

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

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Monday 3rd February 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

BULLETIN 3

THE RACE IS ON

One session remains before the winners of the Bobby Richman Pairs are crowned. In the Open Pairs, the overnight leaders are Paul Dalley – Tony Nunn holding a 5% lead over three pairs: Sartaj Hans – Andy Hung, Axel Johannsson – Kate McCallum and Leon Meier – GeO Tislevoll. The Intermediate Pairs is extremely close, with the leaders of the pack being Shirley Bettman – Neil Lawrence, from Eugene Pereira – Martin Wu, Nigel Cleminson – Hugh Gehrman and Oliver Goodman – MingShu Yang. Andrea and Sheros Pappas have ~9% lead over Chris Cotton – Sharyn Dilosa, Eve Clarkson – Sandy Veling, Kevin Gu – Bob Ren and Juliet Davenney – Judy Parkinson. It's very close at the top of the Novice Pairs with the lead swapping between Neah Williams – David Hickie, the current leaders, and Jessie Pelenato – Bridget O'Brien. Behind them are Ajita and Minu Shah, Genevieve and Ian Pronk, and Zhan Wan – Michael Zhu.

The winners of the Sunday Butler Pairs were Xiaojing Deng and Gray McMullin from Magnus Moren and Neville Francis in the Open, and Hema and Shanaal De Zoysa ahead of Robyn Carroll and Jenny Walpole in the 0-500 MP field. Sunday's Rookies NS winners were Nigel Fellows and Chantelle Smalbil, EW winners were Anthony and Stephen Mills (pictured).

Please remember to see us for pictures if you win!



TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Andy Hung

"Stoppers: Showing, Asking, or Neither?"

More information on page 3



WINNERS

Sessional winners are entitled to prizes. Please head to the Office to collect your prize. You can check the noticeboards if you're unsure about your eligibility.

BOBBY RICHMAN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP – FINAL

Barry Rigal

Round 1

On the first deal of the final a splendid pairs deal gave the defenders in the East seat a particularly difficult problem. Quite a lot would depend on the vagaries of whether the partnership were using normal or reverse signals.

You may care to focus just on the East cards, and dummy, South.

Board 1, Dealer North, Nil Vul

♠ A K Q 8 6 4
♥ A 7
♦ 6 2
♣ A 7 3

♠ J 7 5 3
♥ 9 8 4
♦ Q 7
♣ K 10 8 2

♠ 9
♥ J 10 2
♦ A K 8 5 4 3
♣ Q 6 5

♠ 10 2
♥ K Q 6 5 3
♦ J 10 9
♣ J 9 4

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

At the table I was watching the auction went similarly to this, but the above is a standard sequence. You lead a top diamond and see partner follow with the seven, declarer with the six. Partner could have a singleton, or Q7 doubleton, or Q72. Should you continue diamonds or shift?

At teams, playing partner for a singleton diamond might be best, but at pairs, maybe you are supposed to shift to a club? I'm not sure, but where I was watching Phil Markey as declarer, the defenders cashed a second diamond, dropping partner's queen, then played a third diamond, neatly cobbling their partner's trump trick. The

3-3 heart break saw declarer home with 11 tricks rather than 10 – a swing of roughly half a board.

The next deal is not for the sensitive of stomach – so if you just had breakfast or are prone to fainting fits look away.

Board 2, Dealer East, NS Vul

♠ A K J 9 8 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ A
♣ 8 3 2

♠ 6
♥ K 7 6 3 2
♦ K 9 3 2
♣ J 6 5

♠ Q
♥ J 8 4
♦ Q J 10 8 5
♣ A K 10 7

♠ 10 7 5 4 2
♥ Q 5
♦ 7 6 4
♣ Q 9 4

West	North	East	South
Adler	Markey	Luori	Cooper
		1♦	1♠
Double	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	Double	All Pass	

It isn't the overcall that might get you reaching for the sickbag, it is that by doubling 5♦, Markey was obviously playing Renee Cooper for precisely these values. And right he was! Even 4♠ isn't cold on the N/S cards and 5♣ on a diamond lead is basically no play. +500 wasn't great for N/S because Will Adler had done well to save over 4♠.

On boards 4-6 I got to watch Steve Robinson (*pictured*) make two nice plays, well rewarded in the matchpoints.



Board 4, Dealer West, All Vul

♠ J 2
♥ J 9 7 6 5
♦ Q 7 3 2
♣ Q 5

♠ 10 9 6
♥ A K Q 3 2
♦ A J 8
♣ J 6

♠ K Q 7 5 4
♥ 4
♦ 10 9 5 4
♣ K 10 4

♠ A 8 3
♥ 10 8
♦ K 6
♣ A 9 8 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
Peake	Lam	Ashton	Robinson
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Wallace Ashton followed an idiosyncratic route to reach the normal game, and Andrew Peake received a hard-to-read ♥5 lead (3rd and lowest). He won in hand and led a spade to the queen, very smoothly ducked by Robinson, then played a low diamond from dummy, and Robinson rose with the king. Peake won and tried a second spade. Robinson won and took his diamond ruff for down one. That looks great, but to see how virtue was unrewarded, compare what happened at another table. Here South took the first spade to play ♦K. Declarer won and now had simply to draw trumps to come home. Alas, not entirely unreasonably they tried two more top hearts. South ruffed, led a diamond to partner and took a second ruff for down two!!

Board 6, Dealer East, EW Vul

♠ 9 8 3
♥ A 8
♦ K J 7 5 3
♣ J 10 3

♠ Q J 10 6 2
♥ J 9 6 4 3
♦ 8
♣ Q 9

♠ 7 4
♥ K Q 5 2
♦ 6 4
♣ A K 8 6 5

♠ A K 5
♥ 10 7
♦ A Q 10 9 2
♣ 7 4 2



This looks like the sort of deal where most people are going to be bidding on with their fit and turning a small plus into a small minus.

Robinson declared 3♦ as South when E/W couldn't or didn't find their heart fit, (after 1♣-1♦-1♠-3♦-All Pass) and he won the top spade lead to draw trumps. Then he led a low club from the board, and when East made the natural but fatal play of an honour, the contract could no longer be defeated. East played a top heart, and declarer simply won and exited with a heart. Either defender could win but declarer would be able to endplay one defender or the other with the third club or the third spade. +110 was a tie for top for N/S.

On the next deal East was yet again in the hot seat, and at the table I was watching Greer Tucker gave them the opportunity to go wrong, and they grabbed it with both hands.

TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

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!

Location: Upstairs opposite Administration

Minimum \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge

9:00-9:45am



Greer Tucker

Board 7, Dealer South, All Vul

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

Lynn Carter sensibly decided that two aces should be enough for partner if they were worth an unequivocal slam try. On a top club lead, Tucker could see she needed hearts to break, and there was a risk of a bad club break. If clubs were not breaking, it would probably not help to play spades before drawing trump. So she won the club jack, drew two rounds of trump ending in dummy and led a second club. When East fell from grace and ruffed a loser, the hand was over. Dummy's spades went on the clubs, and Tucker could ruff one spade in dummy and discard the other on the ♦A.

Not surprisingly this swung more than three quarters of a board, and yes, three other pairs let through slam on the ♣10 lead – one other pair leading a spade to simplify declarer's task in a different way.

The leaders after the first session were Sartaj Hans and Andy Hung. Perhaps they were lucky that on this deal, they ran into one of the very Souths disciplined enough not to treat the South hand as a preempt.

Board 15, Dealer South, NS Vul

		♠ J 9 8	
		♥ K 8 6 4 3	
		♦ Q	
		♣ Q 9 7 3	
♠ 7 2			♠ A 10
♥ Q J 2			♥ A 5
♦ A 10 7 6 3 2			♦ K J 9 8
♣ 10 8			♣ A K J 6 2
		♠ K Q 6 5 4 3	
		♥ 10 9 7	
		♦ 5 4	
		♣ 5 4	
West	North	East	South
Hung	Weston	Hans	Foster
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦*
2♦	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass

1♦ = Spades or the other three suits

Once Hung showed positive values and diamonds, Hans wasn't going to stop out of a small slam. After a spade lead, declarer could draw trump and try to ruff out the ♣Q, then fall back on the heart finesse when that suit failed to behave. +940 was an 88% board, making 520 in 3NT about an average.



Board 19, Dealer South, EW Vul

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

Ziggy Konig declared 4♥ here as West after a typically opaque auction in which South had shown clubs. One could hardly blame North for leading a club and South for continuing the suit. Konig ruffed and led a trump to dummy, ruffed another club, and played a second heart. North erred by taking the ace – then compounded the felony by shifting to a diamond, giving Konig +650 and a clear top. The position is rather charming if North ducks the heart ace. Declarer seems to be in some jeopardy here:

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

Having lost just one trick here declarer plays the spade ace, king and queen. If North ruffs in, they can take the ♥A, but are then endplayed. If they discard a diamond, then a trump forces them either to exit in diamonds and take the finesse for declarer, or to play back the heart to let declarer draw the last trump.

Round 2

Board 9, Dealer North, EW Vul

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

At many tables E/W brushed aside a 1♥ or 2♥ opening by North and played 3NT. After a heart opening lead, for example, declarer could finesse correctly in both red suits and come to ten tricks. At the table I was watching the final game contract was different – with a lot of MP riding on the play.

West	North	East	South
Robinson	Wiltshire	Lam	Ashton
	1♥	1NT	2♦
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Redouble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Steve Robinson elected to put his partner in the 4-3 fit when it appeared she had no second heart stopper. Maybe a call of 3NT over 3♠ might have suggested the choice of games?

Anyway, in 4♠, ZeYing Lam won the heart lead and led a trump to the eight, ducked by Wiltshire. When a trump came back, Wiltshire took the ace and played a third spade. Now declarer won in hand and played the ♦Q, ducked, then the ♦J, covered, and now needed to unblock clubs and ruff a heart to dummy. In this ending:

fellahamilton

EST 1969

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

When declarer ruffs the heart in dummy, South pitches a diamond, and can be endplayed in diamonds to lead clubs into the tenace. Should you play for that? I think so – without that ♣J, the 2♦ call isn't just miserable, it is suicidal. +620 was still a 62% result for E/W, but 650 would have got all the marbles.

Avi Kanetkar might sometimes appear to carry his own personal raincloud over his head, since if it wasn't for bad luck he wouldn't have any luck at all. I can certainly sympathize with him on the following exhibit.

Board 14, Dealer East, Nil Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Macdonald	Kanetkar	Haffer	Jacob
		2♦	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Note Macdonald's silence with the best hand at the table. She had seen Joachim Haffer's preempts before...

Haffer led a top heart; Kanetkar won in dummy and

prepared to play on clubs, low to the king fetching the nine.

Then he crossed back to a top diamond and led a second club and faced the classic restricted choice position in that suit when his RHO followed small. It seemed (and indeed was the case) that his LHO had six diamonds and 3+ hearts. Wasn't it percentage that he was short in clubs – and in any event the principle of restricted choice argues for the singleton being twice as likely as the doubleton?

Kanetkar finessed and lost to the bare 10, turning his potential 96% result into a near bottom.

Boards 20 and 21 saw two of the pairs at the top fighting it out. There were two big opportunities, and each went the same way.

Board 20, Dealer West, All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Johannsson	Hung	McCallum	Hans
2♥*	3♦	4♠	All Pass
2♥ = both majors			

McCallum took her partner's opening seriously at the vulnerability and won the opening diamond lead, then was faced with a tough guess. She eventually tried the ♣Q from hand and, when Hans played low, she ruffed in dummy to play a heart up. Hung took his ace and, after much thought, returned a club, covered and ruffed in dummy. A heart to the king for a spade finesse followed by a heart ruff established that suit, but when trumps failed to break, McCallum could not avoid two down. Had she let the club queen run, she can take four plain

winner, two ruffs in hand, and all four of dummy's trumps one way or another.

Board 21, Dealer North, NS Vul

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

This board was passed out twice (surprising me since I rarely see one 13-card hand that isn't an opening bid for most Australians – the chance of there being four on any one deal seems overwhelmingly unlikely). But typically here, the auction saw North open and South play 1NT after a 1♥ overcall from East. That fetched between 90 and 150.

However, McCallum's bidding box is defective, and since it had no pass cards in it, she overcalled 1♥ as East over a Precision 1♦, then doubled 1NT in the pass out seat. On a good day, this would have got her side directly or indirectly to 2♠, which comes close to making on good guesswork. However, Axel Johannsson expected more values for the double and went for the jugular by passing. He led the ♣J, ducked all round, and continued a low

club, thereby leading to a score you do not see very often in this particular fashion. The defenders crashed their heart winners and underled once in spades... so declarer took no fewer than 11 tricks. Did you know 1NTx+4 vulnerable is 980? Neither did I.

Board 24, Dealer West, Nil Vul

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

GeO Tislevoll sat North here and overcalled 1♠ over 1♥, then balanced with a double when 3♥ came back to him. Leo Meier jumped to 4NT and GeO found himself in 5♦ on a heart lead. Not hopeless but not favoured maybe? GeO ruffed the heart and crossed to a club to ruff a second heart, then played two more rounds of clubs. South ruffed and tapped declarer again. GeO ruffed, cashed ♠A to pitch dummy's last heart, laid down the ♦A, and ruffed a spade to dummy. Then he crossed his fingers and played a trump. When both honours appeared he had +400 and almost all the matchpoints.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nicoleta Giura

Bobby was very charismatic, and he was always surrounded by women. I remember some 20 years ago at the ANA bar in Surfers he was asking all the women around him if they had a place to sleep that night. That was very uncharacteristic for him, so I asked what was going on. He explained that he and computers didn't get on: when he booked online, he thought he booked a room for 7 nights, as per usual. He arrived to find he'd mis clicked, booking 7 rooms for 1 night. Hence the one-night stand offers.



*Meredith Goodlet and Jennifer Andrews
Winners – Saturday Butler (0-500 MPs)*



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A family affair: On Sunday, Jenny Thompson played against a pair comprising her current husband, Ben, and ex-husband, David Smith.

TRUMP PROMOTIONS

**Barry Rigal, from *The Observer Bridge*,
by Omar Sharif, 13th March**

As a globetrotter myself, I can sympathize with others who have a ceaseless urge to travel. Two of the more peripatetic bridge players have recently come together on several projects. One of the co-authors is Martin Hoffman, who used to be a collaborator with my predecessor, Terence Reese. Martin was born in Czechoslovakia, became a bridge expert in England, but now lives in Florida.

His co-author on some of his more recent projects is Kathie Wei-Sender, who was born in China, has won four world titles representing the United States, and now lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

This deal comes from “*On The Other Hand -- A Bridge From East to West*”.

Dealer North Nil Vulnerable

♠ A K 9 8
♥ 9
♦ A 5 3
♣ K Q 7 6 4

♠ J 7 6 3 2
♥ J 8 3
♦ 9 2
♣ A 10 3

♠ 10 5 4
♥ A 10 7
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ 9 8 5

♠ Q
♥ K Q 6 5 4 2
♦ K 8 7 4
♣ J 2

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

On the diagrammed deal from the book, entitled “Chinese Puzzle”, the final bid of 4♥ is ill-judged: South has already shown a six-card suit. South won the opening lead of the ♦9 with the king and cashed the ♠Q. He then led the ♣2, and West could see no reason to withhold his ace, perhaps fearing the ♣2 was a singleton. West returned his remaining diamond, and South won with dummy's ace, threw his remaining diamonds on the ♠A-K, and had reached this position:

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

The question now was whether the defenders could score three trump tricks. They did not in practice, for South led the heart nine to his queen and East won the next heart lead with the ten. On East's diamond lead, South was able to make the

thoughtful play of ruffing with the ♥K. Then he led a heart, and crashed the remaining trumps to make the game.

Nicely played, but as the authors point out, the defence would have prevailed if West is able to win the second trump trick. He can do this by putting up the jack. If West does so, he can then lead a spade allowing East to ruff with the heart ace. Then a diamond lead would promote West's remaining heart as the setting trick.

Does that mean West was at fault here? Yes and no. As the cards lie, East could have made the defence easier by playing the ten of hearts on the nine. Then West would have been forced to win the second trump trick, and now the trump promotion is the only possible defence for West.

The next Pairs game saw me playing with one of my Vanderbilt teammates. John Diamond is recently transplanted to New York but we had played together off and on over the last five years. On the deal that followed we had the chance to achieve a relatively unusual coup. The defenders have a number of manoeuvres available to them in trumps, such as the ruff and the uppercut. Logic argues that if one defender takes ruffs, it would be his partner who would get the promotions, but the next deal, from the second qualifying session of Open Pairs 2, showed North-South scoring well on defence by confounding expectations, since the defender who had taken the ruff was also the one who finished up with the promoted trump.



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

I'm sure that the auction went around to West in third seat at just about every table, who like our opponent, probably opened 1♠ - most macho men believe in four-card majors in third seat. I overcalled 2♥, not liking it too much, but Pairs requires you to do this sort of thing. East bid 2♠. How bad can it be to end up at the two-level here? Plenty bad, as you'll see.

I led a diamond to the 10 and queen, and John Diamond cashed his ♦A and gave me a ruff.

Now the ♥A and a heart to the king saw the declarer run the ♣J to my king. I cashed the ♥Q, then led another heart. Dummy ruffed with the 6 and Diamond overruffed with the ♠10. Declarer took the trick with the trump jack. He cashed the ♣A and ruffed the ♣Q in dummy then led dummy's last trump to the queen and my ace. I led my last heart at trick 12. Diamond ruffed with the ♠8, and when declarer overruffed, my ♠9 took the contract down three tricks for plus 300 and 35 of a possible 38 matchpoints. Two down was virtually an average board; maybe there is a message for all those third-in-hand openers...

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BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS**RESTRICTED FINAL – ROUND 1***Barbara Travis*

In this first session of the various Finals I sat behind Mike Morrissey (South) and David Cumming (North), the top qualifiers EW – and the stationary pair. They played without any luck, but there were some interesting hands.

Whilst this hand scored about average for both pairs, I enjoyed the auction and the play:

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

After North's overcall, Heather Olsen's 2♥ was a reverse. West, Tony Smuts, used the 3♣ cue bid to check for a club stopper, so the 'normal' contract was reached.

Mike led the ♣6 to the ace and a club was returned. South's ♣4 indicated that clubs were likely 6-2. Heather led a diamond to dummy's ♦K then finessed on the way back, North's doubleton queen popping up. It was a simple avoidance play, given that North held the long clubs.

She proceeded to unblock her spades nicely and cashed out her 12 tricks. Routine, but nice and tidy to watch.

Sharyn Dilosa from Coffs Harbour is playing with Chris Cotton from Sydney, however they are a well-polished partnership, given Chris has some family connection to Coffs. Chris's bidding may look hoggish, but it seemed



very sound at matchpoints where 3NT often out-scores 4-major.

Board 12

♠ A K Q 6 5 2	♠ 9 7
♥ Q 9	♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 6 4 3 2	♦ A K Q 10
♣ 6	♣ K 7 3
West	East
1♠	2♦
2♣	3NT
Pass	

Sharyn, sitting West, trusted Chris implicitly; no panic about her singleton club and 4-card diamond support. South led a small club to North's ace and a club return saw Chris claiming 11 tricks on the natural club return (A-J-5-2). 11 tricks in 3NT, and a likely 10 tricks in 4♠ (spades broke 3-2). That was an equal top for EW (or an equal bottom for the out-of-luck NS).

In due course, the leaders – Speros and Andrea Pappas – arrived at the table. (They are comfortably leading after F2 too.)



*Mike Morrissey and David Cumming
Winners – Restricted Pairs Qualifying (EW)*

Board 20 ♠ A Q 9 6 5 3
 ♡ Q 8 4
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ A J

♠ J
 ♡ A 10 9 6 5
 ♦ K Q J 4
 ♣ 6 5 2

♠ K 10 8 2
 ♡ K 7
 ♦ A 10 9 5
 ♣ Q 9 3

♠ 7 4
 ♡ J 3 2
 ♦ 8 7 2
 ♣ K 10 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♠7 to North's ♠A, Andrea winning the spade return with her 10, though the ♠8 would have worked too. The play of the ♠10 had a lovely subtlety to it. Watch.

I suspect Andrea was a little disappointed with dummy's trick-taking ability but she found a very neat line. At trick 2, she led the ♥7 to dummy's ♥9, North winning the ♥Q. This was where her subtlety paid dividends; North was never going to switch to clubs when he could lead the ♠9, removing declarer's remaining spade stopper. Mission accomplished.

Andrea led the ♥K, crossed to dummy with a diamond and cashed the ♥A, finding the 3-3 break, and rapidly claiming 10 tricks (4 hearts, 2 spades, 4 diamonds) and a well-earned 96%. I can appreciate why they are leading.

Board 24 had the potential for the wildest swings of the day:



*Pete Hollands and Mike Ware
 Winners – Open Pairs Qualifying (EW)*

♠ --
 ♡ K Q 9 4 2
 ♦ K J 7 5 3
 ♣ 8 4 2

♠ K 10 6 4
 ♡ 10 8 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J 10 7 5 3

♠ 9 7 5
 ♡ 5
 ♦ A 10 9 8 4
 ♣ A K Q 9

♠ A Q J 8 3 2
 ♡ A J 7 6
 ♦ Q 2
 ♣ 6

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

Heather Richards from NZ made a weak raise to 3♠, removing North's bidding space. 4♦ was extremely conservative, 4♠ was normal (and in line with Bergen principles that, with a 6-4 fit, you should always bid game if you have a singleton), and South's double looks obvious.

South led the ♣A, but his continuation of the ♣K was trumped by Rosemary Jackson, East. She took some time deciding her best option – ruffing clubs out or playing on hearts. Remember she couldn't see that the heart option was the winning line. She then led the ♠Q, finding the 3-0 break. A small spade was led to dummy and she ruffed a club. When the queen didn't appear, perhaps she could have switched lines, given South most likely held a 3-1-5-4 shape from the bidding and play.

However, she led another trump to dummy, drawing South's last trump, then threw a diamond on the fourth club. She was now one down, -100. Of course, she was so engrossed in the hand she didn't realise that NS could make 12 tricks in diamonds.

Scores in the various fields ranged from 6♦X making (+1090) to 4♠X making (-590). In the Restricted A Final, congratulations to Juliet Davanney – Judy Parkinson for bidding and making 6♦X.

One more session remains and Speros and Andrea Pappas have a 9% lead over a bunched up group.



UPDATE

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/>

BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS

NOVICE FINAL – ROUND 2

Barbara Travis

During Q1, I had watched two South Australians, Tim Lebbon and Richard Collis, for three of the nine rounds. When I found they had finished 1st in the session, I suggested I was their lucky charm. They had a poor F1 session when I turned up for the afternoon session of the Pairs Final and decided to test out my ‘lucky charm’ theory.

When I sit down at the tables in the Novice section, invariably I am asked who I am and explain I’m the Editor of the Daily Bulletin and that I don’t ‘name and shame’ but I will name them if they do something good. Today I had a new experience. The player simply turned his name tag over!

Having watched a couple of sessions in the Novice, I have realised that there isn’t a lot of penalty doubling occurring when players sacrifice. Having met Ron Bouwland today – “Mr BridgeMate” – I said to him that I both love and hate BridgeMates. Of course I love them, but I find it so frustrating that newer players don’t understand (a) how to score, and (b) sacrifices and penalties. Fortunately, Ron, who is here from the Netherlands and can be found at Paul Lavings’ stall for a couple of days, was not offended. Here’s one such hand:



*Gordon Travers, Jessie Pelenato,
Sharon Michael and Bridget O'Brien
Winners – Novice Pairs Qualifying (NS/EW)*

Board 11, Nil Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♠	Pass	3♠	4♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Tim’s raise to 3♠ was weak, with 4 spades – nice, with the double being nicer!

Richard cashed the ♠A and ♠K then led a small diamond to his partner’s ♦K and, of course, a diamond was returned to the ace. That was down two: +300 against a NV game (420), so now the defence just needed to sit back and score a heart trick for +500, an outright top. Unfortunately, Richard became too active in defence, leading the ♥10 now, which ran to declarer’s queen. Back to +300 – still above average, but an awareness of the scoring would have been so useful!

I found Board 24 to be interesting. First, the auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

On lead, sitting East, Tim held:

♠ A 9 8 6 4 2
♥ --
♦ A 9 7 2
♣ K Q 8

I wrote a little note to myself, “Will he try the ♠A on this auction?”, given Richard’s continued silence. He did, however, have a fairly normal lead available, the ♣K.

He led the ♣K and saw dummy (South):

♠ Q 10 7 3

♥ K 8 7 5

♦ K 8 6

♣ 7 2

Richard encouraged clubs, so he cashed the ♣Q. Now he did try his ♠A, and a very cooperative Richard discarded. A spade was led (everyone seems to forget suit preference signals when giving ruffs), Richard trumped, a diamond lead to the ♦A and another spade ruff. Two off, 58%.

Why am I mentioning this hand? After the hand, I suggested to Richard that he could have discouraged clubs. He thought about it, then realised that that made sense. He had a spade void so he wanted the spade switch. This signal might get the message to partner faster.

So what was the outcome of my test? Tim and Richard had a fabulous session! They finished 1st again and are now lying 6th. But I'm not returning tomorrow morning. And, by the way, sessional winners are entitled to prizes – which can be collected from the Office.



Ron Bouwland – “Mr BridgeMate” – will be doing demonstrations at Paul Lavings’ bookstore over the next few days

PENLINE®

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

A MEMORY OF BRENT MANLEY

George MacLachlan

I am very upset to read of the passing of Brent Manley last December, aged only 77.

I bought a copy of The Official Encyclopaedia of Bridge, 7th Edition, in 2012 when attending the GCC.

I wrote Brent a note, asking if he would kindly sign the book for me.

(He was always ‘behind the scenes’ working on his Bulletin articles). The very next day he inquired as to where I was seated and at the end of the session he introduced himself. He was the most pleasant person one could ever meet and gave me the impression that I was THE most important person in the whole Congress. He wrote on the cover page: “To George - We hope you enjoy this as much as we did putting it together.”

He then asked if I would also like Barry Rigal, the Co-Editor, to sign.

Of course I said that I would. I trailed behind Brent while he searched for almost 10 minutes before he spotted Barry Rigal - who duly added his signature as well. As busy as he was, Brent gave no hint of impatience or inconvenience and I was highly impressed with his demeanour.

There and then I invited him to New Zealand to visit me and Anita Thirtle in our home town of Wanganui. He said that he would bear it in mind and would discuss it with his wife - but that it wouldn't be for a good while because he had lots of commitments for the immediate future. Now, of course, it can never be.

I will remember Brent Manley as a gentle man who had a great love of the game of bridge and of those who played it. His personality was pitch perfect for such a people-orientated pastime and he will surely be missed by those who had the good fortune to have met him.

Youth Bridge Fun Night at the Gold Coast Congress



One of the younger players at the 2025 Gold Coast Congress?

FREE entry
FREE food
CASH prizes
GREAT youth director

Date: Wednesday 5 February 2025.

Time: 7 pm (food), 7.30 pm to 9:30 pm (bridge). Note this is after the congress bridge has finished for that day.

Venue: Gold Coast Bridge Club (1.2 km, or 15 minutes' walk, north of the GC Convention Centre).

Format: Some standard bridge, some "party game" bridge

Age Limit: Youth & youth-ish players (up to 35 years) are welcome.

Interested? Please contact Darren Brake on 0449 783 613 or darrenbrakeau@gmail.com



2883 Gold Coast Highway, Surfers Paradise.
Tel: 5538 2925

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

MAKING ASSUMPTIONS

Players must often make assumptions about the way the cards lie. Some assumptions – inferences – may be supported by clues from the bidding or play. Other assumptions may be speculative, but you must make them anyway because the alternative is to concede that the contract cannot be made or defeated.

Suppose you are declarer at this 4♠.

Dlr West ♠ A J 9 4
NS Vul ♥ K J
IMPs ♦ J 7
 ♣ K Q 10 8 4

♠ Q 10 8 7
♥ 9 6
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A J 9 3

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

North's jump to 3♠ was hungry – some might say famished – and your 4♠ was bold though you have help for North's clubs. But your side is vulnerable, with more to gain by making a game. West leads the ♦K and ♦Q. He shifts to the ♥2, and you must guess. Do you play the jack or king from dummy?

Assume the contract is makeable, so you will hope West holds the ♠K so the trump finesse will win. But then you can't play West for the ♥A also; with 12 good HCPs, he would have opened the bidding or acted at his second turn. Play the ♥J, hoping West held K x x, Q x x x, K Q x, x x x.

Sage

Cafe Restaurant

15% discount off food bill

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

Here's a tougher example:

Dlr: North ♠ 8 6 4 3
All Vul ♥ A 7
IMPs ♦ A Q 3 2
 ♣ K 6 5

♠ K
♥ K J 6 4 3 2
♦ K 8 4
♣ 9 4 2

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♠	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥(!)	All Pass	

I wouldn't endorse the bidding. It seems South had a choice between defending against 2♠ or trying to make 4♥.

West leads the ♠2, and East takes the ace and shifts to the ♣9. West takes the ace and returns the ♣Q, and East ruffs dummy's king with the ♥5 and leads another spade. You ruff and lead a trump:

10 – ace – 6. On the next trump, East follows with the ♥8.

Do you finesse with the jack or put up the king?

To make your game, you need a discard for your club loser, and only a 3-3 diamond break will help. On the bidding, East started with five spades, West with three. East had one club. If you assume that diamonds will break, you must give East 5-4-3-1 shape. It is right to play the ♥J.

Australian Bridge
Your national bridge magazine

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.

♠ K Q 8 4

♥ J 5

♦ A 8 3

♣ Q J 10 4

♠ A J 9 6 5 3

♥ A K 7 3

♦ Q 6 2

♣ --

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♣ (short)
Pass	4♦ (cue)	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West leads the ♥10 – Jack – Queen – King. How would you play?

There are 9 top tricks (6 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond) plus you can trump 2 hearts in dummy.

It is viable to make an additional trick by hoping East has the ♦K, and leading from dummy towards your Queen. Is there any other (better) prospect?

HISTORIC GCC STORIES

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.

Please keep the stories relatively short!

Thanks,
Barbara, Lauren and Barry



It is unlikely that West holds the ♣A-K, because he might have led the ♣A if so. As long as East holds one club honour, you can guarantee the extra trick needed for your contract. Draw trumps in two rounds, finishing in dummy, then lead the ♣Q.

If East plays low, you discard the ♦2, letting West win the ♣K. You win the return, cross to dummy with a heart ruff to lead the ♣J. If East plays low, you discard your second diamond. If East plays the Ace, you ruff, cross to dummy with another heart ruff, then cash your winning ♣10 for the diamond discard.

If East plays the ♣A on your lead of the ♣Q, you ruff, cross to dummy with a heart ruff, then lead the ♣J, repeating the process until the ♣10 is a winner.

This line is far superior to relying on the ♦K with East (a 50% shot).

♠ K Q 8 4

♥ J 5

♦ A 8 3

♣ Q J 10 4

♠ 7

♥ 10 9 8 4

♦ K J 5

♣ K 9 7 5 3

♠ 10 2

♥ Q 6 2

♦ 10 9 7 4

♣ A 8 6 2

♠ A J 9 6 5 3

♥ A K 7 3

♦ Q 6 2

♣ --

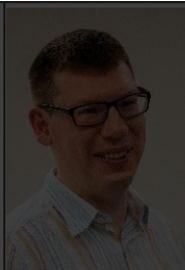
CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM



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

Saturday 1st
1.30-2.15pm

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.

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

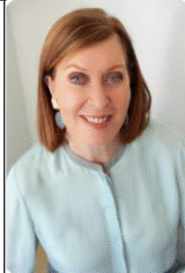
Andy Hung
*Stoppers: Showing, Asking,
 or Neither?*



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 find 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.



COME AND SEE US AT THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2025

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- and*
- **Insurance for your *Bridge Club***

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!

TRAGEDY VS TRIUMPH

Lauren Travis

After 48 boards yesterday, I asked my partner Matt whether we'd had any triumphs. His response was quick and firm: no. In retrospect, our first board of the day was a nice puzzle.

Board 19, Dealer South, EW Vul

♠ 10 8
♥ A 6 4 3
♦ Q 10 7 4
♣ 10 5 3

♠ A K 5 4
♥ 10 8 7 5
♦ A K J 5
♣ 4

♠ Q 9 6
♥ K Q J 2
♦ 8 6 3
♣ Q 9 2

♠ J 7 3 2
♥ 9
♦ 9 2
♣ A K J 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
Travis	C McMahon	Mullamphy	J McMahon
			1♣
Double	1♦*	1NT	2♣
Double	3♣	Double	All Pass

1♦ = 4+ hearts

It's always lovely playing against the McMahon brothers. Excellent manners, good banter and the occasional banana falling out of someone's shorts. Here, they happily competed to 3♣ with their nine-card fit, and Matt and I sought to punish them for it.

As is traditional against a doubled part-score, I led a trump, which ran around to the nine and John's jack. He led a diamond towards dummy, so I won my king and looked for a way to get my partner on lead to continue trumps. I eventually switched to a high heart, which John won in dummy before ruffing a heart in his hand. He played another diamond up, which I again won, and I played another heart, trumped. At this point, John had to play spades and needed to avoid letting Matt on lead twice, as he then wouldn't be able to take a ruff in dummy. Luckily for us, he misplayed the spades, leading one to the eight and nine, and Matt defended accurately



*Peter Schmidt, Lilly Jia, Paul Ruan and John Rivers
Winners – Intermediate Pairs Qualifying (NS/EW)*

to beat the contract by one trick. +100 was worth 81% on the hand, as most others failed in 4♥.

Pamela Nisbet's audacity paid off on board 24 – the beginning of the rot for us.

Board 24, Dealer West, Nil Vul

♠ --
♥ K Q 9 4 2
♦ K J 7 5 3
♣ 8 4 2

♠ K 10 6 4
♥ 10 8 3
♦ 6
♣ J 10 7 5 3

♠ A Q J 8 3 2
♥ A J 7 6
♦ Q 2
♣ 6

♠ 9 7 5
♥ 5
♦ A 10 9 8 4
♣ A K Q 9

West	North	East	South
Travis	Russell	Mullamphy	Nisbet
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♦
4♠	5♦	Double	All Pass

I don't think anyone else in the field would find a 3♦ bid on this hand, with a singleton opposite partner's weak 2 and only a 13 count, but it paid off! Not only was 5♦ untouchable, but 6♦ was cold. We weren't the only ones to defend this contract, but I bet we were the only ones who got there via this route.

What else can you do but laugh when the opponents pick the eyes out of the cards for a whole round? Ros and Tony Howes definitely had the better of us when we met them for boards 1-3.

Board 2, Dealer East, NS Vul

♠ A K J 9 8 3
♥ A 10 9
♦ A
♣ 8 3 2

♠ 6
♥ K 7 6 3 2
♦ K 9 3 2
♣ J 6 5

♠ 10 7 5 4 2
♥ Q 5
♦ 7 6 4
♣ Q 9 4

♠ Q
♥ J 8 4
♦ Q J 10 8 5
♣ A K 10 7

West	North	East	South
Travis	R Howes	Mullamphy	T Howes
1♥	1♠	1♦	Pass
3♦	3♠	4♦	Pass
Pass	4♣	Double	All Pass

After Matt's support double, I decided that I'd rather compete to 3♦ than 3♥ with my spade shortage. Ros took the push to 3♠, then surprised Matt by competing again – so he felt obliged to double her. Upon seeing dummy, we were immediately disheartened by the stack of trumps, and Ros made her cold game to score +790 and 92%.

They followed it up with another killer board:

Board 3, Dealer South, EW Vul

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 10 8 6
♦ 7 2
♣ A Q J 7 5

♠ 7
♥ A J 9 5 2
♦ 10 6 5 3
♣ 9 6 4

♠ A Q J 4
♥ K 3
♦ K Q 4
♣ 10 8 3 2

♠ K 10 9 5 2
♥ Q 7 4
♦ A J 9 8
♣ K

West	North	East	South
Travis	R Howes	Mullamphy	T Howes
Pass	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3♣*	Double	3♦	3NT

I briefly considered a 2♥ overcall showing hearts and a minor, but couldn't bring myself to do it at unfavourable vulnerability. Matt was there to save the day, balancing with 2♠ (spades and a minor), but my 3♣ pass or correct bid allowed Ros into the auction with a double, then Tony decided enough was enough and bid 3NT.

I didn't get off to the best start, leading a 4th best diamond to partner's ace. He returned a diamond, with declarer winning in hand and taking the club finesse. This was our last chance to defeat the contract – Matt had to find the heart switch through declarer's king – but my low diamond at trick 1 had misled him enough that he continued diamonds, and declarer had no trouble using his clubs as entries to take three spade finesses, giving him nine tricks and an outright top.

I like to joke that I'm like Cinderella: I have a wicked stepmother and two evil stepsisters. Those of you who have met Felicity Smyth will surely refute that claim, but she earned the title on the following hand.

Board 8, Dealer West, Nil Vul

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

♠ Q 5
♥ A Q 10 7 5
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ K 8

♠ A K 9 6 3
♥ K J
♦ 8 5
♣ J 9 6 5

♠ 8 2
♥ 9 8 6 4 3 2
♦ A K 6 3
♣ Q

West	North	East	South
L Travis	Smyth	Mullamphy	J Travis
1♥	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Felicity's 3♣ pre-empt was highly successful, putting the pressure on Matt and me to make the right calls at an uncomfortably high level. We both considered bidding 3NT, but instead ended up in a disastrous 4♠. Jeff Travis began proceedings with two top diamonds before switching to the ♣Q. Matt found an excellent play and ducked, leaving my hapless father on lead – the only way he could try to make the contract. It was not to be though – the heart switch was found, leading to a series of ruffs, before Matt claimed the last seven tricks for a bottom board.

Our afternoon session went even more poorly than the morning, leading to the comment at the beginning of this article. Thankfully, this deceptive defence against 1NT brightened our day:

Board 15, Dealer South, NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Matt led a 4th highest spade to the king, nine and four, making the spade position an open book to him. Declarer tried a heart to his queen and Matt's ace, and Matt switched to the best card he'd played all day: the ♣J. Naturally, this was won by declarer with his king, and he played the ♥J so I won the ace and returned a spade, which he won. Another heart followed, and I continued with a third spade, knocking out his last spade winner, on which he pitched dummy's ♥9. He then cashed the ♥8 and tried a diamond to the nine, queen and ace, so I exited another diamond. The position was:

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

Declarer, of course, placed the ♣10 with Matt given his early switch to the jack, so took the 'marked' finesse and tumbled one off. A beautiful glimmer to end a gloomy day.



Jo Pavy and Jing Geng
Winners – Restricted Pairs Qualifying (NS)



Simon Rose and Barry Rawicki
Winners – Saturday Butler (Open)



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INTO THE MIXED (PART 3 OF 8)

Peter Gill

Grand Final - Board 73 of 120

Dealer North, All Vul

♠ --
♥ A Q 8 7 5
♦ K J 7 4 2
♣ A J 6

♠ A 7 4 3
♥ 6
♦ Q 8 3
♣ K 10 7 4 2

♠ J 10 9 5
♥ J 4
♦ A 10 6 5
♣ 9 8 3

♠ K Q 8 6 2
♥ K 10 9 3 2
♦ 9
♣ Q 5

West	North	East	South
Sylvester	Gumby	Gill	Lazer
	1♥	Pass	4♦* (spl)
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

The top three all-time masterpoint holders in Australia were at this table. Pauline Gumby recently became Australia's first Diamond Grand Master with 15,000 masterpoints, leading the way. The hoi polloi would sign off in 4♥ opposite partner's splinter bid, thinking the king of diamonds opposite a singleton is wasted values. Pauline looked into it more deeply, realising that there wouldn't be many losers, so she went straight to 6♥. Dummy had a misfitting KQ in spades opposite the void, but the slam was still a good one.

I led ♠J to the king and ace. Pauline crossed to dummy's ♥K to lead a diamond to the jack and ace. I continued with a trump, but Pauline won, then set up both her fifth diamond and dummy's fifth spade as two extra tricks (she needed only one of those two extra tricks), timing the play to win the last trick with the Beer Card (the seven of diamonds), which was placed stylishly on the table with a flourish for plus 1430 and 13 imps to the Lazer team.

That felt like a nail in the coffin of the Sylvester team's chances of a comeback, but there's more to come. After 95 of the 125 boards of the Mixed Playoff Grand Final, the Lazer team led by 73 imps.

Today's tip: If you can play the cards like Pauline Gumby does, then you can jump to 6♥ on those North cards.

Footnote: Youth players worldwide traditionally get a beer from their partner if they make a contract by winning the last trick with ♦7, so ♦7 is known as the Beer Card.

Ten boards to go - Lazer leads by 45 imps.

Grand Final - Board 111 of 120

Dealer North, NS Vul

♠ K Q 6 5 4 3
♥ K 9 8
♦ 7 4
♣ J 4

♠ 2
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ J 10 9 6 2
♣ 9 8 5

♠ J 10 7
♥ 7 4
♦ A K Q 8 5
♣ A K 3

♠ A 9 8
♥ A Q J 5
♦ 3
♣ Q 10 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
Mundell	Gill	Peake	Sylvester
	1♠	1NT	2NT*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Liz Sylvester's 2NT bid was a "cue raise" ie a good spade raise. Plus 620.

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Gumby	Dalley	Lazer
	Pass	1♦	X
4♦	4♠	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♠	X	All Pass

EW bid very well to find the good 5♦ save (minus 300 would be worth 8 imps) but that became 13 imps when NS bid 5 over 5 and went one off. Anticipating a 4♠ bid, Courtney found the perfect call of 4♦ to give his partner captancy in the bidding so that she could judge correctly to take the 5♦ save.

Today's tip: At favourable vulnerability, points aren't needed - good saves happen when your side has shape and lots of trumps.

A few stats from the Open and Mixed Playoffs:

1. Three highly ranked teams had Byes in the quarter finals of the Open or Mixed Playoffs in recent months. They all then lost their semi finals by 29, 62 and 42 imps respectively. Maybe having a match off doesn't help you in the next match?
2. The Mixed Playoff total imps turnover for each match was 461, 413, 534, 476 and 543 imps (average 485) The Open Playoff 652, 610, 634, 495, 550 and 483 imps (average 570). The three matches involving Phil Markey turned over 652, 550 and 483 imps (average 562). Phil has invented a dynamic, highly active bidding system called Outback Acol in an attempt to find the optimal (large) amount of aggression to use in the bidding. In the old days they used to say that lower imp turnover in a match indicated better bridge. Phil Markey's approach argues the other way. And the stats suggest that Phil Markey's approach is not the only cause of the high imp turnover. Modern bridge worldwide at the top is becoming very volatile. Errors galore, and lots of striving to get the opponents out of their comfort zone in the bidding.
3. Comebacks to win this year included: from 73 imps behind with 25 boards to go (Mixed Grand Final, won by 4), from 75 imps behind with 45 boards to go (Lazer's Mixed Quarter Final, won by 3 imps). Last year David Gue's team was 62 imps behind with 45 boards to go vs Sartaj Hans' team but regained 101 imps to win by 39 in an Open quarter final. Big comebacks are becoming more common.



Flemming Kaalund (right) generously donated 160 sets of bidding boxes that are in use in various events at the GCC. He can be found at Paul Lavings' stall through the week.

TIDY DEFENCE

From the 1st European Winter Transnational Championships bulletin

Dealer North, Nil Vul.

♠ 8 7 6 2
♥ 8 3
♦ A Q 10 9 8
♣ J 4

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♣	2NT*	4♣*	Double
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

* 2NT showed 4+ card spade support

* 4♣ showed 4+ club support, weak hand and a shortage somewhere

West led the ♣K. East overtook it and switched to the ♥7 - a rapid one down. (Think about this, based on the 5♣ bid.)





ANC



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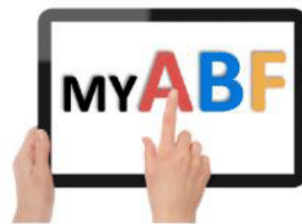
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GOLD POINTS

SMALL, PLEASE

Stephen Fischer

There are many meta-games you can play at the bridge table. Some people like seeing a Wish Trick (A-2-3-4) or getting four of a kind on the last trick. The best-known of these is probably winning the beer card. For over three decades I've been playing another one, entitled "Small, please". The score on any given hand is how many tricks declarer can play while only calling for a card from dummy by saying "small" with no other qualifiers. You have to start at trick one - no points for beginning later in the hand.

Of course there are many hands with a score of 0, where you cover or win the opening lead in dummy. There are also a bunch of hands with a score of 3-4, where you have to discard early on. My best effort, about 15 years ago, was 8 tricks before I had to be more specific about naming a card in dummy. One occasional partner who has joined me in this game (and who gave it the name) beat that with a score of 9 a few years ago.

And then I recently held the South hand below at teams:

Dealer West

	♠ K 5 3		
	♥ 8 5 3		
	♦ A J 9 8		
	♣ J 10 9		
♠ 9 4 2		♠ A J 8 7 6	
♥ Q 9 6		♥ J 10 7	
♦ Q 5 2		♦ 7 6 3	
♣ A 5 4 2		♣ K Q	
	♠ Q 10		
	♥ A K 4 2		
	♦ K 10 4		
	♣ 8 7 6 3		
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

* 2NT = scramble

- Trick 1: ♠9 – "small, please" (♠3) – ♠6 – ♠10
 Trick 2: ♣3 – ♣2 – "small, please" (♣9) – ♣Q
 Trick 3: ♥J – ♥A – ♥6 – "small, please" (♥3)
 Trick 4: ♣6 – ♣4 – "small, please" (♣10) – ♣K
 Trick 5: ♥7 – ♥K – ♥9 – "small, please" (♥5)
 Trick 6: ♣7 – ♣A – "small, please" (♣J) – ♠7
 Trick 7: ♥Q – "small, please" (♥8) – ♥10 – ♥2
 Trick 8: ♠4 – "small, please" (♠5) – ♠A – ♠Q
 Trick 9: ♠J – ♦4 – ♠2 – "small, please" (♠K)

The position now was:

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

- Trick 10: "small, please" (♦8) – ♦3 – ♦A – ♦2
 Trick 11: ♣8 – ♣5 – "small, please" (♦9) – ♠8
 Trick 12: ♥4 – ♦5 – "small, please" (♦J) – ♦6
 Trick 13: ♦10 – ♦Q – "small, please" (♦A) – ♦7

The result was a flat board when 3♦ went down one at the other table, but I was much more excited halfway through the play to realise I was going to score a full 13 marks in "Small, please" despite winning two tricks in dummy.

A personal bridge milestone achieved.





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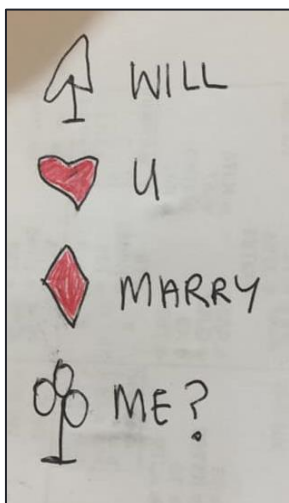
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ROMANCE AT THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Susan Humphries and Liam Milne

In 2020, Susan took advantage of the Leap Day and Liam's willingness to constantly discuss bridge. She asked for his advice on this 4153 shape:

Although they aren't yet married, they have since had two beautiful children.



If anyone would like to share their stories of love at the Gold Coast Congress, feel free to chat with

Barbara or Lauren or email

gccbulletin2025@gmail.com.

Margaret and John Rogers

In 2017, Margaret and John Rogers were part of the winning Intermediate Team at the GCC. They had met playing against each other at the same event eight years earlier.



As Margaret wrote in the May 2017 ABF Newsletter, "A bit of table chit chat led to a dinner date back in Sydney and, as we had many shared interests in addition to bridge, we felt very lucky to have met each other. Four years ago we got married."

After playing the Territory Gold Congress in 2016, they teamed up for the GCC with a Northern Territory couple they met at the event – a very successful outing.

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