 7 5

At several tables West opened 1♥, East showed a mid-range 4+ card raise, and West simply bid

6♥ – practical yet unsuccessful, since you always have two spade losers. That is what happened when I watched Maxi Fogelgarn bid the hand with Bella Edelman, with North-South never bidding.

I saw the hand a second time, with Donna Fitch having a 2♦ opening bid available, showing either 23+ HCP or any game force. That silenced a vulnerable North:

West	North	East	South
2♦	Pass	2♠ (4-6 HCP)	3♣
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Where other Wests opened 1♥, North came in with a Michaels Cue Bid and there was no stopping South! Without any club ruffs, 5♠ makes easily, meaning 6♥ down one was an excellent save!

A quick scan through the results in the four fields shows wild swings, including 6♠X making on the defence of two top diamonds being led!

I watched Board 8 twice and saw two very interesting and different auctions:

♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ K J
♦ K Q 9 5
♣ J 10 6

♠ J 8 7
♥ 10 8 6 5
♦ J 10 8 7
♣ 8 7

♠ 10 5 3
♥ 9 7 4
♦ 4 3
♣ A K Q 9 4

♠ A K 4
♥ A Q 3 2
♦ A 6 2
♣ 5 3 2

My first outing:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	2♣	Double
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West led the ♣8 to partner's ♣A, then ♣K, and ♣Q. With South hidden, it was challenging to envisage a 4-card heart suit though I think it is possible to solve given South's clear dilemma over the 2♠ bid. A fourth club would promote a heart trick for West. If South trumps, West can discard; if South discards, you let North trump and your ♥10 now wins a trick for the defence.

Eugene Pereira and Martin Wu had an excellent auction as North-South respectively:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	2♣	Double
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

3♣* GF, stopper ask

This time, Martin as South took a long time to decide to bid 4♠. Three top clubs were cashed. With South as dummy, I think the defence is easier, since East knows West has very little in the way of honour cards. Try a fourth club – West ruffs with the ♠J and North overtrumps. However, if you now lead the ♠9, West's now ♠8-7 are pinned and 4♠ still makes.

Of course, East's 2♣ bid, whilst lead-directing, is dubious opposite a passed partner. Those who stayed quiet tended to reap the rewards, defending 3NT. If North was declarer, that was a quick down one. On the other hand, when South was declarer, 11 or 12 tricks made.



KATE'S QUESTION

Kate McCallum posed a question from the Bobby Richman Pairs Qualifying Session 2, Board 12.

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

The opponents have had a fairly uninformative auction to 3NT by East and South leads an attitude ♣2. North wins the ♣Q. How do you unblock this club suit?

In the Open field, several Wests played 3NT and, when North led the ♣10 (or ♣9), North-South did manage to unblock the suit, defeating the contract by one trick. Noone managed it when East was declarer though.

North wins the ♣Q. If they return the ♣10, South will think they have 3 clubs and will cash the ace and king, blocking the suit. Similarly, if they return the ♣9, the same thing will happen. So North has to return the ♣7, but now South may well think that East has ♣J-10-9-3. If you don't cash your ♣K, since it is matchpoints, you may lose that club trick, so you are most likely to cash the other top club...

Has anyone got any bright ideas to solve Kate's question?

TRUMP PROMOTIONS

Barry Rigal, from a hand provided by Julian Pottage

Dealer North

East-West Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	1NT (12-14)	4♥	4♠

All Pass

You lead your singleton heart. Partner wins the queen and returns ♥10, which declarer ruffs with the ♠J. Do you overruff?

Let's see what happens if you stick to the rule by discarding. Declarer soon cashes ♠A-K, then plays four rounds of clubs, throwing a diamond. He then concedes a trump and a diamond - 10 tricks made.

If, instead, you overruff with your natural trump trick, you can play a diamond through dummy's tenace.

Partner happily cashes his two diamond tricks to set the contract. Overruff with a winner when you must gain the lead urgently. Perhaps declarer should ruff with the ♠A at trick two....

He must then cash his other high spade to extract partner's trump before running the club suit to pitch a diamond loser. Declarer may next try a trump to jack and queen. You can play a diamond to partner's ace and a third round of hearts promotes your ♠9 into the setting trick.

Actually, this hand is curious in that declarer's actions will dictate whether you must follow the rule or disregard it.

We have already seen the case for casting the rule aside. Now go back to trick two again.

Let's say declarer ruffs with the ♠A, cashes ♠K and runs clubs. Rather than play a spade next he exits with a diamond. Partner wins and plays a third heart, which declarer ruffs with the jack. We saw this type of position earlier. Now you must follow the rule by discarding to leave yourself a tenace of Q-9 over declarer's ten.

In a further variation, declarer declines to ruff at trick two and instead throws a diamond. You ruff and play a diamond. Partner wins and plays a third heart; this elevates your remaining ♠Q-x into a trump trick once again.



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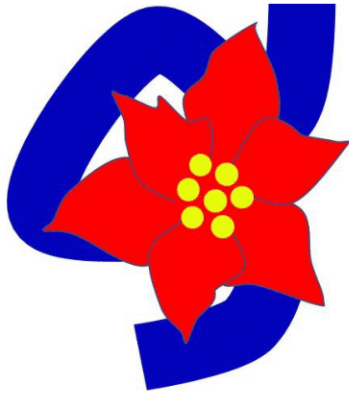
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PLAY THE BOBBY RICHMAN OPEN PAIRS WITH ME

Lauren Travis

I may have bitten off more than I can chew this weekend – deciding to play the Pairs with Matt Mullamphy alongside editing the bulletin. My contributions over the next few days will therefore be stories of the (mis)adventures at my table.

The Saturday morning session started in a traditional fashion for me. We began against Marianne Bookallil and Stephen Fischer, the latter of whom I have seemed to play against at every national tournament for the past 10+ years. On board 3, Matt’s normal play was punished by a cruel layout:

Dealer South, EW Vul

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

West Fischer	North Travis	East Bookallil	South Mullamphy
Pass	1NT	2♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Stephen’s opening diamond lead was won by Matt’s ♦A. Hoping to establish a club trick on which to discard one of his low hearts, Matt continued with the ♣A – a seemingly normal, but highly unsuccessful venture due to Marianne’s unexpected void. Although he still came to 10 tricks (6 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 1 club), we scored a low 24% for +420. After lunch, Matt happily told me that Liam Milne had played an identical line, and the results indicate several other top pairs met a similar fate.

They say fortune favours the brave, but it didn’t on Board 8 of the morning session:

Dealer West, EW Vul

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

West 3♦ All Pass	North X	East Pass	South 4♠
------------------------	------------	--------------	-------------

After the 3♦ opening, I felt obliged to double with my less-than-ideal hand due to the diamond shortage and borderline values. In response, Matt had to jump to 4♠ with his 10-count as he couldn’t risk missing game opposite a hand even slightly better than mine. Alas, our optimistic bidding was punished this time around as there was no way to come to 10 tricks.

How would you bid this 20-count?

♠ Q J
♥ A K 7 6 5 4
♦ A K
♣ K 10 8

My RHO passed as dealer and I briefly considered a cheeky 2NT opening but opted for the more normal 1♥. The auction continued with two passes and RHO reopened with a double. This allowed me to redouble, showing a strong hand, and over LHO’s 1♠ bid, Matt competed to 2♥. I managed 10 tricks for +170 and 93%.



The full hand was:

Dealer West, All Vul

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

NZ star Matt Brown, playing with Adam Kaplan from the USA, enjoyed their auction: Adam also opened 1♥ and heard two passes, but his West reopened with 1♠. Adam chose a quiet 2♥ rebid, with East competing to 2♠ which he passed out and defeated by two tricks for a top.

If you come across the smiling face of Jack Luke-Paredi during the week, watch out! He's an up-and-coming star, having finished 4th in the World Youth Pairs last year, and will once again represent Australia in the Under 26 team this year. His aggressive approach to the game was on show on Board 24:

Dealer West, Nil Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	3NT	X
Pass	Pass	XX*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

My weak 2♥ opening was somewhat lacking in points and hearts, but with a spade void I was eager to take up some space in the auction. Jack clearly wasn't interested in my shenanigans, eschewing a 2NT overcall or double (which some would say are more suitable) and jumping straight to 3NT. After being doubled, he redoubled asking his victim – I mean partner – to rescue him. Unfortunately for us, Matt was unwilling to double 4♠ in case they could run to 5♣, so we only collected 150 for our efforts.

How often does one hope that partner's contract goes down two before even putting dummy down? I did today – although I'm sure we could have found a better spot, had it not been our first time playing together.

Dealer South, EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

After West's 15-17 1NT opening, East had a textbook garbage Stayman hand. Not heeding the warning that East held both majors, Matt refused to pass out 2♥, considering his options before balancing with 2♠. While he was thinking, so was I. He had passed as dealer at favourable vulnerability, so couldn't have more than 10 points, and definitely didn't have six spades. Perhaps a 2NT bid by me would rescue him from playing in their fit (and suggest playing in a minor, but I didn't want to risk him interpreting it as some sort of strong hand. I chose the safe option and passed. Apologies to David Burn, whose Law we violated: "When you are declarer, the total

number of trumps held by your side should be greater than the total number of trumps held by your opponents.”

Luckily, Matt escaped with six tricks, and our -100 was indeed better than we could have scored defending 2♥!

After a successful morning session we, unfortunately, are now hoping to follow Jackman's Law: "It's better to win the Z Grade than come nowhere in the Open" – look out for my adventures in Final D over the next two days.

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

GET BUSY OR GO PASSIVE!

The most vital attribute of a good defender is the ability to discern when to go looking for tricks in a hurry and when to sit back and wait. If declarer has unavoidable losers, he will lose them – unless the defenders get busy and help declarer by breaking new suits or leading from honours.

Dlr South ♠ A 10 8 5
EW Vul ♥ 10 5 3
IMPs ♦ J 8 4
 ♣ A 5 3

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

South opens 1♠, and North's raise to 2♠ is passed out. West leads the ♣K, and declarer takes dummy's ace and draws trumps with the king and ace. Next, he leads a diamond from dummy to his king.

When West takes the ace, he should exit with a diamond. Dummy is flat and weak, with little help for declarer's losers, so passive defence is best. When East wins the second diamond, he can lead a club. West takes two clubs and leads a third diamond. Declarer ruffs but must attack the hearts, losing two more tricks for down one.

Of course, declarer's play was poor. He should probably have ducked trick 1, and he could (for instance) have exited with a club after drawing trumps, obliging the defenders to break a red suit to his advantage or concede a ruff-and-discard.

What type of defence to conduct may not be obvious, but counting may resolve the problem.

Dlr West ♠ K J 6 3
Nil Vul ♥ A 4
IMPs ♦ Q J 9 6 4
 ♣ J 4

♠ A 8 4
♥ K Q 9 7 5
♦ K 10 7
♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
1♥	Double	4♥	4♠
All Pass			

West leads the ♥K. Declarer takes dummy's ace and leads a trump to his queen. West wins and tries to cash a heart, but South ruffs and draws trumps; East had a singleton. Next, declarer passes dummy's ♦Q, and West's king wins. What should West return?

Dummy's diamonds look ready to run, giving declarer club discards, but West should count South's tricks: four spades, one heart and four diamonds. So West need not snatch his ♣A; South must eventually lead clubs himself.

South's hand is:

♠ Q 10 9 7 2
♥ 2
♦ A 3
♣ K 8 7 5 2

If West exits passively with a diamond (three club discards on the diamonds only). South will lose two clubs and go down one.





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Please remember to come and see Barbara or Lauren if you win (or come second!) in an event – we would love to take your photo to publish in the next day's bulletin.

MAKE BETTER USE OF YOUR ENTRIES

Barbara Travis

- Many declarer play errors occur because we forget to make a plan for the hand. That plan should include:
- Counting your winners (in a no trump contract) or identifying losers (in a suit contract). Note that if you can't count your losers (in suit contracts), count your winners before working out a plan.
- Thinking about whether you need to trump some losers, which usually involves trumping losers in dummy (or the short trump hand).
- Determining any finesses you may need to take and, if so, how many finesses you need to take and therefore how many entries you need to a particular hand.
- Working out whether you need to create extra winners and, if so, which suit you will utilise, and – again – thinking about your entries to that suit/hand.
- Think: if you plan to use dummy's long suit, you need to retain entries to dummy; if you plan to use your own long suit, you need to keep entries to your hand.
- Think: if your entries are via the trump suit, then you may need to defer drawing trumps to use the trump entries 'individually'
- When one hand is very strong and one hand is very weak, thinking about entries can be critical.
- The opening lead may remove an entry to a particular hand, and you may have to ensure you make use of that entry.

HAND 1

♠ 7 6 5
♥ K 3 2
♦ A 4 3 2
♣ 9 8 7

♠ A Q
♥ A Q J 10 9 8 7
♦ 7 6
♣ K 6

You are playing in 4♥, South, on the ♦K lead. What's your plan?

You have two entries to dummy (♥K and ♦A). One of your entries is being removed by the opening lead. You have four possible losers: ♠K, ♦Q, one or two clubs depending on the position of the ♣A. You cannot avoid the diamond loser, so you need to plan to finesse twice – hoping East holds either the ♠K or the ♣A.

That means that you want to take two finesses, which means that you need to take a finesse at trick 2, since one of your two entries has just been removed.

Try the spade finesse first. If it works, you can draw trumps, ending in dummy, and try for the ♣A onside (with East) for 11 tricks. The spade finesse fails. But now, when you win the lead again, you draw trumps ending in dummy and lead a club from dummy towards your ♣K. If the ♣A is in East's hand, you will make your contract.

That hand involved identifying your finesses, realising you needed two entries to dummy and that the lead was using one of them, so you had to take a finesse each time you were in dummy.

HAND 2

♠ J 10 3 2
 ♥ K 5 4
 ♦ 7 3 2
 ♣ 6 5 4

♠ A K Q 5 4
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ A Q J

You are playing 4♠, South, and West leads the ♥Q through the King: ♥Q wins, ♥J wins and another heart is led, which you trump. What's your plan?

You have just lost two heart tricks, and you will always lose the ♦A. That means that you need the club finesse to work (i.e. East to hold the ♣K). It also means you need two entries to dummy and that means that you should ensure that the ♠J and ♠10 are your two entries. However, for that to happen, you had better trump with the ♠Q at trick 3, not with a small trump! Cross to dummy with the ♠4 to the ♠10 (both follow) and take the club finesse, which works. Return to dummy with the ♠10 and take the club finesse again. Draw any outstanding trump, then create your diamond winner.

When dummy is weak but holds good trumps, you will often have to trump high in your own hand to retain your trump entries to dummy.



Sandrine Manning, Sue Lyons, Julie Duncan and Mark Lyons
 Novice Pairs players



Ian Wright, Alice Handley, Owen Teakle and Imogen von Muenchhausen
 Intermediate Pairs players

HAND 3

♠ 6 5
 ♥ K 4 2
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ A J 10 9 8 7

♠ K Q 9 8
 ♥ A 8 6 5
 ♦ A Q 8 2
 ♣ K

You are playing in 3NT, South, and West leads the ♦6 – 5 – Jack – Queen. How do you plan to make 9 tricks?

Assuming you have counted your winners, you have 6 sure tricks: 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, 2 clubs. You plan to use dummy's clubs for your extra tricks but dummy only has one entry outside the club suit. If you lead the ♣K, then cross to dummy's ♥K to lead the ♣A, you need the ♣Q to be doubleton to make any additional club tricks. That line of play results in either 2 club tricks or 6 club tricks. Is there an alternate, infallible line?

The key to success on this hand is that you do not need all 6 club tricks for your contract. Since you only need 5 club tricks, you can afford to do something that is not intuitive – you overtake the ♣K with the ♣A, then use the solid club spots to generate another 4 sure tricks. Lead the ♣J to drive out the queen. You still have the ♥K as your entry to dummy to the later club winners. You make 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 5 clubs.

INTO THE MIXED (PART 2 OF 8)

Peter Gill

Quarter Final - Board 66 of 120

Dealer East, EW Vul

♠ 10 8 5
♥ J 2
♦ 9 3
♣ J 8 6 5 4 3

♠ A K 3
♥ Q 7 6 5 3
♦ K J 8 7
♣ 7

♠ Q 9 6 4 2
♥ A 9 8
♦ A 10
♣ A 10 9

♠ J 7
♥ K 10 4
♦ Q 6 5 4 2
♣ K Q 2

West	North	East	South
Gill	Harrison	Sylvester	Brake
		1♠	X
4♠	5♣	X	All Pass

Jessica Brake at the favourable vulnerability doubled 1♠, because it usually pays to get into auctions at this vulnerability to push the opponents around. Playing Precision, Peter Gill went straight to 4♠. If Gill bids more gradually, Shane Harrison would have a chance to bid clubs at a lower level to suggest a sacrifice. Over 4♠, Shane chose to boldly sacrifice with his 6 card suit. Many opponents in weaker games wrongly now take the push to 5♠ in such situations, not wanting to settle for a non vul penalty. Sylvester - Gill knew better, then took all their 7 tricks on defence for plus 1100. Although 6♠ or 6♥ can be made by EW, the other table scored 650 in 4♥, so that was 10 imps to the Sylvester team.

Today's first tip: The opponents at favourable vulnerability often take liberties at the five level when sacrificing, so you should usually Double them, instead of bidding on.

According to Matthew Thomson's book, bidding "5 over 5" is for the space cadets.

Quarter Final - Board 89 of 120

Dealer North, EW Vul

♠ A K Q J 9 3
♥ 9 3
♦ Q 7
♣ Q J 3

♠ 10 8 7 5 4
♥ A Q 5 2
♦ K
♣ A 8 2

♠ 6
♥ J 10 8 7 6
♦ A J 9 6 5 4
♣ 10

♠ 2
♥ K 4
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ K 9 7 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
Harrison	Courtney	Brake	Dalley
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

2S made 8 tricks.

West	North	East	South
Gill	Jacob	Sylvester	Spooner
	1NT	2♥ (♥ + m)	2NT (Leb)
4♥	4♠	Pass	5♣
X	Pass	5♥	X
All Pass			

5♥X made 850, losing a spade at trick 1 and an overruff at trick 2. When the opponents at favourable vulnerability might be stealing the hand from you, it's essential to boldly get into the auction if your hand is suitable. It's curious that the 1♠ opening kept EW out of the auction but the 1NT opening did not.

Today's second tip: Entering the auction on very shapely hands with low point counts wins when either you reach a good contract or when you push them around, so it's a good strategy. Shape rules!

Grand Final - Board 58 of 120

Dealer West, NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvester	Gumby	Gill	Lazer
1♦*	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♦ was Precision (2+). 2♠ promised 4 spades. 2NT was a forcing game try. 3NT showed 4333 with 12-13 HCP.

Warren Lazer led ♥3 to the ace. Trick 2 was won by ♥K. I played a spade to the queen, then ♠A. Alas, ♠K didn't drop. What next?

Playing clubs next cannot succeed because they will ruff in with ♠K to cash their diamonds. So you have to play a third spade right now, and hope they don't cash their diamond winners. That was plus 420, a ten imp gain when 4♠ failed at the other table, when declarer in a similar position started running the clubs too early.

Today's third tip: If a line of play (cashing clubs in this case) cannot succeed, look for an alternative that might succeed.

If anyone is interested in playing golf during the GCC, please contact Peter Ireland on 0427 254 025.

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

Saturday 1st
 1.30pm-2.15pm

Liam Milne

**How to Win the
 Challenge**



At the World Bridge Games last October in Buenos Aires, the NZ Australian team 'PERO BUENO' defied expectations to win the World Transnational Open Teams title.

Liam is a member of the Australian Open team. As well as playing international titles include the 2023 South-West Pacific Open and the 2024 Open ANC Teams.

Sunday 2nd

1.30pm-2.15pm

William Jenner-O'Shea

Introduction to 2NT Scramble



Scrambling 2NT, the most useful convention you probably have never heard of...

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.

Monday 3rd

9.00am-9.45am

Andy Hung

Stoppers: Showing, Asking, or Neither?



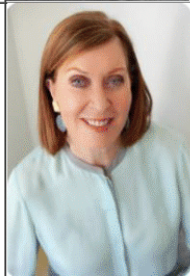
Having a suit stopped or not can make or break a No-Trump contract. Is it better to show a stopper, or ask for a stopper, or not worry about them entirely? Andy will give you some easy rules to remember when dealing with stoppers (or lack thereof). **Andy Hung** is a professional bridge player and teacher 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!

Tuesday 4th

1.30pm -2.15pm

Joan Butts

Shining a Light on the Defence



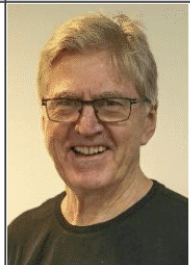
There are new ways to look at defence which are sure to improve your results. Use your own logic: look at dummy, take a lot of notice of partner's lead, and observe the way declarer is playing the hand. There are many clues...**Joan Butts** is a world class Bridge teacher who has represented Australia 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.

Wednesday 5th

9.00am – 9.45am

Paul Marston

How to Bid a 5-3 fit



How to bid a 5-3 fit when responder has five – the right way and the wrong way.

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.

Thursday 6th

1.30pm -2.15pm

Barry Rigal

When to Pre-empt and the Theory of Flaws



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.

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.

MY MEMORIES OF THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Judy Valentine, c. 2012

My first Gold Coast Congress was in 1966. I was living in Mackay at the time and Marg Haughton was very keen to play in this event. Through the QBA we were able to arrange teammates from Sydney. Apart from a few players attending from Brisbane clubs, Toowoomba and possibly Dalby, the remainder came from southern states. I believe Marg and I were probably the first Queensland country players north of Brisbane to attend.

What wonderful memories I have of the congresses I played in during the 1960s. The Chevron Hotel boasted luxury from its accommodation (designed in a tropical style), the Pink Elephant Bar where bridge players enjoyed beers, spirits and cocktails, to the pool area that was frequented by the bridge-playing guests. The Corroboree Room, part of the Chevron complex, was a modern Convention Centre with very large floor space and, in the early days, we occupied only a small portion due to low numbers in attendance. Small numbers meant we all knew one another. This gave an intimacy that disappeared as the congress grew in numbers. Vivid green carpet adorned with huge red hibiscus flowers covered the playing area. The Chevron staff never seemed to change. Year after year, under the supervision of Shirley, they attended bar and coffee stations offering table service to bridge players. Although players dressed in casual gear for the afternoon session, that was appropriate attire for the Gold Coast, the dress code changed at night when players dressed in their fineries. Tight girdles were dragged on under tight fitting evening dresses to emphasise the tiny waists of that period. As the years passed, long flowing evening gowns without the tight girdles were a welcomed change in evening attire. I have very clear memories of the beautiful dresses and expensive jewellery worn by some of the more affluent southern women who represented a large contingency of players attending in the 60s and 70s. I guess the inclination to dress up for night sessions belonged to this bygone era. The hairdressers in Surfers Paradise did a rip-roaring trade when the bridge players were in town and it was difficult to obtain an appointment, especially on the night of the Victory Dinner. The most popular



The gold-covered programme, as described by Judy

hairstyles of the 60s and 70s were the French Knot and the Bee Hive, styles that were better managed by a visit to a hairdressing salon.

The Gold Coast Congress always began with a Welcoming Cocktail Party held on the patio area of the Convention Centre and was a formal affair in the true tradition of a cocktail party of that period. Benson & Hedges was the major sponsor of the congress in those days and the cigarette girls, dressed in the company's colour of gold, walked amongst the guests handing out free cigarettes from the tray supported by a strap around the neck. Even the Official Programme cover was made of the gold paper that was used to line the company's cigarette packets.

James O'Sullivan, then President of the ABF, was the perfect host, greeting all the visitors and making sure that Marg and I were introduced to southern players. James was a charming host and I am sure that those who remember him in this role will agree with me that he had no peer. He held parties in his room at the conclusion of play each night and everyone was invited. I attended many of his parties over the years and his generosity and charm will always be remembered by me.

Surfers Paradise, with its renowned surfing beach was the place to be in the 1960s and 1970s and, without doubt, the perfect location to hold the QBA's premier congress. Coppertone and bikinis were the first things thrown into the suitcase when the Gold Coast Congress week rolled around.

The Surfers Paradise strip had an electrifying atmosphere and with its bright neon lights and many classy restaurants, it offered players the ultimate in dining experience. Evening sessions started at 8.30 p.m., thereby giving players plenty of time to linger over the delicious meals provided. The 1960s was the beginning of my dining out experience and the decade was aptly named The Prawn Cocktail Years, named after that impressive little entrée that was introduced during this period. The 60s was also the decade when fruity sweet wines made their entrance. Sweet wines from Germany such as Riesling, Moselle and Liebfraumilch filled the shelves of liquor outlets, however, Australia's winegrowers rose to the occasion, producing their own Ben Ean Moselle and the diner's favourite bubbly, Barossa Pearl. There were a few red wine drinkers around who sipped on Claret, but in the main, the sweeter white wines appealed to the inexperienced palates of the ordinary Australian worker.

Bridge was played in a different spirit back in the 1960s. With the Gold Coast Congress being the first weeklong congress, it brought together the most experienced players from other states who were more than willing to impart their knowledge. I learnt many valuable lessons from these good players when it was an acceptable practice to offer advice to an opponent. I remember my first lesson given to me by a Dr. Bellingham. He and his partner had reached 7S when, out of the mouth of this babe, came a double. After all, I held the Ace of Spades. Dr. Bellingham immediately returned his partner to 7NT that I again doubled, however, with Marg now on lead and void in spades, the contract made on the running to the other three suits. After the hand was over Dr. Bellingham leant towards me and said "When you've got your opponents where you want them and the contract cannot be made, don't double to allow them to find what may very well be a makeable contract." He added, "You already had a top board by letting us play 7S." That lesson was given to me 46 years ago and I have never forgotten his advice.

When I first attended in those early days, winners of the different sessions received double packs of cards as prizes and winners of the overall event also received prizes and trophies. Benson & Hedges always donated

the prize for the Champion Women's Pair and I still have my gold Glomesh evening bag I won with Clare Jackman in 1981. I will be taking it to the Victory Dinner this year as my special memory of days gone by.

Sadly the week would come to an end and most attended the Victory Dinner dressed up to the nines. Many women wore elegant furs – the rest of us wore stoles of material or fake fur and you weren't considered properly dressed unless you pulled on the long satin evening gloves. The Chevron put on a wonderful meal, starting with a Prawn Cocktail, of course, and the band played the music of the 1950s and 1960s and we danced the night away. It is interesting to note that 50 years down the track, the bands are still playing the music from the 50s and 60s – but we did say back then – "rock 'n roll is here to stay."

While some things have remained the same, there are a couple of trends that have changed as far as I am concerned. My body shape is no longer suited to a bikini and I now smother myself with Factor 30+ instead of Coppertone.

For 46 consecutive years I have attended this marvellous congress. During this time I have witnessed the venue changes that have taken place in order to accommodate the growing numbers. It saddened me greatly to watch Surfers Paradise slowly lose its lustre and appeal as Queensland holiday Mecca. I believe that catering to overseas visitors was its downfall. Moving the Congress down to Broadbeach where the venue is spacious, the shopping good and accommodation and restaurants plentiful, was the way to ensure that this wonderful Gold Coast Congress endures.



Inside the Chevron Hotel, the first venue for the GCC



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HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST SENIORS' PAIRS

2002	Tony Hutton – Tony Jackman
2003	Lynn & Lester Kalmin
2004	Robyn Freeman-Green – Tony Lenart
2005	Jeanette Collins – Peter Kahler
2006	David Smee – David Smith
2007	Robert Bignall – Roger Januszke
2008	Tony Hutton – Tony Jackman
2009	Sam Arber – Henri De Jong
2010	Les Grewcock – Robert Milward
2011	Hashmat Ali – Bal Krishnan
2012	Andrew Creet – Stephen Mendick
2013	Richard Brightling – Kathy Boardman
2014	Richard Brightling – David Hoffman
2015	Richard Brightling – David Hoffman
2016	Andrew Creet – Stephen Mendick
2017	Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings
2018	Margaret Bourke – Sue Lusk
2019	Peter Grant – Tony Marinos



Above: Jane Biscoe, Tony White, Mary Poynton and Lalita Kanetkar – Novice Pairs players

Right: Richard Collis, Gail Wray, Tim Lebbon and Beth Bannister – Novice Pairs players

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST RESTRICTED PAIRS

2000	V. Davies – T. Strickland
2001	Brian Ashwell – Alan Dormer
2002	Hood – Murray
2003	Hale – Wood
2004	Jan Clyne – G. Collins
2005	B. Carroll – G. McCarthy
2006	Jan Clyne – G. Collins
2007	Bernie Atkins – Tony Wagstaff
2008	David Featherstone – Nigel McIvor
2009	Ron Casey – John Kelly
2010	Geoffrey Martin – Nikolas Moore
2011	Damien Czapnik – Alex Riggs
2012	Garry Khemka – John Yoon
2013	Diana Ellis – Chris Hannan
2014	Marlise Jones – Kerry Watson
2015	Faye Carnovale – Chris Duggin
2016	Tony Jiang – Julia Zhu
2017	Jessica Chew – Rez Karim
2018	Barry & Jodie Whale
2019	Peter Fitzmaurice – Neil Williams
2020	Suzanne & Steven Goldberg
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Douglas Harrah – Diana Saul
2023	Vanessa Brewis – Jenny McGowan
2024	Tony Georgeson – Tina Hesketh



HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST NOVICE PAIRS

2008	Craig Francis – Nikolas Moore
2009	Sonya & Shane Palfreyman
2010	Bryan Murray – Elizabeth Rolfe
2011	Marlise Jones – Kerry Watson
2012	Mike Edwards – Allan Pike
2013	Annemarie & Walter Hugentobler
2014	Sarah Carradine – Michael Young
2015	Louise McKenna – Elizabeth Ryan
2016	Charles & John McMahon
2017	Derek Poulton – Nick Walsh
2018	Anita Delorenzo – Liz Shonk
2019	Martin Brown – Gail McKenzie
2020	Lauren Ehrlich – Michelle Rubin
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Rosemary Floquet – Jan Kinross
2023	Kate Macdonald – Zac Ross
2024	Elizabeth & David Ward
2008	Craig Francis – Nikolas Moore



AT THE TABLE

After an auction where one player missed Drury and then had a totally convoluted auction to a normal contract which played really badly:

Dummy: “That played almost as badly as the auction.”

Player 2: “The auction went better than the play!”

(Result: 3 off, but undoubled.)

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST INTERMEDIATE PAIRS

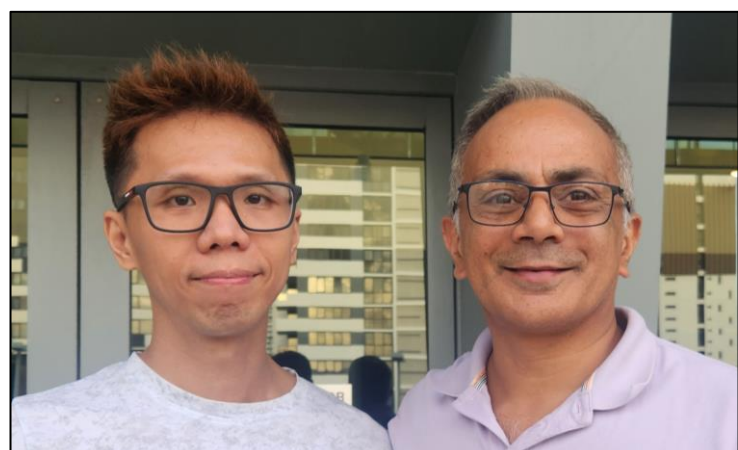
2011	Robin Erskine – Val Holbrook
2012	Derek Richards – David Yarwood
2013	Lee Andrews – Karl Berzins
2014	Andrew Dunlop – Stephen Hughes
2015	David Johnson – John Watson
2016	Andrew Dunlop – Stephen Hughes
2017	Jan & Peter Randall
2018	Mandy & David Johnson
2019	Kinga Hajmasi – Andrew Michi
2020	Charles & John McMahon
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Jeff Lassman – Adrian Riepsamen
2023	Camilla Boyd – Annie Pilcher
2024	Ansar Amir – Frangky Liogu



Above: Fraser Rew and George Kozakos

Left: Joe Haffer and Kate Macdonald

Below: Andy Hung and Sartaj Hans



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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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They move all our gear from Brisbane to the Gold Coast at a very discounted rate. They are an amazing company.

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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.