

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

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Thursday 6th February 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

BULLETIN 6

McCutcheon and IBPA Award Presentation

Congratulations to the 2024 McCutcheon winners. Those who were in attendance at the presentation yesterday afternoon are pictured below: Sachiko Cathcart (Bronze National Master), Joann Theriault (Bronze State Master), Kate Macdonald (National Master), Ella Jacob (Grand Master), Philip Markey (Overall and Gold/Emerald/Diamond Grand Master).

Justin Mill and Nick Jacob were also presented with certificates for their IBPA Justin Lall Play Award, for a hand played by Justin and reported by Nick. You can find the write-up on page 38.



TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER

Barry Rigal

"When to Pre-empt and the Theory of Flaws"

More information on page 6

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 TEAMS: OPEN, MATCH 4

Barry Rigal

I sat down to watch Liam Milne and James Coutts N/S versus Michael Ware and Pete Hollands E/W. I suspect most of the action was at the other table, given the Butler Score from this table was virtually level but the boards were full of action.

The set started with a bang, on a deal where N/S belong in 3NT despite their 4-4 heart fit.

Board 15, Dealer South, NS vulnerable

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

After South opens 1♣ only the truly wild Wests would overcall. If West passes you would expect N/S to be able to bid

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

suggesting 4-3-3-3 and letting South use his judgment. In fact Milne-Coutts did reach 3NT from North for +630 while Xiaojing Deng and Graham McMullin defeated 4♥ by Robert Fruewirth on the spade lead and ruff.

The Milne team doubled their lead on the next hand.



Board 16, Dealer West, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Hollands	Milne	Ware	Coutts
Pass	1♦	2♣	4♠
All Pass			

Should Hollands lead a top heart here? It is easy to be wise after the event. On a club lead declarer pitched his hearts and passed the ♠Q, covered and won, for a painless +450. In the other room N/S played 5♦ on a club lead. Again the hearts went away. When declarer leads a top diamond, ducked, the winning line is to lead the ♠Q for the finesse covered all round. Next, cross back to hand in diamonds and repeat the finesse, and all the defenders get is two trumps. This line wasn't found and Milne led 24-0....but that was all about to change.

Ware started by picking up 5 IMPs for a doubled undertrick. It could have been a lot more since, at one point, Ware's opponents were playing 4♦ with 5-3 facing K-10-9-6-4 and a 5-1 break offside). Then Milne attempted game in both rooms down a mere 100 in each case, before the fun really started.

Both Wests had to decide what to do at unfavourable vulnerability after they heard 4♠ to their left, passed round to partner who doubled. They held:

♠ Q 9
♥ A Q 6 5
♦ K J 8
♣ 9 7 5 2

Hollands passed, but McMullin chose to bid, and ended in 5♥. The good news was that his side were cold for 11

tricks – but in no-trump not hearts where the opponents took two black aces and two ruffs. Meanwhile 4♠X went for 300 and Ware had 11 IMPs.

Board 20, Dealer West, All vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Hollands	Milne	Ware	Coutts
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	2♠	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

4♠ was intended and interpreted to show a good club raise – but was one keycard enough for that action? After the fact the players agreed that 4NT over 4♠ would have been a better hand than 5♣. Maybe that would get you to slam when it was making. Note that if East preempts (or makes a fit-raise of spades with a 3♥ call as a passed hand) maybe, just maybe, West can underlead the ♥ A for a spade shift. That did happen when Christine and Wayne Houghton took on Andrew Slater and Ken Dawson!

Coutts had just gone down in a two-ace slam and the next board posed him another awkward problem.

TABLES

Tables as of Wednesday night: 5,881

2024 comparison: 4,849 tables

2020 comparison: 6,207 tables

Board 21, Dealer North, NS vulnerable

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

As South he heard partner open 1♦ and the next hand bid 4♥. He doubled then took quite a while to raise Milne's 5♦ bid to six. Perhaps the combination of this board and the last persuaded Hollands to save – and he found that not only was the opponents' slam cold, the save cost less than their opponents' game. -500 went well with 1370 from the other room. From 24-0 down Ware now led 46-24.

There was still one game swing to come for each team. But the match essentially hinged on the next deal.

Board 24, Dealer West, Nil vulnerable

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

If you do not open the North hand you will surely come to rest in 4♠ not 6♠. In the former contract, Milne followed a simple route for 11 tricks rather than trying for more. Fruewirth and Thompson did get to slam – but they played 6♦ not 6♠. This needs a trump break and no spade ruff – or no spade lead. The defenders led a top heart and now declarer can ruff and has a very awkward

choice. The fall of the ♠10 means declarer can simply opt to draw trumps and pitch heart on the clubs, relying on one of spades or clubs to behave or a helpful spade singleton. That was the lie today, so Ware gained 10 IMPs instead of losing that number, winning the match by 31 IMPs, with a total of 107 IMPs scored over the 14 deals.



THE LAST DEAL AT THE GOLD COAST

Kenmore Bridge Club

For years we came with hearts so bright,
To bid and play until the night.
The Gold Coast shone, a home so grand,
Where cards were played with steady hand.

The tables filled with skill and cheer,
A meeting place we held so dear.
Yet now the final hand is cast,
The Gold Coast Congress plays its last.
Two thousand voices, filled with sorrow,
No grand return, no game tomorrow.
A legacy built through decades past,
Now just a memory fading fast.

Local shops will feel the sting,
No bustling crowds, no tills that ring.
The loss is more than just a game -
A city's heart won't beat the same.

So raise a glass, bid strong and bold,
One final match before the fold.
Though doors may close and games may end,
The Gold Coast spirit will transcend.

Thursday 6th February 2025

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.



Territory Gold Bridge Festival Alice Springs

27-31 August 2025

At the Alice Springs Convention Centre

Director: Matthew McManus

Sessions: Matchpoint Pairs - Aug 27th 9.30am and 2.15 pm and Aug 28th 9.30am
Swiss Teams - 28th 2.15pm Aug 29th 9.30am and 2.15pm
Swiss Pairs (with PQP's) – Aug 30th & 31st at 9.30am & 2.15 pm

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ACCOMMODATION

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Desert Palms Resort (approx. 5 min walk) Self-contained Villas:

Special Price: \$185 per night.

Mention the **Bridge Festival** when booking because rooms are limited.

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Enquiries to the Tournament Organiser: Eileen Boocock

Ph: (08) 89524061 Mob: 0409 677 356 eileenboocock@gmail.com

GOLD COAST TEAMS: OPEN**Barry Rigal****Match 5**

Rodrigo and I struggled mightily in Matches 5 and 6. One of the deals that caused us problems shows some of the advantages and disadvantages of transfers rather than checkback following opener's 2NT jump rebid.

Board 10, Dealer East, All vulnerable

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

After the bidding starts

West	East
	Pass
1♣	1♠
2NT	

East needs to check for three (or two) spades opposite as well as for four hearts, and if your checkback is 3♦ partner cannot do everything. If using natural methods, responder would like to use a direct 3♥ to show five, and checkback with four. By contrast over a 3♣ relay you do have a 3♦ call available...but were the opening call 1♦ you might like to reserve the rebid to emphasize diamonds. Transfers let you bid 3♦ to show hearts. Completing the transfer would promise four and giving preference to spades is maybe the least lie with ♠K-J doubleton – since partner with a bad five-card spade suit can bid 3NT to offer a choice of games.

All of this was undiscussed territory for us; when Rodrigo bid 3♥ over 2NT I could have saved him by bidding 3♠ and converting 3NT to 4♥ perhaps... but I just raised hearts thinking he had five, and that was 12 IMPs away.

Now a “might have been”: suspend reality for a while if you played this set...and put yourself in West's shoes here.

Board 4, Dealer West, All vulnerable

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

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

You lead an irreproachable ♦J. Declarer admires dummy for a full 90 seconds and plays low from dummy, winning the ace in hand as partner contributes an upside down ♦5. Now comes the heart five; you play the eight

TODAY'S CELEBRITY SPEAKER**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.

Location: Upstairs opposite Administration**Minimum \$5 contribution to ABF Youth Bridge****1:30-2:15pm**



(upside down count) – do you? Let's say you do. Partner takes the jack with his ace and returns a low club: three seven and you win the queen. Pause for reflection. What is going on? Why did declarer not draw trumps?

The simple answer is that declarer has

♠ A J 10 x
♥ Q 10 x
♦ A x x
♣ K J x

and is trying to build a home for dummy's club loser if trumps split and diamonds do not. You play back a club, take your ruff and live happily ever after.... NOT SO FAST.

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**

At the table declarer had something very similar, yet very different:

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

If you play back a club, declarer wins, draws trump, tests diamonds and eliminates them when they do not break. Then he takes his last chance of exiting the ♥Q to you, and you have nothing but hearts left for the ruff and discard. Of course that doesn't work for declarer today since the club and heart eights were switched. North had a third club to lead, but it was a damned close thing.

Match 6

There were huge swings available on Board 15, depending on which slam you reached, and how you played the clubs.

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

Today 6♠ is clearly much better than 6♣, because you do not need the discards. Change the ♦Q into the jack and the club eight into the nine, and 6♣ is where you have to be. Not easy to judge this. Our opponents played 6♠ from North on a top diamond lead against silent opponents. How are you going to tackle the clubs,

eventually?

To say that this problem has given me fits would be to understate the degree of my incompetence. But here (I hope) is my fourth try. Fourth time's a charm?

The opening lead has made it far more likely than not that the lead is from length. If so, you always make if diamonds are 3-3, or the hand sitting over you has the diamond length and any three-card club suit. You give up a club one way or another, and run the spades and hearts and achieve a squeeze. Therefore all your efforts in clubs should be to make when the player with the presumed diamond length has club shortness.

When you lead a low club from dummy and the next hand follows low, you have to measure up singleton or doubleton honour against singleton or doubleton nine. Clearly if you lead low to the eight initially you will lose to the doubleton or singleton nine. And there will be no squeeze. But you will succeed against the doubleton or singleton king or queen.

The specific order of play as the cards lie today is to win the diamond in hand unblock hearts, play three trumps ending in dummy and critically cash the heart king pitching a club. Then lead a club to the eight. Win eg the diamond return in dummy, then club to the ace, run spades, and squeeze your LHO.

But if you imagine the full layout with the club nine in the other opponent's hand your club to the eight would force



Jan Randall

an honor. Now when you run the diamonds and find they do not break you have a club finesse for the contract.

I wonder how many people fell into the trap on a diamond lead of winning in hand and drawing trumps then playing a club to the eight and nine? Now a club return removes your only entry to hand except for a diamond ruff, destroying the communications.

Board 28, Dealer West, NS vulnerable

♠ A 9 4
♥ K 2
♦ Q 9 3 2
♣ J 7 6 5

♠ K Q 2
♥ J 10 9 4 3
♦ J 8 6
♣ A 8

♠ 10 6 5
♥ Q 6 5
♦ A K 10 7 5 4
♣ K

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ A 8 7
♦ --
♣ Q 10 9 4 3 2

Some defences are easier than others. At our table we played the respectable 4♥ contract on a club lead. However when Rodrigo Garcia da Rosa led a heart at trick two south flew up with the ace to play the ♠8 through, and now the diamond shift netted the ruff.

In the other room E-W played 3NT from West on a club lead. Declarer cashed the ♦A, thoughtfully unblocking the eight when South showed out, then led a spade up and put in the king. North now has to win the ace and must not return a club despite partner's encouragement at trick 1. Instead he must play back a spade and now the defenders get three spades and two hearts whatever declarer does.

Note the other big trap: South must not pitch a spade at trick 2 – the 13th spade is the fifth defensive winner. And that is hard to see at the table.

Match 8

When you have an Irishman on your team you can confidently assume that any luck that is up for grabs will be coming your way. I sat behind Hugh McGann and my suspicions were confirmed that this was indeed true for the Ware team.

Board 19, Dealer South, EW vulnerable

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

In the olden days South would open 2♠ and feel like he was being a little aggressive. These days you can turn the spade king into the ♣2 and anyone born in Australia will think he has shape and values to spare for a preempt. Well perhaps that is slightly hyperbolic, but Van Der Vlugt – Beauchamp bid 2♠ – 4♠ with no thought of slam from North. By contrast Pete Hollands had way too much to open 2♠. He tried 1♠ and now Ware was looking for a grand slam. Slam is no great bargain on a heart lead if the finesse loses, but with the club and heart finesses working and the diamond queen in the pocket, AND trumps behaving, there were 12 easy tricks and Ware had 11 IMPs.

Board 21 was further proof that Ware's ancestry includes some Gaelic blood:

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

Beauchamp opened the North hand 1♦, and on hearing a 1♠ response and 2♥ overcall was able to bid a natural 2NT where he played. After a heart lead the winning line

requires you to play for 5-1 spades (not so unlikely?) and the ♦A onside. Win the third heart, run the clubs pitching a diamond, lead a diamond to hand, cash ♠A, and exit a heart. Bingo!

Alas for him, Beauchamp pitched his heart on the fourth club and while he did still have an endplay by ducking the ♠K, he ended up down one. Good news! The difference between making and going down one was a single IMP.

Bad news: the result from the other table...

West	North	East	South
Kozakos	Ware	Rew	Hollands
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Double	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Ware claims he miscounted his 18-count into a 16-count, hence the opener, and his 2♠ rebid over the double was undiscussed. I'm not sure one can blame West for coming again and Fraser Rew had nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. After the heart lead, Ware won cashed three clubs, then led a diamond up, and when Kozakos took his ♦A to play hearts Ware had a stellar 870.

Finally for all you unseasoned partnerships...have you discussed:

1♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Redouble	Pass?		

According to both McGann and me, it is somewhere between unlikely and impossible that you have been preempted out of bidding by the opponents' actions so far. Pass of the redouble says I was going to pass out 1♦ doubled! This auction came up at the table and Matthew Thomson, having doubled, then heard David Beauchamp raise 1♦XX to 2♦! McGann doubled in the pass out seat, but Thomson still didn't field it and 3♣ making 12 was not much compensation for the 800 or so available on defence...

That gave Beauchamp their only real IMPs of the match, and Ware's lead at the top of the table was solidified with a 25 IMP win.



Visit Adelaide for the

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To enter or for more information, see MyABF



GOLD COAST TEAMS

Lauren Travis

Match 5: Restricted

I've never had a frostier welcome than when I tried to find a team to kibitz in the Restricted this morning. It is offputting having someone watch you, especially when you know they're looking for content to publish for all the participants to read!

Board 10, Dealer East, All Vul

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

East's decision not to open a weak two was sound – with four cards in the other major it is usually right to pass, and if you get the opportunity to show six spades later in the auction, partner can draw inferences about your heart holding based on your choice not to pre-empt. However, once West had rebid 2NT, East erred by bidding 3NT. A better choice would be 4♠, with a guaranteed fit since partner has shown a balanced hand. It can also be useful to play 3♣ as checkback over 2NT rebids, which can help you find a 5-3 or 4-4 fit (if, for example, East had a 5422) – it asks partner to show either a side 4-card major or 3-card support for your original suit. As it was, 3NT was cold and the decision was not costly – in fact the contract was duplicated at the other table!

On board 12, Alice Handley found an effective, and technically sound, lead:

Board 12, Dealer West, NS Vul

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

I like East's 1♥ response to 1♣ – with less than invitational values it is better to show your 4-card major to find a fit, rather than bidding the long diamond suit. The rest of the auction was also sound, and E/W stopped in a sensible 2NT. Alice, undeterred by the heart bid, led her 4th highest ♥6 and struck gold, with her partner Caprice Davey winning the queen, cashing the king, and continuing hearts through declarer's remaining ♥J-9. Alice cashed her heart tricks and, on her first discard, Caprice encouraged spades by discarding the ♠3. The best defence at trick 6 is for South to lead the ♠Q. Although it is not supported by the jack as is usually required, leading the queen enables partner to preserve their ace if the king isn't played from dummy. If declarer holds the jack instead, it doesn't matter as they were only ever going to lose one spade trick anyway (if they guessed correctly). As it was, Alice switched to the ♠4 and Caprice, unable to read the position of the queen, won the ace to ensure the contract was defeated.

If you are going to lead your long suit that the opponents have bid, it is usually correct to do so when it has been bid on your right. This is because your cards are sitting over the opponent's so you can establish tricks in the suit. If your left hand opponent has bid the suit, their cards are over yours, so you should find another lead (unless your holding is very strong).

On board 13, I was impressed by Caprice's attempt at a safe line in 4♠, although the layout foiled her plans.

Board 13, Dealer North, All Vul

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

Over 1♠, 2♣ was a three-way bid, either invitational or better with 3 spades, game forcing with clubs, or game forcing balanced. 2♠ indicated that Caprice would reject an invite if that was Alice's hand, then 2NT showed a balanced hand and 3♠ showed the sixth spade.

On lead against 4♠, my choice would be the ♦J – having four decent-ish trumps and some nice cards in hearts and clubs, I would go passive and wait for the tricks to come to me. However, at this table, East led the ♣K, for which I can't really blame her. Caprice won trick 1 with the ace, then cashed the queen of diamonds and layed a diamond to the king, with East dropping their jack. Recognising the danger, Caprice began drawing trumps, playing a spade towards her hand. She couldn't afford to lose the lead before taking a heart pitch on the ace of diamonds, so when West followed with the ♠10 she won the king and played a spade back to the ace. Unfortunately, trumps didn't break, so despite having the diamond discard she was resigned to losing two spades, one heart and one club. Sometimes in bridge we do the best we can but it still doesn't matter!

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Match 7: Open

The seventh qualifying session of the teams provided a match-up between the second and third seeds, the Brake and Dalley teams. I kibitzed the star-studded table of Andy Hung – Shane Harrison vs Tony Nunn – Paul Dalley, but was able to peek at the next table where Ash Bach – Kieran Dyke took on Matt Brown – Adam Kaplan.

This wild board provided plenty of excitement at both tables, in completely contrasting ways:

Board 2, Dealer East, NS Vul

♠ J 5 4 3
♥ 8 6 5 3
♦ 6
♣ 10 8 5 2

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

♠ --
♥ 7
♦ K J 10 9 3 2
♣ A K Q J 9 3

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
		1♦ *	5♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	Double
5♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	6♣	Double	All Pass

Table 3

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bach	Brown	Dyke
		1♣	1♦
1♥ *	Pass	1NT *	4♣
4♦ *	5♣	5♦ *	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Tony and Paul's 1♦ opening is either an unbalanced hand with diamonds, or a balanced 16-18 count. Unable to show his diamonds, Shane jumped straight to 5♣, and Paul, perhaps somewhat reluctantly, bid 5♦ assuming his partner held an unbalanced hand. They were headed for

absolute disaster until Shane couldn't help himself and doubled. His holdings in the majors led him to hope that Andy would be able to double a 5M contract, but instead he let Paul back in with 5♠ and when that was passed around to him he felt sick. Andy wisely pulled the second double to 6♣, which goes one off on any defence.

Matt and Adam were able to have a far more constructive auction, with Kieran only overcalling his diamonds at the 1-level. 1♥ was a transfer to spades and 1NT showed a strong balanced hand. By the time Kieran backed in with 4♣, Adam knew enough about Matt's hand to bid a forcing 4♦, and Matt cooperated with 5♦ then raised 5♠ to 6♠.

The contract is doomed on a diamond lead – but Ash led the ♣8. Adam ruffed, cashed the ♠A, played a spade to the nine and cashed a heart, before continuing with the ♠K, a heart to his hand, and the queen of spades. When he played two more rounds of hearts ending in dummy, Kieran was under pressure, having to discard on the king of hearts:

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

If he discarded a club, Adam could exit a club to him, discarding a diamond from hand, and he was endplayed to lead a diamond into dummy's ♦A-Q. Pitching a diamond would mean declarer could just lose a diamond to him and set up the queen.



Kieran chose a diamond discard – but Adam still had a decision to make. If Kieran had started with a 0-1-7-5, Adam needed to trump the last club in his hand and duck a diamond to Kieran; whereas on this layout, the correct play was a diamond. He took several minutes to make a decision then, perhaps convinced by Ash's non-diamond opening lead, misguessed the layout and went one off. A disappointing conclusion to a riveting board.

It's not often one has an uncontested auction to a cold game on just 13 HCP combined:

Board 9, Dealer North, EW Vul

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



Caprice Davey
Restricted – Team WWDD

fellahamilton

EST 1969

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
	3♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Tony cashed the ♦A followed by the ♦K, which was ruffed by Andy. He played a heart to the ace and then a low spade from dummy. When Paul didn't split his honours, Andy slotted in the ten, and shortly thereafter claimed 11 tricks.

The mini no-trump struck on board 12:

Board 12, Dealer West, NS Vul

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

West	North	East	South
1NT (9-12)	Double	2♣*	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Over a mini 1NT, it's important to get into the auction so you don't get robbed, and with his shapely 12-count Andy's double was reasonable. Tony's 2♣ showed either clubs or a 2- or 3-suited hand without clubs. I imagine that Shane 'knew' Tony had clubs, and Andy 'knew' he didn't. Regardless, Shane's jump to 3♥ and Andy's raise both seem fair to me, but they ended up touch too high, especially when the trumps split 4-1.

On the last board of the set, Andy could be heard muttering "I wish we were playing strong club" at the end of the auction.

Board 14, Dealer East, Nil Vul

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

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

Shane's 3NT bid showed a long diamond suit and decent hand. Andy considered his options for some time before passing and ruling his choice of system. Shane received a club lead and quickly claimed 12 tricks. The contract was duplicated at the other table but played by North, making 13 tricks on a club lead into the ♠A-J.

Only 22 pairs bid to 6♦ - I wonder how many of them were playing strong club?

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY?

Barbara Travis

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

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

You are South, declarer in 3NT.

West cashed the ♠A, ♠K, ♠Q and ♠9, before switching to the ♥3 to East's King.

How would you play?

Obviously you need to win the remaining nine tricks. You started with 11 potential tricks, but are there any potential problems?

Your main issue is that the ♥A is your only entry to the diamond winners in your hand. How will you manage to take 4-5 diamond tricks with dummy's ♦A blocking the suit?

When West cashed their fourth spade, they gave both dummy and declarer the opportunity to discard. South can throw the ♣2 or ♥J. North should throw the ♦A! Now you can win your four diamond tricks, the ♥A and the clubs without any issue.

In fact, West could have prevented this outcome if they had not cashed their fourth spade. If they had switched to hearts at trick 4, South would go down in 3NT (even with all those potential winners).

Discarding the ♦A does not come naturally; it requires some thought. Equally, not cashing a winner – as West has to do – is counter-intuitive. However, the ♦A in dummy is a good indicator of declarer's potential communication issues.

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

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GOLD COAST TEAMS

Barbara Travis

Match 5: Novice

I started the day in the Novice field because two South Australian teams were playing each other and I'm a patriotic South Aussie (neither born nor bred).

Board , you are South and partner opens 1NT, 15-17. You hold:

♠ K J 8 6
♥ Q 5
♦ K 10 4
♣ K Q J 7

Whilst it is tempting to look for slam, if there is no fit you should settle in 3NT. Try 2♣ Stayman and, when partner responds 2♥, rebid 3NT. Only if partner corrects you to 4♠ should you consider slam.

The reason is that to make 6NT you usually require 33 HCP or some long suit as a source of tricks. You know your maximum is 32 HCP and you have no source of additional tricks.

Mind you, if you opt to bid 4NT, quantitative, your partner should pass with a 3-4-3-3 16 count, based on exactly the same reasoning – no source of tricks! Those in 6NT tended to be doubled by West, holding two aces.

One pair settled in game, one played in 6NTX, for an 11 IMP swing.

Board 5 seemed to prove tough for many of the Novice Norths. Having opened 2NT, they arrived in 4♥:

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

Most Easts led the ♠3 around to the queen and king. Your main issue as declarer is access to dummy, so why not start work on the spades in order to do some ruffing and find an entry to the South hand. You can lead the ♠A and another spade, or duck a spade, either way you reach dummy fairly easily by trumping spades. Now you can take the diamond finesse; if it fails, you can still use dummy's ♦Q to deal with the potential club loser.

Trumps come later on this hand. In the Novice field, more made 4♥ than failed; in the Restricted, more failed in game.

Since I'm on that 'theme', Board 6 is of a similar vein. If you are playing in 4♥, use dummy's trumps to ruff your diamond losers, even if East over-ruffs (expected after West's 2♦ overcall):

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

Board 14 proved a challenging hand for most of the Novice field.



Pauline McEntee, Jill Kidman, Julie Randall and Trish Swincer

♠ QJ10742
 ♥ 965
 ♦ K2
 ♣ J6

 ♠ 985
 ♥ AQ3
 ♦ 8543
 ♣ AK10

 ♠ A6
 ♥ J872
 ♦ J109
 ♣ Q953

 ♠ K3
 ♥ K104
 ♦ AQ76
 ♣ 8742

East opens 1♦ and you hold the West hand. If you don't have some sort of forcing raise, you have no sensible bid available. Bidding 3NT shows your hand and shape, except for the pathetic nature of your spades. If your side belongs in 3NT, it must be played by East.

Even playing in 3NT from the East side is fraught. However, you cross to dummy and duck a diamond around to South (when North plays the ♦K, you win it). You cannot risk allowing North to gain the lead; that ♠K-x is too high risk.

3NT can make, but you have to endplay South having cashed your long diamond, so they break the spade suit for you. But many in the field simply missed 3NT, which isn't something you should be proud of.

The main issue, though, is that you need a forcing raise opposite partner's 1-minor opening bid. One option is to play Inverted Minors; another option is to play 'Cross Jumps in the Other Minor'.

Match 6: Restricted

This match I watched Speros and Andrea Pappas who won the Restricted Pairs Final A playing against Yasmina Ward and David Paul.



Leanne Goodes, Anna Muller, Judith Cross and Kathy Hartmann

Once again there was a borderline slam on the first board (chronologically), but this time North had a long suit, making slam more attractive.

Board 15, Dealer South, NS vulnerable

	♠ AQJ62	
	♥ A	
	♦ K97	
	♣ AJ83	
♠ 943		♠ 107
♥ 1076432		♥ QJ95
♦ 64		♦ J1083
♣ K6		♣ Q94
	♠ K85	
	♥ K8	
	♦ AQ52	
	♣ 10752	

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Given the last bid was 1NT, 4♣ was Gerber and 5♣ guaranteed all the aces, asking for kings.

There may be better ways to bid this hand, but this was simple and effective, given Speros had a good 5-card suit (source of tricks).

I loved it that a 'lesson' from yesterday popped up today!

Board 16, Dealer West, EW vulnerable

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

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

North made the unfortunate lead of the ♠A and, with the ♣10 dropping singleton, declarer could always make her contract.

However, in yesterday's Bulletin I mentioned that a 3NT rebid should be a solid 7-card suit with something outside – in this case a spade stopper (and the ♦K). I like the 3NT rebid, which is what most of the Open field bid, with a few even making!

Whilst 3NT will only make 8 tricks on a spade lead (and will go down a lot on a red suit lead), 4♠ is actually cold for 11 tricks NS, so I would be relatively happy with my -100 anyway.

On Board 17, North held:

♠ A Q
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ A Q J 9 8
 ♣ A J 7 4

and opened 1♦. East overcalled 2♠ (though they could have tried 3♠ with a 7-1-1-4 shape) and South doubled to bring hearts into the picture. The best bid now is 3NT. You want the lead to come around to your hand, and you want to ensure you reach game. If you simply rebid 3♣, you may play there if partner passes, yet you know you want to play in game. (Imagine if East had overcalled 3♠

instead of 2♠... then rebidding 3NT is, perhaps, more obvious.)

South's hand was:

♠ 9 4
 ♥ A 10 8 4 3
 ♦ K 10 5 4
 ♣ K 3

Making nine tricks (or more) in 3NT is straightforward.

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	?	

You are East and hold:

♠ A J 7 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K 9 8 4
 ♣ Q 10 5 4

Balance with a double. The main theme of the Law of Total Tricks is that you should not sell out to the opponents when they have a known 8+ card fit and have stopped at the 2-level. This hand fits that description to a tee!

Partner holds:

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

Remarkably, you can make 10 tricks in spades. Whilst you won't reach 4♠, you will at least win the part-score battle. These types of hands often generate double part-score swings, about 6 IMPs a time, which build up into a tidy total in the 'plus' column.

Match 7: Open

Once again I ventured into the Open field, to watch the two leading teams play each other: Team 7 Beauchamp vs Team 9 Nagy. There wasn't a single board played to completion, though one should have been, with most hands claimed rather early on. The boards were swingy, though not necessarily how I had anticipated.

Let me start with Board 14, because it seems to be a recurring theme. South held:

♠ 3 2
♥ 2
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 6
♣ K 8

I would probably open this hand 5♦, simply because I have no sensible rebid available having opened 1♦. However, if you do open 1♦, this hand does not fit the earlier description of a 3NT rebid after partner's 1♥ response. You have 8 solid diamonds rather than 7, and you are just a little too weak outside (usually one has two of the other suits controlled). At my table, the auction went:

1♦ – 1♥ – 3♦ – 3NT, making 13 tricks on a club lead. Congratulations to those who managed to bid to 6♦.

I know that Board 2 has already been reported by Lauren, but I have to mention it for the contracts in this match too.

♠ J 5 4 3
♥ 8 6 5 3
♦ 6
♣ 10 8 5 2

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

♠ --
♥ 7
♦ K J 10 9 3 2
♣ A K Q J 9 3

West	North	East	South
Beauchamp	Harms	Van Der Vlugt	Nagy
		1NT (15-17)	4NT
Double	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Maurits had been tempted to bid 6♠ on the previous round, so didn't need a lot of goading! Russel Harms led his singleton diamond, won with the ace. David Beauchamp led a spade to his hand then finessed North's ♠J and claimed down one.

Zoli Nagy mused that he'd found a good sacrifice with his 6♣ bid. As East, I would have doubled 6♣ because the auction was just too tough to gauge. However, my expectation that the Beauchamp team might lose imps on the hand was wrong – because they had the pick-up here, when South was doubled in 5♣ which made, for 750 and 12 IMPs in! As I said, the match was swingy in unexpected ways.

Board 9 saw another swing to Beauchamp, again one I didn't anticipate:

♠ A 10
♥ Q 9 7 6 5 3
♦ 5
♣ 8 7 5 3

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

♠ J 9 8 7 6 2
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ Q 6
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
	2♥	3♦	4♥
5♦	All Pass		

With diamonds behaving, there were only two losers, for 600 to E-W.

At the other table, where I don't know the auction, Kozakos – Kanetkar saved in 5♥X, failing by one trick, for another 11 IMP swing.

WHAT A HAND

♠	AKQJ
♥	A
♦	A
♣	AKQJ643

Check out this hand from the recent Women's and Seniors' Playoff finals! 7NT was opened at all four tables.



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INTO THE MIXED (PART 6 OF 8)

Peter Gill

Lazer leads by 11 imps - 6 boards to go after 6 days' bridge.

Grand Final- Board 115 of 129

Dealer North, EW Vul

♠ A 10 8 7 6 5

♥ 8

♦ J 8 2

♣ A J 6

♠ K

♥ A J 10 6 4

♦ 6 5 4

♣ K 5 4 3

♠ J 4 3 2

♥ Q 7 5

♦ K Q 10 9

♣ 9 2

♠ Q 9

♥ K 9 3 2

♦ A 7 3

♣ Q 10 8 7

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

I continued my last segment (trailing) policy of opening 1♠ whenever I thought Pauline Gumby would not. Ref Board 111 in Monday's bulletin. We had a normal auction to 3♠. ♦K lead was ducked, ♥5 switch to the king and ace, a diamond back. ♣Q - K - A and I was at the crossroads. Successful lines now are: ♠A next, or a club to dummy then a spade off dummy. Alas I tried a spade to the nine, so I had to lose two spades, minus 50 - it felt like I'd undone the momentum from our plus 1700.

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Gumby	Dalley	Lazer
	1♠	Pass	1NT
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	X	All Pass

My prediction regarding the 1♠ opening was wrong. NS's task was made more difficult when EW got into the auction, pushing them around. Over 3♥, Warren Lazer had no way to invite game. 3♠ would be merely

competitive, so he took a shot at game. In retrospect, perhaps he should discount his ♥K on this bidding. Arlene was in there with a sparking penalty double.

♥5 was led to the ten. ♦6 went to the nine and ace. Knowing that Arlene surely had ♠K for her penalty double, Pauline played a club to the jack, then a spade to the queen. That was down three, 500, a ten imp gain. I guess Pauline Gumby felt worse than I did when I went down in 3♠.

Today's tips:

1. If you get into the auction on marginal values, it can make your opponents' task harder.
2. Always raise as soon as possible, like Arlene did, to make it harder for the opponents to judge how high to bid.

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OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

Barry Rigal

Optical illusions take many forms at bridge. One of the most common missed opportunities arises on hands like this week's offering. You will probably find it most useful to consider it initially as a declarer play problem, and to try to work out the best line to make your 3♥ contract.

Dealer South

Nil Vul

♠ A 7 5 4

♥ K 8 2

♦ J 7 6

♣ K 5 4

♠ J 10 6 3

♥ Q J 9 7

♦ A K 2

♣ 10 3

♠ Q 9 8

♥ 10

♦ Q 10 9 5 3

♣ Q J 9 6

♠ K 2

♥ A 6 5 4 3

♦ 8 4

♣ A 8 7 2

West North East South

1♥

Pass 1♠ Pass 2♣

Pass 3♥ All Pass

When you open the skinny South hand, your partner takes you seriously, and you finish up in a moderate contract of 3♥. The defence lead three rounds of diamonds, and you ruff in hand. How do you intend to cope with your fourth round club loser?

Let us look at some possible routes to success; we could draw two rounds of trumps, then play three rounds of clubs - the problem here is that if clubs are 4-2 and the defence can play a third round of trumps, that leaves us without resource.

An alternative approach might be to play three rounds of clubs at once, but then a fourth round of clubs might allow a defender to ruff in with a doubleton trump and promote an extra trump winner for his partner; the same problem applies if you draw only one round of trumps before playing on clubs. In these positions the possibility of ducking the first club always arises - this is generally a solution to the trump promotions in clubs. Then you win

the return, take your top trumps and ruff the fourth club in peace. However, here there is an extra distraction; perhaps the defence can promote a trump by playing a fourth round of diamonds - if diamonds are 5-3 then you might run into trump trouble again.

All these solutions are intrinsically flawed, and they all miss the point, because if trumps are 3-2 you are guaranteed to make 3♥ by the technique known as the dummy reversal, which involves ruffing dummy's losers in your hand. Your plan should be simply to lay down the ♥A and ♥K, then play ♠A and ♠K and ruff a spade in hand. Cash the top clubs and then ruff the fourth round of spades in your hand. At this point you have taken six tricks in aces and kings and three ruffs in your own hand. If a club gets over-ruffed, you will simply exchange that trick for an extra trump trick in dummy.

Notice that as the cards lie in the diagram you can even sometimes survive the 4-1 trump split. The same line as suggested above still works despite the bad trump break, so long as West has four cards in spades. You can take your nine tricks while West gnashes his teeth impotently, and then you will concede the last two tricks twice over.



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Thursday 6th February 2025

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

DECLARERS, COUNT YOUR TRICKS!

“If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll probably end up somewhere else.” – Yogi Berra

If I were asked to cite the most common error declarers make, it’s hasty play: neglecting to make a plan – and any plan is better than none – before calling for even one card from dummy. Too often, declarers start to play to tricks without any idea of where they are going.

How would you handle this 3NT?

Dlr South ♠ 6 4
All Vul ♥ K J 4
IMPs ♦ K 6 4 2
 ♣ A 6 4 2

♠ A Q
♥ Q 7 5
♦ A Q 3
♣ J 8 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West leads a low spade, East plays the king and your ace wins.

What is your plan? *Count your tricks.*

You have six top tricks: two spades, three diamonds and a club. You can force out the ♥A for two more, and then if the missing diamonds break 3-3, you will be home. But if the diamonds don’t break, you will need to find a favourable club position, giving you four clubs, three diamonds and two spades.

To find out what direction to go, take all three high diamonds. If the suit breaks evenly, force out the ♥A. If diamonds break 4-2 or worse, cash the ♣A, lead a second club and hope for the best.

Dlr South ♠ K 9
All Vul ♥ 6 5
IMPs ♦ A 6 5 4
 ♣ 9 6 5 4 3

♠ A J 10 8 7 5
♥ A K 3 2
♦ 3
♣ K 10

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

A count of your sure tricks can let you avoid an embarrassing disaster, such as happened to declarer in this deal. His third bid to try for game was a trifle aggressive, but his side was vulnerable, with more to gain by making a game. North liked his ♦A, ♠K and possible ruffing value in hearts and pushed on.

West led the ♥Q, and South was pleased with dummy. With visions of an overtrick, he took the ♥A-K and ruffed a heart with dummy’s ♠9. Unfortunately, East over-trumped with the queen and led a trump, and when the ♣A turned up with West, South lost two clubs, a trump and a heart.

South could count at least five trump tricks, two high hearts and the ♦A. He should ruff the third heart with the ♠K, take the ♦A, ruff a diamond and ruff his last heart with the ♠9. Even at matchpoint scoring, that play would be reasonable; not every North-South pair will have reached game.

FUNNY GCC MEMORY

Back in 1998, Peter Gill was mildly curious when the opponents arrived at his table in the Pairs, with East wiping tears and mascara from her eyes whilst desperately trying to stifle her laughter.

After some probing, she and her partner revealed the reason why. The opponents had bid to 6♥ by North. East led a small club and West cashed the ♣A and ♣K, for one off. Declarer turned to West and earnestly asked, “If you had been on lead, what you have led?”

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Sunday 23rd March 2025

8.30am for 9.30am start

Swiss Teams	Three Divisions	\$240 per team
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RESPONDING TO TAKEOUT DOUBLES

Barbara Travis

Reluctantly I accept that many people mis-use takeout doubles, in that they double on inappropriate hands. That's their problem or, perhaps, it's their partner's problem.

Then next issue is that responding correctly to takeout doubles is an area that is less well-taught.

The first thing to realise is that when your partner makes a takeout double, they do not promise to bid again. If your partner opens the bidding, a new suit is forcing. However, when your partner has make a takeout double and next player passes, your bid is 'forced' rather than forcing, so you have to bid more strongly with better hands because, with a minimum hand, partner can (should) pass your minimum-level response. As such, if you have a 5+ card suit (and even with a 4-card major), in other words a known fit, you should bid the maximum value of your hand immediately.

Imagine your LHO has opened 1♥ and partner has doubled. You hold:

♠KQ1092 ♥AK4 ♦43 ♣642

You should respond 4♠ because your hand is worth playing in game opposite partner's double which has shown opening values and at least 3 spades.

Imagine partner has doubled with:

♠AJ3 ♥87 ♦AK87 ♣10987

They are planning to pass whatever you bid, whether it is 1♠, 2♠, 3♠ or 4♠.

Opposite a minimum response, such as 1♠, the doubler is only supposed to bid again with a fit and 16+ HCP.

Equally, LHO has opened 1♥, partner has doubled, and you hold:

♠K87642 ♥7 ♦KQ75 ♣82

I would be bidding 4♠, expecting to have chances to make with 3+ spades opposite and opening values. (On this actual hand, the doubler had made a 'poor double' with a 2-3-4-4 hand shape, yet 4♠ was still making!)

Even with a weak-ish hand such as:

♠109854 ♥4 ♦75 ♣KQJ109

If partner makes a takeout double of 1♥, I would be bidding more than 1♠ (and yes, focus on the major suit, rather than the more attractive minor suit). I would be bidding at least 2♠, if not 3♠.

An additional factor to consider is that hands with a double fit play better because, once you've drawn trumps, you have a second suit to work on.

Using this structure, the only time you have any problem is when you have a good hand, i.e.

10+ HCP, and only four cards in your long suit/s. The best solution on these hands is to cue bid the opponent's suit. By agreement, this tells partner (the doubler) that you have a good hand but no clear-cut suit to bid, and asks them to bid their suits up the line. [It cannot be natural, or you would pass the double, converting it to penalties.]

Here are some examples.

HAND 1

Partner has doubled 1♣ and it has been passed to you:

♠KQ64 ♥KQ84 ♦A54 ♣93

You know your side belongs in game, but which game? Rather than just bidding 4♥ or 4♠ and hoping you find the 'right fit', you use the cue bid:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1♣	Double	Pass	2♣(1)
Pass	2♥	Pass	
or			
Pass	2♠	Pass	

Just remember that when you use the cue bid, your auction is forcing until you have agreed a fit.

So once partner bids 2♥ or 2♠, you should raise to the 4-level to say you belong in game.

If instead, you held:

HAND 2

♠ K Q 6 4 ♥ K Q 8 4 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ 9 3

and you have had the above auction, you simply raise the 2-Major response by partner to the 3-level, showing your 10-11 points, rather than game points. Partner (doubler) can then decide whether you belong in game.

HAND 3

These cue bids can also be used at higher levels. Imagine the auction has gone:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
3♣	Double	Pass	?

and you hold:

♠ J 10 6 5 ♥ A K 6 4 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ 5 4

You don't want to guess which major game you should bid. Therefore, you bid 4♣ as the game forcing cue bid, asking partner to bid their major.

At the table, my opponent guessed to bid 4♥, showing her values but picking her partner's 3-card suit. She was rather unlucky because partner held a 4-3-4-2 hand shape and 4♥ failed because the trumps broke 6-0. On the other hand, 4♠ with the 4-4 fit was unbeatable.

SUMMARY

When you are responding to your partner's takeout double, your bid is not forcing unless you cue bid the opponent's suit, rather it is 'forced' (even with 0 HCP), so you must bid the full value of your hand immediately.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Nevena Senior

This article, by Nevena Senior, was published on BBO, www.bridgebase.com. Nevena is a multiple World and European champion, having played for Bulgaria, Great Britain and England. She teaches bridge to all levels, both face to face and online.

No one's perfect. Even at the very top, bridge players don't get every board right or avoid all mistakes.

People who play with confidence usually get better results without being card/bid perfect. One way to boost your confidence is to get to know your strengths and weaknesses. Analysing yours and your partnership's game will help you identify what you can or can't improve. Once you've worked this bit out, you can then concentrate on minimising the avoidable errors rather than dwelling on the boards you lost because you didn't know better.

Take conventions for example. Some very fruitful debates took place on the BBO forum about the use of bidding gadgets (conventions). Excellent teachers and theorists expressed strong opinions for and against. You should work out for yourself how many artificial bids you can cope with. Every competent partnership must have the basic conventions in their toolkit: Stayman, transfers, take out and negative doubles, and some sort of Blackwood.

If you want to go beyond these though, it's important to recognise, understand the use of, and remember the meaning of artificial bids. As an example, at the top level, Ace or control showing cue bids are regularly used in slam auctions, but these are often not fully understood. Skilful use of cue bids incorporates Aces (keycards) asking at the right moment, usually when one player knows controls in all suits outside trumps are present. However, there is more to it, like trump substance or comfort with the Aces (keycards) asking response. If your partnership struggles with such evaluations, you'll be better off dropping the cue bids from your system and instead target natural slam tries in combination with Blackwood or Roman Key Card Blackwood. If you've had

some bad experiences using cue bidding, and decide on this strategy instead, don't worry about the occasional board when you have 12 tricks available, but opponents cash AK in a side suit and defeat your slam. Put it into the category of your partnership's weaknesses; don't stress about it, move on.

If yours or partner's declarer play isn't the best part of your game, every time you're unsure whether to accept or decline a game or slam invite, think about which one of you will be declaring the contract. If it's the weaker player at card reading or squeeze and elimination techniques, stay low and hope that game/slam is not trivial to make. On quite a lot of borderline hands, good skills are needed if the contract is to make, and any positive score will bring you a decent amount of matchpoints.

If your defence isn't so strong, be bold and bid more in competitive auctions, especially against skilful declarers. Allow your opponents to stay at a comfortable level and you'll be doomed. Bidding more might result in a poor score if no one makes anything, but the opposing pair, being confident in their own declaring ability will often misjudge and stretch themselves to a contract that even the most miserable defence can beat. On the rare occasions that you're left to deal with a hopeless contract, remember that it could have been worse if you'd relied on your defence.

The boards that you should be concerned with, are the ones where you make silly mistakes. Try to work out where you went wrong and think about how to avoid doing the same thing next time. Almost all of these, made at all levels are due to a momentary blip in concentration. It will help your performance if you manage to identify the triggers. They are different for different people - some concentrate better when they have had just the right amount of food, some are distracted by noise, others are affected by the speed of play. Knowing what leads to mental lapses will help you counteract these triggers.

The aim of my column isn't to say you need to be resigned to your weaknesses forever. It's more to compartmentalise your game to improve, and this is a process that will evolve. Of course you can work to improve and you find some excellent tools on BBO to practise:

- Bridge Master is a magnificent tool for training one's declarer play
- the bidding table in the Practice section is extremely useful for partnership bidding and experimenting with new conventions
- starting your own table in Casual-Competitive Game gives you the possibility to play old Vugraph boards (click on the three lines on the top left hand corner and select Deal Source, as either random or specific Vugraph deals).

The last option might require you to hire robots, but it provides an excellent opportunity to practice with your partner in a competitive environment without the stress of playing a tournament. I'd recommend you to use BBO video chat at the same time and discuss tricky bidding situations or signalling methods in defence.

Once you feel you've improved one or more areas of your game, you can adapt your game accordingly. Let's say you started out not understanding how squeezes operate and after a few months of practice on Bridge Master, attending lectures on the topic, reading books or even hiring a professional teacher, you manage to see and execute them, you can then stop thinking of as "the boards I'll mess up, but I don't care about". Be proud when you get them right and classify them as avoidable mistakes when you don't, trying to work out why you missed an extra trick.

If you're not sure what your partnership's strengths and weaknesses are then take a look at a few BBO tournaments that you've recently played in. Check all the boards that you scored less than 40% and investigate what happened at the other tables. There will be some deals where you were completely fixed by opponents doing something that no one else did, but you'll definitely find a pattern of your own wrongdoings; underbidding or overbidding, consistently making fewer tricks than other declarers, defending badly or making the wrong opening lead. Analyse the reasons for bad results that were self-inflicted, fight the battles you can win, and let go of the ones you can't. Play with confidence, remember that everyone makes mistakes, concentrate on reducing the number of unforced errors and you'll finish up with much better results.



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Recently, four clubs from the Wellington area pooled together in order to save on freight, the biggest problem in sending anything overseas.

We have a large range of products, I can't think of any item a bridge club might need that we don't supply.

2018 COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE: AN INTRAFINESSE

In 2018, John Wignall wrote up this hand, played by his partner Kris Wooles.

Playing for New Zealand in the CNBC, I did not do many things right, but I was able to put my partner Kris Wooles, a New Zealand champion and international partner, into a contract that allowed him to showcase his excellent card-playing skills.

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

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!

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

Thanks,
Barbara, Lauren and Barry

fellahamilton
EST 1969

Shop GO.28,
Oasis Shopping Centre

In an auction which saw West and North express their views of where the bidding should end, Wooles won the ♠K opening lead, gave up a heart, ruffed the heart continuation and eliminated the hand to reach this position:

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

At this point, declarer knew enough from the auction to lead a low club, covering the 6 with the 9, endplaying East to lead a club around to the ♣Q or concede a ruff and discard.

So far so good but, in the post-mortem discussion at the bar, the question was raised as to whether the defence could have done better. Let's say East can infer declarer's full shape at trick 3. He also knows that declarer has no chance of making his game if he is missing the ♣A, and no way to go down if he holds the ♣J. So the full defence must be to focus West's attention on the precise lie of the cards. Why? So that West can go in with the ♣J on the first round of the suit, giving declarer a legitimate choice as to which defender to play for the ♠10; if West, declarer must cover the jack, if East, he must cover.

Beware! West needs to know whether East holds ♣A-10-2 or ♣K-10-2 since, in the former case, West not must play the ♣J or he gives declarer a chance to make.

THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS: A NOSTALGIC VIEW

Betty Lee

News that the final curtain was being drawn on the Gold Coast Bridge Congress came as a sad surprise. Although I have not attended the Congress for several years, its end was something I had not expected. Naturally it is sadder for those who have attended longer and/or more recently and have been more involved.

The Gold Coast Bridge Congress was an integral part of my life for 37 years starting in 1982. For my life partner and bridge partner, Mike Robson, his attendance was much longer beginning in 1967 and spanning 52 years. Mike sadly passed away in January 2020.

The Gold Coast Congress has been a great opportunity to play not only with and against fellow Queenslanders but also with and against players from all parts of Australia and the World. It provided a chance to pit wits with players of all calibres including many stars of the game. How lucky we mere players have been for all the efforts of the many involved in organising the Congress. We owe them a debt of gratitude. There are too many contributors to mention, but I just want to acknowledge the wonderful work of Congress Conveners during my time - Tony Jackman, with assistance of Clare, his wife, 1988-2004 and Therese Tully 2005 -2018.

I have fond memories of all the Gold Coast Bridge Congresses, with those of the earlier years being some of the fondest. Back then play began at 1.30pm, with the morning free, giving plenty of time for players to take part in various activities such as swimming in the surf or the apartment pool, tennis, golf and shopping.



Thursday 6th February 2025

The Congress was a chance to dress up in favourite outfits, initially one set for daytime play and another for evening wear, right for going out to dinner followed by the night time play. Then we would adjourn to someone's apartment for a fun game of Oh Hell, which often went into the wee hours of the morning. The bridge timetable then allowed for 8 hours sleep, if desired, before fronting up to do it all over again. At the end of each session there was the option to enjoy a drink in the bar of the hotel, the Chevron or ANA, spending time with friends and acquaintances discussing hands or just chatting. The Victory Dinner on the Saturday night at the end of the week has been an enjoyable event over the years.

Winning gold at the Gold Coast Bridge Congress eluded me. However Mike won the teams in 1969 with Bruce Meares, Tony Jackman and Frank Jarvis and in 1977 with Tony Jackman, Mike Pemberton and Ian Morris. The closest for me was a silver in the 2001 teams with Mike, Ralph Parker and Peter Hainsworth being beaten by Ishmael Del' Monte, Espen Erichsen, Craig Gower and Chris Convery.

Mike and I did make the pairs final several times with sixth being our best result. However one year we were coming third until we met up with a certain pair from New Zealand, Stephen Burgess and Paul Marston. They were playing a new system called Forcing Pass which was totally unknown to us. For Mike, being a rubber bridge player doubles were for penalty, for me, more likely to be take out. The three boards were a disaster for us and we slid way back through the field. Eventually forcing pass was excluded from pairs events.

We did experience some gold of a different kind. For the 50th anniversary of the Gold Coast Bridge Congress in 2011 players had the opportunity to dress up in gold outfits for the Victory Dinner.

I was able to buy a gold dress and glue gold playing cards to it. For Mike we bought a one dollar gold tie on eBay from Thailand (Tieland) and he painted his tennis shoes gold!

The picture of Mike and me in our gold outfits has been on my dressing table since 2011 and will continue to do so for as long as I am around, a treasured reminder of the Gold Coast Bridge Congress and of wonderful times we spent together there over the years.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA AT THE GCC

These people have travelled further than the rest of the Australians. Well done to the attendees from Perth/WA; as you can see, they barely fit into one photo!



BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB AT THE GCC

Deborah McLay from Ballina Bridge Club submitted this photo of the Ballina contingent at this year's congress. Another four members are here but not in the photo.



THEME DAY DRESS UPS: 'DAY OF MOURNING'



GCC HISTORY: CONVENORS AND CHIEF DIRECTORS

Year	Convenor	Chief Director/s
1962	George McCutcheon	George McCutcheon
1964	Arthur Hoffman	Mr Stephens
1965	Denis Priest & James O'Sullivan	Denis Priest & James O'Sullivan
1966-67	Arthur Hoffman	Peter Van Der Loos
1968-69	James O'Sullivan	
1970-72	Denis Priest	?
1973-80	George Cuppidge	?
1981-86	QBA Executive	Richard Grenside
1987-96	Tony Jackman	
1997-09		Reg Busch
2000-04		
2005-18	Therese Tully	Laurie Kelso
2019-25	Tim Runting	

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST INTERMEDIATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

2010	Val Holbrook, Emyln Williams, Robin Erskine, Peter Waight
2011	Nikolas Moore, Craig Francis, Patrick Bugler, Yolanda Carter
2012	Michael Stoneman, Val Roland, Patrick Bugler, John Kelly
2013	Greg Lee, Alan Currie, Patrick Bugler, Yolanda Carter
2014	Bastian Bolt, Geoffrey Roberts, Devin Dean, Bob Hunt
2015	Michael Stoneman, Val Roland, Herold Rienstra, Bert Luchjenbroers
2016	Keith Blinco, Terrence Sheedy, Eric Baker, Chris Stead
2017	Margaret & John Rogers, Sue & Ken Moffitt
2018	Adrian Lohmann, Don Cameron, Jan & Peter Randall
2019	Keith Blinco, Eric Baker, Diane & Max Holewa
2020	John Aquino, John McMullan, Belinda Taranto, Mark Doust
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Adrian Riepsamen, David Christian, Jeff Lassman, Gabrielle Elich
2023	Di Jagelman, Rhonda Langley, Carolyn Greenwich, Patricia Armstrong
2024	Lynda & Philip Young, Hannah O'Donnell, Greg Nunn

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST NOVICE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

2008	R. Casey, A. McKenna, J. Heck, J. Gentner
2009	Geldard, Mundell, Dean, Willis
2010	Barbara & Brian Wippell, Michael Doherty, Kim Nicoll
2011	Jillian Tuckey, Rozanne Thomas, Denis Moody, Monty Dale
2012	Sharon Clifford, Kay Goodwin, Ashok & Veena Chotai
2013	Linda Norman, Kay Roberts, Joan Jenkins, Ross Currin
2014	Linda Norman, Kay Roberts, Joan Jenkins, Carmel Wikman
2015	Justine Wlodarczyk, Bronnwyn White, Caroline Marshall, Margaret Teitzel
2016	Allan Byrnes, Steven Parkes, Unis Suliman, Peter Taylor
2017	Allan Byrnes, Steven Parkes, Unis Suliman, Peter Taylor
2018	Equal 1 st : Anita Delorenzo, Liz Shonk, Elizabeth Voveris, Johanna Thomas Equal 1 st : Diana McAuliffe, Paul Barnett, Martin Coote, James Harvey
2019	Bernard Yates, Nick Hullah, Kerry Barns, Sylvia Bray
2020	Colin Speller, Jodie Gudaitis, Colin Kleinig, Jane Stephens
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Wendy Cuthbert, Jenny McGowan, Vanessa Brewis, Lilly Jia
2023	Megan Edwards, Michelle George, Elizabeth & David Ward
2024	Jeff Veling, Tracey Gieck, Sandy Close, Jamie Luxton

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HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST RESTRICTED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

2001	Eddie & Dianne Mullin, Michael & Sally Rooney
2002	David & Susanne Sarten, Harry & Gail Walsh
2003	Ghada Torelli, Maha Hoenig, Dewi Eastman, Sylvia Sender
2004	M. & B. Lindsay, P. Penlington, R. McArthur
2005	M. & B. Lindsay, P. Penlington, R. McArthur
2006	W. & C. Houghton, Wendy Boxall, R. Plush
2007	Teri Wotherspoon, Eric Baker, R. & R. Taylor
2008	N. McIvor, D. Featherstone, D. & T. Potter
2009	Bastian Bolt, Leach, Bev & Bruce Crossman
2010	Nikolas Moore, Geoffrey Martin, Patrick Bugler, John Kelly
2011	Ian Bailey, Graham Markey, Robin Devries, Richard Lock
2012	Alan Davies, Vivien Eldridge, Rachael & Maurice Loomes
2013	Pam Brewer, Ruth Goerg, Denise O'Regan, Adrian Lohmann
2014	Denis Ward, Laurie Skeate, Denis Moody, Monty Dale
2015	Anne McNaughton, Faye Bell, Heather Scott, Margot Moylan
2016	Kinga Hajmasi, Andrew Michi, Carol Christensen, Pat Faircloth
2017	Jessica Chew, Rez Karim, Yuning Zheng, Zhongjie Xiao
2018	Hans Van Weeren, Peter Clarke, Jeff Conroy, Jill Blenkley
2019	Ian Bannister, Fran Martin, Jane O'Brien, Chris Hagen
2020	Nerida Gillies, Annegrete Kolding, Heidi Colebrander, Ray Hurst
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Mary Poynton, Tony White, Jake Andrew, Craig Taberner
2023	Jo Hampton, Caroline Caseley, Megan Eddy, Bridget Willcox
2024	Davis Zhang, Jenny McGowan, Vanessa Brewis, Lilly Jia

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST UNDER 1500 TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

2022	Jarrad Dunbar, Charles & John McMahan, Nico Ranson
2023	Jeanette Abrams, Margaret Gidley-Baird, Derek Maltz, Peter Robinson
2024	Jeanette Abrams, Margaret Gidley-Baird, Tim Mountjoy, Patricia Lacey

HONOUR ROLL: GOLD COAST SENIORS' TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

2001	John Brockwell, John Ashworth, Bill Westwood, Ian McKinnon
2002	Les & G. Varadi, Margaret Foster, R. Cowan
2003	John Brockwell, Eric Ramsaw, Bill Westwood, Ian McKinnon
2004	John Brockwell, Eric Ramshaw, David Mortimer, David Anderson
2005	Tony Marinos, Gytis Danta, Peter Grant, Tim Davis
2006	John Puskas, Peter Chan, Roger Januszke, Robert Bignall, Wally Malaczynski
2007	John Puskas, Peter Chan, Roger Januszke, Robert Bignall, John Hewitt, David Lusk
2008	John Puskas, Peter Chan, Roger Januszke, John Hewitt, David Lusk
2009	John Puskas, Peter Chan, Roger Januszke, Jesse Chan, John Zollo
2010	Alan Walsh, Barbara McDonald, Elizabeth Havas, Gordon Schmidt
2011	John Brockwell, Eric Ramshaw, Arthur Robbins, Gary Ridgway
2012	Bruce & Merle Marr, Ian & Cynthia Clayton
2013	Andrew Creet, Stephen Mendick, Tony Marinos, Peter Grant
2014	Martin Bloom, Nigel Rosendorff, Steven Bock, Les Grewcock
2015	Trevor Robb, Andrew Janisz, Patsy Walters, Lynne Geursen
2016	Richard Brightling, David Hoffman, Peter Buchen, Chris Hughes
2017	Alan Walsh, Barbara McDonald, Elizabeth Havas, Arjuna de Livera
2018	Zoli Nagy, David Middleton, David Smith, Neil Ewart
2019	Zoli Nagy, David Middleton, David Smith, Neil Ewart



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



Anita Thirtle



COME AND SEE US AT THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2025

VISIT THE TBIB KIOSK IN THE FOYER AT THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS.

TEST YOUR TRAVEL KNOWLEDGE AND TRY YOUR LUCK AT THE TBIB NAME THAT CITY GAME AND YOU COULD WIN \$200

We'll be there from Sunday 2nd till Saturday 8th February

*The team can speak with you about **ABF Travel Insurance** or any insurance query you may have.*

You can talk to us about

- **Travel Insurance**
- **Insurance for your *Investment or Commercial Property***
- **Home and Contents **and** Motor Vehicle Insurance**
- **Insurance for your *Business***
- 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!

ONE IN A MILLION PLAY

Nick Jacob

Justin Mill (declarer) and Nick Jacob (journalist) won the 2024 IBPA Justin Lall Play Award for this spectacular effort.

Justin Mill is one of Australia's finest talents. His partner, Rodrigo Garcia da Rosa of Uruguay, is one of Argentina's best players. People who know the two young stars have been excited to see what they can produce as a partnership.

Take this board, where Justin found a beautiful line of play in the quarter-finals of the 2023 National Open Teams in Australia.

Board 41. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

	♠ Q 10 9 6 5		♠ Q 9
	♥ A		♥ --
	♦ K 4 2		♦ --
	♣ A 9 6 5		♣ 9 6
♠ J 7 3		♠ --	
♥ 9 8		♥ Q 7 6 4 3	♠ J
♦ Q J 10 9 8 3		♦ 7 6	♥ --
♣ 3 2		♣ K Q J 10 8 4	♦ Q J 10
	♠ A K 8 4 2		♣ --
	♥ K J 10 5 2		♠ K 8
	♦ A 5		♥ J 10
	♣ 7		♦ --
			♣ --
West	North	East	South
Butts	Mill	Courtney	Garcia da Rosa
	1♠	4♣	4NT1
Pass	5♠ 2	Pass	5NT 3
Pass	6♦ 4	Pass	6♥ 5
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

1. RKCB for spades.
2. Two keycards and the queen of spades.
3. Confirming all keycards.
4. King of diamonds, denying the king of hearts.
5. Last train.

Lead: ♣K

Justin and Rodrigo brushed aside Michael Courtney's pre-empt to breeze into the grand slam. The contract was excellent. Trumps breaking 2-1 would allow declarer to draw trumps and claim on a cross-ruff. Three trumps in East would allow declarer to draw trumps and establish the 13th trick in hearts. Hence, Justin played a small trump towards dummy's ace. East's club discard posed a problem for declarer. Had East held seven clubs – which looked a near-certainty on the

auction – declarer would have been unable to trump a club low on the table without being over-ruffed. Hearts 4-3 would still provide the thirteen trick, so Justin turned his attention to that suit. A heart to the ace was followed by a diamond to the ace. The heart king was cashed for a club discard, but West's club discard on the third round of hearts showed that this suit would not break either. Justin trumped the heart low and took stock.

East was now marked to be 0-5-2-6. Joan Butts' spade jack would prevent a full crossruff, so Justin set about pruning East's idle cards for an exquisite ending. The diamond king was cashed before declarer trumped his third diamond on the table. Justin now finessed the spade ten to reach the following ending:

When declarer continued with the spade queen from hand, East was caught in declarer's entry shifting squeeze. A heart discard would allow declarer to overtake the spade with dummy's king, a heart would be trumped to fell East's queen, and dummy could be reached with a club ruff to cash the good heart for trick 13. A club discard fared no better. Declarer could duck the spade in dummy, remaining in hand to trump East's last club. Now a heart ruff to hand allowed declarer to win trick 13 with that precious club.

"Ah, an over-under squeeze," mused Michael. "That's what they used to call this in 1935." With opponents failing to reach grand slam at the other table, Justin's one in-a-million play was rewarded with +1510 and 11 IMPs.

Paul Lavings has free second hand bridge books for youth players.

See Paul at his stall in the foyer.

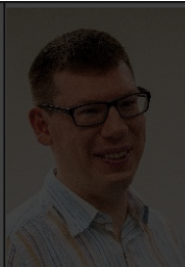
CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM



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

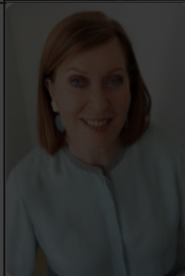
Andy Hung
*Stoppers: Showing, Asking,
 or Neither?*



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.

OUR SPONSORS

The Gold Coast Congress cannot run without our sponsors. We are deeply indebted to them and would ask you to show your appreciation by supporting them.



AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

DAVID STERN

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



FELLA HAMILTON

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.