

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

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Friday 7th February 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal

BULLETIN 7

Let the Finals Begin!

In the Open Teams, the top two finishers, BEAUCHAMP and DALLEY, have qualified through to the semi-finals this afternoon. APPLETON will take on CHINA GXZY in one Round of Four match this morning, and the other match will be contested by BRAKE and WARE. At the end of the Swiss, there was a tie for 6th place, with the tie breaking procedure based on the total VP of each teams' opponents. This meant WARE took the last qualifying spot ahead of FOSTER, who were unlucky to miss out.

48-board finals will be played today to determine the winners of all other categories.

The Under 1500 MP final is STANTON (Fay Stanton, Kathy Males, Di Rogers, Susie Warren) versus CAMERON (Don Cameron, Jan Randall, Brian Jacobson, Adrian Lohmann).

In the Intermediate, YOFFA (Lisa Yoffa, Maryanne Bird, Ruth Frydman, Dan Craine) and CAMERON (Bigi Cameron, Emma Russell, Tim Rigter, Rochelle Van Heuven) will play off for the title.

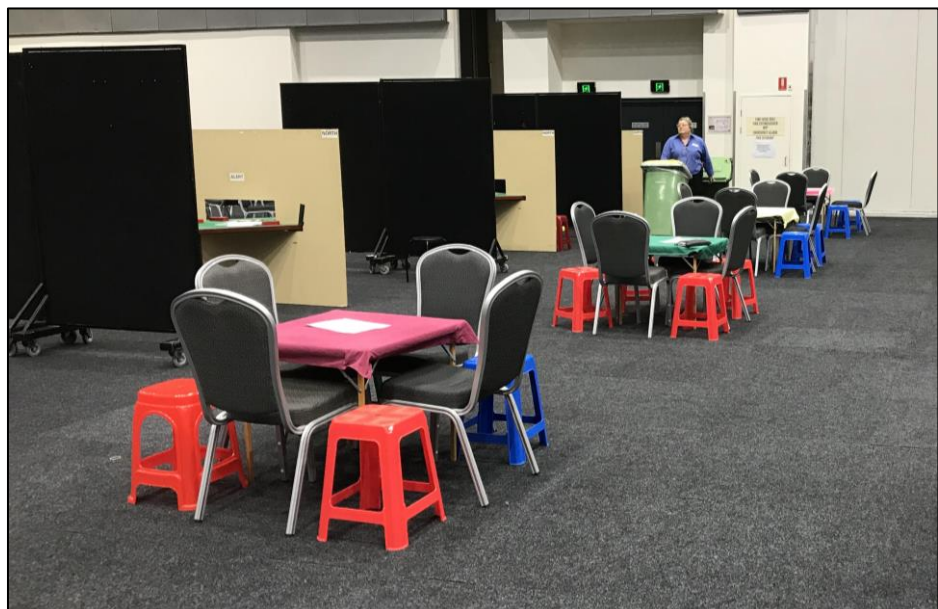
The Restricted final is between WWDD (Alice Handley, Caprice Davey, Anne Davey, Owen Teakle) and VELING (Sandy Veling, Eve Clarkson, Jeff Veling, Jamie Luxton).

In the Novice, the finalists are WAN (Zhan Wan, Michael Zhu, Anne Muller, Julie Darvall) and CUSACK (Margaret Cusack, Rhonda Khong, Scott Grout, Kenneth Baker).

As you can see, the room is ready – hopefully all the finalists are too!

The Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs also commences today and will be contested over 10 matches.

Best of luck to all players participating in the category finals and Ivy Dahler events!



GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS

Barry Rigal

Match 9

Before we start coverage of what actually happened here is your fantasy for the day.

You hold as West:

♠ K 5
♥ 8 6
♦ K 9 8 6 3
♣ 10 9 7 4

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ A K 10 4 3
♦ 10
♣ A Q 5

West	North	East	South
	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

2♠ was 10-13 unbalanced with 5+ spades. 2NT asked and 3♠ showed 6 spades, minimum.

Partner leads the ♦A and you see the South hand come down as dummy. What are your chances of setting this optimistic 'Cinderella' contract – 4♠ would have been too low, 6♠ too high, 5♠... just right?

Surprisingly, it is much easier to beat 5♠ than 6♠ if you look at the full hand (and, yes, the West hand was the one I wanted to hold not the one I did hold). You will beat 5♠ if you defend correctly by playing the ♦3 strong suit-preference for clubs. Partner assumes there must be a second ♣K in the deck and shifts to the ♣8. Declarer, 'knowing the finesse will lose', decides not to stake everything on the spade finesse. He wins the ♣A, leads ♠J which you duck of course, and now... declarer takes the ace and tries to find three rounds of hearts standing up. You ruff in and cash partner's club king for down one.

Alas this was the true story:

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

My partner did shift to clubs at trick 2 and Tony Hutton went for the combination shot and survived when the third heart lived. But on my postulated layout it might have been quite hard to explain to teammates, "Sorry, desperately unlucky the two finesses both worked but I couldn't take them."

Board 13, Dealer North, Both vulnerable

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

This was a nice pick up for Kim Morrison in what was otherwise an extremely bleak match against my teammates.

He played 4♠ when he relayed for range facing a simple spade raise and Chris Hughes showed a maximum. Robert Grynberg kept the ball in play with a club lead – a diamond is immediately fatal. Declarer was allowed to win the first club and really could not afford to do anything but play back a club and now playing three rounds of hearts for the trump promotion is possible but actually not necessary, and would be fatal if declarer had the ♠10 instead of North. After a diamond comes back to the

queen, king and ace at trick 3, what next for declarer? If declarer draws all the trumps and gives up a heart to South, a second diamond taps dummy and the defenders have a diamond to cash on winning the second heart.

So you draw only one round of trumps with the ace then pitch the diamond on the top club, and give up a heart to South (maybe North should fly with the ace to play for the trump promotion) and back comes a second diamond. You ruff in dummy and have reached this ending.

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

When you lead a second heart, North wins and plays a third diamond. Dummy ruffs, and can draw one more round of trumps, but then has to lead a heart and promote the ♠10 into the setting trick.

The defenders didn't find this sequence of plays – when declarer put up the ♣K at the first trick South won and continued the suit and now declarer had the tempo on his side.

Match 10

No one ever enjoys writing about a match they got blitzed. But that's why they pay reporters the big bucks. And if you believe that, I have a bridge in Brooklyn I'd be prepared to sell you.

Every card we touched turned to dross. Take this one for example:

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

Rodrigo Garcia da Rosa played this board fairly late in our match, at a point where we were clearly down.

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The auction was:

West	North	East	South
Rigal	Bach	RGR	Dyke
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Double	2♠	Pass	3NT
All pass			

You receive a fourth highest spade lead to the king and you win this, needing to develop diamonds, apparently without letting North in for a possibly fatal spade continuation. Leading a diamond to the queen is possible, but a plausible alternative is to cross to a heart to lead a diamond to the ten. Not today. With South holding both high diamonds, he can clear spades while retaining his entry. This was the full deal:

Board 16, Dealer West, EW vulnerable

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

The next deal saw Ashley Bach in the best game – albeit one reached after something of a misunderstanding.

Board 22, Dealer East, EW vulnerable

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

West	North	East	South
Rigal	Bach	RGR	Dyke
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Double
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Dyke didn't get the message about this being a three-card heart suit but 4♥ played nicely enough. After a diamond lead, the key is to play to ruff two diamonds in hand. So cash the top diamonds and play a spade up. East takes the ace and returns the suit. Now you play a diamond and ruff, the ♥A and three rounds of clubs trumping, then lead the fourth diamond in this ending:

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

Declarer has scored eight tricks (1 spade, 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs, and a ruff in each hand) and now leads the ♦J – covered, ruffed and over-ruffed. Down to only spades East leads his jack, dummy must follow, and West must ruff his partner's winner to be endplayed! Ouch.

At the table the play departed from double dummy. But I let Bach score his ♥6 by ruffing the fourth diamond, for a painful -620.

TABLES

Tables as of Thursday night: 7,683

2024 comparison: 6,483 tables

2020 comparison: 8,200 tables

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GOLD COAST TEAMS

Barbara Travis

Match 9: Intermediate

I finally made it into the Intermediate Teams today, choosing to watch the teams lying first and fourth: Boyd vs Kenmore Aces. At my table, Mick Fawcett sat North with Anne Russell South, and East was Jeremy Reid playing with Erica McCoull, West. This was Erica's first national congress, so she was very nervous, especially with me kibitzing.

Mick Fawcett impressed me on the first board, Board 9:

♠ A K J 8 5
♥ Q 6 4 2
♦ A 9 3
♣ 3

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

♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ A J 7
♦ J 10 4 2
♣ J 2

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

3♣ was 6-9 Bergen and 3♦ asked whether she was a minimum or maximum in the range – which worked a treat this hand.

Jeremy led the ♠9 to the ten, queen and ace. Mick drew the remaining spades then led a heart to the jack, winning. Now he led a diamond to the nine and queen. The ♣A held, but the next club was trumped. When Mick cashed the ♦A and exited with a diamond to West, Erica, he had executed a lovely strip-and-endplay, without having any idea of the count. Erica had to give him a ruff-and-discard so he was able to throw a heart from hand, trumping in dummy. The ♦J gave him a second heart discard and he could claim. Very well done.

While this auction was far from perfect, Jeremy

demonstrated the power of cashing a long suit in dummy:

Board 11, Dealer South, Nil vulnerable

♠ 9 6 4
♥ J 5 3 2
♦ A 6
♣ K 9 4 3

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

♠ J 7 2
♥ Q 8
♦ K 10 7
♣ Q J 8 5 2

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

Jeremy may have been wiser to rebid 2♠, but the seventh diamond persuaded him to bid 3♦. Erica had to decide whether he had a minimum and long diamonds or an invitational hand. Passing 3♦ looks safer (though 5♦ will make on a non-heart lead – South can get a heart ruff).

Anne Russell, who used to be the GCC photographer but, after 11 years, has managed to play this year, led the ♣5. Clubs were ducked until the third round, with declarer discarding diamonds. The contract looked pretty dismal, but one should never give up, and clearly Jeremy is of that mindset. He decided that he needed spades to break 3-3 which would exert some discarding pressure on the opponents, so his next step was to cash the five spades. Mick threw one diamond, then one heart, and Anne felt the pressure, able to discard one diamond but wanting to hold her clubs. A heart discard was fatal. Jeremy cashed the ♥K in dummy and watched as the ♥Q fell on his left. He now finessed the jack on the way back and rapidly claimed his nine tricks.

I can't say I approve of Jeremy's bidding on Board 7, but I did admire his declarer play:

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

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	Pass	1♠*	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♠!!	All Pass

Whilst I don't mind reopening with a 4-card spade suit, it is usually a quality suit. There's nothing nice about that suit. Either a balancing 1NT, if in your range, or a slightly flawed double, is far superior. After the cue raise, I expected Jeremy to rebid 3NT, but his youthful optimism (he's 24 years old) had my eyes popping!

Anne led the ♣Q, won by the ace. Knowing that North had limited values, Jeremy led the ♠3 to the jack and queen. Mick cashed his ♣K and led another club. Anne knew better than to trump with the ace, but – at the same time – Jeremy now knew what was going on in the trump suit. (He also knew that North had no more



Jeremy Reid

honour cards, from the first round pass.) The ♣8 ran to dummy's 10, then the ♠2 was ducked to South's ace.

Anne led the ♥J, which was an error given that Jeremy was marked with the ♥Q from Mick's already-seen black honours. The trick ran to Jeremy's queen. He crossed to dummy with a safe diamond to lead the ♠6, finessing North's ♠9: 6 – 9 – King, then the ♠8 drew the last trump. The ♣J was cashed, followed by the ♦A, then a heart to dummy's ace saw the ♦Q win his tenth trick.

Managing revolting 4-3 trump fits is clearly something he is used to!

Match 10: Under 1500 MPs

The top two teams met during this match and, despite one team having a big win, they are the two teams in the Final: Stanton and Cameron. This was a match of bad breaks. Some could be handled but only by careful play, as Board 27.

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

Jan Randall drove NS to 6♠ after West overcalled 3♦. A diamond lead ran around to the king and ace. Once you discover that spades are 4-0, i.e. on the first round, you must discontinue trumps because they will be your entries to dummy. You are best served to cash the ♠A, finding the bad break, then switch to clubs. Cash the ♣A-K, then ruff a club. This bad break is manageable. Lead a spade to dummy then trump another club with the ♠Q. Cash your ♦Q to discard the heart loser, then lead a small spade to dummy. Draw the last trump and claim 12 tricks with your club suit.

The Open field managed this hand well, but the Intermediate field struggled in 6♠. It's almost a classic

hand about trump management AND entry management.

Board 22 is another 'book' hand.

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣ (16+)	Pass	1♦ (0-7)
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♥3 to East's ♥J. You need the clubs to break for 9 tricks (or the ♠A onside). Whilst many would duck trick 1, you should win. You don't want East switching to spades through your king; if they regain the lead with clubs, it may prove awkward. Just win trick 1 and start work on clubs. When they break, you have your 9 tricks and are happy.

During this match, there was a situation where the defensive side gave an incorrect definition of partner's overcall of the Precision 1♣ opening bid. The person who made the bid, thinking she was 'doing the right thing' explained the bid correctly before the lead was made. Whilst this is the correct course of action if you are the declaring side, it is not the right thing to do when defending. As the declaring side, you must explain misexplanations to the defenders; you are not giving any unauthorised information to partner, who is dummy. However, as the defenders, you can only enlighten the opposition at the end of play, otherwise you are alerting your partner – and that is inappropriate.

Match 11: Intermediate

The best part of this match was the repartee when Jeremy Reid made 3♦X (after an opposition hiccup). He wasn't sure of the score, and I couldn't help but say to a youth player, "You must have had enough of these contracts that you should know the score." His snappy response was, "They are not usually positive!"

Watching Jeremy's exuberant bidding took a few years off my life. Try this hand:

♠ A J
♥ 9 7 5 3 2
♦ A K 10 5
♣ 9 5

The bidding has started: Pass – Pass (partner) – 1♠. Jeremy fearlessly overcalled 2♥. His RHO bid 4♠ with her heart void and, of course, Jeremy led anything but hearts!

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

The ♦K was led, partner giving count. The switch to the ♣9 was won with dummy's ace, and a trump led to the king and ace. The ♦A was cashed then a club led to the king. Another club can now promote the ♠J for down two tricks!

West was astonished to find that declarer held the ♥A-K, and really shocked to realise that Jeremy's suit was 9-high. At the end of the match, I said that there was a five (not four) letter word to describe the overcall: gross.

Thank you to everyone who let me kibitz in the restricted fields. Most of you were a little reluctant, some were welcoming, but if you want to read about your sections you have to let us watch! I've enjoyed meeting you and, in some cases, making new friends.



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GOLD COAST TEAMS: OPEN

Lauren Travis

Match 9

I found the boards in this match uninspiring, so I can't imagine what it was like to play all 14 of them. I'm taking a leaf out of Barry's book and offering a fantasy, but this one is based on the actual layout.

Board 3, Dealer South, EW Vul

♠ AK5	
♥ K84	
♦ J852	
♣ 863	
♠ Q764	♠ J1083
♥ AJ2	♥ 1095
♦ 109	♦ 74
♣ AJ95	♣ Q1074
♠ 92	
♥ Q763	
♦ AKQ63	
♣ K2	

North-South had a quick auction: 1NT-3NT. Hugh McGann led the ♠4 which was won in dummy. While declarer pondered his options, so did Hugh, and he decided that if declarer played a club to the king at trick



Hugh McGann

2, he would duck. Unfortunately for Shen Gang, he couldn't read Hugh's mind. He cashed some diamonds and played a heart to the king before trying the club. At that point, Hugh had too much information about the South hand to even consider ducking, and declarer had no remaining hope of making.

Match 11

The penultimate qualifying match pitted first-placed Dalley against second-placed Ware.

Paul Dalley declared an interesting 3NT which was made by only 15 players in the room, with scores of declarers failing (on a different lead).

Board 5, Dealer North, NS Vul

	♠ J5	
	♥ 532	
	♦ QJ62	
	♣ 10932	
♠ 10		♠ KQ976
♥ K7		♥ A104
♦ AK10753		♦ 94
♣ K654		♣ Q87
	♠ A8432	
	♥ QJ986	
	♦ 8	
	♣ AJ	

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Thompson	Nunn	Fruewirth
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Paul's 2♦ was game forcing with 5+ diamonds and Tony Nunn's 2♠ was a catch-all bid, not promising anything other than what he'd already shown. They ended up in the best game but had wrong-sided it given the heart position. Jamie Thompson led of the nine of clubs, promising the ten. Rob Fruewirth won the ace and switched to the queen of hearts which Paul won in hand. Unfortunately for the defenders, Rob's trick two play was already too late – provided Paul played the hand accurately, Jamie could never get back on lead to shoot a heart through dummy's A-10.

Paul crossed to the ♣K in dummy and called for the ♦4. I watched his hand hover over the ten for a long while before he thought better of it and played the ace, combining his chances of a 3-2 diamond split with other options including the actual layout. After cashing his ♦K and discovering the bad break, Rob pitching a small spade, Paul moved on to spades. The ten was played to North's jack and East's king, ducked by South. The play to trick one had marked Rob with a doubleton club and he had since shown up with a singleton diamond, so it was known that he only had major cards left. Paul could simply continue spades until Rob won, and he would get two spade tricks but be endplayed to lead into dummy's heart tenace. Ten tricks were worth 11 imps to Dalley when declarer at the other table went down three in the same contract.

On the last board, Jamie and Rob had a classy auction to reach a slam only bid at five tables:



Above: Paul Dalley

Right: Jamie Thompson



Board 14, Dealer East, Nil Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Thompson	Nunn	Fruewirth
			1♣
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Rob's 2♥ was a general force after which Jamie was able to show some club support. 4♣ was optional keycard and Jamie's 4♥ showed a non-minimum hand with one keycard, which was all Rob needed to hear to bid 6♣.

Paul found the best lead of the ♦K but to no avail. Rob thought deeply for a moment before claiming based on the spade finesse – his only chance. +920 was worth 10 imps to Ware when Ash Bach and Kieran Dyke stopped in 3NT at the other table.



INTO THE MIXED (PART 7 OF 8)

Peter Gill

Grand Final - Board 116 of 120

Dealer East, All Vul

♠ 10 4 3
♥ J 6 4
♦ Q 8
♣ Q 10 8 6 4

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

♠ A 5 2
♥ 9
♦ A K 10 9 7 4
♣ A K J

West	North	East	South
Mundell	Gill	Peake	Sylvester
			1♣*
4♥	Pass	Pass	X

All Pass

1♣ was Precision, any 16+ point hand. I led ♣5 to ♣K, then ♣A. Minus 790. A massive disaster. Should I have bid 5♣? We can maybe make 6♣ or 6♦.

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Gumby	Dalley	Lazer
			1♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	X

All Pass

Pauline led ♦Q and another diamond, ruffed. Heart to the ace. Spade off dummy and If declarer is 4-7 in the majors and partner has Qx in spades, you'd better duck. If declarer has singleton ♠K or the actual layout, you'd better play SA right now.

Warren got it right - he played ♠A. Michael Courtney did well to play ♠Q, threatening to discard a club loser if Michael has KQx, KQJ10987, x, xx.

Warren cashed ♣K. Pauline played C8. Could Warren work out to play a diamond next for the trump promotion of ♥J? He certainly would have, if Michael had played ♠6 instead of ♠Q, because now there's no danger of a

club trick running away.

Warren tried to cash another club - minus 790.

Sartaj Hans on ♣K would play ♣Q - he calls it an "alarm clock" signal - the play of a weird card to indicate to partner that the weird play - the diamond for the trump promotion - is required. Count signals on ♣K (NS play reverse count) also work. But we were all tired after six days' bridge and something went wrong.

Today's tip: Sartaj's Alarm Clock Signal - as explained above. An Alarm Clock variation called Nike is in Zia Mahmood's new book Bridge - A Love Story on pages 95 to 102.

ONE CAN BUT LAUGH

Someone wishing to remain anonymous told us about this hand and its outcome:

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT (15-17)	2♦ (!!)	Double
2♥	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

Both sides were vulnerable. East's 2♦ showed both majors (remind me she's dangerous!).

Deep Finesse indicates that NS can make 2♥.

North cashed the ♥A and ♥K, then led a diamond - having interpreted South's double as showing diamonds - which went to South's ♦K and West's ♦A. West led another heart, going all in and willing to lose a lot of spades! North won, cashed their ♣A, then continued with a second diamond. Curtains - West took the rest of the tricks, 9 tricks and +870!



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



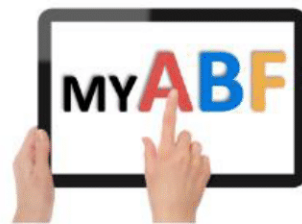
VENUE



Brisbane Technology Park Conference and Exhibition Centre
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Entries AND Accommodation options are on MyABF

GOLD POINTS

2025 AUSTRALIAN MIXED TEAM

Lauren Travis

Peter Gill

Peter Gill says his proudest moment in bridge was when he went -4000 on a board. The opponents could have got 4600 and blamed each other for their defensive slip-up, while Peter smiled sweetly. They self-destructed for the rest of the set and he won by a landslide. His favourite convention is the “Helen Keller Convention” – he claims not to see or hear anything his partner does, and doesn’t say anything in response. He dislikes Lebensohl and exclusion keycard. Peter says the best things about his (life and bridge) partner Liz’s game are her concentration, temperament, focus and partnership handling, as well as her intuition – when she trusts it. He likes to arrive early to international tournaments and perhaps holiday beforehand in the same time zone. Peter has won almost all big events in Australia except the Gold Coast Pairs and Teams, so he would have loved to have won those too. He says the person he’d most like to have a game with is me, although we did play the Barrier Reef together in 2011 when I was 18 (and still a bit intimidated by him – not any more!). Peter predicts that the future of bridge is Little Major style bidding and is interested in reading about how AI will impact on the game.

Liz Sylvester

Liz says Peter is awesome and reminds her of Roger Federer – towards the end of a match he lifts and goes into another gear, so it’s never over until the last card is played. She enjoys doing well when she plays with Peter because it makes him happy and she loves having a happy bridge partner. Liz said her proudest bridge memory is when she coached up a pair at her local Mollymook Bridge Club – they consistently came at the bottom of the field but after some time and work they began beating the top pairs and she was thrilled. Liz loves playing simple bridge, although she thinks that to win high-quality tournaments a partnership does require more complex agreements. She hates Bergen raises. In preparation for the world championships, Liz has asked her partner to identify her weaknesses so she can

work on them, and plays weekly games using hands from past mixed championships, not only to practise, but also to get to know potential opponents’ systems and styles. Her favourite way to learn about the game is to watch BBO Vugraph of good events, and she has a list of her top players to watch which includes NZ’s Matt Brown as well as Kalita and Klukowski. She also recommends Krzysztof Martens’ book *The Working Horse*.



Peter Gill and Liz Sylvester

Arlene Dalley

Arlene is a first-time Australian representative and is partnering Michael, who she says is unconventional and wild in the way he plays the game. She loves that he will bid a lot, which matches her style, and they often end up in weird and wonderful contracts. Arlene’s favourite win was the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs with Ash Bach. When discussing system, she recounted that she kept forgetting Lebensohl, ended up in an awful contract and said that she was not playing it any more. On the next hand, she had the perfect opportunity to use Lebensohl and didn’t know what to do! Arlene’s dream partner is Ash – she said “if I wanted to play with someone else, I would” – although Barbara Travis is her second choice if Ash isn’t available. She’s excited to play the world championships and hopes to do well overseas. Arlene said she thinks the most important thing is sleep – her mum is 100 and “did everything wrong” but always slept well, and Arlene hopes to follow suit.

Michael Courtney

Michael once approached me, keen to show off “the best bid I’ve made all year”. He wrote down a hand which looked vaguely familiar, and as he told me the auction I realised that I had been his opponent, and it was from a set where my team lost by about 60 imps. I agreed that it was indeed a great bid and in hindsight I appreciated the way he manipulated us on the hand. Michael’s favourite bridge books are *Bergholt on Auction Bridge*, and *The Expert Game* by Terence Reese. His approach to system is unusual in the modern game; his favourite convention is 1NT-4♦ showing 5-5 in the majors with no slam interest.

I asked Michael his favourite thing he’s done in bridge and he told me about the following hand from a rubber bridge game in 1977. Michael was partnering an awful man who complained about his partners and screamed at them for going for penalties. He picked up ♠8xxxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣xx so opened 3♠, to which his partner responded 4NT asking for aces. Michael bid 5♣ to show none, and after his partner’s 5NT king ask he bid 6♣, again showing none. His partner jumped to 7♠. The opening lead was the ♠9 and his partner began by tabling ♠J10x. Michael instantly called for a low spade, before the rest of dummy was put down (♠AKQJ10x ♥A ♦AKQJx ♣A). After going one off (losing the first trick to the singleton nine of spades), his partner was irate. “How could you possibly go off?” he asked, to which Michael replied, “I lost a trick to the nine of spades. When you put down J10x I thought I should duck.” Partner said, “I just did that as a joke!” and Michael responded, “What about my joke? Don’t you think that was funny?”



Above: Arlene Dalley and Michael Courtney

Right: Shane Harrison and Jessica Brake

Shane Harrison

Originally from Adelaide, Shane now lives in Sydney and is partnering his wife Jess in the mixed team. He’s most proud of winning the Australian Open Butler Pairs last year and is excited to play his first ‘open level’ world championship this year, having previously represented Australia in the youth. Shane would like to win a playoff – he’s been unlucky and lost a few close finals in the past. He says Jess is calm at the table and a good partner. Shane is happy to play whatever system his partner prefers, although he told me he doesn’t like conventions in general. His favourite book is Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden* and he claims that *The Bridge Bum* is “the only good bridge book”. Shane and Jess are crazy about budgies and their second bedroom is an aviary.

Jessica Brake

Jess says that the best thing about playing bridge with her husband Shane is that he has to love her, no matter how many mistakes she makes. I’m sure that number is not too high – Jess has a good track record in national women’s events and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the mixed team last year. Her favourite convention is non-serious 3♣/3NT, and her least favourite is Gerber. She prepares for tournaments by practising on Cuebids and getting plenty of sleep, and enjoys discussing hands she’s played more than reading bridge books. Jess’ proudest bridge moment is winning the Butler with Shane in 2024, and she hopes to one day make an Australian Open Team. She would have loved the opportunity to have a game of bridge with her grandma, who has passed away – but amazingly, there are three generations of Brakes playing at this GCC!



2025 AUSTRALIAN SENIORS' TEAM

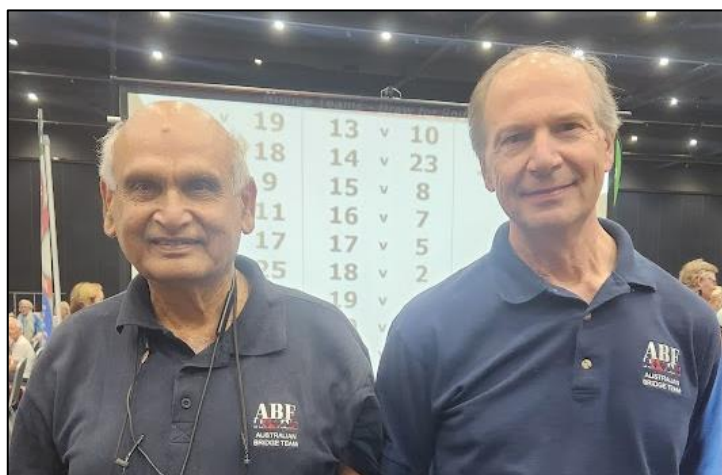
Lauren Travis

George Kozakos

George's first national win was the ANC Open Pairs in 1985, partnering Bobby Richman. During that event, an opponent opened a weak 2♠ in first seat, passed around to George who bid 3♣ on his 6-5 in the minors. Bobby's dummy included ♠AKQTxx! He has played with many Australian greats, including Bobby, Paul Marston, Dick Cummings, Paul Lavings and Stephen Burgess, and his partner in the Seniors' team is Avi. He appreciates that Avi is very fast and accurate in both the bidding and the play – since, as many of us know, George likes to take his time. George would love to win the NOT (he's been runner-up twice) along with all Australian nationals. His favourite convention is 2♣ showing the majors over the opponents' 1NT opening, with a 2♦ response showing no preference, and his least favourite convention is extended Stayman as it removes an escape route from 1NT with a weak hand. Before tournaments, George likes to read his system notes, play Bridge Master, arrive early and focus on bridge. He also enjoys watching YouTube and Twitch recordings with expert commentary on world class events, such as BradyBot, USBF and Gavin Wolpert. His favourite bridge book is *Reese on Play*, which he has read over a dozen times. George is an avid cyclist and used to compete in endurance events, including the Foster Ironman in 1997 (finishing in about 12 hours) and the Sydney Marathon in 1998, where he and his wife Suzanne won the 'Husband and Wife' category.

Avi Kanetkar

Avi is a hard taskmaster – he trains his partners to align with his way of thinking through lots of bidding practice and discussion – and luckily his partner George is willing to let Avi win that battle. Avi's proudest wins are an APBF Seniors' Championship and the New Zealand Congress, but he has never won the Australian Open Butler (he's come second twice) or received a world championship medal. Avi loved to read *The Bridge World* magazine through Edgar Kaplan's era. He says he's



Avi Kanetkar and George Kozakos

played every convention and the best ones are anything that both partners are well versed in and can remember. These days he prefers simplified systems, especially since he plays with multiple partners. Avi loves cricket, tennis and golf, and is learning to sing.

David Beauchamp

David's proudest moment in bridge was when he represented Australia in the open team for the first time in 1996 with Ted Chadwick. At the end of day 1, Australia was leading the whole field! He aspires to win the Gold Coast Teams, as he's never won it before – and having qualified first yesterday, his team is in with a good chance – as well as an APBF championship. David's favourite bridge book is *At the Table: My Life and Times* by Bob Hamman, and his favourite convention playing a Jacoby 2NT structure after inverted minors (courtesy of Laura Ginnan). David is grateful that his partner Maurits has agreed to tone down his very aggressive pre-empting style, and says Maurits' biggest strength is his thoughtful declarer play. Prior to big tournaments, he likes to be in good physical shape and tries to do lots of walking before the start of play. David and his wife Anita Curtis enjoy travelling and have planned trips to the Dolomites and the Bernese Oberland this year.

Maurits van der Vlugt

Maurits is most proud of representing Australia, this year in the Seniors' and last year with his wife Dagmar in the Mixed Team. He said it's a real honour to represent his country and he hopes to have the opportunity to stand on the podium in the green and gold. Maurits said that,

aside from being a really good player, his partner David's biggest strength is that even when he gets cranky he never takes it out on his partner – something Maurits is still working on! His favourite bridge authors are Phil and Robert King, who he says are on a par with Mollo. Maurits doesn't like Journalist leads but is a big fan of non-serious 3NT, which he called a "life saver". Aside from Zia, Michael Whibley is the other player he'd love to have a game with. For the last 15 years, Maurits has dressed up as Sint Nicolaas during Christmas celebrations for Dutch children in Sydney and Canberra.



Above: David Beauchamp and Maurits van der Vlugt

Below: Terry Brown and Ian Thomson



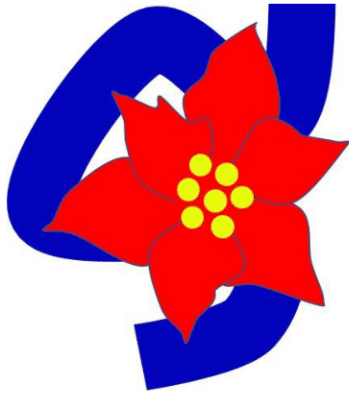
Terry Brown

Terry has the best 'proudest moment' so far: he and George Bilski once won the datums at the Bermuda Bowl! He hopes to win a Seniors' world championship, having lost in the knockouts three times, including once by only 5imps. Terry reads a lot of bridge books, his favourite being *Why You Lose at Bridge* by SJ Simon. Terry's preparation regime is to practise bidding (online, as his partners live interstate) and "discuss, discuss, discuss" – sound advice for anyone looking to improve their game. He despises the Bergen-style 3-card limit raise and his favourite convention is 3-way 2♣ (presumably so he doesn't have to play that Bergen raise). Terry has been playing bridge for over 55 years and still loves it!

Ian Thomson

Ian says that any win in bridge is a good win, no matter the event. His proudest bridge moment is regularly scoring 80+% with his mother at Canberra Bridge Club in the 1970s – I bet the opponents hated to see them coming! He dislikes 4+ point NT ranges, garbage Stayman, and impractical 2-level openings, and his favourite conventions are "ones partner can remember". Ian says his partner Terry is easy-going and he's glad they both favour a natural bidding style and evaluate hands similarly. Before and during tournaments, Ian likes to increase his fitness and eat a balanced diet. His favourite bridge resources are any books by Ron Klinger. Ian feels positively about the increase in face-to-face bridge post-Covid and the social benefits of playing in person, but is concerned about a decline in active ethics among experienced players and the broader Australian bridge community. He has been a successful NPC of international teams in the past, and says it's important for players to be honest and communicate how they are feeling during the event to help the captain select appropriate line-ups.





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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.



ZEPHYR EDUCATION: The charity supported by the Gold Coast Congress

My name is Carmel Martin, co-founder and treasurer of Zephyr Education. For the few who don't know, Zephyr helps those affected by domestic and family violence to resume their education – usually within 24 to 48 hours of receiving a request for assistance. The vast majority assisted by Zephyr are children – starting with little preppies.

You will no doubt be as dismayed as I am that we are probably attending our last GCC as we know it. The bridge community has been behind Zephyr from the very beginning – almost 12 years ago. That was when we started by registering 2 Women's shelters in Brisbane so that we could supply them with the full educational needs of children. When my sister, Zephyr's president, approached them to see if this need was being addressed, she expressed her idea that we would provide what they needed whether it was a pair of shoes or the full kit, including stationery made to the booklist of the new school the children would be attending – within 24 to 48 hours... they thought she was crazy. She asked them to give us a go and the rest is history.

We started Zephyr as a family charity with Isabella, David, Terry and me. David had not long retired and thought he'd be off to the beach. Isabella and Terry were still working and I was working on making bridge my full-time occupation. Not to be – Isabella promised to stop registering shelters when we got to 25. She lied. Once the amazing Followmont Transport came on board to transport thousands of boxes to every corner of the state free of charge, her eyes widened with the potential for expansion. Upon visiting Zephyr, Victor Feros wryly commented that the definition of our name means 'a gentle breeze' but that what had been created was more like a hurricane.

As of October, when I am writing this, Zephyr operates in EVERY State and Territory in Australia. We have 231 DFV shelters, Family Service organisations and outreach services registered for Zephyr's support. This even reaches families living in their cars.

We provide (mostly) children with some or all of their school needs, as and when required – on approval only, which approval is frugally and carefully assessed. We don't pay into any private accounts. The range of what Zephyr pays for includes: the full book list specific to the child's year and school; full uniform including shoes, socks and hats; swimwear; lunchbox and water bottle; resource fees, camp fees, iPads and laptops - expensive, yet indispensable learning tools. Since Covid – our second highest expense.

Our aim is solely to have that child, the saddest and most vulnerable victim of domestic violence, look like every other school child, so they do not feel out of place, nor appear less valuable than others, nor attract the eye of a potential bully. This is all in the hope that they can resume their education successfully. This needs to happen immediately though and this is Zephyr's distinguishing quality and reason for success as a game changer in the sector.

Last financial year, we provided for over 3,000 children at a cost of \$884,573 – an increase of 18.7% on the previous year. Our overheads remain at around 2%. We receive no government funding and this leads me to you – my fellow bridgies, who stagger me every year with your generosity and moral support. I am now imploring you to keep following and supporting Zephyr once my collectors and I will no longer be in your faces when all you want to do is play bridge.

The heart of Zephyr is an incredibly selfless, generous, unpaid, motivated team of over 50 volunteers working daily to ensure that we are responding to and completing every request as quickly as possible, raising funds, delivering to all corners of the country (thank you again, Followmont Transport and all the suppliers who deliver free of charge) and attending to the myriad logistics which come with operating what is now a sizeable business.

Zephyr wouldn't exist without the hugely compassionate contribution of these tireless good men and women some of whom you will find as partners or opposition at this very congress. On top of all this is the support and motivation received from everyone who supports Zephyr's vision – you are all an indispensable part of the team.

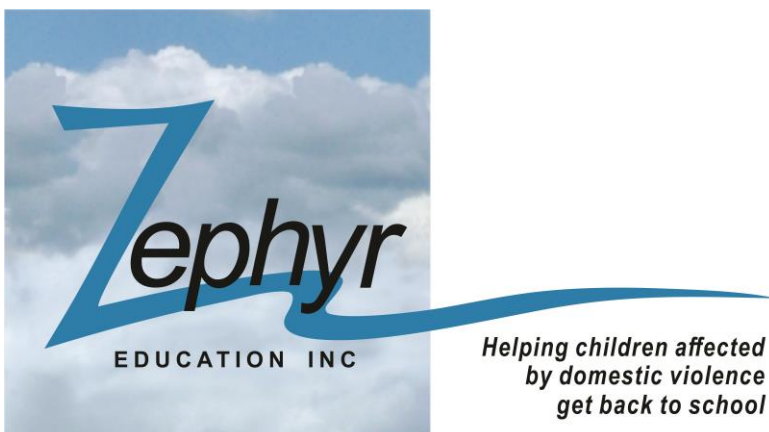
I can't begin to thank Kim Ellaway and all the team who nominated Zephyr as its charity for the GCC. I can't individually thank the many, many people who give us ongoing financial and moral support which gives us the confidence to expand, but please know we are supremely grateful.

Our focus is, and always has been, on the children and their education. But this, of course, also assists the carers of all children who fall within our scope, including Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, foster carers and guardians. You've all got behind us and huge numbers of children have felt less alone and a little more loved.

We frequently receive unsolicited feedback from both case workers and mothers that confirms the impact of the support Zephyr provides.

The first is from a case worker at a Sydney shelter:

Please find attached the receipt from Shoes and Sox and I can't express how much these shoes mean to the client. You made her week!! She just wants to be able to provide for her boys and this means they can now have brand new shoes which will bring them so much joy! Also thank you for the school packs and stationery items!! You are such a beautiful organization and making such a difference in the world for women and children who have survived domestic and family violence. Thank you so much.



Here are some recent examples including two Facebook posts from DFV support organisations we help:

Dear Zephyr Education Inc,

I am a client of (a DFV support organisation Zephyr helps). My son is starting school on Monday and I just wanted to say the biggest Thank you! We have received a lovely starter pack for school, which is just incredibly amazing during tough times. You are so very kind.

Wonderful Steve (Steve is one of 12 Zephyr volunteers who monitor, respond to, and action requests for support.)

Thank you so much. Little man came into the office yesterday and insisted on showing us his new school uniform. Proud as punch and had a fantastic day as he had everything he needed to feel and look like he belonged.

So appreciative for everything Zephyr does. Have a great day.

Thank you Kelsey (Zephyr's Operations Manager),

I have worked in the refuge for 7 years and I cannot express just how much your support means and how grateful the mums I see are to be able to provide the right resources to their children.

Facebook post from Women's Crisis Support Service Inc:

There are many volunteers who donate their time to support victim-survivors of Domestic and Family Violence and WCSSI attributes much of our success to these humble behind-the-scenes heroes who rarely ever receive any recognition. The team at Zephyr Education Inc are all volunteers, and they ensure every single child who enters a DV shelter has the uniforms, stationery, and other resources to start at their new school.

These are provided by Zephyr Education free of charge and we cannot convey how much difference this makes to each and every child we support.

And just one last blow of my own trumpet, a group of donors visited Zephyr recently and we received this:

Dear Carmel,

I couldn't let today go by without thanking you [all] for your hospitality and candour in sharing your Zephyr stories.

It has affected me very deeply to have seen for myself that out of a basement carpark so much good is being done without fanfare or fuss. Your vision and practical commitment is inspiring. May your work continue to prosper as long as the need is there.

If you would like to make a donation, we will be rattling collection boxes and have Eftpos machines on hand. Kim Ellaway in the main office has kindly volunteered to accept donations as well.

All donations are tax deductible and for those of you who may wish to donate by bank transfer – Zephyr's bank account details are:

NAB Zephyr Education Inc

BSB: 084-004

ACC: 15-629-0526

Please Reference Your Name and send your email address to admin@zephyreducation.com.au so I can forward your receipt.

And to repeat what I said last year - have a safe, brilliant congress. We're so lucky to have this fabulous game in our lives - non bridge players have no idea what they're missing.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Carmel Martin

Co-founder and Treasurer

Zephyr Education Inc

ABN 47 805 738 577 ARBN 615 454 227

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Tel: 0438 873 620

admin@zephyreducation.com.au

www.zephyreducation.com.au



AN INTERESTING QUESTION

What is the lowest card you have ever seen win the first round of a suit by virtue of being the highest card out?

Patrick Jourdain wrote up this hand from the Camrose Trophy match between Wales and Scotland (1979). This hand from the first session of Saturday night set some sort of record for most observers:

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

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

In the other room, South played in 2♦, which went down two tricks (despite the fit), for -200.

Against 3♣ (why didn't they double?), East led a spade. West took two top spades and led a third, ruffed with the Queen and over-ruffed.

Then came a diamond, ruffed by West, who led a fourth spade. Declarer trumped with the Jack and was over-trumped. Another diamond ruff was followed by the fifth spade. North trumped with the ♣9 and was over-ruffed with the 10.

East now had the pleasure of claiming the first round of trumps with his master ♣6 and the contract was down five, -500.



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plavings@gmail.com or 0408 888 085

TRUMP PROMOTIONS: SEARCHING FOR CLUES

Barry Rigal

Bob Morris came up with a spectacular line of play on this deal from the second final session of Mixed Board-a-Match Teams (hands rotated).

Dlr: South ♠ A Q 2
Vul: E-W ♥ A Q 7 2
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ K 6 5 2

♠ 8 7 6 4
♥ 10 8
♦ 10 8 7 4
♣ 9 8 7

♠ 9
♥ K J 9 4 3
♦ A 5 3
♣ Q 10 4 3

♠ K J 10 5 3
♥ 6 5
♦ K J 9 2
♣ A J

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

The 2NT bid by North was natural. She drove to slam after Morris made an encouraging pass over the double of 4♥.

Morris won the ♥10 lead in dummy with the ace, closed his eyes and finessed the ♣J at trick two. He then cashed the ♣A, played a spade to dummy's queen, cashed the ♣K for a heart pitch and then played the ♦Q.

East won then led the last club, ruffed high by Morris as West pitched a heart. Morris could see he was about to get caught in dummy after ruffing a diamond. How could he avoid the potential trump promotion? He elected to cash the ♦K and ♦J, then led his fourth diamond, hoping West would discard. No such luck: West followed, leaving Morris to guess whether to ruff high or low (East had followed with the ♠9 on the first round of the suit).

Morris could count out the East hand to either 1-5-3-4 or 2-4-3-4. The combination of the ♥10 lead and East's

♠9 on the first round of trumps was not overpowering, but it was enough of a clue for him to ruff with the ♠2. When East could not overruff, Morris claimed his slam – the last two cards in his hand were the ♠K and ♠J.

I suspect most of the field played 4♠ as North on this deal from the Wednesday evening pairs game, and were lucky to emerge with 10 tricks.

Dlr: West ♠ K Q 10 8 7 5
Vul: Both ♥ 10 9 8
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ 8 3

♠ 3
♥ K 7 6 2
♦ J 8 6 5
♣ K Q 10 6

♠ J 6 2
♥ J 5 3
♦ Q 10 9 2
♣ A 5 4

♠ A 9 4
♥ A Q 4
♦ A 7 4
♣ J 9 7 2

At our table, South was declarer – well, he always is in the textbooks – and I knew no better than to lead the ♣K. The contract is still impregnable, but my devious partner, Eric Leong, was not going to let that put him off. He overtook the ♣K with the ace and returned the ♣5. I won the ♣10 and played back a low club to go for the trump promotion.

Declarer now had three plausible strategies available. He could ruff high and hope to negotiate trumps and hearts, with some excellent endplay chances if trumps split. He would ruff with a middle trump, or he could discard a heart, hoping for the actual lie of the cards or a winning heart finesse.

I'm not sure what is best, but when declarer followed the first line, he had turned plus 620 into minus 100 and my partner into a hero – if just for one day.



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

BY THE NUMBERS

You don't need a maths degree to be a decent declarer, but a basic knowledge of percentages is useful. For instance, six missing cards will split 4-2 about 48% of the time, 3-3 about 36% of the time. (It's easier to recall that an odd number of missing cards will tend to split evenly, an even number will tend not to.)

Declarer will often choose a line of play based on inferences or technique, but occasionally he will have to rely on what seems to be the best percentage chance.

Dlr West ♠ 8 6
All Vul ♥ 7 6
IMPs ♦ 5 4 3
 ♣ A K 6 5 4 3

♠ A K Q J
♥ J 9 5 3
♦ A J 10
♣ 7 2

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

North's raise to 3NT is lousy, but if South can use the clubs, he may make the contract; if the clubs don't come in, he may not make even 2NT (or 1NT).

West leads the ♥K and continues with the ♥4. East takes the queen and, to declarer's relief, leads the ♥10: jack, ace, diamond from dummy. Declarer wins the next heart; how should he continue?

An option is play a low club from both hands. Win any return and take the ♣A-K. If the suit breaks 3-2, you have nine tricks – about a 68% chance. The alternative is to lead a club to dummy and return a diamond to your ten. If that loses, you reach dummy with the other high club and finesse with the ♦J. You win if East has at least one diamond honour, a superior 75% chance.

There is another reason to prefer the diamond play: West didn't open the bidding and showed the ♥A-K. He is unlikely to have both the ♦K and ♦Q.

Dlr South ♠ A Q 5 3
All Vul ♥ J 9 4
IMPs ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ 5 4 2

♠ K 2
♥ K Q 10 8 6 5 3
♦ K 4
♣ K Q

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

West leads the ♠J, and your king wins. You are in danger of losing four tricks: three aces, plus a second diamond if West has the ace. If you lead a trump, East may well get in – with the ♥A or ♣A – and then a diamond shift may be fatal.

Perhaps declarer should immediately take the ♠A-Q, intending to pitch a diamond. If the spades break 4-3, he can get by with that and almost surely make the game. If East ruffs the third spade low, declarer can overruff and still succeed if East has the ♦A. And if a defender ruffs the third spade, it may be with the ♥A.

East will have the ♦A maybe 50% of the time, but spades will break 4-3 about 62% of the time.

I like the spade play.



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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.

♠ A J 4
♥ J 5
♦ K Q 8 7 3
♣ K 6 2

♠ K 10 6
♥ A 9
♦ A J 10 6 2
♣ A Q 9

You are in 6♦. West leads the ♣J. How would you play?

You have 11 top tricks, and it looks like the contract hinges on finding the ♠Q. Is there a way to eliminate the need to guess the Queen?

Your contract of 6♦ is far better than 6NT, should it be reached by the other team.

Now you need to ensure you find a foolproof line of play, whereas in 6NT they will have to guess the ♠Q correctly.

Win the club in either hand and draw trumps. You should then play the remaining clubs, eliminating the suit.

Recognising that you have a heart loser, no matter what you do, your line to sure success is to cash the ♥A, then exit a heart.

Now your hands, dummy and declarer, only have spades and trumps remaining. If the opponent on lead (and you don't mind who it is) leads either hearts or clubs, they give you a ruff and discard, so you can throw away a small spade from one hand whilst trumping in the other. If an opponent leads a spade, you play low from the next hand, then win as cheaply as required. This end-play has eliminated your need to find the ♠Q; instead the opponents have had to do the work for you.

As an aside, even if South holds ♠K-9-6, this elimination is still the best line of play.

♠ A J 4
♥ J 5
♦ K Q 8 7 3
♣ K 6 2

♠ Q 5 2
♥ K 8 6 2
♦ 9 4
♣ J 10 8 4

♠ 9 8 7 3
♥ Q 10 7 4 3
♦ 5
♣ 7 5 3

♠ K 10 6
♥ A 9
♦ A J 10 6 2
♣ A Q 9



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HONOUR ROLL: IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS (OPEN)

	North-South	East-West
2007	Ron Klinger – Jamie Ebery	
2008	Avi Kanetkar – Terry Brown	
2009	Richard Jedrychowski – Apolinary Kowalski	Nye Griffiths – Ian Robinson
2010	Julie Sheridan – Karen Martelletti	John Buckleton – Christine Wilson
2011	Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer	Avi Kanetkar – Terry Brown
2012	Sue Ingham – Michael Courtney	Jeanette Reitzer – Keiran Dyke
2013	Susan Humphries – Michael Wilkinson	Ann Paton – Hugh Grosvenor
2014	Anne Somerville – Geoff Eyles	
2015	Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer	
2016	Richard Jedrychowski – Apolinary Kowalski	Jeanette Reitzer – Terry Brown
2017	Joann & Danny Sprung	Matt Brown – Jessica Brake
2018	Mike Doecke – William Jenner-O’Shea	Sue Ingham – Michael Courtney
2019	Jane Beeby – Michael Wilkinson	Anne Somerville – Geoff Eyles
2020	Avi Kanetkar – David Beauchamp	Ron Cooper – Jonathan Free
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>	
2022	Paul Gosney – Tony Leibowitz	
2023	Axel Johannsson – Kate McCallum	David Smith – Neil Ewart
2024	Finn Kolesnik – Justin Mill	Adam Kaplan – Shane Harrison

HONOUR ROLL: IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS (INTERMEDIATE)

2016	Robert Stick – Colin Payne
2017	Linda Norman – Wendy Gibson
2018	Diane Nichols – Elizabeth Lawrence
2019	Paul Correy – Chris Fernando
2020	Jane & Rich Gryg
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Sandy Carter – Nerida Gillies
2023	Joanne Crockford – Peter Karol
2024	Christine & Herman Louie

HONOUR ROLL: IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS (RESTRICTED)

2007	John Wieczorek – Wendy Boxall
2008	Bastian Bolt – Daniel Hatcher
2009	Mary Allison – Catherine Whiddon
2010	Bastian Bolt – Bob Hunt
2011	Liz Jacka – Mike Edwards
2012	John Donovan – Alexander Hewat
2013	Ian Barfoot – Peter Robbins
2014	Rachael & Maurice Loomes
2015	Lavy & Tomer Libman
2016	Alexander Cook – Robin Ho
2017	Andrew Gosney – Jack Luke-Paredi
2018	Ingrid Cooke – Bill Bradshaw
2019	Annette Hagan – Jane Willoughby
2020	Brad Tattersfield – Jan Borren
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Janet Hansen – Diane Morgan
2023	Eileen Sanger – Judith Tremain
2024	Jan Bennett – Derek Bartosh

HONOUR ROLL: IVY DAHLER BUTLER SWISS PAIRS (NOVICE)

2024	Susan Macken – Jody Burchall
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Ivy Dahler

Ivy Dahler was not only a highly successful player at international level but an important figure in administration, directing, organisation of major events and support for bridge in country areas.

In her 1986 profile of Ivy in *Australian Bridge*, Joyce Nicholson commented that: “It is generally proven that to achieve a high level in bridge one needs tertiary education and reasonable means. Ivy is one of the exceptions. She had little formal education, and even smaller means, yet she has reached the top in bridge in Australia.” It is possible to add some other exceptions. Most top players start relatively young – Ivy did not take up bridge until she was in her late thirties. Most top players live in the city – Ivy’s international career was conducted from Toowoomba in Queensland.

Ivy represented Queensland and Australia in events throughout the 1970s and 1980s, was Secretary of the QBA in 1971, President of the Toowoomba Bridge Club in 1976, QBA Masterpoint Secretary from 1977-1980 and the chair of the first ABF Masterpoint Committee, as well as chairing the Tournament and Ethics Committees.

HONOUR ROLL: SERES-MCMAHON EVENTS

<i>Mixed Teams</i>	
2008	Wynne Webber, Meta Goodman, Tony Jackman, Richard Wallis
2009	Helena & Tony Hutton, Juliet & John Pettitt
2010	Margaret Bourke, Felicity Beale, Robbie Van Riel, Robert Gallus
2011	Greer Tucker, Lindsey Guy, Stephen Gray, Steve White
2012	Christine Duckworth, Brian Callaghan, Agnes Wesseling, Niels Van Der Gaast
2013	Viv Wood, Vanessa Brown, William Jenner-O'Shea, Mike Doecke
2014	Margaret Bourke, Felicity Beale, Robbie Van Riel, Neil Ewart
2015	Sue Crompton, Marlene Watts, Mike Prescott, Michael Wilkinson
2016	Agata Chojnicka, Juste Ronomskyte, Svetlana Badronkova, Piotr Zatorski, Erikas Vainikonis, Andrei Arlovich
<i>Matchpoint Pairs</i>	
2017	John Brockwell – Kevin Tant
2018	Stephen Fischer – David Appleton
2019	Robert Krochmalik – Viv Wood
2020	Phil Gue – Margaret Walters
2021	<i>cancelled: Covid-19 pandemic</i>
2022	Ron Clark – Mike Pemberton
2023	Stephen Henry – Paul Hooykaas



Tim Seres and Mary McMahon

Mary McMahon was widely believed to be one of the best of her generation of Australian women bridge players. She played in every GCC from its inauguration in 1962 until her death in 2002. She won the teams title 13 times and the pairs title six times.

Mary represented Australia in three Women's Team Olympiads and in one Venice Cup. She also played for Australia in a number of Far East Teams Championships, winning the women's title three times and the open once. On the national front, Mary won the women's interstate teams title eleven times and the open teams twice. She also had successes in pairs and individual championships.

Tim Seres was described by Denis Howard as "the king of the Australian bridge world", with comparisons drawn to cricket's Donald Bradman, and the Encyclopaedia of Bridge called Tim "one of the world's great players". His bridge successes are too numerous to list here, but he is considered peerless in Australian bridge. Tim represented Australia in the open team in 1960, 1964, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1981.

The ABF Foundation was established in 2020 with the primary objective of creating a 'bridge future fund'. The Foundation objectives will support any projects that are outside the proper domain of the ABF, with a primary focus is on education and development of bridge in the wider bridge community. Since its formation, the Foundation's efforts have largely been around raising funds to enable it to establish a financial position which can support projects aimed at bridge development.

In 2024, the Foundation trustees were very impressed with the fund-raising efforts of the Australian Under 26 Girls team and we were pleased to be able to contribute to their fund-raising campaign. A few of the members of that team are now rising stars in the bridge world and we wish them every success with their future endeavours.



Photo: Courtesy Anne Russell

One of the Foundation's main fund-raising activities is its annual Pro-am Tourney. In 2025 we plan to broaden the tournament with a slightly different format to enable the involvement of more clubs and players. We have engaged Laura Ginnan as our organiser for the 2025 event and we will be promoting this event widely later this year to clubs.

To support our efforts, the ABF Foundation would be very grateful to receive your donation, your gift on behalf of a bridge playing friend, a regular contribution or a memorial condolence contribution. To find out how you can help, contact us at info@abffoundation.org.au or visit the website at abffoundation.org.au.

Kim Frazer – ABF Foundation Chairman

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To those who wish to remain anonymous – we can only say thank you.

To the surrounding bridge clubs – thank you.

To the volunteers – players, friends and family who donate their hours to make this event the success it is – thank you.