

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

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Tuesday 4th February 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

BULLETIN 4

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!



Paul Dalley and Tony Nunn won the Bobby Richman Open Pairs Championship title, backing up their win in the same event in 2022.

It was a close battle for the podium, with Sartaj Hans and Andy Hung finishing 2nd and Leon Meier and GeO Tislevoll in 3rd place.

REMINDER - Day of Mourning for the GCC tomorrow (Wednesday).
Staff will be wearing black and players are encouraged to join them.



TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Joan Butts

"Shining a Light on the Defence"

More information on page 5

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!

BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS WINNERS**Open**

<i>Final A</i>	Paul Dalley – Tony Nunn
<i>Final B</i>	Matt Brown – Adam Kaplan
<i>Final C</i>	Michael Prescott – Marlene Watts
<i>Final D</i>	Donald Cartwright – George Fleischer
<i>Final E</i>	Niek van Vucht – Graham Wakefield
<i>Final F</i>	Himanshu Joshi – Chandrakan Kulkarni
<i>Final G</i>	Hamish Brown – Johanna Perfect
<i>Final H</i>	Phillip Fent – Dee Harley
<i>Final I</i>	Ian Southen – Kelvin Tibble

Intermediate

<i>Final A</i>	Ian Clark – Dave Parham
<i>Final B</i>	Lydia Gibbs – Kevin Murray
<i>Final C</i>	Fiona Evans – Paul Brake
<i>Final D</i>	David Grout – Daria Williams
<i>Final E</i>	David Ting – Ming Ting

Restricted

<i>Final A</i>	Andrea Pappas – Steve Pappas
<i>Final B</i>	Margaret Meakin – Suzie Wall
<i>Final C</i>	Sally Irwin – Sonia Roulston
<i>Final D</i>	Anna Irminger – Eugenie Mooney
<i>Final E</i>	Brenda Campbell – Sally Savini
<i>Final F</i>	Ann Berry – Bev Furner

Novice

<i>Final A</i>	Michael Zhu – Zhan Wan
<i>Final B</i>	Julie Duncan – Sandrine Manning
<i>Final C</i>	Sonja De Rooy – Annemarie Stevenson
<i>Final D</i>	Jenni Cover – Gillian Hebbard

BUTLER SWISS PAIRS WINNERS**Saturday**

<i>Open</i>	Barry Rawicki – Simon Rose
<i>0-500 MP</i>	Jennifer Andrews – Meredith Goodlet

Sunday

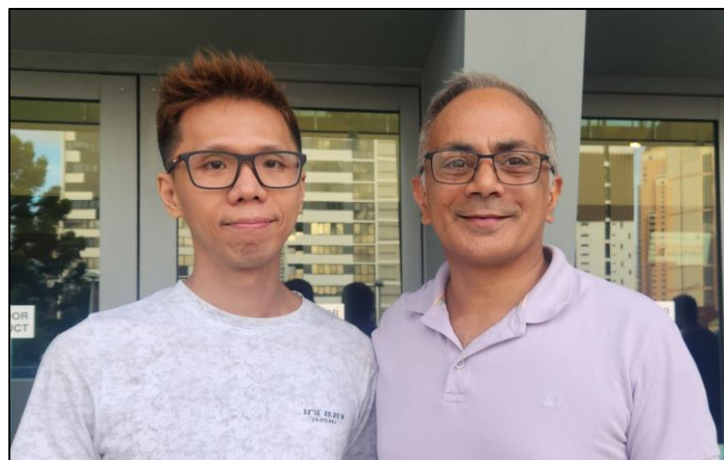
<i>Open</i>	Xiaojing Deng – Gray McMullin
<i>0-500 MP</i>	Hema De Zoysa – Shanaal De Zoysa

Monday

<i>Open</i>	Usher Zeng – Herman Yuen
<i>0-500 MP</i>	Patricia Armstrong – Noreen Armstrong

ROOKIES PAIRS WINNERS**Sunday**

<i>NS</i>	Nigel Fellows – Chantelle Smalbil
<i>EW</i>	Anthony Mills – Stephen Mills



Above: Andy Hung and Sartaj Hans (2nd in Open Final A)

Below: Leon Meier and GeO Tislevoll (3rd in Open Final A)



WALK-IN PAIRS WINNERS

Friday night

- NS Sandy Carter – Nerida Gillies
- EW = Ashantha De Mel – Krishnan Ramaratnam
- = Shelley Burns – Kelvin Raymond

Saturday morning

- NS Vicki Foots – Delma Purcell
- EW David Kam – Karen Kam

Saturday afternoon

- NS Carol Bearsley – David Scarborough
- EW Leigh Owens – Jan Smith

Sunday morning

- NS Gregory Gosney – Margaret Plunkett
- EW Michelle Gan – Stuart Grant

Sunday afternoon

- NS Jen Flanigan – Rick Webster
- EW Jeremy Lin – Alan Kras

Monday morning

- NS Kathy Johnson – Lois Steinwedel
- EW Hugh McGann – Candice Smith

Monday afternoon

- NS Peter Karol – Joanne Crockford
- EW Tony Allen – Dennis Raymond



*Hema and Shanaal De Zoysa
Winners – Sunday Butler Swiss Pairs (0-500 MPs)*



*Ian Clark and Dave Parham
Winners – Intermediate Final A*



*Andrea and Steve Pappas
Winners – Restricted Final A*



*Michael Zhu and Zhan Wan
Winners – Novice Final A*

BOBBY RICHMAN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP – FINAL

Barry Rigal

Round 3

The third session of the pairs final started with Nunn – Dalley leading by a small margin. Over the course of the session at least four pairs would make a run at them...let's see whether any of them succeeded.

The first deal saw good results for Meier – Tislevoll and Hung – Hans, one of those results being arguably more deserved than the other.

Board 1, Dealer North, Nil Vul

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

GeO Tislevoll, North, opened 1♥ and when his partner responded 1♠ and the next hand overcalled 2♣ he bid 2♠ showing four trumps. When the next hand raised clubs Leon Meier bid 3♦ as a non-specific game try and Tislevoll needed no further encouragement to bid 4♠. Meier took an early heart finesse, crossed to ♥A, ran the ♠Q, and when it held he might have tried the ♠J next. Instead he led low to the ♠A and scored up 450 for 73% of the matchpoints.

By contrast where Hans was West he saw the bidding unfold in identical fashion and he too competed to 3♣. South here simply bid 3♠...and when that came back to Sartaj Hans he tried 4♣. that turned a 65%+ result into a potential zero from 4♣X down 500. Fortunately for Hans his LHO was seeing his glass as half empty throughout the deal, so he let 4♣ play undoubled, and -150 got E-W a clear top.

Board 4, Dealer West, All Vul

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

The two leaders met here. Hans – Hung were somewhat handicapped by their no-trump range not being 15-17. If North opens 1NT, is South worth exploring for slam at all? The hand opposite is a near perfecto and you still need hearts to break, no diamond or club ruff – but I agree you surely want to be there.

With half the field bidding slam, the fact that Hans simply offered a choice of games meant that Nunn – Dalley were onto a good thing already. Nunn led a spade. Declarer, Andy Hung, thoughtfully won in dummy and drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand to lead a diamond to the king. You certainly cannot blame Nunn for ducking, but now all three remaining diamonds went away on the black winners, and N-S had clawed their way back to average on the deal.

Board 10, Dealer East, All Vul

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

The heart slam here is no better than 50% unless someone leads a spade for you at trick 1. With the ♠Q

onside, you'd imagine that 12 tricks would be recorded at every table...right?

Well, put yourself in the South seat, after leading a top club against the slam, declarer having opened a 20-22 2NT. Declarer wins and knocks out partner's ♥A. Back comes a club and declarer plays three more rounds of hearts. At this point, not only is partner marked with no more high cards, you also know declarer cannot misguess spades – unless given some help. Whatever your discarding methods, pitch a discouraging spade as your first signal – throw the ♠10 away if playing reverse signals!! Now no self-respecting declarer will fall for this...will they? But if you don't try, you do not deserve to succeed.

Board 13, Dealer North, All Vul

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

This was a hand where you wanted to be defending, not declaring. Sartaj Hans as South ended up in 2♠ when his side bid unopposed Pass – 1♦ – 2♥ – 2♠. 2♥ showed five spades, four hearts, non-invitational.

The small trump lead avoided giving anything away and Hans was allowed to win the first trump and pass the ♥10 to the ace. East cashed the ♠A (West discarding a discouraging club) and played a diamond, Hans ducking the first and winning the second.

Then he finessed hearts again, cashed the ♥K and had reached this elegant ending:

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

With the lead in dummy declarer has four tricks in and needs four more. Hans erred by playing the ♠7, and East gave it back by winning and exiting with the ♦Q (a club play was necessary). Now declarer should succeed by ruffing and cashing the ♠Q then playing ♣K, ♣J. East must ruff but has to concede the 13th trick to declarer's ♦9.

The winning line from the diagrammed position is to cash the ♣K at once. Only then do you exit with the low spade and that forces East to win and set up your diamond for you. The play then transposes into the line at the table: ruff the diamond cash the ♠Q and lead the second club to collect the ♦9 at the end.

Hans' line might have succeeded against 3-3 diamonds with clubs 5-2 which was certainly possible when the diagrammed ending was reached (but not when West showed out on the third diamond).

Board 16, Dealer West, EW Vul

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



Andrew Peake declared 3NT from the (pragmatically) right side here, South. On a diamond lead he won in hand and ran five clubs. Meier pitched an honest encouraging ♠2 early and, on the last club, Tislevoll discarded his second diamond – in Jean Besse’s metaphor, a Neutrino. By showing void on the second diamond East confirmed the count in that suit for declarer. So after cashing the ♦A, Peake crossed to hand with a heart. This was the position:

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

West had done well to keep all his diamonds – if he pitches one, the route to 11 tricks is easy. But Peake read the ending nicely. He led a spade to the king, a heart back to hand and exited with a diamond to force the 11th winner for a 92% result.

Board 20, Dealer West, All Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Hung	Rodrigo	Hans	Rich
1NT	2♠	Double	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

+500 from 3♠X would have earned E-W almost all the matchpoints but where is the fun in that? Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa led a trump against 4♥. Hung put in the ♥9 and captured the queen to advance the ♣Q. Rich might have done better to duck this but he won and cashed the ♦A then played another diamond. Reading the position nicely, Hung won his ♦K, cashed a club, and ruffed a club back to hand then led the ♠10 to North’s queen. Back came a trump so he advanced the ♠K, covered and ruffed, cashed the master club to pitch his small spade, and when North could not ruff he was home.

Paul Dalley declared 1NT on an unopposed auction and won the spade lead in hand to advance the ♣Q ducked all round. Now he led the ♥J to the king and ran the hearts via the successful finesse. North had pitched two diamonds and a club, and, when Dalley exited with the ♠K, he needed to lead a diamond to his partner, who would have been able to cash his ♣A to let North discard the ♦Q. Then a third spade would see North claim. Instead North cashed his spade winner and led a fourth. Dalley won and led a club to South’s ace, then guessed the diamonds in the two-card ending for +150.

TODAY’S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

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.

Location: Upstairs opposite Administration

Minimum \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge

1:30-2:15pm

Board 24, Dealer West, Nil Vul

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

At almost every table N-S had a decision as to whether to bid on to 3♥ over 2♠. The cards do not lie well for you in hearts...but how well do they lie for your opponents in spades. Two of the chasing pairs saw their chances heavily diminished here.

Tislevoll, as North, led the ♥K against Milne's 2♠, after a transfer auction. Milne won the ace and took a spade finesse, letting Meyer cash two hearts. Tislevoll pitched a discouraging club then the ♦3, and that was fatal. Meyer led ace and another diamond, and Milne won and drew trumps then exited with a diamond to Tislevoll, who had only clubs left and had to open up the suit for a guess declarer wasn't going to get wrong, and 8 tricks.

By contrast Hans played 2♠ as East against Peter Hollands, who led a top heart and got in with the ♠Q to cash one heart only. Then he underled the ♦A and Hans paused for a while – perhaps to let his opponents know he was aware of their skulduggery, but eventually he ducked. Disaster! Michael Ware won and led back a diamond, ruffed his partner's next LOW heart play and gave Holland the ruff. Even worse a fourth heart ruffed with Ware's remaining trump saw Hans left with a club loser. Down two was still an average for E-W but what a blow to the amour propre...

With one round to go Nunn and Dalley were just over a top ahead of Hans and Hung. They ended up winning by just over a top. The following deal therefore would not quite have cost them the event had it not worked out for them...

Board 26, Dealer East, All Vul

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

Nunn – Dalley bid unopposed

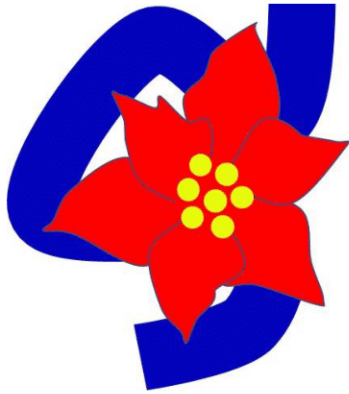
West	East
	1♠
2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠
4♠	4NT
5♣	5♦
5♠	6NT

As responder, Dalley forced to game, showed good hearts, then raised spades, suggesting a minimum in context, and admitted to one keycard and no ♠Q. Nunn opted for no trump rather than spades, since he might be able to make slam if either major behaved, (if spades were 4-1 onside and hearts 3-3).

After a diamond lead Nunn could not really combine his chances any better than by winning in hand and taking one top spade before crossing to dummy and playing a second spade. When the queen appeared he was home in his slam for all the matchpoints – with down one representing a tie for bottom.

Of note in their final set was that they had only one score below 27% - remarkable consistency.





RIVER CITY GOLD MIXED PAIRS 2025

Hosted by TOOWONG BRIDGE CLUB
22 Roy Street AUCHENFLOWER QLD 4066

Gold Masterpoints and ABF Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP)

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

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th May

9.30 am start both days

All ENTRIES and PAYMENTS on



\$180 per entry

Chief Director: Alan Gibson

Tournament Organiser: Janet Lovell

E: tbccompetitions@gmail.com

T: 0409 387 527

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

LUNCH INCLUDED

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

Wellness Guidelines

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



BOBBY RICHMAN PAIRS**INTERMEDIATE – FINAL 3***Barbara Travis*

Today I was more of a jinx to the pair I sat watching, Lilly Jia and Paul Ruan, but at least I didn't have to move my chair every round. Paul told me that he knew how to play bridge 40 years ago, but only returned to the game 15 months ago. At last year's Gold Coast Congress he played in the Novice and loved it; it's a pretty big jump into the Intermediate field in one year – but he does admit to being totally addicted, though he still has to acquire the necessary 'bridge stamina' for this sort of event. Lilly and Paul qualified first in their direction and scored the stationary table.

I watched an interesting auction with Lynda and Phil Young at the table:

Board 20

West	North	East	South
L Young	Jia	P Young	Ruan
1♥	1♠	2♠	3♠
Double	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Phil's 2♠ bid was a cue raise (unassuming cue bid) showing a limit raise for hearts. I'd expected Paul to reciprocate with a 3♥ cue raise (for spades), but he decided there were a lot of points around the table!

After 4♥ made on the unfortunate lead of the ♠A, I asked Lynda what she had intended her double to mean, "Was it a penalty double?" She replied that she had meant it as a maximal double (which I call a game try double), and Phil agreed.

Away from the table, we had a short talk about such doubles, since one can usually escape to your contract at the 3-level with such doubles, something she had never considered, for example:

1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
Double			

This double is the game try double, since you have no space to make any game try bids, and 3♠ is generally considered to be competitive only. That made perfect sense to her. The funny thing was that a penalty double

of 3♠ was a great action on her hand, being:

♠ K J 10 4
 ♥ A J 10 8 2
 ♦ K J
 ♣ Q 9

If Phil had values, declarer was in real trouble; 3♠X goes down at least two tricks, for 500 against a part-score.

One of my pet peeves is the so-called Bergen raise: 1♥ – 2♠ or 1♠ – 3♥, showing a three-card limit raise when playing Bergen raises. Marty Bergen is still alive, but this was never part of "Bergen Raises" and I suspect he'd be horrified to discover this cross-jump was named for him (in Australia). It's particularly ugly opposite a 3rd or 4th seat opening bid, because you can easily finish too high when partner has opened on a minimum hand. Just use 2♣ as Drury when you are a passed hand and find another way to bid when you have not yet passed.

Anyway, here's another auction (with Phil and Lynda's blessing):

Board 21

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣ (1)	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

Phil's 3♥ was that pet peeve of mine, the three-card limit raise. 4♦ and 4♥ were cue bids, then we had RKCB.

Phil's hand, East, was:

♠ 10 8 7
 ♥ A K J 9 4
 ♦ J 10 4
 ♣ 10 9

I pointed out to him that Lynda's 4♦ cue bid had denied a club control. As such, he should NOT cue bid 4♥; any 4♥ cue bid promises 1st or 2nd round control in the club suit, where Lynda has denied control. Therefore, he should just rebid 4♠. Fortunately 5♠ was never under threat, but reaching 6♠ would have been a disaster, especially with North, on lead, holding ♣A-K.

Here's another typical auction that I saw quite frequently. On Board 9, East held:

♠ 5
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ A J 10 5 2
♣ A K J

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥...	

Whilst East does have the values for a reverse, this reverse is rather too high. Partner will have to give you preference at the 4-level! A better action is to double, showing a very good opening hand with spade shortage, takeout for the other suits. It also allows partner to rebid 3♦, rather than 4♦, on an (expected) minimal hand, as he had, but he can bid more with a better hand.

Towards the end of the session, the leading pair and eventual winners, Dave Parham and Ian Clark, from Perth, arrived at the table. They were the first pair I had seen playing Precision, and they had a true Precision auction to reach a slightly iffy 6♥ on Board 10:

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

Dave	Ian
	1♣
2♦	2♥
2NT	3♠
4♥	6♥

1♣ showed any hand with 16+ HCP. 2♦ showed 8+ HCP with 5+ hearts and 2♥ agreed hearts, asking the suit length and quality. 2NT showed specifically 5 hearts, 1 top honour. 3♠ then asked about spades and Dave showed first round control of spades, hence the 6♥ bid.

6♥ would have been a horrible contract if West held three spades without the ♠J, but all was well, with the ♠Q onside.

It is notable that more pairs in the Intermediate and Restricted Finals A bid this slam than in the Open Final A!

Congratulations to all those who won their sections, especially the top finals. I've never won a final from B onwards, but I've been very fortunate to have won the Open Pairs Final A three times, and I know how exciting that is!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Marge Henry

Ian Pronk and his daughter Genevieve started playing bridge at the Hutt Bridge Club in NZ about two years ago. Ian has become a passionate devotee and Gen supports her Dad as her work and social schedule allows.

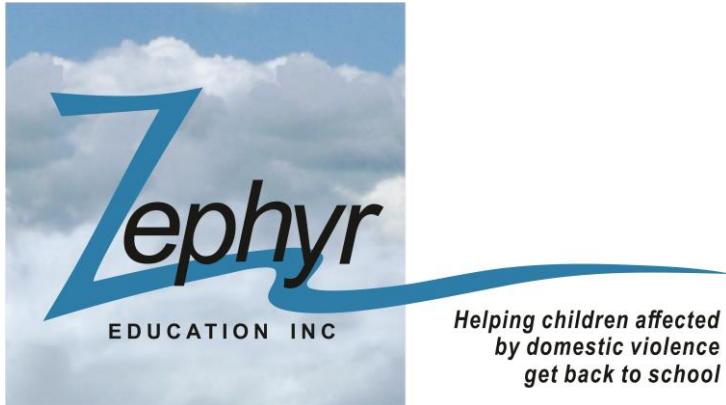
I am a member of Toowong Bridge Club and Ian is my little brother. I persuaded him and Gen to attend this year's GCC as it would be their last chance to go to a Congress here.

They have played in the Novice section and came 4th overall - pretty amazing as Gen would only be regarded as a Rookie by ABF standards.

Toni Bardon found them another couple to play in the teams, so good luck to them for the next three days. I, an average Restricted player, am a very proud big sister and auntie.



Ian Pronk, Marge Henry and Gen Pronk

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.

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

in her shoes

In Her Shoes will hold their Champagne Breakfast on Friday 7th February.

VENUE:

In Her Shoes

LOCATION:

Ground Floor, Oasis Shopping Centre, Broadbeach

DATE:

Friday 7th February

TIME:

8.00am to 10.00am

Any bridge player (or partner) who attends will receive a gift bag from In Her Shoes.

They are offering a 10% discount store-wide (excluding jewellery and sale stock), throughout the week:

Saturday 1st February to Sunday 9th February.

Please support our sponsors. Many thanks to Netta for her ongoing support.



YEPPOON BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS

GOLD
POINT
EVENT

29th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2025

2- 5 MAY 2025

VENUE: ST URSULA'S COLLEGE
42 QUEEN STREET, YEPPOON QUEENSLAND

Chief Director: Chris Snook | Chief Scorer: Peter Busch

Tournament Organiser: Karin le Roux 0428 859 898

Website <https://qldbridge.com.au> | Email: brc2025yep@gmail.com



2025 AUSTRALIAN UNDER 26 TEAM

Lauren Travis

Over the next few bulletins, we will include short profiles of this year's Australian representatives. Hopefully, it will give you a chance to get to know some of our top and emerging players and give you some faces and personalities to follow as they contest their respective World Championships later in the year.

The first cab off the rank is the youth team who will play in the 19th World Youth Team Championships in July. This team was decided just last month during the Australian Youth Championships in Canberra.

Having learnt to solve a Rubik's cube for the first time at a youth week not too long ago, I wondered how many of this year's team could do it and in what time, so I asked that as well as their best time in the NYT Mini crossword.

Matt Sieredzinski

Matt is a new face on our youth team but has made a few appearances on the Victorian Youth Team at the ANC. His proudest moment was winning the recent qualifying event for the youth team, beating pre-tournament favourites George Bartley and Jack Luke-Paredi. He enjoys the problem-solving aspect of bridge; deducing how the cards lie and working out the best line of play or defence. Matt says his partner Heath is able to create play out of nowhere, and Matt is still trying to figure out how Heath manages to get away with some of his contracts. As a first-time international representative, he's hoping to put in a lot of preparation for the World Championships, especially in his card play, and is looking forward to meeting others from around the world and travelling overseas to play. He enjoys watching BradyBot and Pete Hollands' videos and practising on BBO to improve his game. It turns out Matt is a speedcuber and his best Rubik's cube time is 7.30 seconds (colour me impressed), and he's also a good sport and completed a NYT Mini just for me despite "preferring not to touch crosswords with a 10 foot pole".



Heath Watkins

I asked Heath for a boring fact and he told me that he was born in Sydney but now lives in Melbourne. Thanks, Heath. You nailed it. Like Matt, Heath said his proudest moment in bridge was qualifying for the youth team – winning the first stage was amazing, especially having gone into youth week with no real expectations. He enjoys playing with Matt because he moves on from bad hands, and doesn't get upset when Heath makes mistakes and things go horribly wrong. To improve, they're planning to play in lots of events together, practise bidding regularly, and ask for as much expert advice as they can get. Heath also watches Bradybot's videos on YouTube which helps him consider new aspects of the game. He is looking forward to playing in a strong international field for the first time and gaining valuable experience for the future. Heath loves the social aspect of discussing hands and laughing over disasters after a session, meeting new people and learning new things every time he plays. His bridge bucket list would include playing on the Victorian Open Team and having a game with Geir Helgemo. Heath's best Rubik's cube time is 33 seconds (a lot slower than Matt's) and his Mini is 24 seconds (a LOT faster than Matt's).



Heath Watkins and Matt Sieredzinski

BBO VUGRAPH OPERATORS REQUIRED



Bridge Base
O N L I N E

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th February

\$3 per board

**Expressions of interest
to GCC Office**

George Bartley

If ever there has been an old man in a young man's body, it is George Bartley. He's been playing bridge since primary school and enjoys being around like-minded people, solving puzzles and seeing friends he's met at national and international tournaments. This year will be George's third time representing Australia, and he plans to play some big competitions, work on the mental side of the game through meditation and focus training, and get better at defending 3NT contracts. Last year was a big year for George – he and his partner Jack came 4th in the World Youth Pairs and he also won his first open national, the GNOT, in November, partnering Phil Markey. His favourite method of practice is the Cuebids app although he doesn't always agree with the star ratings, and he'd love to have a game with Zia. George refused to provide a Rubik's cube time so we can infer that it's just about the only thing he's not capable of solving, and his best NYT Mini was the one and only time that he beat me.

Jack Luke-Paredi

Jack likes to make coffee bets when he plays against you. I was the lucky recipient of an iced latte over the weekend, but I don't recommend taking him up on his offer – he's a crafty player. Jack and George have a lovely partnership both at and away from the bridge table, and can have tough conversations knowing they're great friends regardless of the mistakes they make. Their 4th place in the World Youth Pairs last year is the highlight of Jack's bridge career so far, and this year he is focusing on mental health, meditation and mentoring from Andy Hung, Nabil Edgtton and Paul Gosney to push his game to further heights. He enjoys making friends at bridge tournaments, both in Australia and overseas, and is excited to meet all the other teams and help his less experienced teammates navigate the high pressure of a bridge world championship. Jack likes to challenge himself against the best so enjoys Pete Hollands' Weekly Free Instant Tournament videos and the IntoBridge dailies. Proving that he and George are on the same wavelength, Jack also named Zia as the player he'd most like to play with. His bridge bucket list includes winning an open national (specifically the 2025 ANOT), placing at a world championship, making an Australian Open Team, and not losing his love for the game. He refused to attempt a Rubik's cube or mini crossword.



George Bartley and Jack Luke-Paredi

Zac Ross

Zac only plays bridge for the free pizza. Not really – he also likes beating his friends – but the pizza at the Queensland youth night was mentioned more than once in our chat. Would you believe that after playing bridge for two years, he found out that his grandparents also play? They're his only family members involved in bridge, apart from his brother who has attended a youth night (but only for the pizza). Making the Queensland youth team for the first time rates as his proudest bridge moment, and he loves his partner Kate's positivity and the effort she puts in. He said about Kate, "I feel valued that someone would put so much time into our partnership." After a massive month of bridge in Canberra and the Gold Coast, Zac is planning a short break from the game before embarking on weekly BBO practice sessions, mentoring, system development and reading to prepare for the worlds. He's also hoping to work on mindfulness and increasing his attention span to support him through the long event. Zac's top bridge book recommendation is *Advanced Bridge Defense* by Eddie Kantar, and if he could have a game with any bridge player in history he'd choose James Bond, despite his questionable ethics. Disappointingly, Zac's best Rubik's cube effort is "two layers in about a while" and his best NYT Mini time is 30 seconds on the chess.com daily puzzle (that was not the question, Zac!).



Zac Ross and Kate Macdonald

2025 STATS

Tables as of Monday night: 2,267
 2024 comparison: 1,579 tables
 2020 comparison: 2,256 tables
 Boards dealt for the congress: 33,953
 Sets of boards dealt: 1,284

Kate Macdonald

Kate was a member of the Under 26 Women's Team that made the finals of the World Championship last year, and I can say with confidence that she loves a high five or fist bump before going into a match. She says she's looking forward to playing more international bridge as she loves playing against people who are going to beat her up. Don't believe her – she's a smiling assassin. Kate's proud of qualifying for the team this year – having narrowly missed out last year, she thinks she and Zac coped better under pressure 12 months later. She enjoys the logical nature of bridge and making friends through the game, and appreciates her partner Zac for his fun and positive attitude and his ability to cheer her up when she's feeling down. Kate notably put a huge amount of effort into improving at bridge over the last few years, playing at almost every opportunity. She claims to be terrible at visual puzzles so can't solve a Rubik's cube or play chess.

A final note

My last question to all six youths was what they think the most appealing part of bridge is for young people, and they overwhelmingly replied praising the social side of the game, and the friendships and sense of community in youth bridge.





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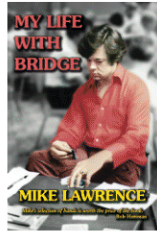


VISIT HELEN AND PAUL AT OUR STALL NEW BRIDGE BOOKS

"Reading bridge books is the best way to improve your game"

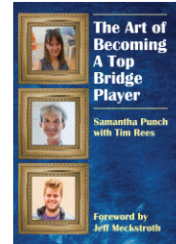
My Life With Bridge by Mike Lawrence.

Great stories, great hands.
\$48.95



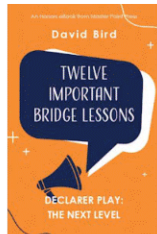
The Art of Becoming A Top Bridge Player by Samantha Punch/Tim Rees.

Searching interviews with top players. **\$32.95**



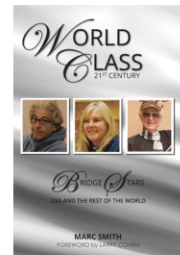
Twelve Important Bridge Lessons, Declarer Play: The Next Level by David Bird.

Advances techniques.
\$34.95



World Class 21st Century: Bridge Stars Sequel by Marc Smith.

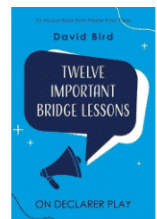
Interviewing the champs. USA and the rest of the world.



\$39.95

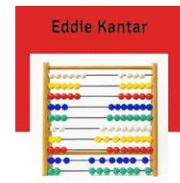
Twelve Important Bridge Lessons by David Bird.

Techniques in declarer play. **\$34.95**



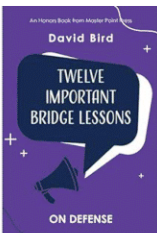
How to Count a Bridge Hand by Eddie Kantar.

The art of counting a hand.
\$39.95



Twelve Important Bridge Lessons on Defense by David Bird.

A complete course on defence.
\$34.95



The Magic of Defense by Barbara Seagram with Caroline Sydnor.

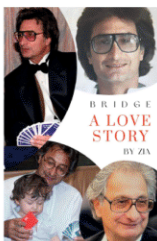
Takes a newer player quickly up to intermediate level.



\$39.95

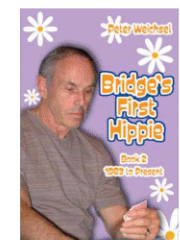
Bridge: A Love Story by Zia Mahmood.

Join Zia as he travels the world over the decades.
\$49.95



Bridge's First Hippie: Book 2 by Peter Weischel.

The second book. Lots of hands. **\$34.95**



THE BRIDGEMATE MAN, RON BOUWLAND WILL DEMONSTRATE BRIDGEMATE 3 AT PAUL LAVINGS' STALL TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY 9AM. ALL WELCOME

SEEKING 200

Lauren Travis

Our final set of the Bobby Richman Open Pairs got off to an awful start against Jodi Tutty and Dagmar Neumann, members of this year's Australian Women's Team. They exercised good judgement on board 20 – and we didn't do the same.

Board 20, Dealer West, All Vul

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

The auction, for the most part, was fairly sound. My overcall was light but normal, and Dagmar's hand was worth competing on, with a singleton in our suit and her own decent side suit. It went downhill for us when Matt decided to chance a double. There was no guarantee that the contract would go off, but he was hoping for the elusive +200, everyone's favourite score at matchpoints. The best lead is, of course, a trump – it's a doubled part-score – but the contract is still cold. I was pessimistic about our chances of success on a trump lead, so chose my doubleton club instead. This turned out to be sub-optimal and resulted in an overtrick, -930 and no matchpoints. Not exactly what Matt was hoping for.

Australian Bridge
Your national bridge magazine

The tides turned in our favour a few rounds later, when Matt was dealt a beautiful 19-count:

Board 26, Dealer East, All Vul

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

Over 1♠, the West hand looked to me like a game force; what it lacked in (just a few) HCP, it made up for in playing strength. Matt's 2♠ was a waiting bid, not promising any more than five spades, so I rebid my hearts before discovering the spade fit and raising to game. This was enough to encourage Matt to ask for keycards then the queen of spades, and despite missing one keycard and the queen he couldn't be discouraged from bidding slam. 6NT is a superior bid to 6♠ for a couple of reasons: firstly, at matchpoint scoring, the extra 10 points could be the difference between an average board and a top, and secondly, if hearts break, the ♠Q is irrelevant as we would have 12 top tricks. As it happens, both contracts are unbeatable and the opponents had no hope when the doubleton ♠Q appeared in front of Matt on the second round of spades. 6NT was worth 96% as opposed to only 81% for 6♠ and 31% for those playing in game making 12 tricks.

We immediately followed up our slam with a neat defence to a part-score.

Board 27, Dealer South, Nil Vul

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

I made the obvious lead of the ♦A followed by the ♦K and a third diamond, ruffed by declarer. He cashed the ♠A before playing a low heart to dummy, which I ducked. Another heart was played, won by my ace. Knowing my partner began with a doubleton heart, I led a third one anticipating declarer would ruff to avoid his winner being trumped cheaply by Matt – so instead it went ♠9 - ♠Q - ♥Q. Matt led the ♦Q which declarer trumped with the five. I declined to overruff and discarded my ♣3, and dummy also pitched a club. This was the position:

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

Declarer had to attempt to draw my trumps before playing clubs, but I won the king of spades then led my club, trapping him in dummy and forcing him to give me

a club ruff. I love defences like this one, where the layout is known and you find a tidy play to defeat the contract. One off was worth 73% for us, compared to 54% if 2♠ had made.

My final offering from the pairs is another cute defence. (By now I'm sure it's clear that I love defending.)

Board 7, Dealer South, All Vul

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

I can't fault the N/S bidding to end up in 4♠ - in fact every NS pair in our field, bar one, played in game (in either hearts or spades). I found what I believe to be a stellar opening lead... you guessed it: a trump. The lead was won in dummy and a club was played to the queen, king and ace. I returned another trump which declarer won in hand, then he ruffed a club on the table. A diamond went to the king and my ace, I played a diamond back to the queen, and declarer trumped a diamond back to his hand to draw the last trump. He led the ♥9 through my king, which he ducked, but when hearts didn't break he was destined to lose another two tricks. We finally got the +200 Matt had been searching for at the beginning of the day – and it was worth a solid 79%.

Despite our mediocre results, I had a wonderful time playing with Matt. I'm sure when I asked him to play he wasn't anticipating playing a starring role in three of the bulletins, but I'm grateful that he's been a great sport about my reporting on both the good and the bad hands.

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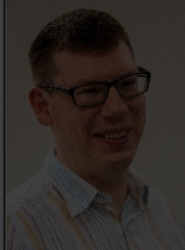
CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM



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 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.

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

1962	George McCutcheon, Harold Hiley, Tony Jackman, Denis Priest, Bruce Meares, Bob Williams
1963	George McCutcheon, Tony Jackman, Denis Priest, Tim Seres, Roelof Smilde
1964	Egon Auerbach, Max Coltheart, Ruth Eaton, Mary McMahan
1965	Mary McMahan, Ruth Eaton, Don Evans, Tim Seres, Ian Weiss
1966	Mary McMahan, Ruth Eaton, Don Evans, Tim Seres, Ian Weiss, Hubert Sloman
1967	Tony Jackman, Denis Priest, Julian Fahrer, Jack Selinger, Graham Westcott
1968	Nat Rothfield, Jessel Rothfield, Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Wally Scott, Roelof Smilde
1969	Tony Jackman, Frank Jarvis, Bruce Meares, Mike Robson
1970	Roelof Smilde, Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Jessel Rothfield, Wally Scott
1971	Roelof Smilde, Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Jessel Rothfield, Wally Scott
1972	Tony Jackman, Don Evans, Frank Jarvis, Jeff Lathbury, Ian Weiss
1973	Tony Jackman, Don Evans, Frank Jarvis, Ian Weiss
1974	Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Ron Klinger, Dick Cummings
1975	Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Ron Klinger, Dick Cummings
1976	Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Ron Klinger, Bob Richman
1977	Tony Jackman, Ian Morris, Mike Robson, Mike Pemberton
1978	Frank Theeman, Tony Ong, Don Evans, Paul Lavings
1979	Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Ron Klinger, Bob Richman
1980	Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Ron Klinger, Bob Richman
1981	Alan Walsh, Elizabeth Havas, Valerie Cummings, Wally Scott
1982	Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Tim Bourke, David Smith
1983	Alan Walsh, Elizabeth Havas, Valerie Cummings, Wally Scott
1984	Marek Borewicz, Bob Richman, Paul Marston, Stephen Burgess
1985	Andrew Webb, Jonathan Free, Gary Eggins, John Lowe
1986	Alan Walsh, Elizabeth Havas, Valerie Cummings, Wally Scott
1987	Mary McMahan, Tim Seres, Kevin Hume, Tony Ong
1988	Ervin Otvosi, Stephen Burgess, Dick Cummings, Bob Richman
1989	Bob Dalley, Dick Cummings, Audrey Dalley, Tony Ong
1990	Ervin Otvosi, Stephen Burgess, Seamus Browne, Bob Richman
1991	David Beech, Lidia Beech, Tim Bourke, Bob Gallus, David Smith
1992	Richard Brightling, Stephen Lester, Chris Quail, Ian Robinson, Sue Hobley
1993	Ashley Bach, Ishmael Del'Monte, Bob Richman, Matt Mullamphy
1994	Ashley Bach, Ishmael Del'Monte, Bob Richman, Lionel Wright

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

1995	Ashley Bach, Ishmael Del'Monte, Bob Richman, Matt Mullamphy
1996	George Jesner, Dorothy Jesner, Arjuna de Livera, Richard Hills, Theo Antoff, Kieran Dyke
1997	Jessel Rothfield, Carole Rothfield, Bob Richman, Hugh Grosvenor
1998	Andrew Mill, David McLeish, Robbie Van Riel, Felicity Beale, Anthony Silver
1999	Andrew Reiner, Peter Newman, Paul Yovich, Matt Mullamphy, John Spooner
2000	Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, Ross Harper, Ursula Harper
2001	Ishmael Del'Monte, Espen Erichsen, Craig Gower, Chris Convery
2002	Michael Cornell, Malcolm Mayer, Tom Jacob, Ryszard Jedrychowski
2003	Ron Klinger, Bruce Neill, Zoli Nagy, Tim Seres
2004	Stephen Blackstock, Stephen Henry, Tom Jacob, Malcolm Mayer
2005	John Holland, Michelle Brunner, John Armstrong, Howard Melbourne, Paul Marston
2006	John Holland, Michelle Brunner, John Armstrong, Howard Melbourne, Paul Marston, Hugh McGann
2007	Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Bill Hirst, Tom Hanlon
2008	Paul Marston, Karen (Kate) McCallum, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann
2009	Jimmy Cayne, Alfredo Versace, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezare Balicki, Lorenzo Lauria, Michael Seamon
2010	Pawel Niedzielski, Janusz Makaruk, Krzysztof Martens, Dominik Filipowicz
2011	Barry Noble, Ishmael Del'Monte, Ashley Bach, Martin Reid, Tom Jacob
2012	Liam Milne, Andy Hung, Alex Smirnov, Michael Whibley, Nye Griffiths, Nabil Edgtton
2013	Michael Cornell, Ashley Bach, Ron Klinger, Matt Mullamphy
2014	Hugh McGann, Matthew Thomson, Fiona Brown, Tony Nunn, Michael Ware, GeO Tislevoll
2015	Taufik Asbi, Robert Parasian, Franky Karwur, Julius George, Beni Ibradi
2016	Avinash Kanetkar, Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer
2017	Andy Hung, Nye Griffiths, Liam Milne, Kornel Lazar, Michael Whibley, Roger Lee
2018	Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Renee Cooper, Kieran Dyke
2019	James Coutts, Shane Harrison, Nabil Edgtton, Ellena Moskovsky, Liam Milne, Andy Hung
2020	Ashley Bach, Matthew Brown, Michael Whibley, Nabil Edgtton, Alex Antonios
2021	<i>Cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Nick Jacob, GeO Tislevoll, Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Liam Milne, James Coutts
2023	Paul Dalley, Tony Nunn, Tony Leibowitz, Paul Gosney
2024	Michael Ware, Hugh McGann, Brian Mace, Tom Jacob, Peter Hollands, Matthew Thomson

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- **Home and Contents and Motor Vehicle Insurance**
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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!

TRUMP PROMOTIONS

**Barry Rigal, from *The Observer Bridge*,
by Omar Sharif, April 28th**

During the Summer of 2007, the England Under 20 team competed in the European Championships in Jesolo near Venice, and did very well, coming fourth. This qualified them for a place in the World Championships in Beijing in 2008, and as a result their non-playing captain Michael Byrne (himself a junior a few years ago) has been exposing the team to top-level competition to get them ready for the event. Here is a deal he reported from the Swiss Teams at Llangollen. It appeared initially in Bridge Plus.

Dealer East North/South Vul.

♠ 4 2
♥ Q 9
♦ K 10 6 3
♣ K 10 9 6 4

♠ K 10 5
♥ 7 6 5
♦ Q 7 5 4 2
♣ 7 2

♠ A 7
♥ A J 10 8 3
♦ J 8
♣ Q J 8 3

♠ Q J 9 8 6 3
♥ K 4 2
♦ A 9
♣ A 5

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

East-West were Graeme Robertson and James Paul aged 18 and 17 respectively. North-South were a partnership who have represented England countless times both together and in separate partnerships, and they bid to a contract of 3♠, a spot that seems bullet-proof, does it not?

Surely declarer has only two hearts and two spades to lose; and if he is allowed to trump his losing heart in dummy he might even make an overtrick!

Graeme and James showed that this was not the case. James led a heart, and declarer made the apparently natural play of ducking in dummy. He won his king when

Graeme played the ♥10, and played back a heart. Now Graeme switched to a low trump. (This would have been crucial to subject declarer to a guess if declarer had held the king and partner the queen, although as the cards lie, switching to the ace would have worked too.)

Declarer played the queen, James took the king and returned a low trump to the ace. Now Graeme cashed the ace and jack of hearts and played a fourth round of hearts. With James holding the ten of trumps over declarer's jack he scored a trump promotion, and the defence had five winners.

In fact, declarer made a tiny slip. Can you see what he could have done to avoid this embarrassment? Consider what would have happened if declarer had played the ♥Q at trick one! Now even if the defence play trumps, they can't get the trump promotion, since declarer has heart control, and so South makes nine tricks easily. If the defenders duck trick one declarer has two heart tricks, of course.



*Martin Wu and Eugene Pereira
Intermediate Final A – 2nd*

FUNNY GCC MEMORY

Tony Hutton

Back in the Chevron days sometime in the 70s, Tony went to Reception around 2am to book a room.

“But sir, you already have a room here.”

“Yes, but there's a party in my room, I'm tired and I want a good night's sleep. I'd like a room as far from my room and as far from Jimmy O'Sullivan's room as possible.”

INTO THE MIXED (PART 4 OF 8)

Peter Gill

Lazer leads by 32 imps - 8 boards to go.

Grand Final - Board 113 of 120

Dealer South, All Vul

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

Gumby's 3♦ bid showed 4+ spades and 8 losers.

The Vugraph commentators pointed out that plus 650 in 5♥ was potentially a huge score by EW, with 4♠ making and 5♠ only down one. Once again, Arlene Dalley and Michael Courtney's competitive bidding was spot on. With two aces opposite an opening bid, Pauline Gumby did well not to double.

West	North	East	South
Mundell	Gill	Peake	Sylvester
Pass	1♠	2♦	1♦*
Pass	4♠	X	2♠
5♦	X	All Pass	Pass

Liz Sylvester and Peter Gill had a very lucky board here. Liz sorted her hand with ♠K being ♣K, so she opened 1♦ to show 2+ diamonds, no five card major and 10-15 points. Andrew Peake intended 2♦ as 5/5 in hearts and clubs. His double showed a good hand. Giselle thought 2♦ was natural. Liz led ♣A from her apparent AK and continued with ♣K which actually was ♠K. This turned out to be the best defence, producing plus 1700. Combined with the 650 at the other table, that resulted in 20 imps to the Sylvester team.

Today's Tip: Luck is a factor at bridge.

TEAMS CHECKLIST

- Look for the safest contract (rather than the highest scoring contract/game) – you can explore for minor suit slams then stop in 5-minor, especially if 3NT is risky
- Make contracts first – then look for overtricks – minimise risk taking
- Defeat contracts first – giving away an overtrick isn't fatal if there's a chance to beat a contract, especially a game
- Consider sacrifices against VULNERABLE games
- Take a sure penalty rather than bidding on to a risky contract/game
- Bid VULNERABLE games – if 40+%
- Score up with your team-mates first, THEN discuss hands after you have scored

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

ASSUMPTIONS ON DEFENCE

In yesterday's Tip, I noted that 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 because the alternative is to concede that the contract cannot be made or defeated.

Defend as East here:

Dlr South ♠ Q 9 7 6
 E-W Vul ♥ K Q 5
 IMPs ♦ A Q 10 7
 ♣ 9 7

♠ A 8 3
 ♥ J 9 8 7 6
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A K 8 6

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

West leads the ♣3, and your king wins. Since getting a diamond ruff is a possibility (and since declarer can't draw trumps without letting you back in), you shift to the ♦5. Declarer wins with dummy's 10, and leads the ♠K.

To beat 4♣, you need a diamond ruff. South is marked with all the missing trump and red suit honours, so there is no other hope but clubs. When you take the ♠A, you must lead a low club. You must assume your partner has the ♣Q, or else the contract is unbeatable.

How would you operate as East here?





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

95 Surf Parade

Dlr South ♠ K 9 5
 E-W Vul ♥ K J 10 8 5
 IMPs ♦ A J 3
 ♣ 7 3

♠ 7 3
 ♥ 9 7 4
 ♦ K 10 2
 ♣ A 9 8 5 4

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

West leads the ♣Q, you take the ace, and declarer follows low. If declarer has the ♥A and solid trumps, you can turn in your sword. You must assume your partner has a winner in trumps or hearts, but it is a lot to expect for him to have two major-suit winners. Your best chance is to shift to the ♦2 (an "active" defence, as discussed in my Tip about active versus passive defences). You need to set up a diamond trick or tricks before declarer can draw trumps and use the hearts for discards.

This defence is unlikely to lose. It will defeat 4♣ if South's hand is:

♠ A Q J 10 x x
 ♥ Q x
 ♦ x x x
 ♣ K x

2025 VICTORIAN

FESTIVAL

OF BRIDGE



KING'S BIRTHDAY PERIOD
JUNE 4TH - 9TH, 2025

AMORA HOTEL
RIVERWALK
RICHMOND (VIC)



BOOK IN TODAY USING YOUR MyABF ACCOUNT

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 10 6 4

♥ Q 9 2

♦ A 7 4

♣ K 6

♠ A J 3

♥ 7 5

♦ K 8 5 3

♣ A 9 7 2

You are South, playing in 4♠. West leads the ♣Q. How would you play?

You have nine top tricks, and need to find the certain way to generate your tenth trick.

If you plan to trump clubs in dummy, think again. Trumping with the long trumps will not garner you extra tricks, since you already have five trump tricks.

If diamonds break 3-3, you can make an extra trick from your fourth club, but the odds of a 3-3 break are less than 50% (odds = 35.5%).

The certain way to ensure an extra trick is by trumping a heart in your hand (that gives you a sixth trump trick), given there has not been a trump lead.

Win the trick with the ♣K and lead a heart, losing the trick. East or West will win and their best return is a trump. You win in hand with the ♠J and lead your remaining heart. The opponents win, and return another trump (or anything else), which you win in dummy with the ♠10. Now you lead the ♥Q and trump with the ♠A. You return to dummy with the ♦A to draw the last trump, and you have ten tricks by making use of the 'short hand's' trumps.



♠ K Q 10 6 4

♥ Q 9 2

♦ A 7 4

♣ K 6

♠ 7 2

♥ K 10 4 3

♦ J 2

♣ Q J 10 5 3

♠ A J 3

♥ 7 5

♦ K 8 5 3

♣ A 9 7 2

♠ 9 8 5

♥ A J 8 6

♦ Q 10 9 6

♣ 8 4

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE EXPERT

John Dennis, GCC Bulletin 1997

When the finesse fails:

The expert took the percentage play.

You took the incorrect line.

When you bid and make a tight game:

The expert showed foresight and flair.

You can be lucky sometimes.

When you make a squeeze play:

The expert showed great card placement.

You are told it was automatic.

When you make a tight game:

The expert read the cards well.

You found the cards favourably placed.

When you score 75% at Pairs:

The expert played and bid like Zia.

You had all your punts come off, and got a few gifts.

When you drop the singleton king offside:

The expert knew it was the only chance.

You had a stab in the dark.

When you go down in a cold contract:

The expert took a view.

You made an error.

When you win an 8-board match against experts:

It's too short to give a true indication.



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/>

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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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StepBridge Australia is an online Australian bridge club that offers novice, restricted and open bridge sessions daily, in a friendly and controlled environment. New players joining StepBridge receive five free introductory games. StepBridge has a virtual club facility that allows face-to-face bridge clubs to organise their own sessions and congresses. Youth players are offered additional introductory games, no membership fees and half price table fees.

www.stepbridge.com.au



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www.twomen.com.au

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.