

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

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Wednesday 5th February 2025

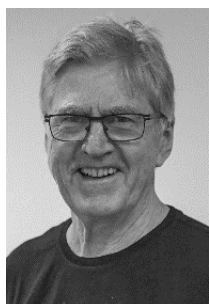
Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

BULLETIN 5

AUSTRALIA'S TOP MASTERPOINT EARNERS



Peter Gill, David Beauchamp, Paul Lavings, Pauline Gumby, Bruce Neill, Warren Lazer, Tony Nunn and Terry Brown
Not present: Arjuna de Livera and Ron Klinger



TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Paul Marston

"How to Find a 5-3 Fit"

More information on page 3

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!

GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS

MATCHES 1 AND 2

Barry Rigal

Board 5, Dealer North, NS vulnerable

♠ K 9 7

♥ Q 9 2

♦ A J 7 4

♣ K J 7

♠ J 8

♥ A J 6 3

♦ 8 5 2

♣ Q 8 5 2

♠ A Q 2

♥ K 8 7 4

♦ K Q 9 6

♣ 9 6

♠ 10 6 5 4 3

♥ 10 5

♦ 10 3

♣ A 10 4 3

I'm sure that where N-S were playing strong no-trump the auction went along the following lines at most tables:

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**



Paul Brake and Fiona Evans – 1st Intermediate Final C

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

Only the wildest of Easts would find a way into the auction at teams. At pairs there might be a few more hotheads, I suppose. Now what should East lead? A club playing for ruffs, or a solid diamond, setting up winners before they go away?

Rightly or wrongly, sitting East, I led a top diamond. Rodrigo Garcia da Rosa (hereafter RGR to save printer ink) discouraged with the ♦8 and declarer won and returned the suit, RGR following with a suit preference ♦5. Since the ♦2 was missing I assumed that he was prepared for me to shift to hearts. A heart to the ace and a heart back saw us with three tricks in the bag, and at least two trump tricks. What next? The simple answer is to try to promote the ♠J in partner's hand if the full layout is as in the actual deal (if partner has ♠J-x-x you do not need to exert yourself and if he has a natural club trick it will not get away.)

The way the diamond spots have revealed themselves is interesting. Who has the ♦7 and ♦J? Answer: declarer – because if partner had the jack he would not discourage at trick 1. If had the ♦7 and wanted me to play a heart at trick 3 – which we know he did – then he would have played the ♦7 on the second trick. Thus the right defence was to play partner for three diamonds by returning a diamond now, then to win the first spade cheaply when declarer Erin Waterhouse guessed well to lead low to the nine, and play a fourth diamond for down one.

Board 6, Dealer East, EW vulnerable

♠ A 10
♥ K 7 4 2
♦ 10 8 4
♣ A Q J 7

♠ Q 3 2
♥ J 10 9 5 3
♦ J 2
♣ 6 4 3

♠ K 9 6 5
♥ A 8
♦ Q 6 3
♣ K 9 5 2

♠ J 8 7 4
♥ Q 6
♦ A K 9 7 5
♣ 10 8

At our table Erin Waterhouse played 3NT after responding with that call to her partner's 1♦ overcall of my 1♣ opening bid. I led a fourth highest spade and Waterhouse won and led a club to the 10 then a spade to the 10 and king. I shifted to diamonds, hoping declarer was, for example, 3-4-1-5 and now declarer had nine easy tricks. Let's go back to trick 1 and imagine West ducks the first spade – playing declarer for K-10 or A-10 doubleton. Now what should declarer do after winning cheaply? It may seem natural to run the ♦10 but that would be fatal against an alert defence. West wins and leads back a low spade, and when declarer wins and leads a heart up East hops up with the ♥A, leads to his partner's ♠Q, and a club through cuts declarer's communications for unscrambling the hearts.

If declarer goes after clubs at trick 2 by leading to the 10, she is safe – so long as she goes after diamonds next. Ducking a diamond lets the defenders duck a spade in return, but now declarer needs only one heart trick. Does it help East to win the ♣K at trick two and duck a spade? No. Declarer wins the ♠A and leads a heart up. Whether East takes the ace or not, declarer can go after hearts again and establish the 9th trick when the ♥A falls doubleton.

Our team had attempted to employ 'lurk theory' by losing the first match 20-0 to ensure easier opponents, but had somehow managed to garner 7.56 VPs. Still trying to sink to our natural level, we found ourselves playing Annette Hyland and Barry Williams, the latter called in at short notice to fill an emergency, when one

TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Paul Marston

"How to Find 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.

Location: Upstairs opposite Administration

Minimum \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge

9:00-9:45am

player was unable to attend. I wish all players named Barry were that obliging...

Board 15 saw me fast asleep and, though we were in position to hand our opponents their heads, we missed out in shocking fashion.

Board 15, Dealer South, NS vulnerable

♠ A J 8 4
♥ J
♦ K Q 9 8 4
♣ A 6 5

♠ 9 7 2
♥ K Q 8 7 6 4
♦ 6 5
♣ 10 4

♠ Q 6 3
♥ A 9
♦ A J 7
♣ K Q 9 8 2

♠ K 10 5
♥ 10 5 3 2
♦ 10 3 2
♣ J 3 2

West
RGR

North
Williams

East
Rigal

South
Hyland
Pass

2♥
Pass

Double
4♠

Pass
Double

2♠
All Pass

RGR's top heart lead was not incisive – a club makes the defence trivial for 800, a diamond leaves us well placed for a big number so long as I duck. I let the ♥K hold and Rodrigo played the ♣10. Declarer played low and my queen won. Without giving the matter proper thought I played back my ♥A, and declarer ruffed and led the ♦K. now was my last chance to be a human being. If I duck this trick we are back to at least 500. When I won, I continued with the

♣K. Declarer drew trumps (phew!) and all we could score was one diamond trick. If I let the

♦K hold declarer cannot draw trumps, so plays a second diamond. I can win the diamond and cash a third diamond to give partner a ruff for 500.

Board 16, Dealer West, EW vulnerable

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

I don't know whether any of my audience read BridgeWinners (www.bridgewinners.com) – the best news and conversation site for all bridge players, no matter their level. Recently I posted about certain safety play combinations where declarer has to commit/guess early which way to protect himself. Art, of course, imitates life and vice versa, but unless you believe in Morphic Resonance you may find it strange that almost immediately a combination I wrote about that I had not encountered in real life presented itself to me.

West	North	East	South
RGR	Williams	Rigal	Hyland
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	3♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3NT	All Pass

When Annette led what looked like a doubleton diamond it seemed North had not pre-empted initially because of a side 4-card major. So it was obvious which opponent to play for length in clubs. Today it was essential to tackle clubs by leading the king so as to finesse twice against South. For the record I believe the ♦9 was led 96 times against 3NT. The contract was made 26 times...

Board 21, Dealer North, NS vulnerable

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

The ability to count to 13 is critical if you want to be a competent bridge player. Equally, counting to 9 when playing 3NT is a skill that should not be ignored. At least 15 players in 3NT in the Open field demonstrated an inability to do so – but I won't name any of them if a suitable payment is put under my door by midnight tomorrow... It looks fairly normal to bid to 3NT here, and if you are as old as me you don't open the East cards (just because you don't have an opening bid), and thus in 3NT you receive the best lead for the defence, the ♦10. Now is the moment to count to 9. If you win the opening lead and play a heart, mean defenders might win and play a second diamond, poised to cash out two diamonds and three plain winners.

The simple answer is to duck the opening lead – which cannot hurt, then win the next diamond and play a CLUB not a heart. Whatever the defenders do you have nine tricks when spades behave.

fellahamilton
EST 1969

Board 23, Dealer South, All vulnerable

♠ K 4 2
♥ 10 7
♦ J 9 8 7 6 2
♣ A 4

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 6 3
♦ A Q 10
♣ K J 6 2

♠ A 9 5
♥ J 9 2
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 10 8 7 5

♠ Q 10 6
♥ A K Q 8 5 4
♦ K
♣ Q 9 3

Do you care which way up you play a heart contract with the N-S cards? (Yes, 3NT by South is technically the only making game...)

At our table the contract was 3♥. Rodrigo led a trump, best, and declarer had seen West double her 1♥ opener, so led a spade to the king and ace. Back came a second spade and when Rodrigo got in with ♦A he cashed his spade and exited in hearts, and declarer has no play for her part-score anymore.

Bob Sebesfi reached 4♥ by North on a low club lead. Figuring he could always lead to the queen later, he ducked in dummy, and now the Rule of 11 kicks in. Would you, as West, have worked out to play low? If so, you are a better man than I am, Gunga Din. When West put in the jack, declarer returned a club to the ♣9 and could now pitch a spade on the good club and ruff a spade for his tenth trick. (In reality, Bob played the ♣Q at trick 1, then got a misdefence to make his contract.)

Board 27, Dealer South, Nil vulnerable

♠ 5 4
♥ A J 10 7 4 2
♦ A 7 6 4
♣ 2

♠ K 8 7 3 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ K Q 5
♣ 7 6

♠ Q J 10 9 6
♥ Q 5
♠ 10 9 2
♣ 9 8 4

♠ A
♥ 9 8
♦ J 8 3
♣ A K Q J 10 5 3



Tournament Organiser Needed!

The ABF is seeking the help of an enthusiastic bridge player to take on the role of tournament organiser for the 2025 Club Teams Knockout (CTK) event.

The CTK is a gold point event that is run online on the Realbridge platform over approximately six sessions across several months.

Last year 55 teams from a broad range of clubs participated and we are hoping to see the event continue to grow further.

Sue Falkingham from Tasmania has run the event for the past few years and is available to support the incoming tournament organiser.

Matthew McManus will continue to be the director for the event and the incoming TO will be ably assisted by Matthew.

If you are interested in taking on this role or would like more information please contact the ABF's Executive Director, David Fryda via email at david.fryda@abf.com.au

It is somewhat difficult on the N-S cards to bid to the comfortable 3NT contract when the opponents announce 9+ spades between the, but as our teammates demonstrated, not impossible. However let's say you fall from grace and declare 5♣. on the ♠2 (3rd and low) lead. East has the opportunity to clarify the position to his partner by following with the 6. On a different day this might be suit preference but, really, you need to let partner know not to try to cash the ♠K.

The play in 5♣ might look trivial – and indeed it arguably is, just so long as you aren't careless. On winning the ♠A you must draw trumps, of course, and have to find two discards from dummy. Whatever you do, please be careful and DO NOT discard a spade! If you do, when you play a heart and run the 9, East wins and simply plays a diamond to lock you in dummy, preventing the second heart finesse. If you keep that insignificant spade, you can ruff yourself back to hand to repeat the heart finesse for 12 tricks not 10.

Note that on the ♦K lead to trick 1 – which I think is a reasonable choice – declarer has to read the position and duck, not impossible. (For the record, 17 pairs went down in 5♣.)



*Donald Cartwright and George Fleischer – 1st Open Final D
Julie Duncan and Sandrine Manning – 1st Novice Final B*



MATT SMITH'S BRILLIANCY

This is the play of the tournament to date. Watch Matt Smith at work during Match 2 of the Teams:

Board 16, Dealer West, EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Matt Smith		Jane Dawson	
Pass	3♦	Double	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

With the East hand, many would overcall 3NT, which requires delicate play to make, but then we wouldn't have this story.

North led the ♥9 – 5 – 7 – king. Matt led the ♠7 which North won with the king. The ♥2 continuation was won in dummy with the ace, then the ♠J was ducked around. Matt felt that South was unlikely to be ducking with an initial three-card spade holding, so had started with ♠A-4-3-2. Thus he moved on to the club suit, leading a club to his queen, North showing out. Since Matt had two spade losers and one top club loser, he needed to set up an endplay on South. He could also count South's shape: 4 spades, 4 clubs, and 2 diamonds, so 3 hearts.

It was time to remove the trumps, the ♠Q being won by South with the ace, and a heart exited to Matt's ♥Q. The ♠10 drew the last trump and the top two diamonds were cashed. West, South and East were reduced to clubs, and Matt led dummy's ♣K. South had to win the ♣A or Matt could simply lead towards his jack at trick 12, but upon winning the trick, the unlucky defender was endplayed into leading away from the ♣10-8, giving Matt the last two tricks and his contract.



ANC



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 BRISBANE

6th – 17th July 2025

EVENTS



Welcome Butler Swiss Pairs – Open & Restricted Sunday 6th

Interstate Teams Monday 7th-Friday 11th

Interstate Swiss Pairs Friday 11th

Open Butler Pairs Saturday 12th →

Mixed Butler Pairs Monday 14th →

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



VENUE

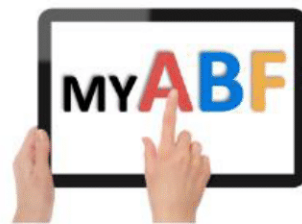
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GOLD POINTS

GOLD COAST TEAMS – OPEN

Lauren Travis

Match 1

For the first match of the Teams, I was lucky enough to watch Australian international bridge players James Coutts and Liam Milne take on Sri Lankan international cricketer Ashantha De Mel and his partner Krishnan Ramaratnam. The match started with some laughs as Ashantha recounted stories from his tour of New Zealand, with James and Liam being former Kiwis.

Liam had a ball putting Ashantha's guessing skills to the test on board 3:

Board 3, Dealer South, EW Vul

♠ K Q J 7 5
♥ J
♦ J 5 3 2
♣ Q 10 3

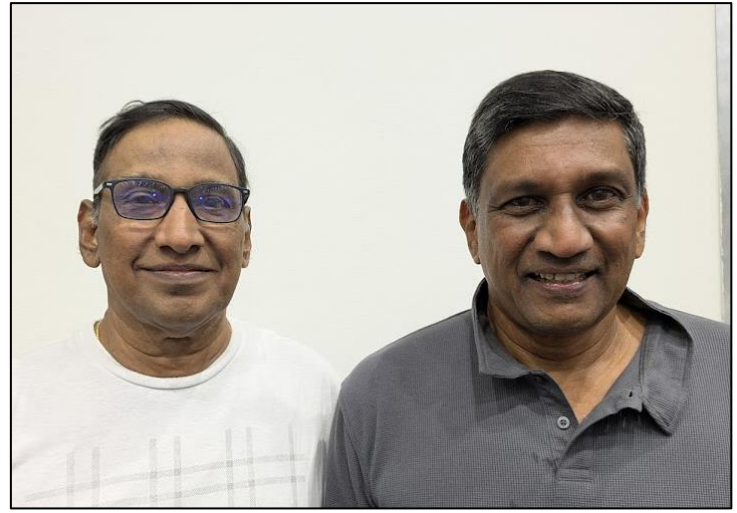
♠ 9 2
♥ A K 10 8 4
♦ K Q 7 4
♣ K 2

♠ A 4 3
♥ Q 9 6 3
♦ 9
♣ A J 9 8 5

♠ 10 8 6
♥ 7 5 2
♦ A 10 8 6
♣ 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
De Mel	Milne	Ramaratnam	Coutts
			Pass
1♥	2♠	3♠*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

After Ashantha opened 1♥, Liam had the gall(e) to jump to 2♠ on a five card suit. When Krishnan cue raised, Ashantha was on his way to slam, and after a round of cuebidding then checking for keycards he settled in 6♥. Liam led the ♠K, won by the ace, and Ashantha led a heart to his ace, observing Liam's jack, cashed the ♣K and played a second club to the ace. Needing to pitch a spade from his hand, he had to decide who to play for the ♣Q. Presumably, Liam's weak jump overcall tipped the scales in favour of James' holding it, so Ashantha



Krishnan Ramaratnam and Ashantha De Mel

opted to take a ruffing finesse in clubs, losing to Liam's queen and slipping one off. I'm sure he wishes he could review that decision, but Liam and James were pleased to score 100 points and raise the bat. The result was a 13 imp swing to the Milne team, rather than 13 to Kista.

Those of you who played match 1 will know that West declared most of the hands, and Liam found a great lead and effective defence later in the match.

Board 9, Dealer North, EW Vul

♠ Q 9 5
♥ Q 5 3
♦ A 9 5
♣ A Q 6 4

♠ A K 7 6
♥ A 10 8 7 4
♦ 6 2
♣ 8 3

♠ J 10 4 3
♥ 6
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ K 10 9 2

♠ 8 2
♥ K J 9 2
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ J 7 5

West	North	East	South
De Mel	Milne	Ramaratnam	Coutts
	1NT (14-16)	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

2♣ = both majors, 3♦ = good spade raise

Liam got on the front foot with his opening lead: a trump, covered in dummy with the ten, which held. Another spade was played to the king, followed by a diamond to

the ten and jack. James led a low heart which declarer won with the ace to play another diamond towards dummy. Liam won the ace and continued hearts, ruffed in dummy. The \spadesuit K-Q were cashed for two heart discards, with Liam ruffing in. The defence now had the edge, playing another heart which was ruffed in dummy, but declarer was caught out in the club suit, having to lead away from the king. One off was worth 4 imps to Milne when the other table played in $1\heartsuit$ by North, also one off.

Match 2

In match 2, I couldn't resist watching the top seeds, Ware, take on a young(ish) pairing of Paddy Taylor and Stephen Williams. Paddy found an excellent play to trip up Mike Ware early in the match.

Board 16, Dealer West, EW Vul

\spadesuit K 5	\spadesuit J 9 6
\heartsuit 9 8 6 2	\heartsuit A J 5
\diamondsuit Q 10 8 6 5 3 2	\diamondsuit A K
\clubsuit --	\clubsuit K 9 6 5 2
\spadesuit Q 10 8 7	\spadesuit A 4 3 2
\heartsuit K Q 3	\heartsuit 10 7 4
\diamondsuit J 7	\diamondsuit 9 4
\clubsuit Q J 7 3	\clubsuit A 10 8 4

West	North	East	South
Williams	Ware	Taylor	Hollands
$1\clubsuit$	$3\diamondsuit$	3NT	All Pass

Pete Hollands made the obvious opening lead of the \diamondsuit 9, confirming the 7-2 split, and after winning with the ace Paddy advanced a low club to Pete's four, dummy's queen and Mike's \diamondsuit 5. Having stuffed up the suit (he could have played it safely by leading the king out of hand, allowing for a 4-0 break), Paddy needed to come up with an alternative plan. He found the bold play of the queen of spades, eliciting a "cover" from Mike, which wiped out the only entry to the diamond suit. It was all over for the defence at that point - they cleared diamonds but Mike was unable to regain the lead so Paddy managed 9 tricks and won 11 imps for his efforts.

Stephen and Paddy followed up with a sharp defence to a part-score on the next board:

Board 17, Dealer North, Nil Vul

\spadesuit A 7	\spadesuit 8 5 3
\heartsuit A K 8 4 2	\heartsuit 10 7 6
\diamondsuit 9 7 6 3	\diamondsuit Q 8
\clubsuit 8 6	\clubsuit K J 10 9 5
\spadesuit K Q 10 4	\spadesuit J 9 6
\heartsuit Q 9	\heartsuit J 5 3
\diamondsuit A J 10 4 2	\diamondsuit K 5
\clubsuit 7 4	\clubsuit A Q 3 2

West	North	East	South
Williams	Ware	Taylor	Hollands
	$1\heartsuit$	Pass	$3\diamondsuit^*$
Double	$3\heartsuit$	All Pass	

Pete's $3\diamondsuit$ showed a limit raise with 3 or 4 hearts opposite which Mike was happy to stop at the 3-level. Paddy obediently led the \diamondsuit Q to the king and ace, and Stephen cashed another diamond before switching to the \spadesuit K. Mike won with the ace and ruffed a diamond in



Paddy Taylor

dummy, Paddy pitching a spade, then crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed another diamond. He exited a low spade to the ten, and Stephen played the $\spadesuit 10$ which was ruffed low by Mike and overruffed by Paddy. The $\clubsuit J$ went to dummy's queen and the ace of clubs was cashed, leading to this ending:

\spadesuit --	\spadesuit --
\heartsuit K 8 4 2	\heartsuit 10
\diamondsuit --	\diamondsuit --
\clubsuit --	\clubsuit K 10
\spadesuit Q 4	\spadesuit J
\heartsuit Q	\heartsuit --
\diamondsuit --	\diamondsuit --
\clubsuit --	\clubsuit 3 2

Stuck in dummy and unable to draw trumps, Mike had no choice but to lead a black suit, enabling either one of the defenders to collect a trump trick for one off.



Stephen Williams

On board 24, Stephen capitalised on an uncharacteristic error from Mike Ware:

Board 24, Dealer West, Nil Vul

\spadesuit K 4	\spadesuit 8 3
\heartsuit Q	\heartsuit 10 9 6 4
\diamondsuit A J 8 3 2	\diamondsuit 10 5
\clubsuit 10 9 8 3 2	\clubsuit K J 7 6 4

\spadesuit A Q 5 2	\spadesuit J 10 9 7 6
\heartsuit A 8 5 2	\heartsuit K J 7 3
\diamondsuit 9 6 4	\diamondsuit K Q 7
\clubsuit A 5	\clubsuit Q

West	North	East	South
Williams	Ware	Taylor	Hollands
1 \clubsuit	1 \diamondsuit	3 \clubsuit	Double
All Pass			

The $\heartsuit Q$ was led and won by Stephen, who wisely assessed that he should retain the $\clubsuit A$ as an entry to his hand so took a first-round club finesse to the singleton queen. Pete cashed the king and jack of hearts, Mike pitching two low diamonds, then gave his partner a heart ruff. Mike optimistically switched to the $\spadesuit K$, which was somewhat catastrophic for the defence. Stephen won the ace, cashed the queen, and ruffed a spade in dummy. He crossed back to that carefully preserved ace of clubs to play a fourth spade. Mike ruffed in with the $\clubsuit 9$ but Stephen could pitch one of dummy's diamonds, conceding one more diamond to go only two off.

Paddy's killer instincts came to light towards the end of the match:

Board 26, Dealer East, All Vul

\spadesuit K 7 2	\spadesuit A Q
\heartsuit J 10 9 2	\heartsuit 8 6 5
\diamondsuit Q 9	\diamondsuit 6 5 3
\clubsuit A K J 2	\clubsuit 10 7 6 5 4
\spadesuit J 8 6 5 3	\spadesuit 10 9 4
\heartsuit Q 7	\heartsuit A K 4 3
\diamondsuit A K J 8	\diamondsuit 10 7 4 2
\clubsuit 9 8	\clubsuit Q 3

West	North	East	South
Williams	Ware	Taylor	Hollands
		Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass (!)	Double
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2♠ = general game force

My strong preference on the West hand would be to open 1♦ rather than 1♠ in third seat – you're not going to make a game and if the opponents play the hand you'll get your partner off to the right lead. As is his right, Stephen disagrees with me and opened his 5-card major, after which nobody would fault Paddy for leading the ♠A against 4♥. However, he somehow found the miraculous lead of a diamond! Unsure if this was a doubleton, Stephen cashed two rounds of diamonds, and upon discovering the count he switched a spade. Mike rose with the king – his only chance to make the contract – and was disappointed to discover Paddy's holding. The only upside was that he could easily drop the queen of hearts as Paddy had already shown up with too many points.

Match 3

The third match of qualifying served up an Open Team showdown: Phil Markey – Joe Haffer vs Liam Milne – James Coutts. I arrived at the table slightly late and was delighted to find the auction on the first board they were playing already involved a pre-empt and a redouble (by the same player).

Board 14, Dealer East, Nil Vul

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

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West	North	East	South
Milne	Markey	Coutts	Haffer
		Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
3♦	All Pass		

Phil and Joe are renowned for their wild pre-empts, but the value is in the wide range: this one looks totally normal and I wouldn't be surprised if most of the field opened 3♣. Phil wasn't quite confident enough to double 3♦, though he considered it for a long while.

Phil led his singleton club to Joe's ace, and Joe switched to a low trump which was won in dummy with the seven. A low spade was played to Liam's ten and Phil's queen, and he led the ♥J, covered by the queen and ruffed by Joe, who took advantage of Phil's known spade entry to have the ♥K pushed through dummy's ace, which he could trump. Joe played a third round of spades on which Liam pitched his heart as the king won in dummy. Liam ruffed a heart to his hand, led a low club which he trumped in dummy, and played a spade, pitching his ♣J and letting Phil ruff. He had to lose two more tricks to go four off – but no double, no trouble.

Phil's system, Outback Acol, has a reputation which precedes it. In recent years, Phil has incorporated a lot more gadgets and is able to bid hands more scientifically (not that he always chooses to). Some of them were on show here as they confidently made their way to the cold grand slam:

Board 2, Dealer E, NS Vul

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



Phil Markey and Joe Haffer

West	North	East	South
Milne	Markey	Coutts	Haffer
			1♣*
2♦	2♥	3♦	4♥
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

1♣ showed either 14-19 points with a balanced hand or 9+ points and an unbalanced hand with long clubs. After Joe jumped to 4♥, Phil could place him with either a diamond singleton (which would be great) or a strong NT (which would be better). 4♠ was keycard and 5♦ showed 2 without the queen. I am going to take credit for the rest of the auction (and I can prove that I added this to the system) - 5♠ (the next step) asked if Joe had anything else, and he was able to respond 5NT showing the king of spades – a definite improvement on a 5NT king ask as Joe wouldn't have been able to tell Phil about the vital card. Phil could easily count 13 tricks so bid seven and the play was trivial – he claimed at trick 1.



James Coutts and Liam Milne



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GOLD COAST TEAMS DAY 1

Barbara Travis

This Match 1, I chose to watch the Under 1500 Teams. West proceeded to play 8 of the first nine hands, and I eventually said, "I know I'm a hog so I should never play with this West!"

Board 4 was a relatively mundane 4♥ contract, with the only issue being whether 11 tricks would be made – somewhat irrelevant at Teams (but massively important at Pairs).

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

North led the ♦5, won with the King. Whilst you can draw trumps then hope that the clubs break 3-3 or there is doubleton jack, a superior line combines all these options.

Cash the ♥A and ♥K, then lead the ♣A, a club to the queen, and lead back towards your ♣K. If the ♣J has fallen doubleton, you draw the third trump before continuing clubs, utilising the !C10; if clubs are 3-3, you also draw the last trump. If South has a doubleton and three trumps, they are trumping your loser anyway. If South shows out, you win the ♣K and hope that the hand with 4 clubs also has the third trump. You can now lead your small club and trump it in dummy, making 11 tricks, which was the situation at the table.

Let's just bid the East-West hands on Board 7 (Dealer South, All Vul)

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

West	East
1♣	1♠
2♣	5♣

I think there are some better options than the jump to 5♣. Since 3♣ should be invitational, I believe the jump to 4♣ should be game forcing and, since you can jump to 5♣, it also implies slam interest. My preferred East bid is 3♦ if a splinter, otherwise 4♦ as a splinter. West may consider their hand a minimum but, if East splinters in diamonds (singleton or void with 4-card club support), what can the rest of their hand be? You can almost envisage their ♠A, ♥A and ♣K. At the same time, West shouldn't be the one to use Roman Keycard Blackwood since they only have one key card. Cue bid – and let East take control of the auction via RKCB.

For Match 2, I moved to the Novice Teams. I was warmly greeted in the section (for once), with the players telling me how much they liked the 'lesson' component of my articles, so I'm going to continue in that vein. NS were Rhonda Khong and Margaret Cusack from Ballina BC. (Margaret is also runs the Secretariat for the ABF.) EW were Rina and Divyesh Shah from Undercroft BC, WA.)

Lesson 1:

On Board 18, East held:

♠ A 7 6 3
♥ A 10 7 3
♦ J 9
♣ A 9 5

He opened 1♣ and heard partner respond 1♦. Since 1♦ usually denies a 4-card major, unless responder is strong, one should rebid 1NT. Bidding two suits at the 1-level should show at least 4-4 in those suits. Additionally, if West is strong and shapely they will either reverse or use some form of checkback over the 1NT rebid.

Lesson 2:

Board 23, Dealer South, All Vul

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

You are sitting West, on lead, with:

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 6 3
♦ A Q 10
♣ K J 6 2

I think this hand calls for a passive lead, i.e. a trump. You have a decent hand, but you are leading around to declarer – and you don't want to help them. Any heart honours are already onside, so just lead a heart and don't help declarer.

The full hand:

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

Look at the effect of leading a black suit... A club lead gives away a club trick and a club ruff. A spade lead provides declarer with two spade winners. East has to win the spade and shift to trumps to prevent declarer ruffing a club in dummy, after which declarer will come home on accurate card-reading. So think about the auction and whether you are leading through or around to the strength.



Lesson 3:

Board 25, Dealer North, EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	3NT (?)
All Pass			

Margaret Cusack didn't quite know what to bid, so punted 3NT with a tenuous (at best) diamond stopper.

West cashed the ♦A, with East discouraging with the ♦10. Unerringly, she switched to the ♥8 – 2 – Queen – Ace. Margaret cashed the ♣A, overtook the ♣J with the king and cashed her six clubs, all excellent technique when a trick short, and under threat in the red suits. Unfortunately for the defence, East threw both his spades and West threw one spade, two diamonds and her remaining heart. Margaret kept the ♠A-8, ♥J, ♦J-8. She led the ♠Q and East showed out; now she stopped and re-planned, winning the ♠A and exiting a spade to West who only had diamonds left. She was caught in an endplay and had to give declarer a diamond trick. Oh for that critical ♥7.

When the match had finished, we stopped to discuss the best way to bid the South hand after West's 2♦ overcall. There are two options: one option is to re-open with a double, basically asking partner to 'do something intelligent', and the other is to cue bid 3♦. Each will result in North bidding 3♠ so you will reach the far more sensible 4♠ contract.



Lesson 4:

Board 27, Dealer South, Nil Vul

South held:

♠ A
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ A K Q J 10 5 3

West	North	East	South
1♠	Double	2♠	1♣ ?

This is a 3NT rebid. 2NT, even on this auction, shows 18-19 HCP with a spade stopper, so 3NT conventionally shows 7 solid clubs and something outside, which in this case must be a spade stopper. All you need from partner is one ace for 3NT to make. Any other bid risks missing game or reaching the wrong game.



Naomi Hannah-Brown

For the first time in four days, I ventured into the Open field to watch. I chose to watch the leading two teams: 28 Fisher v. 147 Perfect. As it happened, this was a match-up of two Kiwi pairs who were clearly very familiar with each other. NS were Liz and Blair Fisher, playing Symmetric Relay Precision. EW were Hamish Brown and Johanna Perfect, playing MOSCA ("the system formerly known as Fantunes") where all 1-level opening bids are forcing (and unlimited) and 2-level openings are 9-13 HCP.

Wednesday 5th February 2025

Board 2 was the only lengthy relay sequence, with Liz and Blair easily reaching the grand slam, playing in 7♥:

♠ Q 3
 ♥ A K Q 8 7 5
 ♦ A 9 4
 ♣ K 7

irrelevant irrelevant

♠ A K
 ♥ 10 4 3 2
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ A Q J 5 4

Blair, South, opened a nebulous 1♦ and Liz relayed to find out everything she needed to know about his hand. By the time she bid 7♥, she could describe his hand as 2-4-2-5, 5 controls (where ace = 2), 2 of the top 3 honours in clubs, nothing in either red suit, 2 top honours in spades. Easy stuff!

Board 5 was really unfortunate for N-S (NS vulnerable):

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣ (16+)	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Those familiar with relay systems try to break relays by bidding at the 2-level, as Hamish did here. Some people don't like to reopen with a double when holding a void, but clearly Liz is not of that ilk; nor am I. I'd have reopened with a double and I, too, would have defended 2♠X.

That dummy was rather ideal for declarer. A trick was dropped in the defence, with 2♠X going down 1 trick, which wasn't a great score with a vulnerable game available.

Board 9, Dealer North, EW Vul

♠ Q 10 3
♥ 10 8 7 6 4
♦ Q 9 3
♣ A 4

♠ K 8 6 4 2
♥ A Q 5
♦ 10 7 4
♣ K 9

♠ A
♥ K J 9 3 2
♦ A 5 2
♣ Q J 7 3

♠ J 9 7 5
♥ --
♦ K J 8 6
♣ 10 8 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥ (F)	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Hamish's 2♥ rebid showed a minimum hand with 5 hearts and 4+ clubs because they use 2♣ as Gazilli.

Blair led the ♦8, 3rd and low – 4 – queen – ace. Hamish cashed the ♠A then crossed to dummy with the ♥Q, South showing out. A diamond loser was discarded on the ♠K and the ♣K was led, taken by Liz's ace. Liz led a diamond to Blair's jack and then on the ♦K Hamish discarded his ♣7. He had a grand plan...

He trumped the spade exit, cashed the ♣Q then trumped his ♣J with dummy's ♥A. The last three cards saw him holding the ♥K-J-9 over North's ♥10-8-7; making on a trump coup, and one very gleeful declarer.

At the end of an exciting and swingy match, the scoreline read BROWN 55, FISHER 43.



Johanna Perfect, Liz Fisher, Hamish Brown and Blair Fisher

OTHER WINNERS FROM THE PAIRS

Prizes were awarded to the best pair in these categories:

Best Queensland Open Pair

Nik Moore and Rachel Langdon

Best Women's Pair

Greer Tucker and Lyn Carter

Best Intermediate Queensland Pair

Hugh Gehrman and Nigel Cleminson

Best Restricted Queensland Pair

Joanne McCarthy and Julia Caldwell

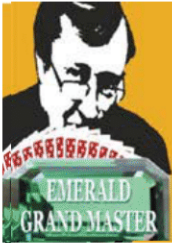
Best Novice Queensland Pair

Helen Jones and Kevin Ridgway



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INTO THE MIXED (PART 5 OF 8)

Peter Gill

Lazer leads by 12 imps - 7 boards to go.

♠ J 5
♥ J 7 5 4 2
♦ J 9 6 4
♣ 6 5

♠ Q 7 4 2
♥ 10 9 8
♦ 8 7 5
♣ K 9 7

♠ 8 3
♥ Q 6
♦ K Q 3 2
♣ A Q J 4 3

♠ A K 10 9 6
♥ A K 3
♦ A 10
♣ 10 8 2

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Gumby	Dalley	Lazer
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

The Vugraph commentator Barbara Travis wrote: "Arlene's 14 point 1NT has worked here. I have only played 4.5 days with her (at the VCC), but I never saw her open 1NT with 14!"

Little did she know. Arlene told me the full story.

"I knew I had the most terrible 14 count, but I had this feeling that NS had 4M on, and a 15-17 1NT opening might scare them out of their cold game. So I opened 1NT, even though I think it's an overbid from a logic point of view. After I passed 2♥, the bidding tray went to the other side of the screen. With my Qx dropping, I willed them to pass out 2♥, missing their cold game. Only 3♥. I felt relieved. Pauline gave 3♥ a look, then passed. Phew. Minus 170. My 1NT opening had worked."

At the other table, Liz and I also missed game - we were plus 200 - 1 imp to us.

Both women in our team have strong intuition which in my opinion helps their bridge enormously.

Today's tip: Follow your intuition at bridge. If logic tells you one thing and intuition another, go with the intuition. Of course, if you happen to have no intuition, please ignore today's tip.

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

You are South, declarer in 4♠. West leads the ♥K. How would you play?

You have nine top tricks and can make extra tricks from clubs if they break 3-2, or you can hope that the ♦A is onside (East). What are the potential pitfalls?

Your risk is that, if East wins the club, they may (should) switch to the ♦Q through your King, and you will lose 3 diamond tricks if West holds the ♦A. Ideally, you would like to establish the club suit without losing the lead to East, who is the danger hand. Is this possible?

As long as the clubs split 3-2 (and trumps are 3-1 or 2-2), there is a lovely solution, although it is not intuitive. You duck the ♥K at trick 1. Now you can use the ♥A to discard your third club!

You draw two rounds of trumps, retaining the ♠K as a re-entry to dummy, then cash the ♣A and ♣K, but now you can trump the third club, high if necessary. You can cross back to dummy with the ♠K and enjoy two long club winners, making 11 tricks instead of 9.

♠ K 8 4
♥ A 10
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A K 8 4 2

♠ 7 5
♥ K Q 8 7 4
♦ A 7 5 2
♣ 10 5

♠ 10 3
♥ J 9 5 3 2
♦ Q J 10
♣ Q J 9

♠ A Q J 9 6 2
♥ 6
♦ K 8 3
♣ 7 6 3

2025 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S TEAM

Renee Cooper

Lauren Travis

Ella Jacob

You'll find Ella at almost every national tournament, especially last year when she led the McCutcheon Trophy throughout the year only to be pipped at the post by Phil Markey. She plays with Renee Cooper, who she says has a fighting spirit and tries her heart out on every board. Ella's favourite convention is Stayman but she will never, ever play Minorwood – don't even ask. Of all her successes, including a silver medal in an Under 26 Women's world championship, her win in the 2024 Gold Coast Pairs is the one she's most proud of. She aspires to qualify for an Australian Mixed Team, win the National Open Teams, and have a successful long-term partnership, and wishes she'd got to have a game with Justin Lall. Ella loves to study bridge by reading Hugh Kelsey books, watching V8mama's Twitch stream and listening to the Sorry Partner podcast. She is married to Nick Jacob with whom she has two children, is a talented musician who sings and plays the piano and cello, and she speaks Japanese and Spanish. Ella is also the Australian Youth Coordinator and believes that the strong sense of community is the most attractive aspect of bridge for young people.

Jodi Tutty

Jodi's proudest moment in bridge was making the final of the ANC Interstate Teams in 2009, representing NT. Nobody would have backed them to qualify, not even themselves, so it was as good as winning! Like Dagmar, she prefers natural bidding, and said she doesn't like Minorwood. She enjoys Dagmar's sense of humour and directness, and that they don't take each other too seriously in their partnership. Jodi values having a relaxed state of mind going into a major bridge tournament, and loves the sense of community in Australian bridge. She recommends reading any Hugh Kelsey books. Jodi and Dagmar both said they're not chasing wins at the bridge table, but would like to play some European tournaments, mostly for the fun, travel and chocolate (although I suspect they might fight over the chocolate).

Renee is an avid traveller who speaks Swedish and some French and Spanish, and works as a high voltage reliability engineer in the mining industry in WA. She's also a regular feature on Australian representative teams, having played world championships in youth, women's and mixed categories, but her lifelong dream is to qualify for an Australian Open Team. Her favourite win was at age 11, when she qualified first for the WA Youth Team after being excluded from the team the year before based on her age. Renee's favourite conventions are Gazilli and her complex structure over 1m (2M) with her open/mixed partner Ben Thompson. She hates playing 1♥-2♠ and 1♠-3♥ as 3-card limit raises, much preferring a 3-way 2♣ response. Renee recently had her first experience of Phil Markey's 'Outback Acol' system, saying that she enjoyed having licence to bid like a maniac knowing that's what partner expects her to do, and that it gave her a different and interesting perspective on the game she knows so well. Renee praised her partner Ella's creativity and innovation, and her ability to "dismantle a normal hand" for the opponents with inventive defences. She likes to prepare for international tournaments by travelling beforehand, which helps her to recharge, decompress from work and get into the right headspace to play good bridge. Renee loves seeing the diversity on teams winning and placing in national open events, with lots of women succeeding in the past year or two, and more LGBT people around the youth scene. She's looking forward to seeing more progress in diversity at the top level of bridge in the future.



Renee Cooper and Ella Jacob

Dagmar Neumann

Dagmar is originally from Germany but learnt bridge in Australia, and struggles to play bridge in her first language. She previously had a long-term partnership with Margaret Bourke and together they won an Asia Pacific pairs. Her favourite convention is transfer Lebensohl and she prefers as much natural bidding as possible. Dagmar's preparation for the world championships will involve going through and analysing all the hands that she and Jodi play together, and she is planning to recognise the positives as well as learning from mistakes. Dagmar appreciates Jodi's supportive but direct approach, and said they give each other leeway at and away from the table. Her favourite bridge authors are Victor Mollo and Mike Lawrence, and she also enjoys the Sorry Partner podcast. Dagmar believes that bridge is a great equaliser (although it would be great to see more women at the top level), with people of all ages, levels of wealth and education, and from locations all over Australia playing together.

Sue Lusk

Sue's first ever tournament was the 1971 Gold Coast Congress, where she made the final of the pairs, before qualifying for the semis in the teams a year or two later in a "well known team of lawyers: Neill, Neill, Neill and Fordham" with her parents. She has a lot to be proud of in her bridge career, but her favourite achievements are winning the 1975 Youth Championship and making the semis of the NOT the following week, playing in her first national representative team in 1982, and, with her late husband David, building the ABF Newsletter into what it is today. She loves playing the Rangewood convention and is not a fan of Bergen raises. She said her partner Therese is delightful to play with, has a great temperament, loves to learn, and is a good foil for Sue's flights of fancy. Sue has come close to winning the Open ANC and the NOT, and would love to have those feathers in her cap, as well as aspiring to make a mixed team playing with her brother Bruce. Her top tips for preparation include arriving early, practising lots before heading away, and not making too many changes to the system in the lead up to an event.



Jodi Tutty and Dagmar Neumann

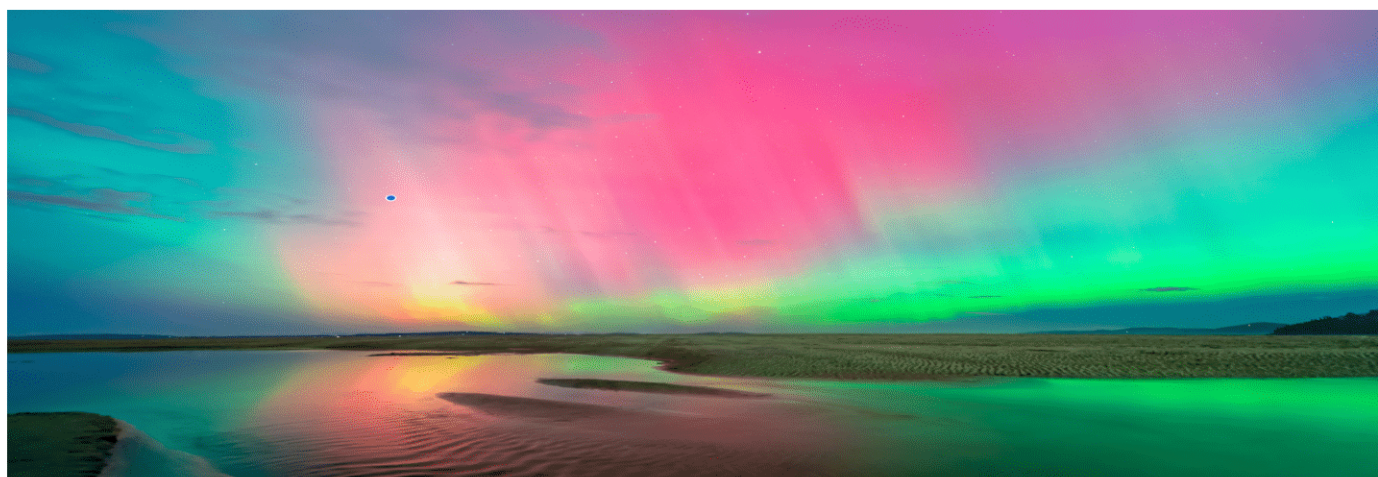
Therese Demarco

Therese is a first-time Australian representative this year – the figurative baby of the team. She was on the same NT Open team as Jodi in 2009, and that is her proudest moment in bridge, along with winning the 2023 Women's ANC for SA. She loves checkback and hates Gerber. Therese is pleased to see the community of young players growing and having success in Australian bridge. She said that Sue is a lovely partner, strong player, and a calm and experienced presence who she can learn a lot from. Therese's main focus in her preparation for a tournament is calming her nerves by meditating or going for a walk. She'd love to win more ANCs and is hopeful of enjoying her experience representing Australia this year. Her book recommendations include Card Play Technique and anything by Hugh Kelsey.



Therese Demarco and Sue Lusk

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FIXED INCOME SOLUTIONS



TRUMP PROMOTIONS

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

It is one thing to play a defence to a strong 1NT that allows you to distinguish between one- and two-suiters, but be aware that if you have a weak hand and a long suit you may be better advised to pre-empt to the 3-level at once than to show your one-suiter with an artificial call of double or 2♣. Your opponents are far more disrupted, although you put yourself at more risk.

Today's South believed in that philosophy, and was prepared to put his money where his mouth was.

Dealer North Nil Vul

♠ Q J 8 4 3

♥ K

♦ 8 6 4 2

♣ A 6 2

♠ 10 9 7

♥ Q 9 7

♦ J 10 7

♣ J 7 5 3

♠ A K 6 5

♥ A 8

♦ A Q 9 3

♣ 9 8 4

♠ 2

♥ J 10 6 5 4 3 2

♦ K 5

♣ K Q 10

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1NT	3♥
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

West gambled out a pass facing his partner's take-out double -- what else could he sensibly do?

At matchpoints a bottom is only a bottom.

On the lead of the ♦J to the ace and a low diamond back, how should South play?

On the surface, South looks able to hold his losers to two trump tricks and one trick in each of spades and diamonds. The only real danger is a trump upper-cut/promotion. East is almost marked from the first two tricks with at least a four-card diamond suit and all the missing controls.

Let us see what might happen after careless declarer play. South plays a heart to the king and ace, ruffs the

HISTORIC GCC STORIES AND BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

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

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

Please keep the stories relatively short!

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

Thanks,
Barbara, Lauren and Barry

diamond return low, and leads out the ♥10. West wins, crosses with a spade to his partner, and the fourth round of diamonds promotes the ♥9 for the setting trick.

Let's go back to the point where declarer has ruffed the third diamond:

♠ Q J 8 4 3

♥ ---

♦ 8

♣ A 6 2

♠ 10 9 7

♥ Q 9

♦ ---

♣ J 7 5 3

♠ A K 6 5

♥ 8

♦ Q

♣ 9 8 4

♠ 2

♥ J 10 6 5 4

♦ ---

♣ K Q 10

Foreseeing this denouement, South found the riposte of crossing to the ♣A to lead the fourth diamond himself! On this trick he discarded his spade. Now there is no trump promotion, since East has no diamonds left, and West cannot usefully discard either a club or a spade to get a ruff or trump promotion.

South could win the lead of a black suit, and drive out the ♥Q, losing just two trumps and two diamonds.

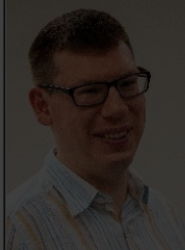
CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM



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 Transational 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

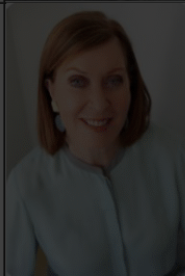
Andy Hung
Stoppers: Showing, Asking,
or Neither?



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.



Online Teams League

7 Apr to 26 May 2025 (Autumn season)

Play against the best of the best



- Monday nights from 7pm
- Seven weeks, seven matches (won't compete with Gold Point events)
- Online with RealBridge
- 24-board match (played as 2 x 12-board half matches)
- Divisions of 8 teams playing a round robin
- Red masterpoints, prizes on offer (including an Annual Team Championship!)

Entry fee: \$560 per team (4-8 players)

Entries close 8pm, 4th April 2025

Enter and pay on My ABF:

<https://www.myabf.com.au/go/OTL25Aut>

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

DEFENDERS, COUNT YOUR TRICKS!

It takes five tricks to defeat 3NT, four to beat a major-suit game, and just three to scuttle a game in a minor, but defenders can forget that simple proposition.

When dummy appears, a good defender thinks along the same lines as declarer: A defender counts sure tricks, then imagines where any other tricks may come from. At IMPs, a defender must focus on how the contract may be defeated; at matchpoints, he may set a realistic “trick-target” with the goal of limiting overtricks.

Dlr North ♠ A Q 4
E-W Vul ♥ J 4
IMPs ♦ Q J 5
 ♣ K Q 9 5 2

♠ K 10 3
♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ A 10
♣ A 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

North-South conduct an old-fashioned auction to game. South’s response of 3♦ is forcing. As West you lead the ♥2: jack, king, ace. At the second trick, declarer leads a trump.

HIDEAWAY

KITCHEN & BAR

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

2657 Gold Coast Highway

You will score the minor-suit aces, but the play to the first trick marks South with the ♥Q, so you will get no hearts – and no spades since declarer can finesse against your king. Your only real hope is to give partner a club ruff. Rise with the ♦A and lead the ♣A and a second club.

Dlr: East ♠ 8 6 3
Vul: None ♥ 7 4 2
IMPs ♦ A 8 2
 ♣ K J 6 4

♠ K Q 9 2
♥ J 10 6
♦ K 4
♣ A 9 7 2

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

As West, you judge to sell out to 3♦. (At matchpoints, a case would exist for bidding 3♠, gaining if East could make it or if he went down when 3♦ would have made; but at IMPs, where your goal is to achieve a plus score – any plus score – letting 3♦ play will be wrong only if both 3♦ and 3♠ make).

You lead the ♠K, winning, and a second spade to East’s ace. South ruffs the third spade. He leads a trump to dummy’s ace and a second trump: jack, queen, king. Suppose you shift to the ♥J, and South wins with the king. He then leads ... a low club.

From the moment dummy appeared, you should have known this was coming. Do you take your ♣A or duck? If you duck, you must do so promptly; a huddle will tell declarer you have the ace.

West must think and count in advance. South had two spades and, it appears, six diamonds. But East responded 1♠ on a four-card suit, and if he had four hearts, he would have bid 1♥, showing his four-card suits “up the line.” So South had four hearts – and one club.

South holds ♠ J x, ♥ A K x x, ♦ Q 10 x x x x, ♣ x.

If you correctly grab your ♣A, South can discard one heart on the ♣K but still has a heart loser. Down one.

CHOOSING A LINE OF PLAY

Barbara Travis

Very often, declarer has more than one line of play to choose from. There are times when declarer can try different options, as long as they understand the sequence in which to try them, but there are times when declarer has to commit to one line of play immediately, whether because of entries or because of a weakness in another suit.

You are South, playing in 3NT, with no opposition bidding, and receive the ♥10 lead.

Dummy

♠ 6 4 3

♥ Q J

♦ A 7 5

♣ A 8 6 5 4

Declarer

♠ A K

♥ A K

♦ K 8 6 3 2

♣ 9 7 3 2

You have seven top tricks, so you will need to work on one of the minor suits. What is your plan?

Are you thinking you should play clubs first?

Are you thinking you should play diamonds first?

Are you trying to find a way to combine the two options?

The heart lead has removed one of your two stoppers in the suit, therefore you need to find a line that works but only loses the lead once more; after that, the opponents have at least three more heart tricks. So, what is better?

Let's look at each minor suit:

- You hold nine cards in clubs, so the opponents have four cards in the suit. You need clubs to break 2-2, since you can only afford to lose the lead once. The odds of a 2-2 break are ~41%.
- You hold eight cards in diamonds, needing the suit to break 3-2 to create the extra two winners in time. The odds of a 3-2 break are ~68%.



Andy Hung's celebrity speaker talk on Monday morning was so popular that over 40 people had to be turned away! He kindly agreed to repeat the lesson on Tuesday morning for those who missed out.

By the way, most of the time you don't need to know exact percentages. However, you should memorise this:

- If you are missing an 'even' number of cards in a suit, they will break as evenly as possible (e.g. 2-2) less than 50% of the time.
- If you are missing an 'odd' number of cards in a suit, they will break as evenly as possible (e.g. 3-2) more than 50% of the time.

Interestingly then, it is superior to work on diamonds first, rather than clubs (which is your longer suit)! There are two reasons for this:

- The percentages (see above) – 68% v 41%, and
- The ability to combine both options, if necessary (see below).

On this hand, entries are not an issue, so you should NOT duck a diamond. You should cash the

♦A and ♦K first. Should the suit break 4-1, and you duck the first or second round, you will have no fall-back position. The heart return will lead to your defeat. If, instead, you cash the top two diamonds and find a 4-1 break, you can revert to clubs – your second option – and hope for a 2-2 break (now your only chance). Of course, if diamonds prove to be 3-2, you simply continue by losing a diamond, establishing your two extra winners.

If you play clubs first, whether you cash the ♣A or duck a round, any 3-1 break will defeat your contract, and you will have no fall-back position because the second heart stopper will have been removed already.

PRO SLAM BIDDING

Lauren Travis, adapted from

Australian Youth Bridge Bulletin, March/April 2013

The qualifying stage of the Gold Coast Pairs always produces some weird results. This year, playing with Susan Humphries, I set myself a goal to get a room-wide top board. In order to do that, you generally need to get a huge penalty from the opponents, or you need to do something insane and have it pay off. Here's my effort:

Dlr North ♠ Q 7 6

NS Vul ♥ 6 5 4

♦ K 5 3 2

♣ 9 6 3

♠ A K 10 8

♥ A Q 10

♦ 8 4

♣ A K J 7

♠ J

♥ J 9 8 3

♦ A Q J 7

♣ 10 5 4 2

♠ 9 5 4 3 2

♥ K 7 2

♦ 10 9 6

♣ Q 8

West

North

East

South

Pass Pass Pass Pass

2NT Pass 3♣* Pass

3♦* Pass 3♠* Pass

3NT Pass 5NT* Pass

7NT All Pass

After a Muppet Stayman sequence and discovering we had no fit, Susan made an aggressive but not unreasonable 5NT bid, offering a choice of slams in case we had a minor fit. At this point, I forgot she was a passed hand, and figured 5NT was slam-forcing and quantitative. Holding a maximum – a nice 21-count – I got a bit excited and bid 7NT. Oops.

The opponents led the ♥5, to the ♥K and ♥A. With 2 spades, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs, I had 9 top tricks. Time to show off my finessing skills. I played a diamond to the Jack, a club to the Ace, and took another diamond finesse. Then when I played a second club and saw the ♣Q, I had my 13 tricks and a top board.

While 7NT was a fun adventure, I later discovered that the much safer 6NT would have netted us 99%!

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MY FIRST GOLD COAST CONGRESS

Barbara Travis

The first day was my 20th birthday – and 25-hour day – and I was wishing I hadn't come! Peter had gone rogue on me during Q2, psyching and generally making me unhappy. I was astounded to discover we had won our section! (Bear in mind, back then, we scored on travelling scorers and, after everyone finished play, scores were collated manually, a much-slower process than today's scoring using BridgeMates.)

Peter thought that the Barometer scoring of the final would distract me; he was wrong – it distracted him; but I sat with my back to the big screen showing the results anyway.

Scoring was based around ZERO being average (50%). We'd scored about +55 in session 1, probably something like 65%. We drew kibitzers for session 2! The second session didn't go very well and we scored -5.

All play was afternoon and evening, allowing lots of time to party after bridge at night and/or sleep in or swim (or even play golf) in the mornings. I'm a much nicer partner now, perhaps due to this experience, but I woke up grumpy with my partner. Over breakfast, I told him that I had no intention ever to play with him again after the final set of the Pairs, regardless of where we would finish! Suitably chastised, Peter behaved rather well through the final set. We were leading with one round to play, with Ron Klinger and Bob Richman hot on our heels.



Peter Jamieson, Barbara Gill, Kathy Buchen and Peter Buchen

The first two boards went badly for us. As I recall, I was on lead against 3NT and found a lead that allowed declarer to claim 13 tricks. My other choice of lead would have held them to 9 tricks. Fortunately, we settled down, and held on to win by half a top. It was awesome: I'd won my first national event, aged 20, AND I couldn't believe the pairs ("names") that had preceded us to the podium.

I stuck by my earlier vow, posing a partnership problem for our team. I had played with Peter Buchen quite often in Sydney, but Kathy insisted that if I refused to play with Peter J, then so did she! Kathy and I would play together, leaving 'the Peters' to partner up.

Over dinner, we had a few celebratory drinks before returning for the start of the Teams. Kathy and I were somewhat under the weather – and coffee wasn't available for 30 minutes!

In our first match, our opponents bid to a cold grand slam – cold from the perspective that two singleton queens fell. One queen appeared at trick 1, but that wasn't enough. Declarer had to play A-K-2 opposite J-10-4-3 for four tricks, so led the jack for the finesse. My singleton queen was onside, but partner now held the setting trick! Immediately after the hand, I realised I had sobered up (it only took that hand) and headed off to get Kathy a strong coffee; on my return, we each had two



*Peter Jamieson and Barbara Travis (then Gill)
after winning the 1979 Gold Coast Open Pairs Championship*

coffees! The Peters knew that we needed sobering up too, and had pre-ordered coffees for us.

I had a 28 year interval between Gold Coast Congresses, returning in 2007. This time, I shared a three-bedroom apartment with four others. On heading home for dinner that night – between sessions still – our house-mates insisted that our scores would give us three outright tops across the room, almost impossible. We did, in fact, score two outright tops and one shared top. I don't remember the hands, but I do remember the opponents playing in 3D XX, when Elizabeth had opened 1D and clearly had 4+ diamonds. That went for 2200. We also played in 1M XX, making 9 tricks, vulnerable, for +920 (looks like 6-minor!). Bear in mind, we were still calculating scores manually, so while I was dummy partner expected me to plan the score for the redoubled contract making, whether 8, 9 or 10 tricks!

Elizabeth and I finished 6th in the Pairs and won the prize for the Best Women's Pair. At the end of the Pairs, I congratulated the winners: John Armstrong and Howard Melbourne. John was an old friend; I'd only encountered Howard at the table when we met in the final. I congratulated them for 'winning my title from me'. Howard looked perplexed, having won the Pairs before, so I explained that I'd won in 1979 and not returned, hence I considered that I was defending my title.

That must have been a memorable introduction, because Howard and I have been married since 2012. We also managed to win the Pairs twice, in 2013 and 2016.



Barbara Travis and Howard Melbourne after their win in the 2016 Bobby Richman Open Pairs Championship

174 172*

Ella Jacob,

Australian Youth Bridge Bulletin, March-April 2013

Ella wrote this article about a year into her bridge career. Given her successes over the past year, it's clear she no longer needs to play in the F section to manage a win. (LT)

In between squishing far too many youth players into one small apartment and laughing violently at a Taylor Swift goat parody song, Andi Boughey and I managed a win at the Gold Coast Pairs.

Now I've heard it's a known strategy that many of the better players at these kinds of congresses happily sabotage the first rounds of the event. The aim being to be placed in a lower ranked category and to get to come up against players of lower calibre, in order to come home with some prize money as opposed to the honour of playing in the final or plate.

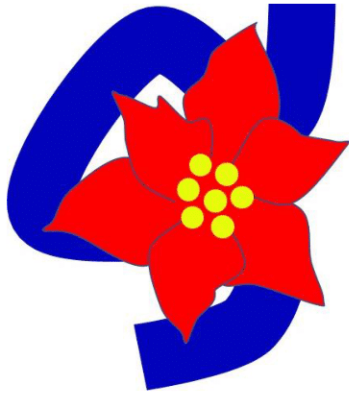
Andi and I would love to be able to say this was exactly our plan... however this was not the case. We decided bridge hated us, as our first few rounds were less than desirable. In this instance, we sadly deserved to play in the F section.

Nevertheless, we managed to brew! Now, when thinking about this article, we tossed up many a different hand to add to the myriad of decent plays in this bulletin. Yet, amidst all the trump coups, stunning auctions, strip squeezes and funky end plays that Andi and I pulled out at a moment's notice, none really outshone the others. That, and we didn't really want to share our secrets.

So, no, we can't sniff a Qx like Adam Edgton, and sure, sometimes we transfer to 4 card suits thinking it'll work out really well, but apparently the consistent weird bridge we mustered was more than enough to ship it in the F section. Bring on the E section next year 😊

[I Knew You Were Trouble \(Goat's Version\)](#) (LT: *It's worth the watch, especially if Ella is nearby.*)

**If you would like the story behind the title, I'm sure Ella and Andi would be absolutely delighted to explain their 12-year-old inside joke.*



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Residentially qualified pairs also play for the Queensland Mixed Pairs Title
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- 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.



GCC HISTORY

CONVENTION CENTRE: 2007 to 2025

Here's Therese Tully in 2006, writing about the move to the Convention Centre:

“Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.” So said Jerry Frankhauser and I think he sums up my emotions pretty well.

I alternate between petrified at the thought of being taken out of my comfort zone and familiar routines (and old maxims like “if it isn't broken, why fix it”) to being hopeful that the new venue will solve so many of our existing problems like space and split venues – to the realisation that this is the most exciting opportunity to create the greatest bridge congress in the world whilst still retaining our special Gold Coast holiday atmosphere.

We had to move: As you can see, we are bursting at the seams. After contemplating restricting numbers or incorporating a third venue, we realised it was ‘time for a change’.

Therese had a vision – Open, Senior and Restricted all under one roof. Sounds awkward, but anyone could walk in and find their place easily due to – what she then planned as – a colour coordinated table cloth system. This was, in fact, solved by having the wonderful sectional banners made, directing players to the relevant section.

Chief Tournament Director, Laurie Kelso, discussed the opportunity to return the Open Teams to a single field for the qualifying rounds. The Open Teams had been split into two sections between the two hotels for some years.



GCC HISTORY: 10th GCC

In April 1971, in Australian Bridge, Keith McNeil reminisced about the 10th GCC.

The 10th happening took place at the Chevron Paradise, a name which seemed incongruous to many disgruntled partners. Impeccably organised, as usual, the main events were the Open Pairs and Open Teams.

The Pairs qualifying was a mixture of agony and ecstasy for Bob Robertson and myself, with an unfortunate preponderance of the former. One hand was etched in sulphuric acid on my heart. The contract was a pedestrian 4♠ and the trump suit was A-6-4-3 opposite J-9-8-5-2. Declarer – outwardly a sweet old lady – took less than five seconds to win the first trick and lead the !SJ through my K-Q-7, pinning partner's bare 10. Uttering choking sounds, I entered -450 for the usual zero, while partner enquired how declarer had come to lead the jack. He was sternly told that with four cards missing she ALWAYS finessed.

In the final of the Pairs, Lavings and Westcott ran to a big lead at the half-way mark, with McMahon – Seres, Evans – Weiss and Anderson – Newman handily placed. Evans – Weiss got up to win by a short half head, with Lavings – Westcott second. (See Paul Lavings recollection!)

Two sections each of 22 teams fought out a round robin to provide the two finalists. The favourites for the title, EVANS (Don Evans, Tony Jackman, Frank Jarvis, Michael Kent, Gerda Stern, Ian Weiss) were defeated in their section by BELLINGHAM (Frank Bellingham, Harry Hochmuth, Rudi Stern, Peter Nuffield), while SMILDE (Roelof Smilde, Mary McMahon, Jessel Rothfield, Wally Scott, Tim Seres) easily won their section. The final was a scrappy affair. SMILDE shot to a lead of

49 IMPs after the first 20 boards but had to survive a spirited fightback by BELLINGHAM to win the title.

GOLDEN MEMORIES

Richard Solomon

No doubt, this year's Congress will evoke happy nostalgic memories of past Gold Coast Congresses. It has done for me but perhaps not in the way you might think. Up to 5 years' ago, I had only once been to this Congress, at the old venue, back in the 90's, not the 17 or 1890's...I am not that old!

The "happy memories" started in my non-air-conditioned apartment bedroom. The weather was hot (I expected that) but somewhat wet. I am not really a fan of surf beaches and certainly not casinos. I was soon finding reasons I did not want to be here!

Then, on the second or third day, I experienced what is many people's dread (certainly mine) of being stuck in the hotel lift at the top but between floors. Suddenly, getting to my seat in time for the session became a very secondary aim. The agonies did not last many seconds but it seemed a lifetime. Just as strangely as the lift stopped, so it started. Freedom of the door opening could not have been sweeter.

I had a great partner, Tom. No pseudonyms to protect the innocent. That's his name! He's not just a great player but a great partner, too. I played a 4H contract. I huffed, puffed a lot, scratched my head as I am prone to do, but finally ended a trick short. The machine said I could make 10 tricks. "How" I enquired of Tom? Without the slightest touch of malice or sarcasm, he gave me a 2-word answer: "Draw trumps." I produced a rueful smile.

That was in the middle of one of most frustrating hour plus sessions at the bridge table I have ever experienced. It was Teams and in the first 8 or 9 hands of the match, I managed to declare and fail in my contract 7 times consecutively. They could not all be made by drawing

TABLES

Tables as of Tuesday night: 4,072
2024 comparison: 3,214 tables
2020 comparison: 4,216 tables

trumps but I was not feeling the best.

When such runs occur, you want to hide as dummy but no, there I was again at the wheel, this time in 3NT. No trumps to be drawn. Tom produced a reasonable dummy and I started to count tricks. A little smile came over my face as I could see 9 without losing the lead. When trick number 9 was won, Tom and both opponents applauded and shook my hand. I felt human again.

I did not enjoy that score-up.

It was well over 20 years before I returned but rather like the kid at Camp Granada, the sun came out very brightly, with the fabulous Broadbeach Convention Centre, its proximity to restaurants and accommodation, the friendliest bridge staff (though that was the same in my previous life at the Congress) and neat people to be and play bridge with. I even learnt how to make contracts!

I rather regretted being away for so long. At least, the last 4 years have been so good. Happy memories.



15% discount off food bill
8/90 Surf Parade



*Suzie Wall and Margaret Meakin
Winners – Restricted Final B*

GCC HISTORY - TIMELINE

1962	1 st Gold Coast Congress, Chevron Hotel.
1968	Teams Final on VuGraph. Started 8.00pm, finished 2.45am – in a tie. Four-board playoff held at 2.45am!
1981	Richard Grenside becomes Chief Director.
1985	State-wide power strike. Pairs played without lighting or air conditioning.
1987	Tony Jackman becomes Convenor.
1989	Move from Chevron Hotel to ANA Hotel.
2000	Laurie Kelso becomes Chief Director.
	Restricted Pairs event added.
2001	Expansion to include both ANA Hotel and Gold Coast International (GCI) Hotel.
	Seniors' and Restricted Teams events added.
2002	Seniors' Pairs event added.
2005	Therese Tully becomes Convenor.
	“You Ask, We Answer” expert panel added, after play: 11.00pm – 11.30pm
2007	Move to the Gold Coast Convention Centre, from Surfers to Broadbeach.
	Ivy Dahler Open and Restricted Butler added.
2008	Novice Pairs and Teams added.
2009	Yeh Bros Cup held immediately before GCC, bringing many international players.
	Matt McManus becomes Chief Scorer.
	Introduction of BridgeMates for scoring.
	Bulletin moved from 4 pages to world-class production.
2010	Intermediate Teams added.
2011	50 th Anniversary celebrations. Introduction of Theme Day.
	Introduction of Celebrity Speaker program.
	Intermediate Pairs added.
2012	Teams moved to morning/afternoon sessions. Pairs remained afternoon/night.
2013	Weekend Swiss and One Day Butler (Monday) added.
	First Rookie events.
2014	Gold Coast Open Pairs renamed in honour of Bob Richman: Bobby Richman Pairs.
2015	0-50 MP events added.
2017	0-500 MP events added.
2018	Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships held immediately before GCC.
	Pairs changed to morning/afternoon sessions. No night play.
2019	Tim Runting becomes Convenor.
2021	Gold Coast Congress cancelled, due to Covid-19 pandemic.
2022	0-1500 MP events added.
2025	63 rd and final Gold Coast Congress.

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

DAVID STERN

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



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Fella Hamilton are supporting the Rookie events. They are a women's clothing store with stores located throughout Australia. www.fellahamilton.com.au



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Fixed Income Solutions provides premium fixed income services to a range of wholesale clients. With a strong focus on credit and relative value, we target investment-grade bonds to generate truly diversified and liquid portfolios. Our high turnover, large volumes and low margins ensure our clients enjoy the best price execution in the market. www.fixedincomesolutions.com



PAUL LAVINGS BRIDGE BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

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

OUR SPONSORS



PENLINE

Penline has been offering quality stationery for all sizes of businesses since 1980 and has been a long-time supporter of the GCC, supplying the colourful pens.



SPRING NATIONALS: BRIDGE NSW

The Spring Nationals offer free entry to two Queensland teams and four Queensland pairs to enter their events.



STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA

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



TONY BEMROSE INSURANCE BROKERS (TBIB)

TBIB provide \$5,000 in sponsorship, plus the Prize Wheel. Take the opportunity to speak with them at the Congress; you will be impressed with the travel insurance deals they offer. www.tbib.com.au/abf/



TWO MEN AND A TRUCK

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

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.