

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

YOUR
DAILY
BULLETIN



Theme: Farewell to the GCC



Saturday 8th February 2025

Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigel

BULLETIN 8

Congratulations to the Winners!



CAMERON – Intermediate Teams Winners

Rochelle Van Heuven, Bigi Cameron, Emma Russell, Tim Rigter



CUSACK – Novice Teams Winners

Ken Baker, Rhonda Khong, Scott Grout, Margaret Cusack



WWDD – Restricted Teams Winners

Caprice Davey, Alice Handley, Owen Teakle, Anne Davey



CAMERON – U1500 Teams Winners

Adrian Lohmann, Jan Randall, Don Cameron, Brian Jacobson



STANTON – U1500 Teams Runners-Up

Susie Warren, Fay Stanton, Di Rogers, Kathy Males



WAN – Novice Teams Runners-Up

Julie Darvall, Michael Zhu, Zhan Wan, Anne Muller



VELING – Restricted Teams Runners-Up

Jeff Veling, Eve Clarkson, Sandy Veling, Jamie Luxton



YOFFA – Intermediate Teams Runners-Up

Ruth Frydman, Dan Craine, Lisa Yoffa, Maryanne Bird

The finals of the U1500, Intermediate, Restricted and Novice Teams Championships were contested over 48 boards on Friday.

In the Under 1500, CAMERON 166 defeated STANTON 59.1.

In the Intermediate, CAMERON 98 defeated YOFFA 71.1.

In the Restricted, WWDD 119.1 defeated VELING 67, finishing the event undefeated through the qualifying rounds and every set of the final.

In the Novice, CUSACK 122 defeated WAN 90.1.

Congratulations to all the teams that participated.

GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS: MATCH 12**Barry Rigal**

The match between the Ware and Foster teams would see the winner advance to the next stage, the loser drowning their sorrows. Or so it appeared.

There were four significant swings in the match; let's look at them all.

Board 16, Dealer West, EW vulnerable

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

In both rooms West opened and EW reached 4♥ (West) on the singleton club lead – yes, not best at double dummy but perfectly understandable. Both Souths won their ace. What next?

A trump shift looks best (preventing declarer scoring three plain winners and seven trumps) and it produces some fascinating double-dummy play around the spade suit. Declarer wins the trump in hand and ruffs a club then leads a low spade, and his strategy will then depend on whether South wins the ten or the ace, to play a second trump.

If South wins the ace and plays a trump, declarer wins in hand, ruffs a second club and must exit from dummy with the spade queen, pitching a diamond. This keeps South off lead, so North wins and whatever he does, declarer can win and cash two more trumps, setting up a double squeeze around the diamonds, since North guards spades, South guards clubs.

If South wins the spade ten to play a second trump declarer wins in dummy to play a second spade and discards a diamond on the ♠A.

This is the ending:

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

Since South cannot play a club, he leads a diamond. Declarer wins the ace, ruffs a club then comes back to hand with a spade ruff and draws the last trump to set up the same non-simultaneous double squeeze.

Ware picked up a game swing when 4♥ made 11 tricks on soft defence in one room while Weston did not bring about the double squeeze when the defenders shifted to trumps – and, indeed, the position is truly double dummy.

A few boards later Julian Foster overruled his partner and found the perfect lie of the cards for his aggression.

Board 20, Dealer West, All vulnerable

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



E/W belong in a diamond part-score unless the diamonds are spectacularly favourable. Today was that day. Weston-Foster bid unopposed:

West	East
1♦	1♥
1♠	2NT
3♦	3NT

With 3♦ being a sign off, it is not clear to me what extras East thought he had, but the fall of the diamond jack means there is only one defence to 3NT – and if anyone found it the cops would have been summoned and carted you away. South leads ♥Q and continues the suit for North to cash two more winners then exit with a diamond to the ace and a second diamond, locking declarer in dummy to concede the spade! After a club lead, Foster was taking about six or nine tricks in 3NT depending on the diamond break. Here, it was 10 IMPs for his team instead of the same number the other way.

On the following deal Rob Fruewirth did spectacularly well for his side:

Board 21, Dealer North, NS vulnerable

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

He elected to double East's 1♣ opening bid rather than overcall 1NT – logical but a minority position, I'd guess. His double saw Weston redouble, but no one was going to try to penalise 1♥ (or perhaps 1♠). Foster-Weston ended up in 2♣ for +110, whereas Hollands doubled Fryda's 1NT overcall and the defenders cashed four diamonds then tried a sneaky ♣J. when that held, declarer took no more than his three major suit winners, down 800, 12 IMPs.

Board 26, Dealer East, All vulnerable

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

Both tables declared 6♠. Fruewirth won the diamond jack lead and discarded his remaining diamond on a top heart, then misguessed spades. A diamond came back which he ducked and ruffed, then he ran all his winners. It looks right to me to reach this ending:

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

Declarer cashes the last trump discarding the club jack, then crosses to the club ace and takes the heart king. In the two card ending East is presumed to have the diamond king so no more than one club. Thus you succeed whenever east has the club queen or West has that card doubleton since there is no point in finessing in the end position.

Fruewirth did not play for this, and ended up down two, losing 17 IMPs, and leaving his side the loser by 32-34.

Remember our introductory comment? That two IMP differential left the two teams tied, down to two decimal places for the final qualifying spot. However, Ware won the split tie, and advances to the round of six. Never in doubt...

GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS

MATCH 12: BEAUCHAMP v DALLEY

Barbara Travis

This was a battle of the leading two teams. Dalley was leading and could afford to lose by 3 IMPs to retain first place and choice of semi-final opponents after a morning off while the Round of 4 was being played.

I watched Dalley and Nunn take on Beauchamp and Maurits van der Vlugt. I saw Maurits in the elevator on Friday morning and he asked why the match hadn't been published in yesterday's bulletin. I'm confident that he expected me to report on all the doubled part-scores, so here we go. These guys love their doubled contracts.

We got through two mundane boards before the action started on Board 21, NS vulnerable:

♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ J 8 5
♦ 10 9 6
♣ 9 7 3

♠ Q 9 5 3
♥ 10 9 2
♦ A K Q 7
♣ 6 2

♠ J
♥ K 7 4
♦ J 8 5 3
♣ A K J 10 4

♠ A K 10 7
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 4 2
♣ Q 8 5

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Beauchamp	Nunn	Maurits
	Pass	1♣	Double
Redouble	1♠	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

I believe that all doubles after the low-level redouble should be penalty, as do these players. I have no idea why or where the notion that doubles are takeout evolved from!

1♠X was a slugfest, but Beauchamp could never reach his hand, so it had to fail by one trick, for 200 to EW. A pairs top – at teams.

Maurits commented that he was very happy he hadn't overcalled 1NT. The other table overcalled 1NT, got

doubled, but only went down 1 trick – a flat board.

The boards went quiet until Board 25 (EW vulnerable):

♠ K J 10 4 2
♥ J 10 7 4 2
♦ 9
♣ 7 4

♠ A 3
♥ A Q 5
♦ K Q 10 7 5
♣ A 10 5

♠ Q 8 7
♥ 9 6 3
♦ A 4
♣ K J 8 6 3

♠ 9 6 5
♥ K 8
♦ J 8 6 3 2
♣ Q 9 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♦*
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble*	Pass	2♠
Double	All Pass		

* This was a fairly standard 'Maurits' weak 2♦. In the Seniors' Team profile, Beauchamp said that Maurits had agreed to tame his wild ways. I think he relapsed here, tempted by the favourable vulnerability. The redouble was for rescue, so Maurits rescued, as requested.

The standard lead against a low-level penalty double is a trump and that's what Paul Dalley led - ♠A and another. The contract drifted down two, -300, but this was poor recompense for the vulnerable game (slam) available to EW. After the hand, Maurits said, "I'm buying a lottery ticket tonight."

We now move on to Board 16, Dealer West, EW vulnerable:

♠ K J 8 5 2
♥ 8 4 3
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ 3

♠ 6
♥ K J 9 7
♦ A 6 4
♣ K 10 9 7 5

♠ Q 9 7 4 3
♥ A Q 10 2
♦ K 9 2
♣ J

♠ A 10
♥ 6 5
♦ J 10 7
♣ A Q 8 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Beauchamp	Nunn	Maurits
1♣	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Double*	2♣
Double	All Pass		

* Penalty

The other table played in 4♥ which doesn't make, so it was just a matter of how many this went down... The ♠6 was led to declarer's ten. Maurits cashed the ♣A, noting East's jack. He now led the ♦10 around to Tony Nunn's king. Tony wanted to help shorten Paul Dalley's trumps to avoid any trump endplay, so he led a spade, Paul trumping Maurits' ace. Three rounds of hearts were led, and Maurits trumped in to lead another diamond, Paul winning. At this stage, it was down 3, not vulnerable, -500, and 12 IMPs to Dalley.

On the final board, Board 18 (NS vulnerable), more doubles featured:

	♠ J1074		
	♥ 5		
	♦ A952		
	♣ Q765		
♠ 82		♠ 63	
♥ KJ963		♥ A1084	
♦ K8		♦ Q10643	
♣ J983		♣ A2	
	♠ AKQ95		
	♥ Q72		
	♦ J7		
	♣ K104		

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

* 1NT was (8)9-12 HCP. Double was penalty, 2♥ was natural. The second double was takeout and East's pass was 'compulsory'.

I suspect that Board 16 had some impact in terms of the 3NT bid, though I prefer 3♠ which must be forcing, surely?

3NT was rapidly down on the heart lead, the defence taking five heart tricks and then the ♣A, with 4♠ making.

The damage was minimal, given that EW played in 2♦ making, at the other table.

So what was the outcome of the match? BEAUCHAMP won by 4 IMPs, to grab 1st qualifying place by 0.32 VPs!

GOLD COAST TEAMS: OPEN

Lauren Travis

Match 12

Crunch time! The last qualifying match in a Swiss is always exciting, with lots of teams vying for spots in the finals. I had the privilege of kibitzing the teams that were placed third and fourth prior to the match, and the eventual finalists, APPLETON and BRAKE – more specifically, a table of my friends: Joe Haffer and Phil Markey versus Matt Brown and Adam Kaplan.

Board 16 provided an interesting declarer play hand:

Dealer West, EW Vul

		♠ KJ852	
		♥ 843	
		♦ Q863	
		♣ 3	
♠ 6			♠ Q9743
♥ KJ97			♥ AQ102
♦ A64			♦ K92
♣ K10975			♣ J
		♠ A10	
		♥ 65	
		♦ J107	
		♣ AQ8642	

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Markey	Brown	Haffer
1♣	1♠	Double	Redouble
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

The redouble showed Honour-doubleton in spades.

This contract was doomed on most leads, but Phil – not unreasonably – led his singleton, and now it was cold. I love watching Adam declare hands (except as his opponent) – he is a much more thoughtful and skilled bridge player than I am.

The club lead was won by South's ace and Joe switched to a trump. Playing double dummy, Adam had to win in his hand and trump a low club, but he played the seven to the eight and ten, followed by a spade which Joe won with the ace. He continued hearts, and again Adam had a double dummy chance to make if he won the trick in dummy and ruffed a spade in hand – but he won in hand instead and the tug of war between declarer and defenders continued.

Adam attempted to cash the ♣K which was promptly ruffed by Phil and overruffed in dummy. A spade was trumped back to the West hand, and the ♣10 led, with both North and East discarding low spades. Joe thought for a long time before ducking – although his action didn't matter, because his partner had carefully preserved his fourth diamond.

Adam's only hope at this point was an endplay, so he cashed the king and ace of diamonds then played a third round. Phil was wise to the plan, hopping up with the queen and giving away a harmless ruff and discard to strand Adam with another black suit loser at the end.

The auction on board 21 involved more doubles than I think I've ever seen before (until I read about Maurits' auction, anyway):

Board 21, Dealer North, NS Vul

	♠ 8 6 4 2		
	♥ J 8 5		
	♦ 10 9 6		
	♣ 9 7 3		
♠ Q 9 5 3		♠ J	
♥ 10 9 2		♥ K 7 4	
♦ A K Q 7		♦ J 8 5 3	
♣ 6 2		♣ A K J 10 4	
	♠ A K 10 7		
	♥ A Q 6 3		
	♦ 4 2		
	♣ Q 8 5		
West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Markey	Brown	Haffer
	Pass	1♣	Double
Redouble	1♠	Double	2♠
Double	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Adam's redouble showed values, Matt's double of 1♠ was takeout, and Adam's double of 2♠ was undiscussed and interpreted differently from its intended meaning. 2NT was a scramble and the auction ended in a fine spot for E/W, though not as fine as 2♠X would have been.

The play of this hand had remarkable parallels to the 4♥ above. After the ♦10 lead to Adam's queen, he took the losing club finesse. Joe cashed the ♠K before continuing trumps, and Adam drew Phil's remaining trump, Joe pitching a club. Four rounds of clubs followed before this position was reached with the lead in dummy:

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

A heart was led and, unfortunately for Joe, he had not thought ahead and unblocked his queen on one of his discards. He won the ♥Q and was caught in the very trap that Adam had tried to set five boards prior – cash the ♥A, letting Adam ruff and then dummy was high, or cash the ♠A, letting dummy ruff and then Adam's hand was high. I don't know if this type of endplay has a name, but I'm going to think of it as a 'Kaplan endplay' from now on.

A few days ago I reported on an elegant auction that Phil and Joe had to reach a grand slam. Today, I'm sharing a slam auction that I found sickening:



Board 26, Dealer East, All Vul

♠ K J
♥ A K 7 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ A J 6 2

♠ Q 8
♥ Q 10 8 4 3
♦ J 10 7 5
♣ Q 4

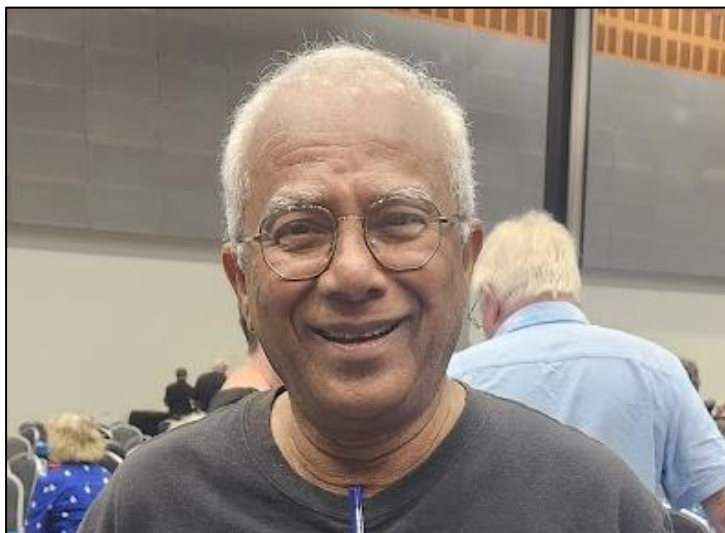
♠ 7 4
♥ J 9 6 5
♦ K 9 4 2
♣ 9 8 7

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

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

This is what Joe means when he says they play “wide-ranging pre-empts”... I don’t think every expert in the field would be opening 4♠ vulnerable in second seat with this hand. Phil keycarded and found one, so asked for the queen and Joe said yes!

The ♦J was led to the ace and the ace and king of hearts were cashed, South discarding a diamond and a club. Joe clearly subscribes to the ‘eight ever, nine never’ theory as he cashed the top two spades, dropping the queen. He played out a couple more rounds of spades before saying, “I claim on the squeeze – it’s more fun” – playing for either the ♦K and ♣Q in the same hand, or a doubleton ♣Q. Making seven – underbid!



Australian Bridge

Your national bridge magazine

STEPHEN CASTELLINO

Barbara Travis

You may have noticed an unfamiliar name playing in the Open Teams finals: Stephen Castellino. Stephen comes from the San Francisco area of the US.

He began playing bridge in Karachi, Pakistan, where he was born, and thought he was a bit of a hotshot. When he moved to Dubai about 45 years ago, he saw a bridge tournament advertised and entered with a buddy, at which time he realised he had ‘no idea’ about the game. He’s been on a never-ending bridge journey ever since.

Until about 10 years ago, he ran a bridge group on BBO which was called Lilypad. Stephen’s BBO ID is frog1948, so players came to his lilypad. During Covid he revived his lilypad sessions and David Appleton joined.

His wife, Colette, has always wanted to do a cruise of New Zealand, so the idea developed that they could come to the Gold Coast Congress for a few days, then head over to NZ for their cruise. He shared the idea with David, who proposed they form a team: David with Stephen, Julia Leung with Colette. A week later, David suggested different team-mates: Phil Markey and Joe Haffer. On hearing that Joe and Phil had just won the playoffs for the Australian Open Team 2025, Stephen asked David whether he’d ever represented Australia too. Yes!! Julia and Colette formed a team with Meta Goodman and Wyn Webber instead.

Stephen loves playing in the American NABCs and attends all three each year. He claims to be cannon fodder, but gets the occasional punch in. He also loves to write about bridge, but apparently is somewhat offbeat with his thinking!

To finish, Stephen wanted to say how very gracious it was of David to offer to play with him, and that his team-mates have been awesome, never bringing back a bad card (they topped the datums).

Left: Stephen Castellino



Paul Lavings Bridge Supplies

plavings@gmail.com

(02) 4295 0870



AUSTRALIAN AGENTS FOR

BRIDGEMATES



The table scoring system that has revolutionised bridge events worldwide

AUSTRALIAN DEALING MACHINE



WORLD'S BEST

Fully electronic, no barcodes

DEALER 4 **\$4895** plus delivery
DEALER 4+ **\$5350** plus delivery

Preferred by the ABF, all state bodies and 18 of the 20 largest bridge clubs in Australia.

Ask us for a free trial

COMPSCORE 3



Great with Bridgemates and manages all your Masterpoint requirements **\$325**

BRIDGE CLUB SUPPLIES

100% PLASTIC SUPER CARDS

High anti-static, non-slip, long life. Standard sized pips **\$3.95 per pack**



SUNSHINE CARDS LARGE INDEX

20% larger pips, now our best selling cards. Anti-static, non-slip, long life. **\$3.95 per pack**



"Your 100% plastic Sunshine cards are so good. How can you sell them so cheaply?"

Matt Mullamphy, Harbour View Bridge Club

PLASTIC COATED STANDARD

Highest quality. Standard design, normal pips, great feel. Less slippery than 100% plastic cards. **\$2.95 per pack**



"Paul Lavings' plastic-coated cards certainly last longer than queens slipper and are bright and colourful and popular with our members. The 20% larger index are especially favoured"

*Wilfred Tapiolas
President Townsville Bridge Club
Phone (07) 4431 2621*

SUNSHINE CARDS LARGE INDEX

Now our best selling design is in plastic coated. 20% larger pips **\$2.95 per pack**

QUEENS SLIPPER

Our Queens Slipper cards are guaranteed new. **\$4.10 per pack**

DUPLICATE BOARDS

Superior brand boards. Open/close easily, Do not warp or break, 13 vibrant colours. **\$3.95 per board**



"Please send only your Superior boards due to high failure rates of other brands"

Steve Ormerod, Buderim Contract Bridge Club

"We are continually replacing boards but Paul's Superior brand seem to last forever."
Jeff Carberry, Illawarra BA

SUPER BIDDING BOX

(Set of 4) 100% plastic bid cards for right handed and LH in red, royal blue or green. **\$59.95 set of 4**



\$50 per set to clubs

BIDDING SLIPS

500 pages double-sided, 11x10 cm high quality chlorine-free paper. **\$7.50** each down to **\$6.25** each for 80 pads



WOODEN BIDDING PAD HOLDER
\$14.95 each

35% DISCOUNT

for Australian beginners books to clubs and teachers (plus postage)

30% DISCOUNT

for all other books to clubs (plus postage)

GCC OPEN TEAMS, ROUND OF FOUR

Barry Rigal

The match started out with a virtually flat board that was not without its excitement. Both Easts picked up your average 4-0-1-8 11-count with the spade ace and solid clubs missing the king. Both opened 1♣ and heard a heart preempt. Matthew Brown heard Robert Fruewirth bid 4♥ and his partner Adam Kaplan double. He tried 6♣. Michael Ware heard Jessica Brake bid 3♥ and his partner Pete Hollands bid 3NT. He too tried 6♣. Dummy put down a balanced

16 count and with 13 tricks available on a double-squeeze there was just an overtrick IMP at stake – and Brown earned that for the BRAKE team.

No swing on the second deal – the only issue being whether as West you opened in third chair:

♠ K Q J 3
♥ K J 10
♦ 5 3
♣ Q 6 5 3

1♣ or 1♠. I would have given decent odds both would select 1♠; Hollands tried 1♣. So now you know.



Pete Hollands

The third deal saw N/S with a 75% slam – cold on any lead but a diamond where your holding was two small facing two small. Hence 3NT was not a desirable spot either – but you did have the other 30 HCP and two solid major suit fits and a solid eight-card club fit so the real issue was which suit to play. Thompson/Fruewirth climbed to 5♠ but trumps did not break 5-1 so no harm was done.

After a quiet partscore board 5 presented the first real opportunity for swing.

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

Both Wests in fourth chair heard the first three players act. Hollands heard: (1♦)-1♥-(1NT) and did not (or could not) make take-out double, so sold out to 2♦. Kaplan heard an unbalanced 1♦ opening to his left, 1♥ from partner and a 2♦ raise to his right. He doubled and hit the 4-4 spade fit. Eight tricks were the limit either way and Brake had 5 IMPs. They led 6-0. There was more spice on the next deal, however:

Board 6, Dealer East, EW vulnerable

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hollands	Hung	Ware	Brake
		1♦	2♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	Double	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Thompson	Brown	Fruewirth
		1♦	1♠
2♦(♥)	2NT	3♥	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
5♥	Double	All Pass	

The auction from the Closed Room is simple and understandable. After a spade lead, declarer stripped out spades and clubs and exited in trumps, and claimed. In the other room, Hung doubled the game he could beat (his opponents were not going to play there, of course) as well as the one he couldn't, then thoughtfully led a diamond, trying to give his partner a ruff. Nice try: no cigar – and no swing at 850 apiece.

The next deal presents itself as one of the hardest bidding challenges I've seen in a while. 6♦ is playable, but



Rob Fruewirth

you'd happily settle for making game I think...wouldn't you? No – you need to bid it to game first.

Board 7, Dealer South, All vulnerable

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hollands	Hung	Ware	Brake
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Thompson	Brown	Fruewirth
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣(♦)	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

* 3♥ asked for shape

The evaluations of the West hand look quite disparate do they not. Kaplan, having opened 1NT, wisely ran from 3NT and ended in 4♠ on a heart lead. Having taken the necessary discard, he then opted for simplicity – he cashed the spade ace-king and played on diamonds, surrendering two trumps and a diamond. A sensible +620, worth 10 IMPs when Ware followed an idiosyncratic route with the East cards (there were no alerts so I assume he invited in diamonds and kept the spades a surprise to everyone).

A quiet 3NT and major suit game followed before Ware had the chance for a vulnerable game swing.

Board 10, Dealer East, All vulnerable

♠ K 10 2
♥ A 2
♦ 9 8 6 5
♣ K Q 6 4

♠ A 7 6
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ --
♣ A J 10 8 3 2

♠ Q 8 3
♥ J 4 3
♦ A K 7 4 3 2
♣ 7

♠ J 9 5 4
♥ Q 10 6 5
♦ Q J 10
♣ 9 5

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hollands	Hung	Ware	Brake
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Thompson	Brown	Fruewirth
		2♦	All Pass

3NT on the 22-count had some semblance of play with ♠K aside. Hung led a spade and declarer ran this to his hand and passed the ♥7. Back came the club nine, Hung winning to clear spades. now Hollands passed the ♥J, covered all round. A diamond switch gave declarer two



Mike Ware

spades two diamonds two hearts and a club, but that was two down. That only cost 3 IMPs since the defence did well against 2♦ to avoid opening up hearts. Eventually declarer led the ♥7 to his jack and lost three tricks in the suit for one down. But Brake still had increased their lead to 19-1.

Board 11, Dealer South, Nil vulnerable

♠ 10 8 6 3
♥ A Q 9 5 4 2
♦ 6 4
♣ 3

♠ 9 2
♥ K 3
♦ K 9 3
♣ 10 9 7 5 4 2

♠ A K 7 4
♥ 10 8 7
♦ A 10
♣ K Q 8 6

♠ Q J 5
♥ J 6
♦ Q J 8 7 5 2
♣ A J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hollands	Hung	Ware	Brake
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Double	2♦
3♣	3♦	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Thompson	Brown	Fruewirth
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Double	Pass
2♣	2♥	3♣	All Pass

Brake's 2♦ call changed the nature of West's club call – though I might have been tempted on Kaplan's hand to jump to 3♣ so long as that was shape not high cards (which I would show by starting with 2♦ or 2♥). Anyway Kaplan played the quiet 3♣, and Hollands a delicate 3NT that is down at once on a heart lead. But you certainly cannot blame Andy Hung for leading a diamond, after which Hollands had 9 tricks by knocking out the ♣A when the requisite honour doubleton in hearts blocked the suit for the defenders. 7 IMPs to Ware, trailing 19-8. That was the score at the half.

GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS

ROUND OF 4 – BRAKE v WARE: Stanza 2

Barbara Travis

Being able to bid a slam after a strong 1NT opening always feels like a great outcome. Neither table managed to do so on Board 14:

♠ K Q 4
♥ A 7
♦ 7 3
♣ K 10 7 6 3 2

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

♠ A J 10 8 7 6
♥ 10 6 4 3
♦ 5
♣ A J

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Ware	Brown	Hollands
Pass	3♠	1NT	2♠
All Pass		Pass	4♠

On a club lead, this made all 13 tricks.



Matt Brown



Adam Kaplan

Table 2

West	North	East	South
McGann	Hung	Thomson	Harrison
Pass	2♥ (p/c)	1NT	2♦*
2NT	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	3♦	Pass
		All Pass	

* 2♦ showed a single suiter

A diamond was led, holding declarer to 12 tricks and 230. I think Hung was hoping that his double and raise was invitational; whatever the message, it didn't spur Harrison to bid game. First blood to WARE, 7 IMPs.

There were a few swings back and forth before we get to the first blood in this stanza.

Board 18, Dealer East, NS vulnerable

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

Here's a deal where one table played in 1NT, making 7 tricks, and the other went crazy:

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Ware	Brown	Hollands
		1♣	1♦
1♠*	Double	Pass	Pass
2♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
Double	All Pass		

1♠* denies a major

Clearly North's double showed spades, but I don't know where he found his 3♠ bid. I had expected that Matt Brown would double 3♠, but he didn't need to! Adam Kaplan doubled 4♠ before he got the opportunity. That was -1100, and 14 IMPs to BRAKE.

With the match being only 24 boards, there wasn't much capacity to recover. BRAKE won the set 46-10, and the match 65.1-18.

ROOKIE WINNERS

Tuesday 0-50 MP Pairs

Margo Solomon – Brett Waring

Wednesday 0-50 MP Pairs

Karen and Andrew Hay

Thursday Butler Pairs

Gwen Clarke – Christine Hollingsworth (*pictured below*)



WALK-IN PAIRS WINNERS

Tuesday morning

NS Ken Trolland – Stuart Stoddart
EW Trish Murphy – Christine Haronga

Tuesday afternoon

NS Jillian and Peter Ramsey
EW Yuhao Li – Ke Guo

Wednesday morning

NS Yuhao Li – Ke Guo
EW Di Garside – Donna Fitch

Wednesday afternoon

NS Gayle Bagg – Alan Kras
EW Sylvia Skeels – Jo Quinlivan

Thursday morning

NS Trish Murphy – Christine Haronga
EW Jane Silagy – Marg Orme

Thursday afternoon

NS Ken Trolland – Stuart Stoddart
EW Yvonne and Ron Janes

Friday morning

NS Karin Birch – Anne Lauchlin
Kathy Johnson – Lois Steinwedel
Michelle Gan – Stuart Grant
EW Diana Ellis – Susan McMahon
Paula Cassin – Leif Michelsson
Fred Whitaker – Anna Monks

Friday afternoon

NS Rita and Raymond Jones
EW Ann Deaker – Lyn Mould

GCC OPEN TEAMS ROUND OF FOUR: APPLETON VS CHINA GXZY

Lauren Travis

As the Vugraph operator, I was in the box seat for the Round of Four match between the third- and fourth-placed qualifiers. Adrenaline levels were raised from the very first board, with daring bidding from both sides resulting in a big swing to China GXZY.

Board 1, Dealer North, Nil Vul

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

♠ Q 5
♥ A J 10 6 4 3 2
♦ Q J 9 6
♣ --

West	North	East	South
Yu	Markey	Liu	Haffer
	3♦	4♣	5♦
6♣	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

Phil Markey opened 3♦ as required by his Outback Acol system, and after Liu Jun's 4♣ overcall Joe Haffer quickly found the raise to five. Yu Jianyong found the excellent 6♣ bid and Joe decided to try and stamp his authority on the match. After the ♥A lead, Liu didn't need the club finesse; he could play two rounds of trumps and discard two spades on red-suit winners for 12 tricks.

At the other table E/W reached 6♠ after a much less contested auction, and when declarer played for the ♣K to drop he had no chance of making.

On board 2 Phil and Joe showed off their aggressive bidding style:

Board 2, Dealer East, NS Vul

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

In second seat, unfavourable, Joe opened a 9-13 point 1NT – in Outback Acol, it's a crime to pass a hand with two aces (let alone with five spades). That was quickly raised to 3NT by Phil and the ♠Q was led by Yu. Joe won trick 1 and played two rounds of diamonds, with Liu winning and continuing the nine of spades to the ten and jack. Yu cashed the ♠K and then had to pick whether to switch to hearts or clubs, having been unable to get a signal from partner who had followed to each spade. He guessed correctly, playing the ♥K, after which Joe went down three – on a club switch, he would have made.

Board 6, Dealer East, EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Yu	Markey	Liu	Haffer
		1♦ *	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♣	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Liu's 1♦ was precision style and could be short. Phil and Joe play intermediate jumps so Joe overcalled 1♠, showing any hand with 5 spades and less than 14 points. After Yu's 2♥, Phil knew Joe's overcall was light so made a simple 2♠ raise, but they applied the law of total tricks and pushed the opponents to 5♥.

On the ♠10 lead, Yu played a textbook elimination. He ruffed in hand, played a club to the king, ruffed another spade, and cashed two more clubs pitching dummy's last spade. He ruffed his fourth club in dummy then led a trump, and the defenders were endplayed.

Phil and Joe's specific twos put the opponents to the sword on this hand:

Board 9, Dealer North, EW Vul

	♠ 7654		
	♥ 97		
	♦ AJ92		
	♣ Q52		
♠ K83		♠ AQJ102	
♥ AQJ108		♥ 52	
♦ 7		♦ 863	
♣ A1096		♣ KJ4	
	♠ 9		
	♥ K643		
	♦ KQ1054		
	♣ 873		
West	North	East	South
Yu	Markey	Liu	Haffer
	2♦*	Pass	3♦
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Phil's 2♦ opening showed 0-8 HCP with at least four diamonds and four or five spades. In my experience playing with and against Phil fairly regularly for the last 15 years, the best defence is definitely to have natural bids available in both the suits, since they can easily be four small (as you can see). If East overcalls 2♠, West will likely get very excited. Instead, Joe was able to raise the pre-empt before West could act, and they settled in the slightly less comfortable heart game. When 6♠ made at the other table, that was 13 imps to Appleton.

After 12 boards, the scoreline was APPLETON 31.1 – CHINA GXZY 39. The line-ups remained the same for

the second stanza.

Early on, Phil and Joe's willingness to compete once again put the opponents under pressure:

Board 15, Dealer South, NS Vul

	♠ Q97		
	♥ KJ106		
	♦ K95		
	♣ Q84		
♠ K82		♠ AJ10543	
♥ Q975		♥ 843	
♦ J		♦ 764	
♣ AKJ92		♣ 10	
	♠ 6		
	♥ A2		
	♦ AQ10832		
	♣ 7653		
West	North	East	South
Yu	Markey	Liu	Haffer
			1♦
Double	1NT	2♠	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♣	All Pass

Joe led the ♥A then cashed the ♦A before playing another heart to Phil's ten. Phil cashed the king of hearts and played a fourth round, putting declarer to a guess. Perhaps misguided by Phil's fairly heavy 1NT response, he ruffed with the ace then took the spade finesse, going down one on this layout. At the other table E/W were allowed to play in 2♣ which makes easily, so Appleton picked up 5 imps.



Phil Markey

Continuing with the theme of Haffer and Markey bidding ‘em up...

Board 17, Dealer North, Nil Vul

	♠ A J 3		
	♥ J 5		
	♦ J 2		
	♣ A 9 8 7 6 4		
♠ K 10 7 6 4		♠ 8 5 2	
♥ A 10 9 6 3		♥ K Q 4	
♦ A Q		♦ K 9 8 7 5	
♣ 3		♣ 10 2	
	♠ Q 9		
	♥ 8 7 2		
	♦ 10 6 4 3		
	♣ K Q J 5		
West	North	East	South
Yu	Markey	Liu	Haffer
	1NT	Pass	Pass *
2♣ *	Double	Redouble	3♣
4♣ *	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1NT was, of course, 9-13, and Joe’s Pass denied a bad, balanced hand (i.e. he had either 8+ points or a long minor). Yu’s 2♣ showed both majors, so Phil doubled showing clubs. Liu redoubled indicating a strong hand, and Joe raised the stakes with 3♣, over which 4♣ committed E/W to game and 4♦ told West to choose a major.

4♥ had some play, but when declarer was tapped at trick 1 then drew trumps and played for diamonds 3-3 he could do no better than down two.



Joe Haffer

By board 23, Appleton was in the lead by just 4.1 imps. At the other table, Li Guanghua and Hou Jian bid to a cold 4♥ on the final board, but at my table there was excitement still to come.

Board 24, Dealer West, Nil Vul

	♠ A J 2		
	♥ K 10 9 2		
	♦ 8 7		
	♣ K Q 6 5		
♠ 10		♠ K 9 5 4 3	
♥ 8 7 5 3		♥ Q	
♦ 10 6 4		♦ A Q 3	
♣ 9 8 7 3 2		♣ A J 10 4	
	♠ Q 8 7 6		
	♥ A J 6 4		
	♦ K J 9 5 2		
	♣ --		
West	North	East	South
Yu	Markey	Liu	Haffer
Pass	1NT (9-13)	Double	Redouble
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♣	Double
All Pass			

Without Liu’s double of 1NT, N/S can have an easy Stayman auction to 4♥. However, the double threw the spanner in the works and the only strong bid available to Joe was a redouble. This, combined with the very wide range of 1NT, left him in an awkward spot when 2♣ was passed around to him – he didn’t necessarily want to game force with 3♣ if he was opposite a 9-count, and he probably also didn’t want to defend 2♣X. He chose a fairly passive 2♦ bid, and if he’d been left to play there, China GXZY would have won a game swing and therefore the match. Unfortunately for Liu, he couldn’t help himself and competed to 3♣, which was swiftly doubled. With 420 scored at the other table, the defence had to be accurate: 3♣X down 1 would let China GXZY win, while down 2 would mean victory for Appleton.

Phil obediently led partner’s suit: ♦8 the three, jack and four. Joe found the vital heart switch and Phil won and continued hearts, forcing dummy. Yu was helpless now: he played the hand as best he could but could only come to 7 tricks. 3 imps went to China GXZY, but Appleton won by the second-smallest of margins: 1.1 imps.



Visit Adelaide for the

2025 Autumn Nationals

Thursday 1st May - Monday 5th May 2025

Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, Wayville

**Gold Masterpoints awarded
PQPs in Open and Mixed events**

David Lusk Rookie Butler Swiss Pairs

Butler Swiss Pairs (Open, Mixed, Under Life, Under Grand)

Swiss Teams (Open, Under Life, Under Grand)

Final only on Monday - no Consolation

Tournament Organiser: Barbara Travis

Phone: 0437 919 928 | **Email:** anot@sabf.asn.au

To enter or for more information, see MyABF



GCC OPEN TEAMS, SEMI FINAL

DALLEY vs BRAKE: STANZA 1

Barry Rigal

Board 1, Dealer North, Nil vulnerable

♠ 10 8 6
♥ 8 6
♦ 9 7 6 4 3
♣ K 5 4

♠ --
♥ A Q J 10 3 2
♦ K J 8
♣ J 8 3 2

♠ K J 9 7 3 2
♥ 7
♦ A Q 5
♣ A 9 7

♠ A Q 5 4
♥ K 9 5 4
♦ 10 2
♣ Q 10 6

In some ways the 6-1 heart fit looks more comfortable than 3NT. It is easy to see that while declarer has nine tricks on the actual lie of the cards the defenders might get five tricks against 3NT if the club 10 and four were switched.

Adam Kaplan and Kieran Dyke both declared game on a club lead, Dyke on an unopposed sequence to 3NT and Kaplan 4♥ after a hair-raising double of 1♠ by Arlene Dalley – curiously 2♦X might not have been that expensive, though in theory the defenders do have three plain winners and as many trumps as they can score separately. That number might be six?

When Jessica Brake continued clubs against Dyke's 3NT he emerged with an overtrick.

Two dull boards came and went, without disturbing the commentator from his post-prandial nap, and the crowd was getting restless.



Board 4, Dealer West, All vulnerable

♠ Q 10 8 7 6
♥ A K J 10
♦ 7
♣ K 9 4

♠ A 9 4 3 2
♥ 8
♦ A Q J 9 8 4
♣ 2

♠ J 5
♥ 9 5 4
♦ K 10 6 5
♣ 10 6 5 3

♠ K
♥ Q 7 6 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ A Q J 8 7

The next board offered some opportunity for E/W to save against their opponents' heart game. When, at both tables, the 5-1-6-1 hand opened 1♦ and heard a 1♠ overcall it silenced them for the duration. Still a score more like a soccer game than a bridge match, at 2-1 to Dalley.

At last the monotony cracked:

Board 9, Dealer North, EW vulnerable

♠ A Q J 9 8 7 3
♥ J 4 2
♦ 7
♣ J 3

♠ 5
♥ A 8
♦ 10 8 6 4 3
♣ K 9 6 4 2

♠ 10 6 2
♥ K 10 6
♦ A K Q J
♣ A 7 5

♠ K 4
♥ Q 9 7 5 3
♦ 9 5 2
♣ Q 10 8

Are you a 3♠ or 4♠ opener here. Hung went for 4♠ and Tony Nunn could double for takeout or pass – a truly horrible decision. He went low and collected 100 on defence. Brown heard Bach open 3♠ and could comfortably double that – the downsides being so much lower. Kaplan's response of 4NT was pick a minor so Brown played 5♦. Bridge can seem like an easy game sometimes, but when decisions come down to hair's breadths with 11 IMPs at stake, the game can also be very cruel. 5♦ rolled home with 600 and Brake led 20-2.

Finally something approaching an error by the Brake team gave Dalley a way into the IMP column.

Adam Kaplan emphasized that he is a free spirit with his actions on the next deal:

Dealer 12, Dealer West, NS vulnerable

♠ K 8 5
♥ J 8 7 3
♦ 9 7
♣ 10 9 8 3

♠ J 7 6 4
♥ K 6 4 2
♦ A Q 4
♣ 5 2

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

You'd expect E/W to play a heart part-score with no thought of game. That is, unless West opens his hand of power and quality then shows a four-card heart raise, when East will drive to 4♥. And that was exactly what Brown did.

Arlene led ♠A and shifted to diamonds. Declarer finessed drove out the ♣A and ended up ruffing a club in dummy and taking five hearts and five plain winners. 6 IMPs back to Brake, up 27-7.1 at end of set 1 (of 3).



GOLD COAST TEAMS: SEMI-FINAL

DALLEY vs BRAKE: STANZA 2

Barry Rigal

There wasn't a lot of action until this deal, which saw a curious case of under/overbidding, or maybe just a good piece of hand valuation by Adam Kaplan:

Board 16, Dealer West, EW vulnerable

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

You will be relieved to know both Wests passed in first seat vulnerable, but Tony Nunn opened the 14-count 1♣, and heard a 3♦ preempt and partner bidding 3♥ to show spades. When that got doubled Nunn tried 4♠, down one in top tricks. In the other room Brown opened a strong no-trump, and over the 3♦ preempt Kaplan could also transfer to spades. When 3♥ got doubled, Brown rejected the game try by bidding 3♠ and Kaplan looked with disfavour on his singleton king and passed. Nicely done. The 6 IMPs here made it 38-8 for Brake.



BRAKE: Andy Hung, Shane Harrison, Jessica Brake, Adam Kaplan (not pictured: Matt Brown)

Finally we had some real action:

Board 19, Dealer South, EW vulnerable

♠ K 8 2
♥ K 10 5 4
♦ 7 5 3
♣ J 6 4

♠ Q J 6 5
♥ 9 7 6 2
♦ Q 6 2
♣ 10 9

♠ 9
♥ A J 8 3
♦ A 9 4
♣ K 7 5 3 2

♠ A 10 7 4 3
♥ Q
♦ K J 10 8
♣ A Q 8

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bach	Brown	Dyke
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	Redouble
2NT	Pass	3♣	Double
3♥	Double	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
			1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	4♠
All Pass			

The play went very well for Kaplan – up to a point. Spade to the ace, ♥Q ducked, ♦J ducked all round, and a second spade ruffed. Now Kaplan led a low club from the board. Dyke won the queen and continued the ♦K. Kaplan won in dummy to lead a second club, eventually losing just one more trick to North's hearts. Down 500.

You could argue Harrison was unlucky but I think the jump to game was simply ill-judged. The same mildly favourable lie of the cards that had let Kaplan out for 500 doomed 4♠ from the start, down two tricks, -100.

The rest of the set went quiet, though a system accident by Harrison-Hung cost them 3 IMPs in undertricks and was extremely lucky not to cost a lot more. But they eked that back in undertricks and overtricks and Brake ended up leading 45-26 at the end of the second stanza.

Saturday 8th February 2025

GCC OPEN TEAMS, SEMI FINAL

DALLEY vs BRAKE: STANZA 3

Barry Rigal

For the third stanza, with Brake leading by 17 IMPs, the players retained their seats from the previous session.

Both sides had real opportunities on the first deal after yet another 'opening bid' had pushed the N/S pairs into a thin game.

Board 25, Dealer North, EW vulnerable

♠ K 10 8 2
♥ Q 9 6 5
♦ A J 10 8
♣ 10

♠ A 6
♥ A J 10 7 2
♦ K Q 9 6 3
♣ 6

♠ J 7 4
♥ 8 3
♦ 5 4 2
♣ Q J 5 3 2

♠ Q 8 5 3
♥ K 4
♦ 7
♣ A K 9 8 7 4

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bach	Brown	Dyke
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Paul Dalley led ace and another trump against 4♠. Harrison sensibly enough won in hand to cash two top clubs. As the cards lay he needed to play on diamonds now, but when he actually ruffed a club to lead a heart to the king, Dalley won and played a top heart, and declarer had only nine tricks now.

Dyke would point to the opening lead to justify his decision not to explore for a 4-4 spade fit, but your author has his fingers in his ears and is not listening. Bach in 3NT received a spade lead and diamond switch. When he put in the ten and it held he was already up to eight tricks. He next cashed the two top clubs, and when West pitched a heart he pitched a spade. Then he advanced the heart king. Kaplan took it and played a spade; Bach won and ran the spades to reach this ending:

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

Now Bach led the ♥4 from dummy, Kaplan played low and declarer...had to guess whether East had the bare jack or ten left, when his winning play was to go up with the queen, and endplay Kaplan in diamonds, or the actual lie of the cards when he needed to insert the nine. I'm not sure, but I suspect that, as the cards lie, Kaplan should have exited with the heart jack or ten on winning the ace – and Bach maybe played him therefore not to have that holding because the winning defence was easier to find if he did have both heart intermediates? Anyway down one and no swing and no doubt two dissatisfied declarers.

The next deal suggests duelling misunderstandings both by N/S and E/W.



Board 26, Dealer East, All vulnerable

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

In one room Hung followed the simple route over a 1♠ opener of jumping to 3♠, stopper-ask, and raising 4♣ to 5♣. down two, no fuss.

In the other room Kaplan opened 1♠ and Bach (sensibly to my mind) started with a double, planning a cuebid later perhaps. After Brown raised to 2♠ Bach balanced with 3♠ – meaning it as stopper ask. Brown doubled – clearly I think as ‘Don’t lead spades’ and Dyke’s 4♥ call equally strongly suggests he and Bach were not on the same page. Had Kaplan passed, his side might have been able to double 5♣. Whether or not that was the case, Kaplan bid 4♠, Bach after much anguished thought doubled, and led a top heart then a top club. The contract needed only the spade break and diamond finesse. Not tonight Josephine. That was 200 in each room (might Bach have collected 500 if he had shifted to a diamond at trick two?). That made it 45-35 to Brake. Two deals later the mini 1NT struck again.

Board 28, Dealer West, NS vulnerable

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bach	Brown	Dyke
1♣	Pass	1♦(♥)	1♠
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Easts led a club, and this was worth either 6 IMPs to Dalley, making it 45-41 to Brake.

Board 30, Dealer East, Nil vulnerable

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bach	Brown	Dyke
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Double	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	3♠	4♥
All Pass			

This was excellent judgment by Dalley not to take the push to game. His heart holding argued for defending, and his side duly took their four minor winners to set 4♥

while 4♠ had to lose four tricks as well. Kaplan's decision to bid game facing what was presumably a mixed raise certainly isn't clear. 3 IMPs to Dalley who were now down 45-44.

The score remained unchanged until Board 34. At this point the cameras switched to Andy Hung sitting North, who was about to go through a roller-coaster of experiences that would make spectacular drama for the television.

Board 34, Dealer East, NS vulnerable

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bach	Brown	Dyke
		1♣	Pass
1♥(♠)	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Double	2♥	Pass	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
		1NT (mini)	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥ (forced)	Pass
2♠ (F)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

*2♦ artificial strong

Hung had stayed out over the forcing 2♦ and now had a choice of leads to set 4♠. Among the successful choices, however, was NOT the ♣A. Paul Dalley could ruff then cross in diamonds to pitch two hearts on the clubs and come to ten tricks for a 6 IMP gain. Dalley led 50-45.

Along came Board 35, Dealer South, EW vulnerable:

♠ AK83	
♥ A9842	
♦ A98	
♣ 8	
♠ J1064	♠ Q752
♥ J	♥ 107
♦ Q53	♦ KJ1076
♣ QJ762	♣ A3
♠ 9	
♥ KQ653	
♦ 42	
♣ K10954	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kaplan	Bach	Brown	Dyke
			Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

When Kieran Dyke passed the South hand Ashley Bach wasn't interested in the possibility of slam (even after the splinter bid). He racked up 480, and obviously could see the downside – but how likely were N/S to reach slam here? Cometh the hour, cometh the man.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
P Dalley	Hung	Nunn	Harrison
			1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

* 3♣ Minimum

* 3♥ extras with short clubs

Time stood still while Hung grappled with the problem over Harrison's sign-off. Eventually he gambled on

finding a card such as the ♠Q opposite to pitch his diamonds, and shot out the slam. Harrison won the spade lead to play a club up and the sight of the ace let him draw trumps and claim. The 11 IMPs saw Brake up 6 IMPs with the world's flattest 3NT to come.

However, the contract did hinge on dropping the doubleton club queen offside. Scary stuff!

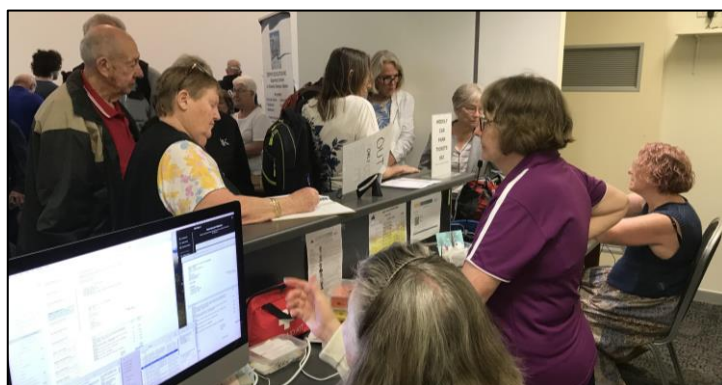
That meant a heart-stopping win for Brake – 56- 51.1 IMPs – and a final against Appleton.



Jill Magee and Terry Strong – 2nd Open Final B



Bridget O'Brien and Jessie Pelenato – 2nd Novice Final A



The help desk at rush hour!

GOLD COAST OPEN TEAMS SEMI-FINAL

BEAUCHAMP v APPLETON

Barbara Travis

Stanza 1

First blood went to Beauchamp, primarily due to Outback Acol's aggressive style of overcalls. In essence, with any 5-card suit and any hand less than 14 points, one must overcall.

On Board 2, East opened 1♦ and Joe Haffer overcalled 2♣ (5+ clubs, 0-14 HCP). After a negative double, Phil Markey had to decide what to bid holding 10 points with 5-card club support. He decided to bid 4♣ (10 trumps, 10 trick level), but the limit of the hand was 9 tricks which is where the other NS played. 5 IMPs to Beauchamp.

This overcalling style caught Joe out on Board 4:

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♠	Pass	?

After some thought Joe passed, which may have looked odd to those watching but is in line with the system style.



APPLETON: Joe Haffer, Stephen Castellino, David Appleton, Phil Markey

Perhaps Phil should have made a takeout double rather than overcalling 1♠, avoiding missing the game.

Let's look at more 'active' hands, some work and some don't.

On Board 7, all vulnerable, Joe opened 5♦ and Phil held:

♠ A 4 3
♥ 5 2
♦ A 9
♣ A K J 9 6 3

What to do? Understandably, Phil bid 6♦, which generated the ♥A lead from West and the defence took their two diamond tricks. Avi Kanetkar opened 3♦ which led to a 5♦ contract, no heart lead, and 13 tricks.

On the other side of the coin, on Board 9, Phil opened 4♠ (as Barry Rigal reported), catching Tony Nunn, East and vulnerable, with

♠ 10 6 2
♥ K 10 6
♦ A K Q J
♣ A 7 5

Tony decided to pass, missing his side's vulnerable game. David Beauchamp's 3♠ opening bid (yes, they are in the Seniors' Team) gave Stephen Castellino plenty of space to make a normal takeout double, with EW then able to bid to 5♦. Swings and roundabouts.

At the end of the first stanza (of three) the scoreline was BEAUCHAMP 31.1 – APPLETON 20.

Stanza 2

Board 15, Dealer South, NS Vulnerable

♠ A J 8 7 6
♥ 4
♦ A 10 6 3 2
♣ J 7

♠ Q 10 4 3 2
♥ A J 7 5 2
♦ Q 5 4
♣ --

♠ 9 5
♥ K Q 9
♦ K J 9
♣ K 9 6 4 3

♠ K
♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ 8 7
♣ A Q 10 8 5 2

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Appleton	Beauchamp	Castellino	van der Vlugt
Pass	1♠	Double	1NT
4♥	All Pass		

4♥ just doesn't make with the known but awful spade break. Appleton went down one, -100.

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Markey	Kozakos	Haffer
			1♣
2♦*	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

* 2♦ was Michaels, showing both majors.

Whilst George Kozakos made a free bid of 3♥, I'm not sure about the 'extras' that saw Avi raise to 4♥. Joe took a very long time in the pass-out seat before deciding to double. One mis-step by declarer saw him down 800, and 12 IMPs to Appleton.

The floodgates opened at Board 20:

♠ 10 8 4
♥ Q 8 3
♦ Q 10
♣ A J 10 6 4

♠ Q 6
♥ A K 10 9 5
♦ 4 3 2
♣ K Q 7

♠ K 5 2
♥ 2
♦ 8 7 6 5
♣ 9 8 5 3 2

♠ A J 9 7 3
♥ J 7 6 4
♦ A K J 9
♣ --

David Beauchamp and Maurits van der Vlugt bid to 3♠, making 9 tricks after ♥A, ♥K, heart ruff, and an unavoidable spade loser.

Joe and Phil bid to 4♠ after Avi had opened 1♥. Unfortunately for Avi and George, they play natural signals (there are always hands that suit one signalling method better than the other), so he read the ♥2 as

either discouraging or three cards, and switched. There was still time to recover, however Joe made his game, for another 10 IMPs to Appleton.

Board 21 was a real disaster for Beauchamp:

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

At table 1, South opened 1NT and played there, making 9 tricks – all very tame.



Phil and Joe generated action, as is their style:

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Markey	Kozakos	Haffer
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Double	1NT	Double
2♥	Double	2♠	Double
Pass	Pass	2NT	Double
3♦	Double	All Pass	

I suspect they ran out of Double cards in their bidding boxes; not that unusual for Markey – Haffer!

This was a bloodbath. Appleton had 1100 in their inbox, and 14 IMPs.

We tend to say that bad things happen in threes, right? Well, Board 22 was another double-digit swing to Appleton when 4♥ made 11 tricks at one table and was taken down at the other.

Appleton had won the set 57-12 and now led 77-43.1.

Beauchamp recovered 20 IMPs in Stanza 3 but were unable to make up the full deficit, with the final margin being APPLETON 91 – BEAUCHAMP 77.1.

Managing your own investments?

Diversify your portfolio with income-generating assets.



Fixed Income Solutions (FIS) AFSL. 399636 is a specialist broker providing direct access to fixed income markets for wholesale investors. FIS specialises in helping investors diversify their portfolios through an Individually Managed account (IMA) or self-directed service.

The products we offer include:

- Term Deposits & NCDs
- AUD Corporate & Government Bonds
- ASX Listed & Unlisted Hybrid securities
- Foreign currency bonds
- Senior Secured Notes

Get in touch to learn more.

email@fixedincomesolutions.com

fixedincomesolutions.com



INTO THE MIXED (PART 8 OF 8)

Peter Gill

Lazer led by 1 imp with 4 boards to go.

Then I didn't find the trump lead to beat 3♥, 5 imps away - Lazer by 6 imps.

Then NS can make 7♣ or 7♥ or 7♠ (all 4-3 fits) or 7NT when heaps of finesses working on their combined 31 HCP, but we both stopped in game - 1 imp to Lazer for an overtrick.

So it's Lazer in front by 7 imps with 2 boards to go.

Grand Final - Board 119 of 120

Dealer North, All Vul

♠AKQ2

♥J87

♦4

♣KQ1042

♠98

♥109

♦8752

♣98765

♠103

♥K2

♦AKQJ1093

♣A3

♠J7654

♥AQ6543

♦6

♣J

West	North	East	South
Mundell	Gill	Peake	Sylvester
	2♦*	3NT	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	X	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	X	All Pass

2♦ is Precision - short diamonds, 11-15, "3304" shape with an extra card in three of the suits.

Andrew took the minor suit aces and played a club, Liz Sylvester led ♥J - Andrew ducked in case Giselle had singleton ♥Q - +850 to NS.

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Gumby	Dalley	Lazer
	1♣	X	1♥
Pass	1♠	3NT	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	All Pass

No double, no trouble. Perhaps Pauline or Warren should have doubled. 5♦ was three off for 300 to NS and 11 imps to Sylvester. After almost two days of play, on the second last board of 120 in the grand final, Sylvester now took the lead for the first time - by 3.9 imps. The last board saw Sylvester increase their lead by one more imp, thus coming back from 73 imps behind with 25 boards to take victory by 4.9 imps. In cricket the game is never over until the last ball. Likewise in bridge it's never over until the last hand.

Today's tip: Never give up!



Winners of the 2025 Mixed Playoff - Peter Gill, Liz Sylvester, Arlene Dalley and Michael Courtney

EDITORS' THANK YOU

The three editors of the Daily Bulletin, Barbara Travis, Lauren Travis and Barry Rigal, would like to thank the Organisers for inviting us to be part of what has been regarded as one of the best tournaments anywhere in the world. We would also like to thank the players for their contributions, compliments and constructive criticisms because it is through those that we can deliver a quality product to you, the players.

We hope we have provided suitable offerings that have contributed to a memorable final Gold Coast Congress. Till we meet again...



2025 AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM

Lauren Travis

Phil Markey

Phil's favourite vulnerability is all vul and his favourite bridge books are Victor Mollo's *Menagerie* series. Phil plays a specialised system called Outback Acol, which he has been developing since the 1990s, and he is obsessed with opening all 9-counts, but particularly loves his 9-13 point 1NT opening. He hates cue raises and support doubles. Phil says the best thing about playing with Joe is that he doesn't have to play against him. If he could pick anyone from history to have a game with, it would be Tim Seres. Phil's proudest bridge moment is probably winning the Open ANC in 2000, breaking a 26-year drought for SA, and he has since won six more. His fun fact is that his daughter has a Master's degree in feminist philosophy and works as a chef in the Adelaide Hills. He also loves sausage dogs.

Joe Haffer

Joe's all-time favourite tournament is the Yeh Bros Cup which he played in 2018, because it was a great opportunity to play against world-class opponents. This year will be his first Bermuda Bowl but second time in the Australian Open Team. Joe thinks the Outback Acol 1NT opening is probably the system's biggest asset, as it takes a whole level away from the opponents and tempts them to come into the auction on the wrong hands, and he says the best thing about playing with Phil is the system. Joe has worked with a sports psychologist on the mental aspect of the game and says meditation has been a game changer for him. He enjoyed meditating with Sophie in between sets during the Open Playoff. Joe's favourite convention is wide-ranging pre-empts and his least favourite is Gerber. Joe would love to make the top 8 in the Bermuda Bowl this year and hopes to win the NOT and Gold Coast Teams. He says that Kelsey's *Killing Defence* and *More Killing Defence* made his game and every young bridge player should read them. Joe is grateful that bridge has given him the opportunity to travel, from his youth days in Germany through to now.

Sophie Ashton

Sophie's proudest bridge moment was winning the 2025 Open Playoff. She likes playing with Dave because he's calm at the table and very reliable with system and carding. Sophie's favourite convention is playing 1C (1M) 2C as both minors, and she doesn't like kickback (don't tell Phil). Sophie lives a very busy life, so before tournaments she tries to slow down in work and life, read bridge books and study her system, but it doesn't always happen and she says "when it doesn't, it shows". She has never won the Gold Coast Teams and hopes she hasn't missed the opportunity to do so. Sophie's favourite bridge podcast (and coincidentally, her favourite thing to say at the bridge table) is *Sorry Partner* – she does a lot of driving and loves listening to the interviews with top players. She's one of the most competitive people I know, and says that competitive streak is also present when she plays basketball and netball.



Above: Joe Haffer and Phil Markey

Below: Dave Wiltshire and Sophie Ashton



Dave Wiltshire

Dave says Sophie is tenacious, an aggressive bidder and excellent in defence; she is very good at working out what the opponents hold, so makes plays that work rather than playing the percentages. The last time he solved a Rubik's cube was 20 years ago, so he spent some time this week worrying I would ask him to do one for this profile. Dave is proud of winning the Australian Junior Team selection event to make the team in his last year of eligibility, and he would like to win the NOT one day and continue to play in high-level international competitions. He doesn't love any conventions and says they all end up being a trade-off, and his least favourite convention that he plays regularly is Bergen raises. Dave thinks bidding practice is one of the best ways to prepare for a tournament, especially against human opponents. One of his favourite bridge books is Michael Courtney's Play Cards with Tim Seres for its Australian focus.

Liam Milne

I asked Liam why I should play Flannery and he gave me a long list of reasons which are all valid. I did not bother asking what his favourite convention was, because I'm pretty sure it's Flannery. He doesn't like 4♠ as kickback for hearts because he likes to play in 4♣ and doesn't like mistakes. Liam's way of preparing for tournaments is to go through his system notes and make a quiz for his partner on all the things he thinks he'll forget – that way he won't forget them. He also likes practising on Cuebids, which can be a powerful tool for building bidding understandings. Liam says James is “pretty perfect” at the table, never giving away a hint of frustration with partner. He would love to have a game with Sabine Auken one day and enjoyed recently teaming up with her former partner Daniela von Arnim. Liam is aiming to make the knockouts in the Bermuda Bowl this year, having played a few and come mid-field. He thinks the biggest way for most experienced bridge players to improve is the mental game – stamina, focus, concentration, and being a better partner and teammate. He says bridge is a small community and it's important to be a good bridge citizen as well as a good bridge player – if you're nice to be around you'll get better partners and



James Coutts and Liam Milne

teammates. Along with his achievements in US Nationals, Liam said what he's proudest of in bridge is that lots of young players approach him, ask questions, discuss hands and see him as a mentor.

James Coutts

James says that he and Liam have similar approaches and opinions on pretty much everything to do with bridge, so it's just a natural fit. For James, it's also great that Liam is innovative and has access to many resources in the bridge world. They're in a constant state of improvement in terms of refining their system, and when Liam comes with new ideas they are inevitably already well-refined and with top expert input, which makes it super easy for James to get on board. Another big part of it is that they are great friends away from the table, making the time spent together away from home easy and enjoyable. When playing overseas, James has found it's important to arrive well in advance to get over jetlag and adjust to the time zone. Playing bridge all day is a huge mental effort and it's crucial to be in as good a shape as possible. James' favourite conventions include Flannery, 2-level transfers in competition and invitational jump responses. He says that Phil Markey's overcalls are his least favourite convention. James would have loved to win the Gold Coast Pairs, having ticked off his only missing major national teams event, the NOT, just a few weeks ago. The easiest question for him to answer was which bridge player he'd love to have had a game with – Justin Lall, no contest. James has been playing bridge for 21 years and says the most rewarding thing is the social side of the game – through bridge he's met his life partner and great friends – as well as travelling the world. He can't imagine his life without bridge.



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!

TRUMP PROMOTIONS

Barry Rigal

Even the best results can get smothered – look at this fine declarer play for example. Eric Greco of the USA found one of the best plays of a tournament here, to hold his losses to 5 IMPs.

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

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

On the opening lead of the ♥10 Greco rose with the king and ran the ♦10. He won the heart return in dummy, and then passed the ♦9 after a lot of thought.

The point of this play is that he was trying to set up the diamonds without letting South in, which would be fine if hearts were 5-2, but very dangerous if hearts broke 4-3, as there might be a trump promotion on the thirteenth heart.

All was well, since Greco had read the cards correctly, and North had no heart to lead when he took the second diamond. North exited with a club and declarer ruffed, cashed the top spades and led the fourth diamond to pitch the heart loser to make the hand. Alas for USA, 4♠ X was let through in the Closed Room when the first three tricks started the same way, but declarer then came to hand with a top spade to lead the ♦A. North forgot to unblock his other top diamond on this trick, so South could not get in to cash the hearts, and the play transposed back to Greco's line.

Saturday 8th February 2025

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.

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

East opened a weak 2♠, and you (South) are now playing in 4♥. West leads the ♠9, overtaken by East's 10, and East has continued with the ♠A and ♠K.

How would you play?

You have 10 tricks (6 hearts, 2 diamonds, 2 clubs). Is the contract at risk?

You have lost two spade tricks and you appear to have a diamond loser. If you trump high at trick 3, and trumps break 4-1, you will also have a trump loser. You know West has only a doubleton spade, so what can be done?

The safe way to avoid the issue of possibly creating an additional loser, in trumps, is by discarding your diamond loser on the third spade. If East then plays a fourth spade, you will be able to trump (or over-trump) in dummy, so there is no risk of a trump promotion after the third round of spades.

And if East switches to another suit, you win and draw trumps in four rounds, making the original 10 tricks.

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

Page 32

THE POWER OF THE CLOSED HAND

Lauren Travis

Since my teenage years, I remember having the power of the closed hand drilled into me. I think it was Andy Hung who encouraged us to lead low from dummy's AQxx towards the closed hand, because you can find out a lot from what the second player does. I had the opportunity to try a similar play during the final of the pairs:

Board 2, Dealer E, NS Vul

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

North	South
Travis	Mullamphy
	1♠
2♣ (GF)	2♥
2NT	3NT

I'm not usually such a hog, but at matchpoints it made sense to play 3NT unless my partner was really unbalanced. I received the ♦J lead, which I won with the ace. Sensing an opportunity, I crossed to dummy's king of hearts and played a low spade towards my 542, hoping that I would look like an absolute genius if West held Kx and flew. Instead, East won with the ten and played another diamond which I won. I led another spade, towards dummy this time, and when East followed with the jack my life flashed before my eyes. Imagine if the layout was J10 in East and K87 in West, and I had just lost two tricks in this suit trying to show off. Luckily, the finesse worked and I managed 11 tricks to edge out all those in 4♠+1. The power of the closed hand turned out to be a fantasy on this board but lives on in my heart.

THOUGHTFUL OPENING LEAD

Liam Milne reported this deal from match 6 of the open teams.

The auction was:

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

He was on lead, holding:

♠ A Q 2
♥ 6 2
♦ Q J 8 5 3
♣ 7 4 2

A spade lead seemed hopeless (clearly West held the ♠K) and a diamond lead might concede nine tricks immediately - ♦A-K and 7 clubs. So Liam decided his best chance was to play partner for the ♥A. A heart lead also makes it obvious that you want a spade shift, whereas leading the ♦Q might encourage partner to continue diamonds, since he'd bid them).

Here's the whole hand, with Liam's lead of the ♥6 to partner's ace:

	♠ 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	

James Coutts switched to the ♠J, king, ace, and the defence cashed six spade tricks. On the run of the spades, declarer got strip squeezed. He had to keep his ♦K-x, so threw away small clubs. Liam discarded the ♦Q-8, so that James knew what was going on. This allowed James to exit with a club, not a diamond, and that gave the defence two diamond tricks as well.

3NT, down 5 tricks, 500, nice compensation for their non-vulnerable game.

WHY I WORE WHAT I WORE ON OUR DAY OF MOURNING

Judy Hapeta

My name is Judy Hapeta. I am a Kiwi who now calls Australia home. To my family, our Maori culture is important to us and, where possible, we uphold our traditions. One such tradition is our Tangis or, more correctly, Tangihanga, the Maori word for funeral. Tawhatitanga is the Maori word for death or demise.

We were asked to celebrate a day of mourning for the death or demise of our Gold Coast Congress; as such I dressed in appropriate Maori tradition to honour this. On the day, I wore my late husband's Korowai (Maori cloak) that is made out of feathers from New Zealand birds. The Korowai is worn at ceremonies and at Tangis, so this was appropriate on many levels.

I have been coming to this congress since approximately 2011. My late husband attended as well. While he didn't play bridge, he did support our players from our local club and would often pop his head in to see what all the hype was about. He would feed us and make sure we were safe.

If he had been here, he would have proudly worn this and given his Maori blessing to one and all on Wednesday. This would have his honour to give and, in some small way, mine to try to bestow on this congress.

The comb worn in my hat is something many Maori women own. This comb holds their hair up, out of the face. But in years gone by, it was also a weapon in their hands. The comb is very sharp and can cause a lot of damage.

The significance of bare feet is the belief that if we are to wear shoes inside we are treading on the 'Mona' of the house and its owners. The meaning of Mona is authority, influence, spiritual power, presence. There is a belief that everything has a presence. I took my shoes off to respect the Mona of the convention centre and the Mona of the people organising and running this congress – a custom I am more than happy to uphold.



TEAMS CATEGORY WINNERS

Open Teams

Same Sex: FOSTER (Julian Foster, David Weston, David Hudson, David Fryda)

Mixed: PUGSLEY (Paul Pugsley, Stephen Robinson, David Vidaver, Zeying Lam)

Queensland: LUCK (Ivy and John Luck, Sue O'Brien, Margaret Millar, Paul Collins, Ian Afflick)

New Zealand: SUN (George Sun, Alice Young, William Liu, John Wang)

Under 1500 MP Teams

Same Sex: ROWLAND (Pryor Rowland, Bob Ure, Graham Cheater, Peter Farley)

Mixed: JOHNSON (Mandy and David Johnson, Chris Cotton, Sharyn Dilosa)

Queensland: PISKO (Margaret Pisko, Trish Anagnostou, Edward Hahn, Jeff Conroy)

Intermediate Teams

Same Sex: JACOBS (Sandra Jacobs, Judy McGuigan, Annthea Matheson, Maria Anderson)

Mixed: BOYD (Maruta Boyd, Barbara Holland, Jeremy Reid, Erica McCoull)

Queensland: KENMORE ACES (Anne Russell, Mick Fawcett, Jill Dunning, Sue Ziegenfuss)

Restricted Teams

Same Sex: WHITE (Linda White, Viv Hurst, Judy Parkinson, Juliet Davanney)

Mixed: SHANNAHAN (Craig Shannahan, Sue Solomons, David Paul, Yasmina Ward)

Queensland: LEE (Jacinta Lee, Debbie Carroll, Louise and Stephen Bennett)

Novice Teams

Same Sex: DEAGUE (Kris Deague, Vikki Peters, Lisa Maccioli, Felicity Nettlefold)

Mixed: ROBSON (Ted Robson, Jane Mackenzie, Kerry-Anne Hoad, Rebecca Mackiggan, Rebecca Dorman)



YEPPON BRIDGE CLUB

PRESENTS

GOLD
POINT
EVENT

29th BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2025

2- 5 MAY 2025

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

Chief Director: Chris Snook | Chief Scorer: Peter Busch

Tournament Organiser: Karin le Roux 0428 859 898

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



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

DEVIOS AND DECEPTIVE

Pulling off a deceptive play is an element of bridge that makes it fun to play. It's improper to mislead an opponent by the speed or manner in which you play a card, but the card in itself may have a deceptive effect.

There are many aspects of deceptive play, among them:

- playing a card you already known to hold;
- letting declarer win his first try at a repeatable finesse;
- winning a trick with a higher card than necessary.

A 9 4 2		
8 7 5	Q 10 6	
	K J 3	

Declarer attacks this suit by leading to his jack, winning. When he cashes the king, East must follow with the queen, the card declarer knows he has. Then declarer will have a chance to go wrong by leading to the 9. This is an **obligatory falsecard**; if East fails to play the queen, declarer will have no guess.

Dlr: South	♠ J 5
Vul: E-W	♥ A J 6
IMPs	♦ A Q J 3 2
	♣ A J 5
♠ Q 10 8 2	♠ K 7 6 3
♥ Q 9 4 3	♥ 10 7 5
♦ 9 7	♦ K 10 4
♣ Q 10 9	♣ K 7 2
	♠ A 9 4
	♥ K 8 2
	♦ 8 6 5
	♣ 8 6 4 3

North opens 1♦ and optimistically raises South's 1NT response to 3NT. West leads the ♠2: jack, king, ace. Declarer next leads a diamond for a finesse with dummy's queen. If East takes the king, the defence can

cash three spades, but South will win a club shift, reach his hand with the ♥K and finesse with the ♥J for nine tricks.

But suppose East smoothly lets the ♦Q win. Declarer could still use the ♥K as an entry to finesse in hearts, but he will surely use it to finesse in diamonds again instead, hoping for five diamond tricks, two hearts, a spade and a club. Then West will score the ♥Q in the end for down one.

Dlr: South	♠ 9
Vul: E-W	♥ A K 5 4
IMPs	♦ J 10 4 3 2
	♣ Q 6 4
♠ A Q 7 5 2	♠ 10 8 3
♥ 6 2	♥ J 10 9 8 7
♦ K 7	♦ 8
♣ 10 9 7 3	♣ A J 5 2
	♠ K J 6 4
	♥ Q 3
	♦ A Q 9 6 5
	♣ K 8

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

In a team-of-four match, both Souths played in 3NT, and both Wests led the ♠5 – 9 – 10.

At one table, declarer won with the jack, led a heart to dummy and finessed in diamonds. When West took the king, he shifted to the ♣10. East took the ace and returned the ♠8, and West took four spade tricks for down two.

In the replay, South captured East's ♠10 with ... the king! He went to dummy and lost the diamond finesse, but West naturally placed East with the ♠J and continued with the ♠2 in case East had started with J-10-3. Declarer produced the jack and claimed nine tricks.



I WILL, I DARE, I CAN

Boye Brogeland, Norway,

wrote this article from Australian Bridge, August 2016

Are you familiar with the concepts of positive and negative thinking and the 'fight or flight' response? Or how about 'the inner dialogue'? I certainly wasn't until I read *Best When It Counts* by Willi Railo. That book made me a better bridge player.

Willi Railo was a Norwegian sports psychologist and his classic book focused on the power of thought. He writes that by thinking correctly we can have a positive influence on our achievements. Positive thoughts like, "I will, I dare, I can", instead of negative ones such as "I have to" and "I should", make us capable of performing at our best. Follow these principles and I guarantee that you will take more tricks at the table.

I had recently played in my first Nordic Pairs Final and finished well below average with Erik Saelensminde. This was very disappointing for two ambitious players. However, I was left with a feeling that it was something other than our professional knowledge of bridge that was lacking.

There is one event in particular during that Pairs Final that is etched in my memory. We were to meet Geir Helgemo and Ulf Tundal, perhaps the clear favourites for the Norwegian championships. The table was surrounded by spectators. My heart was beating furiously.

I was declarer. I had memorised all the probabilities of 1-1, 2-2, 3-2, 4-1 breaks and, yes, also the

4-3 and 5-2 breaks which were relevant for the deal at hand. But I was so nervous that I failed to retrieve the relevant figures from my memory and I underestimated the risk of a 5-2 break (31%). Helgemo was happy to ruff the third round of my side-suit and I went off in a game which was costly. After the hand, I wished for the round to finish quickly and to get as far away as possible from the table, something which only led to yet another poor board.

The reason these thoughts have surfaced again is an email that the new national team coach has sent us in advance of the European Championships this summer.

He has brought up the importance of concentration and mental energy to achieve our goals. Coach Vennerod wrote,

"The first to put this subject into words wrote about Zen and archery. The wise monk said that to hit the bullseye, you had to let go of your ego and your desire to hit the bullseye. Instead you must become the arrow. You, the bow and the arrow are now one, and it is natural for the arrow to hit the bullseye."

On the penultimate hand of this year's Premier League, I (South) forgot to become the arrow and completely missed the target.

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

Dummy
 ♠ A K 9 8 6
 ♥ Q 5 3
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ 9 3

Boye
 ♠ 7 5 4 3
 ♥ J 10
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ K 8 7 5

Before the match, we were in 2nd place, 8 VPs behind the leaders. The leaders were playing another team in contention for a medal, so we still had a chance for gold.

However, our opponents (who were to be relegated regardless of the result) put up greater resistance than we had expected and, as we approached the final boards, my partner and I knew that gold was out of our reach. So, instead of positive thinking I was full of negative thoughts and gloomy inner dialogue – I had up until then visualised that we would thrash everyone this year!

Against West's 3NT, partner led a small heart, attitude – small from dummy, ♥10 and declarer's King, not exactly a flying start for the defence. Declarer continued with the ♠J – Queen – Ace from dummy. Looking at my four-small spades, we weren't going to make any tricks here. Are you just pessimistic as I am, or do you see a chance of beating the contract when declarer continues with a small club from dummy?

If I had been concentrating and motivated, and not affected by the thought that it would be another year until I had another shot at winning the Premier League, I'd have been thinking:

I have 5 HCP and partner opened the bidding, so the opponents are in a thin game. Declarer has probably punted game on the basis of a spade fit, a good diamond hold and about 13-14 HCP.

Even if we perhaps did not get off to the best start, there may still be a way of beating the contract. How?

Since declarer has already established six tricks (1 heart, 5 spades) and only needs another three, the priority must be to help partner establish their hearts. I should have flown with the ♣K so that I could lead my ♥J back, helping to establish the suit whilst partner still held his entries intact.

Because I wasn't focused, I played low mechanically, and the contract made, when partner had no quick re-entry to his heart suit.

Keep your focus. Think positive thoughts. I will, I dare, I can.

FUNNY GCC MEMORIES

Paul Lavings

In 1978 I played on the Theeman team at the GCC. Don Evans and I won the Pairs and we had a great last set against Tim and Mary to win the Teams.

I walked out of the playing room into the courtyard and Frank and Tony Ong were toe to toe and face to face screaming at each other. I went up to them and said, "Frank, we won". He looked at me blankly for a tenth of a second then looked back at Tony and they resumed their screaming match.

Jim Wood

At the start of an event, partner rang. "I'm at the Station." I gave directions. Surfers Paradise Bus Station to Gold Coast International Hotel. After 20 mins he called again. "I'm at Nerang Railway Station." Partner, later, replaced substitute partner no.4.

THE SLOT BID

Peter Gill

In the 1970s Paul Lavings wrote an article in Australian Bridge magazine called "Slot Bids". The terminology never took off, and even the idea that Lavings 'invented' them is not well known nowadays.

This board from the TBIB Open Swiss Pairs 2025 was a perfect example of a Slot Bid:

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	X (4♠)
2♥	Pass	Pass	?

Double showed exactly 4 spades. East-West are vulnerable, so South can tell that North has only two hearts. South wants to compete over 2♥, but only 3 of the 15 declarers in 3♦ made (by ducking ♣Q lead, then keeping the danger hand, West, off lead until a club loser could be pitched on the long spade - not so easy).

The solution is to rebid your spades, which cannot be a 5-card suit due to your earlier double. The Slot Bid of 2♠ over 2♥ shows 4 good spades, wanting to play in the 4-3 fit, with any heart ruffs handily being taken by the shorter trump holding in dummy. If they only hold 2 spades, partner will remove the Slot Bid with their 2-2-5-4 shape. (The 2♠ Slot Bid is even more useful at matchpoints scoring where 110 or 140 outscores 100 if 2♥ fails.)

You don't have to agree with your partner to play Slot Bids; it's not a formal convention. However, it's a good strategy to have available to use on the rare occasion when it occurs.



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

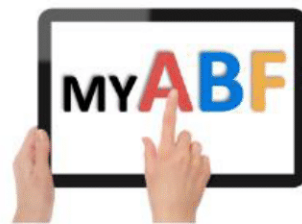
Brisbane Technology Park Conference and Exhibition Centre

1 Clunies Ross Court, Eight Mile Plains

15 minutes from Brisbane City via the Pacific Motorway



Multiple accommodation options, restaurants, public transport, \$5 daily parking



Entries AND Accommodation options are on MyABF

GOLD POINTS

THE MOST EXPENSIVE SWING

This result occurred at the 2017 Gold Coast Congress and was reported by Barry Rigal

It is rare to make a 25 IMP Director call, but this deal certainly was worth all that and more. Let me give you the circumstances, before I tell you more.

Good news: you are in a grand slam and the opponents haven't doubled.

Bad news: they lead an ace in a suit in which you have a singleton.

Good news: the lead is out of turn!

Do you call the Director or accept the lead?

Before I give you the denouement, here is what happened to Gary and Sue Hollands on the same hand in the Open Teams.

♠ A K Q 10 7 6 3

♥ K 7 4

♦ 2

♣ 3 2

♠ --

♥ 10 9 6

♦ 10 7 4

♣ A K Q J 10 9 4

♠ J

♥ Q 8 5 3

♦ A K Q 9 8 6 5

♣ 5

♠ 9 8 5 4 2

♥ A J 2

♦ J 3

♣ 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
	Sue		Gary
		1♦	Pass

3NT (!) All Pass

The defenders took their seven spades and only two of their three heart tricks, so declarer escaped for down 5.

Meanwhile, in the other room, where their team-mates Molly O'Donoghue and Philip Thompson were East-West, this is what happened:

West	North	East	South
Philip		Molly	
		1♦	Pass
2♣	2♠	3♦	4♠
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

North knew a spade wasn't standing up, so tried leading the singleton diamond (surely the ♦A cannot run away?). In any event, while a heart lead might have been the killer for one side or the other, it wasn't found, so Sue wrapped up 13 tricks.

Back to our Director call where our players are veiled in the gauze of anonymity that only a wilfully forgetful TD can provide. He was summoned to the table to see this auction:

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
2♣	4♠	5♦	Pass
6♦	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

North led the ♠A out of turn. East, rejecting Goldwater's Rule ("if they don't know whose lead it is, they are probably leading the wrong thing"), triumphantly banned the spade lead and South led the ♥A to cash out for two down.



Sally Savini and Brenda Campbell – Winners Restricted Final E

NEAT DECLARER PLAY

Sue Lusk reported this contract from the Bobby Richman Pairs, Final session 3.

Board 14, Dealer East, Nil vulnerable.

♠ 8 4 3
♥ Q J 10 9
♦ 7 6 4
♣ A 9 8

♠ J 10 7 5
♥ K 4
♦ A J 10 9 3
♣ Q 5

♠ A K 9 6
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K 5
♣ K 7 6 4

♠ Q 2
♥ A 7 6 3
♦ Q 8 2
♣ J 10 3 2

Sue was East, declaring 4♠. South led the ♣J, queen, ace. North switched to the ♥Q, won by South with the ace, and a heart was exited to West's king. Unless you can get the diamond suit to come in, you need to do some trumping, given West's lack of ready entries, so Sue now led a club to her king, winning.

A heart was trumped in dummy, then a spade led to the ace. Sue then led a club which she trumped in dummy with the ♠10. The ♦A was cashed, and she crossed to hand with the ♦K to lead another club, ruffing high with the ♠J. North was unable to over-ruff, so Sue knew that South held the ♠Q. She trumped a diamond to hand, then cashed spades from the top, dropping the ♠Q, and making 11 tricks.

It was a nicely played hand, and scoring the overtrick was worth 88%.

TABLES

Tables as of Friday night: 8,229
2024 comparison: 7,089 tables
2020 comparison: 8,788 tables



In Her Shoes hosted a champagne breakfast on Friday morning as a thank you to bridge players at the GCC.



Annemarie Stevenson and Sonja de Rooy – Winners Novice Final C



Marlene Watts and Mike Prescott – Winners Open Final C



Matt Brown and Adam Kaplan – Winners Open Final B



Hamish Brown and Johanna Perfect – Winners Open Final G



Sonia Roulston and Sally Irwin – Winners Restricted Final C



Ming and David Ting – Winners Intermediate Final E

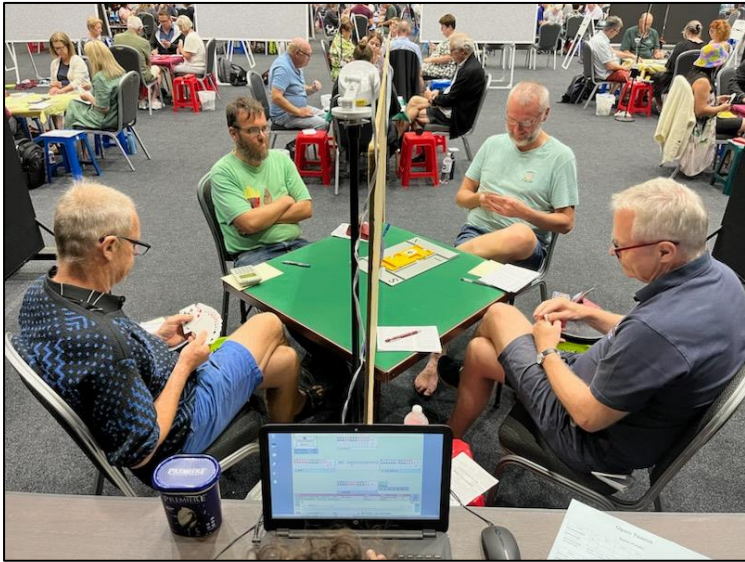


Dee Harley and Phil Fent – Winners Open Final H



Kelvin Tibble and Ian Southen – Winners Open Final I

BRIDGE AROUND THE ROOM ON FRIDAY



Joe Haffer – Fraser Rew – Phil Markey – Maurits van der Vlugt



Arlene Dalley – Adam Kaplan – Ash Bach – Matt Brown



Avi Kanetkar – David Appleton – David Beauchamp – Stephen Castellino



Jess Brake – Kieran Dyke – Andy Hung – Tony Nunn

Below: Ivy Dahler Butler Swiss Pairs



THANK YOU TO THE SCORING AND DIRECTING TEAMS



Above: Matt McManus, Toni Bardon, Christy Geromboux, Gary Hooykaas, Phil Sellars

Below: Laurie Kelso, Ronnie Ng, Jan Peach, Simon Edler, John McIlrath (other directors not pictured but still appreciated)

